



HAMLETTER

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Notes from the Repeater Administrative Board

Now that the WDCB-FM station tower has taken a spill and we are enjoying a much reduced 2 Meter signal and operation, we should all adapt to these new conditions especially when we hear our old friend the jammer or unlicensed operator tossing in comments or a carrier.

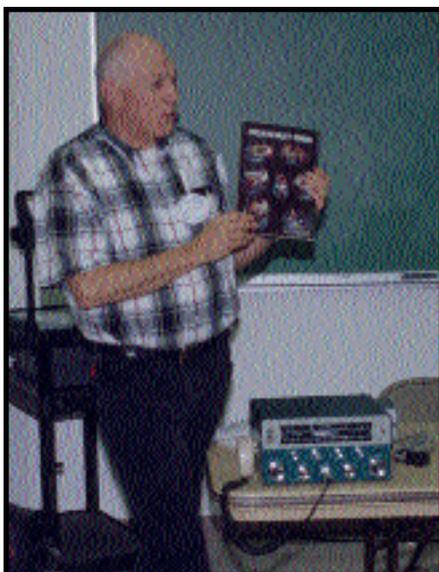
It is best for all concerned when a jammer joins one of our QSO's, that we just ignore the person. The sooner he/she realizes that we are not interested or he is not going to get a rise out of us, they will go to some other frequency. Most of these individuals need some attention and they are going to stay around as long as we give it to them. So when a jammer appears, just remember to bite your tongue and hopefully he will take his somewhere else.

The 440 repeater on that tall building near 22nd and 355 still does not have a new Power Amplifier installed yet. It also appears to have developed a hearing problem. The new PA board is being worked on as I write this and we hope to have it installed shortly.

As soon as the 220 machine gets a PL installed and the new tower at COD is back up we will be moving that machine from WA9E's tower back to COD.

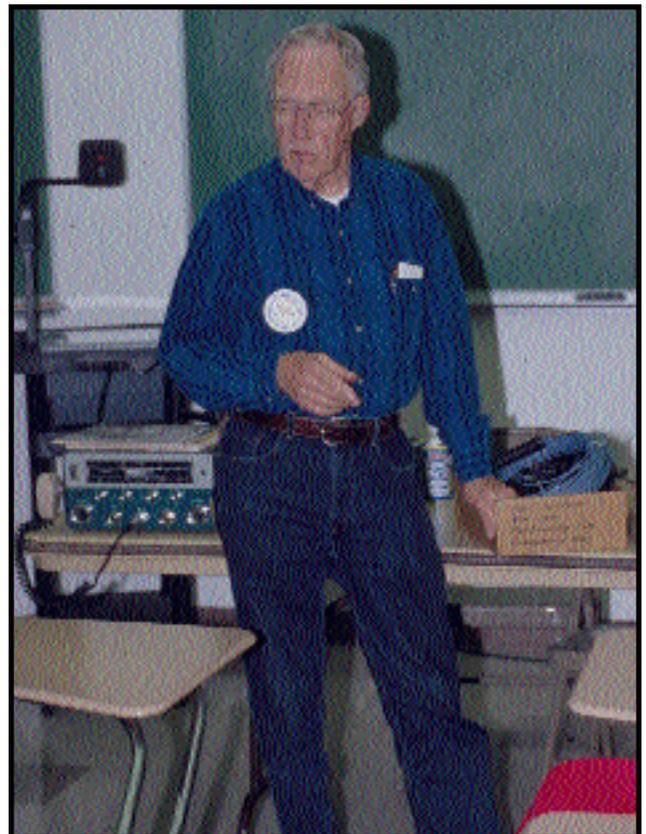
If any of you have questions concerning any of the repeaters WCRA operates, please feel free to eMail or phone any of the RAB members listed on the masthead on the next page under the RAB.

Rich, K9MGX, below and Bob, W3MDM, right conduct some of the 'Show and Tell' program at a recent club meeting program.



