



# HAMLETTER



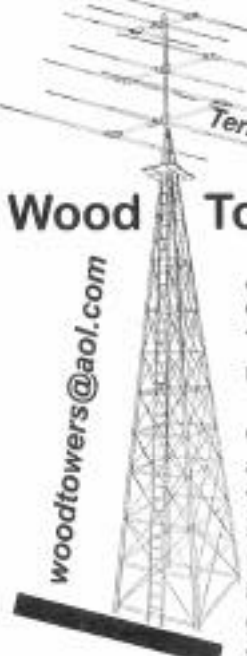
Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 466

Founded 1948

April 2002



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## REMEMBER

April 1st is the renewal deadline. Those of you who have not renewed your dues for 2002 should plan on doing so by the next WCRA meeting on April 5th.

## VOTE...VOTE...VOTE..

Elections will be held for the coming two year term at the April 5th meeting. Those nominated so far as follows:

President: Bob, KE9A

Secretary: Robert, N9EF

Custodian: Roberto, WA9E

Steve, N9OA

## In This Issue:

\* Shack of the Month

New Items-

\* Libby, the Antenna Vault Keeper

\* New Advertisers

As many of you are aware since our tower took a tumble in late December, the expenses we are facing as a club to put new antennas back up on the new WDCB tower will be substantial. We are attempting to help cover these anticipated costs by offering paid advertising to ham related companies. Please help the companies by giving them your business whenever possible. Thank you. Editor

## WCRA Staff

### Elected Officers

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

### Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630:289-2535
Christmas Party	Dale Kwarta	NJ9E	858-8541
Club Awards	John Truitt	W9LQL	630:682-0304
Club Truck	Steve Peterson	N9OA	739-2930
Elmer/Know-Code			
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	871-1786
Field Day	Frank Krozal	KG9H	653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwarta	NJ9E	858-8541
Hamfest	John Cheney	N9MWF	848-2885
Chaplin	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	483-2044
Historian			
Interference			
Refreshments	Chris Cieslak	KC9L	708:343-5507
Refreshments	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:739-2930
Membership	Kim Wiese	N9XE	630:545-9950
Membership	Robert Mitilieri	N9EF	630:510-9783
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	372-7036
Public Relations	Eileen Terry-Block	N9TWS	393-0742
Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	Peter Barr	W9UF	971-8581

### Amateur License Staff

Training Classes	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	515-0377
Novice Instructor	Rich Weimer	AA9KZ	279-5289
Nov/Tech Instructor	Robert Mitilieri	N2EF	510-9783
General Instructor	John Broughton	WB9VGJ	690-1473
General Instructor	Pat Byrne	K9JAU	858-1959
Extra Instructor	Sang M. Lee	N9ZGS	260-0736
Volunteer Exam.	Harry Kamer	K9HK	953-0519

### WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Trustee/Tech Adv	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	289-2535
Chairman	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	665-7757
Secretary	Doug Totel	W9NJM	630:469-3001
Member	Gary Henle	N9VLL	736-9102
Member	George Henry	KA3HSW	830-6659
Tech Advisor	Larry Schroeder	KA9KDC	665-3228

### WCRA Radio Nets

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

### WCRA Repeaters

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

### HAMLETTER

Editor	Don Motz, Jr.	N9NYX	630:665-7757
Photos	Ron Hensel	K9ZE	630:365-0213
Features	John Lauder	N9LIN	630:968-4101
Features	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581

HAMLETTER	24 HOUR FAX	630:665-7757
HAMLETTER	eMail address: donlin@xnet.com	

# Bits & Pieces

## Vanity may be back on track

After another brief dry spell, the FCC this week issued 37 new vanity call sign grants but put off further vanity processing until early next week. The latest processing run included vanity applications received by the FCC through last December 14.

For now, FCC personnel are cautiously optimistic about restarting routine processing. "If everything ran properly last night, I expect we will run another batch on Monday night," a Private Wireless Division Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch staff member told ARRL. "From there, we'll just have to see how the system holds up. If it continues to work properly, we will process daily." After initially restarting routine processing March 6 and issuing some 600 vanity grants, the FCC put the system on hold again after the March 8 run. Other Amateur Service applications have continued to be processed normally.

FCC Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, staffers have spent this week sorting out the vanity application processing anomaly that led them to again put vanity processing on hold. A staff member explained March 14 that the Licensing Branch experienced a problem that involved the improper dismissal of a vanity application--apparently a processing software glitch. A decision was made to halt vanity processing and fix the problem now rather than risk having to call back grants later, she explained.

A substantial backlog of vanity applications that were delayed as a result of anthrax-related mail problems last October remains to be processed. The FCC database indicates some 1700 pending applications--most of them vanities--some 500 of which still are within the FCC's typical 18-day vanity processing window.

Amateurs with pending applications may take advantage of the FCC Call Center's toll free number, 888-CALL FCC (888-225-5322) or may initiate an application search via the ULS, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>.

