



HAMLETTER

Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

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THE 2006 MID-WINTER HAM HAMFEST IS IN THE BOOKS



WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Peter ,	N9HDW
Vice President	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Secretary	Mary ,	K9GAL
Treasurer	Ken ,	N9HQ
Custodian	Kurt ,	KB9RTO

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom ,	N9CBA
Christmas Party	Ruth ,	KA9RZG
Club Awards	John ,	N9MWF
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie ,	WB9SGD
Field Day	Dale ,	NJ9E
Field Day	Peter ,	N9HDW
Hamfest	John ,	WT9Y
Refreshments	Bruce ,	K9OZ
Membership	Mary ,	K9GAL
Membership Retention	Robert ,	N9XS
Public Service	Joe ,	N9WRO
VHF/HF Awards	John ,	N9MWF

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack ,	KA9HEL
Volunteer Exam.	Harry ,	K9HK

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Chairman	Don ,	N9NYX
Secretary	Doug ,	W9NJM
Member	George ,	KA3HSW
Member	Larry ,	KA9KDC

WCRA Radio Nets

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

WCRA Repeaters

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

HAMLETTER

Editor	Don ,	N9NYX
Photos	Larry ,	KA9KDC
Features	Peter ,	W9UF
Features	Jim ,	W9DHX

HAMLETTER eMail: hamletter@w9ccu.org

This publication uses QuarkXPress 6.5 and Photoshop 7.01



From the President's Gavel

by Peter, N9HDW WCRA President

Hamfest has just passed and it was a good one. Thanks to John WT9Y and the Hamfest committee, and all the members who sold tickets, worked the weekend, or otherwise helped make the event go so well! Initial reports indicate sufficient income to run the club for the coming year as budgeted.

As we look forward into this new year which is 1/12th gone already, it's not too early to make plans for some of the ham activities coming soon. As are several other members of the club, I am planning to attend the Dayton Hamvention in May in Ohio. If you've never gone to this, it's worth considering attending the nation's largest amateur radio hamfest/convention. I especially like the forums, training sessions, and the immense offering of ham gear for sale. It's also a great place to spawn ideas and seefriends from around the world.

Another important event is Field Day which will be in June. It's billed as an emergency preparedness event, but has so much more to offer. For those who like to contest, or just sample a bit of contesting, there's the excitement of making as many QSOs in 24 hours. It's also a great way to hang out with ham friends and sample different operating modes and see innovation put to practice with unusual antennae, spartan to elaborate setups, and accommodations from tents to RVs. I will be stepping down as Field Day Co-Chair so if you're inclined to join the Field Day Committee and work with a seasoned veteran, let Dale NJ9E know of your interest. I plan to be at Field Day but just not leading it. This is an excellent opportunity to bring the family or

neighbor out to see our hobby inaction.

With last year's hurricanes and other calls for emergency ham operators, it's worthwhile to review your personal interest and readiness for serving in this manner. A great way to get some practice is to participate in radio public service operation such as the several parades the club helps with during the year such as the Wheaton Fourth of July parade and the Glendale Heights parade. There are other public service events. Let Joe N9WRO

(Continued on page 7)

WCRA Meeting Minutes from January 6



WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Mary James
K9GAL
WCRA
Secretary

President **Peter N9DHW** called the meeting to order at 1930. As the board and members introduced themselves, they answered these questions posed by Peter: Did you have any New Year's Resolutions related to Ham Radio? If so, have you already broken them? **Steve N9OA** made a motion that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted, **Gordon AH6DA** seconded the motion, and it passed.

Under President's Announcements, Peter said the next WCRA Board meeting will take place at 6:15 p.m. before the regular meeting on Feb. 3. He reminded members about the upcoming Hamfest, which would be the program following the meeting, and said the Vehicle Definition Task Force will pres-

ent a report later in the business meeting. He reminded members that club dues should be paid by the April meeting to be eligible to vote in the elections that same night.

Vice President **Bruce K9OZ** welcomed members to the new meeting location—First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton—and said there are bigger rooms available if we need them in the future. The February meeting will feature **John N9JZX**, a local Ham who spent two weeks volunteering in relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina. Bruce said the March meeting will be presented by **Bob W3MDM**, who will discuss the design and construction of antenna tuners. Bruce reported he is looking for programs for the rest of the year, and hopes to cover topics such as batteries and IRLP.

Treasurer **Ken N9HQ** gave a report. In Health & Welfare, Peter expressed the club's sympathies to the mother of **Dale NJ9E** and mother-in-law of **Ruth KA9RZG**, who passed away on Christmas. Dale thanked the club for sending a bouquet.

