



HAMLETTER

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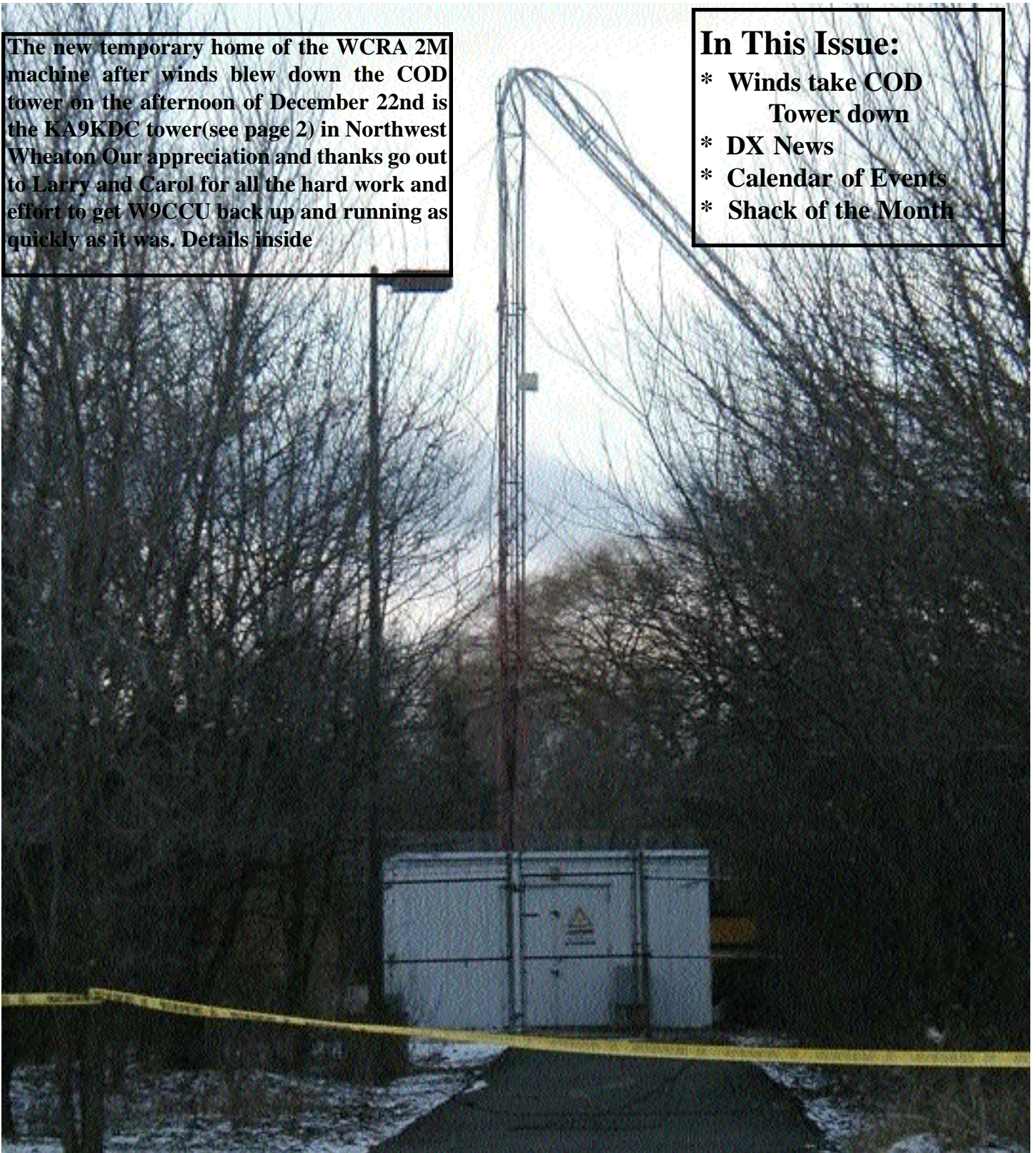
January 2002



The new temporary home of the WCRA 2M machine after winds blew down the COD tower on the afternoon of December 22nd is the KA9KDC tower (see page 2) in Northwest Wheaton. Our appreciation and thanks go out to Larry and Carol for all the hard work and effort to get W9CCU back up and running as quickly as it was. Details inside

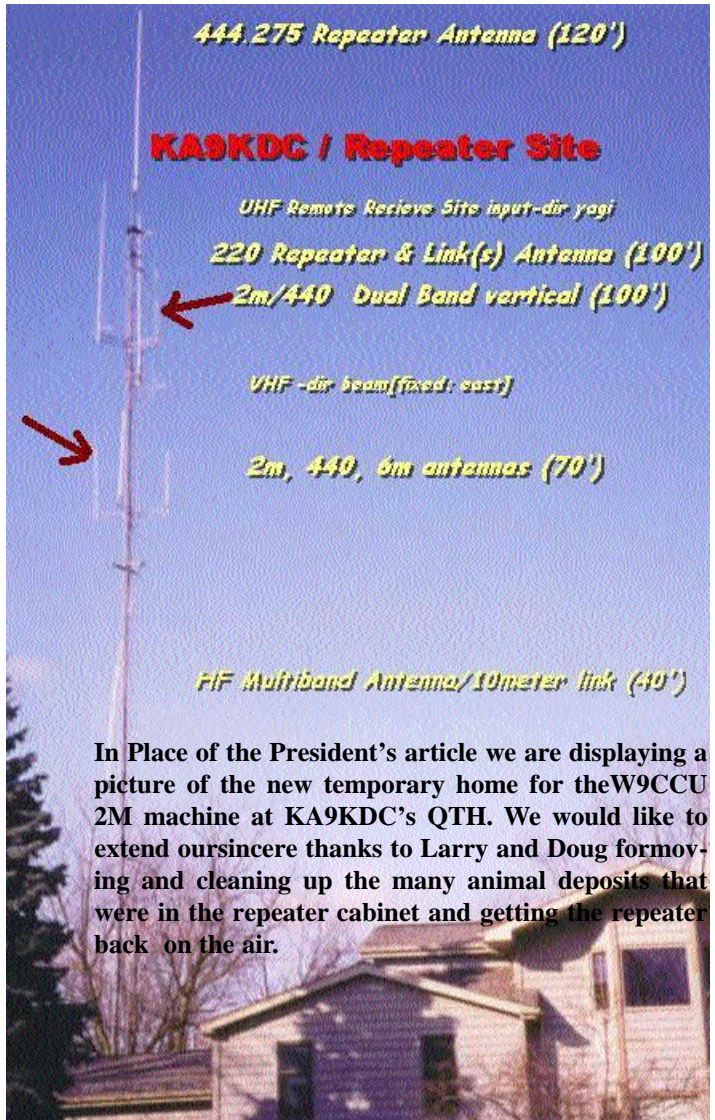
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- * DX News
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From the President's Gavel

