



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

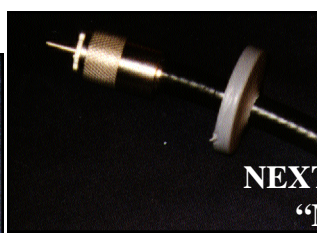
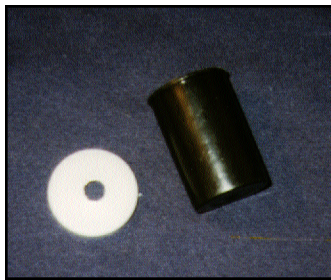
Issue 455

Founded 1948

May 2001

JUST A REMINDER:

The May membership meeting will be held a week later than the usually scheduled first Friday of the month because Wheaton College will be holding their graduation exercises the first weekend. So please mark your calendars for May 11th at 7:30 pm.



NEXT MONTH NEW FEATURE "MEMBER SOLUTIONS"

Beginning next month we are going to start featuring ideas from our own members that they have used to solve a problem or make the hobby work more smoothly. We would like to encourage all of you who have at one time in the past developed a solution that you felt did just this, to submit it to the *Hamletter* for publication



IN THIS ISSUE:

- * APRS the "Easy Way"
- * DX News and Events
- * Remembering Codeless--

FIELD DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dale and I have officially kicked off Field day 2001! We would like to kick the first meeting off at PanFish Park on Sunday May 6, at 9:00AM. We won't be paying for your breakfast but most of us or some of us will be meeting at 8:00AM at Dennys on Roosevelt. Pass the word to EVERYONE on the air. Talk up FD2001 on all the repeaters!!
Frank es Dale....

Ron, K9ZE, has become the fourth member of WCRA to join the A-1 Operators Club.



From the President's Gavel

by Joe LeFebvre WCRA President



2001 MS Walk-a-Thon

This year's MS Walk-a-Thon was held on Sunday, April 1. The club van was onsite to provide a warm location for Net Control Operations in the morning although by the afternoon the weather did warm up. We also provided another essential service, we provided power for the Pizza Ovens!!!! The coverage we had using the roof mounted antennas was about as good as we had the prior years using my or N9MWF's portable masts. Once again our WCRA members answered the call to serve. The MS walk committee asked that I pass along their heartfelt thanks for our effort and they have asked us back for next year. We want to thank the following members who gave up part of their Sunday to help this worth while cause, many of them working both shifts.

Janie – AE9JG Bruce – K9OZ Mike – K9UNA
John – N9MWF Kurt – KB9RTO Russ – KB9VWT
Steve – N9OA Paul – KA9RVS Robert – N9XS

Upcoming Public Service Events

Sunday, April 29th 2001 Special Olympics
(7:30 am – 4:00 p.m.) 2 shifts
Sunday, June 3rd 2001 Trail Days
Wednesday, July 4th 2001 Wheaton Parade (7:30 am –
11:00 p.m.)
Saturday, August 25th 2001 Glendale Heights Parade
(6:00 or 7:30 p.m.)

The Special Olympics will be moving to a new venue this year at North Central College so things may be different. I will also be checking with the American Lung Association to see if they will be running a tower climb this year. It would be really nice next year to see some new faces, public service can be fun and it is very rewarding experience.

Field Day is just around the corner

Field Day will be here before we know it. This is our one major club event each year where we can get together and play radio. I

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
Vice President	Chris Cieslak	KC9L	
Secretary	Robert Mtilieri	N9EF	630:510-9783
Treasurer	Kim Wiese	N9XE	
Custodian	Kurt Rubin	KB9RTO	630:530-4812

