



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

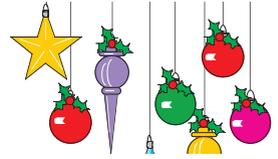
Issue 486

Founded 1948

December 2003



# MERRY



# CHRISTMAS

AND

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## HAMFEST HEATS UP

It seems like Hamfest is right around the corner... even though it's not until January 26, 2004. Top-name vendors have already committed to the fest, and flea-market vendors are signing up as we speak. The new venue, Pheasant Run Convention Center appeals to prospective attendees as well as vendors. We're hearing lots of talk about how great the spacious set-up will be. However, it would be even better if we could translate the enthusiasm into ticket sales. Tickets will be available at the January meeting, but you can get them earlier by contacting Mary James, K9GAL, at [mmaryj@aol.com](mailto:mmaryj@aol.com) or 630-968-1844.

While club members always show up to help the night before and the day of Hamfest, there's at least one responsibility that needs to be filled ASAP. That's the worker coordinator. This will be simpler than in years past, because Pheasant Run will set up and tear down the tables. Volunteers will be needed for ticket sales, door guards, etc.

Club President Mike Wolff, AB9AX, is flea market chair. He did a mailing in early November and is receiving a good response. Mike could still use assistance with the flea market, especially as Hamfest approaches. Meanwhile, Bill Hollister, K9WH, has lined up commercial vendors such as ICOM and Ham Station.

The committee will meet in January at Pheasant Run. If you want to be involved in making the club's fund-raiser successful, contact Bruce Plantz, K9OZ, at [k9oz@aol.com](mailto:k9oz@aol.com).

## DECEMBER QST REVIEWED

Upfront –Page 3:

Wonderful photos of different ways to put up Field Day antennas—how about snorkels and giant backhoes? It's always fun to see how crazy hams can get.

Broadband Controversy Continues:

After FCC Commissioner Abernathy plugged BPL at a Power line Convention, the ARRL received support AGAINST the radical procedure. Radio Broadcasters are now worried that **(Continued on page 3)**

### WCRA Staff

#### Elected Officers

|                |                     |        |               |
|----------------|---------------------|--------|---------------|
| President      | Mike Wolff          | AB9AX  | 630: 778-1070 |
| Vice President | Steve Peterson      | N9OA   | 630: 742-3581 |
| Secretary      | Robert Mitiieri     | 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 Mitiieri N9EF 630:510-7816

Membership Retention Robert Noles N9XS 630:372-7036

Public Relations

Public Serevice 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 Mitiieri 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 Repr

#### HAMLETTER

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# From the President's Gavel

by Mike Wolff, AB9AX WCRA President



Greetings WCRA Membership!

Happy Holiday Season to one and all! I hope you will be able to make it to the club Holiday party on December 7th, at the House of Plenty Restaraunt in Sugar Grove. WCRA will be getting a seperate room at the restaraunt for the festivities. Price will be \$12.00 per person for all-you-can-eat smorgasboard and soft drinks (pop, coffee, tea, etc.). For those that would enjoy beer, wine or cocktails, a cash bar is available at the restaraunt. I can speak from personal experience on this restaraunt, and I have been pleased with the quality and selection of food available on the smorgasboard at the House of Plenty. There's something to please just about everyone's pallate. Please come celebrate the season with us! One thing that we would ask is that If you would like to attend, please contact Ruth Kwart (KA9RZG) by December 1st, and let her know how many of you will be coming. While you're at it, consider taking a minute to say "Thank You!" to Ruth for acting as a one-woman-committee (with I'm sure some help for her OM Dale, NJ9E) for our club Holiday party.

Speaking of the season and feeling grateful, I want to wish each and every WCRA member peace, good will and happiness to all and their families. Looking back over this year, (continued on page 14)

## WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitilieri  
N9EF  
WCRA  
Secretary



## WCRA Meeting Minutes for the November 7th, 2003 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:39 by the President, **Mike AB9AX** and introductions were made by the board and all in attendance. There was a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting by **K9VGN**. The motion was seconded by **W9GWR**, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. The Vice-President, **Steve, N9OA**, reported that tonight's program is an auction. Next month's is the Holiday Party. Secretary, **Robert,**

**N9EF**, reported that the new web site is out there and invited members to check it out and give their comments. Custodian, **Roberto, WA9E**, reported that the club truck did not make it to JOTA. The post office has been mixing our mail addressed to the PO box and some has arrived late and opened. We have received five requests for Hamfest tables. The club needs to make more plaque emblems. We should explore other, more cost effective, options to making the emblems. Hamfest, **Mike AB9AX**, said that he's got the Hamfest tickets and it's time to start selling them. There will be a Hamfest committee meeting on Tuesday, contact Mike for directions. Mike also reported that he still needs someone to organize the labor force. Winnie reported that there was an error with the date in the Hamletter. Roberto asked if there is a block of rooms set aside for the Hamfest and if there will be a problem parking the truck overnight. Mike will find out. Elmer, George, **W9GWR**, reported that the next Know Code class will be in the spring. Public Service, **Kurt, KB9RTO**, reported that spotter numbers are no longer being issued. RAB, **Don, N9NYX**, no new news regarding COD and the repeater antennas. Training, **Robert, N9EF**, reported that there will probably no be a class due to lack of students, the winter is generally slow. VE, **Mike, AB9AX**, reported that there were four new licensees and two upgrades at the last session. The next session is Thursday November 20. Christmas Party, **Ruth, KA9RZG**, reported that the Western Acres Golf Course is a possibility. Since there were only 12 members in attendance last year Ruth would like an idea of how many members plan on attending this year. The cost of the room is \$46/hour with a four hour minimum. A discussion ensued and the members in attendance decided that, in order to minimize cost, we would hold the party at the House of Plenty in Sugar Grove. The WCRA Party will be held on December 7th, from 4PM until 7PM. Take Rt. 88 to the Sugar Grove exit. Follow Rt. 47 to just south of Rt. 30. The address and Phone: 49 Sugar Ln, Sugar Grove, IL 60554 Phone: (630) 466-4557. Hamletter, **Don, N9NYX**, reported that **N9PPO** has volunteered to assume responsibility for mailing hardcopies of the Hamletter. Don still needs articles for the Hamletter and is looking for anchors as well. There was a motion to accept the committee reports by **N9NYX**. The motion was seconded by **N9NTM**, a vote was taken and it carried. Old Business: Mike thank everyone involved in getting the replacement generator to Vicki. New Business: The proposed by-laws were in the Hamletter. **John, N9LIN**, stated that there should be changes to the proposed by-laws. In the proposed by-laws Robert's Rules were not required and the Executive Board is not mentioned. **W9GWR** also brought up several missing items and discrepancies. Both versions of the by-laws and suggestions should be posted on the web site. **Steve, N9OA**, will email Robert soft copies of both sets of by-laws and Robert will post them on the web site. **Dale, NJ9E** made a motion to table discussions for changes in the bylaws until February, Steve seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried. A motion was made by **NJ9E** to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by **K9VGN**. A vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 20:38.