by Joe LeFebvre WCRA President



In Place of the President's article we are displaying a picture of the new temporary home for the W9CCU 2M machine at KA9KDC's QTH. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Larry and Doug for moving and cleaning up the many animal deposits that were in the repeater cabinet and getting the repeater back on the air.

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
Vice President	Chris Cieslak	KC9L	708:343-5507
Secretary	Robert Mitiileri	N9EF	630:510-9783
Treasurer	Kim Wiese	N9XE	630:545-9950
Custodian	Kurt Rubin	KB9RTO	630:530-4812

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Christmas Party	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630:858-8541
Club Awards	John Truitt	W9LQL	630:682-0304
Club Truck	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:739-2930

Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	630:871-1786
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630:653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630:858-8541
Hamfest	John Cheney	N9MWF	708:848-2885
Chaplain	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630:483-2044
Historian	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

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Nov/Tech Instructor	Robert Mitiileri	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	Doug Totel	W9NJM	630:469-3001
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
Tuesday 8:00 pm	145.390(-600)	ARES Net
Tuesday 8:30 pm	444.475/(5.0)	UHF Net

WCRA Repeaters

145.390/ 144.790	103.5(1A) or 107.2(1B) PLEncode/Decode
224.140/222.540	Carries Access - SKYWARN Service Liaison
444.475/449.475	114.8 Hz(2A) PLEncode/ Decode
145.310/144.710	WCRA, W9CCU-1 Full Duplex Packet Reprtr

HAMLETTER

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“THEN THERE WAS NOTHING.....”



While sitting at home on Saturday afternoon December 22nd, Mari, N9QGR, was listening to WDCB. It had been an uneventful day preparing for the coming Christmas holidays when the sounds from the radio stopped. She thought that as a college radio station a technical problem had come



up and things would be back to normal in a short time.

As we all by now know, things won't be back to normal, at least for the WCRA 2M repeater which shared space on the 310' WDCB tower at College of DuPage, for some time.

The official cause of the tower bending over at the approximately 50' height was high winds. The WCRA antennas were at the 180 foot level and although did not look all the worse for wear, came to rest in the wetlands in a horizontal polarization slightly above ground. Doug, W9NJM, an



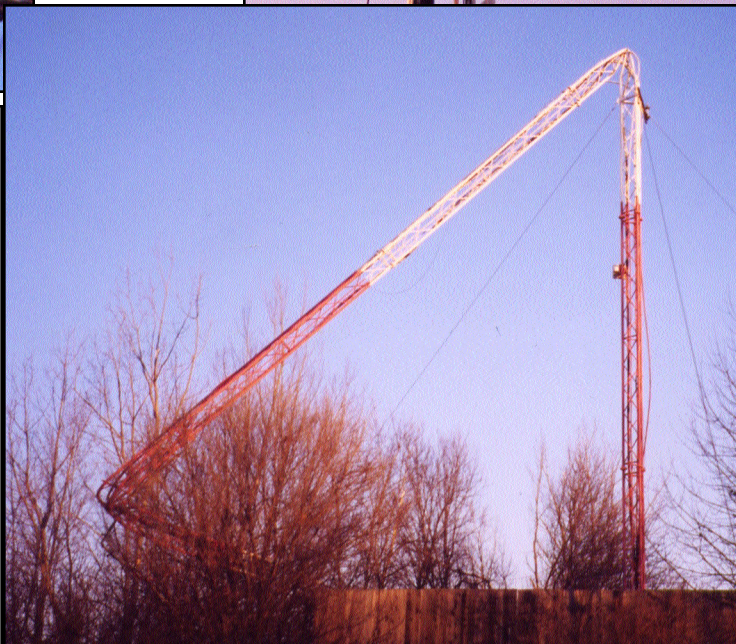
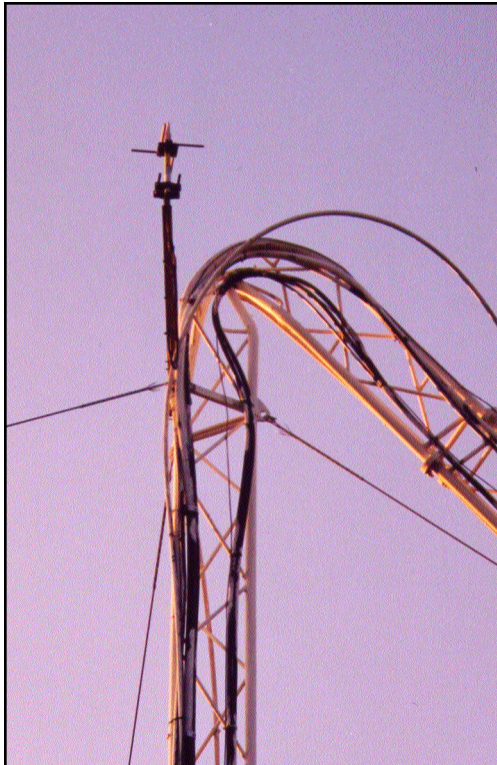
RAB member, started receiving reports that the COD tower had collapsed. He discounted these as over statements by excited Hams until he opened curtains in his home and could no longer see the previously easy to view COD tower.