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630:545-9950
Christmas Party	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630:858-8541
Club Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708:848-2884
Club Truck	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:739-2930
Elmer/Know-Code	Vince Greenen	K9VG	630:961-2511
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	KG9CG	630:871-1786
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630:653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630:858-8541
Hamfest	John Cheney	N9MWF	708:848-2885
Chaplain	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630:483-2044
Historian	John Lauder	N9LIN	630:968-4101
Interference	Greg Buttimer	N9SA	630:832-4499
Refreshments	Janie Gallina	AE9JG	630:530-4812
Membership	Carol Schroeder	KB9FYL	630:665-3228
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	630:372-7036
Public Relations	Eileen Terry-Block	N9TWS	630:393-0742
Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630:515-0377
Novice Instructor	Rich Weimer	AA9KZ	630:279-5288
Nov/Tech Instructor	Robert Mtilieri	N2EFT	630:510-9783
General Instructor	John Broughton	WB9VGJ	630:690-1473
General Instructor	Pat Byrne	K9JAU	630:858-1959
Extra Instructor	Sang M. Lee	N9ZGS	630:260-0736
Volunteer Exam.	Harry Kamer	K9HK	630:953-0519

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Trustee/Tech Adv	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630:545-9950
Chairman	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630:665-7757
Secretary	Marty Kennedy	KA9RCC	630:653-6698
Member	Gary Henle	N9VLL	630:736-9102
Member	George Henry	KA3HSW	630:830-6659
Tech Advisor	Larry Schroeder	KA9KDC	630:665-3228

WCRA Radio Nets

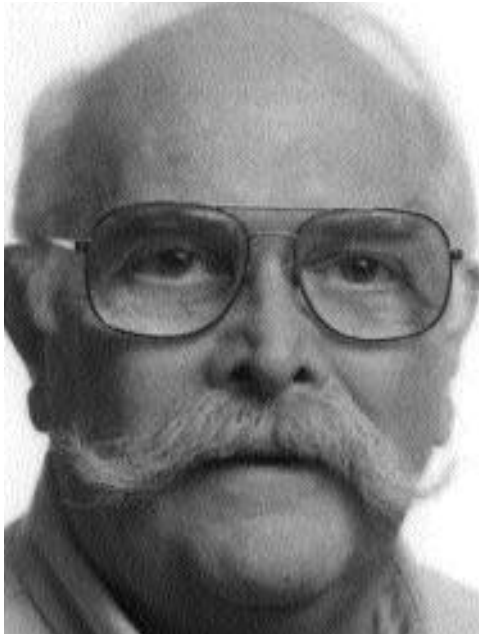
Sunday 8:00 pm	145.390/(-600)	Net Control: Rotates
Sunday 8:30 pm	224.140/(-1.600)	Net Control: Marty KA9RCC
Sunday 9:30 pm	145.390/(-600)	WCRA RTTYNet
Tuesday 8:00 pm	145.390(-600)	ARES Net
Tuesday 8:30 pm	444.475/(5.0)	UHF Net

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 WCRA History Files

by: John Lauder,
N9LIN
WCRA
Historian

Remembering Codeless---

Looking back about ten years, yes only ten years, we find the FCC establishing the codeless class of amateur radio operator license. On December 13, 1990, the Federal Communications Commission announced the elimination of the requirement for demonstrated proficiency in Morse code as a qualification for the Technician Class license. The codeless amateur radio licenses became effective in February 1991. This license included all amateur privileges above 30 MHz. At the same time the FCC amended the rules to grandfather frequency privileges below 30MHz to current Technician Class licenses. The codeless Technician written exam was 55 questions. New Technicians wanting HF privileges were required to pass a 5 WPM code test. There was no call sign designator to indicate whether or not a Technician had passed a code test. However, the FCC indicated they would maintain records of who had passed the code test.

It did not take long for the ham community to label this class of license No-Code Technician rather than codeless technician. The FCC action came after many months of debate, both pro and con. The earliest mention of a codeless type license, uncovered by my research, was December 4, 1974. This proposed rule-making docket #20282 was presented to create a communications class license. It would not have required a code exam and would have privileges in the 220 MHz band.

So that was only ten years ago and we have since then had another major restructure of the license classes. The 5 WPM is still there but now is the only code requirement through Extra Class. A lot of debate also when into the recent changes. What next?

Also ten years ago the WCRA purchased a club emergency communications vehicle. This vehicle replaced the club's first truck. Not long after the new van became WCRA's its usefulness as an emergency communications vehicle was tested when a tornado struck the Lemont area. The new van was pressed

into service about a month after a change in ownership. The purchase of this new van generated a lot of discussion within the club membership.

