



# HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 498

Founded 1948 December 2004



The Wheaton Community Radio Amateur's Officers and Board would like to wish all of you:

A  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

<b>WCRA Staff</b>			
<b><u>Elected Officers</u></b>			
President	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Vice President	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630: 742-3581
Secretary	Mary James	K9GAL	630: 968-1844
Treasurer	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Custodian	Roberto Beltramelli	WA9E	630: 668-5688
<b><u>Volunteer Committee Chairs</u></b>			
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Christmas Party	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Club Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885
Club Truck			
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	630: 871-1786
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie Matthews	WB9SGD	630: 665-4506
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630: 653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Field Day	Peter Richey	N9HDW	630: 260-9447
Hamfest	Bruce Plantz	K9OZ	630: 604-0157
Chaplin	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630: 483-2044
Historian			
Interference			
Refreshments	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:742-3581
Membership			
Membership	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630:510-7816
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	630:372-7036
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Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885
<b><u>Amateur License Staff</u></b>			
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
<b><u>WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)</u></b>			
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
<b><u>WCRA Radio Nets</u></b>			
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
<b><u>WCRA Repeaters</u></b>			
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	
<b><u>HAMLETTER</u></b>			
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# From the President's Gavel

by Mike Wolff, AB9AX WCRA President



## WANT ADS:

**WANTED** - A lover of Amateur Radio to serve as President / Chairperson of the Executive Board for a prestigious amateur radio club that has existed since 1948. The ideal candidate will be a cordial, energetic and motivated individual, capable of executing the following tasks:

1. Hearing up the Executive Board for regular meetings, and refereeing the disagreements that come up amongst the officers / board members present.
2. Running the regular membership business meetings, and keeping everyone focused on the matter at hand, all the while trying to get meaningful statements and actions needed to get things done in a timely fashion.
3. Signing all official documents for the club, save those that are designated or required by law to be signed by other officers.
4. Submit a monthly column to be published in the ham letter **BY THE DEADLINE** (Sorry Don, I know this one is late too!).
5. Pay attention and listen to the members when they bring their issues and opinions to you directly. There may be things that need to be captured and addressed



## WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Mary James  
K9GAL  
WCRA  
Secretary

## WCRA Minutes from the November 5, 2004 Meeting:

**President Mike, AB9AX**, called the meeting to order at 19:36. **Tom, N9WBW**, made a motion that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted. **Carol, KB9FYL**, seconded the motion, and it passed. In President's Announcements, Mike thanked **Bill, K9WH**, and all of the WCRA members who had participated in Three Fires Council Camporall. Mike reported the club truck was at the event, and about 100 scouts got on the radio. Mike announced that he is resigning as WCRA president because he is relocating. Vice President

**Steve, N9OA**, thanked **Pat, K9JAU**, for bringing refreshments for the meeting. He said the Annual Club Auction is the November program and **Peter, N9HDW**, will present a video of Walter Cronkite talking about ham radio. He said there will be no meeting in December. The January program will be devoted to Hamfest. After that, programs are open and Steve asked members for their suggestions. Secretary **Mary, K9GAL**, presented a new membership application for **Bill, KA9LFU**. Tom made a motion to accept the applicant, Steve seconded it, a vote was taken and the membership was approved. Treasurer **Jack, KA9HEL**, reported on the budget. **Hamfest Bruce, K9OZ**, informed members there will be a Hamfest committee meeting Friday, Nov. 13 at his house in Lisle. He announced that he had tickets for anyone interested and that the committee is looking for volunteers to go to other club meetings in January to sell tickets. Repeater Administrative Board (RAB) **Larry, KA9KDC**, summed up an article from the newsletter, which detailed research being done on interference to the 2-meter repeater. In Training news, Jack said four students are interested in taking the next Tech class at College of DuPage and that we need to contact them. **Gordon, AH6DA**, updated members on the most recent Volunteer Exam session. He announced there will not be a session in November. **Ruth, KA9RZG**, asked members to let her know if they are interested in attending a Christmas party on Dec. 5. She said those who respond will decide on a place for the event. **Jim, W9DHX**, announced the November Hamletter is 19 pages with lots of photos, especially from Camporall. Mike thanked Jim for reminders about deadlines for the newsletter. **Kurt, KB9RTO**, made a motion to accept committee reports, **Don, K9VGN**, seconded the motion and it passed.