# The Screw ---

In today's world the rapid advancements of technologies seem to be occurring in leaps , bounds and giant steps. The news seems to be taking place in every aspect of our lives: medicine, labor, computers, farming, etc.. So it was no big surprise to hear of some significant developments taking place in Amateur Radio and I'm not referring to the license restructuring.

Not very long ago when Yaesu introduced the FT-100D, a really fine transceiver, the real news was the Yaesu ATAS-100 HF/6M/2M/440MHz motorized antenna. This is an adjustable screw type mobile antenna to be used with the FT-100D. The radio/antenna circuitry provides an automatic antenna band/frequency match. Many transceivers require a series of antennas or a manually adjusted antenna for mobile useage. The ATAS-100 was designed for the FT-100D transceiver. Needless to say many hams would like a similar type antenna for other transceivers.

While I was in college many years ago there was this unusually bright fellow who was an experimenter of the first class. Recently I heard this ingenious person has designed a screw antenna, similar to the Yaesu ATAS-100, for use with other radios. He has also designed a variety of mounts for this antenna. To date the mounting or installation of the ATAS-100 has presented a challenge to many amateurs. This newly developed antenna as well as the mounts is to be available in several colors as well as basic black, which will come in two types, glow in the dark and non-glow.

To control the antenna setting one must use the radio keypad or the microphone keypad. The adjustment or setting is really pretty simple. Two pushes on the #2 and #5 (=7) keys together followed by the band/frequency keyed in using the keypad and completed with two pushes on the #5 and #6 (=11) keys together. Even though the numbers equal 7 and 11 you have to use the two buttons together. Now the bad news. A small circuit board is required to be installed in the radio. All the necessary instructions are provided, in English. If you are using a HT, where internal space is limited, additional leads and a case, with adhesives will be available. Included in this case is a LCD display to indicate the current or last band/frequency setting.

The antenna prototype, which goes by the name of "Screw", has some problems. Very cold weather



## KNOW-CODE CLASS

The Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs offers semi-annual FREE 5wpm Morse code classes.

You must sign up ahead of time. We need time to assemble materials.

DATES AND TIME: Each Thursday, March 21 through May 16, 2002, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Wheaton Police Department, 900 W. Liberty.

For information or to sign up contact:

George W9GWR 630 871-1786 w9gwr@arrl.net

Charlie WB9SGD 630 665-4506 wb9sgd@earthlink.net



At the local WCRA Hamfest recently, I was speaking with a bunch of Ham friends, and as usually happens with ham-conversations when I'm involved, the conversation turned to antennas. Sort of a long story from here, but pretty much the bottom line, is that it was hinted I should possibly spend some of my spare time contributing to the WCRA Hamletter - - - and here I am.

I suppose my first offering to the Hamletter should include at least a brief explanation of what I'm doing here.

To the point, I'm here mainly to answer your antenna questions, offer solutions to antenna and antenna-related problems, and to bring you a monthly (maybe) column covering some (hopefully interesting) aspects of amateur-radio antennas.

My electrical/mechanical engineering background along with having spent many years designing, building, and erecting amateur radio antennas, will hopefully bring some useful information to these pages.

For now at least, I would like to leave the format of this column as open and unstructured as possible. Let's do that until we at least find out if this column is going anywhere at all, and what direction(s) it might be taking.

So let's get started. . . . .

Are you in need of answers to antenna questions or, could you use some advice on antenna problems? The easiest and most direct route to take in getting answers is to simply drop me a note at: [antennavault@hotmail.com](mailto:antennavault@hotmail.com)

I'll do my best to answer your questions as quickly and as completely as possible; and then we will more than likely see some of those questions and answers in this column.

I'll not attempt to put together an antenna article at this point, but will wait to hear of a little Feedback on what topics you might like to have covered in future articles. Would you like to have antenna basics covered (?) - - - maybe actual construction techniques of HF/VHF/UHF wire antennas(?) - - - trouble-shooting existing antennas(?) - - - designing antennas to match a particular (and desired) type or distance of propagation(?) - - - maybe limited-space antennas (?) - - - so many topics and so little time.

And speaking of limited-space antennas. . . . ., maybe for now I'll close with relating a very recent experience (last weekend) with helping a friend install an HF wire antenna in his attic. Environment was a two-story house with an almost-standup attic about forty-five feet long and about twenty-feet wide. We installed a commercially made, half-size G5RV (an interesting article in itself) that was about 51-feet long and fed with 17-feet of 300 Ohm twinlead. A short piece of 75 Ohm coax mated with the twinlead using a 1:1 balun, and was attached to the tuner & transceiver. With the tuner, it works surprisingly well on all bands from 6 to 40 meters. And for a limited-space antenna, the most surprising attribute of it, is that it does just a dynamite job on 80 meters, after shorting the coax inner & outer conductors together and feeding it as a top-loaded long-wire/vertical. This isn't my first choice in a limited-space attic antenna, but for now at least - since I'm running out of room and time, I'll just say that I'll try and devote more time to this subject in the near future. That is, if you'd like to hear more. . . . .