Looking back ten years I would sum up those years with two thoughts. Nothing is as constant as change and hams do like to talk. Both of those conditions I suspect will continue on in time.

Source: various Hamletters

73, John, N9LIN

From the President's Gavel (continued)

like to think of Field Day as a bonus for the other efforts we have put in over the year for the Club. There are many aspects to field day that need volunteers so contact our co-chairs, Frank and Dale. I look forward to working with you all at the end of June.

Election Results

I want to formally welcome our new incoming Vice-President Chris KC9L and our incoming treasurer Kim, N9XE to the executive board effective May 1st.

Anchors



Anchors



Anchors

ITEM #1

For Sale ICOM IC-726 HF = six meters with mike and manual and tone included. Asking \$560.00
Contact K9WH @arrl.net or 262.245.1797

ITEM #2

My neighbor has a 50 ft tower that he is willing to give away. It does need to be taken down. It is steel and I believe it to be an older Rohn, but not sure and he has no data as it was there when he bought the home about 27 years ago. It has been cared for and painted, no outward sign of rust. It does appear to be light weight and most suitable for vhf/uhf or a light weight hf beam or quad. Call me to arrange an inspection. Bob Jurish, K9DT, 5737 Fairmount, Downers Grove, IL 60515.
Phone 630-969-5169.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitlieri
N2EFT
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Minutes – 4/6/01

Meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by **N9WRO, Joe**, President of WCRA. After the introduction of the Board and the members in attendance, the minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the Hamletter. **Kurt, KB9RTO** reported that tonight's program will be given by **Eileen N9TWS**, on Public Relations for WCRA. Also, it was noted that the next meeting will be held May 11th, not on the 4th – due to college graduation activities. **John, W9LQL**, gave his last treasurer's report. Kurt, KB9RTO announced that everyone should keep May 23 (Wed) & May 25 (Fri) open – so you can be a part of the Club Truck Work Party being held those days at the home of Jon Baker, KC9OO. The hours are from 4pm-10pm, at which time the oil will be changed on the truck & generator, valve cover work, and a general "clean & shine" to prepare the truck for the many upcoming events. The tow behind is still being taken care of. The Membership report given by **Carol, KB9FYL** announced we currently have 136 members after **Bob Fairbairn, KE9A** was voted back into the club. Health & Welfare report included **K9HK** who recently had chest surgery at Good Sam – he feels fine, just wished the "elephant" would get off his chest! Joe, N9WRO, reported that the MS Walkathon was a huge success, and Kurt, KB9RTO, handed out shirts to all that participated. The upcoming events are 1) Special Olympics on 4/29, 2) Trails Day, 6/3, 3) Wheaton Parade, 7/4, and 4) Glendale Heights Parade, 8/25. Interested in working any of these? See Joe! **Steve, N9OA**, reported that the truck worked well and was impressive to those running the MS Walkathon – by it's versatility. **Don, N9NYX** gave the RAB report. Highlights included that the 220 repeater was at Roberto's for repair – will be back in service soon, the 440 repeater on the Esplanade was off (down 5), packet is up and running, although link is not that good, and when asked about the complaints of interference to the York repeater, said it will be looked into. **Jack, KA9HEL**, reported there are about 7 or 8 in the Tech Class. **NJ9E, Dale**, reported that "Yes, Field Day is com-

ing" and that the setup will be much like last year – and many more volunteers are requested. The newest members are urged to come out and "try the radios – before you buy"! Don, N9NYX, mentioned the April 15th deadline for the next newsletter. Also, mentioned that the hamletter notice is also sent via the reflector. If you have not signed up yet, please do so, since the hamletter could be sent via the internet, rather than mail to a great majority of our members – saving the club printing & mailing costs. The vote was taken, after speeches made by Kim, Chris, & Steve. The final results were: Treasurer, running unopposed – **Kim Wiese, N9XE**; Vice President will be **Chris Cieslak, KC9L**. Steve, N9OA, will still chair the Club Truck Committee. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm, followed by refreshments and a program by Eileen, N9TWS,