In Old Business, Mike presented awards to members for participation in Camporall and Field Day. Mike and the members thanked **Dale, NJ9E**, for making the posters. Kurt asked what the status was for getting the club truck registered as an antique. Peter explained that we would not be able to use the truck if it were registered that way. Tom asked about an option that had been discussed in the past as a place to store the truck. Roberto said that there is no answer on that.

In New Business, Kurt suggested asking former presidents to help out during the interim-from now until April elections. **Marty, N9NTM**, made a motion the meeting be adjourned, Tom seconded the motion, and it passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:28.

at an executive board session off line.(See page 4). **From the President's Gavel**

Understand where the money comes in from, and what it is spent on. The president is somehow responsible for coming up with a budget every year.

Other desirable traits are as follows:

1. Be as approachable as possible, you never know where the next great idea is going to come from.
2. Optimism is a must. It is often easy to find a reason why an idea won't work, and many will offer such reasons. So, in order to get anything to change, the individual must have the courage and ingenuity to find ways to make things work. This trait is very important, if things are to change for the better.
3. Be an active, on-the-air ham radio operator. This helps the candidate not forget what the club, and more importantly, the hobby is all about. (Read the purposes of the club in WCRA's Articles of Incorporation from time to time as well, to remember what we legally claim to be all about).
4. Checks in to Sunday night and other nets, with traffic of interest. Its always a positive thing to recognize member achievements, and member participation in a variety of events, even if only one member participates.
5. Involves the membership openly about club issues.
6. Patience - Patience is more than a virtue, it may help a candidate from ripping hair from the cranial region when things don't seem to be going the desired direction.
7. Hamfest experience. An ideal candidate will have had experience as part of the hamfest committee. This goes back to understanding the club's primary source of income.

That may seem like a lot, and I've tried to be that kind of president. But, since I have resigned, I wanted to at least give an idea of what I think a the president should be, and hope that my fellow members will find a good candidate as my successor. I have a few folks in mind that I think would be good candidates, and I would imagine many of the readers will too. So, think about who you want at the helm, and contact the executive board. Also, keep in mind that annual elections will be held at the annual meeting in April, so the Nomination Committee should be selected at the January meeting.

In closing, it's been an interesting time in my life, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to serve you as president of the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs. I bid you farewell as I relocate to points east.

73 and Happy Holidays,

Mike -- AB9AX -- your former president

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**To whom it may concern,**

**My name is Daniel Rottman and I live in Bloomingdale, Illinois near Stratford Square Mall. I've been interested in amateur radio in various degrees since the CB boom of the early 70's. Recently, my interest has peaked again and I am strongly considering getting my Tech Certification in Amateur Radio.**

**My biggest obstacle is that I am disabled (C-5 Quadriplegic). I don't drive and getting a wheelchair accessible ride is often difficult, particularly in the evening. A wheelchair**

accessible meeting location is also required. Lastly, I can't write using traditional pen and paper.

The good news is that I'm computer literate, in fact, I hold several minor degrees in CIS and Web Development. Anyway, I can use a standard keyboard and I have easy access to a computer and Broadband Internet. My most recent radio experience has been with 11 Meter and General Mobile or GMRS, but I'm looking forward to trying 10 and 12 Meters.

The ARRL recommended I contact a local HAM Club for advice and assistance in achieving a Tech Certification which is the reason I'm contacting your club. Wheaton is close by and I'm familiar with it and its surrounding area. I'm really just wanted to introduce myself and solicit some general advice in getting started. I know there are several books, CD's, and study guides available. Perhaps someone there can recommend one or two to choose from.

Thank You  
Daniel Rottman  
drottman@sbcglobal.net

**We would like to take this space to publicly thank Mike, AB9AX, for his willingness to stand for election as President and his tenure at this time in the long history of WCRA. Mike, we will miss you. Try to give us a call on MidCars from Virginia once you two get settled in.**



# DECEMBER QST REVIEWED

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

Merry Christmas from the Editors! The colorful cover shows S. Claus atop the ARRL Headquarters working DX by Reindeer mobile. Christmas cheer to all!

