



HAMLETTER



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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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In This Issue:

- * Plainfield Update
- * DX News
- * Calendar of Events
- * Late Breaking News

Shack of the Month



N9EF

Robert Mitalieri

QTH: Carol Stream

First licensed: 1971

Favorite rig: Yaesu FT-1000 MP Mk V

Favorite bands: 10 and 17

When Robert Mitalieri was a teenager in Brooklyn, his father brought home a ARRL handbook he had found in the subway. Robert was intrigued. Then he saw a house in the neighborhood with a big antenna. He knocked on the door and asked if a ham lived there. The next thing he knew he was in an elderly gentleman's basement shack,

From the President's Gavel

by Joe LeFebvre WCRA President



It's that time of year again so let me cut and paste a little.

Despite the great weather, winter is fast approaching and that means HamFest time. We need everyone's participation. If you have never worked for the HamFest before, please consider working with us this year. If you have worked with us before, please do so again this year. The HamFest is our only money making activity and the club needs your help.

All kidding aside, we do need everyone's help and support, even more so this year. The HamFest committee is again experiencing problems with the local government at our current venue. It is too late in the year to make any changes so we are going to proceed with the 2002 HamFest at the same location as last year. Let's all hope that the climate of fear that is so pervasive in our society has subsided by January so we get a decent turnout.

Now this is where we need your help. We need to form a new and separate committee to search for a new venue for the 2003 HamFest. Our current HamFest committee has their hands full dealing with all the problems associated with bringing off the current HamFest and we need to keep them focused on those tasks. The club needs other members to come forward and undertake the task of searching out a new home for our HamFest. This may take a long time and the sooner we can start the better off we will be. (From

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
Vice President	Chris Cieslak	KC9L	708:343-5507
Secretary	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630:510-9783
Treasurer	Kim Wiese	N9XE	630:545-9950
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 Truitt	W9LQL	630:682-0304
Club Truck	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:739-2930

Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	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
Chaplain	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 Mitilieri	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
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) PLEncode/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 Reprtr

HAMLETTER

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(continued from page one **Shack of the Month**) learning about Ham radio.

Thanks to the tutoring of that gentleman, he was first licensed as a Novice in 1971, becoming WN2DVV. He operated a Heath HR10B receiver and DX60A transmitter. "I worked most of New York state and even New Jersey and Pennsylvania."

Robert says he won the draft lottery in 1971, and convinced the Army to teach him electronics. After an exciting "tour" of Southeast Asia, he returned to Brooklyn. In a short time he earned his Advanced ticket and became N2EFT. He says he was very active for about 10 years, making a habit of working Europe with a big beam on Staten Island overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Then he started accepting some remote work assignments.

For the next few years he had many consulting assignments overseas that precluded any amateur activity. In 1990 he relocated to Illinois, and for the first couple years was living in an apartment and was off the air. Then eight years ago he bought a townhouse in Carol Stream and was able to convince the homeowners association to let him put up a Cushcraft-R7000 vertical.

That got him back on the air and he reassembled his shack from equipment he had in storage and has added some new gear. Today his main rig is a Yaesu FT 1000 MP Mk V he recently acquired. His "backup" rig is a Drake TR-7. "The TR-7 is the first new rig I ever bought. I don't think I'll ever get rid of it," says Robert. For that extra boost he has a Ten Tec Titan amplifier.

Robert's first love in Ham radio is rag chewing on HF. He mainly operates on 10 and 15 and the WARC bands, which he describes a "welcome haven from contests." His shack walls are lined with QSLs, many from DX stations, and he says he really enjoys the QSL collecting aspect of the hobby. He says he'd like to expand to 75 meters, but hasn't had much luck with attic antennas.

While primarily a phone rag chewer, Robert does operate CW and says he's still striving to get "more conversational" with his CW skills. He has several paddles, bugs and keys around the shack to attest to his interest in CW. (Continued on page 9)

STILL STRUGGLING WITH CODE?

The Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs club offers semi-annual FREE 5-wpm Morse code classes. Classes will meet once a week for nine weeks from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Most people who complete the course seem to have a good time. We provide advice for studying the code and taking the FCC 5-wpm exam as well as a lot of morale support. A high percentage of students pass the FCC code test. YOU MUST SIGN UP AHEAD OF TIME. We need time to prepare materials.

