



HAMLETTER

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Shack of the Month

By Mary James, K9GAL

CAREER TURNS INTO HOBBY

You don't have to be a ham to know that Steve Bense enjoys radios. His shack--an ultra-neat room in the basement--looks like a combination museum and radio station. "We have all kinds of old radios," Steve points out. An old Admiral is from his mother-in-law. Diane's mom remembers listening to the radio in the '30s and '40s. She even recalls hearing FDR's famous Day of Infamy speech on Dec. 7, 1941.



Another antique used to be Steve's parents. They remember listening to the noon news every day. One radio sits on an Atwater Kent radio stand, another is encased in solid Bakelite. "These are all from back when they bought radios for fun."

When asked how he got into ham radio, Steve Bense can't help but smile. "I'm an odd duck," says W9SRB (formerly WA4OLE). "I'm one of the few people who was a professional in radio before getting into the hobby." In February of '75 he graduated from radio school and went to work as a radio operator in the Air Force. By June of '76 Steve had a ham ticket and went on to learn Morse code well enough to become an instructor in the Air Force

"I'll admit I'm rusty now," Steve says. "But I used to do CW a lot." His Heathkit HW-8 with matching keyer is only one of nine radios in his shack, a dual band in the truck and an HT he carries in his briefcase. He doesn't have a radio for 220, and says "I can't really justify buying something for it."

His pride and joy is a Ten Tec Jupiter. Having "just powered it up," Steve demonstrated "with just a click of a switch I can change the antenna. He was still enjoying the thrill of snagging a contact in the Baleric Islands. Steve enjoys chasing DX, and has been on the other side of the pileups during his years in the Air Force. During one overseas assignment in Azores, he held the call CT2CD.

Each radio "has its own qualities," he says. "I choose which one to use depending on what I want to do. "If you want to pull someone out of the mud, I use this radio," he explains pointing to the Ten Tec with Kenwood microphone. When it's time to rag chew, he switches to a Drake TR-7 station, complete with matching power supply and remote VFO.

He has a different speaker for each radio, and an HT hooked up to the WCRA packet repeater. He can control the Ten Tec from a nearby PC, where he also taps into the Internet. Outside there's a Butternut HF9 vertical ground mounted antenna with radials. In the attic, you'll find a 20 meter dipole (that he wants to replace with a pair of butted verticals.

"I have two major antenna projects sitting in the wings," Steve says. "And one major shack project
(Continued on page 11)

HAMFEST SET FOR 2005

See page 4 for details

From the President's Gavel

by Mike Wolff, AB9AX WCRA President



Greetings Once Again Fellow WCRA Members,

Well, winter carries on, but as I write this, the temperature is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, so the light at the end of the winter tunnel is not the train coming, but rather spring is coming! Those of you that frequent the repeaters at drive time may have heard the topic of field day discussed a few times, and certainly that is something to look forward to. Also, I know many amongst us have made some plans to go to Dayton this year, and for those that put off the planning, there is still time, but the longer you wait, the harder it will be.

Since March is approaching, I would like to remind you all that the annual meeting is coming up in April. Several things will happen at this meeting that are important to our club. This year, elections are being held for club President, Secretary, and Custodian. If you know of someone that you think would be a candidate for any of these offices, please contact our election judges (Patrick, K9JAU; Doug, W9NJM, or Don, N9NYX). For those of you that attended the last meeting you might remember that we have no nominees for the secretary and custodian positions. How about you? Maybe you could bring some fresh ideas into the executive board, and have a hand to help steer the club. I
(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 Kwarta	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 Kwarta	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 Meeting Minutes for the February 6th, 2004 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 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, the motion was seconded by, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. Mike mentioned that there we received many compliments on the Hamfest and read some of the letters he received. Many thanks to **Bruce K9OZ** and all that