## **NUMBER ONE ITEM -THE CLUB SCORE FOR FIELD DAY**

Look on page 97, second column from the left, a third of the way down and 11A shows "Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, W9CCU (+N9HDW), number of QSOs (2162) a power output of less than 150 watts (2), number of participants (66) and TOTAL SCORE OF 7802 POINTS! If you think that 11 stations were a lot, go down the list to the Potomac Valley Club-they had 50 stations and 60 participants to earn 32,372 points.

Wait until next year, and we'll see what happens.

## **BPL AND INTERFERENCE ISSUE WITH THE FCC**

At last someone at the FCC realizes that BPL is not without an interference risk. New rules have been put in place, thanks to the urging the ARRL and others, to safeguard Amateur and other frequencies from being messed up. David Sumner shares his views on Page 9.

## **PLASTIC PIPE 2-METER YAGI -GREAT FOR FIELD DAY**

Yes, the instructions come with pictures of the finished item. And it is easy to take apart for moving on to the Field Day site. Pages 32-37 give you all the help you need to get this beauty together. Several trips to the hardware store will provide all the parts you need. -of course the elements are aluminum and are available from Texas Towers.

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO "KIDS DAY"- JANUARY 2 AND JUNE 18TH**

Two days in the year are set aside for the opportunity for kids to participate in ham radio without or with a license. The purpose-so they can experience the thrill of "getting on the air." Read about how you can get involved on page 43.

## **"SURVIVING IN SUBURBIA" OR "WHERE TO HIDE THE ANTENNA?"**

Because I live in a town house, I know the answer: "The attic." But how to tuck a 17' vertical in an attic? Answer-"put it at an angle." So I have a "horo-vertical". Read on pages 47 and 48 how to handle this problem from an Omaha, Nebraska, ham.

## **OLD POSTCARDS OF JAPANESE WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATIONS**

Pages 79 and 80 show some rare views of 1920s Nippon installations. A sharp contrast to modern cell phone and satellite communication of the 21st century.



## Activities on the HF Bands

by:  
Peter Barr  
W9UF

Special permission has been granted for a legal amateur radio operation to take place from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands under the callsigns VU4NRO and VU4RBI. The permit covers the period 3-31 December 2004 and the authorization is for Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI (team leader) and other four operators - D. N. Prasad, VU2DBP; Varun Sastry, VU3DVS; Ram Mohan, VU2MYH and Sarath Babu, VU3RSB. The QTH will be Port Blair, South Andaman Island (AS-001), and plans are to have two stations active; so far, no linears are available. Band and modes will be decided on-site based on the usual limits (antennas, hotel permits, electricity,

propagation, other gear, etc.). In addition, there will be no foreign pilot station for this operation.

“This effort will not be a mass arrival of crack operators with tons of gear” says Charles Harpole, K4VUD/VU3CHE. Charles adds, “this is a pilot project and in a year, if we all behave and have patience, Andaman could be much more open to ham radio visits or an on-going presence!” Bharathi is working on this project with the NIAR, the National Institute of Amateur Radio ([www.niar.org](http://www.niar.org)), which is India equivalent to the ARRL. Stay tuned to your favorite DX bulletin or the ARRL web site for up to the minute information.

Brad Farrell, K4RT filed a petition in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia requesting review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's denial of use permits for Amateur Radio for Desecheo (KP5) and Navassa (KP1) islands, and the agency's ban of Amateur Radio from these islands, generally. The proceeding may take many months to move forward. Thus, a legislative solution would be most welcome, as it would save time and money.

The core of the legal argument is that the FWS has unlawfully interpreted the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act to close Desecheo and Navassa. The statute does not limit refuge use to wildlife-dependent recreational activities as the agency claims. The language of the statute identifies such activities as priority uses, but not exclusive uses. Furthermore, the evidence upon which the agency relied in closing the islands is speculative at best, which does not satisfy the evidentiary standards established by the federal courts for agency decision-making. The FWS's own records demonstrate that the agency has lied to Amateur Radio operators and Congressman about the purported safety issues on Desecheo and Navassa. In fact, the FWS has not, to date, denied this.

Mike Thomas, NA5U put the grass roots effort together, and at least 30 other DXers and a number of DX groups are assisting to move the legislative effort forward. We couldn't have gotten to where we are now without him.