So let me hear from you in regards to different facets of the world of antennas you might like to explore. Questions(?) - Problems(?) - Suggestions(?) - drop me a note.

Until next time,

Libby, the Antenna Vault Keeper  
[antennavault@hotmail.com](mailto:antennavault@hotmail.com)

# WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitiileri  
 N9EF  
 WCRA  
 Secretary



## WCRA Minutes from the March 1, 2002 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:32PM by the President, **Joe N9WRO**, and introductions were made by the board and all attendees. A motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes of the February meeting. It was seconded and carried. Vice-President, **Chris, KC9L**, tonight's program on APRS will be postponed until next month due to computer problems. Tonight there will be a viewing of the Wild Chicago tape from last years Field Day. Secretary, **Robert, N9EF**, reminded the members that he was now responsible for maintaining the membership

records and that any update to member data should be reported to him. Please report any updates to n9ef@arrl.net. Treasurer, **Kim, N9XE**, reported on the club's financial condition and provided an outline of the duties of the treasurer for the members. Kim also explained why she had questioned the expenditure by the Hamfest committee. Custodian, **Kurt, KB9RTO**, reported that we have been offered \$200 for the tow-behind generator. Discussion followed as to whether or not we should accept the offer or advertise in some manner. A decision was reached to place the generator on E-Bay to see if there are any better offers. Health and Welfare is an open position just awaiting a volunteer. Hamfest, **John, N9MWF**, provided copies of band-plan glossies from Icom. He reported that the current best-guess estimate of profit from the Hamfest was \$12K which includes the \$3K refund from Stickney. After adjusting for the refund, the club should gross a bit more than last year. John also reported that the vendors were very happy with the operation and their sales. John has offered his resignation as Hamfest Chairperson. Joe, N9WRO, read a statement explaining the situation regarding the funds request from the Hamfest committee, from the points of view of the committee and the board. **John, W9LQL**, provided further explanation of Kim's position, explaining that he had not, as treasurer, paid for this type of expense. He didn't believe that it could be considered routine which is why he believed that Kim needed approval. John, N9MWF, provided further explanation of his position explaining why he believes he had the authority to purchase the jackets. Kim, N9XE, further explained her position and asked that, in the future, Hamfest expenses be provided so they can be entered as line items. Further discussion regarding the expenditure followed. Public Service, Joe, N9WRO, a sign-up sheet is being passed around for various events – please volunteer. Truck, **Steve, N9OA**, the truck will be present at the MS Walk-a-Thon, the Glendale Heights parade, and the July 4th Parade. RAB, **Doug, W9NJM**, reported that there has not been much action on the part of COD regarding the construction of the new tower. There probably will not be any action until Spring. **Bob, KE9A**, reported that the PA is ready to be installed into the 440 machine. The 440 machine should be remounted into a smaller cabinet. The old crystals may be the cause of the repeaters drift. **Larry, KA9KDC**, reported that the 2 meter repeater receive antenna is currently installed at 80 feet, the transmit antenna is at 60 feet. RFI is also still an open position. Field Day, **Dale, NJ9E** reported that it will be the 4th weekend June. Joe, N9WRO, reported that the DuPage OEM will be conducting their own Field Day exercises. This exercise will include some members of WCRA who are also members of the DuPage OEM. Historian is another open position that is waiting to be filled. A motion was

made to accept the committee report, it was seconded and carried. Nominating Committee: **Pat, K9JAU**, nominated **Bob, KE9A**, for the office of President. Bob accepted the nomination. Roberto,

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**Minutes from March meeting continued:**

**WA9E**, nominated **Robert, N9EF**, for the office of Secretary. Robert accepted the nomination. Old Business: **Janie, AE9JG**, suggested that the tow-behind generator be placed on E-bay. Bob, **KE9A**, accepted the responsibility for placing it on E-bay. A motion was made, it was seconded and carried. New Business. John, **W9LQL**, made a motion that the club approves the Hamfest expenditure for the jackets. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken, and it was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55, refreshments and the program followed.

---

**The Screw continued from page 3:**

conditions cause the screw mechanism to turn slowly. Recent information suggests a heater of sorts is being considered. No details are available at this time. The other problem is the economy; venture capital is hard to secure given our country's current economy. The designer is getting tired of screwing around with the banks, etc., and seriously considering the offers from the big three to buy out the Screw Project and put the screw out to the public.

Now if you think there maybe a screw loose somewhere, I have to say you are correct. April fool.

73, John, N9LIN

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## **ANCHORS...ANCHORS...ANCHORS**

Hy-gain HG-54HD 54' heavy duty crank up tower for sale. Includes three coax arms and thrust bearing. Tower is 13 years old. New base is available for \$299.95 with four to six week delivery time. Current retail price for these items new is \$3,311.75. Asking \$1,500.00 obo.