Broadband will interfere with their signals. See Page 64.

Riley Hollingsworth Marks Five Years:

The man who has really enforced the rules celebrated his FCC 1998 appointment, made to straighten out the troops. His picture is on page 65. Thanks, Riley, for getting rid of the "bad apples." (Continued on page 14)

*Below and following are the existing (left) and proposed (right) copies of the WCRA BY-LAWS. Please review and begin to think about the changes you would like to see approved by the membership. Ed*

**WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS  
BY-LAWS**

**DEFINITIONS** Herein, the terms Club, Organization on and WCRA shall mean Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs. The term FULL member shall mean other than ASSOCIATE member, as referred to in Article IV.

**ARTICLE I PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE:** Robert's Rules of Order shall normally be the authority for action by this organization except in those cases covered specifically by the constitution or By-Laws.

**ARTICLE II OFFICERS:** Election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting each year, by a majority vote of the FULL members present. Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected, except that the President, Secretary and Property Custodian elected at the annual meeting in 1999 shall be serve for a term of one (1) year. Each term of office shall begin on May 1 of the year in which elected.

An executive session of the outgoing and incoming Executive Board members shall be held not later than twenty-one (21) days following the annual meeting.

Executive Board - This Board shall consist of the five officers of the Club, of which the Club President shall preside as Chairperson. It shall be authorized to suggest policies, new projects, programs, appoint committee chairpersons, and to carry on such business as may be required in the general operation of the Club. Executive Board meetings will be announced and all FULL members may attend, except during executive sessions.

President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of the By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the Club, appoint committee chairpersons, and perform all other

**WHEATON COMMUNITY RADIO AMATEURS  
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME**

The name of this corporation shall be Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs.

**ARTICLE II  
PURPOSES**

The purposes of this Corporation shall be:

A. To furnish the interests of Amateur Radio through active participation therein.

A. To improve radio proficiency.

A. To develop public relations.

A. To prepare for any communications emergencies.

A. To aid in the training and development of future Radio Amateurs.

**ARTICLE III  
MEMBERSHIP**

A. **Classes of Membership** - Classes of membership shall be FULL and Associate. FULL membership requires the holding of an amateur radio license. Associate membership shall be assigned to those interested in amateur radio, but not holding an amateur license at the time of their application. Associate members shall not have the power or right to hold a Club office. FULL members who allow their licenses to lapse shall automatically become Associate members. If a member allows his or her license to lapse while holding office, he or she may retain such office upon approval of the Executive Board.

duties pertaining to the office of President. At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items belonging to the club to the successor.

**Vice President** - The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall make arrangements for the location, refreshments and necessary clean-up pertaining to all club meetings, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the club President and as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items belonging to the club to the successor.

**Secretary** - The Secretary shall keep a record of the attendance and proceedings of all club meetings, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and arrange for written meeting notices to each member. At the expiration of the term, he/she shall turn over all records and items belonging to the Club to the successor.

**Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all money paid to the Club, keep accurate accounts of all money received and spent, and pay bills with Executive Board approval. At the end of each quarter he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursement and receipts. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

**Property Custodian** - The duty of the Property Custodian shall be to keep control and cost data, in a bound book provided by the club for that purpose, on all equipment owned by the Club. Such equipment may be loaned to Club members by him/her, but only for stated periods of time. The member borrowing equipment shall sign for it in the record book. Members shall be required to return equipment to the Property Custodian at the time specified, and shall not lend it to other members or non-members. It shall also be the duty of the Property Custodian to keep the equipment in good operating condition, requesting any assistance needed from the Club members, Where amounts greater than the approved budget are required to repair equipment, authorization must be approved

A. **Meetings** - Regular meetings shall be held on the first Friday of each month except December, unless changed by the Board of Directors, with notice to the membership. The Annual Meeting shall replace the regular meeting in April. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Board of Directors or by a majority of the FULL membership upon at least ten (10) days' written notice (by Email and/or mail) to the FULL membership.

C. **Quorum** - A quorum shall be the FULL members present at any regular scheduled meeting.

C. **Dues** - Dues for the respective classes of membership shall be set in the amount determined by the Board of Directors, as may be necessary for the operation of the Club. The Board of Directors at a regular meeting of the Club shall submit proposed changes to the existing dues. Adoption of the proposal may not be voted on until the next, or a subsequent meeting of the Club, prior to which time the Secretary shall notify the entire voting membership in writing and/or Email, of the proposed changes. Adoption of the proposal shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of voting members present at the meeting set for such vote.

Students and retired members' dues shall be one-half the otherwise applicable rate. The total dues payable by all FULL members in one family household shall be one and one-half times the FULL member rate.

All dues are payable by the end of January of each year. Dues of members joining during the year shall be assessed on a semi-annual pro-rated basis after July 1, up to the following July 1. The dues of members on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States shall be suspended for the duration of their service. Upon completion of their active duty their membership may be retained by payment of dues for the current year on a semi-annual pro-rated basis.

C. **Forfeiture of Membership** - Members may be dropped from membership if:

1. The annual dues are not paid by the April meeting of each year.

by a majority of voting FULL members present at a regular meeting. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

**ARTICLE III COMMITTEES:** This organization shall be operated under the following standing committees:

**Program Committee** - This committee shall consist of up to three members, and the Vice President as chairperson. It shall be the duty of this committee to provide programs and refreshments for the regular meetings.