You can see the following documents in PDF format: Initial Administrative Appeal: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/12557.pdf> Initial FWS Decision: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/7.06.04%20-20Fish%20and%20Wildlife%20ltr.pdf> Final Administrative Appeal: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/2d-FWS-Appeal.pdf> Final FWS Decision: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/KP102.pdf>

Brad asks that all US DXers contact their Congressmen supporting the bipartisan H.R. 5361. A sample letter can be found at <http://www.dailydx.com/int2E.DOC>. If you do not know your Congressmen's name you can find it at <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>. Once you know your Congressmen's name you can go to <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.html> for his snail mail address.

This bill is good for the lame duck session only. So we need to try to get it passed now. If it doesn't pass in the lame duck, it will be reintroduced in January. Staffers on Capitol Hill say that the more we can bring HR 5361 to the attention of Congressmen now, the better it may fare in January, and there is always the

chance it will pass during the lame duck if there is enough support. Please do not put off sending a letter to your Congressman. Even if you don't need KP1 or KP5, think about those outside the US who do and can not support this effort. It will only cost 37 cents for the stamp.

Mike, N9NS/VP2MNS will be returning to Montserrat the first two weeks of December. Joining him on this trip will be Pete, NØFW/VP2MW, Charlie; W6KK/VP2MKK, and probably John, N7CQQ/VP2MQQ. All are veteran DXpeditioners. They will arrive on Montserrat via Antigua on December 2, 2004 and leave on December 13. The guys will be in the ARRL 160-Meter CW Contest on December 3-4-5 and the ARRL 10-Meter Contest on December 11-12 using Pete's call, VP2MW. Outside of the contests they will be on all bands from 6 to 160 meters (including 60 meters) with some emphasis on the low bands and working Japan/VK/ZL. Info will be posted on their Web site at <http://www.wb8xx.com/vp2m>. Plans are to have on-line logs updated daily. QSL all calls via W8QID. Hopefully the volcano will remain quiet on this trip!

Look for Rudolf; DJ3WE, Falk; DK7YY, Ben; DL6RAI and Roberto; IV3IYH should be active now from Nepal as 9N7BCC until December 5th. There is a possibility that some of the operators may received their own private license/callsign. Team members plan to have three stations on the air simultaneously. Check the usual DX frequencies on 160-15m and also possibly on 10 meters. However, their emphasis will be on the lower and WARC bands. Also, look for RTTY operations. QSLs for 9N7BCC are via DK7YY. A German operator DL4VCR, Ruben Becker, DL4VCR, is now stationed at Camp Warehouse in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has been QRV as YA4Y on 30 and 40 meters CW. QSL via DL4VCR either via the bureau or direct to Ruben Becker, Glockenstr 41a, 66787 Wadgassen, GERMANY.

Members of the Canary Islands DX Society plan to activate special call EF8TDX from Tufia Rock, in the Canary Islands on December 11 and 12. Most, if not all, of the operators are EC8 stations and can not transmit above 21.200. Activity will be on 15 meters SSB only. They plan to post more information, after the operation, on their Web site at <http://www.cidxs.com/>. QSL via EC8AUA.

On December 18th and 19th look for special event station PC1ØØH (Papa Charlie One Hundred Hotel) to be QRV as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Dutch Coastal Station PCH Scheveningen Radio. Suggested frequencies are as follows: 1830, 1850, 3530, 3650, 7030, 7050, 10130, 10145, 14030, 14250, 18090, 18150, 21030, 21250, 28030, 28250, 144250 and 144250. For more details check out their Web page at [http://www.remeeus.nl/pch/pc100h/pc100h\\_uk.htm](http://www.remeeus.nl/pch/pc100h/pc100h_uk.htm). QSL via PA1HR.