In Hamfest news, Bruce said he had tickets that would be for sale during the break. Speaking for the RAB, **Don N9NYX** said the board has put together a letter regarding the reinstallation of the club's antenna to send to the radio manager at College of DuPage. He reported the 220 machine is working, and that Larry KA9KDC received lightening protection equipment for the 2-meter repeater. In Hamletter news, Don asked members to give him their e-mail addresses if they weren't receiving the newsletter. There was no paper mailing of the newsletter in January, but several members have volunteered to take over the project.

Tom N9WBW reported on the Web Team's progress, and made a motion that all reports be accepted. Steve seconded, and the motion passed.

In New Business, **John N9MWF** reported on the Vehicle Definition Task Force. The first question is whether the club needs a vehicle/trailer. He urged members giving feedback to consider the club's vision of being involved with Emergency Preparedness. John took questions, and asked members to give input to him, Steve, **Kurt KB9RTO**, Dale or **Peter KB9KZO** by the next meeting.

In other New Business, Peter announced Steve N9OA will lead the nominating committee for 2006 elections to be held in April. Steve said nominations will be made for President, Secretary and Property Custodian. With only two meetings before the election, members were encouraged to join the committee and make recommendations.

Jim W9DHX and Peter KB9KZO presented Anchors. Steve made a motion the meeting be adjourned, N9WBW seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2020.

**Vendors and Organizations Donating Prizes
to the
WCRA 2006 Mid-Winter Hamfest**

Amateur Radio Toy Store
Wheaton, IL www.amateur-radio-toy-store.com

Audiotronics
Decatur, IL

Amateur Accessories
Champaign, IL

CoaxAdapters.net (provider of every known RF adapter plus more)
Evans, GA www.coxadapters.net

DC ACE Electronics
Lincolnshire, IL www.dcace.com

Tower Electronics
Greenbay, WI www.pl-259.com

American Radio Relay League (ARRL)
Newington, CT www.arrl.org

Peoria Superfest 2006 – September
Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club (PAARC) www.peoriasuperfest.com

Radio Expo 2006 - August 26-27
Chicago FM Club (CFMC) www.chicagofmclub.org

Girl Scouts of America
Wheaton, IL

The Software Store

A1 Chargers

Surplus Trading

Schaumburg CarQuest

Styling Concepts - Schaumburg

Chicago Parrot Head Club

2006 Hamfest Calendar

(information from flyers distributed at the WCRA Hamfest on January 22, 2006)

(Disclaimer: Event information is believed to be correct, but please confirm details with the sponsors prior to attending.)

May 7, 2006 – Dekalb Hamfest

Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Hours: 8 am to 1 pm (setup at 6 am)

Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL

Tickets: \$5/\$6 URL: www.kish-club.org

June 3 & 4, 2006 – Princeton Hamfest

Starved Rock Radio Club

Hours: Gates open 6 am, buildings open 8 am (both days)

Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL

Tickets: \$5/\$7 URL: www.QSL.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm

July 8, 2006 – South Milwaukee Swapfest '06

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Hours: open 6:00 am

American Legion Post 434, Oak Creek, WI

Tickets: \$5

July 9, 2006 – Aurora Hamfest

Fox River Radio League (FRRL)

Hours: open 8 am (setup 6-8 am)

Aurora Central Catholic High School, Aurora, IL

Tickets: \$5/\$7 URL: www.frrl.org

August 6, 2006 – BARS Hamfest 2006

Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society (BARS)

Hours: open 8 am (setup 6-8 am)

Bolingbrook High School, Bolingbrook, IL

Tickets: \$5/\$6 URL: www.k9bar.org

August 12, 2006 – Circus City Swapfest

Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Hours: 7 am – 12 noon

Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, WI

Tickets: \$4/\$5 URL: www.yellowthunder.org

August 26 & 27, 2006 – Radio Expo 2006 (notice new dates!)