Tower can be seen at: <http://home.attbi.com/~wb9vgj/temp/tower.jpg>

John Broughton, WB9VGJ (630) 690-1473 wb9vgj@arrl.net

73, John

**GUESS WHAT TIME OF  
YEAR IT IS?**

Along about this time of year we as a club get the opportunity to join together and rejoin WCRA by renewing our dues. At \$26 this small amount supports the highly paid and motivated staff direct the club in its many endeavors. Please remember to send, bring, or have a neighbor carry in your application and money to the next meeting or the PO Box listed on the last page of the HAMLETTER.

# Shack of the Month

by Bruce Plantz  
K9OZ



**N9HQ**

Ken Kwasniewski

Carol Stream

First licensed: 1999

Favorite rig: Icom 746

Ken Kwasniewski, N9HQ, was interested in electronics and amateur radio as a teenager. He went as far as building a couple of small Heathkits, but never got a license. Then he hit his 20s, and things like education, job and family got in the way of hobbies, and his interest in the hobby cooled. Then about three years ago as part of his job with the DuPage County Sheriff's Department, he wound up working security at a Hamfest at the fairgrounds. That rekindled his interest, and within a couple months he had his Technician license and was KB9UZN. He soon upgraded to General and changed his call to K9KDK, his initials. After he upgraded to Extra in 2000 he changed his call again to the current N9HQ.

Ken has a neat shack in the basement of his townhome in a room that doubles as a bedroom "when my

son is home." The main rig is an Icom 746, which Ken describes as "all the rig I'll ever need." He has a pair of dipoles and a loop installed in his attic, and has been able to chase DX from around the world as well as contacts all over the U.S. in the three years since he's been licensed. "I really like the fact I can communicate throughout the world with a wire in the attic," says Ken. He credits Robert, N9XS, and Kurt, KB9RBO, with helping him get his station set up. "If anyone was my Elmer, it's Robert," says Ken. "He lives a couple blocks away and has always been there to help and answer questions."

In 1999 Ken stopped by the WCRA's Field Day site and met several people and got information on the club. He was back in 2000 and 2001 as the 10 meter phone station captain. He's also been active in the club's and is a regular at meetings and other activities. "The best thing about the hobby is coming down here early on a cold winter Saturday morning with a cup of coffee and working DX for a couple of hours," says Ken. He also enjoys working contests. "I don't spend all weekend on a contest, but I enjoy getting on for a few hours and seeing what I can do." He says his most exciting contacts so far are Marty lane, OH2BH and 9K2ZZ in Kuwait. "I thought the Mideast was going to be a black hole for me, so I was excited to work it." He also remembers a trip to Yellowstone Park. "I was carrying an HT just in case something happened, and put out a call on 52," says Ken. "A 7-call came back, it turned out he was a fire spotter on top of a mountain. He gave us some good advice and chatted for a while. So there we were in the middle of nowhere, making a 2-meter contact. I usually carry an HT when we travel and make a few local contacts."

Ken credits his wife, Kim, with being fully supportive of his hobby. "She encouraged me all the way, and even encouraged me to get the more expensive rig when I bought the 746." Ken sees amateur radio as a hobby that he can stay involved in and grow in for the rest of his life. "I've just scratched the surface."



## **Anchors...Anchors...Anchors**

Bought an Ameritron AL-811 amp two years ago. Haven't used it much. Don't really need it. It's in as-new condition, with only a few hours transmit time. 50-75w in gets you 600W on SSB, 500W CW. Works 160-10 including the WARC bands. Plugs into a regular 117vac outlet. I have the matching Ameritron AWM-30 wattmeter as well. Cross needle, pep/average metering, 300/3000W settings.

As a set new they were \$800, I will sell for \$600, or anybody's best offer, unless that best offer is a cup of coffee and a sandwich at McDonald's. :)

73, Chris KC9L  
708-343-5507

### **Attention**

**You may have noticed that the masthead of the HAMLETTER has a few empty (read that unfilled) positions that could use some sturdy club members to step forward and volunteer for. Pay and benefits are unmatched this side of the Des Plaines River. If you are interested please contact any executive board member.**



Here is an update on the Baker Island DXpedition that I reported in February's column. Dr. Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD, has received landing permission from United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and plans to activate Baker Island at the end of April. The list of international operators is YT1AD, YU1AU, YZ7AA, RZ3AA, Z32AU, Z31FU, Z32ZM, K1LZ, K6NDV, N6TQS, KW4DA, AH6HY, K3NA and possibly YU7AV, G3UML, YU1NR, YU1DX and W2YC. Part of the team of operators will leave/depart on April 23rd from Port Denarau-Nadi, Fiji, for a 6-day trip (1100 miles one way) to KH1 on the boat the "Princess II". Five of the operators will leave Fiji by plane to Funufuti, Tuvalu (T2), to operate for 3 days before the "Princess II" arrives and



picks them up and refuels before they head to KH1. The team expects to arrive on KH1 on April either 29th or 30th, and expect to be active by April 30th. Activity will last until May 10th. They will then return to Fiji before heading to LA and onto the Dayton

