



HAMLETTER



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AUGUST QST REVIEWED

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

The cover story of this month’s issue details the adventures of Richard Parry, W9IF. He is a multi-hobbyist –ham radio, paragliding, and weather forecasting! He started out in New York City as a high school ham, has three degrees from Illinois Colleges (U of I, Northern Illinois, and North Central) and currently lives and works in the San Diego area as a wireless telecommunications systems hotshot.

You’ll enjoy his “aeronautical mobile” rig and the story of his conquering the skies above Torrey Pines, CA. (Page 28)

Radials for your Vertical Antenna?

If you have your Ditch Witch poised to dig trenches for radials, switch the key to “off” and read the “Optimum Radial Ground Systems” article. It tells you all you want to know about how to put them in the “right way.” The author gives you all the charts you need to select wire sizes and lengths to get that proper reflection for DX performance with a radial antenna. (Page 39)



**Field Day 2003,
some parting shots**



Missed Dayton? Read the Review

For the majority of us who couldn’t make the pilgrimage to Dayton, the QST review will be a consolation prize. Lots of pictures and Lamentation 03 –“Friends, Forums, and Frenetic Fun” is now in the history books. Licenses and upgrades were granted to 136 attendees—there’s still interest in our Hobby. Maybe next year.(Page 47) (Continued on page 4)

Photos courtesy of Jon, KC9OO

From the President's Gavel

by Mike Wolff, AB9AX WCRA President



Greetings all! I hope that this Hamletter finds you well, as our summer season continues. So far, it has been a good one from all indications. My how time flies. It seems like just last weekend was Field Day, and as I write, August is less than a week away! Before you know it, contest season will be back upon us in full swing. So, for me it is time to work on getting my 40 meter delta loop fabricated, so I can put it up before it gets too cold!

The executive board got together on Sunday, July 27, and we were able to get some things done. The largest and most pressing issue that we have been dealing with is the one with our tax filings. I am happy to report that we have received deliverables from the CPA, and I was able to get all delinquent plus the current filings in the mail (certified) to the state and IRS on Monday July 28th. It is not known at the time of writing whether the state or the IRS will levy penalties against us for late filing; however, we believe that our explanation to the IRS, and our request for waiving any penalties might hold some water. Also, considering that the State had not yet contacted us, and that we made first contact with them to correct or delinquency coupled with an amnesty program, we may not be liable for any late filing fees. We have done what the IRS has requested, and it is not certain when or if they (continued on page 4)

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Vice President	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630: 742-3581
Secretary	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630: 510-7816
Treasurer	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Custodian	Roberto Beltramelli	WA9E	630: 668-5688

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630: 289-2535
Christmas Party	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Club Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885
Club Truck			
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	630: 871-1786
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie Matthews	WB9SGD	630: 665-4506
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630: 653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Field Day	Peter Richey	N9HDW	630: 260-9447
Hamfest	Bruce Plantz	K9OZ	630: 604-0157
Chaplin	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630: 483-2044
Historian			
Interference			
Refreshments	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:742-3581
Membership			
Membership	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630:510-7816
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	630:372-7036
Public Relations			
Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Tech Instructor	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Tech Instructor	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630: 510-9783
General Instructor	Pat Byrne	K9JAU	630:858-1959
Extra Instructor			
Volunteer Exam.	Harry Kamer	K9HK	630: 953-0519

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Trustee/Tech Adv	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630: 289-2535
Chairman	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630: 665-7757
Secretary	Doug Totel	W9NJM	630: 469-3001
Tech Advisor	Gary Henle	N9VLL	630: 736-9102
Member	George Henry	KA3HSW	630: 830-6659
Member	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)	PL Encode/Decode
224.140/222.540		Carries Access - SKYWARN Service Liaison
444.475/449.475	114.8 Hz(2A)	PL Encode/ Decode
145.310/144.710		WCRA, W9CCU-1 Full Duplex Packet Reprtr

HAMLETTER

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WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitillieri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Minutes from the July 11, 2003 Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 19:30 by the President, **Mike, AB9AX** and introductions were made by the board and all attendees. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion was approved. Vice-President, **Steve, N9OA**, reported that tonight's program will be on 'findings at Dayton, presented by **Roberto, WA9E**. Next months program will be on RC interfaces presented by Mike, AB9AX.