Chicago FM Club

Hours: open 8 am both days

Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL

Tickets: \$8/\$10 (good for both days) URL: www.chicagofmclub.org

September 16 & 17 - Peoria Superfest 2006

Hours: open 6 am, commercial open at 8 am both days

Exposition Gardens, Peoria, IL

Tickets: \$6 advance (good for both days) URL: www.peoriasuperfest.com



**PRIZE
WINNERS**

Here are the WCRA Hamfest
2006 Main Door Prize Winners:

Main Door Prize - \$500
Harry Taylor, KC9INV
Palatine, IL

Second Main Door Prize - \$100
Lisa Pincus (xyl of Gene, N9NOS)
Buffalo Grove, IL

FEBRUARY'S QST -HAM RADIO IN PRINT

By Jim Ward, W9DHX

HONORING HURRICANE KATRINA'S VOLUNTEERS

Proud of our hobby? You bet! This issue includes "first person" stories by some of our ham associates who gave a tremendous amount of time and effort to helping out during the tragedy. The article appears on pages 50 to 53, and is followed by a two page listing of the calls of Ham Radio volunteers who assisted with Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. There are a surprising number of "9" calls among those listed.

"POLAR BEAR PORTABLE" - HUDSON BAY IN STYLE

Page 46 begins a hard-to-believe story about an hf adventure conducted in the "comfort" of a winter-proofed portable building. The location—the ice of Hudson Bay. The name of the "resort" is Tundra Buggy Lodge. David Rosenthal, N6TST, reserved a space there, and reports on his unique experience, with Polar Bears roaming outside his window during his DX contacts. Although the resort is normally marketed to "polar bear watchers". David was fascinated by propagation opportunities and Auroral Zone effects. So he got his fill of bear-watching and seeing the tundra buggies in action.

"UP-FRONT" HIGHLIGHTS UNUSUAL HAMS IN ACTION

The photo feature section has some great human interest stories this month, beginning on page 20. The Traverse City Ham Radio Club is building a real Ham Shack for the local Boy Scout Camp—and raising the money to pay for it. Also, there's a photo of a 13-year-old Texas Ham (KE5BEC) who was honored for his efforts as a Katrina Volunteer. On the lighter side, AF8X sent in pictures of his yellow Mini-Cooper's dashboard rig mount. It is secured in his car's cup holder device. Look Ma, no holes drilled in my pretty little car!

HOW TO EXCITE KIDS ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO? OUTER SPACE QSOS, OF COURSE!

Give a kid a chance to talk to an Astronaut hurtling through outer space, and you might get his or her attention. Our nearby Mt. Prospect Fairview Elementary School was lucky to have Charlie Sufana, an ARISS School Mentor, in charge of the activity. He is AJ9N, and weaves an interesting tale on pages 56 and 57 about the classroom project.

TRY OUT THIS MONTH'S "HINTS AND KINKS" DEPARTMENT

Had problems preparing Coax? Try using a small "Tubing Cutter" with the brand name "Little Inch". Or try unclogging drains with an 18 to 24 inch length of RG-59 cable - without the connectors, of course. The third idea is a description of how to build a "stealth" antenna base out of a plastic bucket, a sack of concrete mix, and a four and half foot mast.

The author includes illustrations, and a handy list of parts and stock numbers to use on your visit to the Home Depot nearest you. Everyone needs a good base for an antenna—good building!

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

know if you're interested. Our February meeting program speaker will be a ham who served in the South following the Katrina Hurricane in 2005. Come and hear his testimony.

It's important to note that our public service events as well as our Sunday evening nets give a chance to practice radio net procedures. But there is so much more to do to get ready for emergency service. Consider taking the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) training courses (3) to really ramp up your skills. Ask Joe, or John N9MWF, or Mark W9UZ for more information. These (and other) club members are actively involved in this aspect of our hobby and would welcome your interest.

Since we sold the club truck last fall, we have formed a Vehicle Definition Task Force lead by Kurt KB9RTO and Peter KB9KZO. The Task Force's charter is to determine whether the club needs a replacement vehicle or not, and to define what that would be (if one is needed). The VDTF gave an initial report at the January club meeting, and is looking for input from club members. If you have an opinion as to whether the club needs a vehicle, get your remarks to Kurt or Peter. When the VDTF is ready to give its recommendation, we'll vote on that as a club so that we move forward in accordance with the right direction. This is not the time to be silent on this subject. Share your view respectfully so it's heard and included. The approach we're using regarding a vehicle is to ask first, "Do we need a vehicle, and why?" The next step, if needed, would be to form a task force to acquire a vehicle matching the VDTF's description. But we would do that if and only if the club has approved getting another vehicle. This is definitely not a resolved point at this time.

As we move forward into 2006, a new year, let's further our enjoyment of our hobby by inviting a friend to share in it. Consider offering a ride to our club meeting in February as an excellent way to do share the hobby with a friend.

