



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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- * New VEC Testing
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- * DX News and Events



Flea move-in



Last minute setup



Out of the cold



The lot fills up



W9WL checks in the flea side



Everything ready?



Flea wake-up



Early Talk-in



'nuf said



Before the rush



From the President's Gavel

by Joe LeFebvre WCRA President



Another HamFest has come and gone and it was a great one. Those 5 golden hours from 8:00 am to 1:00 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of January are the most important hours in the entire year for us. I am sure most of us don't realize or appreciate the time and effort required to put together an event of this magnitude. Our HamFest committee spent literally hundreds and hundreds of hours preparing. Speaking for the entire executive board and on behalf of all of our members I want to thank the entire HamFest committee and all of their predecessors for their efforts. Without all their continuing hard work and dedication the WCRA could not exist.

On a totally different subject our public service calendar is in good shape:

Sunday, April 1st 2001	MS Walk-a-Thon (7:30 am - 1:30 p.m.)
Sunday, April 29th 2001	Special Olympics (7:30 am - 4:00 p.m.) 2 shifts
Sunday, June 3rd 2001	Trail Days
Wednesday, July 4th 2001	Wheaton Parade (7:30 am - 11:00 p.m.)
Saturday, August 25th 2001	Glendale Heights Parade (6:00 or 7:30 p.m.)

The Special Olympics will be moving to a new venue this year at North Central College so things may be different. I will also be checking with the American Lung Association to see if they will be running a tower climb this year. It would be really nice next year to see some new faces, public service can be fun and it is very rewarding experience.

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
Vice President	Janie Gallina	AE9JG	630:530-4812
Secretary	Robert Mitiileri	N2EFT	630:510-9783
Treasurer	John Truitt	W9LQL	630:682-0304
Custodian	Kurt Rubin	KB9RTO	630:530-4812

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630:545-9950
Christmas Party	Dale Kwarta	NJ9E	630:858-8541
Club Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708:848-2884
Club Truck	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:739-2930
Elmer/Know-Code	Vince Greenen	K9VG	630:961-2511
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	KG9CG	630:871-1786
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630:653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwarta	NJ9E	630:858-8541
Hamfest	John Cheney	N9MWF	708:848-2885
Health & Welfare	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630:483-2044
Historian	John Lauder	N9LIN	630:968-4101
Interference	Greg Buttimer	N9SA	630:832-4499
Refreshments	Janie Gallina	AE9JG	630:530-4812
Membership	Carol Schroeder	KB9FYL	630:665-3228
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	630:372-7036
Public Relations	Eileen Terry-Block	N9TWS	630:393-0742
Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630:515-0377
Novice Instructor	Rich Weimer	AA9KZ	630:279-5288
Nov/Tech Instructor	Robert Mitiileri	N2EFT	630:510-9783
General Instructor	John Broughton	WB9VGJ	630:690-1473
General Instructor	Pat Byrne	K9JAU	630:858-1959
Extra Instructor	Sang M. Lee	N9ZGS	630:260-0736
Volunteer Exam.	Harry Kamer	K9HK	630:953-0519

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Trustee/Tech Adv	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630:545-9950
Chairman	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630:665-7757
Secretary	Marty Kennedy	KA9RCC	630:653-6698
Member	Gary Henle	N9VLL	630:736-9102
Member	George Henry	KA3HSW	630:830-6659
Tech Advisor	Larry Schroeder	KA9KDC	630:665-3228

WCRA Radio Nets

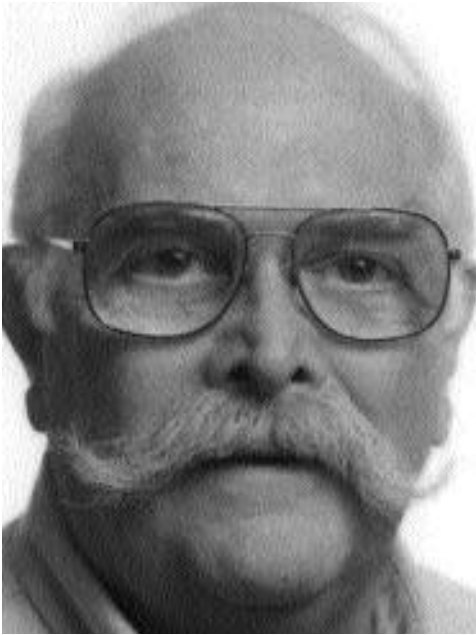
Sunday 8:00 pm	145.390/(-600)	Net Control: Rotates
Sunday 8:30 pm	224.140/(-1.600)	Net Control: Marty KA9RCC
Sunday 9:30 pm	145.390/(-600)	WCRA RTTYNet
Tuesday 8:00 pm	145.390(-600)	ARES Net
Tuesday 8:30 pm	444.475/(5.0)	UHF Net