In This Issue:

- * RAB Notes
- * DX News
- * Calendar of Events



From the President's Gavel

by Joe LeFebvre WCRA President



By time you read this our 2002 HamFest will have come and gone. Let's hope the weather was good and we had a great turnout. I am sure our HamFest committee did a bang up job again this year and the HamFest was a success. I have had the opportunity to work with John and rest of the committee this year and in the past and I am continually amazed how much effort it takes to put on a good HamFest. How hard our committee works and how many hours they devote to this effort. If they were getting paid for their efforts they would be quite wealthy by now. As we all know the HamFest pays for most of the clubs bills, keeps the repeaters going and buys Krispy Kremes for our meetings. On behalf of the executive board and the entire membership I want to say **Thanks to the HamFest committee for all of their efforts. The WCRA could not endure without you.**

Once we get past HamFest I start to think about what's next on our agenda. Spring brings our first public service events of the year. The MS Walk-a-Thon is usually in early April and the Special Olympics follow soon there after. And then comes **Field Day** !! Followed by several parades. There may be snow on the ground now, but many of the activities the club participants in require months of planning and preparation. I bet our dynamic duo are at this very moment contemplating where to put the port-a-johns for Field Day.

Now is the time to start thinking about which

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			

Interference			
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
Member	Doug Totel	W9NJM	630:469-3001
Member	Gary Henle	N9VLL	630:736-9102
Secretary	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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From the President's gavel (continued from previous page)

activities you may want to participate in this year. Let's try to get some newbies out this year in addition to all the familiar faces I have grown to depend upon. Public service events are both enjoyable and rewarding and are part of what WCRA is all about.

This year I am going to try to put together a public service calendar early in the year so we all know and remember those important dates.

73,

N9WRO

Meeting Minutes (continued from page four)

this determination? Training, **Jack, KA9HEL**, reported that the first Tech class at COD would be on January 14th but that there was only one person registered. Class will probably not take place this quarter. Field Day, Dale, NJ9E, reported that it will take place in Spring. Christmas Party, Dale, NJ9E, The buffet was good but the room was too crowded (with non WCRA members). Mention was made of a more distant, but better facility – House of Plenty in Sugar Grove. This may be under consideration. Hamletter, Don, N9NYX, the Hamletter has been reformatted into a single column and the type has been made larger for ease of viewing. New Business: **John, W9LQL**, made a motion that the club renew Eileen's membership at no cost. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved. **Janie, AE9JG**, has Hamfest tickets; please do not call her at home. Send ticket requests to AE9JG@ARRL.NET. John, N9MWF, suggested that the club explore other fund raising activities, such as a raffle, to help offset the expense of the new repeater antenna and installation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38, refreshments and the program followed.



More 'Show and Tell'
from a recent club meet-
ing

Notes from the Editor

Remember that you could help fill this space with your very own article on some facet of the hobby that you are interested in or know slightly more than the average club member.

If you are new to the club and would like to see your birthday featured in your very own birth month, be sure to forward this information to the editor. The HAMLETTER eMail address appears on the last page.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitiileri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary



The meeting was called to order at 7:53PM 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 December meeting. Vice-President, **Chris, KC9L**, tonight's program will be on the Hamfest. Next month's program by **W9XA**, will be a discussion, and possible demo, on AMSAT, the Amateur Satellite Program. Secretary, **Robert, N9EF**, reported on the new mail reflector software that was being implemented. The cut-over to the