The next session runs Thursday, September 20 through November 15, 2001, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. at the Wheaton Police Department, 900 W.Liberty.

For information or to sign up contact:

George W9GWR 630 871-1786 (w9gwr@arrl.net)

Charlie WB9SGD 630 665-4506 (wb9sgd@earthlink.net)

WCRA Meeting Minutes

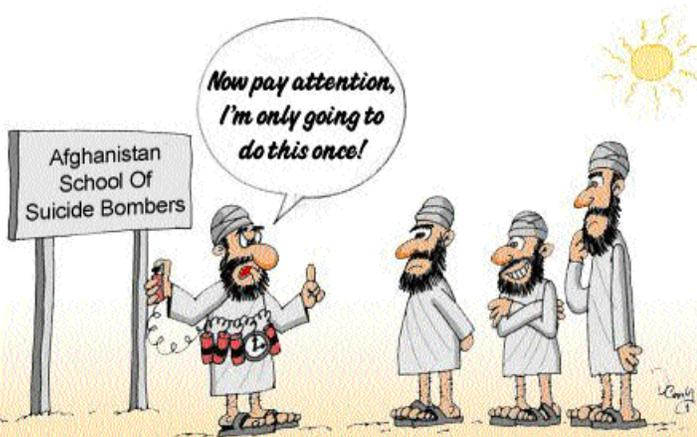
by: Robert Mitiileri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary



The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Vice-President, **Chris, KC9L**, who reported that, due to last minute family obligations, the program at this evening's meeting would be Show & Tell. Next month's program is scheduled to be by SMC, the Society of Midwest Contesters. **Kurt, KB9RTO**, ran the meeting upon Chris's departure and introductions were made by the board and all attendees. A motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes of the September meeting. Secretary, **Robert, N9EF**, asked that members who change their email address, should send the update to **Carol, KB9FYL**. **Kim, N9XE**, gave a report of the club's financial condition. Reporting for Health & Welfare, **Jim, W9DHX**, said that Rudy Keller is out of the hospital and returning home. RAB, **Don, N9NYX**, reported

that the 440 machine is still in need of repair. The 2 meter autopatch is not yet operational, but the DVR is now working. Some members reported they have heard the DARC 2 meter machine on the WCRA2 meter repeater. Training, Robert, N9EF, reported that there are currently eight students attending the Tech class at COD. **Mike, AB9AF**, will be joining the Tech instructors. Field Day, **Dale, NJ9E**, passed around a QSL card from the ISS (International Space Station). **George, KA3HSW**, made the ISS contact on Field Day. Dale still has many certificates from Field Day for those who participated. If you helped out and haven't been at a meeting to receive your certificate, come to a meeting, or find Dale. Christmas Party, Dale, NJ9E, reported that Ruth is still looking for a location to hold the Christmas Party. The location should hold about 100 people. Contact Ruth with suggestions (think inexpensive). Hamletter, Don, N9NYX, reported that **Joe, N9WRO**, mailed a copy of the Hamletter to those without email addresses. The 15th is the deadline for columns and articles submitted for inclusion in the Hamletter. The Shack-of-the-Month will be reinstated. The Hamletter is now in one column. This will make reading the electronic copy easier. Joe, N9WRO, returned from the EOC and gave a report on the Hamfest. Joe discussed the fees that will be assessed beginning January 1st by the town of Stickney. The town will charge a percentage of ticket sales, and will also charge a fee per table. A discussion and vote ensued. The meeting attendees voted to continue with plans for using Hawthorne racetrack for the upcoming Hamfest. However, a committee will be formed which will immediately be searching for, and evaluating, sites for the 2003 Hamfest. New Business: **Janie, AE9JG**, mentioned that there will be a JOTA event next Saturday in Hummer Park in Downers Grove. The event will take place from 9AM until 3PM, please help out if you can. **John, WB9VGJ**, mentioned that he had a tower for sale, with an attached QTH. Please contact John if interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 and refreshments were served. An interesting Show and Tell program followed.