WCRA Repeaters

145.390/ 144.790	103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B)	PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540	Carries Access - SKYWARN	Service Liaison
444.475/449.475	114.8 Hz(2A)	PL Encode/ Decode
145.310/144.710	WCRA, W9CCU-1	Full Duplex Packet Repr

HAMLETTER

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Features	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581
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From the WCRA History Files

by: John Lauder,
N9LIN
WCRA
Historian

amateur radio was dependent on attracting more young people to the hobby. (Sounds familiar doesn't it). They pointed out that while 50% of the U.S. population was under 25 years of age, most hams were over thirty. " Also we must attract young people into amateur radio to avoid our demise in 10-25 years". Well here we are 25 years later, still here but have seen many changes take place in our hobby. The ARRL also had a goal to reduce the dropout rate from ham radio from one-half to one-third. At this time the classes of operator licenses were:

- Amateur extra class
- Advanced class (previously class A)
- General class (previously class B)
- Conditional class (previously class C)
- Technician
- Novice class

The WCRA also was involved with fox hunting, revised rules on Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), instructions on building a 3 amp power supply, bringing the WCRA 2 meter repeater on line. Also there was a FCC proposal to delete the advance notice requirement as well as the identification requirement of portable or mobile stations, which was later approved. However, the activity that caught my interest, looking back 25 years, was the club's acquisition of a "Gestefax Machine". I know April 1 is near but this is for real. This was an electric stencil cutter. The production of the Hamletter was greatly enhanced. The Hamletter could now include photos and line drawings. The machine could also be used to print QSL cards for members who designed their own. The March 1976 Hamletter has a picture of the editor, Ken Bourne, K9GHR, with " the Gestefax Machine". Several members have produced big smiles when I asked if they remembered the machine. Oh well, it had its time in the spotlight.

Source: March, 1976 Hamletter

73, John, N9LIN

Remembering March, 1976—

Twentyfive years have passed since March 1976 and I'd like to inform some members what was taking place then and perhaps bring back some memories for others.

Would you believe over 160 people showed up for the WCRA Amateur Radio classes that started on February 21, 1976. There were 110 who attended the Novice class and over 60 in the General class (some people attended both sessions). The instructors were Bob Bingham, K9WMP, and Paul Sexauer, K3VIX/W9JTO. It was reported that the large number might have been a CB backlash, because many students expressed disgust with the crowded conditions, chaos, and restrictions on eleven meters. The two instructors were pleading to club members to assist them in the class room instruction.

Now how about some names from the past and some current ones as we review the preparations for the April, 1976 club election. The nominating committee was Ken, Bourne, K9GHR, Greg Chartrand, WA9EYY, Paul Sexauer, K3VIX/W9JTO, Larry Shaw, W9OKI, and John Stockberger, W9THI. Their slate for the election was:

- President: Doug Totel, W9NJM
- Vice President: Ray Rhude, WB9KPV
- Secretary: Bill Jackson , WB9FVD
- Treasurer: Pete Hughes, WB9EYR
- Custodian : John Grotto, WB9NLQ

At this time in our club's history, Sterling Warner, WA9PEQ, was president, Bill Thompson, WA9WXC, was VP, John Bryant, K9QLS, was secretary, and Frank Maren, WB9EOR, was treasurer.

All of these hams were very involved in our club and I'm sure many of you know some of them. Of course some are still involved or have plans to get reinolved.

The ARRL was working with the FCC to implement a program for certification of Novice licensees, to relieve the FCC of the task of testing incoming amateurs. The ARRL also felt the future of

Anchors

Anchors

Anchors

TenTec antenna tuner.