September's program will be the past, present, and future of VHF and UHF presented by **Larry, KA9KDC**. October's program is open, please contact Steve, N9OA with suggestions. Secretary, **Robert, N9EF**, rosters are available at the front table. Please sign the attendance sheet so I know you received one. Rosters will be mailed to those not in attendance. Correction notifications sheets are in the roster, please submit updates to Robert, N9EF. Treasurer, Mike, AB9AX, gave the Treasurers report for **Jack, KA9HEL**, who is on vacation. Custodian, Roberto, WA9E, reported that status of the 220 machine is unchanged. The 2 meter repeater is running on and auxiliary power supply. Frank suggested an RF day on July 26 near the Toy Store to clean up the truck (cabling, etc.). The insurance company verified that we are on their records as a not-for-profit organization. Roberto verified that the club has a clear title to the truck. Roberto is also trying to locate the die for the club badge, he may have located the club seal and minute book. Hamfest, **Bruce, K9OZ**, Hamfest flyers are available. The committee will meet on August 8. Tickets are being printed now. Bruce suggested that the club set up a table at the Grayslake Hamfest (in September). Elmer, **George, W9GWR**, reported that they are awaiting enrollees for the Know Code class. A new VE list has been prepared, Roberto has copies at the store and will bring a copy to the next meeting. Public Service, **Joe, N9WRO**, The club served the Wheaton July 4th parade. The next event is the Glendale Heights parade. Joe has requested that the truck be at the event. Public Relations, Open Position, **Mary, KA9GAL**, mentioned that Field Day was covered in the Daily Herald. Truck, Roberto, WA9E, The truck was OK at Field Day. When Roberto was driving the truck for the July 4th parade it appeared to hydroplane or skid on wet asphalt. The truck was not required by the police department. The truck is being serviced because there is a continuing problem with the brakes. Roberto has asked the shop to also repair the horn. It was suggested that we may not need to repair the brakes if the horn was fixed. The auxiliary gas tank has had a faulty sending unit replaced. The center tanks sending unit is rusted in place. It could cost about \$800 to replace the tank and sending unit. RAB, **Don, N9NYX, Kurt, KB9RTO**, suggested that we attempt to push COD a bit to install the 2 meter antenna. Roberto asked if we could use the Esplanad building. Don mentioned that the 2 meter antenna is not as low profile as the 440 antenna so the Esplanad building is not an option. Don also mentioned that no antennas (not even COD security) have been installed at COD. He suggests that it wouldn't be prudent to attempt to push the staff at COD. Roberto asked if we could sell the old antennas. Don said that the 2 meter antenna is on Larry's tower, and the 220 antenna was destroyed when the COD tower fell. Training, Robert, N9EF, mentioned that we will have classes for the winter quarter if there are enough students. Field Day, **Frank, KG9H**, reported that the club operated as 9A. Frank, and those at FD, felt that this was one of the best FD's the club has had. The event was under budget, the food was great, and the weather wasn't so bad (wow!). Frank suggested that members review procedures on antenna erection so the antennas can be put up quickly, but safely. **Dale, NJ9E**, reported that we need to repair the generator the was borrowed. Dale also suggested that we should promote FD better next year and that we could use a few more people involved. VE Program, Mike, AB9AX, reported that they had another successful VE session. Frank suggested that we possibly offer a free membership. There are brochures at the session for the club. Frank also suggested that we form a committee to grow the membership, (**Minutes** continued on page 4)