**Training Committee** - This committee shall consist of not less than three members. It shall be the duty of this committee to plan and execute a training program for future amateur radio operators. Schedules and meetings shall be set up with members of the Club serving as instructors.

**Public Service/ Emergency Committee** - This committee shall consist of up to four members. Subject to the approval and authorization of the Club, it shall plan and build equipment for emergency use and shall conduct such trials as are necessary to perfect the work of the Club as an emergency unit. The chairperson shall schedule and coordinate public service and emergency events and exercises. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator to further club participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, and also coordinate activities with agencies such as DuPage County Office of Emergency Management

**Public Relations Committee** - This committee shall consist of up to three members. It shall publicize the meetings, programs, public exhibits, field days, and other work of the Club to help the public understand the Club's activities.

**Field Day Committee** - This committee shall consist of not less than three members. The chairperson may select any additional members required for this committee. He/she shall coordinate activities in connection with Field Day, as authorized by the Club,

1. A written resignation is submitted.

1. The members' operation or station license is suspended or revoked by the Federal Communications Commission.

1. Undesirable conduct.

a. If a FULL member desires to formally accuse another member of undesirable conduct, he/she shall provide the Club President in writing FULL details of such conduct, and concurrently furnish the accused member with a copy of such accusation.

a. The Club President shall refer such accusation to the Board of Directors for consideration. If it is determined that further action is warranted, a hearing of the accusation shall be held in an executive session of the Board of Directors, but not less than twenty-one (21) days after written notice of such hearing is received by the accused member. The accused shall have the right to appear and be assisted in his/her defense at such hearing or by any WCRA FULL member.

a. Within ten (10) days of such hearing, the Board of Directors shall determine if the accused's membership has been forfeited. The accused shall be given written notice of the decision.

a. The decision of the Board of Directors may be vetoed within six (6) months thereof out of the following procedure:

i A petition for veto signed by at least ten (10) FULL members shall be submitted to the Club President at a regular meeting.

ii The Club President shall read the petition to the members in attendance and schedule a vote on the petition for the next regular meeting.

iii A two-thirds majority vote of FULL members present at such meeting shall be required to pass the veto.

including the provision of food for the Field Day workers.

**Interference Committee** - It shall be the responsibility of this committee to handle all interference complaints referred to it or to the Club. This committee shall consist of up to three members.

**Hamfest Committee** - It shall be the responsibility of this committee to handle all Hamfest related items and issues necessary to run the annual Hamfest. The Treasurer shall be a member of this committee. The chairperson shall be in charge of coordinating the subcommittees used for this event

**Other positions** - The Executive Board may appoint members to other positions and/or committees in furtherance of the interests of the Club, such as Membership, Health & Welfare, Club Newsletter, Christmas Party, Club Historian and Picnic

#### **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP:**

Classes of membership shall be FULL, and ASSOCIATE. FULL membership requires the holding of an amateur radio license. ASSOCIATE membership shall be assigned to those interested in amateur radio but not holding an amateur license at the time of their application. ASSOCIATE members shall not have the power or right to vote or hold a Club office. FULL members who allow their licenses to lapse shall automatically become ASSOCIATE members. If a member allows his or her license to lapse while holding office, he or she may retain such office upon approval of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board may grant honorary memberships for special acknowledgement or considerations.

All prospective members must make application on the regular application form, and a FULL member of the Club must sponsor each. Such application must meet the requirements specified on the application form. An acceptable application may be approved by a two-thirds vote of the FULL members present at any regular meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**A. Election of Officers** - Election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting each year, by a majority vote of the FULL members present. Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected. Each term of office shall begin on May 1 of the year in which elected.

**B. President** - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of the By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the Club, appoint committee chairpersons, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President. At the expiration of his/her term, he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

**C. Vice President** - The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. Additionally, he/she shall make arrangements for the location, refreshments and necessary clean-up pertaining to all Club meetings, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Club President and as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. At the expiration of his/her term, he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

**D. Secretary** - The Secretary shall keep a record of the attendance and the proceedings of Club meetings, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and arrange for written meeting notices to each member. At the expiration of his/her term, he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

**E. Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all money paid to the Club, keep accurate accounts of all money received and spent, and pay bills with Board of Director approval. At the end of each Quarter he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursement and receipts. At the expiration of his/her term, he/she shall turn over everything in his/her pos-

## ARTICLE V FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Members may be dropped from membership if: 1) Annual dues are not paid by the April meeting of each year. 2) A written resignation is submitted. 3) The member's operator or station license is suspended or revoked by the Federal Communications Commission. 4) Undesirable conduct.

(a) If a FULL member desires to formally accuse another member of undesirable conduct, he/she shall provide the Club President, in writing, full details of such conduct, and concurrently furnish the accused member with a copy of such accusation.

(b) The Club President shall refer such accusation to the Executive Board for consideration. If it is determined that further action is warranted, a hearing of the accusation shall be held in an executive session of the Executive Board, but not less than twenty-one (21) days after written notice of such hearing is received by the accused member. The accused shall have the right to appear and be assisted in his/her defense at such hearing by any WCRA FULL member.

(c) Within ten (10) days of such hearing, the Executive Board shall determine if the accused's membership has been forfeited. The accused shall be given written notice of the decision.

(d) The decision of the Executive Board may be vetoed within six (6) months thereof under the following procedure:

1) A petition for veto signed by at least ten (10) FULL members shall be submitted to the Club President at a regular meeting.

2) The President shall read the petition to the members in attendance, and schedule a vote on the petition for the next regular meeting.

3) A two-thirds majority vote of FULL members present at such meeting shall be required to pass the veto.

The Executive Board may defer dropping a member

session belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

F. **Property Custodian** - The duty of the Property Custodian shall be to keep control and cost data, in a bound book provided by the Club for that purpose, on all equipment owned by the Club. Such equipment may be loaned to Club members by him/her, but only for stated periods of time. The member borrowing equipment shall sign for it in the record book. Members shall be required to return equipment to the Property Custodian at the time specified, and shall not lend it to other members or non-members. It shall also be the duty of the Property Custodian to keep the equipment in good operating condition, requesting any assistance needed from the Club members. Where amounts greater than the approved budget are required to repair equipment, authorization must be approved by a majority of voting FULL members present at a regular meeting. At the expiration of his/her term, he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Club to his/her successor.