300 watt, coax or bal or long wire. Meter. Built in antenna switch. Very clean. Seldom used - never fried. \$75. John K9FID

k9fid@cs.com <mailto:k9fid@cs.com> or good in the last 6 or 8 club rosters.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

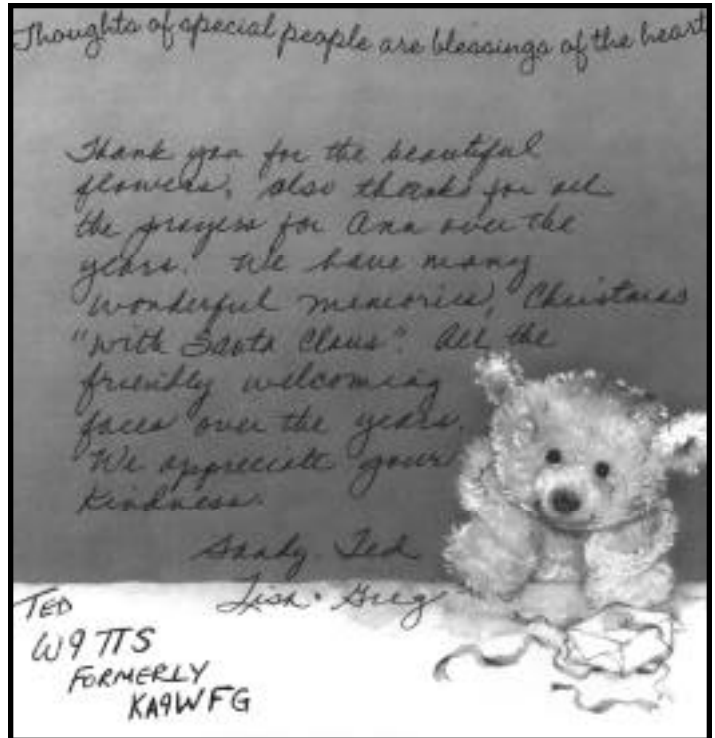
by: Robert Mitilieri
N2EFT
WCRA
Secretary



the last meeting but right before the classes were to start we had a call and now have 14-17 people taking the classes.

Kurt F. Rubin KB9RTO for N2EFT.

The following thank you note was received from the Ted Southworth family for the floral bouquet WCRA sent honoring Ann Southworth who died January 14th at age 15.



WCRA Minutes from the February 2, 2001 Meeting

Notes Taken by **Kurt F. Rubin, KB9RTO**, subbing for **Robert, N2EFT**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President, **Joe, N9WRO**, and introductions were made by the board and all attendees. A motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Vice-President, **Janie, AE9JG** let the club know that tonight's presentation would be on Weather spotting, presented by **Rich N9RYX** of the DuPage Office of Emergency Management. All the members that remained for the presentation were certified in weather spotting. The Advanced Weather Spotting class will be held at Wheaton college on March 10th from 8 until 4pm. There would be VE testing starting in March. The first testing will be March 29 in Lombard Helen Blum Libaer. Note that this is the fifth Thursday of the month. After that, it will be on the fourth Thursday as usual. **Kim, N9XE**, filling in for Treasurer, **John, W9LQL** gave a report of the club's financial condition. Custodian, Kurt, KB9RTO reported that there is still an open bid on the Tow behind. More to come soon. **Roberto, WA9E**, reported that **Norm K9GSA** was in Marianjoy in Wheaton in room 317 bed A and is in good shape. Membership, **Carol, KB9FYL**, there were two new members voted in tonight. Public Service, Joe, N9WRO reported that there are some upcoming events. See his column for more info. **John, N9MWF**, reported that the hamfest went off very well. The final numbers are still to come out. We also had VE Testing at the fest and a big thank you goes out to **Chris, KC9L**, and **Steve, N9OA**, for the help getting this done on such short notice. Forty seven tests were given and there was a very good passing rate.

Training, **Rich, AA9KZ**, had advised that they had no classes at

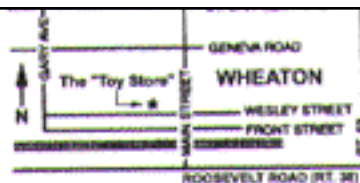
BIRTHDAYS OF MARCH

Kurt	KB9RTO	03-04-74
Donald	WB9VFC	03-04-45
John	K0QLS	03-04-22
Howard	W9DYP	03-08-21
Michael	WB9NXY	03-09-59
Jon	KA9EPK	03-11-39
Rudy	W9RKA	03-11-15
John	WD9DCW	03-12-62
Mike	N9KYG	03-12-59
Bob	W9TIE	03-17-22
Allen	N9DYX	03-28-46
Bruce	KA0DSF	03-31-32