Minutes (continued from page 3)

and offered to chair the committee. Christmas party, **Ruth, KA9RZG**, is looking for some place with a large room, and is considering having it catered. Hamletter, Don, N9NYX, We have about 14 members who do not currently have email addresses. Don asked to please let him know if anchors are sold. Don also mentioned that he is always looking for new authors. Web Page, Mike, AB9AX, some updates to the web page content and links were made. Mike suggested looking at the web page at www.frrl.org to view a site that is put together well. KG9H will send a link to an article about FD. Joe, N9WRO, mad a motion to accept the committee reports, it was seconded by Steve, N0OA, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Old Business: Mike reported that we have engaged an accountant to file forms with the IRS. Mike also reported that the board has received a set of by-laws recommended by the attorney. The board will review the document and attempt to present it at the next meeting. New Business: Kurt, KB9RTO, suggested that a committee be formed for the club truck. Kurt has offered to be on that committee. Roberto said that the truck takes a lot of time and a committee would be a good idea. Mike has ask that anyone willing to chair the committee contact him or a board member. Anchors: **Judy, N9TDU**, mentioned that she still has tools and equipment for sale. If interested please contact Judy to make an appointment. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Don, N9NYX; the motion was seconded by Steve, N9OA. A vote was taken and the motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 20:52.

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

will seek further dialog with us regarding this issue.

While I am on the topic of executive board meetings, it has been pointed out to me that a requirement exists in the current by-laws that executive board meetings should be announced to the membership. At the last meeting, those of us that were able to attend were able to agree on a date for the next meeting, so I'll announce it here. The next executive board meeting will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2003 at 2:30 PM. The executive board will meet at Giordano's restaurant, located on Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn, IL. Keep in mind that this is not a regularly scheduled membership meeting, but a time for the board to get together and attend to the business matters of the club. Club members may attend executive board meetings, however, I would encourage the membership to attend regularly scheduled membership meetings to communicate with the executive board regarding club matters.

Lastly, the regular membership meeting is right around the corner (Friday August 1, 2003), and I am the presenter for the program following the meeting. I hope that you will find it an enjoyable program and evening! See you all there....

73,

Mike -- AB9AX

(Continued from page 1)

Belize (V3) Dxpedition

A "once in a lifetime" story of two hams toughing it out in the Central American country in a rented house in a small town (Placencia) makes good reading. Also, it makes you say, "I wish I had done that." Their visit coincided with the 2002 ARRL DX Contest, and their 12-day stay permitted some snorkeling and sightseeing. That's the way to go, Walt and Jim! (Page 51) (continued on page 8)



Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

In early July, the DX community learned Monk Apollo's radio had quit working and despite repair attempts by friends in the Greek Amateur community, it remains silent. This means the DX entity of Mount Athos (SV/A) is now silent. The members of the Northern Ohio DX Association have decided to help Monk Apollo get back on the air. Since NODXA has not heard of any other organization stepping forward to help, they have decided to try to collect funds to purchase another radio for Monk Apollo. Currently, NODXA is looking for "PLEDGES ONLY" to see if there is enough interest to help supply Monk Apollo with another radio. Once NODXA is sure that there is enough interest, there will be an address announced to where to send the donations (also some

other details). For now, please send your "PLEDGES ONLY" to: kb8nw@arrl.net

Kiyo, JH3PAS, will vacation in Katmandu, Nepal, August 11-19th. He will be using the callsign 9N7AS on the HF bands, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. This is his third visit to Nepal, and this time he wants to make many contacts with U.S. and S.A. stations. He will concentrate on 30 meters and CW, RTTY/PSK31 modes. Don't expect any low band activities because of the summer season. QSL via his home callsign by SASE direct only to: Kiyotaka Ichikawa, IssikiI-Nishi 1-74-3, Hiraoka, Kakogawa, 675-0117 JAPAN.

Mark, JJ1TBB, informs OPDX that he has just received his authorized license and callsign from the Taiwan Authority to operate as BNØF dated July 1, 2003. He passed Taiwan's Advanced class examination this past March. The CTARL executives said that he was the first foreigner to pass Taiwan's exam written in Chinese. Mark would like to operate 80-6 meters CW/SSB and is preparing to import a Cushcraft R6000 antenna. The BNØF QSL route is via Tadashi, JL1ANP. Mark adds that he still has permission to use/operate as BU2/JJ1TBB. The BU2/JJ1TBB QSL route is the same as BNØF.