Ayumi, JH7BZR, informs OPDX that operator Hack, JL1EEE; Iku, /JL1WQO; Tad, JL1ANP and himself will be active from here starting Thursday, December 2nd (Late Midnight) through Monday, December 6th (Early Morning). Operators will sign BW2/JL1EEE, BW2/JL1WQO, BW2/JL1ANP and BW2/JH7BZR. They may have two stations active on 160-10 meters including the WARC bands. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1827.5 (listening up/down), 3505, 7005, 10135, 14030, 18090, 21030, 24915 and 28030 kHz  
SSB - 3560, 7060, 14175, 18130, 21275, 24950 and 28475 kHz

RTTY - proper operating segments The team will also take part in the 2004 ARRL 160 Meter Contest. Ayumi states, "We are not serious DXers or Top band specialists. But we would like to work many NA/EU/JA, etc. on top band as much as we can. Please be patient!! QSL via their home callsign; the bureau is welcome. There may be a log search. Visit the Web page at: <http://homepage1.nifty.com/jh7bZR>

Charlie WØYG and Burt, WØMY recently arrived rived on Christmas Island for a two-week plus stay as VK9XG. Their major aim on this operation is 160 and 80 meter DX QSOs. According to Steve, VK6VZ, the "VK9XG is likely to be the last lowband DXpedition on Christmas Island for some time, as accommodation on the island that is suitable for radio purposes is increasingly difficult to find." Look for the operation to be on 1828.5, listening 5 kHz up and down. Charlie and Burt will operate from sunset until sunrise every day, while dozing in the dead periods. VK9X is a much easier shot on 160m for Europe than North America, so few USA stations have worked VK9X on 160m. A maximum effort will go into working North America on both SP and LP. Please QSL direct to WØYG. Instead of sending through the Bureau, please use the "Logbook of The World" (LoTW).



JA8AJE, Masa, reports his friend, JA7GAX, plans to be QRV from multiple Vietnamese Islands, plus the mainland next month. December 7 Ho Chi Minh 3W2GAX December 9 Con Son 3W2GAX/C (IOTA AS-130) December 16 Ho Chi Minh 3W2GAX December 19 Phu Quoc 3W2GAX/4 or 3W2GAX/P (IOTA AS-128) December 27 Ho Chi Minh 3W2GAX He will be leaving Vietnam on December 29th. QSL direct to JA7GAX.

Mike, N9NS (VP2MNS); Pete, NØFW (VP2MW); Charlie, W6KK (VP2MKK) and John, N7CQQ (requested call VP2MQQ) will be active on all bands from Montserrat (NA-103) through December 13. They will participate in the ARRL 160 Meter CW Contest (3-5 December) and in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest (11-12 December) Contest as VP2MW. Information and on-line logs will be available at <http://www.wb8xx.com/vp2m>. QSL for all via W8QID.

There is a Web page reporting that Mark, OH5XL, will try to activate North Korea during Christmas. The Elstar Web page also states the following details: "Problem is money. We wish support and donation to Mark for his trip. Permission will be for CW and SSB. Operation mainly on CW. Using AEA PK-232DSP, Alinco DX-70TH and Smart Tuner. ELSTAR Oy, Ltd supports on USD 1000, - We wish your firm could do the same. Full three day operation takes at least USD 5000 more. Antennas: Smart GP, Smart Qwiere, all from ELSTAR. If Mark is not in the Air, the donation will be used for other trip during 2005. At least Mark will be there. Permission is not sure yet. All support helps." To see the announcement (and possible updates), visit the Web page at: [http://www.elstar.fi/hinnastot/dx\\_today/dxtoday.htm](http://www.elstar.fi/hinnastot/dx_today/dxtoday.htm)

## IOTA

Wil, DJ7AA and Tina, DL6MYL plan to operate from Contadora Island, NA-Ø72, November 19-December 7, concentrating on the low bands. Wil says to look for him on 1825.5 starting at Ø3ØØZ, European sunrise, and on 30M, plus some CW and RTTY Activity on the WARC bands. [note: There have been many complaints to DX newsletters in the past regarding previous HP operations by DJ7AA for which QSL's have never been received.] See DXCC News below for more regarding Wil's operations.