G. **Removal from Office** - A proposal of removal from office of any officer shall be discussed at the meeting when such a proposal is made, but actually cannot take place until the next regular meeting. The Secretary shall notify the membership in writing of the proposed action. Adoption of the proposal requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members holding FULL membership present in order to remove an officer from office.

H. **Board of Directors** - This Board shall consist of the five (5) officers of the Club, of which the Club President shall preside as Chairperson. It shall be authorized to suggest policies, new projects, programs, appoint committee chairpersons, and to carry on such business as may be required in the general operation of the Club. Board of Director meetings will be announced and all FULL members may attend, except during executive sessions. An executive session of the outgoing and incoming Board of Director members shall be held not later than twenty-one (21) days following the annual meeting. A quorum shall be a majority of the Board of Directors.

H. **Vacancies** - Interim vacancies in elected

for non-payment of dues.

#### **ARTICLE VI DUES:**

Dues for the respective classes of membership shall be set in the amount determined by the Executive Board, as may be necessary for the operation of the Club. The Executive Board at a regular meeting of the Club shall submit proposed changes to the existing dues. Adoption of the proposal may not be voted on until the next, or a subsequent meeting of the Club, prior to which time the Secretary shall notify the entire voting membership, in writing, of the proposed changes. Adoption of the proposal shall require a 2/3 affirmative vote of voting members present at the meeting set for such vote.

Student and retired member's dues shall be one-half the otherwise applicable rate. The total dues payable by all FULL members in one family household shall be one and one-half times the FULL member rate.

All dues are payable in January of each year. Dues of members joining during the year shall be assessed on a semi-annual prorated basis after July 1, up to the following January 1. The dues of members on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States shall be suspended for the duration of their service. Upon completion of their active duty, their membership may be retained by payment of dues for the current year on a semi-annual prorated basis.

#### **ARTICLE VII VACANCIES:**

Interim vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board until the next annual meeting at which regular elections are held. The Executive Board shall promptly make appointments to fill any interim committee chairperson vacancies.

#### **ARTICLE VIII TIME OF MEETINGS:**

Regular meetings shall be held on the first Friday of each month except December, unless changed by the Executive Board. The annual meeting shall replace the regular meeting in April.

offices shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors until the next annual meeting at which regular elections are held. The Board of Directors shall promptly make appointments to fill any interim Committee Chairperson vacancies.

#### **ARTICLE V COMMITTEES**

This organization shall be operated under the following standing committees:

**C. Program Committee** - This Committee shall consist of up to three members, and the Vice President as Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide programs and refreshments for the regular meetings.

**C. Training Committee** - This Committee shall consist of not less than three members. It shall be the duty of this Committee to plan and execute a training program for future amateur radio operators. Schedules of meetings shall be set up with members of the Club serving as instructors.

**C. Public Service/Emergency Committee** - This Committee shall consist of up to four members. Subject to the approval and authorization of the Club, it shall plan and build equipment for emergency use and shall conduct such trials as are necessary for the work of the Club as an emergency unit. The Chairperson shall schedule and coordinate public service and emergency events and exercises. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator to further Club participation in the Amateur Emergency Radio Service, and also coordinate activities with agencies such as the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management.

**C. Public Relations Committee** - This Committee shall consist of up to three members. It shall publicize the meetings, programs, public exhibits, field days, and other work of the Club to help the public understand the Club's activities.

**C. Field Day Committee** - This Committee shall consist of not less than three members. The Chairperson

**ARTICLE IX QUORUM:**

A quorum shall be the FULL members present at any regular scheduled meeting.

**ARTICLE X CLUB STATION LICENSE TRUSTEE:**

The Trustee of any Club station license assigned to this Club must have the following qualifications:

- 1. Be a FULL member of WCRA in good standing;
- 2. And shall possess a valid radio amateur license of General class or higher The Executive Board shall appoint the Trustee and has the power to remove the Trustee from office. The Executive Board shall have the responsibility for maintaining the validity of the Club station license

**ARTICLE XI REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD:**

The Repeater Administrative Board (RAB) shall administer the operation and maintenance of all Club repeaters.

Organization - The RAS shall consist of five members: Chairman, Trustee, Secretary, and two (2) standing members.

Meetings - The RAS shall meet not less than four times per year, on a quarterly basis. The Secretary of the RAS shall keep minutes of all business conducted, for future reference. The RAS shall not conduct its routine business at the regular Club meetings; however, the Club President will ask, at each regular meeting, if the RAS has a report to give.

Selection of Members - The RAS members shall be FULL members of the Club, and shall be selected according to the following rules:

- 1) Each fiscal year the Executive Board shall appoint two members to the RAS, each to serve a two-year term. Reappointments shall be allowed. If any RAS member resigns, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to serve for the balance of the term of the member who has resigned.

may select additional members required for this Committee. He/she shall coordinate activities in connection with Field Day, as authorized by the Club, including the provision of food for the Field Day workers.

C. **Interference Committee** - It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to handle all interference complaints referred to it or to the Club. This Committee shall consist of up to three members.

C. **Hamfest Committee** - It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to handle all Hamfest related items and issues necessary to run the annual Hamfest. The Treasurer shall be a member of this Committee. The Chairperson shall be in charge of coordinating the sub-committees used for this event.

C. **Other Committees** - The Board of Directors may form other committees in furtherance of the interest of the Club, to include, but not limited to, such topics as Membership, Health & Welfare, Club Newsletter, Christmas Party, Club Historian, and Annual Picnic.

**ARTICLE VI CLUB STATION LICENSE TRUSTEE**

The Trustee of any Club station license assigned to this Club must have the following qualifications:

- A. Be a FULL member of WCRA in good standing; and
- A. Shall possess a valid radio amateur license of General Class or higher.

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Trustee, and has the power to remove the Trustee from office. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility for maintaining the validity of the Club station license.