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Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

Some members of the "Central Arizona DX Association" are planning ("with NO fanfare and NO hype") their first "UnDXpedition". They will be operating from the Spratly Islands as 9MØM during the first week of March. Their interesting press release states:

"The UnDXpedition will have no more press releases until we return, and maybe not then. We could not find any pilots, no one understood satellite up-linking of logs, and nobody wanted to stick to any schedules. There will be no sponsors of our radios, coax, amplifiers, or T-shirts, because we couldn't find any. All governments involved have taken a, 'Who are these people anyway?' attitude. We did try to contact the San Miguel Brewery, but they didn't even call us back."

Some of the operators may enter the ARRL DX SSB Contest. They will operate from Sabah, Malaysia, as 9M6DBT and 9M6MBT for a few days before and after their activity on Spratly. They plan to operate CW and SSB on 80 through 10 meters. QSL the 9M6 callsigns via WN7J and the Spratly Island callsign of 9MØM via K7XN. A Web site has been set up for this operation at: <http://www.xcivr.com/9MØM>.

Glyn, GWØANA, Chairman of the Barry Amateur Radio Society, has announced that on March 19th, 4 members of Barry Amateur Radio Society (B.A.R.S) will be flying down to Ascension Island. They intend to operate on all bands and various modes (i.e. 160-6 meters - Modes: CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, SSTV, MFSK, and Heilshriber). After staying on Ascension for eight days, they will travel to St. Helena where they will repeat the operation, again using as many modes as possible. They will be on St. Helena for fifteen days before returning home. The callsigns were pending at the time this was being written.

The group intends to be active on the lower frequencies, as there is a great need for low band operation from both of these islands. Doug, GØWMW has built a "Dragon Special", a 75 foot vertical, which should give them a great signal at 1000 feet above sea level on both islands. The other antennas are Force 12 beam, phased twin Butternut verticals, and a GAP Triton together with a beam

for 6 meters. Glyn states, "The object of this DXpedition is to commemorate the passing of a 100 years of Morse Communication from these islands. Once, in the southern latitudes, Ascension and St. Helena they were the communication hubs for the far flung 'British Empire' using nothing but Morse communication. In order to honor the operators of old, they will be spending more time on CW and Data modes than normal DXpeditions." QSL manager for both islands is Glyn, GWØANA.

CQ magazine has introduced a special operating award for the year 2001 to mark the start of the new millennium. "The CQ Millennium Award" recognizes anyone who meets the minimum requirements for any of CQ's four permanent operating awards, minus the QSL cards, during calendar year 2001.

Both Hams and Short Wave Listeners may qualify for "The CQ Millennium Award" in one of the following four ways during the calendar year 2001 (0000z, January 1, 2001 to 2359z, December 31, 2001):

- 1) Work stations in 500 U.S. counties -- The basic level for the USA-CA Award
- 2) Work 100 countries -- The basic criterion for the CQ DX Award
- 3) Work one station in each of the 40 CQ zones -- The Worked All Zones basic qualification.
- 4) Work either 400 prefixes mixed-mode or 300 prefixes single mode (CW or SSB only), as required for the CQ WPX Award.

Applications should include log extracts showing the information required by the standard award rules, in the format required by the standard award rules, plus a \$6 processing fee.

ADDED NOTE: There will be special recognition for those who qualify on the basis of more than one award program's requirements. Full details were published on page 15 in the January 2001, issue of CQ magazine. For rules/ forms go to the CQ web-site: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

Attention Prefix Hunters! OPDX relays an announcement from Cam, HP1AC; that the "Radio Club de Panama" has obtained a special permit from the Panama Government Radio Dept. Office so any amateur radio operator in Panama will be able to use the special prefix 3E5ØØ during the month of March. This special prefix is to commemorate the 500th year anniversary of the Discovery of the "Isthmus of Panama" in March 1501 by Don Rodrigo de Bastidas. An example is Cam's callsign (HP1AC); he will be using 3E5ØØAC (Three Echo Five hundred Alfa Charlie). A special QSL will be issued to confirm all QSOs during the month of March 2001. QSL Manager will be HP1RCP, Radio Club de Panama, P.O.Box 10745, Panama 4, PANAMA.