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth, KA9RZG

Continues from page 6

1859z May 19 Sprint – SSB 80 – 20M; Phone

2100z May 19 Baltic (Lithuania)

0200z May 20 Contest 80M; - Phone & CW

0000z May 26 CQ WPX

2359z May 27 Contest – CW 160 – 10M; CW

That's it for this month. Special thanks to The Daily DX, Weekly DX, 425 DX News, OPDX Report, World Radio and the ARRL for information used. Don't forget that Field Day is next month so get on the air and practice!

BIRTHDAYS OF MAY

Robert	KG9U	05-02-41
Thomas	N9WBW	05-08-57
Mac	W9LIW	05-11-25
Richard	AA9KZ	05-12-53
Susan	AA9MO	05-18-48
Pete	N9GXI	05-18-43
Wayne	KF9JC	05-19-39
John	N9PPO	05-23-25
James	KA9OSW	05-26-27
Eileen	N9TWS	05-27-39

Amateur Radio Toy Store

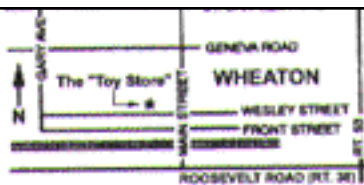
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Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

Many people have been asking about the future plans of the ARRL and eQSLs. The Daily DX reports that Frank Fallon, N2FF released the following statement to the Hudson Division. "The ARRL Membership Services Committee (N2FF is Chairman) is developing a plan to implement electronic QSL verification for all ARRL Awards including DXCC. Dave Patton, NT1N QST cover boy for April 2001 and assistant to Dave Sumner, is the staff person detailed to implementing the project and is currently working with consultants to specify the software that will need to be written to implement the program. While exact details are still to be worked out there are NO plans to accept laser or ink jet printed QSL cards for ARRL awards. It's too easy to forge them. When implemented ARRL expects to be able to accept logs from expeditions and DX stations and its own members the way it currently accepts contest logs via email. Those wishing credit for awards such as DXCC will eventually be able to check the status of their QSOs and apply for awards on line. The project has been dubbed "Log Book of the World." No firm date has been yet set for implementation as the software still has to be written and tested but it could happen within a year."

Hans-Peter, HB9BXE, sent out a press release in mid March (just after last month's Newsletter deadline) In short, it stated that preparations for May's DXpedition to Agalega were running according to plan. On April 21st, three members of the team were to head for Mauritius in order to make final preparations on the spot. The rest of the crew should have departed on April 28th, from Zurich. The 3B6 team plans to arrive on Agalega on May 3rd and hopes to be active beginning May 5th for 12 days. There was the possibility of chartering an aircraft for their trip from Mauritius, which would allow them 2-3 additional operating days.

YAESU of Germany has lent them the following equipment: 6 FT1000MP Transceivers, 6 VL1000 Linear Amplifiers, 6 Power supplies, 2 FT 847 Transceivers and 1 FT 920 Transceiver. They will have a huge arsenal of antennas (26) to use. The group will have 4 Diesel generators 5.5 kW each. The satellite activity from Agalega will be the first ever from this remote location. They will concentrate on using the satellite AO-10, but, however, they will also use RS-12/13 sporadically. There will also be 6 meter activity and also PSK31 since it is becoming more popular. PSK31 will be used alternately with RTTY. The PSK31 frequencies to be used are 14068.15 kHz +/- 1.2 kHz, 21078.15 kHz +/- 1.2 kHz and 28078.15 kHz +/- 1.2 kHz. SSTV will also be used but for only 3 days. Split operation is a must for SSTV. Their complete frequency band plan can be found on the Web site at: <http://www.Agalega2000.ch>. QSLs can be sent via the bureau or directly to: Ambrosi Fluetsch, HB9AGH Lerchenweg 29, CH 8046 Zurich, Switzerland. For USA only via N3SL: Steve & Kimberly Larson, 22 N. Hidden Acres Drive, Sioux City, Iowa 51108. There will be a log search

available during and after the operation. Please check their Web page for further developments.