Larry, KA9KDC, a technical advisor and prior longtime member of the RAB, and others visited the site shortly after the tower fell. The pictures accompanying this article were taken by Larry.

Since three members of the RAB were leaving town, Larry and Doug, W9NJM, stepped forward in the spirit of amateur radio and assisted the college security department in getting back on the air by providing one of Larry's commercial antennas. Shortly thereafter they undertook to enter the site at the tower base, remove the 2 meter machine, cabinet, and parts, and relocate, clean and sanitize all the equipment. Doug and Larry then put everything back together. Larry then spent not a small amount of time using various antennas and combinations of antennas to determine which 'played' best for W9CCU on his own tower in Northwest Wheaton. Once again, thank you very much Larry and Doug for the yeoman's job in getting us back on the air.

It is too early to tell exactly what and where 39 will end up. It may take a little time for the college to get an

antenna back up in the air. The RAB will keep everyone up to date. A new antenna and feed line will be a minimum expense we as a club are now looking forward to. Meanwhile sell those Hamfest tickets and signup to work.



Remembering a period of time;

By John Lauder, N9LIN, former WCRA Historian

During the long history of Amateur Radio we see certain divisions of time taking place. There was the spark gap, the no activity during World Wars and others. Recently I think I identified a new, period of our history, the post WWII modification time period.

During this period a lot of U.S. military surplus equipment became available to the general public, including hams. So while hams continued to design and construct their own equipment, transmitters, receivers and antennas, there developed a subset of our hobby, the modification of military equipment. The magazines and clubs, at this time period, devoted a lot of time and energy to the modification or conversion of equipment for amateur radio uses.

A review of QST and CQ magazines from late 1940's and early 1950's is both informative and interesting. There is a story, with pictures, of a ham tower rotating on the frame of a B-29 gun turret along with the modifications required to accomplish this. There is a story of an electronic tube, (GL-211) a standard transmitting tube of this time period, falling 10,000 feet from a Flying Fortress and surviving to power a radio transmitter. The tube's descent followed an attack by the Luftwaffe on a formation of Flying Fortresses in 1943. Several planes exploded and thereafter a package was seen falling to the earth. Inside the package was this tube. This was reported in CQ December 1947, page 23, and the tube was still being used by a ham in France, who by the way watched the package fall and retrieved it as well.

During this time period there were many war surplus sales ads in the amateur radio magazines. Crystals were big items and kits too. About 90 % of the business are no longer around today and about 70 % were dealing only in war surplus equipment. A review of the pictures of hams during this time shows most wearing suits and ties, almost formal. Another observation suggests that women were more into amateur radio then than now. The Young Ladies' Radio League (YLRL) was a very active organization nationwide. This was really an unusual time in our hobby as well as our country.

The November 1947 CQ magazine had a full-page ad for Collins radio announcing the reinstatement of direct sales from their factory. Also some discussion regarding SID. This stands for Sudden Ionosphere Disturbance. Not many of us relate to SID but we are aware of LID.

The next time you are at a hamfest, buy an old magazine, probably for a quarter, and take some time to thumb through it. I think you will be pleasantly surprised how interesting it will be. Also the WCRA has some older hams that probably have some stories to tell of this time period in our hobby. We encourage you share with us your experiences, good or bad, serious or amusing.

73, John, N9LIN

P.S. An item of interest:

During the 1930's and the first half of the 1940's, the English found themselves involved in the early part of WWII trying to break the German codes. These codes were and are generally referred to as Enigma and the history of this activity has been widely reported since the declassification of documents has taken place.

An administrative difficulty relating to the code words to be used in correspondence when referring to the code breakers and their activity surfaced. The best idea was for the information in the decoded message to be referred (continued on page 7)

Shack of the Month

N9OA

Steve Peterson

QTH: Bolingbrook, IL

First licensed: 1998

Favorite band: 2 meters

Favorite rig: Icom 207H

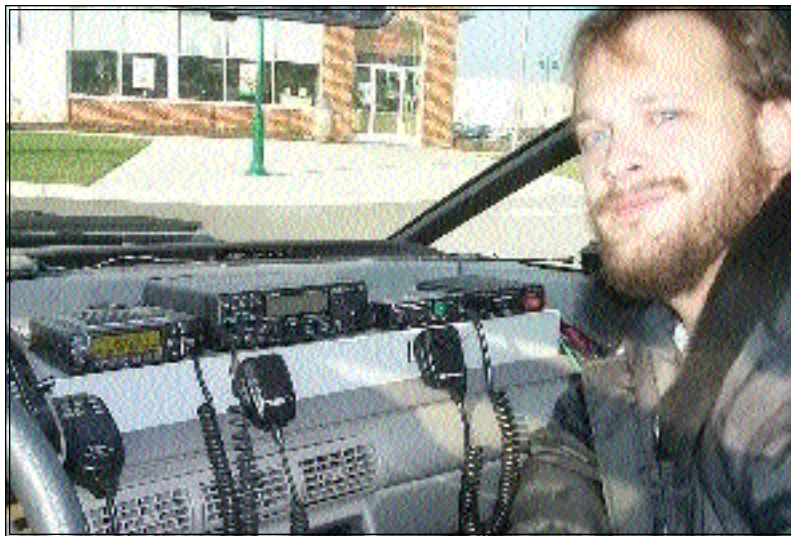
Steve Peterson, N9OA, lives in an “antenna restricted area, according to the people who pay the rent.” As a result, the majority of his hamming is done from his car, so he’s turned his GM minivan into a mobile communications unit.