Richard, DJ4OI, Andy, DL3GA, Markus, DL1IAN and Joachim, DF6IC plan to be active from Tubuai, Autral Islands (OC-152), from September 18th to October 3rd. They plan to have two stations with beams and linears and be active on 80-10 meters, including the WARC bands on SSB, CW, RTTY and possibly the other digital modes. Their callsigns will probably be FO/homecall/A. QSL via homecall, bureau cards are welcome.

An International team has announced they plan a big DXpedition to Mali next month. They plan to operate as TZ6RD from August 12 to 23 on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, SSTV and AO-40 on all bands. The team will be testing a new concept in Amplifiers. These amps are tiny and light but very powerful amps build in Spain with 400 watts on SSB and CW. This DXpedition will be the amp's presentation and hard test to show that they are designed specially for DXpedition and mobile operations. Look for 3 complete stations to be QRV 24 hours a day. Antennas will include verticals, yagis and dipoles and should be outstanding since they will use a very big roof surface to install them over a 4-floor building by the Niger River coast. The QSL Manager is EA4URE, the Spanish National Bureau.

BAKOM, the Swiss Amateur Radio licensing authority, will issue a letter approximately the end of July 2003, to all existing VHF/UHF Swiss Amateurs holding the CEPT-2 (VHF/UHF) license, granting them HF privileges. Their existing call signs will remain in the HB9MAA- HB9ZZZ range. HB3 licensees are relatively new special beginners (novice) category of Swiss VHF/UHF operators, who do NOT have reciprocal CEPT privileges yet, and will NOT be advanced to HF privileges under the new system. It is an internal national Swiss license ONLY. After the BAKOM letter comes out, all subsequent newly licensed Swiss callsigns will be in the HB9MAA - HB9ZZZ range. The applicants will NOT take a Morse test, but will have full HF privileges.

Allen, K6USN will be operating as ZK1USN from Rarotonga, South Cook Islands, from September 18-21, followed by 9 days on Aitituki Island, North Cooks. Allen will operate 10-40 meters SSB and CW with 100

watts and longwires and beams. He will use the standard DX calling frequencies and will check into DX nets, conditions permitting. Anyone wishing to attempt a prearranged sked can send requests to Allen at k6usn@aol.com. QSL via K6USN.

Sam Voron, VK2BVS is now working Radio Galkayo in Northeast East Somalia, which is active on the broadcast bands seven days a week. He does the English programs which includes "learning Amateur Radio in your home via the radio". The program can be heard on 6.980 MHz from 1200-1230 and again at 1700-1730 in English. Sam reports that station 600A (Six Oscar Zero Alpha) from the Amateur Radio training school of Somalia using the Radio Galkayo facility 7 days from 0300-0430z between 14200-14285 and 28490. This station does NOT QSL, as this is a QSO only station for the Somali students who need 10 contacts as part of their ham radio training. Sam reports "There are > hams in Somalia from the 1994 training but none has ever had their own radio. Now with more hams coming on line we can ship by DHL donated ham radios to Galkayo via Oxfam in Canada." Anyone wishing to help can contact Sam via email to svoron@hotmail.com. They were reportedly showing up the last few weeks on 20 meters SSB between 0300 and 0430Z. Check around 14.225 or 14.275. Remember, this station will not QSL.

Danny, M0GMT, and Oliver, DJ9AO, will be operating from Sihanoukville, Cambodia between the 3rd and 18th of August. Look for them on all bands through 160 meters on CW and SSB. They may have two stations on the air at the same time. The activity will include the WAE CW contest. They have been assigned XU7ACT and XU7ACU. QSLs go via G3SWH. Online Log-checking and further information can be found at <http://www.geocities.com/dxpedition2003>.

Karl, DK4ARL will be active from the Faroe Islands as OY/DK4ARL from August 4 to 13. Look for him on CW and SSB. Next he will head to Iceland where he plans to operate as TF/DK4ARL from August 14 to 21. QSL via the bureau.

Buzz, N5UR and John, W5RQ will activate Taongi Atoll one of the two unnumbered IOTA groups in the Marshall Islands. The callsign will be announced at the start of the operation, which is scheduled to begin August 18 and run for three or four days. There will be both CW and SSB on 10 through 40 meters, with an emphasis on 17, 20 and 30 (CW). QSL via N6AWD.