Members of the Canary Islands DX Society will activate Tufia Rock, AF-ØØ4 as EF8TDX, December 11-12th. Tufia Rock is valid for the Spanish Islands Award (D.I.E), reference: S-101. Activity will be on 15 meters SSB only. The team that is activating AF-ØØ4 are licensed EC8 operators and are restricted to only operate below 21.200 kHz. QSL Manager is EC8AUA (more details on QRZ.com). All QSLs will be posted through the URE Bureau after the operation. For more updated information, and also video/pictures after the EF8TDX activation, visit the Web page at: <http://www.cidxs.com>

Marco, CE6TBN, informed OPDX on the following updated news on the Rennell Island IOTA (SA-NEW) DXpedition. The team now consists of Mario; CE6NE, Dr. Mike; K9AJ, Bruce; KD6WW, Zoli; HA1AG and Marco; CE6TBN. The team will be on the air as CE8A on SSB and CW with two stations on 80-10 meters. The pilot stations are: VE3LYC/Cezar (EU & NA) and JA1QXY/Gou (AS & OC). Activity will take place February 10-15th (weather depending). QSL Manager is CE6NE; by the Bureau or direct to: P.O.Box 866, Temuco, Chile. Please visit the Web site at: <http://www.ce6ne.cl>

C6AWF will be on the air April 15-29, 2005 from Treasure Cay, Abaco Island, NA-Ø8Ø, CW, RTTY and some SSB, 80-10M including WARC bands. The operator will be G4WFQ. QSL via G3SWH. Online logs will be available at [www.g4wfq.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.g4wfq.btinternet.co.uk) and the logs will be uploaded to LOTW.

The members of Croatian Amateur Radio Association, a member of the IARU, formed the "All Croatian Islands Award Group" (ACIAG) at the beginning of October 2004. The ACIAG is opened to all radio amateurs and people who like chasing islands. The ACIA Group is an organization where you do not have to pay a membership fee; the membership is free. Your membership includes a membership award with a membership number; all you need to do is send the membership application with 3 IRC coupons to cover the postage

expenses. The ACIA Group issues two awards:

All Croatian Islands Award (Basic)

All Croatian Islands Award (Diamond)

Awards above are available as Trophies, Diplomas, Certificates and Medals. Islands are "activated" very regularly. Everything concerning the ACIAG and ACIA awards can be found on the Web page at:

<http://www.9a7k.com>

## LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY

Members of the LABRE/RN will activate the Lighthouse Gameleira, December 3-5th. They will use the callsign ZY7LH. Activity will be on CW, SSB, PSK31 and RTTY. Bands were not mentioned. Reference numbers are: DFB RN 05, ARLHS BRA 133 and Grid HI24GS. QSL via PS7AA: LABRE/RN, P.O. Box 251, 59010-970, Natal / RN - BRAZIL.

### IOTA frequencies -

CW 28.040 24.920 21.040 18.098 14.040 10.114 7.030 3.530

SSB 28.560 28.460 24.950 21.260 18.128 14.260 7.055 3.765

## ON THE WEB

Observers and applicators of the amazing natural phenomenon of ionospheric radio propagation may enjoy seeing these recent photos of the aurora borealis ("northern lights") captured last month; <http://www.extremeinstability.com/04-11-8.htm>.

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

## DXCC NEWS

The DXCC Desk says HO1A (up to December 31, 2000), H8A (September 2002) and HP1XVH operations from Panama are good for DXCC.

As of November 16, 2004 yesterday HP1/DJ7AA is not good for DXCC.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Quincy, IL: Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, K9C. 0000z Dec 3-2400z Dec 14. Quincy, Illinois, Christmas Avenue of Lights. 28.325 21.325 14.250 7.250 SSB CW RTTY PSK. Certificate. Robert G. Mitchell, 816 Long Dr, Quincy, IL 62305.

Duluth, MN: Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club, W0GKP. 1500z-2300z Dec 4. 75th Anniversary of club affiliation with ARRL. 21.375 14.280 7.275 3.875. Certificate. Robert Schulz, 115 Eden Ln, Duluth, MN 55805-1533. [www.qsl.net/w0gkp/](http://www.qsl.net/w0gkp/).

Pittsburgh, PA: Carnegie Science Center, NY3EC. 1500z-2000z Dec 4. 50th Anniversary Miniature Railroad and Display. 147.03 14.250 7.265. Certificate. Art Mueller, WA3BKD, 1532 Millers Run Rd, McDonald, PA 15057. [www.miniaturerailroad.org](http://www.miniaturerailroad.org).

Various, United States: National Weather Service and ARRL. 0000z-2400z Dec 4. Sixth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD). Go to <http://hamradio.noaa.gov> for complete information.