Lined up, from left, on his dashboard is an Icom 207H for two meters and 440, an Alinco DX-70 with 160 to 6 meter capabilities, “a little CB-like rig,” and a Radio Shack amplifier for an HT. His van sprouts a CB glass mount, a cell phone glass mount, a Hamstick for six meters, and a Comet HA-4S for 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20 meters.

With the assorted power cables and antenna cables neatly routed around the van, his rolling shack is truly a gadget guy’s dream. Unfortunately, Steve says “I soon learned that a plastic-bodied van is not good for HF mobile work. There are serious grounding issues. I could tear out the headliner and install a ground under the

roof, but the car has 92,000 miles on it.” So he uses the Alinco primarily for monitoring and is biding his time until he trades his van in on a “car with a flat dashboard and a metal body.”

At 26, Steve was first licensed in July 1998 as



KB9TCD. He upgraded to General in July 2000 and Extra in August 2000. He then applied for the vanity call, N9OA, to reflect his involvement in the Boy Scouts and the Order of the Arrow, known in scouting circles as OA. Steve is an Eagle Scout and is involved as an Assistant Scoutmaster

and Unit Commissioner.

Steve joined WCRA in November 1998 after “seeing my first meeting and meeting all the wonderful members.” He has been active in the club, and has served as Truck Chairman since May 2000.

Steve says his favorite activities are “chatting on 2 meters and public service events.” His goal is to try to be a DXer, but his grounding problems in the car and antenna restrictions at home have held him back so far. “I have built a couple antennas and have really enjoyed that aspect of the hobby,” says Steve. He has plans to develop some temporary antennas to get on the HF bands in the near future.

Steve first became aware of Ham radio as a child when a friend of his grandmother’s was a Ham and showed him around. That piqued his interest, but that’s as far as it went. Then one summer when he was a counselor at a Boy Scout camp, a fellow counselor was a ham and was able to talk to his father in Chicago through a repeater. That roused his interest again, but he still didn’t follow up on it.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitiileri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary



The very brief meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by the Custodian, **Kurt, KB9RTO** who was also kind enough to take the minutes as the secretary was on a business trip. A card was prepared and passed around by **Dale, NJ9E**, thanking the firehouse where the club truck is kept. Hamfest tickets were handed out for those who have purchased them or who had agreed to accept them on consignment. Hamfest, **John, N9MWF**, reported that there is still a need for a lot of Hamfest workers. Please contact anyone on the Hamfest committee to volunteer or to obtain tickets.

Shack of the Month (continued from page 6)

Then about three years ago a friend gave him an HT to listen to during a severe storm warning. "I was hooked by that and quickly got my Technician after that," says Steve.

"I like talking to people, so I've gravitated to the repeaters," says Steve. "I've also enjoyed all the public service work, especially meeting the other people involved in those events. There is a lot I can learn and directions I can take in the hobby."

Remembering a period of time; (continued from page 5)

to as special intelligence, the messages themselves were to be known as special material and the code breakers were to be known as special intelligence officers. This idea was approved and seems very informative. These were much preferred over the English War Office and Air Ministry (in 1940) proposal to refer to the code breakers as COMPUTERS. True Story.

BIRTHDAYS OF JANUARY

George	W9GWR	01-03-45
Scott	KB9IYY	01-05-55
John	W9LQL	01-11-35
Loren	W9PYG	01-12-19
Richard	WB9SFG	01-15-45
Carol	KB9FYL	01-16-58
Gary	N9VLL	01-18-53
Steve	W9XF	01-23-49
Jim	W9JB	01-25-50

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Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

On November 21st Peter, ON6TT was heard as YA/ON6TT/M operating from a WFP truck convoy in Afghanistan. Later in the week the foreign ministry of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Northern Alliance) issued the callsign YA5T, which can be used on all bands by Peter, ON6TT, Matts, SM7PKK and Robert, S53R. The "Good News" is Wayne Mills, N7NG/1, Manager of the Membership Service Dept for the ARRL, reports: "The DXCC Desk has received acceptable documentation for YA5T operated by ON6TT, S53R, SM7PKK or ON4WW. The documentation is for QSOs made November 20, 2001 and after. No other callsigns or operations have been approved as of this date." Also, a press release on Tuesday,

November 27th by Peter states, "The YA5T license is now secured and approved by the DXCC for with S53R, SM7PKK, ON4WW and ON6TT as operators. The team members all work for the United Nations World Food Programme". Only Peter, ON6TT was in Afghanistan at that time, though the other team members will come in and out of Afghanistan as per requirements by their organization. For the first couple of weeks or months, the operators will operate after their normal work duties. At this moment, due to cargo restrictions on the humanitarian flights, the equipment will be low power only, with limited antennas, restricting pileup operations to the main stream bands. Once the working conditions and security arrangements allow it, the team will mount a much larger scale operation. The license has no time restriction, and allows the team to operate from anywhere in Afghanistan from 160m up to SHF, with power up to 500 watts. The earlier operation of YA/ON6TT/M (the callsign that was to be approved by the authorities, but later changed) is not valid for DXCC. Any contributions coming with the QSL cards will be used for humanitarian projects within Afghanistan." Peter was spotted early in the morning on December 2nd, operating on 21.295 KHz between 1300-1430z. He was also heard on 28.495 working Europe just before going to 15 meters. The QSL Manager for YA5T is KU9C. The QSL process has been coordinated between Peter and the Northern California DX Association (NCDXF). The NCDXF is providing financial assistance involving QSL expense and perhaps some additional help as conditions warrant. Bruce, WD4NGB has set up a Web page for this operation with more info and pictures. Please visit it at: <http://www.qsl.net/ya5t>. There were also indications that Marcel, F6EKD, has been given oral permission to operate as YA/F6EKD. He will obtain the proper written license and hopes to receive a proper YA callsign.