BIRTHDAYS OF NOVEMBER

MARK	W9UZ	11-10-35
SHERMAN	N9WBK	11-11-20
ROBERT	W9QBH	11-20-32
ROBERT	WA9E	11-21-50
LARRY	KA9KDC	11-22-58
JOE	N9WRO	11-22-43
ROBERT	N9IRY	11-26-37

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Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

Need another reason to dust off that HF rig and get active for the fall/winter season? The solar flux reached its highest levels of the current sunspot cycle in the last week of September and early October. Average daily sunspot numbers were up 90 points from earlier in the month. Now is the best time in years to work DX on 12 and 10 with conditions peaking though December.

The Next New DXCC Entity is here! "The Daily DX" reported in early October that the "Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association" (PIARA) has announced that all planning is now complete for their operation from Ducie Island and expects to be admit-

ted into the IARU society on November 16th. If PIARA does become a member of the IARU, Pitcairn Island will become a "Political Entity" under DXCC Rules, "Section II. DXCC LIST CRITERIA" under "Criteria: 1.c)". Ducie Island will qualify as a new DXCC entity under the same section, but under "Criteria: 2.Geographic Separation Entity, Part b) Island Area (Separation by Water)". To celebrate the event, the group will be operational using a VP6 callsign to be announced at the beginning of the operation at 0000z on November 16th (depending upon any transportation problems that may arise). The group intends to provide contacts with as many different amateur radio operators as possible during their stay on the island. Operators will be Tom,VP6TC, Dave,VP6DB, Kan,VP6BK/JA1BK, Hitoshi,JF1IST, Tamama,JA1SLS, Mike,K9AJ, Vince,K5VT and Philippe,FO3BM. The pilot station is Dr. Bill Avery, K6GNX. QSL Manager is Garth Hamilton, VE3HO (cards can be sent via the bureau or direct with a SASE). Their suggested main band plan is as follows:

15 meters - Look for them to be active on 21020 kHz (CW) and 21295 kHz (SSB) 24 hours each day. This is to allow individuals more time to find and work the group depending on their propagation in their area.

20/10 meters - These two bands are expected to be their main SSB frequencies. Watch 28495 kHz and 14195 kHz. Also, watch 14020 kHz to be their main CW frequency other than 15 meters.

There will be some activity on the other bands (160-6 meters), as well as RTTY in addition to SSB and CW operations. However, it is expected that low band and WARC operations are more likely to take place in the last days of the operation. The reason for this is so they can concentrate on their main goal to allow as many stations as possible to work this rare IOTA and probable new DXCC entity. The group requests to please do not dupe your contacts, however, there will not be any blacklisting for duping a contact. A log search will be available on the Web at: <http://www.big.or.jp/~ham/dx.html>

There are now 4 somewhat active stations from the Ogasawara Islands (AS-031). Taku, JD1BIA, is QRV on SSB on 6, 10, 15, 40 and 80 meters. JD1BKY can be found on 40 meters between 1100 and 1300z and is also active on 15 meters. JD1BKZ has been showing up on 30 meters CW anywhere from 1000 to 1300z and is QRV on 6 meters. Look for JA2SWF/JD1 who has been active on 15 and 20 meters CW and SSB. In addition, JZ1BKZ and JM1MKB/JD1 have been active on 6 meters using a TS-690S to a small antenna. They will be there another 3 to 5 years.

A Japanese group will head out on DXpedition at the beginning of this month. "Team Tuvalu" expects to make a huge amount of contacts from T2-land (OC-015), especially on 160 meters for Europe and the East Coast of USA, and on 6m for Europe by long-pass opening. Operations will take place between November 1-8th, using the callsigns T20T or T22T (on HF) and T20SIX (on 6m). Activity will be on 160-6 meters SSB/CW/RTTY. They plan to have three stations on 24 hours a day.

Equipment: IC-756PRO+AMP, two TS-570G+AMP, FT-920+AMP, IC-706MK2(for 6m beacon, 50105/QSX 50130)

Antennas: a 4 element triband Yagi for 20m/15m/10m, a 4 element Yagi for 17m/12m, 4 element and 7 element Yagis for 6m and 160-30m verticals/dipoles. QSL information: HF via JN1HOW, 6m via JH7OHF, direct only. JN1HOW - Toshihiko Niwa, 1081-8 Sakae, Kitakawabe, 349-1213 JAPAN. JH7OHF - Katsushi Ono, 15-10 Gamokotobuki, Koshigaya, 343-0836 JAPAN

Ann,W2AZK and Brian,KF2HC of the North Jersey DX Association will be active from the French side of Saint Martin (IOTA NA-105) November 26 to December 2. They will be on phone and CW, 40 through 10, using FS/home call. If they can, they will also get on 80 and 160. They plan to take an IC-706, wire antennas and possibly a Force-12 Sigma vertical dipole. Yagis, including 6M, are a possibility.