helped us have a successful Hamfest. Mike mentioned that he received a note from **Bill Hollister, K9WH**, asking if any members would be interested in the setting up a special event station at the Boy Scout Camper All to be held October 8th through 10th at the Sandwich Fairgrounds. A sign up sheet for those interested will be on the main table during break. The Vice-President, **Steve, N9OA**, reported that tonight's program is on QRP. Next month's will be on antennas presented by **Bob, W9TIE**. April's program will be on electric cars. Secretary, **Robert, N9EF**, reminded everyone that renewal time is upon us. Member applications are located on the main table. Mike, AB9AX, reported that **Jack, KA9HEL**, is in bed with a back problem so there will not be a Treasurer's report tonight. Custodian, **Roberto, WA9E**, reported that the club truck made it to and from the Hamfest without any problems. It should also be able to make it to the CamperAll in October. Roberto also reported that the new club money counter worked well at the Hamfest. Hamfest, **Bruce, K9OZ**, thanked everyone who helped at the Hamfest. Bruce reported that advance sales were up, door sales were down, and table sales remained about the same. Bruce submitted an application to Pheasant Run to use the facility next year. They are asking for an increase but Mike is hoping to negotiate a good rate. Drawings for worker prizes will be held before the break. Elmer, **George, W9GWR**, reported that there will be a Know Code class in March. The dates are March 11th through May 16th from 7 until 9 PM at the Wheaton PD. A flyer is available at the main table. Public Service, **Joe, N9WRO**, listed up-coming public service events; Special Olympics 4/25 in Naperville, MS Walkathon 5/2 in Naperville, Wheaton July 4th parade 12 noon or 1PM (back to the old route), Glendale Heights parade 8/28 at about 3:30PM ± 1 hour (not at night this year). There is the Advanced weather spotter seminar at Wheaton College on March 6th, call the DuPage county OEM for details. RAB, **Larry, KA9KDC**, no new news regarding COD and the repeater antennas. Joe, N9WRO, asked if there was any news about the insurance. Roberto, WA9E, said that there was not. Joe also asked how long we were willing to wait for COD. Mike responded that we are trying to find other options. Joe will make inquiries at the county. Any ideas should be reported to **Don, N9NYX**. Field Day, **Frank, KG9H**, mentioned that we must get a letter out to reserve the site. **Bob, KE9A**, usually writes the letter. Frank will contact Bob. VE, George, W9GWR, reported that there were 20 elements passed at the Hamfest, for a total of six new hams and six upgrades. There is a VE session every 4th Thursday at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 until 8:30. There is information about additional VE sessions on the club web site; www.w9ccu.org. There was a motion to accept the committee reports by N9WRO. The motion was seconded by **N9NTM**, a vote was taken and it carried. Old Business: **Pat, K9JAU**, reminded all that club election are in April. Elections will be held for the offices of President, Secretary, and Custodian. So far the only candidate if Mike, AB9AX, for President. Please contact the Nominating committee if you are interested in running, or if you would like to nominate some one (get their ok first!). New Business: **Dale, NJ9E** made a motion that the club participates in the Three Fires Council CamperAll. **Charlie, WB9SGD**, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried. Joe, N9WRO, asked about the proposed by-laws. Dale made a motion that we table it until next year. **Tom, N9WBW** seconded the motion. A clarification was requested about whether Dale was referring to the next calendar year or the next fiscal year. Dale clarified his motion by

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

can tell you from personal experience that it does not take an excess amount of time to do the work of club president, and it can be rather rewarding work! I know the same could be said of the secretary and custodian positions as well. So, please consider helping your club out, and running for an office, or giving some thought to who you think would do a good job, and nominating them.

Speaking of the last meeting, I wanted to thank Frank, KG9H, and Bruce, K9OZ, for the wonderful presentation and equipment show that they brought to us at the February meeting. Bruce tells me he did make it out and worked a few in the cold contest before it got too cold for him! So, if you're bored with the 'same old' on the HF bands, why not give QRP a shot? It might surprise you what you can do with limited power.

I hear that for the March meeting, we will have a presentation on creative antennas. I'm looking forward to seeing that one as well.

Until then, 73 All!

Mike, AB9AX

Meeting Minutes (continued from page 3)

restating it specifying the next fiscal year (5/2004). A vote was taken and the motion carried. A motion was made by Joe, N9WRO to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by **Ed, K9EWF**. A vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 20:40. Drawings were held for Hamfest worker prizes. Refreshments were available and an excellent program on QRP was held.

HAMFEST SET FOR 2005

By Bruce Plantz
K9OZ

Mark your calendars for January 23, 2005 for the Mid-Winter Hamfest returning to the Pheasant Run MegaCenter. We have successfully negotiated a contract to return to this very nice, and popular venue for 2005. That takes a big load of the Hamfest Committee. The venue was widely praised by vendors and attendees alike, and a return there next year should lead to more table sales and more feet through the door.