**ARTICLE VII REPEATER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

The Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

2) The Trustee of the Club's repeater license shall serve for an indefinite period. The Executive Board shall have the authority to replace the Trustee at any time, consistent with Article X of the By-Laws. The Trustee of the Club's repeater license shall be a member of the RAB.

3) No member of the Executive Board shall serve concurrently as a member of the RAB.

4) Upon appointment of a member to the RAB, the Executive Board shall ask for a vote of confirmation from the Club members present at a regular meeting.

**Administrative Functions** - The RAB's administrative functions shall include the following:

1) Establishing guidelines for usage of WCRA repeaters.

2) Repeater maintenance.

3) Planning and implementing new repeater features.

**Requesting RAB Action** - Any FULL member may request RAS action by submitting his request, in writing, to the WCRA Secretary at a regular meeting. The request shall be read into the Club minutes and sent to the RAB for action. The request shall not be discussed until the RAB reports on the request.

**Reports** - The RAB shall report to the Club on each request for RAB action, on or before the third regular meeting following submission of the request. Furthermore, the RAB shall report to the Club on any operational or functional changes made in any Club repeater, at the regular meeting immediately following implementation of said changes.

**Vetoing RAB Action** - Any RAB action may be vetoed according to the following procedure within six months of said action by:

1) A petition for veto signed by at least ten (10) FULL members shall be submitted to the Club President at a regular meeting.

shall administer the operation and maintenance of all Club repeaters.

**C. Organization** - The RAB shall consist of five members: Chairperson, Trustee, Secretary and two (2) standing members.

**C. Meetings** - The RAB shall meet not less than four times per year, on a quarterly basis. The Secretary of the RAB shall keep minutes of all business conducted, for future reference. The RAB shall not conduct its routine business at the regular Club meetings; however, the Club President will ask, at each regular meeting, if the RAB has a report to give.

**C. Selection of Members** - The RAB members shall be FULL members of the Club, and shall be selected according to the following rules:

1. Each fiscal year the Executive Board shall appoint two members to the RAB, each to serve a two-year term. Reappointments shall be allowed. If any RAB member resigns, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to serve for the balance of the term of the member who has resigned.

1. The Trustee of the Club's repeater license shall serve for an indefinite period. The Executive Board shall have the authority to replace the Trustee at any time, consistent with Article VI of the By-Laws. The Trustee of the Club's repeater license shall be a member of the RAB.

1. No member of the Executive Board shall serve concurrently as a member of the RAB.

1. Upon appointment of a member to the RAB, the Executive Board shall ask for a vote of confirmation from the Club members present at a regular meeting.

**D. Administrative Functions** - The RAB's administrative functions shall include the following:

1. Establishing guidelines for usage of WCRA repeaters.

2) The President shall read the petition and schedule a vote on the petition for the NEXT regular meeting.

3) A TWO/THIRDS majority vote of FULL members present at the regular meeting immediately following submission and reading of the petition shall be required to pass the veto.

Pictures submitted by Sharon, KB9ZUK, from the Club Christmas Party



1. Repeater maintenance.

1. Planning and implementing new repeater features.

E. **Requesting RAB Action** - Any FULL member may request RAB action by submitting his request, in writing, to the WCRA Secretary at a regular meeting. The request shall be read into the Club minutes and sent to the RAB for action. The request shall not be discussed until the RAB reports on the request.

E. **Reports** - The RAB shall report to the Club on each request for RAB action, on or before the third regular meeting following submission of the request. Furthermore, the RAB shall report to the Club on any operational or functional changes made in any Club repeater, at the regular meeting immediately following implementation of said changes.

G. **Vetoing RAB Action** - Any RAB action may be vetoed according to the following procedure within six months of said action by:

1. A petition for veto signed by at least ten (10) FULL members shall be submitted to the Club President at a regular meeting.

1. The President shall read the petition and schedule a vote on the petition for the NEXT regular meeting.

1. A two-thirds majority vote of FULL members present at the regular meeting immediately following submission and reading of the petition shall be required to pass the veto.

## ARTICLE VIII INDEMNIFICATION

**Indemnification of officers, directors, employees and agents; insurance.**

A. The Club may indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or complete action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of

the Club) by reason of the fact the he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of another Club, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Club, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Club, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, that the person had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

A. The Club may indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Club to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Club, or is or was serving at the request of the Club as a director, officer, employee or agent of another Club, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Club, provided that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his or her duty to the Club, unless, and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability, but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court shall deem proper.

A. To the extent that a present or former director, officer or employee of a Club has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections A. and B., or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith, if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Club.

A. Any indemnification under subsections A. and B. (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the Club only as authorized in the specific case, upon a determination that indemnification of the present or former director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in subsections A. or B. by two-thirds of the majority of the members entitled to vote.

B. Expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by an officer or director in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the Club in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding, as authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case, upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director or officer to repay such amount, unless it shall ultimately be determined that such person is entitled to be indemnified by the Club as authorized in this section. Such expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by former directors and officers or other employees and agents may be so paid on such terms and conditions, if any, as the Club deems appropriate.

A. Any indemnification provided by the Section shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any by-law, agreement, vote of members or disinterested directors, or otherwise, both as to action in his or her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

A. A Club may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Club, or who is or was serving at the request of the Club as a director, officer, employee or agent of another Club, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of this Section.

A. If a Club indemnifies or advances expenses under subsection B. of this Section to a director or officer, the Club shall report the indemnification or advance in writing to the members entitled to vote with or before the notice of the next meeting of the members entitled to vote.

## ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws or Articles of Incorporation may be proposed and discussed at any regular meeting. Proposed amendments may not be voted upon until the next regular meeting, prior to which the Secretary shall notify the membership in writing of the proposed amendment. Adoption of an amendment requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members holding FULL membership status who respond to the opportunity to vote. Voting members may vote an amendment by proxy.