Chris DeBeer,ZS6RI (ex ZS5IR, ZS8IR, 5H4IR and 5H9IR) is now active as ZD1IR while stationed on Gough Island (AF-030) in the Tristan da Cunha Islands. He'll be working on the island for the next 12-13 months and will be running all bands from 10-160 meters, CW, SSB and RTTY. Tristan da Cunha ranked # 54 on the ARRL 2000 Most Wanted List. Currently Chris is running 100 watts into a dipole, but soon hopes to have a beam for the high bands and wire antennas for the low bands. When his responsibilities as team leader and medic allow, he'll play some radio. He has a beam (C4H) and lots of wire, and expects to be active on all bands. He has two radios and an amp. Much support was provided by the NCDXF. A web page has been set up at <http://zs6ez.za.org/zd9ir.htm>. QSL via ZS6EZ. Please note that a single IRC does NOT cover airmail postage to most areas.

Alan,F6BFH informs OPDX that a French team (from the Presence Radioamateur) will be in Cambodia now through November 10th. Alan/F6BFH has received his callsign, XU7ABW, the others will go to the Telecom Ministry in Phnom Penh to receive their licenses. The team will have two IC-706MK2 radios with a dipole for 80-6 meters and plan to be active on CW and SSB. They will be travelling like backpackers with only knapsacks, including the radio equipment. They will try to activate Koh Poah Island (AS-133) in the Shianoukville archipelago. QSL via home callsigns or the bureau. Alan states that a special cup will be awarded to the station having the maximum number of QSOs on the maximum number of bands. Send your request by E-mail to: f6bfh@wanadoo.fr

Look for Ann,W2AZK and Brian,KF2HC of the North Jersey DX Association (NJDXA) to be active from the French side of Saint Martin (IOTA NA-105) November 26th through December 2nd. They will operate SSB and CW on 40-10 meters using FS/home call. The bands 160/80 meters will be added if circumstances allow. Because of anticipated luggage restrictions, they are planning a modest station which will include an IC-706, wire antennas, and possibly a Force-12 Sigma vertical dipole. Yagi antennas (including perhaps 6 meters), and a second station could be added if they find they have room to transport the extra equipment. QSL via their home callsign. Check "DX News" on NJDXA's Web page for last minute announcements at: <http://www.njdx.org/>.

Eric, T3ØES, a Peace Corps volunteer on Butari Tari Island (OC-17) in West Kiribati continues to be active. Listen around 14.280 (+/-) usually between 10:00-12:00z on Thursdays and Sunday evenings (his time) and sometimes on Tuesday. He'll be there for another year plus. He runs on low power (TS-430), on batteries charged on a solar panel. His antenna is a dipole strung between two coconut trees. QSL via CARA: P O Box 3441, Danbury, CT 06813.

Christian,TT8DX remains in Moundou, Chad until December 2002. He is mostly active in 6 meters with 400 watts and a HB9CV 2 element beam. On HF Chris is using a dipole and 1 KW mostly on SSB, but he will QSY to CW if you ask him. Chris is a personal friend of the Telecommunication Minister of Chad and he was signing as TT8SA and TTØA in 1989/1992 from N'Djamena, the capital city. QSL via F5OGL. With the help of recent inquiries on the Internet, the DXCC Desk has received and accepted documentation for Christian's TT8DX operation. Anyone who has previously submitted TT8DX and had it rejected, should contact DXCC and your record will be updated without having to re-submit the card again. If not, it can be sent with your next submission.

8ZØA has been somewhat active in September and the beginning of October. 8Z is a Saudi Arabian pre-

fix. The person using this callsign has been giving HZ1TA as the QSL manager. HZ1TA is the call of Saudi Arabian Prince Talal Al Saude, brother of King Fhad. According to The Daily DX, the prince has been out of the country for several years and HZ1TA has been QRV by second op Ahmad Bukhari. Sulaiman Al Jedaei, 7Z1SJ, contacted Ahmad, who reported he has no knowledge of any operations of 8ZØA. Ahmad, who is an old timer (90+), does occasionally operate the HZ1TA station. Sulaiman agrees that 8ZØA must be a pirate.

