



HAMLETTER

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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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Shack of the Month



After missing from the Hamletter for many months, Bruce, K9OZ, has graciously accepted the position as Shack of the Month writer. Bruce reintroduces this column by interviewing himself. Editor.

K9OZ
Bruce Plantz
QTH: Lisle
First licensed: 1966
Favorite rig: Elecraft K2
Favorite bands: 40 and 20 cw

I have the best of both worlds in ham radio right now. I was licensed in the 60s, so I'm an old-timer. But as someone who was nearly inactive for nearly 20 years, I am rediscovering the aspects of the hobby with the enthusiasm of a 12-year-old Novice.

I got interested in ham radio after reading a hobby column in Boys Life, the magazine for Boy Scouts. At the age of 11, I sensed something magic about being able to communicate with people all over the world. I discovered a neighbor who was a ham, and after a short demonstration, I was hooked.

About a year later I was licensed as WN0NHG. In January of '68 I got my General and became WA0QMZ. While helping me, my dad got interested and became WA0OQX.

I was very active in chasing DX, passing CW traffic in the National Traffic System and hanging out with my buddies on 75 meters late at night. At 15 I was the Route Manager for Nebraska and the manager of the Nebraska CW net. I couldn't imagine life without ham radio.

But people change. I stayed active through my early 20s operating from the college station at the University of Missouri and managing to string up antennas to keep in touch with my dad.

Several years of living in Chicago apartments drove me off the air. When I moved to Lisle in the early 90s I again strung up an antenna to talk to my dad, but I was busy with work, computers and assorted other hobbies. The radio fell by the wayside and the old Yaesu FT-101ZD gathered dust in the basement. Also, my tube-powered keyer finally died, putting me off CW. I have to credit my dad with making sure I kept my license renewed during that time. (con't on page 3)

From the President's Gavel

by Joe LeFebvre WCRA President



September 11th, A second day of infamy

On September 11th terrorism came to our shores with unimaginable ferocity and forever changed the landscape of America. No one knows if this was a one time, go for broke shot with everything they had or just the first battle of a very long war. As the US government prepares our response the future is unclear. The President is warning of a long and protracted effort to bring those responsible for this atrocity to justice. As amateur radio operators we do not need to just sit on the sidelines and watch. Part of the rationale for the allocation of radio frequencies for Amateur Radio use is to maintain a pool of telecommunication specialists that could be used in time of national emergency. In the weeks and months ahead we may very well be called upon to full that role. All of us need to take the time now to review our own preparedness. Build your own checklist for emergency deployment. Some of the key points to include are:

Check equipment, antennas and batteries. Keep batteries in a charged state. Try different radios with different antennas.

Check your cables. Weekly nets are ideal opportunities to check your equipment

Check owner's manual. Can you setup radios for different frequencies ???

Get things you will need in one place ready to go.

Fortunately the truck committee has been hard at work for some time now and I believe the Club Van is in good shape. We do however need to go over the interior, remove and store any non-essential items, check the radios, antenna and connectors and stock it with necessary items such as paper, pens, etc. so we can be ready to deploy if needed.

I need someone to come forward and volunteer to provide a co-chair for the Public Service/Emergency Committee. Myself, as well as many of our members that can always be counted upon to come out for public service events, are also members of the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management. If

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
Vice President	Chris Cieslak	KC9L	708:343-5507
Secretary	Robert Mitiieri	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 Kwart	NJ9E	630:858-8541
Club Awards	John Truitt	W9LQL	630:682-0304
Club Truck	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:739-2930
Elmer/Know-Code			
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	630:871-1786
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630:653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	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 Mitiieri	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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Features	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581
Features	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630:653-9090
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the unimaginable were to happen we will be called to duty elsewhere. During the crisis the club will need someone to manage the clubs emergency response activities and to coordinate with the OEM and other clubs and organizations locally and possibly beyond. I hope and pray that we will never be called upon, but as that Tuesday has shown, we cannot afford to be unprepared again.
73, N9WRO

Shack of the Month(Continued from Page 1)

I went on that way for years, until a combination of things got me back on the air. In 1998 my dad passed away and I inherited a car with a two-meter radio in it plus his old gear. My plan was to plug in the gear to make sure it worked, check out a couple of hamfests to get an idea on pricing, and dispose of everything.