Listening to area repeaters after the Hamfest was a big change from last year when everyone was complaining about the conditions. This year it was people raving about the quality of the hamfest, with those who stayed away complaining that they missed it.

But the Hamfest still has challenges. I've been chairman for two years, and would like someone else to take over the position. My job has become much more demanding in the past year, and I'm afraid I'm stretching myself too thin.

I haven't been besieged with volunteers to take over, so I'm making an offer to the club. I'll continue as chairman one more year, if, and only if, someone steps up to serve as co-chair with the understanding they will take over as chair for the 2006 Hamfest.

So if you've been involved and would like to be more involved -- or if you've always spent time on the sidelines and would like to contribute to the club's well-being in a big way, give me a call to discuss this opportunity.

I can be reached at home at 630/968-1844 or via e-mail at k9oz@aol.com.



Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

This month's upcoming 3B9C DXpedition to Rodrigues Island by the 5 Star DXers Association released is on schedule according to a recent press release. Their container (equipment and supplies) was expected to arrive February 26th. DX Magazine ranks 3B9 as # 75 on the most wanted list. It ranks # 53 in the Eastern Time zone and # 33 on the West Coast. The team plans to be on the air from March 20 to April 13, and will be active on 6 through 160 meters on CW, SSB, PSK, RTTY and FM.

To encourage activity they will be offering trophies and certificates. Complete details can be found at <http://www.dailydx.com/3B9C-3.pdf>. The QSL route had not been released as this was written, but will surely

be on their homepage at <http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c>. They will also have on-line logs during the DXpedition.

The Togo 2004 DXpedition team has posted a propagation forecast, band plan schedule and world Azimuthal map to their 5V7C website at <http://5v7c.free.fr/Infopropag.htm>. The team will be active from March 6 to 13. They also have a guest book off of the above site at <http://5v7c.free.fr/livreE.html>. For more information or inquiries you can send an email to 5V7C@free.fr.

Bill, KG4WW has been operating from Guantanamo Bay, and plans to be active from there for the next two and a half years. He recently came back for the Orlando Hamfest to pickup some goodies, including a 6-meter yagi. His plans include a lot of contesting and DXing. Cards go direct with SASE to Bill Walker, USNH GTMO, Box 4, FPO AE 09589. No bureau cards please.

Harry, GØJMU is active again as 7Q7HB in Malawi. He is busy with work, but will be there at least 10 weeks and should get some operating time. He has been spotted in mid-February on 30 & 15 meters CW between 2100-2300z and 15 SSB between 11300-1530z. QSL via GØ0IAS direct only.

Dwayne, KE4RVT, Dwayne, has been on the air as YI9RVT in Al Kut, Iraq since January 25th. He will be there for about 13 months from and will be active on all modes, SSB, CW and digital 6 through 80 meters.

Alfredo Caviedes, HC1HC will be active as HD8A from Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos from March 2-9. He may also sign HC1HC/HC8 before and after the contest. Look for activity on 10-160 meters, mostly SSB, with some CW. During the ARRL SSB DX Contest he is expected to use HD8A/QRP.

Members of the RZS Amateur Radio Club (W2RZS) announced their plans to operate from Jamaica from March 24 to 30. Team members include Bob, WB2NVR; Mike, A2VQW; Adam, N2DHH and Bob, N2DVQ. During the CQ WPX SSB Contest they will operate as 6Y2RZ. They will operate as W2RZS/6Y5 before and after the contest, or they may also use their home calls/6Y5.

UN World Food Project worker Mike, PA5M received his 9U5M license on February 18th and is expected to be in Burundi until March 16th. Activity will be mainly during his evening hours from his hotel starting around 1600z to 1700z. He will be QRV on 10 to 40 meters CW and SSB, including the WARC bands. Mike will be running 100 watts to a vertical. He may be able to operate 80 meters from his office, if he is able to stay late, but this is not very likely to happen very often due to the local situation (security/safety issue), as he has to get back to his hotel. QSL via PA7FM. Logs will be posted on <http://www.pa7fm.nl>.

A German team will be active from Tonga between March 15 and 29. Look for A35DH (QSL via DH3WO), A35DJ (QSL via DJ2HD) and A35DA (QSL via DL5DAN) to be QRV from Fafa Island (OC-Ø49) on 10-80 meters (no 30 meters activity) on SSB, RTTY and PSK31. Then after March 29th they will be active as ZL/DH3WO ZL/DL5DAN and ZL/DJ2HD from the Northern Island of New Zealand (OC-Ø36) and maybe other islands/ Lighthouses for two weeks. QSL via their home calls.