There were some changes to Amateur Radio licenses in the United Kingdom as of October 1st. 5 WPM will become the new CW standard for HF in the UK. "The current A/B license with M5 calls will be grandfathered to A licenses. They can choose to keep the M5 call or take an MØ as a replacement", says Fred, G4BWP. The novice license (2EØ calls) will be able to operate 50 watts on all HF bands and will now be renamed "Intermediate Amateur Radio License". In January 2002 a new Foundation license is expected to be introduced. These will be M2 calls with 10 watts on all HF bands, except 10 meters. More complete details can be found at <http://www.rsgb.org.uk/news/gb2rs.htm>.

Station HV5PUL will be active from the Pontifical Lateran University (Vatican City State) on November 6th during "Dies Accademicus", the opening day of the academic year 2001-2002. Operations will be on the HF bands from Ø8ØØ-17ØØz. Other operations are scheduled for after November 6th, however, calendar activities have to be defined. QSL HV5PUL to Luca, IWØDJB. For further info and updates, check the Web page at: <http://www.pul.it>

DX POTPOURRI

Mike Gloistein, GMØHCQ plans to be in the South Atlantic later this month. He expects to be in South Orkney Islands (AN-007) November 17 to 22 signing VP8SIG. On November 24, look for Mike as VP8SGK from King Edward Point, South Georgia Islands (AN-007).

Allan, VK2GR and his wife will be working in The Solomon Islands at a hospital in Atoifi, Malaita Island (OC-047) until November 30. When time permits he will be active as H44MA on 15, 20 and 40 meters CW, PSK31 and SSB. His license does not allow him to operate on the WARC bands. QSL via VK2GR.

The Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) "The World Factbook 2001" has just been released. This is a great resource for DXers and is also available on-line at: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>.

Peter, ON6TT and Robert, S53R, both with the UN's World Food Program, reportedly left Afghanistan shortly after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. As this is written, they are staying in Islamabad. Both are expected to try to receive callsigns, and are expected to be active possibly on 160-17 meters. Both Robert and Peter were heard using the callsign AP2ARS.

Due to the September attacks, the German team (DL2RUM & DL7VFR), who were expected to be active from Midway Island at the end of September were not able to make their trip as scheduled. They hope to be able to reschedule for sometime in the near future.

QRZ DX reports the trip to the Austral Islands by Jon, WB8YJF, and Leo, K8PYD, has been postponed until early December. The trip was originally scheduled to take place between September 24 and October 2.

Victor Rivera, ZK1CG has obtained special call sign ZK1USA from the Telecom in the Cook Islands. He will have special QSL cards for this "support the People of the United States" operation. QSL via ZK1CG, Victor Rivera, P.O. Box 618, Rarotonga Cook Islands, via New Zealand.

In the same spirit, Esmond, 8R1AK has been using the special callsign 8R1USA from Guyana on 20/17/15/10 meters. Look for him around 28530, 21260, 18127 and 14247 kHz anywhere between 19ØØ-Ø5ØØz. QSL via 8R1AK.

J11PLF/1, 7N1GMK/1 and 7N1PVR/1 plan to be on from Hachijo Island (AS-043) November 2-5, 80-10 meters (including WARC), SSB and CW. QSL to their home calls.

JA6GXX will be active from Danjo Island (AS-056) from November 6-15, November 27-December 6 and from December 27 to January 7. QSL to Masafumi Ishihara, 493-4 Koba-cho, Fukue, 853-0033 Japan.

IOTA frequencies are listed here for your convenience -

CW 28040 24920 21040 18098 14040 10114 7030 3530 SSB 28560 28460 24950 21260 18128 14260 7055 3765

OX3IPA will be the Greenland call for Ben,OZ5AAH/ OZ5IPA, October 27 to November 5, SSB and CW. Ben's on-air time will mostly be between 10-22Z daily. Look for him to try SSTV and RTTY October 30th. He will be on in the International Police Associations Contest the first weekend of November. For more information, go to www.ipa-rc.de.