The problem was, I went to a hamfest and got a kick out of seeing the old gear, hearing CW in the background and seeing all these other hams. Then I started listening to the two-meter rig in the car, and heard some talk about Field Day. I visited the WCRA Field Day site two years ago. I just walked around and really didn't talk to many people, but I was impressed. That day I wondered why I had quit doing all this and vowed to get back into the hobby.

To make a long story short, I got way into it. That fall I purchased an Icom 746 and hooked it up to a Hustler 5 BTV I'd picked up at a hamfest. I was as excited as a new Novice. My code speed came back quickly and I discovered I really enjoyed CW. In November 1999 I upgraded to Extra and changed to my current call.

The next summer I got the urge to get back into kit building and got bit by the QRP bug. I built a Red Hot 40. I made a bunch of mistakes, but I had a blast building it. It reminded me of building Heathkits back in the 60s. Then I built an Elecraft K1 that worked like a charm. Last Spring I built an Elecraft K2 that is now my main rig. Last winter I picked up a used Icom 706 Mark II and started running CW mobile on 40 and 20 going to and from work. Yes, I know CW mobile on the Tri-State is crazy, but I enjoy it. Throw in a couple FT-90 mobile rigs, and a couple HTs and that rounds out my equipment. I need to get rid of at least one radio, but can't make up my mind which one to part with.

Today I'm active mainly on 40 and 20 CW. I operate primarily QRP, and get a real charge out of snagging DX with 5 watts and a dipole. My antennas are a Gap Challenger and a 80-meter dipole fed with ladder line and tuned by an old Dentron Super Tuner (the only remaining piece of my dad's gear.)

I enjoy regular CW QSOs and contesting. I also do a little PSK and RTTY. Every now and then I will get the microphone out of the drawer, but that is a rarity.

One of the biggest surprises in the past two years was that my wife got interested and is now K9GAL. We enjoy keeping in touch via two-meters and she is working on her General.

That's enough about me. I'm excited to be doing this for the Hamletter and am looking for volunteers who would like to be interviewed. I'm a magazine editor, by the way, so I've done more interviews and stories than I want to count. I'm not doing this for experience, or for the great financial rewards Don has promised me. I'm doing it to meet more hams and to help draw more people into the club and this enjoyable hobby.

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 7:35 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 July meeting, with one correction. The two new members voted in at the September 8 meeting, Michael and Alex, were announced by **Kim, N9XE**, not **Carol KB9FYL**. Vice President **Chris, KC9L**, reported that, due to last minute confusion, there would be no program at this evening's meeting. Next month's program is scheduled to be by SMC, the Society of Midwest Contesters. Custodian, **Kurt, KB9RTO**, requested volunteers for future club projects. **John, W9LQL**, standing in for Kim, N9XE, gave a report of the club's financial condition. Membership, Carol, KB9FYL, reported that membership stands at 158. Reporting for Health & Welfare, **Dale, NJ9E**, said that **Eileen, N9TWS** is in rehab and will be transferred when she's

gained some strength. Hamfest, **John, N9MWF**, confirmed that the Hamfest will be held at Hawthorne Racetrack and that the town 'fee' from last year was refunded and used as a down payment on this year's Hamfest. Public Service, Joe, N9WRO, reported that the Glendale Heights parade would be Saturday September 8th. Joe received a letter of thanks from the MS Society for the Club's support of that event. Truck Committee, **Steve, N9OA**, said that the truck would be at the Glendale Heights parade. Steve expanded on Kurt's request for volunteers to help with the truck. Those willing to volunteer some time should email Steve at n9oa@arrl.net. RAB, **Don, N9NYX**, wrote to the Board requesting that **Doug, W9NJM**, be selected to replace **Marty, KA9RCC**, on the RAB. The Board unanimously approved. Don also mentioned that the 220 machine is awaiting a part. The 2 meter autopatch is not yet operational. Training, **Jack, KA9HEL**, said that there would probably not be a training class in October. One of our Technician instructors, **Rich, AA9KZ**, may be moving out of the area, and we are looking for a volunteer to assist **Robert, N9EF**, with the class. Classes are at COD on Mondays from 7 until 9:30. Contact Jack or Robert if you are interested. Field Day, Dale NJ9E, will let the membership know when the WCRA Field Day will be shown on TV. Christmas Party, **Ruth, KA9RZG**, is looking for a location to hold the Christmas Party. The location should hold about 100 people. Hamletter, Don, N9NYX, took a poll of those who received the Hamletter. The question arose about how members without access to email obtain a hard-copy. There are about 38 members without email addresses. Carol, KB9FYL, will give Joe labels of those without email addresses. Joe will personally make copies of the Hamletter and have them mailed. Don said that emails that bounce due to invalid addresses will be removed from the list. If you change your email address, please let Carol, KB9FYL, know about it! New Business: **Janie, AE9JG**, asked if the club truck would be available for JOTA. A discussion ensued regarding the costs to the club to host a JOTA event. Joe, N9WRO, asked Steve, N9OA, to obtain some minimal estimates for hosting JOTA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 and healthy snacks were served.