And speaking of special prefixes, start looking for amateurs in Turkmenistan using the special prefix EZ21 to commemorate the new Millennium.

Norbert, DL9NEI has announced a joint Chilean and German

DXpedition to activate Easter Island between March 4-19th. Operations will be on all HF Bands mostly on CW/RTTY, on lower bands and the WARC bands. The special callsign used will be 3GØY. Look for updated information now and during the operation on the Web site <http://www.qsl.net/3g0y>. QSL via DK7YY.

Dan,IV3TDM, Max,IV3FHH and Luke,IV3JVJ, will hit the airwaves from Martinique March 17-23rd. Dan will operate on SSB, Max on CW and Luke on RTTY. They will try to concentrate on the lower bands. They should have a good signal, so please call them! The callsigns will be FM/homecall. All QSLs go to IV3TDM CBA. They will operate from Clement's, FM5GU station, and then join the FM5GU team for the CQ WPX SSB Contest.

Paul,BV4FH, reports via the 425 DX bulletin, that an operation is scheduled to take place from Pratas Island March 6-15th as BQ9P. Paul reports the final team has been approved. Team members include BV4FH, BV2OO, BX2AE, BV5CR, AA4NN, W4NZC, RK3DT and JA1AYC. The team plans to start up around 0800Z on March 6. They hope to have at least 2 C3S beams for 10, 15 and 20 meters and one of the Titanex antennas installed before dark on the first day. The team will be QRV until March 15. QSL via KU9C.

Dennis, K7BV, provided information regarding the rather dramatic drop off in activity from East Timor 4W since he and Dick, N6FF, had the pleasure of operating from a wonderful temporary QTH provided by Thor,4W6MM. Dennis states, "A recent E-mail from Thor, informs us that he was transferred out of Baucau right after we departed. He is now stationed in Oe Cusse, the small enclave to the west of East Timor proper that is completely surrounded by West Timor. He has his rig with him but only a 15 meter dipole two meters high for an antenna; a radical step-down from the 220' tower in Baucau. He has managed only about 100 QSOs under the current situation. Thor also mentions that, "Little has been heard from Ross 4W6UN; probably indicating he is as busy as ever carrying out his responsibilities to the UN mission in Timor Lorasae." ADDED NOTE (From Dennis): "Thousands of full color QSLs for our 4W/K7BV and 4W/N6FF operation were mailed mid-February. The story and photos of their trip will appear in an upcoming issue of DX Magazine.

Hal,K4HB, has put together a list of countries that require more than \$1US for return postage to the U.S. and Europe. For those who send DX stamps, Hal has a list of countries that had a postage hike during January. He also has information about Russia's dramatic increase in postage rates. Hal doesn't get his information from individuals in the DX countries, but rather compiles the information from government and other reliable sites. In addition, he also uses input from "Bill Plum's Airmail and DX Supplies". While Hal doesn't claim to be 100% accurate (and he states this on his Web page), he believes the information on his Web page is as current as it gets. The URL address is

<http://www.k4hb.com>. Click on "Foreign Postage Rates" near the top. Hal's site is also linked from "Rod's Super Site" at: <http://www.ac6v.com/irc.htm>

DX POTPOURRI

It has been reported that the Scandinavian DXpedition to Conway Reef (not to be confused with the Yugoslavian group) planned by Mats,SM7PKK and Nils,SM6CAS, which was scheduled to take place April 5-24th, has been postponed. This is due to some personal commitments by two of the team members.

Claude,F5PBL will be active from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam between March 22-30th. His activity will be on 15 and 10 meters, mainly on SSB, however some CW is also possible. A single/single entry will be made in the CQ WPX SSB Contest (the band is not yet selected). His exact callsign was not known at time of publication. QSL via F5PBL, direct or via bureau.

Look for operators Silvano,I2YSB, Paolo,I2UIY and Marcello,IK2DIA to operate from Niger, now through March 12th. Their callsigns were not announced prior to departure and were to be issued after their arrival on the site. They will use separate callsigns for SSB and CW/RTTY/PSK31. They will activate up to 3 stations when possible, operating from 160-10 meters on CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK31 and on 6 meters on CW/SSB. A web page has been activated at: <http://digilander.iol.it/i2ysb/>. There will be on-line logs and pictures available during their activity. QSLs for both callsigns will be ok via the Bureau or direct to I2YSB: Silvano Borsa, P.O.Box 45, 27036 Mortara (PV), Italy.