## Activities on the HF Bands

by: Peter Barr W9UF

HamVention. The callsign will not be announced until after their landing on KH1. Activity will be on 160-2 meters with operations on CW/SSB/FM/PSK/ RTTY/ SSTV/Satellite (144/28 MHz). Their list of equipment include: 6 transceivers, 5 LPA (3 x ACOM 1000 + 2 x 400 W), 6 beams, 3 verticals, 2 dipoles, 2 beverage 320m, 2 generators 5 kW, 2 generators 2 kW, 1 km coax cable, 2 km wire, 1 km cord, 2000 l fuel, 120 anchors for support and 4 tents. Their pilots are: VE3EXY and YU1AA. The Web masters are: 4N1NM and 4N1FG. Total cost for this trip is about \$80,000, excluding airline flying tickets. Any donations are welcome. For sending donations, please contact Will, K6NDV, via E-mail at: k6ndv@contesting.com. QSL all CW/RTTY/PSK/SSTV QSOs via YT1AD. For all SSB, QSOs QSL via RZ3AA.

A35RK, Paul Kidd, has been off the air for six months due to a three-month trip to the U.S., 2 cyclones, broken antennas "and a bad case of Polynesian procrastination." He is now back on the air, 80-10. Paul says he operates CW 75% of the time and SSB the other 25%. He is trying to get on HF RTTY and 6M. He usually operates in these time frames: 1800-2000Z (his sunrise and early morning) and 0300-0800Z (late afternoon and evening local). Paul is limited by the Tongan 100W power limit, battery power and hand rotation of his Force-12 C-3 yagi. He has no 160, PSK31 or SSTV. Paul says "QSL via W7TSQ only!" No direct or "A3 buro" QSLs can be answered; he has no cards, his CBA is incorrect and there is no A3 bureau. Schedules can be requested at W7TSQ@aol.com.

Jan,PA9JJ announces that he will go on a little DXpedition to The Gambia. He will be there from April 15-29th, and will be staying in the Senagambia Hotel in Kololi. Jan will be asking for the callsign C56JJ upon his arrival in Banjul, but he is not 100% sure if he will get this. He will try to operate on 80/40 meters and the WARC bands mainly on SSB but also the other bands and some CW. There will be no RTTY or topband operations. His rig will be the FT-100 running 100 watts and a multiband dipole antenna. Jan will be on vacation, so there will be no 24-hour activity. Logs will be available on his web site after his return home at: <http://www.qsl.net/pa9jj>. QSL via PA9JJ. Please include a greenstamp if QSLing direct.

Jan,PA9JJ reports he will be staying in the Senagambia Hotel in Kololi, The Gambia from April 15 to 29. He has requested the call C56JJ and will concentrate on 40 and 80 meters, mostly SSB, but will also operate on other bands and some CW. There will be not RTTY or Topband activity. He will be using a FT-100 with 100 watts and a multi-band dipole. Logs will be available on his web page after the operation at <http://www.qsl.net/pa9jj/>. QSL via PA9JJ.

Tom,DL2RTK and Ric,DL2VFR are heading northbound again and will be taking a ferry to the Faroe Islands and Iceland next month. Their schedule is as follows:

May 20-22nd - They will sign OY/homecall from Streymoy Island (EU-018) in the Faroe Islands.

Activity will include activation of a coast based lighthouse. May 23-24th - They will sign TF7/homecall

from Vestmanneyjar Island (EU-Ø71) from Iceland. May 25-30th - They will sign TF1/homecall from Iceland (Eu-Ø21). Activity will possibly include an entry in the CQ WPX CW Contest, and an activation of Lighthouses possibly between May 27-30th for one or two days from Grimsey Island (EU-168), and activation of WLH LH-Ø14Ø as TF5/homecall.

They will work CW and SSB on 160-6 meters. RTTY and PSK activity will depend on actual demand. Other operators might join the team for some of the days.

Paul, W4PFM will be in Ethiopia for 6 months and has just received his callsign ET3PMW. He has been active on 10 and 15 meters since late February. Watch around 28438 kHz after 143Øz and on 21270 kHz (net) after Ø7ØØz. QSL via W7KEU.

Robert, S53R, reports: "YA5T is back on the air in Afganistan running only 100W and R7 vertical. 80 and 160 are reportedly very difficult for them due to space restrictions, but they will try to do something. They also face problems on 30m band, with extreme local noise. Due to a heavy workload only local evenings (after 13ØØ or 14ØØz) have been suitable for them. Now that we are 2 there (S53R and ON4WW) they may find some more time even during the night times. . Pile-ups are reported to be huge. So far some 4000 CW-only QSOs have been made. Mostly, Europe, JA's and a few hundred US. But hang in there. They have been pleading with the Europeans to give the US a chance. The path from the US Afganistan is extremely difficult, the openings are short and signals marginal. In addition, the more we get into spring, the harder it will be. There were quite a few slims heard during the Month of February. Robert says that they will "try to arrangements to put the logs on the web. Be patient."