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### **From The President's Gavel** (Continued from page 2)

it has certainly been an interesting one for me, with new challenges and accomplishments in and out of the hobby. I think I am meeting the challenge of being the president of the club, and dealing with the serious issues that have come about since I have taken this office. I have received a lot of positive feedback from you, the members, and good support from my fellow executive board members. We have also leaned quite a bit on our club attorney, Larry Oldfield (WA9RTE), who has graciously donated many hours of his time in professional legal services and advice to the board and the club. I also remember others, like Jon Baker KC9OO, a skilled mechanic that offered to help the club out by trying to fix the generator that met its demise at Field Day this year. I cannot forget Mrs. Victoria Keith (KA9OEB) that loaned us the generator for Field Day, and waited patiently while the club got her a replacement. So many things, and so much has been given to the club this year, by so many of you. I am proud and grateful to be associated with such a fine group as the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, and enthused about the opportunity to serve you in the role that I am in. As I look forward to the New Year, I am looking forward to continued service to our club, and reviving the fun things in the club. This is all about Ham Radio!

73,

Mike - AB9AX

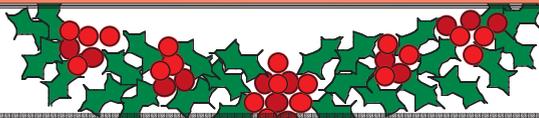
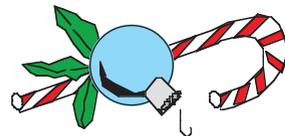
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Field Day from Cuba!

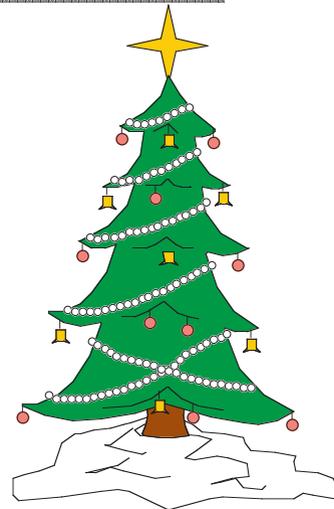
Page 45 tells the fascinating story of a team that took Field Day to Guanabito, a small town just outside of Havana, Cuba. An interview by Radio Havana and a warm welcome celebration from government officials were all part of the unusual visit.

Oldest Ham Celebrates

# THE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF DECEMBER



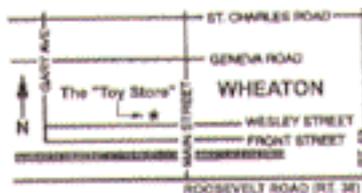
|        |        |          |
|--------|--------|----------|
| CHUCK  | WJ9N   | 12-06-31 |
| BOB    | W3MDM  | 12-09-28 |
| BILL   | KA9ALO | 12-11-44 |
| DON    | K9MUF  | 12-13-31 |
| MARTY  | KA9RCC | 12-15-48 |
| DOUG   | W9NJM  | 12-15-46 |
| JOHN   | N9GLZ  | 12-19-24 |
| LARRY  | WA9RTE | 12-21-44 |
| GEORGE | KA3HSW | 12-27-56 |



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## Activities on the HF Bands

by:  
Peter Barr  
W9UF

Bert, WA1O is heading back to Antarctica for the Antarctic summer. His operations should take place until January 25, 2004. He will take part in an effort to pioneer a 1000-mile overland (ice) route from McMurdo Station on the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. This route will eventually be used for tractor and sled trains to re-supply the South Pole rather than relying on C-130 transport planes. His job will be to use a radar system to locate hidden crevasses in the ice before the traverse train encounters them. Once found; they will be blasted open and be refilled by bulldozer. To pioneer the entire route, fill crevasses, and place flag markers along the way will take most of this four-month Antarctic Summer season and possibly

part of next year. He will be participating in the segment going from the Ross Ice Shelf up to the Leverett Glacier. Next year the team will continue laying out the route from the top of the Leverett Glacier to the South Pole. Ham radio operating will be as work duties permit. QSLs will be sent out when he returns. Equipment will be a trusty "706" and Begali Magnetic Traveler Keyer. He will have dipole antennas for 17, 15, 20 and 40 meters. QSL KC4/WA1O via KA1CRP with a SASE.

Oleg, UA1PBA is getting ready for the upcoming Antarctic summer season as R1ANF. He expected to arrive at Bellingshausen Base on King George Island in the South Shetlands Islands (AN-Ø1Ø) sometime between November 21st and 24th. The R1ANF team this season will include also Slava, UA1PAI, and Aleksei, UA1PAW. If work allows they will be active also from other locations.

The French DXpedition team heading to Europa (FR/E) this month departed Reunion Island aboard the French Naval vessel "La Grandi\_re", on November 17th, after flying into Reunion Island from Paris. Their first stop will be on Mayotte (FH). Next it will be a quick stop on Juan de Nova (FR/J), however no operation is expected from this, the sister DXCC island of Europa. The team expected to arrive on Europa Island in the afternoon of November 24th. If all goes as planned, operations were to start on November 25th. The group will be QRV on CW, SSB and digital modes until December 14th. On November 29th and 30th they will use TO4WW in the CQ WW CW DX Contest. The operators took four transceivers and planned to have three on the air at any one time. For the low bands they took two Titanex verticals (V40 and V80). Juan de Nova and Europa ranks between number 6 and number 8 on the major most wanted lists. This will be the biggest DXpedition ever to be mounted to the DXCC entity. Keep an eye on the Europa 2003 DXpedition Web site at <http://europa2003.free.fr/>. QSL via Didier Senmartin, F5OGL, PO Box 7, F-53320 Loiron, FRANCE or via the REF bureau.

Aves Island (YVØ), not to be confused with Las Aves Islands (YV5), is a separate DXCC entity. Aves Island (NA-Ø2Ø), also known as Bird Island, is located at 15 40' North 63 35' East which is around 600 kilometers north of mainland Venezuela. The island is about 580 meters long and 150 meters wide. The highest point on the island is only about 3 meters above sea level. Venezuela claimed Aves Island in 1865. On August 23, 1972 the island was declared a wildlife sanctuary. In 1978 the Venezuelan Navy established a garrison at the Simon Bolivar Scientific-Military Base. Over the years two major clubs from YV have been alternating as sponsors and operating from Aves Island. Those two clubs are the Radio Club Venezolano (RCV) and the Asociacion de Radioaficionados de Venezuela (ARV).