There has been a steady stream of activity from Monaco lately. Laura,3A2MD is usually very active on 80 meters. Look for her on 3506 or 3798 kHz starting 0630z. She was also heard on 20 and 10 meters CW on 28031 kHz at 1330z or on 14033 kHz at 1500z working USA on long path. Additionally, Frank,3A2MW, is also active. Check 18135 kHz around 1000z or 14188 kHz around 1200z.

Need Pakistan (with a US manager to boot) for that DXCC? Bob,AP2JZB, has been consistently calling CQ for stateside stations on 17/12/10 meters daily between 1300-1430z. Check around 18125, 24950 and between 28470 and 28510 kHz. QSL via K2EWB.

DX MAGAZINE'S 100 MOST WANTED! Carl, N4AA, Editor of QRZ DX, reports that the results of "The DX Magazine's 100 Most Wanted Survey" for the year 2000 have been posted to the Web (under "DX News") at: <http://www.dxpub.com>. A complete breakdown by continent and USA time zone is included in the January/February issue of The DX Magazine. As it stands, the top ten are:

- 1 - P5, North Korea
- 2 - VU4, Andaman
- 3 - BS7, Scarborough Reef
- 6 - KH5K, Kingman Reef
- 7 - YA, Afghanistan
- 8 - VP8/SS, South Sandwich Is.

4 - 3Y/B, Bouvet 9 - 3Y/P, Peter I Island
5 - VU7, Lakshadweep 10 - 7O, Yemen

Bob,AA1M, Jim,W1HL and Mike,W1USN will be operating from St. Martin Island in the Caribbean through March 6th. Look for them to sign FS/homecall from the French side of the Island, and PJ8/homecall from the Dutch side(St Maarten). QSL to AA1M and W1HL via AA1M, and W1USN direct via the call-book.

The "59(9) DX Report" says to look for David,F5THR (ex-6W1AE, TL8CD), to be active from Djibouti as J28EX until January 2002. His activity will be on 160-10 meters. He is trying to arrange for a 4-element beam for 6 meters. QSL via FB1BON: Patrick Brochet, P.O. Box 522, 85305 Challans CX, France.

David,VK3EW, reports that direct QSLs cards for the special event station AX3OLY, active during the 2000 Olympic Games, were sent out, and should be received shortly. If you are in the log and did not send a card you will receive a special QSL via the Bureau shortly. The AX3OLY station achieved a QSO total of close to 1800 in 102 DXCC Countries in around 27 hours of the total operating time. QSLs for AX3OLY go to VK3WI.

According to the OPDX bulletin, Kenny,K2KW, has moved DX Holiday, "The Ultimate DXpedition Resource" to a new server. DX Holiday is a site that lists QTHs around the world where people have operated on DXpeditions, and provides information on how to contact the owners. There is information on Rent-a-QTHs, Ham Friendly Hotels, and Club stations. Please change your links to: <http://www.dxholiday.com>. The old site will be decommissioned in the near future. The response and support for DX Holiday has been great, with new locations and information coming in all the time. In addition, the "Team Vertical", information on vertical antennas for DXpeditions and past operations has been moved to Kenny's personal site at: <http://www.k2kw.com>

In response to the recent postal rate increase and price restructuring, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau has announced new rates for this service. It is still possible to send ten cards for one dollar, but the twenty and thirty card rates have been discontinued. The new rate is \$4.00 per each half-pound or portion thereof. This rate structure helps to cover the basic cost of handling the minimum number of QSLcards in a package while actually offering a price reduction for sending a half pound of cards (approximately 75 cards) which previously cost \$6.00. The new rates will go into effect on March 1, 2001. The last Outgoing QSL Service fee increase was in January 1999.