Just a friendly reminder, 2006 membership dues are due now. Some members have the impression that our dues expire in March each year. This is incorrect. Our dues cover the calendar year from January 1 to December 31. As a courtesy, the club provides a grace period to allow members to pay the new year's dues up to the April club meeting. But that is really not helping the club stay fiscally responsible. So use the grace period only if you really need it.

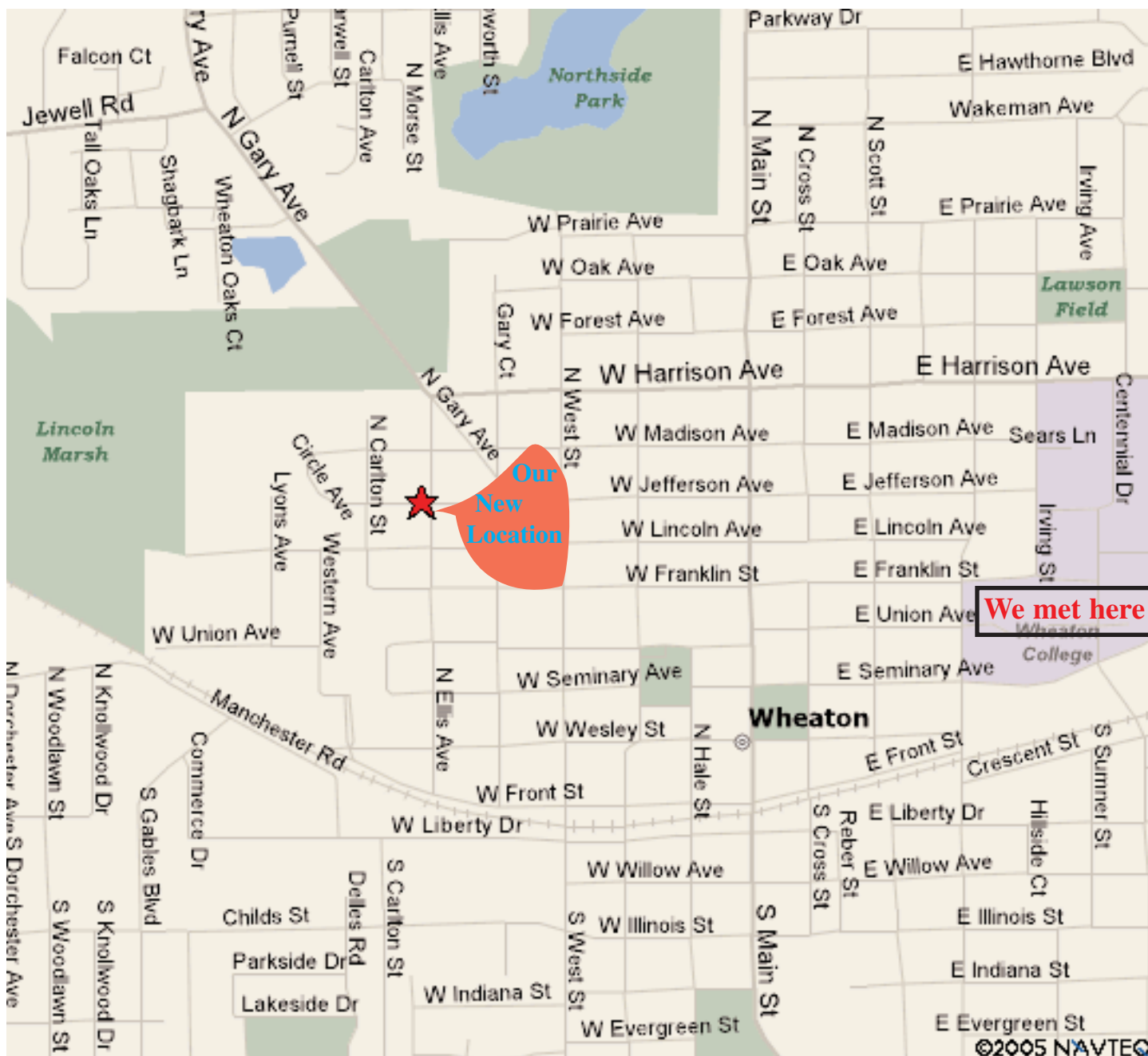
Speaking of April, we'll have officer elections at the April Club meeting. We have three positions up for election this year: President, Secretary, and Custodian. If you are interested in running, you can self nominate by placing your name in the running at the March or April meeting. If you know before hand that you wish to run, please let the Nominating Committee chaired by Steve N9OA know as a courtesy. Also, if you have a suggestion for someone to nominate, get that name to Steve. If you're not sure what a particular position entails, ask Steve, or any of the current officers, who will gladly discuss this with you. Mary K9GAL is our current secretary, and Kurt KB9RTO is our current Custodian. Each of the positions will be for two-year terms of office running from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2008. Thanks for considering this.