NOTE: Just as this was being prepared to send to our editor, I found out that the YA5T logs are now available on the Internet at <http://www.ve9dx.com/ya5t/ya5t.html>.

Late November 19th Kan, JA1BK, gave the unfortunate news that the DXpedition to Ducie Island had been cancelled. The Temarama was about 80 nautical miles from Ducie when the team made the decision to cancel based on forecasted wave predictions. Over the next several days the waves around the newest DXCC Entity were expected to be 3 meters or higher, which would have made landing extremely hazardous. The team made their way back to Pitcairn Island, where they will operated a multi-op during the CQ WW CW DX Contest. The non-VP6 team members headed back home on the 21st. This obviously was a big let down for the team and Dxers around the globe, however the Ducie Island operators were concerned for their safety. During the entire journey from French Polynesia to Ducie they never saw clear skies. Their boat, The Temarama, was located at 25 13 South 126 19 West at 2347 when they did an about face. Before leaving, Kan, JA1BK, donated all the antennas and masts and 2 generators to the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association (PIARA) for a future

DXpedition. INTEREST NOTE: While on the island, Mike/K9AJ and Vince/K5VT who are both medical doctors, made themselves available to several patients (the number of doctors on Pitcairn suddenly went from zero to two). For more details/information on this operation, check the Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/wd4ngb/ducie.htm>

In the ANAN News, there was a report that a group of hams have chartered a New Zealand vessel, registered under the name "Braveheart", for part of the 2001-2002 season, to conduct operations from South Sandwich Islands as well as South Georgia early next year. The group, which has received permission from the proper governments of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands for the operation, is hoping to make in an excess of 100,000 QSOs with hams around the world in the second half of January and early February. The twelve operator team, with operators representing Canada, Ireland, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States, are to assemble in Port Stanley during the first half of January, and leave there on the "Braveheart" for island operations around the middle of that month. The team expects to be active in late January and early February from the former manager's villa at the old Husvik whaling station on the central north coast of South Georgia for about a week. After their activities at Husvik, they will again depart on the "Braveheart" for the island of Southern Thule some 500 km to the southeast, near the southern end of the South Sandwich Islands chain. Planning for this DXpedition has been in the works for two years and is being funded by the team members and a grant by NCDXF. They WILL NOT have a website, on-line logs, pilot station or promises of bands or modes. Their objective is to give as many as possible an overall new one. Due to environmental concerns the team will have ultra-light generators, simple antennas and low power. This group is taking a different approach DXpeditioning. They feel that DXers need to get back to basics and work harder! South Georgia ranks # 17 on the ARRL Most wanted list while South Sandwich ranks # 20. QSL information, as well as bands/modes of operation were not provided.

Oleg, R1ANF/mm, who is currently onboard of the vessel "Grigoriy Mikheev", is heading south again. Reportedly, the ship is heading to King George Island. Oleg, who will be the station leader of the Russian Antarctic base "Bellingshausen", will be there until March of 2003. His equipment this season consists of a FT-900 (100w) and an R-6000 multi-band vertical antenna. He has plans to activate again the Chilean base "Ripamonti" as well as "Pedro Cerda" (CE9) and probably "Des. Navy Deception (LU/Z) Bases on Deception Island" in January 2002. QSL for R1ANF/mm are via RK1PWA.

ZS4AGA, Anton, is a new ham stationed until February 2002, at the SANAE Base, ZS7ANT, Princess Martha Coast, Antarctica. He has been hanging out on 21.275 around 173Øz.

A Scandinavian team has announced they will be going to Sao Tome (S9) in early February. They have received their licenses and have obtained S79LA as the callsign for the DXpedition, which is planned for February 4 to 11. The team plans to be QRV on 6-160 meters on CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY and possibly SSTV. Two complete stations will be used around the clock, with an emphasis on the low bands, WARC bands and 6 meters. Team members will include LA5QKA, LA5UF, LA6EIA, LA6FJA, LA7THA, LA7WCA, LC3EAT, LC6ZBT, SM5COP and SM5IMO. The group's pilot stations are:

North & South America and lowbands - Trond, LA9VDA

la9vda@online.no

Europe, Africa and 6 meters - Tor, LA3WAA

torpet@online.no

Japan, Asia and Oceania - Teru, JM2HBO teru@k-net.or.jp

Their web site can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/s92la/>. QSL via LA2N, Sore Sunnmore Gruppa av NRRL v/ Otto Norhagen, NO-6143 Fiskaabygd, NORWAY.