The Voodoo Contest Group will be active in the CQWW CW Contest, on November 24-25th, from Ouagadougou, Bukina Faso (XT). They will enter as a Multi-Multi category with six stations. Operators will include G3PJT,G3SXW, G3XTT, G4BWP, G4IFB, G4PIQ and KC7V. QSL via G3SXW.

There is still lots of radio activity out of central Asia. Nodir,EY8MM in Tajikistan likes 30 meters just slightly after 0100z. After that he moves to 12 meters CW. QSL via K1BV.

If you are interested in reading the story about the "Kerkennah 2000" Dxpedition, TS7N, you can find it on the following Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/ts7n>.

The Daily DX reports an interesting Web page about QSL situation in Albania. Check out the information at <http://mypage.bluewin.ch/HB9BGN/i3.htm>.

Don,W9DC has announced that he has modified his Web page (which contains Island and Lighthouse Data) and has changed his E-mail addresses as follows:

Web Site - <http://www.w9dc.com/>

E-mail for Island data goes now to - IOTA@w9dc.com

E-mail for World Lighthouse Award data - WLH@w9dc.com

Now here's what's happening on HF in November:

1200z Nov. 3	Ukrain		
1200z Nov. 4	DX Contest	80-10 Meters	CW & SSB
2100z Nov. 3	ARRL CW		
0300z Nov. 4	Sweepstakes	160-10 Meters	CW
2300z Nov. 9	Japan Int'l		
2300z Nov. 10	DX Contest	80-10 Meters	SSB
0000z Nov. 10	European DX		
2359z Nov. 11	RTTY Contest	80-10 Meters	RTTY
1200z Nov. 10	OK/OM (Czech Republic)		
1200z Nov. 11	DX Contest	160-10 Meters	CW & SSB
2100z Nov. 17	ARRL SSB		
0300z Nov. 18	Sweepstakes	160-10 Meters	SSB
0000z Nov. 24	CQ Worldwide		
2359z Nov. 25	CW DX Contest	160-10 Meters	CW



2000z Dec. 2 QRP/ARCI

2359z Dec. 2 Holiday Sprint 160- 6 Meters CW

You can confirm the dates of these events on the internet at <http://home.so.no/~janame/hammain.html> or, as an alternative. <http://wwwsk3gb.se/contest/>.

Special thanks this month to The Daily DX, ARRL, OPDX Bulletin,DXNL, and World Radio for information used.

SHACK OF THE MONTH (continued from page 3)

He also dabbles with digital modes such as Pactor, RTTY and packet.

In 2000 He upgraded to Extra at 20 wpm. He says it looks like Illinois will be home for a while, so last year he changed his call to N9EF.

Today Robert is very active in the hobby and is working to complete his Worked All States. He says that after 30 years and multiple relocations, he's decided to finish up that award from Illinois. "I was surprised recently with some of the states I didn't have, like Arkansas," he says. "So I've made a goal of finishing that up."

About five years ago he noticed the WCRA's truck parked somewhere, called the phone number for more information and started attending meetings. He's been active in the club and is currently the Secretary as well as serving on the Education committee and as an instructor in the Technician class at the College of DuPage. He says he believes in giving back to the hobby to help bring new people into it. He remembers the kindness of that Ham in Brooklyn who helped him get started, and wants to pass that spirit along.

"Ham radio is one part of my life that hasn't changed through the years," says Robert. "I may not always have this much of station, but I know I'll always have something on the air."

(From The President's Gavel continued from page 2)

Without the revenues brought in by the HamFest our club will only survive for 2 or 3 years. If anyone has any ideas about alternate revenue sources please let us know, we are willing to explore any and all options. Finally let me say in these very trying times, think smart and be smart out there and lets all take care of each other.

73, N9WRO

ANCHORS ANCHORS ANCHORS ANCHORS ANCHORS
Yaesu G1000DX rotor. One year old. \$500

Dyneke DA100E amplifier with active antenna. \$30 OBO

MFJ amplifier (model unknown). \$30 OBO

Drake R8B Receiver. Three years old. \$450 (paid \$1,300 new)

Contact seller:

Cushcraft log periodic, model unknown, 10 - 32 MHz. Wants offer.
Buyer will probably have to arrange to take down.