In 2004 the RCV (YV5AJ), Venezuela's IARU organization, will be celebrating their 70th anniversary and have announced plans to operate from Aves Island in late January or sometime in February. YVØ - Aves Island ranks # 10 on The DX Magazine's Most Wanted List. Plans are for activity on all bands and modes. A dedicated station will be set up for operations on 6 meters, satellite, digital modes (RTTY, PSK, SSTV) and pos-

sibly EME. For YL DXCC chasers they are planning to take at least one YL operator. The Comision Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (CONATEL) issued the license in late October. The callsign will be announced at a later time. Sponsors and donations are being requested. A Web site is being planned and should be up and running in the near future. For more information contact the RCV by email at [yv5aj-rcv@cantv.net](mailto:yv5aj-rcv@cantv.net). More details will be given, as they become available.

Members of the Mile High DX Association (MHDXA) are in East Kiribati right now, looking for contacts. The trip is sponsored by the Western Wireless Contest Club. The team will include NØKV, KØMP, WØZA, N2WW, NØWBV, NØZM, KTØF and NOØT. They are running three stations consisting of Icom 756PROII and Alpha amps running 400 watts. Their activity is on 10-160 meters on SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK. For antennas, they are using top loaded verticals with raised, tuned radials for 80 and 160; Beverage RX antennas; phased two element vertical arrays for 30 and 40 and parasitic 2-element vertical monoband arrays for 10 through 20 meters. Directional antennas are oriented generally toward Europe (about 20 degrees), however they should cover the US quite well with their wide front lobes. Most of the team departed Denver on November 20th and plans to hit the airwaves November 24th (local T32 time). While some were only going to stay a week, the majority will stay two weeks returning to Denver on December 11th. A special effort is being made on specialty modes, low bands and WARC bands. The teams contest call during CQWW CW was T32WW, in the multi-two category. QSL info is as follows: T32MP via NØKV, T32WW via NØKV, T32KV via NØKV, T32N via KE4RHU, T32TF via KTØF, T32YL via NØWBV, T32ZA via WØZA and T32ZM via NØZM.

If you miss this group, Gary, KH6GMP and Tuck, KH6DFW will be active from Eastern Kiribati as T32I and T32BI next spring, for the week of March 1st through the 8th. During their time there they will also be active as T32I in the ARRL DX Phone Contest (March 6-7th) as a multi-single entry. Activity outside of the contest will be on SSB and as much RTTY as possible during the precontest time. QSL T32I via direct to KH6GMP (QRZ.com address is OK) and QSL T32BI via direct to KH6DFW (also, QRZ.com address is OK).

Members of Yamato ARC (JA1ZEK), JA1KJW, and JA8VE are active now from Cocos-Keeling until December 7th. JA1KJW is signing VK9CJ and JA8VE is VK9CV. They are operating on 10 through 160 meters on CW, SSB and RTTY. Equipment will include two K2/100 and two ALS500 amplifiers. Antennas are a Hex beam for 10 through 20 meters and wire antennas for 30 through 160 meters. QSL via JA1KJW, either via the JARL QSL bureau or direct to Nakayama Hisashi, 1-17-8 Shibuya, Yamato, 242-0023 JAPAN.

Erling, LA5RIA is now active as JW5RIA from Bear Island (EU-027), Svalbard until June 2004. He will be active on all bands CW, SSB and the Digital modes. He prefers you send for his QSL via the bureau. JW5RIA's Web site can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/la5ria>.

Curt, W3HQ will be active as W3HQ/KP2 between December 3-11th. Activity will be CW only on 40/30/20/15 meters, QRP. QSL via the W3 Bureau.

Vladi, LZ3XV (aka 5NØEVR) is active now as TY/LZ3XV in Cotonou, Republic of Benin. His activity will mainly be the AO-40 satellite, and possibly HF. The length of his stay is unknown. His grid locator will be JJ16fi.

Geoff, ZC4CW, British Sovereign Military Bases on Cyprus, will be going contest crazy over the next few months. He was going to start out with the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Single-Op/Single Band (160m) entry from CQ Zone 20. Geoff will be active in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest (December 13-14th) and the ARRL 160 Meter Contest (December 5-7th) as a Single-Op/High Power/Mixed Mode entry. QSL all operations via G3AB.

Jeff, K8ND is currently in Curacao for another two weeks, most of which will be spent at the Signal Point station, PJ2T. During the LZ DX Contest, PJ2DX will be active and manned by WØCG, K8MFO and K8ND. Jeff will do a single-op effort in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest as PJ2T. The guys will be doing some station maintenance/repairs/improvements and will spend time on 6 meters, RTTY, and the WARC bands using "PJ2/" between contests. QSL PJ2T via N9AG, PJ2/K8ND via K8ND, and others as directed.

Babs, 9Y4/DL7AFS and Lot, 9Y4/DJ7ZG are now currently QRV from Tobago Island (SA-ØØ9) until

December 6th. They will be active on the usual DX frequencies on 6 through 80 meters mainly on SSB, RTTY and PSK. Following Tobago, they will be active from Norfolk and Lord Howe Island next year. First stop will be from Lord Howe Island between February 16 and 27. Then they will go to Norfolk Island for activity from February 29 to March 13. The callsigns will be announced at later time. Activity will be on 6 through 80 meters on SSB, RTTY and PSK. Keep an eye on their Web page at Further information can be found on their Web page at <http://www.qsl.net/dl7afs>. QSL via DL7AFS either direct to Baerbel Linge, Eichwaldstrasse 86, D-34123 Kassel, GERMANY or via the DARC bureau.

As we all know the real Santa Claus comes from Finland! Santa Claus Land (OH9SCL) will be again active during this December from the Arctic Circle. This year there will be a special activity period between December 17th until the 21st. Activity will be on 10-80 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. The main emphasis of the digital operations will be during the weekend. Santa's helpers will include: OH2BH, OH2NWG, OH3BHL, OH9KL, OH9MDV, OH9MM, OH9RJ and OH9VC. QSL via OH9UV.

A video of the recent BQ9P DXpedition is now available (DVD or VHS showing the "Major challenges" the team went through just to put this rare one on the air. The video also shows some of the beauty of the island as well as some historical information. This video makes you appreciate the BQ9P team's hard work as operators and their devotion to DXing. The video is available for \$25.000(plus shipping) at the following Web site at:

<http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~iota/newpage64.htm> or

<http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~iota/newpage66.htm>.