The OPDX Bulletin reports that Kyle Harris, after a 7-year absence, has returned to Papua New Guinea. He has also received his old callsign P29KH, and has started to catch up on his DXing and Contesting. Kyle states, "Except for contests, I usually work almost exclusively CW. (We live in a house in the jungle with no acoustic insulation whatsoever. Having to listen to me work pileups on SSB rattles my wife and disturbs the neighbors. Acoustic RFI.) Right now I have a Moonraker broadband dipole, which unfortunately has to be oriented exactly 90 degrees off of the optimum orientation for Stateside. That will change in a couple of months. In February, the tower and tribander go up along with a vertical for 40 and 80. My usual operating times are around 0900-1200 UTC and 2000-2300 UTC, mainly on weekends. 20,40,80 meters early, higher bands late. I usually operate about 40 kHz up from the bottom of the band, listening up if there is a pileup." Once in place, Kyle plans to shunt feed his tower for 160 meters. QSL via his QSL Manager, WD9DZV.

Rev. Norried, H44NC, expects to be operational again from the Solomon Islands around August 2002 possibly from Guadalcanal Island. In the future he expects to operate portable from several IOTA's throughout the Solomons with the possibility of also going to the Temotu Province, H4Ø.

When he left the island earlier this year he only brought with him his last logbook, which contains entries from July 1, 2000 through May 31, 2001. Any QSL card requested for a contact prior to those dates must wait his return. He doesn't solicit them nor has a budget to return the hundreds of cards mailed to him each year. Norried requests that cards be sent direct with a self addressed envelope and green stamp. He will be happy to return his QSL back to you. His new address beginning August 2002 will be Rev. Norried, P.O. Box 419, Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Until then you can use P.O. Box 2262, Springfield, Missouri, USA 65801-2262.

Tony Buscaglia, K2NV will be traveling to Micronesia in January on vacation with his XYL and a Jesuit Priest friend. He will be active from T88ZZ on Palau (OC-009) on January 12-15, and from V63RF on Pohnpei (OC-010) on January 18-22. Tony will operate mostly CW, with some SSB and RTTY and will make a special effort to work North America. Look for him on the lower end of the CW bands listening up. Tony has a special affection for Topband, however he will not be operating 160 meters, as there is not enough time and no existing antennas. QSL via K2NV

DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L says T5/DL8YR, Somalia from 1993 has been approved for DXCC credit. Note: the DXCC Desk does not have records of rejections made prior to March 1, 1998. If your card was part of a DXCC submission dated prior to this date, the card must be sent along with your next application for approval. The T5/DL8YR operational dates were from April 20, 1993 to May 22, 1993.

Acceptance of ZK1NCI from North Cook Island has been on hold waiting supporting documentation. This has been received and upon review it is now being accepted for DXCC credit. In addition, XU7AAR (Cambodia) was on hold and is now accepted for DXCC credit. Anyone who has had either of these rejected in the past can contact DXCC at: dxcc@arrl.org for an update to his or her record. Or, it can be sent with the next submission for credit. The ZK1NCI operation occurred in January and February 2000, and XU7AAR occurred during the latter part of 1999.

Abubaker, 5A1A reports that there have been many pirates reporting to be active from Libya over the last few months. He states that the following stations are the only ones that are legal (which includes three new licensees).

5A1ASC - Assaker Club station. QSL via DK4HB (Mr. Rolf)

Blauert) direct or via Bureau.

5A1A - Abubaker Alzway; he will be using the same direct QSL information until he goes to Germany in the next few weeks. So, he will announce his new German address later. Any QSL's sent to his address in Libya will be answered 100% while he is moving to Germany.

5A1TA - Operator Tark Abu Kris. QSL via EA3GIP (Mr. Fidel Leon), direct or via the Bureau.

5A1HA - Operator Haytm Hashim. QSL via DJ9ZB (Mr. Franz Langner), direct or via the Bureau.

Abubaker requests to PLEASE be patient with the new operators, especially with their English, which is a second language for them.

DL2SL and **SP6IXF** will be active from Namibia in February/March 2002. Their departure is scheduled on February 14 from Berlin and they should be active on the 15th from Farm Heimat located 130 km west of the capital. They will be QRV as **V51/SP6IXF** and **V51/DL2SL** until March 8th. The operation is planned for all bands with a TS-450, TS-50, and IC-706MKII. Antennas will include a 3 element Delta on 40 and 80 meters, TH3, slopers for WARC bands, QQ or 4-element yagi on 6 meters. They will also have wire for beverages for 160 meters.