new system should be completed within the next few days. Treasurer, **Kim, N9XE**, reported on the club's financial condition. Membership, **Carol, KB9FYL**, two new members were voted in at this meeting, **Don, N9UMV**, and **Peter N9HDW**. Carol also reminded all members that it was time to renew their membership. Health and Welfare reported in part by **Dale, NJ9E**, **Ken, K9KPM**, passed away this passed week. **Eileen, N9TWS**, Eileen is in Vencor Hospital in Sycamore. She can't speak at this time but communicates via pencil and paper. The hospital is located at 225 Edwards Street in Sycamore. The phone number is 815-895-2144. Eileen is in room 141. Truck, **Steve, N9OA**, Three batteries were replaced with marine deep-cycle batteries. New battery hold-downs were designed and installed. Thanks to **Kurt, KB9RTO**, for obtaining good deals on the batteries and putting together the hold-downs. RAB, **Don, N9NYX**, reported on the condition of the repeater antenna tower at COD – it's down. Don displayed photos of the collapsed tower. COD security has asked that members do not attempt to visit the site. The repeater is now temporarily located in the home of Larry, KA9KDC and Carol, KB9FYL (thanks Carol and Larry!). The radio station at COD, WDCB, wants to erect a 300 foot free-standing tower very soon. COD has said that the WCRA repeater antenna would be welcome on the tower, possibly at the 200 foot level. The expenses to WCRA could be in the range of \$5,000. The question was raised whether or not this would be covered by insurance, but no one knew. Is anyone in the club qualified to review the insurance policy to make

BIRTHDAYS OF FEBRUARY

Carl	N9QGR	02-02-54
Bruce	K9OZ	02-03-53
John	K9FID	02-06-46
Fred	KB9MVU	02-12-55
Bill	W9GMO	02-18-21
Richard	K9MGX	02-23-38
Peter	WD9ISG	02-25-51
Ron	K9ZE	02-27-48

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Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

There has been some confusion by DXers around the world thinking they are working Mount Athos with the use of the special "SY" prefix by Greek amateurs. The Greek Communications Authority has been issuing the "SY" prefix for special event stations in Greece (SV). However, Monk Apollo reports that he has been receiving QSL requests for these contacts. He has been returning the QSLs explaining that their contacts were not from Mount Athos. But, he states many don't believe him. Monk Apollo has tried to explain to the Greek authorities that the "SY" prefix has always been the alternate Prefix for Mount Athos. Some many may remember that Monk Apollo used the SY2A callsign for a few months in 1999 as a special

event. He is quite suprised that the authorities in Greece do not understand that the "SY" prefix signifies that he is on Mount Athos and that radio amateurs world-wide will assume the same when they hear it. Monk Apollo is still in contact with the Greek licensing authority and will continue to try to convince them to stop further "SY" issued callsigns.

After weather conditions near Ducie Island did not permit landing in November, the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association announces that all planning is now complete for their second attempt to activate Ducie Island. The island became a new entity on the ARRL DXCC List as of November 16, 2001, and has not yet been activated. The DXpedition will depart from Mangareva on March 12 in the ship Braveheart, which is more adequate for the task. They will use a VP6 callsign to be announced at the beginning of the operation, and plan to be operational as soon as possible after arriving upon the island. Those who wish to keep up with the progress of the DXpedition as they move to the island may check 21.260 Mhz for Maritime Mobile operation.

The group's operating plan is intended to provide contacts with as many different Amateur Radio operators as possible during their stay on the island. The band plan is as follows: 21.020 MHz (CW) and 21.295 MHz (SSB) will be QRV 24 hours each day. This is to allow more individuals to find and work the group, depending upon propagation to their area. 28.495 MHz, and 14.195 MHz will be the prime SSB frequencies, and 14.020 MHz will be the prime CW frequency other than 15 meters. There be some operation on all bands, 160 through 6 meters, with some RTTY in addition to SSB and CW operations. However, it's expected that Low Band and WARC operations are more likely to take place in the last days of the operation, as concentration from the beginning will be to allow as many operators as possible to work this new DXCC Entity.

Antennas will be a 2 element HB9CV on 10 and 15 meters, a 4 Square for 20 meters, and wire and vertical antennas for the other bands. There will be a 6 meter beacon on 50.110 Mhz. Operators will be: VP6TC, VP6DB, VP6AZ, VP6MW, VP6BK/JA1BK, JF1IST, JA3USA, K9AJ and K5VT. Randy (an SWL) will be going to provide additional logistical support. Other operators may be chosen prior to departure.