Thanks for an excellent 2005 for the club. Let's continue to build the enthusiasm.

73 de n9hdw,

Peace,
Peter

The map below from MAPQUEST shows both our old meeting location at Wheaton College Billy Graham Center and the new Location at First



Presbyterian Church 615 W. Jefferson Ave., Wheaton, Illinois. You can see that we have only moved from close-in Northeast Wheaton to close-in Northwest Wheaton. Talk-in will be available on the 2 Meter repeater at 145.39.



Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

The ARRL Logbook of the world (LoTW) web site now supports the Worked All States (WAS) award. The DXCC award has been supported for a year, but WAS has been "a work in progress, until now. You may now apply for a "WAS account" and have your existing QSOs credited to that account based on rules you specify. You cannot yet apply for the WAS certificate or award credit on the LoTW site but can see what QSOs you have that qualify for it. David Black, W0SI, notes the ARRL has not yet announced this change on the main League web page, though this feature is definitely now available Under the

Awards menu, you can add one or more WAS account to select credits for the WAS award. While applications for WAS via LoTW are not presently being accepted, this feature is expected to be available no later than the end of February.

Operators Bob, N4BP (C6AKQ), Kevin, K4PG (C6APG), Bruce, W4OV (C6AOV) and Pete, N8PR (C6AHR) will each operate from the Bahamas in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as Single-Band entries on 160, 80, 40, and 15 meters. The group will be there on Monday, February 13th, and probably will be on the air by Tuesday. They will try to operate extensively on the WARC bands before the contest. Plans are to leave on February 20th. QSL to their home call signs via (QRZ.com).

Karl, OE3JAG, will be active from Madeira (AF-014) as CT3/OE3JAG between May 15-22nd. His activity will be QRP with dipole or a long wire mainly on CW, PSK and RTTY on 20 and 30 meters. QSL via his home call sign. Visit his Web page at: <http://www.oe3jag.com>

Marti, OH2BH and Pertti, OH2PM will be cruising in the Caribbean with their ladies to activate Belize in both ARRL International DX Contests as V31BH and V31PP, respectively, as a Multi-Operator/All-Bands entry (CW: February 18-19th and SSB: March 4-5th). On the way to the Caribbean, Martti will stop over in the Azores to activate CU2A in the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest (January 28-29th). QSLs to their respective home call signs.

Jacques, F6HMJ, will be in Guadeloupe from February 3rd to March 7th. He will use the call sign TO2FG from February 17th to March 3rd. Look for him to use the TO2ANT call sign during the 3rd Antarctic Activity Week (AAW - February 20-26th). During his stay he will try to be active from La Desirade Island. Activity will be on 80-10 meters on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via F6HMJ.

If you need Liechtenstein on topband, look for the following operators to be active between January 25th and February 2nd: Danny, N4EXA (HBØ/T93M), Boris (HBØ/T93Y), Mario, DJ2MX (HBØ/T94DX), Braco, OE1EMS (HBØ/T94JJ) and Ivek (HBØ/T96Q). The group will be active during the CQ WW DX 160m CW Contest (January 28-29th) using the call sign HBØ/T94DX. After the contest they will operate with 3 stations on all HF bands but will focus on 160 and 80 meters.

Luis, EA7OC, will be active from Ecuador between February 10-27th. He has all the correct papers but doesn't know what his call sign will be until he arrives in Guayaquil. It will probably be HC2/EA7OC. His activity will be mainly from Guayaquil, but he hopes to be active from other cities in the Guayas Province. QSL via EA7OC, directly or via the EA Bureau.

Look for the following two French stations to be active during the 3rd Antarctic Activity Week (AAW) taking place February 20-26th. The callsigns each end with the suffix TAF, for "Terres Australes Francaises" (French Australes Territories):

WAP-042 - TM8TAF will be a joint effort by the Clipperton DX Club and the Bordeaux DX Group, February 13-23rd. Activity will be on CW, SSB, FM and the Digital modes on HF and VHF. QSL via Laurent, F8BBL; the bureau is preferred.

WAP-043 - Look for TMØTAF to be activated by the members of the Provins ARS (F6KOP), from February 11-25th. Activity will be on all modes, HF and VHF. QSL via Thierry, F4TTR.