BIRTHDAYS OF SEPTEMBER

Ron	N0EPT	10-01-57	Gerald	WB9WBN	10-11-47
Marilyn	KB9FEI	10-01-31	Frank	K9FFG	10-13-53
Al	W9NXX	10-03-24	Marc	W9KAN	10-16-41
John	N9LIN	10-10-30	Carol	WD9CNW	10-16-56
David	KA9SDT	11-10-58	Jim	N9TEB	10-22-25
Howard	WB9IRH	10-11-30			

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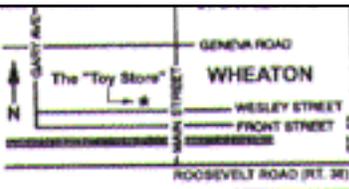
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Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

The annual DX Magazine Most Wanted Survey is now available at www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2001.html. Please be careful when filling in the boxes at the top of the form so your reply will be counted in the proper time zone and continent. The worldwide results of the 2000 Survey are posted on the web site under "DX News" and the continental/mode breakdown was published in The DX Magazine for Jan/Feb and Mar/Apr 2001. I hope you will all participate in this survey as it is considered to be the most accurate survey of "Most Wanted." The DXCC Yearbook for 2000 stated, in reference to the ARRL's Top 100 list, "The list of the 100 least credited entities we are currently able to produce provides interesting and informative information about the DXCC program and its members, but it isn't particularly useful for DXpeditioners looking for the most desirable places to activate. With the advent of new DXCC software we will be able to produce much more relevant and useful data. We will continue to

search the DXCC list for useful information, but for now, determining what DXers are really interested in working, we will look (with permission) to the Top Ten in The DX Magazine's 100 Most Needed Countries World Wide". Your support and participation is greatly appreciated – especially those of you who consider yourselves to be "little pistols", or those just starting out in the world of DX. Please be careful in marking the more confusing prefixes like the VK9's and VKØ's. Some of the totals in recent years would indicate errors in marking the survey form.

October 26, 2001 marks the inaugural day for the Bhutan Amateur Radio Club (BARC). Amateur Radio was officially allowed in the Kingdom of Bhutan in early 2000 with two DXpeditions: A52A and A52JS together making over 100,000 contacts for this most needed entity. There have been several individuals and group visits to Bhutan since. Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ a member of the A52A DXpedition, returned in January 2001 for medical work and also taught Bhutan's first amateur radio classes. A total of seven Bhutanese were officially licensed after passing written and Morse exams!

The primary purpose of the club is to foster amateur radio interest in the young Bhutanese and also to enable the club members to be active on the air. One other purpose is to promote the understanding of radio communications.

ICOM America has donated an ICOM 756Pro for the club and it will be used as the main radio at the Bhutan Ham Centre for visiting hams. An anonymous donor has donated seven complete stations for the BARC. Bob Heil, K9EID of Heil Sound, has donated several headsets and accessories. ICOM Japan previously donated an IC-746 during the A52A DXpedition. The A52A team and Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, have donated several antennas for the club.

The officers of the new club are:

President : Mr. Thinley Dorji
Director of the BTA
Ministry of Communications

Secretary : Mr. Phub Tshering,
Executive Engineer of the BTA

Member : Mr. Thinlay Wangchuck,
Ministry of Trade and Industry

Yasuo (Zorro) Miyazawa, JH1AJT and Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ are Honorary/Founding Members, and have been issued special lifetime call signs of A51A and A51B respectively.

To celebrate the formation of the Bhutan Amateur Radio Club, A5ØA will be active as a multi-multi entry in the CQWW SSB Contest October 27-28. A team of 7 U.S. operators will be helping the licensed Bhutanese hams learn to operate in a contest environment from the Bhutan Ham Centre, operated by Yeshey Dorji, A51AA. Before and after the contest the U.S. hams will concentrate on the low bands, WARC bands and new modes.

Expect A5ØA to be active in future contests and special events in Bhutan. See <http://www.qsl.net/a51aa> for information on visiting Bhutan.