A DXpedition is set to take place from Mellish Reef (VK9M) April 12-22nd. The international team of operators will include G4EDG, JH7OHF, JJ1LIB, JP1TRJ, K3NA, VK4DH, VK4GL, VK4WR, VK4APG and ZL4PO. They will have 5 stations operating on all bands 160-6 meters (including WARC) on CW, SSB and some RTTY. A station and operator (VK4APG) will be dedicated on 6 meters. They would like to acknowledge Yaesu, The Chiltern DX Club, 5 Star DXers Association, BT Exact Technologies and PCA.AA in helping activate Mellish Reef. Visit the VK9ML website at: <http://www.ql.net/vk9ml/2002/>

GB9ØMGY will commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Titanic's sinking, operating April 13-15. Particularly highlighted will be the heroism of ship telegraph operator Jack Phillips whose Morse SOS calls saved 700 lives. Jack, 25 years old, drowned. The station will be set up in Godalming, Surrey, Phillips' birthplace. The operation will be CW only, 80-10 including WARC. For more, go to <http://www.gdrs.net/titanic>.

The unique callsign GB5Ø (Golf Bravo Fifty) has been issued by the UK Radio Communications Agency for a special event station to be established at Windsor Castle to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee (50th Anniversary of her succession to the throne) from 29th May to 9th June 2002. Cray Valley Radio Society (CVRS) will run the station, in association with Burnham Beeches Radio Society (BBRC), and with the support of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). The station will be operational from Ø7ØØ - 22ØØz daily, and will be well equipped courtesy of Icom, to allow for simultaneous operation on several bands. Activity is expected on 6 through 80 meters on CW, SSB, PSK31 and RTTY. The organizing team hopes to make many QSOs with radio amateurs around the world, and especially the British Commonwealth.

Windsor Castle is the perfect location for this high profile, prestigious event. Not only will it celebrate a landmark in British history; it will provide an opportunity to establish an amateur radio station that is of national and international importance - one that will raise the profile of amateur radio in the British Isles.

Both societies are well qualified to undertake this project. BBRC operated from the Castle in 1977 during the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in January and February 2000; CVRS organized the M2ØØØØA station at Greenwich ([www.ql.net/m2000a](http://www.ql.net/m2000a)) to celebrate the Millennium. This was done in conjunction with English Heritage and the London Borough of Greenwich and was the most successful UK special event station of all time: in the two months of operation 48,000 contacts were made with 202 countries.

The QSL Manager will be Owen, G4DFI who did such a great job as QSL Manager for M2ØØØØA. An attractive commemorative card will be produced. Cards may be sent via the bureau, or direct to Owen

Cross, G4DFI, 28 Garden Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4LF, ENGLAND. Don Field, G3XTT, who was also Publicity Officer for 9MØC and D68C, is handling publicity. He will be providing further details as they come available. In addition, there will be an Awards program based around the Jubilee. Don can be reached by e-mail at: g3xtt@lineone.net. A Web site is now up and running and will be kept updated with the latest news: www.gb50.com

Look for special event station, IRØMA, to be active during the month of April to commemorate the 2755th birthday of Rome. This station will be good for 5 points towards the "Natale di Roma Award" (see below). On April 21st, IRØMA will be active from the 'Capitolium of Roma'. QSL direct only to IØMWI via the Callbook – no buro cards.

### "NATALE DI ROMA" Award.

The 5th "Natale di Roma" award will be issued to amateur stations and SWLs by the ARAC, in collaboration with the Municipality of Rome, to promote amateur radio activity on the 2755th birthday of the "Eternal City". It may be claimed by making contacts with amateur stations located in the province of Rome, and scoring at least 20 points. The same station contacted on different bands, or modes, or on different days, would be

## THE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF MARCH

Arnis	K9OQN	04-02-37
John	WA9YZL	04-13-28
Ann	WM9L	04-16-43
Marty	N9NTM	04-17-72
Don	N9NYX	04-21-43
Ken	N9WCX	04-28-44

**LET'S ALL REMEMBER TO WISH THESE FOLKS A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



considered as separate stations for scoring purposes. Contacts must be made between 0000z April 1, 2002 and 2400z April 30, 2002. Both SSB and CW are valid modes.

#### SCORES:

2 points for each QSO with amateur stations located in the province of Roma.

5 points for each QSO with "IRØMA" special event station.

Each claim for an award must be accompanied by a QSO list showing the callsign of stations worked, dates, band and modes of the contacts, final score and a processing fee of \$10, and will be accepted only if received by the award manager. The Award will be printed in full color, and signed on by the Syndic of the City. Applications must be forwarded to the awards manager:

Stefano Cipriani - IØMWI,

Via Taranto, 60

I-00055 Ladispoli (RM)

ITALY

email: i0mwi@qsl.net

Applications must be received not later than August 31, 2002. The best-qualified Hams on each class will receive a handsome plate, in recognition of excellent performance. Decisions of the A.R.A.C. on any matter pertaining to the administration of this award are final.