Phyllis Crutchett
(630) 801-0585



**MEMORIALS REMAIN TO EFFORTS OF WCRA
VOLUNTEERS AND OTHERS WHO AIDED TORNADO
VICTIMS IN PLAINFIELD DISASTER**

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

After 10 years, the Plainfield Tornado has two Memorials--one a granite monument, the other a new group of ham radio volunteers--The Plainfield Radio League. (web page: www.prlham.org)

The monument is located right in the tornado's path. It rests in a park-like setting between the high school and the Catholic elementary school, close by Route 59. Its triangular shape(see photo) is topped by a circle with two giant hand, clasped in a firm grip, with the reverse side reading:

"Thousands of volunteers came forward after the tornado and helped this area with its immediate needs and long-term recovery. We salute their spirit with this memorial. We will be eternally grateful for their helping hands."

The Plainfield Radio League was sparked by Rob Sobkoviak, the son of an older ham. Rob remembered his father's interest in the hobby, and saw the hams of WCRA and other clubs at work during the crisis. He felt the area needed a group to continue the tradition, so he obtained his licensed(N9AJA) and now the League meets



monthly at Larry's Diner, just west of the bridge on Route 30 in Plainfield.

WCRA club member Rick Costello was a Plainfield resident at the time, and flashed the news of the event to Club Officials. The Club truck and members to offer services were on the scene at 10 a.m. the following morning, and stayed on the scene until 5 p.m. next Monday--a full five days of work.

A granite stone and a living organization--both memorials to a great community effort of service.



LATE BREAKING NEWS

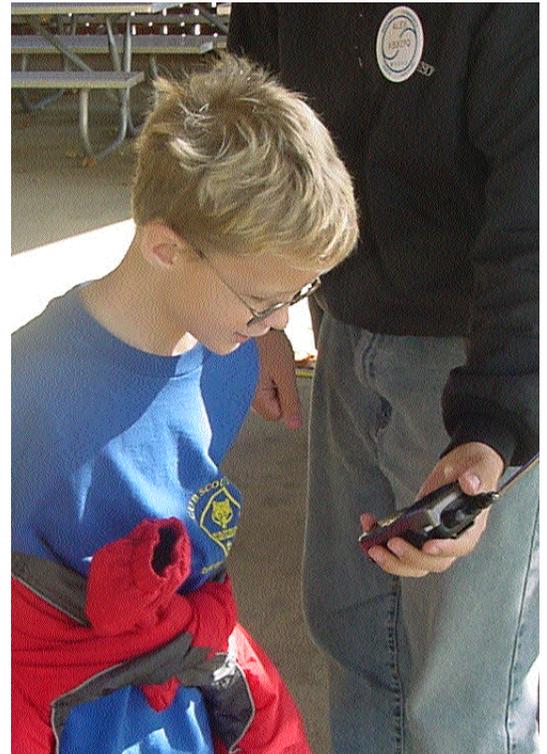
Four members of the WCRA participated in the "Jamboree-on-the Air" Scouting event on October 20th at Hummer Park, Downers Grove. Janie, AE9JG; Ed, N9UWC; Alex, KP9ZPQ; and Jim, W9DHX. Prospective "hams-to-be" were shown the ATV mode, using the new R-3 handheld TV receiver and a microtransmitter (see photos)



Alex shows the handheld to parent Eric Dallmann, with son Josh and Kieersten Smith looking on.

Photos by Jim W9DHX

Cub Scout Zachary Paradis takes a close look at the color picture of himself on the R-3 TV handheld.



November Calendar of Events

- 1st of November: Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 2nd of November: Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in classroom #8 in Breyer Hall. Breyer Hall is located just to the East of the library and is two buildings East of Edman Chapel. Room 8 is in the basement at the base of the stairs.
- 6th of November: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 8th of November: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- 10th of November: Celebrate the 226th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.
- 15th of November: **DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR DECEMBER.**
- 22nd of November: WCRA monthly VEC testing will be held from 6:30 - 8:30pm at the Helen Plum Memorial Library in Lombard. Testing will be in the Col Plum Auditorium. For last minute changes check the following website: <http://plaws.net/VE/>.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - November 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

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Club Mailing Address:

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P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
Club website: www.wheatonhamfest.org

First Class Mail