Finally, here's what's happening in March:

ØØØØz March 3 ARRL DX
2359z March 4 SSB Contest

17ØØz March 7 CLARA/Family
17ØØz March 8 HF Contest – CW

12ØØz March 10 RSGB Commonwealth
12ØØz March 11 Contest (Work G/GM/VE/VK/ZL/ZS)

17ØØz March 14 CLARA/Family
17ØØz March 15 HF Contest – SSB

12ØØz March 11 Nova Scotia
22ØØz March 11 QSO Party (16ØØ-18ØØz Mandatory off-time)

18ØØz March 11 Wisconsin
Ø1ØØz March 12 QSO Party (Work Wisconsin only)

March 16 CQ VHF Spring FM 50/144/222/440/and above
March 18 Activity Weekend No Repeaters

ØØØØz March 17 Bermuda Airfare provided for winner to
2359z March 18 DX Contest collect trophy in Bermuda

ØØØØz March 17 Alaska (Let them ship the
2359z March 18 QSO Party trophy - Peter)

12ØØz March 17 RUSSIAN
12ØØz March 18 DX Contest

Ø2ØØz March 17 BARTG
Ø2ØØz March 19 RTTY Contest

18ØØz March 17 VIRGINIA
Ø2ØØz March 19 QSO PARTY (Ø5ØØ-11ØØ Mandatory off-time)

ØØØØz March 24 CQ
2359z March 25 WPX - SSB

February was just an outstanding month for HF activity and DX. If you weren't a part of it you really missed out. Remember that field day is just a few short months away, and now is the time to start sharpening those operating skills and making plans.

I'd like to express my thanks this month to the Ohio-Penn DX Association, 59(9) Report, 425 DX Report, and the ARRL DX Bulletin

73, and I'll see you in the pileup

Peter, W9UF



NEW VEC TESTING SITE ANNOUNCED

Thanks to the efforts of the board and in particular our club Vice President, Janie, AE9JG, WCRA now has a new home for amateur radio testing! The new location, starting March 29th, will be in Lombard at the Helen M. Plum Memorial Library. Lombard's library has graciously provided us with a home to conduct amateur radio volunteer examiner (VE) testing.

In June, 2000, WCRA VE Testing lost their home for many years at the College of DuPage. Since that time we have been searching for another permanent location. With the criteria of having a publicly accessible location within this general area of DuPage County, we were pleasantly surprised that the Village of Lombard's Library offered us access to their Colonel Plum Auditorium facility. The library is located in the heart of downtown Lombard, and there is ample parking available. There is also easy access to the library by public transportation through the Metra train station, which is one half block walking distance from the library.

The WCRAVE testing schedule for the next three months is:

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Thursday, May 24, 2001

All testing sessions will be conducted from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m.

Testing will be conducted in the Colonel Plum Auditorium. This is located in the library building, but the entrance to the auditorium is west of the main library entrance. This is a separate entrance so do not enter by way of the main library doors.

The Helen M. Plum Memorial Library is located at:

Colonel Plum Auditorium

110 W. Maple

Lombard, Illinois 60148 or on the web at: <http://www.plum.lib.il.us/>

The library is one block west of the corner of Maple and Main Streets in Lombard. Major landmarks include the old First Church of Lombard at the corner of Main and Maple (the highest church steeple in Lombard) and the original Dairy Queen ice cream parlor (a great place to celebrate after your license upgrade). Maple is located one block south of the Metra/Union Pacific railroad tracks in downtown Lombard.

WCRA conducts testing under the support of the ARRLVEC program. The FCC has established the testing fee for 2001 at \$10.00. Please remember to bring TWO forms of identification to the exam session. One of the IDs should have your picture on it. If you are upgrading your current license or have an existing Certificate of Successful Completion CSCE from a prior testing session make sure you bring a COPY of each to the exam session (we do not accept originals).

Finally, anyone in the club that would like to volunteer their time to help with testing is welcome and invited. As WCRA is accredited with the ARRL we ask you to contact them to find out how you can become a volunteer examiner and obtain their Volunteer Examiner Application Form and Examiner Manual. To participate in the testing and grading requires ARRLVE certification. The certification process is easy. It consists of obtaining the examiners manual, reading the material, taking an open book review test and submitting the accompanying application form to the ARRL/VEC. Any General, Advanced or Extra class licensed ham is eligible to become an ARRLVE. To obtain an application please contact the ARRL at 800-927-7583 or email to vec@arrl.org.

If you are already registered as a ARRLVE and wish to help out, or just wish to find out more about WCRA testing, please contact me, Harry Kamer, at: 630-953-0519 or email to kamer@attglobal.net. 73, Harry, K9HK

Doug Totel, Hamfest Committee Prize Chairman has forwarded the following list of the hourly prize winners from the recently completed hamfest. Eileen, N9TWS, won the club worker raffle after the hamfest. Thank-you all for your participation.