Well known QSLManager **W4FRU** passed away at the end of November. Bob Young, **K4JDJ**, has picked up John's QSL chores. Bob can now confirm QSOs with the following stations: **8R1ZG**, **9MØS**, **BS7H** (1997 No JA'S), **E3ØGA**, **FM5WE** (Logs from 94 to 2000), **TOØR**, **VKØIR** (Heard Island), **VP8CBC**, **VP8CRB**, **VP8CRC**, **VP8SGP**, **1SØXV**, **1S1RR**, **3WØA** (op **RN6BY**), **3W1ØØHCM**, **3W1A** (op **RN6BY**), **3W1PZ**, **3W3RR**, **3W4KZ** (op **RN6BY**), **3W7A**, **3W8AA**, **3X1Z**, **5AØRR**, **5NØDOG**, **5NØRMJ**, **5N2DOG**, **5N4ROF**, **5T5AY**, **5T5S**, **5T5ZZ**, **5X5AA**, **5Z4BI** (op **KGØZI**), **5Z4BX**, **9G1KU**, **9X5AA** (1988/89), **A61AA**, **A61AB**, **CE1CI**, **ED8HH**, **F5WE** (1994 to 2000), **FM5WS**, **HLØX/3**, **J28EH**, **J28EM**, **KØAX/KH2**, **KA9YDK/HI8**, **KB4ATV/4S7**, **S21A**, **S21B** (Logs 92 to 4/2000), **S21NQ** (op **WZ6C**), **S21ZG**, **TXØOK**, **TYØABD**, **TZ1AZ**, **TZ2ZZ**, **TZ6ZZ**, **V21ZC**, **V21ZZ**, **V29A**, **VK4NIC/3X**, **VP8CWN** (op **ZD7BJ**), **VP8TBD**, **W3IVP/5N1**, **W4LZZ/6W**, **W4LZZ/6W8**, **W4LZZ/TZ**, **W4LZZ/V2**, **W4LZZ/V21**, **WZ6C/S2**, **WZ6C/S21**, **WZ6C/ST2**, **WZ6C/ST4**, **XVØSU** (Aug 90), **XV1ØØHCM**, **XV1ØØHCM/3W**, **YB1AQC**, **YJ8M**, **ZD7BJ**, **ZD7HH**, **ZD7LM**, **ZD7WA**, **ZD7XX**, **ZD7XY**, **ZD8CK**, **ZD8HH**, **ZD8XX**, **ZD9BV** (Logs 93 to 2000), **ZD9CD**, **ZD9CH**, **ZD9CK**, **ZD9CL**, **ZD9CN**, **ZD9DV**, **ZD9JR**, **ZD9PV**, **ZD9WCY**, **ZD9YL**, **ZK1SH**, **ZL7LM**, **ZS1EDR**, **ZS1USA**, **5N2ØDOG**, **A4XJF**, **A4XRF**, **A4XYS**, **ET3USE**, **FB8WJ**, **FB8ZM**, **FB8ZN**, **FR7BE**, **KX6PO** (op **VK4NIC**), **ZD2XY**. Please QSL the above to **K4JDJ** - Bob Young, 556 Babbtown Road, Suffolk, VA 23434, USA.

DX POTPOURRI

Phil, **G3SWH** reported in mid-December that nearly 60% of the direct requests for **D68C** QSLs have now been processed and that around 30,000 QSOs have been confirmed to date. Phil also reports that he is starting to receive a large number of "second requests". This is not necessary, and only slows things down. The **D68C**

team wants to record its thanks to Phil for his efforts to date. When he agreed to take on the job, he had little idea that D68C would make some 75% more contacts than any previous DXpedition!

In recognition of the popularity of QRP, the ARRL is now offering a new operating award--The QRP DX Century Club, or QRP DXCC. The award is available to amateurs who have contacted at least 100 DXCC entities while operating with a power output not exceeding 5 watts. Check out the complete rules at www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/qrp/index.html.

Dave Furman, W3VK has recently moved to Thailand to take up a position with the American Embassy. He has been issued the Thai call HSØZDP.

Nodir, EY8MM continues to show up on 80 CW just before his sunrise (Ø235Z) in Tajikistan. QSL via K1BV. In addition, look for Alex, EY8CQ on 20 meters SSB from Ø23Ø to Ø4ØØZ.

Look for semi-rare one Wallis and Futuna courtesy of FWØDX on 80 meters CW around 1ØØØ-12ØØZ daily. Length of stay is unknown at this time. QSL via JE3RZT.

Vitor, CT1FSC is expected to be active as D2/CT1FSC from Luanda, Angola until December 14th. QSL via CT1FSC.

Steve, 3D2SJ who has been recently active from Tarawa, West Kiribati, as T30ED, will move on to Marshall Island. He will be active as V73ED between December 6-13th. His band/mode activity was not mentioned, but on T3Ø he was active on 20 meters SSB. QSL via 3D2SJ: Fr. Steve Dives MSC, P.O. Box 1354, Suva, Fiji Islands.

Karl, W9XK, is now in Vietnam near Saigon at his place and will be operating with the call 3W2XK till April 9, 2002. He will be mostly on 14260-14270, 21370-21400 and 28500. Best times to the US for the East Coast should be from 12ØØ to 14ØØz. Karl will be checking into the Southern Cross net almost daily on 14226 after 12ØØZ. He'll also check into the Bill Bennett Family net on 14.245 at 15ØØZ. QSL cards should be sent to W9XK, after April 10, 2002.

Last month, the BBC announced that due to rising sea levels caused by global warming, the 11,000 inhabitants of the Tuvalu (T2) archipelago will start to abandon the islands early next year and move to New Zealand. The exodus will be a slow process, which could take 30 years or more! The highest point on the island is no more than approximately 15 feet above sea level.

Mirosław Stefanski, SP7JKW, is heading to King George Island (AN-010), South Shetland Islands. Look for him throughout 2002 on CW, RTTY and PSK31 on all bands, with some SSB. QSL via SQ5TA, Artur Tabaszewski, ul. Wiejska 100, 26-606 Radom, Poland.

Ed, N1TO/VQ9VK, reports the VQ9IO club call for the Diego Garcia Amateur Radio Club is now VQ9X.

Tony, 3D2AG/R, is active from Rotuma until January 10. His activity over the last few days have been on 10/20 meters CW/SSB usually starting around 0130z. Watch 28.022, 28.495, 14.024 and 14.195 kHz. QSL direct to 3D2AG (CBA).

Marty, NWØL, will be operating from the island of Curacao (SA-ØØ6), January 2-8, 2002. He will be signing PJ2T in the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest on January 5-6. Before and after the contest, he will sign PJ2/NWØL, primarily on RTTY and SSB, on 10 through 80 meters, including 12 and 17 meters. QSL PJ2T only via KN7Y. QSL PJ2/NWØL via home call.

QSL cards going to Mongolia from the US should be sent "via Japan", says Ken,KE9A. Ken just returned from a few weeks visit with Chak,JT1CO in Ulan Bator. Mail routed through other areas is often stripped of any valuables or it just never makes it to the final destination.