Grand Junction, CO: Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, NØW. ØØØØz Dec 4-ØØØØz Dec 5. 2004 SKYWARN Recognition Day at Walker Field Airport. 28.460 21.260 14.260 7.260. QSL. Bob Vogel, WØRY, 155 Ponderosa Dr, Fruita, CO 81521. [www.wcarc.ws/status.htm](http://www.wcarc.ws/status.htm).

Homestead, FL: Everglades Amateur Radio Club, W4SVI. 16ØØz Dec 4-16ØØz Dec 5. Commemorating the dedication of Everglades National Park by President Harry S. Truman, December 6, 1947. SSB 40 20 15 10 m. Certificate. Everglades Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 900113, Homestead, FL 33090-0113.

Linthicum, MD: Historical Electronics Museum ARC, W2W. 14ØØz Dec 4-22ØØz Dec 7. Commemorating the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. 14.241 14.041 7.241 7.041. Certificate. HEMARC-W2W, PO Box 742, MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. A QSL card may be requested. [www.qsl.net/w3hem](http://www.qsl.net/w3hem).

Baton Rouge, LA: USS Kidd ARC/Baton Rouge ARC, W5KID. 15ØØz-23ØØz Dec 7. Pearl Harbor Day. General class bands, 14.250 to 14.320; CW QRP subbands. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS Kidd Museum, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Nazareth-Bethlehem, PA: Christmas ARC and Delaware-Lehigh ARC, WX3MAS. 14ØØz Dec 11-Ø2ØØz Dec 13. Annual Christmas greetings from the twin Christmas Cities. 28.465 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.970. Certificate. CCARC/DLARC, WX3MAS, Greystone Building, Gracedale Complex, RR 8, Nazareth, PA 18064. [www.dlarc.org](http://www.dlarc.org).

Delmar, NY: Marconi Net, W2M. Ø2ØØz-Ø4ØØz Dec 13. Commemorating the first anniversary of the Marconi Net. 3.872. Certificate. Fred Thumhart, Jr, 5 Old Oxe Rd, Delmar, NY 12054.

Santa Ana, CA: Anaheim Police Radio Club, K6B. ØØØØz Dec 16-2359Z Dec 30. 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge WW2. 21.350 18.150 14.250 7.250. QSL. Mark McMullin, KM6HB, PO Box 27271, Santa Ana, CA 92799. [km6hb@arrl.net](mailto:km6hb@arrl.net).

Belen (Bethlehem), NM: Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, KC5OUR. 14ØØz Dec 18-2359Z Dec 26. Celebrating the Christmas season from Bethlehem, New Mexico. 28.272 21.272 14.272 7.272. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042.

Lake Charles, LA: , N1CC. ØØØØz Dec 24-2359Z Dec 25. Christmas Carol. 28.475 21.375 14.275 7.245. QSL. Via <http://qrz.com> listing or <http://users.aol.com/N1CC>.

Certificates and QSL cards: 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.

## DX POTPOURRI

Len Pattillo, W5QGU is one of the net controllers for the Southern Cross DX Net and he reports the net has moved from 14226.5, because of the SSTV activity. They are now meeting on 14.239. The net begins around 11ØØz, depending on propagation.

VQ9OG, Roger, is on Diego Garcia with the United States Air Force Security Forces until the end of the year. He likes 80-10M including the WARC bands, on his days off from work. QSL to his home call, W9ROG.

Special callsign II1TPG will be on the air again December 3-5. It is the official ham station of the IX Paralympic Winter Games planned for Torino in 2006. QSL via IZ1CCE.

KG4AS will be active from Guantanamo Bay with four operators January 18-26. Chief operator N4SIA plans to be on CW and SSB, HF and 6M.

Bruce, AA4XR should be operational as HSØZCY December 1-7, with a heavy emphasis on the low bands and CW/RTTY/PSK31.

Larry, KJ7UY V47UY will be on the air from St. Kitts and Nevis from December 23 until January 2 as V47UY. He plans to be on 160-6M as propagation directs and holiday activities allow. Larry says back home in Florida he has been working 15-hour days for months, trying to clean up hurricane damage. He still has no antennas up at home after the hurricanes stripped them off the tower.

SP8MI, Wojtek, will use the special Polish callsign HF8IARU from January 25 to March 6, 2005. Look for activity on the HF bands. QSL via SP8MI.