While stations that dupe the operation will not be blacklisted, it is recommended that once you hear your call coming back that you not work the station again on that band and mode so that others will have an opportunity. Log checks will be available at www.big.or.jp/~ham/dx.html.

The Yaesu Division of Vertex Standard and FTI are providing equipment support for this operation. In

addition, an ARRL Colvin Grant has been made to PIARA to help with the Ducie venture. At present, no other foundation or club support has been received and any donations will be gratefully accepted. For the latest updates on this operation, it is recommend to watch the following Web sites:

<http://www.qsl.net/wd4ngb/ducie.htm>

<http://www.ve3ho.com/ve3ho-qslmgr.htm>

QSLs should be sent to the manager with a SASE or through the Bureau. However, please do not send a second request through the bureau after QSLing direct. QSL manager is Garth Hamilton, VE3HO for all HF operations only. QSL manager for 6 Meter operation is JA1BK.

A multi-national team plans to be QRV as TI9M from Cocos Island between February 17 and March 4. The team will be active with 4 stations on all bands from 6 to 160 meters on CW, SSB and RTTY. Members of the team will include Alan, AD6E, Bill, AKØA, Flo, F5CWU, Martino, IK3RIY, Simon, IZ7ATN, Matt, KAØKKO, Alan, KI7WO, Bob, N4CD, Larry, N7DF, Rich, N6KT, Ron, PA3EWP, Rob, PA5ET, Dimitri, RA9CO, Alexei, RN3BZ, Bill, WS4Y,

Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1825, 3502, 7002, 10107, 14022, 18072, 21022, 24892,
28022, 50102

SSB - 1845, 3795, 7080, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945, 28495,
50145

RTTY - 7035, 14080, 21080, 28080

QSL via AKØA, Bill Boeckenhaupt, 8904 Westbrooke Dr, Overland Park, KS 66212, USA. The team has a nice website at <http://www.qsl.net/ti9m/>.

Adam, VK4CP (VK9ML Pilot/Webmaster) reports that the VK9ML DXpedition team is interested in comments regarding whether they should run PSK-31, RTTY, or neither during their DXpedition to Mellish Reef in April 2002. RTTY and PSK-31 both have pros and cons, and they are simply asking which mode you would prefer them to operate on. If neither is desirable, then, of course, they can spend more time concentrating on CW and SSB operation. Let them know your thoughts in the Poll that they are conducting. Visit their Web site and let them know at: <http://www.qsl.net/vk9ml/2002/>

Hrane, YT1AD and Voja, YU7AV returned home unsuccessfully from North Korea at the end of December after being unable to get permission to operate. But they say they have a license to operate from North Korea with two additional operators starting March 5th of this year. Hrane and Voja will be asked to train at least 20 new North Korean ham operators. They promise more details will follow. Meanwhile, Ed, P5/4L4FN left Pyongyang, North Korea on December 24th for the holidays after making 3,004 QSOs on 10, 15 and 20M SSB. Ed should be back in country by the time you are reading this.

Hrane will also soon lead a team to Baker Island (KH1). His team plans to set sail from the Fiji Islands on April 25. This will be the first expedition to operate from Baker Island. All previous expeditions were from Howland Island. The trip is expected to take 6 days to get to this rare island via the Princess II, a 92-foot motor boat, which is capable of 9 knots. The group will stay for 10 days and plan to be on all bands.

Equipment will include six radios, three ACOM 100, two 400-watt amps, two 5KW generators, two 2KW generators, three yagi beams (10-30 MHz), three verticals (160/80/40) and a 5-element M2 50 MHz beam. The

team expects to be QRV on 6-160 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, SSTV and Satellite.

After the DXpedition the team will head back to the Fiji Islands and then on to the Dayton Hamvention. The DXpedition is expected to cost \$90,000 and donations are being sought. More details will be announced here as we get closer to the date.