You can get more information on the Worked Antarctic Program by going to setting your browser to <http://www.ddxc.net/wap/default.php>. Here you'll find information on current and past stations active from bottom of the world, as well as award programs.

Enno, 9V1CW (PF5X), has announced that the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (SARTS) has been issued the special callsign S65X for use in contests. This was established with cooperation of Singapore's IDA communication authority. Look for this special callsign to be first aired during the PACC Contest, February 11-12th. If time permits, they will try to make some QSOs with stations outside the PACC Contest during that weekend. Later in the year, they will try and air this call in some international contests as well. QSL Manager is PAØKHS: Henk van Hensbergen, Smaragdstraat 53, 6534 WN Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Sigi, DL7DF recently announced his intentions to lead a DXpedition this Spring to the Andaman Islands. This will be the first operation since the deadly tsunami hit that island. The team plans to head there early before the NIAR Hamfest (April 15th) to set up three transceivers, with two linears, using a Titanex V80DX low band vertical, a five band Hexbeam, a Cushcraft R7 and verticals for 30/40 meters. It is suggested to watch Sigi's Web page for updates at: www.dl7df.com

Bob, W7YAQ and Bill, N7OU will be heading to the South Pacific in February and will activate three islands. Their main interest is CW, but they plan to do some RTTY and SSB too. Activity will be on 80-10 meters. Here is the schedule Bill provided:

February 16-24th - Rarotonga, South Cooks. W7YAQ will be ZK1YAQ and N7OU will be ZK1NOU. They will also be operating Multi/Single in the ARRL DX CW Contest as ZK1NOU.

February 26-28th & March 11-13th - Nadi, Fiji. W7YAQ will be 3D2NB and N7OU will be 3D2OU.

March 1-10th - Rotuma. W7YAQ will be 3D2RX and N7OU will be 3D2RO. They will also operate as Multi/Single in the ARRL DX SSB Contest as 3D2RX.

QSL all callsigns via their home callsigns, direct or by the bureau. Bureau QSLs can be obtained by E-mailing your info via: W7YAQ@arrl.net -or- N7OU@arrl.net

Members of the Central German Contest Group are now in the Pacific until March 3rd, with plans to activate several different islands Operators mentioned are Wulf, DL1AWI, Mat, DL5XU and Erik, DL9AWI. Their planned scheduled is: February 1-14th - From Raivavae (OC-114) in the Austral Islands. After February 14th, they will travel to the Auckland, New Zealand and spend the rest of the time there. Callsigns for the Australs were not announced, but they will use ZL/homecall/m from New Zealand. They will try to run two stations using a FT-847, FT-890 or IC-706 MKII, with 800 watt amplifiers. Activity will have an emphasis on the lower bands, especially 160m. Their Web site will be updated frequently at: <http://www.radioklub.de/cgcg>. QSL cards for these activities all go via DL3APO.

IOTA

Brooke, N2BA will be active as KP3/N2BA from Puerto Rico in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via WA3RHW. Look for his XYL Eve, N2GSG, before and after the contest.

Jim, N1NK, Craig, K3PLV, Pete, K8PT and Tom, W8JWN will be active from the Isle of Jersey signing MJ/homecall from March 15-18th. Bands and modes of activity were not provided. QSL via their home call-signs.

Operators OH2NAK, OH3BHL, OH6GAZ, OH6HJE, OH6HZH, OH6KTS, OH6OKSA, OH9MDV and OH9MM will be active from Aland Island as OHØZ in the CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest (February 11-12th) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via WØMM. Depending on the conditions, they may try Multi/Multi.

Paolo, I2UIY, will be active as P4ØG on Aruba during the CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest (February 11-12th) and the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th). QSL via I2EOW.

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

DXCC NEWS

The following operations have been approved for DXCC credit

D2DX - Angola, current operation as of December 15th, 2004

KH9/WØCN - Wake Island, September 17-28th, 2005

SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb 1-Feb 5, 1600z-1900z, Washington, PA. Washington Amateur Communications, W3C. Washington County Annual Sports Show. 14.270 7.270. QSL. Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI, 60 Carl Ave B-2, Eighty Four, PA 15330. <http://wacomarc.org>.

Feb 3-Feb 5, 1500z- 0400z, Lubbock, TX. Buddy Holly Memorial, W5B. 47th anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 18.150 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. W5B QSL, c/o Bryan Edwards, 3801 68th St, Lubbock, TX 79413. www.amcrc.com/w5b.