A couple of special stations will be activated for the French Telethon for research against genetic diseases. Look for TM8TLN on 3-4 December and TM6TLT on 1-8 December. QSL via operators' instructions.

Mike, GW3UOF is currently active from the Dominican Republic as HI8/GW3UOF until December 12th.

Hugo, LA5YJ is now in Khartoum, Sudan and is going to apply for a license (he's requested ST7YJ). QSL via LA4YW.

Wojtek, SP8MI, will use the special Polish callsign HF8IARU, from January 25th through March 6th. Activity will be on the HF bands, CW and possibly more modes. QSL via SP8MI. No details or reasons were provided for this special activity.

The Mario Zucchelli Station (formerly known as Baia Terra Nova) at Terra Nova Bay, Victoria Land, Antarctica (AN-16), is improving the personnel. Among the 80 people present at the Base, is Dr. Mario Pillon, a researcher from the Italian ENEA Dept. who holds a personal Ham callsign, IØQHM. He has been showing up on 14.180 kHz at 1845z signing IØQHM/IAØPS. However, Mario has also been heard signing IØQHM/KC4. Mario is expected to remain in Antarctica until around mid- February. He could also operate from Dome C... and probably from other remote camps in the future if time and equipment permit. The Mario Zucchelli Station (MZS) is referenced for WAP as: WAP ITA-01

VU3BPZ is heading back to Maitri Base, Antarctica on December 2nd. Look for activity starting December 22nd. He plans to be on AIRNET on 14.150 daily around 1400Z.

## CONTESTS

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
ØØØØz	Dec 2	QRP ARCI		
Ø6ØØz	Dec 2	Topband Sprint	160	CW/SSB
		<a href="http://2hams.net/ARCI/topband%20ssb%20sprint.htm">http://2hams.net/ARCI/topband%20ssb%20sprint.htm</a>		
22ØØz	Dec 3	ARRL		
16ØØz	Dec 5	160 Contest	160	CW
		<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/fileform.html">www.arrl.org/contests/fileform.html</a>		
ØØØØz	Dec 4	TARA		
2359z	Dec 4	RTTY Melee	80 - 10	RTTY
		<a href="http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html">www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html</a>		
2ØØØz	Dec 5	QRP ARCI Holiday		
2359z	Dec 5	& Homebrew Sprint	160 - 6	CW
		No website given. Try <a href="http://2hams.net/ARCI">http://2hams.net/ARCI</a>		
ØØØØz	Dec 11	ARRL		
2359z	Dec 12	10 Meter Contest	10	CW/SSB

ØØØØz	Dec 18	MDXA		
2359z	Dec 19	DeathMatch	80 - 6	PSK-31
		No website given		
ØØØØz	Dec 18	RAC Canada		
2359z	Dec 18	Winter Contest	160 - 2	CW/SSB
		No website given		
15ØØz	Dec 18	Stew Perry Topband		
15ØØz	Dec 19	Distance Challenge	160	CW
		email: tbdc@contesting.com		

Thanks to Bernie, W3UR and his Daily DX Bulletin, Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW and the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, the ARRL for information used this month.



# THE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF DECEMBER



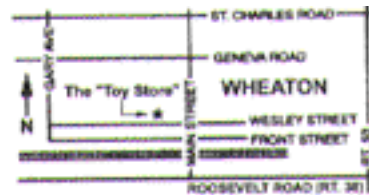
CHUCK	WJ9N	12-06-31
BOB	W3MDM	12-09-28
BILL	KA9ALO	12-11-44
DON	K9MUF	12-13-31
MARTY	KA9RCC	12-15-48
DOUG	W9NJM	12-15-46
JOHN	N9GLZ	12-19-24
LARRY	WA9RTE	12-21-44
GEORGE	KA3HSW	12-27-56

Remember that if you do not see your birthday on this monthly list it is because the FCC stopped including this piece of data several years ago and the editor does not have your information in his database. If you would like to see your birthday appear here please forward your information to the editor.

## Amateur Radio Toy Store

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## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream.
- 7th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- NO CLUB MEETING IN DECEMBER - MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 15th: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS for January. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**

### Next WCRA General Membership Meeting - January 7th '05 - 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@aol.com

Club Mailing Address:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs  
P.O. Box QSL  
Wheaton, Illinois 60189

## First Class Mail