U.S. Operators: (October 23 – November 1, 2001)

Dave Anderson, KW4DAA52DA
Chuck Brady, N4BQWA52CB

Pat Cahill, NØADQ A52PC
Glenn Johnson, WØGJ A51B
Stewart Lewis, WØSHLA52SL
Ken Nollet, KØEN A52ED
Steve Towle, WØHTA52ST

Bhutan Operators:

Yeshey Dorji, A51AA
Kesang Namgyel, A51KC
Parop Kinley, A51PK
Pema Rinzen, A51PR
Dorji Yeshey, A51UD
Ambika Gurung, A51YL
Wangpo Dorji, A51WD

QSL information:

A5ØA Bhutan Amateur Radio Club (BARC)
P.O. Box 88
Thimphu
Bhutan

At least two greenstamps required for return postage. Bhutan is not set up to handle bureau cards yet. American Team QSL information is via home call. Bhutan Ham QSL information is available at www.qrz.com. But as always, Work 'em first and worry later.

If you missed the 3D2CI Conway Reef DXpedition earlier this year you've got another chance. Raymundo, YS1RR, reports the mostly Yugoslavian team, head by Hrane, YT1AD, expects to be back on the reef between October 1 and 10. Team members include YT1AD, YU7AV, YZ7AA, YU1AU, YU1DX, Z32ZM, RZ3AA, K1LZ and possibly YT6A. They will have 2 stations and be QRV on all bands from 6 to 160 meters on CW, SSB and RTTY. They will have one call for CW and another for SSB and RTTY. The expected budget for this operation is \$45,000 (USD) and donations are being sought. Donations may be sent to YS1RR. YU1AA and VE3EXY will be pilot stations for this operation. A web site has been set up at <http://www.kragujevac.co.yu/3d2>. QSL CWQSOs via YT1AD, Hrane Milosevic, 36206 Vitanovac, YUGOSLAVIA and SSB & RTTY QSOs via Z32AU, Dragan Kostevski, P.O. Box 35, 6000 Ohrid, MACEDONIA.

The expected September-October 2001 DXpedition to Baker and Howland Islands by Hrane, YT1AD, and company has now been postponed until early May 2002. The group claims to have received provisional permission from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Honolulu. They plan to have 10 Amateur Radio operators along with 2 scientists from USFW on the island from May 2 to 11. Ray, YS1RR, says the approximate cost of this DXpedition is \$65,000 (USD). Each team member will be paying \$2,500 (USD) plus airline and hotel expenses. Donations for this trip can also be sent to YS1RR. More details are expected in the next two months.

Carlos Poinho, CU3FT an active DXer from the Azores Archipelago and a Telecom Tech. for the Portuguese Air-Force, is on a tour of duty for UNTAET in Dili, East Timor. His license was received from the United Nations in New York and he plans to be active as much as possible as 4W/CU3FT. Special attention will be made on the WARC bands and 6 meters, especially during the upcoming F2 season. Carlos will be able to help continue Amateur Radio in this fledgling country and to keep the East Timor Amateur Radio Association (ETARA) working together with local authorities for a future licensing authority after the full independence of East Timor. QSL via CT1EEB, Jose Emanuel Ribeiro de Sa, P. O. Box 79, P-3860 Estarreja, Portugal.

Ben, PY2KQ informed OPDX that a DXpedition to Trindade Island is scheduled for this month. There will be two stations active for two to three days, ZWØTB on SSB and ZWØTW on CW. This DXpedition has been planned since January and they currently have three sponsors: ICOM Incorporated Japan - is providing them with 2 HF transceivers. SOUNDY Equipamentos para Radioamador - will help them with partial QSL expenses and some equipments. RADIOHAUS Radiocomunications - will help them with partial QSL expenses and some accessories. They also have the support of the Brazilian Navy, which has a base there and also ANATEL, the Brazilian Telecommunication Agency which issued them the licences for ZWØTB and ZWØTW. Ben, PY2KQ, will be the QSL-Manager and will support the group. You can check detailed information about this DXpedition by visiting the official web site (still under construction) at: <http://www.radiohaus.com.br/trindade.htm>

The callsign XP1AB will once again be heard. XP1AB will be used from Sondrestrom on the west coast of Greenland during the CQWW SSB Contest on October 27-28th. XP1AB was last used in the 1960's and it will now be possible to work this special callsign again. Sondrestrom is in CQ zone 40, ITU Zone 5 and IOTA reference NA-018. A large group of OZ hams expect to arrive on October 24th. They will use the first days to put all the equipment together. If they have time, they will work on all HF bands and 6 meters with their own calls/OX. They may be active on CW before and/or after the contest. They expect to leave on October 31st. QSL Manager is OZ1ACB, direct only - no bureau cards. You can find many details/updates regarding the DXpedition on their Web site at <http://www.qsl.net/xp1ab>