The Midlands Amateur Radio Club will be operating another in the series of special event stations during the weekend of the 3rd, 4th and 5th of May to commemorate the roles played by the British, Boers and Zulu warriors during the "Anglo Boer South African War of 1899-1902". The callsign will be ZS100ABW. Two separate stations will be operating (mainly on phone) from Lancaster Hill, Vryheid in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, from approximately 1600z on Friday and closing down early on the Sunday morning. The preferred bands will be 40 and 20 meters with 80 meters during the evenings depending on propagation. All contacts will be acknowledged with an attractive QSL card. Please QSL either via the Bureau or direct to Midlands Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 100220, Scottsville, 3209, South Africa. They will also be operating a final station from Spioenkop - scene of one of the bloodiest battles fought to relieve Ladysmith - on May 31st. Questions can be emailed directly to Willie Axford, ZS5WI zs5wi@iafrica.com.

German operators Tom, DL2RTK, and Ric, DL2VFR will operate from several islands during May.

May 20-22 - Streymoy Island (EU-018)

Faroe Islands - OY/homecall

May 23-24 - Vestmanneyjar Island (EU-071)

Iceland - TF7/homecall

May 25-30 - Iceland (EU-021) - TF1/homecall

May 27-30 - Grimsey Island (EU-168) - TF5/homecall

Look for them on CW and SSB on 6-160 meters. RTTY and PSK activity will depend on actual demand. Other operators may join the team for a few days. Keep an eye on <http://www.iota-expedition.com> or <http://www.iota-post.com>.

The OT2H Contest Crew now has a website where you can read about their adventures in contesting. There are pictures of the crew and the club station (ON7SA), but also there is a log search function for all contests they entered. The page is also valid for OTØH and OT1H. The OT-prefix is issued to Belgian contest stations, and it allows the use of high power on the HF bands. QSL for OTxH is 100% via bureau to ON5YR (x = last digit of the year, OT0H in 2000, OT1H in 2001, etc.). You can find the club's website at: <http://www.on7sa.be>

The Frankford Radio Club (FRC) will celebrate their 75th anniversary in 2002. To commemorate the occasion, the FRC is making available an award to anyone who contacts 75 or more FRC members in contests through the end of this year. The award is also available to SWLs. QSLs are not required. For more info on this award, please check the FRC web site at <http://www.frc-contest.org/anniva.htm>. On the web site you will find

a roster of active FRC members that can be downloaded. The file is in .DIF format, which can be read by a variety of spreadsheet programs.

The award is free to DX stations and a SASE for domestic stations. Also, an FRC tee shirt is available instead of the award for a fee of \$22.00. Also, during the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party, the FRC will serve as the "Bonus Point Station". The call used will be W3FRC. All contacts with W3FRC during the PAQP are worth 200 bonus points in the contest. A special, limited edition of the classic FRC QSL card will be used to confirm QSOs for this operation. QSLs will need to include a SASE. The operation will be on 160 meters through 2 meters from the QTH of Bill, K3ANS. For any additional information, Please contact this award coordinator John Lindmeier, K3ZV at: LINDMEIE@BELLATLANTIC.NET

RZ9MYL, is a Woman's University club station located in Omsk, Asiatic Russia. There are approximately 70 YLs who are active from this station. Most of them do not have a license or SWL ticket. They use the radio to practice learning foreign languages. Yuri, UA9MAR, is usually also on frequency with the operator. They issue an award, which is available in 3 different classes:

Class 3 - work 2 different YL's from RZ9MYL

Class 2 - work 5 different YL's from RZ9MYL

Class 1 - work 10 different YL's from RZ9MYL

Other calls that also count for this award are UK9MYL and UZ9MYL. You will get the latest Club picture with this award. To receive this award, send an extract of your log and \$5.00 to: Gunter Haertling, DH6ARM, Am Kalkwerk 59, 04603 Lehndorf, Germany. For more info and pictures of YL-operators please visit <http://www.qsl.net/rz9myl/>.

Logs for the Southern Cross DX Group's (SCDXG) XR5SM DXpeditions (January and February), as well as the ARRL DX CW Contest log, are now on-line at: <http://www.qsl.net/xr5sm>. This Web site has been updated and new photographs have been added. Operations included 160m to 70cm, in CW, FM and SSB modes. Almost 4000 QSOs were made within a total of 67 hours of operation (adding up both trips: XR5SM I and XR5SM II). The XR5SM QSL card has already been designed and will be out from the printer in just a couple of weeks.

Less, GM3ITN will be on the Falklands Islands (SA-ØØ2) around June 15th. He will be active as VP8ITN from Saunders Island in the West Falklands Islands for about 1 week. QSL via GM3ITN. His Web site is at: <http://www.website.lioneone.net/~gm3itn>

In DXCC news, Bill Moore NC1L, DXCC Manager, reports the following: 9QØAR (Democratic Republic of Congo) and 3V8GI (Tunisia) has been on hold awaiting supporting documentation. Upon review, both are now being accepted for DXCC credit. 3V/JH8PHT sent a copy of the new 3V8BB license to the ARRL, and DXCC has now approved the WARC band operation of 3V8BB. Supporting documentation for the 2001 operation of ZK1TUG from the North Cook Islands has also been received. The ZK1QMA paper work is still needed. Anyone who had these rejected during a recent submission can contact DXCC at [dxcc@arrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrl.org) for an update to their record. Or, it can be sent with the next submission for credit.