Charles Frost, K5LBU(3DAØCF); Chuck Gray, W4GMY(3DAØCG); Don McCoy,

WØDM(3DAØDM); Andre Van Wyk,ZS6WPX (3DAØWPX)and Paul Veal, NØAH(3DAØAX) will be operating in Swaziland from March 12-22. They will be on most bands including RTTY and PSK31, equipment allowing. There will be an emphasis on the low bands with a 160 meter inverted L and 80 meters 1/4 wave top loaded vertical and a beverage antenna. They also have several HF antennas for 10-20 meters and will have a 30 meter wire. Plans are to have four working stations but due > to the lack of operators, they may have a few empty chairs from time to time. The group will be taking a break midway through the DXpedition March 17-19 for a two and half day photo safari in Kruger Park where they hope to operate portable ZS6 using W4GMY's FT897 and a Buddi antenna. This DXpedition was put on by Charles Frost and Andre Van Wyk. You may visit their website at <http://www.dxsafari.com> for future DXpeditions. All operators will have different call signs so please QSL direct to the holder of that call sign.

A Mexican team heading to Socorro, Revilla Gigedo (NA-Ø3Ø) and may be there as you read this. The team expects to be on the air by March 3rd around 18ØØz. Look for XF4IH to be QRV on 70 centimeters through 160 meters on SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, SSTV and Satellite. They will be active through March 20th. Team members include XE1J, XE1IH, XE1XR, XE1AVM, XE1KOFXE1GLL, XE1GLL, XE2ML and XE1GRR. They have a Web page at <http://xf4ih.xedx.net>. For more information or to send any suggestions send an email to xf4ih@xedx.net. QSL via XE1IH, Enrique Garcia Munive, P.O. Box # 118-481, Mexico, D.F. C.P. 07051, MEX-ICO.

Rolf, DK2ZF has left Hamburg and is currently in Fiji. Following an operation there, he will go to Nauru March 9 and Kiribati the 15th. His plans to go to Tuvalu after that have been canceled due to a lack of flights from Kiribati. He'll go to Pohnpei April 10th and Guam April 17th. April 21st he returns to Germany. He is equipped with a Yaesu FT-847, a vertical for 40-10M, and a longwire for lower bands if space and available palm trees allow. He also will experiment with a kite to support lowband verticals. He originally planned this as an AO-40 satellite operation but changed to HF. He describes himself as a VHF/UHF guy, but is a former ship radio officer and prefers CW, perhaps spending 95% of his operating time on the traditional mode. He prefers 40, 30 and 20, and 80M at sunrise and sunset. And, he prefers honest signal reports. QSL direct with \$2. You can reach Rolf at dk2zf@yahoo.com while he's on the trip.

Jack, F6BUM has permission to go to an island off Cameroon, (TJ). It will be a new African Islands on the air operation. He'll leave France April 2nd for the operation April 9-11. He's looking for contributions to help pay the cost of the generator and an antenna to replace his old R7 vertical. Contact him at <http://www.f6bum.fr.st>.

William, N2WB and Bill, W4WX from the Florida DXpedition Group will be in San Marino from March 16-22. They will operate as guest operators from the T7ØA Club Station using the club's call. Look for them on the HF bands on CW, SSB and RTTY. Next they will be in Sardinia, March 22-27, both putting ISØ/ in front of their callsigns. They'll be on the HF bands, CW, SSB, and RTTY. All T7ØA QSLs go to: A.R.R.S.M. Radio Club, P.O. Box 77, 47890 San Marino, REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO - ITALY. QSL ISØ/N2WB via N2OO and ISØ/W4WX direct or get credit from Logbook of the World through the ARRL.

The T33C Banaba DXpedition remains on schedule for starting operations on April 4th or 5th and continuing for at least eleven days. This is a major DXpedition, covering all modes and all bands from 160 through 6 meters. The team includes 21 operators from nine nations. The team's container of equipment has arrived in Fiji and will soon be on its way to Tarawa (T3Ø) where the team will load it aboard the vessel Te Taobe, which will take the team to Banaba. This is not a Banaba is not a tourist destination as everything needed, including food and clean drinking water needs to be shipped to the island. Shipping costs have been very high. They still welcome any and all contributions. You can find complete details of the trip, including the on-line logbook and QSL information at their Web site <http://www.dx-pedition.de/banaba2004/>.