Gary Capek, K8BN Event Chairman for Central Arizona DX Association (CADXA) has announced that the members of the Central Arizona DX Association will conduct a special event operation honoring the late Senator Barry M. Goldwater on October 20 and 21st (ØØØØz Friday through Sunday night local, Ø2ØØz, i.e. 50 hours). The callsign used will be the famous K7UGA. Operation will be on both SSB and CW, 160-6 meters. A special commemorative QSLcard will be available for stations that send direct requests. QSL via the club station trustee, KC7V, at 6545 E Montgomery Rd., Cave Creek, AZ 85331. Any and all proceeds from this event will go to the CADXA Scholarship fund administered by the ARRL. As such, donations are appreciated

Pierre, HB9QQ will be back in the Maldive Islands the last week of October and the first week of November. He will be QRV as 8Q7QQ from Gan Island, approximately 250 kilometers south of the equator. Activity is mostly planed for 6 meters with a 4 element wide spaced yagi and an Icom 746 with 100 watts. When 6 meters is closed, look for him on 10, 12, 17 and 30 meters CW. (Keep an ear on 28.885).

NHØS will be on from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, in the CQ Worldwide CW contest this fall. They will be multi-single. Participants will be NHØS/JF2SKV, NHØV/JG3VEI, AD6VH/JQ1UKK, JE6MYI and JK2VOC. Outside the contest, those who have Saipan calls will use them and the others will use /KHØØ calls on 160- 6 Meters through November 26th. QSL as directed.

D44TC will be the Cape Verde Islands call for a group of Italian and Portuguese contesters in CQWWphone. The multi-single entry will be from Sal Island (AF-086). They say the station is ready with three 60-foot-high towers, Force-12 yagis, Titanex verticals and beverages. As with a HC8A/HC8N, EA8BH and other such serious contest stations in favorable geographic locations, the operators plan to keep the site on the air in most major contests in coming years.

Several MDXA members are planning to operate in the CQWW SSB Contest (October 27 - 28th) from the Bahamas, C6A. They will be active the week before the contest (October 20th) with individual callsigns operating SSB, CW and perhaps some RTTY. They have rented the villa offered by Ken Helton, KC4SZE / C6AHN on Treasure Cay, Abaco Island (NA-080). This is the same QTH used by the C6AJX group for the 1999 CQWW CW Contest. Confirmed operators as of now are: Ernie, W5OXA/C6AKO, Randy, W5UE/C6ARB, Alan, N5PA, Stan, K5NY and Bernie, KK5EW. Details are still being worked out, so watch their web site for up to the minute information <http://mdxa.org/c6a-2001.html>

Al, NH7A will be active in the CQWW SSB Contest from Morocco as a Single Op/All Band entry signing CN2AC. QSL via F6BEE. Also, F6BEE will be active in CQWW CW Contest as a Single Op/All Band entry as CN2JS. QSL his home call.

K4BAI will be back in Barbados at the Warleigh Plantation as 8P9HT November 20-27. He hopes to use the 8P9Z callsign in CQWW, single op all band high power (SOABHP). QSL direct to K4BAI. Schedule requests can be sent to John at k4bai@worldnet.att.net. Outside the contest, he will be QRV on CW on 160 and the WARC bands but will do SSB on request. He plans to be on 6M CW and SSB whenever there is a band opening, except for during the contest.

6Y6L will be a multi-multi operation in the CQWW SSB from near Montego Bay, Jamaica. Ops will be AC8G, N6NR, N7YX, WA8LOW and W8ILC. They plan four station, each with an amplifier, to a selection of yagis, dipoles and verticals. Limited activity using home calls /6Y5 will begin late October 23 on SSB, CW, PSK31 and possibly 6M. QSL to the appropriate home call, not to the 6Y5 bureau. Cards for 6Y6L should go to WA8LOW with a self addressed, stamped envelope.