Feb 3-Feb 5, 1800z-0400z New York, NY. Buddy Holly Memorial, W2B. 47th anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 21.365 18.155 14.265 7.265. QSL. W2B Buddy Holly QSL, c/o Mike Gruber, 125 Kibbe Grove Rd, Somers, CT 06071-1111. www.amcrc.com/w2b.

Feb 4, 1400z - 2300z , Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery Special Event Station. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. QSL. Nacogdoches ARC, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. www.w5nac.com.

Feb 4-Feb 5, 1600z – 0400z, Menlo Park, CA. Foothills Amateur Radio Society, N6T. First year at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Amateur Radio-Technology Day. 14.240 14.044 10.144 7.240 7.044 3.888. QSL.

David A. Cooper, 270 Redwood Shores Pky, PMB #41, Redwood City, CA 94065-1173. www.fars.k6ya.org/.

Feb 11, 1400Z - 2200Z, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club, WØEBB. 2nd Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter operating event from Weston Bend State Park. 14.330 14.060 7.290 7.040. QSL. Gary Auchard, WB0MNA, 34058 167th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048. <http://kqarc.no-ip.org/>.

Feb 11, 1600Z-2300Z, Colorado Springs, CO. Mountain Amateur Radio Club/US Olympic Committee, KØO. Opening of 2006 Winter Olympic Games. 21.370 14.280 7.235. Certificate. Wm A. Sands, Ph.D., US Olympic Committee-Sport Science, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Feb 11-Feb 12, 0000Z - 0000Z, Ljungby, Sweden. Swedish Heathkit Club, SK7XN. Encouraging the use of old Heathkit radios/birthday of Heath Co founder Howard Anthony (February 9, 1912). 10 15 20 m; 3.800. Certificate. Paul Reissmann, WD8MWT, 43775-66th St, Bangor, MI 49013. <http://www.heathkit.se/>.

Feb 11-Feb 12, 1500Z -2100Z daily, Plymouth, MI. Plymouth Historical Museum Radio Station, KC8SWR. Lincoln exhibit at the museum for Lincoln's Birthday. 14.285 7.285; PSK 28.120 21.070. Certificate. KC8SWR Lincoln Event, 155 S Main St, Plymouth, MI 48170. www.qsl.net/kc8swr.

Feb 13-Feb 17, 1500Z - 2100Z, Fort Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc, W4LX. The Edison Festival of Light and Thomas Edison's Birthday. 28.430 21.330 14.250. Certificate. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 61183, Ft Myers, FL 33906. www.fmarc.net/.

Feb 18-Feb 19, 1600Z - 2100Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday. 18.080 14.240 10.110 7.240. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com.

Feb 24-Feb 26, 1700Z - 0100Z, Columbus, OH. The Ohio State University Amateur Radio Club, W8LT. 80th anniversary of the Ohio State Ham Radio Club. 14.275 7.275 3.872. QSL. The Ohio State University Amateur Radio Club W8LT, 020 Bevis Hall, 1080 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH 43210. <http://arc.org.ohio-state.edu>.

Feb 25, 1400Z - 2400Z, Mesa, AZ. Superstition Amateur Radio Club, W7W. Lost Dutchman Days Celebration. 28.263 21.363 14.263. QSL. SARC--W7W, PO Box 21522, Mesa, AZ 85227-1522. www.wb7tjd.org.

Feb 25, 1400Z - 2300Z, Rapid City, SD. Dakota Chapter 102 QCWA, WØDAK. Commemorating the 29th as a QCWA Chapter. 28.450 14.250 7.250 3.889. Certificate. Frank Shaw, NU0F, 118 E Van Buren, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Feb 28, 1500Z - 2230Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club, W5KID. 63rd anniversary of the launching of USS Kidd, DD-661. CW 28.060 21.060 14.060 10.106 7.040; SSB 14.250 to 24.320. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS Kidd Museum, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS_Kidd.htm.

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 1/2 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.