David, A92GE has announced that Bahrain lost a number of amateurs in recent months and advises that at the present time the only active amateurs are A92EV (10, 15 and 20 meters), A92GE (10 through 20 meters including WARC bands) and A92ZE (LF bands only). A92DQ and A92FF have callsigns and attend meetings but are not active due to equipment/antenna problems. A92C, the club station is active only on Tuesday evenings when there is a club meeting. There are two new arrivals that are waiting for calls to be allocated.

Mirosław Stefansky is expected to be active as HFØPOL from the Polish base "Hanryk Arctowsky" on King George Island (AN-010) in the Shetlands through December 31st, 2002. He plans to operate CW/RTTY/PSK-31 on all bands, WARC included. Watch for him on the usual DX frequencies. QSL via SQ5TA.

Dr. Rick Dorsch, NE8Z/HC1MD, will be going back to Ecuador from February 1-16, 2002. He'll take a TS-850, SB200, 3-element tri-bander and Carolina Windom for activity on 10-80 CW and SSB. Rick plans to be active with the following calls from the following QTHs.

HC1MD QTH: Tumbaco
HC1MD/HC1 QTH: Pichincha Volcano
HC1MD/HC3 QTH: Loja
HC1MD/HC4 QTH: Sua
HC1MD/HC4/p QTH: IOTA SA-056 100w/dipole/12vdc
HC1MD/HC5 QTH: Cuenca

QSL via K8LJG, John Kroll, 3528 Craig Drive, Flint, Michigan 48506, USA. Check out the HC/HD DX Award "Equatorial Line Diploma" at <http://www.octavia.com/qs/awards.htm>.

Paolo Cortese, I2UIY says plans for his expedition to Niger, Africa are firming up. Airline tickets are now in hand for the February 3-18 operation. Seven operators will keep three stations on the air on SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31, 160-6M. A station will be on 160/80 every night. Their web site is <http://www.qsl.net/niger-2002>.

GJ6UW will be on from Jersey, the Channel Islands, the afternoon of February 15 to the morning of February 17, 2002. Jersey is EU-013 for the IOTA award. Ops will be G3ZAY, Martin Atherton and MØBLF, Dominic Smith. Their 160M antenna should be a dipole on a 750-foot-high cliff overlooking salt water. They will be on 160-6. QSL to MØBLF direct

TI5KC in Heredia, Costa Rica will be manned by operator KE0UI, Bob, February 18-27. He plans to be on all HF bands and 6 but will concentrate on CW on the WARC bands. The web page is <http://www.qsl.net/ti5kd>. Bob will be on in the UBA CW Contest February 23 as TI5N. QSL to his home call or the U.S. bureau.

Mirek, VK3DXI/9V1XE/SP5IXI, says he has just gotten a letter from the Ministry of Communications in Algeria and the Ministry of Defense has no problems with issuing him a license. It's just a formality from now on he says. Mirek expects to take equipment to Algeria at the beginning of January. The Ministry of Communications has to inspect the station, and then he hopes to begin operating in the middle or end of January.

Mirek will come and go to and from Algeria through at least March, 2002.

The VK9WI (2000) and VK9ML (2001) team are planning to go back to Mellish Reef next year. The group announced they plan to be QRV again as VK9ML from April 12 to 22. They expect to operate on 6 through 160 meters CW and SSB. Check out their web site at <http://www.qsl.net/vk9ml/2002/>.

Nick, VK1AA (ex VK2ICV), is in the final stages of preparation for a DXpedition to Temotu Province (H4Ø). Past operations have concentrated on the higher bands, so Nick will spend as much time as possible on low bands from March 28 to April 12. Unfortunately due to the strict baggage limits of only 16 kg he had make special arrangements (costly) with the airline to allow him to take a vertical for 80/160 meters and an amplifier. Anyone wishing to help with a donation can contact Nick via e-mail to watchman@tig.com.au.