Grand (first) Prize - ICOM IC-706MKIIG or \$1000:

Jim Bailey, N9JZP, Braidwood, IL

Second Prize - Alinco DR-605 Dual Band (VHF/UHF) Mobile Radio:

Jerry Werner, WB9WBN, Marshfield, WI

Third Prize - MFJ-259B SWR Analyzer:

Jim Moyer, N9SVO, Groveland, IL

Hamfest 2001 – Another Great Show

Well, Hamfest 2001 is history and once again WCRA showed everyone what a professional event could be put on with volunteer help. The vendors were very happy with the new location and overall we had a successful show.

While we won't know for a while the total amount we made on the Hamfest, we know that we did make money and it will go a long way toward supporting the club for another year.

There were a number of challenges which had to be overcome, including moving the site on short notice, but a truly great committee was able to pull it off. I'd like to express my personal gratitude to all the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication. Their names are listed at the end of this article and I encourage you to say thank you to them the next time you see them in person or talk to them on the air.

We also had support from other members of the club during the weekend, providing labor for everything from setting up and numbering tables to helping vendors move in and cleaning up after the event. We got many compliments from the Track on the professional manner in which we approached this event and they would like to discuss hosting the event in the future.

It was gratifying to me to see two members of the club step up when other arrangements for the VE testing fell through. The club owes a debt of gratitude to Steve Peterson N9OA and Chris Cieslak KC9L for their hard work in pulling the test session together and processing over 47 test elements.

I was slightly disappointed in some members of the club who did not participate in the Hamfest. The workers co-chairs heard all kinds of excuses about why individuals could not help. These included quotes such as "I Don't Do Hamfests" and "That's awfully Early on a Sunday". We all realize that people have different ways to participate in Amateur Radio, and many may not attend Hamfests on a regular basis. But this is the club only fund raising event, the reason we can support 4 repeaters, host Field Day, and everything else we do as a club. Next year, lets try to have 100% participation from the able bodied members of the club so that the burden is shared equally by those who benefit from the funds generated.

I would also like to congratulate Eileen Terry-Block on winning the HT in the workers drawing. I seems fitting that since Eileen was such a big part of the Frequency event for which we won the HT should be the ultimate recipient for her service during the Hamfest.

Lets all start thinking about how to make Hamfest 2002 even better and more profitable for WCRA

Hamfest Committee

John Cheney	N9MWF	Chairman
Pat Byrne	K9JAU	Past Chairman
Ron Rateno	W9WL	Flea Market Chair
John Broughton	WB9VGJ	Flea Market Assistant
Tom Negle	N9WBW	Move In Coordinator
Bill Hollister	K9WH	Commercial Chair – Emeritus
Janie Gallina	AE9JG	Workers Co-Chair
Robert Noles	N9XS	Workers Co-Chair
John Wiley	K9FID	Ticket Chair
Doug Totel	W9NJM	Prize Coordinator
Tom Galetka	N9CBA	Webmaster
Kurt Ruben	KB9RTO	Material Coordinator
Bruce Plantz	K9OZ	Communications Coordinator
Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	Member at Large



March Calendar of Events

- 2nd of Mar: Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in classroom #8 in Breyer Hall. Breyer Hall is located on the Southeast corner of Irving and Kenilworth.
- 6th of Mar: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 8th of Mar: Club brunch **every** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 8th of Mar: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant 6:30 PM,, Glen Ellyn
- 15th of Mar: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL.
- 25th of Mar: North Shore Radio Club is holding a Hamfest, Job Fair, Radio & Electronic Market this date at the Lake County Fair Grounds. Further information is available at their website:
<http://www.ns9rc.org>
- 29th of Mar: WCRA monthly VEC testing will be held from 7-9pm at the Helen Plum Memorial Library in Lombard. Testing will be in the Col Plum Auditorium.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - March 2nd - Wheaton College - 7:30 PM

WCRA was founded in 1948 and continues to be involved in all facets of Amateur Radio supporting the healthy growth of the hobby through diversification and participation. Our members have always been our most important asset and we would like to see you join us for our next meeting. Our business meetings are followed by a break for conversation, coffee, soda pop, and fat pills. This is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm.

HAMLETTER

Newsletter Address:

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Wheaton, Illinois 60187-4728
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

Club Mailing Address:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189

First Class Mail