CONTESTS

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
1800Z 1759Z	Feb 4 Feb 5	Mexico Int'l RTTY Contest	80-10	RTTY
0001Z 2359Z	Feb 4 Feb 5	10-10 Winter QSO Party	10	SSB
0000Z 0400Z	Feb 5 Feb 5	North American Sprint	80/40/20	SSB
2000Z 2359Z	Feb 6 Feb 6	Winter Fireside SSB Sprint http://2hams.net/ARCI/	80-10	SSB
0000Z 2359Z	Feb 11 Feb 12	CQ World-Wide RTTY http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html	80-10	SSB
1100Z 1300Z	Feb 11 Feb 11	Asian/Pacific Spring Sprint	40 & 20	CW
1700Z 2100Z	Feb 11 Feb 11	FISTS Winter Sprint	80 – 10	CW
0000Z 0400Z	Feb 12 Feb 12	North American Sprint	80/40/20	CW
1400Z 0800Z	Feb 12 Feb 13	Classic Exchange http://qsl.asti.com/CX/	160 – 10	CW/AM/SSB
0130Z 0330Z	Feb 15 Feb 15	NAQCC Exchange www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/sprintrules.html	80	CW
0000Z 2359Z	Feb 18 Feb 19	ARRL Int'l DX Contest www.arrl.org/contests/	160 – 10	CW
2100Z 2300Z	Feb 19 Feb 19	Run for the Bacon	80 – 10	CW
2100Z	Feb 24	Russian PSK		

2100z	Feb 25	World Wide www.qrz.ru/contest/	80 – 10	PSK31
0000z	Feb 25	CQ World Wide		
2359z	Feb 26	160M Contest http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html	160	SSB
1800z	Feb 25	North American		
0600z	Feb 26	QSO Party www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php	160 – 10	RTTY

DX STRAYS

There was a good article in the Orlando Sentinel about the Peter I DXpedition, 3Y0X. Please visit the following link at: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/entertainment/orl-antarctic06jan04,0,2212372.story>

Please also visit the DXpedition's website at www.peterone.com

Tomas, ZP5AZL, will be active as ZP0R in Paraguay during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 4-5th). Operation class is unknown. QSL via W3HMK.

Alan, G3XAQ, will be active as 9G5XA from Accra, Ghana through February 6th. Activity will be on CW mode only. He's using 100 watts and a doublet antenna. QSL via G3SWH.

Bill, W8QZA, will be operating from KH6SQ's QTH in Hawaii for the ARRL DX CW Contest (18-19th) as AH7ZA. He will be operating QRP on all bands. QSL via W8QZA. This is the first time that AH7ZA has been used in a contest, so it will not be in any QSL master file.

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

OUR MEMBERS THAT CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

BRUCE	K9OZ
JOHN	K9FID
BILL	W9GMO
RICHARD	K9MGX

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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It's time to renew

Dear WCRA member:

We want to make it as easy as possible to renew, so simply fill out this letter and return it with your check to: **WCRA, P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189**. Or bring this form and your check to January or February meeting.

Renewal deadline is prior to the annual election, which will take place at the April 7, 2006 meeting.

WCRA Renewal

Name: _____

Call on roster _____ ARRL member? Yes ___ No ___

Dues:

Full Member	\$26
Student/Senior Citizen	\$13
Associate	\$13
Family	\$39

Please enter **only** information that has **changed**

New Call: _____ License Class: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone: _____

New e-mail: _____

Exclude from Roster: Phone ___ e-mail ___

Please initial: _____ Today's date: _____

Coming meetings

February

On February 3 we will have a fascinating program on operating from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Our presenter will be John, N9JZX from Downers Grove. John is active in emergency operations and spent two weeks on the Gulf Coast in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. He will offer a first hand look at what works, and what does not work, in real emergency communications. The meeting will be held in the second floor Fellowship Hall, in the same room where we had the Christmas Party. See you there.

March

In March we'll have an informative program on IRLP, presented by Dick Illman, AH6EZ, the president of the Fox River Radio League. Dick was an early adopter of IRLP and will talk about how it works, and how it's worked for the FRRL. The meeting will be held Friday, March 3 at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton.

April

On Friday, April 7, Bob, W3MDM, will give us a presentation on the theory and usage of antenna tuners. We'll have some tuners set up in our second room, and give people a chance to experiment and play with tuners.

The annual club election will also be held in April. Be sure to attend to vote.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd: Club Brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursdays 10:30 AM Carol's Garden, Carol Stream.
- 3rd: Monthly membership meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, 615 W. Jefferson Ave. at 7:30pm. See map elsewhere in this issue for directions. Talk-in on .39 will give everyone directions to the church and also where our meeting room is inside the church. The February meeting will feature **John N9JZX**, a local Ham who spent two weeks volunteering in relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina..
- 7th: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn.
- 20th: **DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS** for February. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. **Please be prompt.**
- 23rd: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

Next WCRA General Membership Meeting -February 3rd, 2006, First Presbyterian Church
615 W. Jefferson Ave., Wheaton, Illinois 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

Club and HamLetter Mailing Address:

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

P.O. Box QSL

Wheaton, Illinois 60189

eMail: donlin@xnet.com

First Class Mail