The 2001 DXCC yearbook is currently being assembled and is expected to be ready for mailing sometime in late May or early June 2002. The period for the Annual List in this issue is from October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001. If you submitted an application postmarked during this period and you are a current ARRL member, you are entitled to one free copy. You are also entitled to one free copy if you qualified for the DXCC Honor Roll during this period and were an ARRL member, even if you did not submit an application. If you are not entitled to a free copy, but would like one, you may order copies from the DXCC Branch for \$5.00 each, postpaid. Orders may be placed after June 1, 2002.

### **DX POTPOURRI**

Jack, VK6CTL will be QRV from Lord Howe Island, VK9/L April 11-22. He will be using the VK9LT callsign and plans mostly SSB. QSL to > HB9QR, Erwin Fink, Toedistr. 7, CH-8572 Berg, Switzerland.

Yves,F6CTL will head for French Polynesia on June 20th. Alain,F2HE will join him as they make stops on Rurutu Island (OC-050) and Tubuai Island (OC-152), Austral Islands. Yves will be QRV mostly on SSB, while Alain will be mostly on CW. They may visit Rangirora Island (OC-066). They will use FO/home calls or FO5RH.

If you need the semi-rare African country of Malawi, try 21325 daily just after 1700z. 7Q7HB, 7Q7LA, and others can usually be found here with QSL manager GØIAS. Wait until the end of the sked though.

The DLØFTL group will be on April 12-20 from Usedom Island (German Island Award Ø-13), and April 14 they plan to active a new one for the German Island Award, Grosse Wotig, GIA Ø-35. Simultaneously on the 14th part of the group will be on from Wolgaster Schlossinesel, GIA Ø-Ø31. IOTA frequencies -

CW 28040 24920 21040 18098 14040 10114 7030 3530

SSB 28560 28460 24950 21260 18128 14260 7055 3765

If you want to work North Caicos (NA-002), Rodger,VP5/GM3JOB and Willie,VP5/GM4ZNC, will be on from the April 10-19, 160-10 SSB and CW. QSL to their home calls.

Dan Brown,NA7DB, two YL ops, all from the Central Arizona DX Association, will be on from Myanmar, XZ, March 29-April 4. Calls will be XZ1SB, XZ1JB and XZ1DB. While they do hope and plan to operate, their main purpose is to make preparations for a fullsize DXpedition to XZ by their club in the future.

JT1Y will be manned by Nicola,IØSNY, Nicola and Gianni,I8KGZ from Mongolia for two weeks starting May 21. QSL to IØSNY.

Dick,W5AA is back in Costa Rica as TI8/W5AA from until April 9.

Look for Bill,KM1E to be back in the Bahamas as C6AGN from April 10 to May 29. QSL via W1DIG for both past and future operations of C6AGN.

The Guernsey (GU/MU prefixes) callbook has been updated, including operations by visitors and QSL info. It is at [www.gars.org.gg/calls.html](http://www.gars.org.gg/calls.html).

Claudio, the operator at LU1ZA, which is the club station callsign of "Base Naval Orcadas" on South Orkney Island went QRT on March 11th. The supply vessel, which arrived at the beginning of March, brought a new crew and a new operator Jose-Louis (call unknown) who is expected active on the amateur bands. QSLs for Claudio operations go via LU4DXU.

KHØ/JF2QNM will be on from Saipan March 29-April 1.

Hopefully, this is enough to keep everybody busy for the month of April. I apologize to those looking for Contest info for this month. This column is being submitted to Don a little early as I'm headed to the blue waters of the Caribbean for a little R&R, and did not have the information available. As always I'd like to give special thanks to The Daily DX, OPDX, World Radio and the ARRL for information used this month. Until next month, remember DX IS!

### **Late breaking News:**

I'm looking for four or five volunteers to help take down my tower on Saturday, April 6. Time will depend on availability of help, but morning or early afternoon would be desirable. The job will consist of removing a vertical and beam antenna from the tower and tilting the tower over. Ideally, it would take two people with safety belts to climb the tower to remove the antennas with helpers on the ground. The tower is just 22' high cranked down. As to tilting the tower over, I plan on hiring a tow truck to winch it down (this is how we put it up). This minimizes the effort and danger to volunteers. You can see a picture of it at: <http://home.attbi.com/~wb9vgj/temp/tower.jpg>

Please contact me if you would be able to help with this. The tower is currently for sale; contact me if you have questions.  
73,

John, WB9VGJ

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 5th of April: 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.
- 2nd of April: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 4th of April: Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 11th of April: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- 15th of April: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR MAY.
- 25th of April: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

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

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

## HAMLETTER

### 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

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