Hirota, JA0SC says he is heading to East Kiribati early this month and plans to be QRV as T32SC on the digital modes. Hirota plans to be active on 10-20 meters mostly on RTTY and SSTV until August 11th. He also plans to operate in the 26th JASTA SSTV Activity Contest. QSL via JA0SC.

By the time you read this, Susan, XF1/W7KFI, expects to soon be operational from the islands "in the sea of Cortez". Look for her 36 KHz up from "the bottom of the general portion of the band, CW or phone." Her Nevada CBA is apparently a good and safe address to send QSL requests to however it will take about 3-4 months for that mail to get forwarded to her.

Thomas, DL1ASA is vacationing in Malta (Gozo Island, EU-023 for IOTA chasers) through August 15th. He will be using the 9H3TM callsign on all HF bands, CW, SSB, RTTY and the WAE-CW contest August 9-10 as a single operator, low power. QSL via the DARC bureau.

Dany, LZ2UU says he will be the radio operator on Bulgaria's Antarctic Base "St. Kliment Ohridski in the South Shetlands from starting mid-November this year through February next year, using the LZ0A callsign. He expects to be on all the bands, CW, SSB and RTTY. In the CQ World Wide CW contest this year, he will use this callsign: VP8/LZ2UU. He may be on in other operating events as well.

Michael Manaf, K3UOC is moving back to Venezuela, in early August, having taken a job as director of an American school in Ciudad Ojeda on the eastern shore of Lake Maracaibo. It will be Michael's third time working in Venezuela and he says he's looking forward to it. He will take a basic HF station with him on the first trip, hoping there won't be much problem getting through customs. He expects to be on "CW as per usual with occasional SSB operating." Michael has been QRT the last several years while living in the U.S. (he has also been known as 7Z500, in the past). Look for him from Venezuela as YV1/K3UOC.

Here is a quick update on the planned Annobon Island Dxpediton this October. It is now planned for 15

days with four operators, all bands, CW, SSB and RTTY. The callsign has been secured, however it will not be announced until just prior to the start of operation. Victor,EA5FO will operate RTTY and possibly other digital modes. Franz, DJ9ZB and Elmo, EA5BYP will handle SSB, with Vincente (Vic), EA5YN doing CW only. There will be three fulltime stations. As always, financial and any other support are solicited and welcomed. Contact Tony, EA5BY at ea5by@lynxdxg.com. Tony says, "...this is a very rare site (even entity) and anything could happen once there. QSL the 3CØ operation via DJ9ZB.

WHAT'S ON THE WEB

The W9DXCC Convention that will take place September 20, 2003. Visit their website at <http://www.qth.com/w9dxcc/> for information on registration as well as programs and prizes. All Dxers, whether a "big gun" or "little pistol" will find this to be an event well worth attending.

DX POTPOURRI

Look for Peter to sign MM5PSL/p from Fair Isle (EU-012) and Fair Isle South Lighthouse (ARLHS Reference SCO Ø79) from August 3-6th. He will try to operate as much as possible and late into his night. QSL direct to WA7OBH.

An announcement was made through OPDX this month that the IOTA-JA is now issuing a new award; "Japanese IOTA Islands Award". The JIIA Award is intended for working the IOTA island of Japan. The rules for this award can be found on the following web site for the English edition: <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~iota/new-page61.htm>.

Look for DK9NCX, Hubert, to be operating as SV5/DK9NCX from the Dodecanese Islands from August 20 to September 3. QSL via the bureau.

Three members of the Magnolia DX Association (MDXA) will be teaming up with PZ5RA to sponsor a major operation from Suriname here between October 20-28th. They will have two full HF stations, complete with beams and amplifiers and will be on all bands 160-10 meters. The team will also participate in the 2003 CQWW SSB Contest as PZ5A and as a Multi-2 entry. This is a first ever 2x1 PZ special callsign for a contest operation. Individual team members will sign PZ5CQ(KD5CQT), PZ5FF(K2FF) and PZ5UE(W5UE) before and after the contest. QSL PZ5A via W5UE. QSL PZ5CQ, PZ5FF and PZ5UE pre/post contest activity to the individual's home callsign. For updated details, watch MDXA's Web page at: http://www.mdxa.org/pz_2003.html

OPDX was informed that Danny, MØGMT and Oliver, DJ9AO are on their way to Cambodia and will use assigned callsigns between August 3-18th as follows; XU7ACT for normal operations and XU7ACU for the WAE CW Contest (August 9th and 10th only). QSLs are via G3SWH. A Web site is available, as well as online log checking. Please visit for updated information at: <http://www.geocities.com/dxpedition2003>.