Members of the Oita DX Club JA6BTO (KHØ/JA6BTO), JA6HJP (KF4LX/AHØ), JA6LZN (KHØ/JA6LZN), JA6PBO (KK7UB/KHØ), JA6VQA(WHØB) and JH6ALF (AB2GA/KHØ) will be active (especially on 160 meters, 80/40 meters, the WARC band, 6 meters, CW,SSB,SSTV,RTTY) from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (OC-086), February 7-10th. QSLs via their home callsigns either direct or through the JARL bureau.

After spending the holidays with family in the U.S., Eric,N1JSY is now back in Western Kiribati as T3ØES. Eric works for the Peace Corps. He hopes to put up an inverted vee as his second antenna on the island of Butaritari and is obtaining a higher capacity battery, giving him more operating time. His battery is charged daily by solar panels. He favors 14288 at 14ØØz Saturdays and 183Øz Thursdays. In December, Eric used ham radio to coordinate evacuation of a Kiribati woman having trouble with childbirth. Mother and child are doing well in a Tarawa hospital. For more info, go to <http://people.mags.net/boem/kiribatil.htm>

Norm Beasley,KO4CB/P29NB, Norm Beasley, is back in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea, after a year visiting the U.S., his home country. Norm says he is getting back into DXing and is working on his 5BDXCC (and apparently beyond), because he's looking for QSOs on 160, 6 and satellite. K3BYV has handled QSL chores in the past but now Norm would like to take that task over himself, so QSL him direct in PNG or the P29 bureau. IRCs do not work; U.S. dollars are better, he says. His direct address: Norm Beasley, PO Box 437, Ukarumpa, EHP, 444, Papua New Guinea.

DX POTPOURRI

Martin Cook,N1FOC ARRL QSL Service Manager, reports the KG4 - Guantanamo Bay QSL bureau has closed down. QSL cards to all KG4 - Guantanamo Bay stations should go direct or via their QSL manager.

Misu,JH5OXF will be active as T88XF from Palau on February 9-12, 80-6M, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. He hopes to be QRV for the CQWW RTTY contest. QSL to his homecall, Mitsuhiro Takehira, 1656 Kominato, Iyo, 799-3113 JAPAN.

Tak,JA1MZL will be in the Turks and Caicos Islands from February 5-9. He will use the call VP5/JA1MZL. This is his eighth operation from VP5. QSL to the JA bureau or direct to Takyuki Yoshimura, 502, 4-20 Irifune, Ichikawa, 272-0134 JAPAN.

Geoff,ZC4VG has been showing up on 17 meters CW from the U.K. Sovereign base on Cyprus around 1130Z. QSL via GØUVX

Oleg,CE9/R1ANF is operating from Ripamonti Base, Ardley Island, South Shetlands. QSL via RK1PWA. Also, Miro, HFØPOL has been making appearances from the Polish Antarctic base on the Shetlands. Watch 14260 early mornings. QSL via SQ5TA.

Dave, W3VK, has been assigned to the U.S. embassy in Thailand and is now using the callsign HSØZDP.

Ron,PJ7/ND5S and Sue,PJ7/KF5LG will again be active from Dutch St. Maarten February 11-22, 160-10M, CW and RTTY primarily with some SSB. Ron will be on for the ARRL CW DX contest single operator all band low power (SOABLP). The pair in past years have made 8,000 pre-contest QSOs. Their web page is <http://www.qsl.net/nd5s>. QSL via their home calls. The two will also go over to the French side of the Island, FS, during their stay.

ANCHORS...ANCHORS...ANCHORS...ANCHORS...ANCHORS...



Remember that this space is open to Club members to advertise and hopefully sell any anchors that you may have laying around after the Hamfest. Just eMail the editor with your details.



Karesz,HA8EU will be active as S79EU from Mahe Island in the Seychelles between January 28th and February 18th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, primarily on CW with some SSB. QSL via HA2NM, direct or Bureau.

Starting February 4 look for Bob,AA1M, and Mike,W1USN, to be on from Costa Rica. Bob will be active on CW as AA1M/TI2, while Mike will use W1USN/TI2 on SSB until February 11. QSL via home calls.