A group of Italian operators will be active for 3 days from Monaco June 1-3rd. They will mainly concentrate their activity on 6 meters, but they will also be active on HF. Look for the following call-signs (operators) to be active: 3A/IK5GQK, 3A/IK5YOJ, 3A/IW5BZQ, and 3A/IW5EDQ. Their activity on 6 meters is as follows: 50.210 SSB, 50.600 RTTY, and 50.620 MHz PSK31 (using an Icom IC-706MKIIG with 6 element yagi and HQ50 Halo Loop). HF activity will be on SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV (using two Yaesu FT-100 and vertical antennas). You can send E-mail for skeds to: 3a@mannelli.com. They mentioned that while they are on air they would check their E-mail every hour at the top of the hour. For the latest news, check their Web page at: <http://www.mannelli.com/3a>. Direct QSL (SASE) for VHF QSOs (6 meters) via: Stefano Mannelli (IW5BZQ), P.O. Box 569, 50123 Firenze Centro, ITALY. QSL HF QSOs to: Fabrizio Vannini (IK5GQK), via Forlanini 68, 50127 Firenze, ITALY.

As mentioned previously last month, Joe, W5FJG is now active from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as 7Z1AC. He will be working as a technician for the U.S. Consulate and is expected to be here for two years. According to his Web page, Joe works both CW/SSB, but will spend 60% of his operating on SSB. He likes and probably will spend most of his time on 20 meters. His equipment and antennas are for 20/17/15/12/10 meters and 30/40/80 meters may come later. Operating time will be Saturday through Wednesday after 1530z and on Thursday and Friday (his weekend) anytime. He does have equipment for the digital modes, so expect to possibly see him on Packet/RTTY/SSTV. QSL via WA4JT. More details can be found on his homepage: <http://sites.netscape.net/joejjeep99usa/homepage> Joe mentions on his Web page that the American Embassy in Riyadh has received permission to restart amateur radio operations using the call sign 7Z1AB. Look for them to be on the air soon.

Victor, ZK1CG has been active on 20 meters SSB recently. Check above 14200 kHz after 0630z and again around 1500z. Also active is Jim, ZK1JD, on 20/10 meters SSB. Check 20 meters after 0400z and 10 meters (above 28470 kHz) after 2330z. It was mentioned this week by Victor that Jim, ZK1JD would like QSLs sent direct to Jim Ditchburn, PO Box 491, Rarotonga Cook Islands, via New Zealand. Remember, The Cook Islands do not have a QSL bureau, so all cards for ZK1 must go direct or to any managers indicated by operator. Any cards sent via the QSL bureau get dumped in the trash can. Victor states, "If you are QSLing direct, please include a self addressed envelope and 2 IRCs or a green stamps to help cover the cost of the postage and QSL cards." Jim, ZK1JD, Victor, ZK1CG, and Tuatai, ZK1CY (Also ZK1MA when he is in North Cook) are the only local hams on Rarotonga, South Cook Island that are operating. QSL ZK1CG to: Victor Rivera, P.O. Box 618, Rarotonga Cook Islands, via New Zealand.

Mike, GM4SUC reports that planning for this year's International Lighthouse /Lightship Weekend, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th August, is progressing very well. A list of stations that have already confirmed their participation can be found at the following Web site: <http://www.vk2ce.com/illw/2001.htm>. Rules and information on the weekend can also be found at: <http://www.vk2ce.com/illw/index/html>. If you require any more information just contact Mike at: GM4SUC@compuserve.com.

425 DX News reports Pierre, HB9AMO will be staying in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the next couple of months and hopes to be allowed to operate with the call he used back in 1997 (9Q5BQ). If he can operate, he will be active on 10-40 meters CW only during his free time (evenings and weekends). He will be back in Switzerland in July. QSL via HB9AMO, Pierre Petry, 3 Hutins-des-Bois, 1225 Chene-Bourg, Switzerland.