Operators Trent,VK4TI, AJ,VK2IR, Chris,VK3FY and Les,VK3WA will be active as YJØX from Vanuatu in the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest this fall(October 25-26th). QSL via VK4TI, using the QRZ.com address.

Recently there was some activity by 5A3A, supposedly from Libya. Reporting from Germany, 5A1A/DL, Abubaker, says 5A3A is a pirate as no one in Libya knows anything about this operation Abubaker is currently a student in Germany, and there is presently no licensed activity in Libya.

Jim,WØNB, is heading to the US Virgin Islands and expects to be QRV as KP2/WØNB mostly CW through August. He may do some 5 MHz SSB operations.

Lyle Burgoyne is back on Pitcairn Island. He is there with his family serving as the local church pastor, again. Some of you will remember Lyle's two year stint back in the mid- 1990's. This time he will be on the island for at least a year and plans to operate again as VP6LJ.

There is reportedly a lot of activity from Forces stationed over in Iraq. Listen to 20 meters between 1900 to 2200z.

CONTESTS

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
1800z 0600z	Aug. 2 Aug. 3	North American QSO Party	160-10	CW
0000z 2359z	Aug. 9 Aug.10	Worked All Europe DX Contest	80-10	CW
1200z 1200z	Aug.16 Aug.17	Keyman's Club of Japan	160-10	CW
1200z 1200z	Aug.16 Aug.17	SEANET (S.E. Asia) DX Contest	1 60-10	All Modes
1800z 0600z	Aug.16 Aug.17	North American QSO Party	160-10	Phone
1800z 2359z	Aug.24 Aug.24	Colorado QRP Club Summer QSO Party	160-10	CW & Phone
1200z 1200z	Aug. 30 Aug. 31	YO (Romainia) DX Contest	80-10	CW & Phone

That's it for me in August. Thanks to all who assisted putting the 20 meter on the air for Field Day and to Frank Dale and Peter for the great job in organizing another year. Special thanks to Sharon, KB9ZUK for the absolutely excellent catering job. And finally, thanks to Bernie, W3UR and his Daily DX, OPDX and the ARRL for information used this month.

(Continued from page 4)

Old Radio—Johnson Viking I

This 1949 beauty is featured, and particularly how it was "TVI-Proofed", so as not to interfere with Milton Belle's jokes. The "one-eyed monster" changed ham transmitters forever—neighbors didn't care to hear "CQ,CQ" on top of their favorite show. Those were the days of less selective TV sets, and pre-cable hook-ups. The author resourcefully uses chicken wire for shielding! (page 81)

73 until next month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor:

I hear a lot of talk about HamFests on the Repeater –after they are over. Is there any way I can find out about them in advance. Also, are there really good bargains, or is it mostly junk?

Looking for Help

Dear LFH:

Each month, you'll see our activities Calendar, listing HamFests and other events of Interest to Hams. If you read QST—they have a "Hamfest Calendar". Currently there are both the Peotone (August 10th) and Quincy(August 9th) Hamfests coming up. Two downstate Fests are: Carlinville(August 2nd) and Danville(August 24th). The QST listings give contact numbers, and information as to campgrounds nearby.

Many of the Fest sponsors send the Club advance flyers, which are place out at our meetings. So look on the "upfront table" for announcements.

Yes, there are always "bargains" for the early shoppers. You also can rent a table to unload some of your equipment. By the way, it is a good time to plan ahead for our own HamFest in January at Pheasant Run.