PJ4U from the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean will be manned by Girts, YL2KL; Sintsovs, YL3CW; Juris, YL2GM; Andris YL2GQT; Agris, YL2VW and Herbert, K7GEX in the CQ WPX CW May 29-

30. This will be a two-station, multi-op operation. QSL via YL2KL.

After repeated attempts without success to deliver to and/or contact several entities, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has added seven entities to the list that it cannot serve at this time. The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service will return to senders via incoming QSL bureaus any QSL cards it has received that were destined for these entities: CN, Morocco; J8, St Vincent; P2, Papua New Guinea; PZ, Suriname; UZ, Uzbekistan; ZA, Albania and 9Y, Trinidad and Tobago. A full list of entities not served by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service is available on the ARRL Web site.

WHAT'S ON THE WEB

The September, October and November DXCC monthly lists have been added to the DXCC award Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/listings/2003/index.html>.

Perhaps the most useful propagation page for Amateur Radio Operators can be found at <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>.

For the latest 3-day Solar-Geophysical Forecast, try www.sel.noaa.gov/forecast.html.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

To obtain a certificate from any of the special-event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9_12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information.

March 1 1700z-March 7 2200z. Arlington Heights, IL: US Peace Corps ARC, KA9NLX. 1700z Mar 1-2200z Mar 7. 43rd Anniversary of founding of United States Peace Corps. 28.500 21.375 14.325 7.283. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

March 5 0700z-April 1 2359z. Various, England: Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, GB6OT. 60th Anniversary of Op Thursday Burma 1944. 21.070 21.056 14.070 14.056. QSL. Mike Humphrey, G0SWY/KF4OFR, 4 Bluebell Rd, Bassett Southhampton, Hampshire, England SO16 3LQ. <http://www.rsars.org.uk/>. Please send 1€ dollar or \$1 US to cover postage.

March 5 1000z-March 7 2400z. Weeki Wachee, FL: Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club, W4W. Celebrating the 11th Annual Weeki Wachee Swamp Fest. 14.260 7.260 7.040. QSL. W4W/Spring Hill ARC, PO Box 6083, Spring Hill, FL 34611. <http://www.kf4ixu.com/>.

March 6 1500z-2100z. Chesapeake, VA: Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, W4CAR. 142nd Anniversary, Monitor-Merrimac Battle of the Ironclads. 28.362 21.362 7.262 146.82. Certificate. W4CAR, PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323. <http://www.qsl.net/cars>.

March 6 1400z-March 7 2000z. Naples, FL: Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida, K4YHB. Annual Spring Swamp Buggy Races. 12 m 17 m. Certificate. Mark Kennedy, K4SWF, 1241 12th St N, Naples, FL 34102. <http://www.araswf.org/>.

March 9 1400z-March 10 2100z. Hermann, MO: Hermann Bearcat Amateur Radio Club, K0S. Science class study of radio spectrum. 14.250 14.246 147.135. Certificate. Saint George Catholic Elementary School, 133 W 4th St, Hermann, MO 65041.

March 18 1200z- March 28 2000z. New Port Richey, FL: Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club, K4C. The 82nd Annual Chasco Fiesta. 28.360 21.250 14.250 7.245. Certificate. GCARC-Chasco, PO Box 595, New Port Richey, FL 34656-0595.

March 19 2300z-March 21 2300z. Princeton, NJ: Mercer County ARES/Central NJ American Red Cross, N2ARC. March is Red Cross Month, celebrating ARES/ARC partnership. 28.445 14.255 7.240 3.952 2 m 220 MHz APRS. Certificate. Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ, POB 147, Kingston, NJ 08528. users.tellurian.com/gjur

rens/n2arc_special_event.htm.

March 20 1500z-2200z. Macon, GA: Macon Amateur Radio Club, W4BKM 22nd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. 14.240 21.335 7.055 14.055. Certificate. Macon ARC, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208.

March 20 1300z-1700z. Brampton, ON, Canada: Peel/Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs, VE3XR. HAM-EX Annual Hamfest. 14.240 7.240. QSL. Michael Brickell, 2801 Bucklepost Cres, Mississauga, ON, Canada L5N 1X6.