Here are a few Special events to look for in December:

(But first a special announcement from the nautical department.)

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



Ten-Tec OMNI VI Plus S/N: 02A10478 In excellent shape inside & out, non-smoker, orig box, manual. Includes filters worth over \$300... INRAD #750 400 Hz filter for 6 MHz IF, INRAD #753 400 Hz filter for 9 MHz IF,. INRAD #754 2800 Hz filter for 9 MHz IF WCRA price of \$1800.

Thanks & 73, Robert
n9ef@arrl.net, 630-510-9783



The Maxim Memorial Station W1AW has scheduled two Special Event operations during the month of December.

- 1) Look for W1AW to be on the air December 3-7th to hono the 80th anniversary of the 1921 Transatlantic tests. Listen for W1AW/80 on many HF and VHF bands (including satellites).
- 2) W1AW also will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first Amateur Radio satellite--OSCAR I-- launched into orbit on December 12, W1AW will be on the air as W1AW/40 December 10-14 on as many of the active satellites as possible.

A special QSL card will be available for contacts or listener reports on both events. QSL requests for W1AW/80 and W1AW/40 go to: W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with each request.

Look for stations KPH and K6KPH to be on the air December 12, 2001, to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first wireless signal to cross the Atlantic, received by Marconi on December 12, 1901, at St. John's Newfoundland. Station K6KPH will be active beginning at 1700z on amateur radio frequencies: 3.545, 7.050 and 14.050 kHz. Radio station KPH will begin operations at 0000z on December 13th, transmitting on commercial frequencies 500 and 450 kHz (with most of the activity on 500 kHz). Both stations will use the original transmitters, receivers and antennas of famous ex-RCA coast station KPH. The transmitters are located at the transmitting station founded by the American Marconi Co. in 1913 at Bolinas, CA. The receivers and operators will be at the KPH receiving station about 20 miles north at Pt. Reyes, CA. Amateurs and shortwave listeners are invited to contact or monitor KPH and K6KPH. Maritime stations may call KPH on 500 kHz.

KPH reception reports may
be sent to: Tom Horsfall
1862 Tulare Ave.
Richmond, CA 94805,

K6KPH QSL's go to:
Dick Dillman
435 Utah St., No. 4
San Francisco, CA 94110

For more information, check out the Maritime Radio Historical Society Web site at: <http://www.radiomarine.org>

Look for special station IR7GM during the weekends through out of December to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's first transatlantic wireless transmission. Activity will be on CW/SSB on all HF bands including the WARC bands. QSL to IK7JWX via the bureau or direct.

A special event prefix has been authorized to be used by all Canadian Radio Amateurs to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's first transatlantic wireless transmission. This special event prefix is sponsored by Radio Amateurs of Canada. The special prefixes assigned to this special event will be: VX for VE's, VG for VA's, XJ for VO's and XK for VY's. Canadian amateurs can use these prefixes between December 12, 2001 to February 12, 2002.

TM4AMD from France will be on December 26-January 13 during what was formerly called the Paris-Dakar race. It is now called the Arras-Madrid-Dakar race. Note the "AMD" callsign suffix - Arras-Madrid-Dakar. QSL to F6IGF and for more info go to <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/ara62>.

Here a look at the contests for January:

ØØØØz Jan 5 ARRL		
ØØØØz Jan 6 RTTY Roundup	80-10 Meters	RTTY
22ØØz Jan 11 Japan Int'l		
22ØØz Jan 13 DX Contest	160-40 Meters	CW
18ØØz Jan 12 North American		
Ø6ØØz Jan 13 QSO Party – CW	160-10 Meters	CW
ØØØØz Jan 19 Ø7Ø Club		
24ØØz Jan 19 PSKfest	80-10 Meters	PSK31
ØØØØz Jan 20 Hungarian		
2359z Jan 20 DX Contest	160-10 Meters	CW
18ØØz Jan 19 North American		
Ø6ØØz Jan 20 QSO Party – SSB	160-10 Meters	SSB
19ØØz Jan 20 ARRL VHF		
Ø4ØØz Jan 22 Sweepstakes	50 Mhz and up (no Repeaters)	
11ØØz Jan 27 Maritime (Canada)		
22ØØz Jan 27 CW Contest	80 Meters	CW
22ØØz Jan 26 CQ WW		
16ØØz Jan 27 160 Contest	160 Meters	CW
Ø6ØØz Jan 26 REF (France)		

1800z Jan 27 CW Contest 160-10 Meters CW

1300z Jan 26 UBA (Belgium)

1300z Jan 27 DX Contest 80-10 Meters SSB

Special thanks to The Daily DX, The Weekly DX Bulletin, OPDX, World Radio and the ARRL for information used this month. Until next month, remember DX IS!



The W9CCU 2 METER
repeater after being cleaned and
reassembled at KA9KDC's
QTH.



Rocky guards the newly cleaned and operating W9CCU repeater.

January Calendar of Events

- 3rd of January: Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 4th of January: Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in classroom #8 in Breyer Hall. Breyer Hall is located just to the East of the library and is two buildings East of Edman Chapel. Room 8 is in the basement at the base of the stairs.
- 8th of January: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 10th of January: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- 15th of January: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY.
- 24th of January: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm,
- 27th of January: WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hawthorne Race Course, 3501 S. Laramie, Cicero, Illinois. **SIGN-UP TO WORK** on the bat phone 630:545-9950. VEC testing will be held from 9 am until 12 noon.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - January 4th - 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

Newsletter Address:

526 South Gables Boulevard
Wheaton, Illinois 60187-4728
eMail: donlin@xnet.com

Club Mailing Address:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
Club website: www.wheatonhamfest.org

First Class Mail