### **APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT**

QSL cards for 7Z1SJ are now being accepted for DXCC.

### **WHAT'S ON THE WEB**

Here's a good site for propagation theory:

<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf8.htm>.

<http://www.dx-central.com/bandstats.cfm> is an interesting site that takes a statistical look at DX spots by country -

Need a QSL route that you just can't seem to find? Try IK3QAR's QSL Manager lookup at <http://www.qslinfo.com> or you can try this German site <http://www.qslinfo.de/>.

### **DX POTPOURRI**

Mark,K4MCE and Dave,N4KZ, Dave, will operate special event station N4Z from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands from December 30th through January 5th. They will be active on 6 through 160 meters CW and SSB. QSL via N4KZ.

Jim,WB9IHH is back to Diego Garcia and should be on the air as VQ9JC.

Jacky,3B8CF continues to show up from Mauritius on 80 CW just prior to 0200z.

QRZ DX says Andy,GØVUH will be operating as C56/GØVUH from The Gambia from January 16 to 30. Look for him on all bands. QSL via GØVUH.

Dave,G3TBK is currently QRV as J88DR from St. Vincent. Plans are to be there through the first week of December. Look for some serious effort on 160 meters during that week, especially with an emphasis towards Europe. QSL via G3TBK.

Steve,K2WE is in Barbados from December 2nd until December 8th. He will be active as 8P9AP on CW

and SSB on 10-80 meters and 6 meters with 100 watts. QSL via K2WE.

The ARRL DX Bulletin reports that Terry, K3JT will be QRV as 5X1X from Uganda for about 6 weeks. He will also operate in the ARRL 160 CW Contest. He was unable to take his amplifier. QSL via K3JT.

425 DX News is during a survey on the rarest countries inside Europe. If you need any countries in Europe you are asked to take part in their survey at [http://www.425dxn.org/surv\\_eu/](http://www.425dxn.org/surv_eu/). This survey is for all time new ones from Europe only.

Frosty, K5LBU, is organizing another DXpedition to Swaziland and is looking for other operators. Plans are for a mid-March 2004 operation. For more details contact Frosty via email [tofrosty1@pdq.net](mailto:tofrosty1@pdq.net).

The J6DX team is looking for an additional op for their 2004 trip. This is a two week vacation-style trip for the WPX RTTY (M/S) and ARRL CW (M/M) contests. The scheduled dates are February 11th to 25th. If you are interesting in accompanying the team, please contact N9AG/J68AS, Scott, ([scottal@erinet.com](mailto:scottal@erinet.com)) for more information.

## CONTESTS

| Time           | Date                       | Contest                             | Band     | Mode   |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Ø2ØØz<br>16ØØz | December 5<br>December 7   | ARRL 160 Meter<br>Contest           | 160      | CW     |
| ØØØØz<br>2359z | December 6<br>December 6   | MDXA<br>DeathMatch                  | 80-6     | PSK31  |
| 2ØØØz<br>2359z | December 7<br>December 7   | ARCI Holiday<br>QRP/Homebrew Sprint | 80-6     | CW     |
| ØØØØz<br>2359z | December 13<br>December 14 | ARRL 10 Meter<br>Contest            | 10       | CW/SSB |
| Ø2ØØz<br>Ø4ØØz | December 14<br>December 14 | Colorado<br>Snowshoe Run            | 40       | CW     |
| 16ØØz<br>16ØØz | December 20<br>December 21 | International<br>Naval Activity     | 80-10    | CW/SSB |
| ØØØØz<br>2359z | December 20<br>December 20 | Czech DX RTTY<br>Contest            | 80-10    | RTTY   |
| 15ØØz<br>15ØØz | December 27<br>December 28 | Original QRP<br>Winter Contest      | 80/40/20 | CW     |
| 15ØØz<br>15ØØz | December 27<br>December 28 | Stew Perry Top Band<br>DX Challenge | 160      | CW     |
| ØØØØz<br>24ØØz | December 31<br>December 31 | Straight Key<br>Night *             | 80-10    | CW     |

\* OK, Straight Key Night is technically not a contest, but a chance to limber up that rusty fist and make contacts the way we used to do it in our novice days. It is a lot of fun and safer than being on the road that night. Send a list of stations worked and your vote for “best fist” to the ARRL.

That’s it for me this month. I’d like to express my thanks to Don, N9NYX who has the patience of Job, Bernie, W3UR, The Daily DX, OPDX and the ARRL for information used this month. I would also like to thank those of you who have read this column over the years and taken the time to let me know that you enjoy it.

73, and Best Wishes for the Holidays

Peter, W9UF



At 103, B.H. “Tex” Burdick, W5BQU, has good reasons to mark his natal event. Two pages of this current issue chronicle his adventures in ham radio. Good health, “Tex”.

#### Love Old Microphones?

Most hams have a few old treasures around the shack—you’ll learn more about your vintage microphones in this month’s “Old Radio” column page 75. They are great items for “show and tell”. The author is a collector, so he is tuned in on the subject.

#### CW Fans, Read Up!

Two articles, “The Pico Keyer”(P. 38) and the “Doctor Is In” column, talk about keys. The good Doctor covers the subject of two types of “bugs”. The classic “Vibroplex” is described, plus the electronic iambic keyer with dual-lever paddle. Many ways to make those dits and dahs.

#### THE POSTMAN DEPENDS UPON HIS FRIENDS

##### Super Decorations

The Holidays bring out Mike, KV9Z, and his oversize and magnificent lawn and roof decorations. Each year Mike amazes neighbors and passers by with his unusual display. He’s getting a late start due to some minor surgery. Speedy recovery, Mike, and thanks for sharing your display.

##### W90KQ Visits Ham Breakfast

Well known Wheatonite and wife Marge returned from his retirement home in Florida for a brief visit. Tom was an enthusiastic OEM volunteer, as well as an avid speedboat fan.

## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Resturant, Glen Ellyn
- 4th: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 5th: No membership meeting during December.
- 15th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR JANUARY. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 18th: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.



### WCRA General Membership Meeting - NO MEETING - 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