March 20 1300z-2200z March 21. Virginia Beach, VA and Moss, Norway: Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc and Mossegruppen av NRRL, W4UG and LA5M. 113th anniversary of the Norwegian Lady. 14.278 14.040 7.280 7.040. Certificate. VBARC, PO Box 62003, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

March 24 1500z-March 28 2100z. Wellsboro, PA: Nessmuk Amateur Radio Association, W3BGK. 200th anniversary of Tioga County. 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Nessmuk ARAW3BGK, PO Box 101, Wellsboro, PA 16901. For more information contact jantonio@epix.net.

March 26 1300z-March 27 0300z. Ebensburg, PA: Conemaugh Valley Amateur Radio Club, W3C. Cambria County Bicentennial. 21.300 14.250 7.230 3.985. QSL. David Knepper, PO Box 34, Sidman, PA 15955. <http://www.cambriacobicentennial.com/>.

March 26 1300z-March 27 2000z. Timonium, MD: Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, W3FT. Celebrating the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest. 14.265 7.265. Certificate. W3FT C/O GBH&C, PO Box 95, Timonium, MD 21094.

March 27 1600z-2000z Waco, TX: Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society, WA5BU. Activating the Baylor University Ham Club Radio Station. 28.425 21.300 14.250 7.250. QSL. Allen Newton, PO Box 1181, Whitney, TX 76692.

DX POTPOURRI

Shota, 4L6AM in the Republic of Georgia will be in the CQ WPX SSB contest March 27-28, a single operator/single band (20 meters) running high power.

If you need the Falkland Islands, look for Bob, VP8LP on 12 meters on or near 24.955 between 1400 and 1700z. QSL via QRZ.COM.

Tom, W0GLG will be operating from Cayos Cochinos Island, Honduras from March 1 to 6. He'll be operating as HR3/ W0GLG on or near 14.260, 21.260 and 28.460.

Francois, F8DVD will once again operate from Svalbard, Island. He will operate from Longyearbyen between April 4 and 10 as JW/F8DVD. Look for him on all bands from 10 to 80 meters. QSL via the bureau or direct to Francois Bergez, 6 rue de la Liberti, F-71000 Macon, FRANCE.

John, KK9A is in Aruba now through March 30. He will be operating on 10-160 meters on CW and SSB, using the callsign P40A. He will be very active in the ARRL DX SSB and WPX SSB contests. QSL via WD9DZV.

Peter, DL3NAZ plans to close his CP8XA Logs (1985-2000) at the end this year. Make sure you send your CP8XA requests to DL3NAZ via the German bureau by the end of 2004.

The Murmansk Radio Club informs that in their QSL bureau collected a lot of QSLs (more than 10 kg) for two stations: R1ANZ and R1ANB. The manager (and operator) RU1ZC is in Antarctica right now and has no plans to answer these cards. His wife is in Murmansk and does not pick up QSLs from the bureau, she answers direct requests only. So, if you want to receive QSLs for contacts with these two stations the only way is direct.

160 meter enthusiasts are cordially invited to the Topband dinner on Friday night of the 2004 Dayton Hamvention. The annual event will start up with a social hour at 6:30PM with dinner at 8:00PM at Neil's Heritage House Restaurant at 2323 Schantz Avenue, Dayton. For complete details contact George, W8UVZ via

email to w8uvz@arrl.net.

CONTESTS

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
0000z 2359z	March 6 March 7	ARRL Int'l DX Contest	160-10	SSB
0000z 2359z	March 13 March 14	YL-ISSB QSO Party www.qsl.net/yl-ssb/	160-10	SSB
0000z 0400z	March 14 March 14	North American RTTY Sprint www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php	80/40/20	RTTY
1200z 1200z	March 20 March 21	Russian DX Contest www.rdx.org	160-10	CW/SSB
1200z 1600z	March 21 March 21	9KCC (Kuwait) 15 Meter Contest www.qsl.net/9kcc/	15	CW/SSB
0000z 2359z	March 27 March 28	CQ World Wide Prefix Contest wpssb@kkn.net	160-10	SSB
0000z 0400z	March 29 March 29	QRP Homebrew Sprint www.njqrp.org	80-10	CW/PSK31
0000z 2359z	April 1 April 1	Antique Radio QSO Party www.sparkgap.com	200 & up	Spark CW
1500z 1500z	April 3 April 4	Polish DX Contest	160-10	CW/SSB

Thanks to Bernie, W3UR and his Daily DX, OPDX, WA7BNM Contest Calendar and the ARRL for information used this month.