Members of the Russian Robinson, and Russian Contest Clubs

(RW3GW and RN3OA) will operate as SU1HR from Egypt as Multi-Single in the CQ WPX Contest and a few days before and after the contest. A special award is available for two QSOs on different bands. The QSL and Award Manager is: Valery Sushkov, RW3GW, P.O.Box 3, 398000, Lipetsk, Russia. The log will be available at the RRC Web site at: <http://rrc.sc.ru/>.

DX POTPOURRI

Attention YL Chasers! YL operator Zaida has been active at the controls of 3V8BB in Tunisia. You can usually find her on or around 14260 kHz between 10:30 and 13:00z.

Tom,3W7CW has heard from Vietnam on 12 meters working simplex on 24.896 kHz between 0730 and 0830z. QSL via SP5JTF. Jurgen,3W9HRN continues to be very active on 10 meters CW (as well as 15 meters) as early as 06:30z and as late as 13:00z. QSL via DL1HRN.

Nelson,4S7NE in Sri Lanka seems to like 30 and 17 meters CW. Generally he can be found on/around 10103 kHz after 1200z and 18.075 kHz after 1830z.

Lawerence,9N7RB in Katmandu, Nepal is a good catch on 10 meters around 28447 or 28487 kHz. Check around/after 1330z and again 0130z.

The "LNDX" reports that Yannick,F6FYD will be in Algeria through mid-May. There was no callsign or bands of operation mentioned. However, Mohammad,7X4AN has been very active lately on 10 and 15 meters, mostly SSB. Activity has been between 1700 and 2200z.

Derek,9G5MD from Ghana has been very active on 15 and 10 meters, generally between 1200-1800z. Check around 28.500 and 21.250 (and above). QSL via F5VCR.

Dan Holloway, VK8AN, will once again be active from Troughton Island from May 8 to 22 and from June 5 to 19. QSL direct only via VK4AAR, P.O. Box 421, Gatton 4343, Australia.

If you're looking for Pakistan, Bob,AP2JZB continues to be active on 12 meters, as well as 10 meters. Check these bands between 1430 and 1530z around 28.492 or 24.946 kHz.

Eddy,ON6HE, Dirk,ON5CT, and Frank,ON4AAX will be active from Thasos Island (EU-174) between May 27th and June 3rd. Their activity will be on all HF bands, CW and SSB. They will try to have a special callsign. QSL via the bureau or direct to ON4AAC: Frank Pletinck, Potaardestraat 72, B-9190 Stekene, Belgium.

Per,LA3FL is currently active in his spare time from Hopen Island, Svalbard (EU-063) as JW3FL. He is the only radio operator on this little island occupied mainly by polar bears. He will be here until June 2001. He was recently heard on CW on 21.025 kHz at 0915z and 1.833 kHz between 0045 and 0330z. QSL via LA3FL.

Suzuki, JJ1ANW, informs OPDX that this summer "The Japanese Amateur Radio League" (JARL) will be sponsoring the "All Asian DX Contest." For more details and the rules, please refer to http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/AA_Rule.htm.

The Finnish Army Signals School is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year with their station OI3AY. Also, Martti Laine,OH2BH was one of the operators from the OI3AY station during the WPX contest. A special QSL card will be issued for this special event. The QSL Manager is Teuvo Kaistila, OH1BV Ahventie 5B1, 25410 Suomensjarvi, FINLAND.

The "425 DX News" reports that Gunter, OE1GZA, will be active from Ramallah, Palestine until the end of next year as E4/OE1GZA. Activity will only be on 30-10 meters at this time. It is recommend that direct QSLs should be sent (as bureau cards will not be answered for a long time) to: Gunter Zwicky, c/o SICT, P.O. Box 91196, Ramallah, Palestine.

Here is what's happening on the HFbands this month:

Look for Special Event station TMØAR to be active during the "International Festival of Art and Technologies" from May 15-27th. Activity will be on 40 through 10 meters (including the WARC bands). QSL via F5TJC: Jean-Louis Briere-Lecomte, 18 Le Petit Saint Louis, 72400 Cormes, FRANCE.