The Answer Man

KLEPPER POSTMAN NEWS

Recent college graduate (Master's in Accounting) from Roosevelt University is **N9NAK**, Kevin Klepper. He's planning to work for his CPA, and also is job hunting. So if you'd like to "give a Ham a Hand", call him at 630-653-5178.

MORE FROM THE POSTMAN

Seen at a stoplight on West Suburban highways—riding his Harley—the "Kansas City Joker"(**W9KCJ**), Norm Dank. Former Club Secretary, Net Control, and active in Club affairs, Norm was also an avid model train collector. No transceiver aboard the Harley?

Remember, Norm, those bikes and trains are a passing fancy –come on back to Ham Radio!

Speaking of motorcycles, Club Member and star of the 2003 Hamfest Ticket Committee (he sold tickets in the sub-zero parking lot at Kane County)**KC900**(Jon) has been busy on his bike with escort duty on two big charity events. First, the Avon Breast Cancer Walk, and that was followed by a charity event for AIDS.

Thanks, Jon, for your involvement in two good causes.

The POSTMAN tells all about the EDITOR

By Jim Ward, Contributing Editor

From his beginning as a Marine PLC (Platoon Leaders Class) to Lt. Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve and from rookie Flight Engineer to Captain of the United's newest 747-400 International Jets—Don (continued on page 10)

BIRTHDAYS OF AUGUST



PETER	W9UF	08-04-55
ROBERT	KB9OAQ	08-07-46
JIM	W9DHX	08-12-21
HARRY	K9HK	08-19-54
ROBERT	N9EF	08-24-50

The names that appear in this Birthday Corner are current club members or those paying a very high extortion amount to the editor. As a reminder, the FCC database no longer provides date of birth as it once did. If you do not see your name appear in the list of birthdays and would like to be included please forward this information to the editor.

(continued from page 9)

Motz, Jr. has had a great record of achievement.

Earlier this year, Don's professional flying career came to a conclusion with a "last flight" on Flight 9784 from O'Hare to Savannah Army Airfield to Frankfurt, Germany carrying troops of 3rd Infantry Division to Iraq. So his co-workers and the folks of the friendly skies will miss Don, and will also wish him well at an open house on August 10th, which will be a meaningful event in Don's life.

But the thing that means most to his fellow Hams in the WCRA is his devotion to the radio hobby and willingness to do "more than his share" for the Club. He is currently the editor of the "Hamletter" and also doubles as a member of the Repeater Board! A couple of hot spots, for sure.

Except for those long commutes to O'Hare and the concentration of long over-water flight, Don's life won't change much. He and wife Linda will enjoy their home in western Wheaton and the small antenna farm on the premises. And frequent visits into the city to see son Paul, (N9TKX) now a Senior at DePaul University.

Other activities include his interest in "the law"; he has a Law Degree from John Marshall Law School. However, we know Don will keep busy, stepping up to the next challenge. Right now he is spreading the news in the Hamletter, and keeping the Repeaters healthy and at advantageous listening and sending sites.

Thanks, Don, for what you're doing for WCRA. The Marine Corps and United were lucky to have you.

Expressing the typical sentiments for the Club was Vicky, KA9OEB, and former WCRA President. "Working with Don was such a pleasure—he's just a great guy!" Congratulations, Don!

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CFMC hamfest moved to September 20 and 21st instead of the planned 27th and 28. This will conflict with the Peoria hamfest.

The reason is that the Lake County Fair Grounds sent a contract for the wrong date, and the hamfest chairman signed without reading. That was back in January. The two club members he gave contract copies to did not catch it either. The mistake was discovered by an email from somebody who saw the fairground schedule. Big oops.

Of course the snowmobile club did not want to swap.

Please mark your calendars!!!!!!!

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st of August Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in classroom #138 in the Billy Graham Center. The Billy Graham Center is located on the South side of Seminary Avenue across from Old Main. Classroom #138 can be reached by entering the front (or rear) of the building, turning right and then left when reaching the hallway. Proceed south (toward rear of building) until reaching the rear classroom hallway extending across the rear of the Center hallway. Make a right and proceed East to Room #138. Program is on RC Interfaces presented by Mike, AB9AX,
- 5th of August Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 7th of August Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 15th of August DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 28th of August VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - August 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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