BIRTHDAYS OF MARCH



KURT	KB9RTO	03-03-74
DONALD	WB9VFC	03-04-45
HOWARD	W9DYP	03-08-21
JON	KA9EPK	03-11-39
RUDY	W9RKA	03-11-15
BOB	W9TIE	03-17-22
BRUCE	KA0DSF	03-31-32

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.

SHACK OF THE MONTH (Continued from page 1)

waiting to be done." He wants to set up a control box to match a keyer or mic to a specific radio.

Steve is also proud of his collection of VHF and UHF multi-mode rigs. They include an Icom IC-560 for 6; an ICOM IC-260A plus a Kenwood TR-9130 for 2; a Kenwood TR-9500 for 430.

Someday Steve would like to have a quad antenna, but that's way down the road. "I have all the plans, all the drawings." It's not hard to see Steve enjoys fiddling with things. In the room behind the shop there's a complete work bench.

In the past, he's built radios from kits and enjoyed doing that. "I would like to try doing more contests when I have the free time." He says CW contests are good for contact skills, but he will do that when he gets to it because "this is my hobby."

A WCRA member since 2000, Steve thinks it's "important to support at least one club. It's good for camaraderie, resources, questions." He enjoys going to Hamfests for the fun of it. "I see people, talk, usually have something in mind." To sum it up, Steve says, "I've always had [ham radio] around me. I carry an HT every day... whether I use it or not is another matter."

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QST REVIEWED FOR MARCH 2004

...by Jim Ward, W9DHX

“It Seems to Us..” the License Restructuring Issue, Phase II

Would you believe it? We just thought the whole issue of License Class was put to bed—now there’s good evidence that we still don’t have it right, and the ARRL wants to try again to make it so more folks will enter the hobby! It is so detailed that you will have to read the page 9 editorial by David Sumner and the detailed article on the subject (page 42) to figure it out. The plan is to have a “new Novice”, a General, and an Extra Class. The “Devil is in the Details.”

Hidden Antennas Come Out of the Attic!

Ideas about hiding your beams, dipoles and verticals in the attic are on page 28. Luckily, the author has a two-story brick home with a high gabled roof. He has the contacts to prove his installation talents: 257 countries and no complaining neighbors.

Puff and Sip Device for Handicapped CW Hams

You’ve heard about people who are handicapped drawing pictures with a brush in their mouth—but what about the idea of sending CW with a puff (dah) and sip (dit) using a hose with a mouthpiece? It will work!. Gary Gordon (K6KV) is the author and designer of the system. He also is the co-inventor of the Optical Mouse. The article is on page 31 and it is shown in use on the QST cover.

Discover AO-40 with your own 1.2 Meter Dish—It Comes in a Kit!

A Martha Stewart 3.3 quart airtight canister from K-Mart and a kit from TekSharp will get you started on a great Dish for your back yard. See Pages 38 to 41.

Alaska to Yucatan by Rental Car and Operating HF Mobile—“Dynamite Signal”

The author claims great performance with his ICOM IC-706 in a compact sedan; this is the same guy who rigged a motor home to go to Alaska –one way. Now he’s written on page 46 the story of his return trip in the smaller vehicle.

Ham Storm Chaser—from the Classroom to Chase Team

N3MRA, Seth Price, writes a fascinating article about his integration of ham radio skills with his meteorology education at Virginia Tech. He joined a chase team on a trip to Texas and his color photos prove the success of his adventure.

BUILDING FREAKS PLEASE COPY!

A complete page of Schematic Symbols is found on page 64. Just the page you want to tape to the wall of the shack. See you next month!

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd of March Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 4th of March Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 5th of March 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 creative antennas by Bob, W9TIE.
- 15th of March DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR JUNE. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 25th of March VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - March 5th - Wheaton College - 7:30 PM

WCRA was founded in 1948 and continues to be involved in all facets of Amateur Radio supporting the healthy growth of the hobby through diversification and participation. Our members have always been our most important asset and we would like to see you join us for our next meeting. Our business meetings are followed by a break for conversation, coffee, soda pop, and fat pills. This is followed by an amateur radio related program. We would like to see you there to share the enthusiasm.

HAMLETTER

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