S21B has been showing up recently on 15 SSB from Bangladesh. Look for him near 21270 from 1300 to 1600Z. He now has KX7YT as his QSL manager.

Yuri, UAØSJ, can sometimes be found on 20 meters SSB (between 14180 and 14200 kHz) after 0200z. He lives in the city called Bratsk, about 600 kilometers north from Lake Baikal (Zone 18). His equipment is a Kenwood TS-50S with AT-50 (100watt only) into a KT-34a antenna. Please QSL via direct only: Yuri A. Maltsev, P.O. Box 2304, Bratsk-city, 665700, Russia, Asiatic. His E-mail address is: ua0sj@mail.ru

Members of the Vietnam Amateur Radio Club (VARC) plan to be on from the Spratly Islands (AS-051) in April 2002 with the call XV9TH callsign. Exact dates are unknown at this time.

Gus,9U5D was very active from Burundi on 12 meters (around 24988 kHz between 1830 and 2130z). If he is not on 12 meters check 20 meters (around 14185 kHz). QSL 9U5D via SM5BFJ, only direct, NOT via the operator SM5DIC. The new address for SM5BFJ (ex-SMØBFJ) is: Leif Hammarstrom, Lerklockan 4, SE - 73091 Riddarhyttan, SWEDEN.

YL operator Mechita,DPØGVN may be getting on from the German base in Antarctica. Another possibility is Sepp,DPØLEX from a second German Antarctic base. Look for them on 21275 at 1700z Mondays.

The new \$1.75 IRCs should be in all US Post Offices soon. The major item that was changed, other than the price, was that the new ones all bear an expiration date. Postmaster Dennis Egan,NB1B was told the date is January 31, 2006. "After that date, they will be not be accepted for exchange", reports Egan.

South Koreans will have a special callsign on the air: HL17FWC, to commemorate the FIFA World Football Cup, through May 30. QSL to HLØHQ, the Korean Amateur Radio League headquarters, CPO Box 162, Seoul, Korea. All the Korean Hams will change their callsign during the game period (May 31st-June 30th) as the follows:

HL1ABC ---> HL17ABC
DS1ABC ---> DS17ABC/1 (Because they have five DS#ABC)
6K2ABC ---> 6K17ABC/2
Club stations DSØAB, 6KØAB, 6LØAB, 6MØAB, D7ØAB and
D8ØAB will change their Ø (zeros) to 17.

The KARL is planning to make a special award for this event. Details will be forthcoming.

CNN reported early in January that ethnic Kazakh villagers living along the unmarked border between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan declared their settlements an independent nation. The disputed areas of Bagys vilage, Turkestan vilage and Arnasai region have frustrated villagers for some time now after the demarcation between the two former Soviet republics. The three areas represent about 4% of the border, which remains undefined. Last week 500 people from the two vilages rallied together and voted on independence. The group leader Oral Saulebai was arrested by Uzbek police and handed over to Kazakh authorities. Officials plan to complete the demarcation of the border before July. Could be a another new one to look for!

Mark you calendars for the 50th annual W9DXCC, which will be held September 20 and 21. This is one DX event you won't want to miss in the Chicago area! Details of last year's event can be found at <http://www.qth.com/w9dxcc/>.

ZX2F, a Brazilian special call was issued to be used from mid-January until February 12, during a ham radio public demonstration in the big Fig Festival, held annually in Valinhos, SP, Brazil. The operators are running a fully equipped station on all bands/modes in order to promote the event and also as an incentive to the local people to learn about ham radio as a hobby. Special attention will be given to the WARC bands. Color QSL cards will be managed via PY2AE (qrz.com) after the event.

HG8ØST will be active all bands, CW, SSB and RTTY from Hungary until February 28. The operation celebrates the 80th anniversary of the town of Salgotarjan. QSL to HA6KNB, Radioclub Salgotarjan, P.O. Box 115, H-3101 Salgotarjan, Hungary or through the bureau. Special postage stamps will be used to answer direct requests.