A group of HLOperators will be active now through May 25th from South Korea with the special event station D7ØIAF (Delta Seven Zero India Alfa Foxtrot) to celebrate the opening of the "Incheon International Airport". They are active on CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK31. Check the following frequencies: 7006, 7070, 14014, 14070, 14086, 21070 and 21290 kHz. QSL Manager is Lee, HL1IWD, and he prefers QSLs be sent via the bureau.

The USS Kidd Amateur Radio Club will be on the air as Special Event Station W5KID May 28 (Memorial Day) 14ØØz to 22ØØz. The USS Kidd is a Fletcher class destroyer that served in WWII, and is now permanently docked in Baton Rouge, LA as a floating museum. Operating frequencies will be on 10, 15, 17 & 20 Meter bands inside the General Class sub-band. CW frequencies will be in the QRP sub-band. QSL via W5KID c/o USS Kidd, 305 River Road, Baton Rouge, LA70802.

Look for special event station 8J3EAG to be activated on 80 through 10 meters by several operators. Activity will through May 27th during the East Asian Games from Osaka City. Visit <http://www.eagocweb.com/> for more information about the East Asian Games. This station will also help in trying to promote publicity of Osaka to be a candidate for the next Olympic Games in 2008. Information about this station and an online log search can be found at <http://www.qsobank.net/cgi-bin/logserch.pl>. QSL via JARL Bureau or direct to JA3DBD: Souichi Miyamoto, 6-9-2 Habikigaoka, Habikino Osaka, 583-0864 Japan.

The special callsign TM6JUN will be on the air from "Utah Beach" from June 1-10th. Suggested frequencies are: CW- 3.526, 7.026, 14.026, 21.026 and 28.026. SSB - 3.644, 7.074, 14.174, 21.174 and 28.574. QSL via F8LDX (preferably via the bureau).

18ØØz May 5 Massachusetts
21ØØz May 6 QSO Party All Bands; Phone,CW & RTTY

2ØØØz May 5 ARI (Italy)
2ØØØz May 6 DX Contest All Bands; Phone,CW& RTTY

2ØØØz May 5 Connecticut
2ØØØz May 6 QSO Party All Bands; Phone,CW & RTTY

ØØØØz May 5 Nevada
Ø6ØØz May 6 QSO Party All Bands; Phone,CW & RTTY

ØØØØz May 5 Oregon
2359z May 6 QSO Party 160 – 15M; Phone,CW & RTTY

12ØØz May 5 A. Volta (Italy)
12ØØz May 6 RTTY Contest 80 – 10M; RTTY

18ØØz May 5 Indiana
23ØØz May 6 QSO Party 160 – 70cm; Phone & CW

21ØØz May 12 CQ-M Int'l
21ØØz May 13 DX Contest(Russia) 160 – 10M; Phone,CW & SSTV

15ØØz May 19 European Spring

APRS the "Easy Way"

Bob Fairbairn KE9A

I really enjoy talking with other Amateur Radio operators world wide and experimenting with all kinds of radio systems. One of the most exciting things for me in Amateur Radio is all of the different modes of operation that we have available to us. Some of my favorite modes are the digital ones; I love combining the power of the PC or a Palm Pilot into my radio hobby. As I spend about two hours a day traveling back and forth to work I have a lot of radio time in the car. This plays nicely into my interest in wireless technology and the Automatic Position Reporting System APRS developed by Bob Bruninga WB4APR.

APRS uses our AX.25 Packet Radio protocol on a nationwide VHF channel (144.39 Mhz) to provide information such as position reporting, weather reports, severe weather spotting, short messages, and much more. If you tune your VHF FM receiver to 144.39 in the Chicago land area you will be deluged with packet data bursts! This short series of articles is intended to be a snapshot of what you can do with APRS and to maybe excite you about another aspect of our hobby.