A small group of members of the NZART branch 33 will be going to Whale Island (OC-201) for a little radio activity. The group will be active on all HF bands from November 23-26. Whale Island is a small island located some 16 km off shore from Whakatane. It should not be confused with the active volcano of White Island, a much larger neighbor to the northeast. The island is presently managed by New Zealand's Department of Conservation, and access to the island is very limited with strict controls for any who may be lucky enough to be allowed a short visit. The special callsign of ZL6WI is being applied from the MED (New Zealand's licensing bureau). I hope to have more information about this next month as it becomes available.

DX POTPOURRI

Mark, VKØKMT has been was found on 21230 between Ø7ØØ and Ø9ØØz on Sunday. He is stationed at Davis Base, Antarctica. QSL via VK4KMT.

Hans, DL7CM is back on Contadora Island (NA-072), Panama until October 8. Look for HP1/DL7CM on 6-160 meters CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via DL7CM. He has a web page at <http://www.qsl.net/dl7cm>.

Effective September Amateur Radio BG (class 3) stations from China can no longer transmit between 21400-21450 as they have been reallocated to 21100-21200. Third class Amateur Radio operators can now operate on 20 meters from 14250-14350. Class two licenses (BD) are now able to operate on all bands.

Alain, F6BFH says he will be on from Cambodia as XU7ABW. The dates will be October 22 to November 10. It appears his activity will be primarily on 6M.

Wojtek, SP9PT and Jerzy, SP9EVP will show up on the airwaves as VK9KNE and VK9KND from Norfolk Island (OC-005) October 20-November 4. Before that they'll be on from Sydney on Australia's mainland as VK2JBR and VK2JBQ, October 16-20.

Mike, VK4DX reports via OPDX that he has redesigned and updated his Web site at: <http://www.vk4dx.net>. His site now includes an "International HF Radio Contest Calendar" with contest rules and a new software links page with pricing information.

Logs and a photo library for BI4F can be found at <http://www.4hams.net/>.

Omar Shabsigh, YK1AO President of the IARU society of Syria, Technical Institute of Radio (TIR) reports TIR now has a web page at <http://www.qsl.net/tir/Home.htm>.

Looking for a good propagation tool to use as we head back into the fall/winter radio season? One of the most useful pages for Amateur Radio Operators can be found at <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>.

Now, here's what's happening on the bands this month.

Ø7ØØz Oct 7 RSGB 15/10 Meter		
Ø19Øz Oct 7 Phone Contest		SSB
Ø6ØØz Oct 6 Oceania DX		
Ø7ØØz Oct 7 Contest	80-10M	SSB
14ØØz Oct 6 Arkansas		
Ø5ØØz Oct 7 QSO Party	80-10M	All Modes
15ØØz Oct 6 European		
1859z Oct 6 Autumn Sprint	80-20M	SSB
16ØØz Oct 6 California		
22ØØz QSO 7 QSO Party	160-2M	CW & SSB
18ØØz Oct 6 QCWA		
18ØØz Oct 7 QSO Party	160-UHF+	CW & SSB
2ØØØz Oct 6 Ibero-America		
2ØØØz Oct 7 Contest (Spain)	160-10M	SSB
14ØØz Oct 10 YLRL		
Ø2ØØz Oct 12 Anniversary Party CW	80-10M	CW
1ØØØz Oct 13 Oceania		
1ØØØz Oct 14 DX Contest	80-10M	CW
15ØØz Oct 13 European		
1859z Oct 13 Autumn Sprint	80-20M	CW
16ØØz Oct 13 Pennsylvania		
22ØØz QSO 14 QSO Party	160-10M	CW & SSB
Ø7ØØz Oct 21 RSGB 15/10 Meter		
Ø19Øz Oct 21 CW Contest		CW
18ØØz Oct 21 Illinois		
18ØØz Oct 22 QSO Party	160-2M	CW & SSB
14ØØz Oct 25 YLRL		
Ø2ØØz Oct 27 Anniversary Party SSB	80-10M	SSB
ØØØØz Oct 27 CQ World-Wide		
2359z Oct 28 DX Contest SSB	160-10M	SSB

One last note. As this column is being written, our country is just beginning to rebound from the terrible attacks with occurred on September 11th. I would like to offer my condolences to those in our club who may have lost friends or family in this tragedy.

God bless America, and God bless those who came forward in her time of need.

Special thanks to The Daily DX, The Weekly DX Bulletin, OPDX, World Radio and the ARRL for information used this month. Until next month, remember DX IS!

October Calendar of Events

- 2nd of October: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 4th of October: Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 5th of October: 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.
- 11th of October: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- 15th of October: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR OCTOBER.
- 25th of October: 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 - October 5th - 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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First Class Mail