LA5QFA and LA8AJA will be on 160-6 CW, SSB and possibly RTTY from the JW5E clubhouse in Longyearbyen, Svalbard (EU-026) January 14-20. They will use the JW4X callsign on 6M, 50.145 and JW5QFA and JW8AJA on HF. Their 6M beacon will be on 50.080. QSL JW4X and JW5QFA via LA6EIA and JW8AJA via LA8AJA.

On the World Wide Web

The International QSL Collection Foundation has a nice collection of Afghan (YA) QSLs and their history. The address is http://www.qsl.at/english/en_afgh1.html.

The 2002 International DX Convention now has a Web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/visalia2002> The International DX Convention is held each year in Visalia, California, USA. The year 2002 will be the 53rd year for the convention and is presented this year by the Southern California DX Club.

Who says those QSL cards aren't going to be worth anything to anyone else? The Daily DX reports that E-Bay recently sold a 1937 AC4YN QSL card from the British Mission to Lhasa, Tibet for \$1,136.00! Check out it out at: <http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1057824982>.

The 3D2CI and 3D2CY logs can be found at <http://dx.qsl.net/logs/>.

Now here's what's happening on the bands this month:

1800z Feb 2 XE (Mexico) Int'l		
2359z Feb 3 RTTY Contest	80-10M	RTTY
1400z Feb 2 Minnesota		
2359z Feb 2 QSO Party	160-10M	CW & SSB
0000z Feb 2 Vermont		
2359z Feb 3 QSO Party	160-10M	CW & SSB
0000z Feb 2 New Hampshire		
2359z Feb 3 QSO Party	160-10M	CW & SSB
1300z Feb 2 Maine		
0700z Feb 3 QSO Party	160-10M	CW & SSB
1400z Feb 2 Freeze Your Butt Off		
0200z Feb 3 QRP Field Day	80-10M	CW & SSB
1700z Feb 2 Delaware		
0100z Feb 3 QSO Party	160-10M	RTTY,CW & SSB
1400z Feb 2 YLRL		
0200z Feb 4 YL-OM Contest	80-10M	CW
0000z Feb 2 Ten-Ten Int'l		
2359z Feb 3 Winter QSO Party	10M	SSB
2300z Feb 8 Winter		
0300z Feb 11 6 Meter Contest	6M	CW & SSB

1100z Feb 9 Asia-Pacific		
1300z Feb 9 Sprint	40&20M	CW
1700z Feb 9 FISTS Winter		
2100z Feb 9 Sprint	80-10M	CW
0000z Feb 9 Utah/Olympics		
0000z Feb 11 QSO Party	160-6M	CW & SSB
0000z Feb 10 North American		
0400z Feb 10 Sprint	80-20M	CW
2000z Feb 9 Vintage Radio		
0500z Feb 10 Classic Exchange	80-10M	CW & SSB
0000z Feb 16 ARRL Int'l		
2359z Feb 17 DX Contest	160-10M	CW & SSB
0000z Feb 23 CQWW		
2359z Feb 25 160M Contest	160M	CW
1700z Feb 24 North Carolina		
0300z Feb 25 QSO Party	80-10M	CW & SSB

That wrap's up another month for me. The band are are in very good shape as I write this in mid-January. Listen for beacons on 10 meters early in the morning, and jump on as soo as you here that band open. I'd like to give special thanks to The Daily DX, OPDX, World Radio and the ARRL for information used this month. Until next month, remember

DX IS!

There are several volunteer positions open as you have probably noticed by looking at the masthead on page two. If you are so inclined, please contact Joe, N9WRO, or any club board member to begin making a difference for WCRA. Thanks to all of you who faithfully serve each month.

February Calendar of Events

- 1st of February: 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.
- 5th of February: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 7th of February: Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 14th of February: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- 15th of February: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR MARCH.
- 28th of February: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm,

WCRA General Membership Meeting - February 1st - 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