I titled this article APRS The "Easy Way" because of the hardware I am using for APRS. I took a bit of the high road for this adventure because I became enamored with the Kenwood TH-D7AG. This little handheld is not only a dual band radio it has a built-in TNC and APRS terminal. I almost purchased one, but the thought of using a portable in the car for two hours a day was a bit daunting. So, when Kenwood released the TM-D700A mobile radio with the same features as their portable data radio, I purchased one. The D700A adds a lot of fun to APRS. The radio is a true dual band unit that has a built in TNC and an APRS terminal. I can be talking on VHF or UHF and still operate APRS. The D700A has interface ports for data, RS232, and GPS. For me one of the best "features" is the fact that the D700 has a separate control head from the radio. It is tough to mount a large radio in the passenger compartment of a modern compact car. Getting the D700A into my Honda Civic was still a chore as the control head is large and you really want to be able to see and operate the radio. (Please be careful, as it is very easy to be watching the radio work and not pay proper attention to the normal operation of the vehicle.)

For the "P" part of APRS I use a Garmin GPS III+ receiver. The III+ is a good compromise in price/performance. The III+ is small enough to carry with you and has the ability to download enhanced maps. The III+ is easy to interface to the D700A with a simple serial/power cable. APRS does not require a GPS receiver to be a valuable tool. You can manually input location information into the D700A for location reports, or you can choose not to report location.

I am evolving my installation to improve my ability to operate the radio in a safe manner and to allow easy connection to a PC or Palm Pilot as desired. As my desire to see myself and other operators on a map is lower, I may change to a black box style GPS receiver mounted in the trunk of the car.

There is a lot of APRS information available on the Internet. Here are a few sites to go visit for information and software.

<http://aprs.rutgers.edu>
<http://www.tapr.org>
<http://www.aprs.net>
<http://aprs.org>
<http://www.pocketaprs.com>

For more information on the hardware I am using please visit their respective web sites:

<http://www.garmin.com> for the Garmin GPS III+
<http://www.kenwood.net> for the Kenwood TM-D700A and TH-D7AG

In the second article of this series I will provide more information in installation, interconnection, and operation of APRS in the mobile environment. I will also be discussing DX cluster operation. Later I will outline PACSAT, SSTV and some of the hints and pitfalls of operating complex radio systems in a mobile environment.

Glossary

APRS – Automatic Position Reporting System: A method of communications developed to allow automatic reporting of vehicle location, local weather conditions and status information

AX.25 – Is the Amateur Radio version of the standard X.25 link layer protocol: See the AX.25 description document on the TAPR web site listed above.

GPS – Global Positioning System: The GPS system is a constellation of 24 satellites used to provide very accurate position information to a local receiver. The GPS system is operated by the United States Department of Defense.

VHF – Very High Frequency: VHF is used to represent a spectrum of frequencies from about 50 Mhz to 300 Mhz. In this context we are talking about the Amateur Radio spectrum around commonly called the 2Meter band allocated around 144Mhz

UHF – Ultra High Frequency: UHF is used to represent a spectrum of frequencies from about 300 Mhz to 500 Mhz. In this context we are talking about the Amateur Radio spectrum around commonly called the 70 Centimeter band allocated around 440 Mhz.

Bob Fairbairn was first licensed in 1965 as WN9DBY; he currently holds an Amateur Extra Class license KE9A. Bob works for Motorola as an Engineering Program Manager in the iDEN Systems Division. Bob is actively involved in Emergency Management with the Village of Winfield and is the ARES EC for DuPage County, IL. Bob can be reached via email at ke9a@arrl.net or on the WCRArepeaters during normal drive times.

May Calendar of Events

- 1st of May: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 3rd of May: Club brunch **every** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 10th of May: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant 6:30 PM,, Glen Ellyn
- 11th of May: Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in classroom #8 in Breyer Hall. Breyer Hall is located on the Southeast corner of Irving and Kenilworth.
- 15th of May: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL.
- 23 & 25 May: Truck maintenance party at the home of KC9OO 4 - 9:30pm each night. RSVP to Kurt at KB9RTO@arrl.net.
- 24th of May: WCRA monthly VEC testing will be held from 6:30 - 8:30pm at the Helen Plum Memorial Library in Lombard. Testing will be in the Col Plum Auditorium.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - May 11th - 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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