



HAMLETTER



Published Monthly

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 465

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March 2002



WCRA Staff

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President	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	630:587-8059
Vice President	Chris Cieslak	KC9L	708:343-5507
Secretary	Robert Mitiileri	N9EF	630:510-9783
Treasurer	Kim Wiese	N9XE	630:545-9950
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Elmer/Know-Code	Frank Krozal	KG9H	653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwarta	NJ9E	858-8541
Field Day	John Cheney	N9MWF	848-2885
Hamfest	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	483-2044
Chaplin			
Historian			
Interference			

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Refreshments	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630:739-2930
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Membership	Robert Mitiileri	N9EF	630:510-9783
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	372-7036
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Public Service	Joe LeFebvre	N9WRO	587-8059
VHF/HF Awards	Peter Barr	W9UF	971-8581

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Nov/Tech Instructor	Robert Mitiileri	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
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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

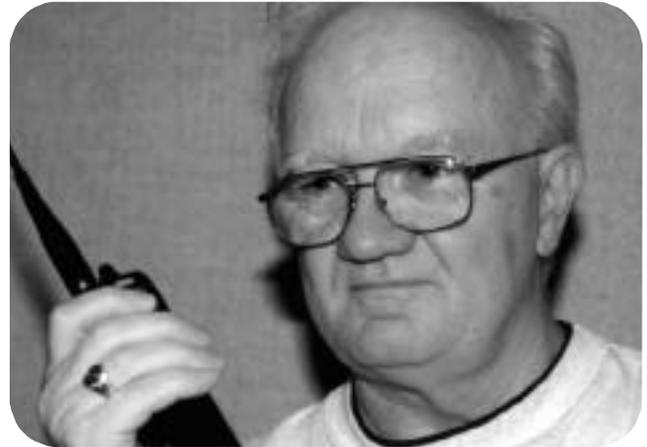
HAMLETTER

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Features	Peter Barr	W9UF	630:971-8581

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From the President's Gavel

by Joe LeFebvre WCRA President



The 2002 HamFest came and went on a beautiful spring in January. We were putting up the antenna in our shirtsleeves, quite a change from the usual ice, snow and cold. No slush on the floor and no frozen fingers and toes for the outside crew. Preliminary results indicate we had a very good year and may have done better than last year.

Thanks to the other members of the HamFest Committee for all of their efforts.

John, N9MWF our Chairman

Pat, K9JAU

Bruce, K9OZ

John, WB9VJG

Bill, K9WH

Kurt, KB9RTO

Janie, AE9JG

Tom, N9CBA

Jon, KA9EPK

Tom, N9WBW

Doug, W9NJM

Chris, KC9L

John, K9FID

The WCRA could not endure without you. Many of you have served for 5 or 10 years and devoted hundreds of hours, an incredible display of dedication to the WCRA. It is truly unfortunate that so few have had to carry the financial burden of the club. All the members enjoy the benefits of the club, but only a few keep it going.

On the Public Service front I have dates for most of the events for this year:

MS Walk-a-Thon

Sunday April 14th 2002

From The President's Gavel (continued)

Special Olympics

Wheaton Parade

Trail days

Glendale Heights Parade

Sunday April 28th 2002

Thursday July 4th 2002

Unknown

Saturday August 24th 2002

Put these important dates on your calendar and I hope to see you there.➔

73, N9WRO

Bits & Pieces

The HAMLETTER recently received this email from Bill K9WH:

Just a note to express my thanks to the WCRA for the recent accolade and the awarding of a Life Membership. I appreciate the recognition and have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of Ham Radio and the WCRA. My mother always told me that you do not pay back, you need to pay ahead. She is correct. Again, my thanks to the club. Sincerely, Bill Hollister K9WH (Wheaton Hamfest)➔

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

A recent email from John, WB9VGJ:

I ran across a posting on one our Lucent retiree newsgroups by a former Lucent employee who sells old amateur radio manuals (among others). Thought I'd pass along the info. so perhaps you could stick it in a future issue of Hamletter. The guy is, WA2CWA, Peter A Markavage. His Web site is: <http://www.manualman.com>➔

73,
John

HAMFEST 2002 Wrap Up

The tables have all been taken down, the floors swept, the



tickets counted (well almost all) and most of the bills paid. All in all, the Hamfest was a great success. Our vendors all seem very pleased with the results, obviously those who attended came to BUY. The people attending seemed pleased with the

bargains they found, the people they saw and the overall Hamfest experience. And the club should be happy with the outcome. Attendance seems to have held about even with last year (an accomplishment in itself) with some people buying advanced tickets instead of at the door to save money. The net proceeds of the show appear to be up somewhat from last year. If we count the refund of the Stickney Tax which the Track was able to negotiate, Net



Income almost doubles last year. I am a little disappointed in some of the



support the show received. While a good number of members took time to work the weekend and/or sell tickets, there was still a large number of people who regularly use the club's resources who don't bother to support the event which provides those resources.

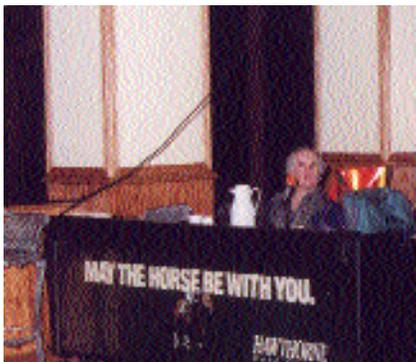
I know there were a few family emergencies which kept people from assisting as they have in prior years, that is understandable. What concerns me is the lack of any effort on the part of many to assist the club in raising funds.

Well, there's always next year. Maybe by then these people will realize that we all must do our part to make the club a success.

In closing, I would like to repeat my personal thanks to the members of the Hamfest Committee who did a great job of supporting the club in this worthwhile venture. Without them the show would NOT have gone on.

73,

John Cheney
N9MWF
Hamfest Chairman



**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.

WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitiieri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Minutes from the February 1, 2002 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:33PM 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 January meeting. Vice-President, **Chris, KC9L**, tonight's program will be on AMSAT by **W9XA**. Next month's program will be a discussion, and possible demo, on APRS, the Automated Position Reporting System. Secretary, **Robert, N9EF**, reported that there

were a number of invalid email addresses identified. A list was available for viewing. Please report all email updates to n9ef@arrl.net. Treasurer, **Kim, N9XE**, reported on the club's financial condition. Membership, **Carol, KB9FYL**, no new members were voted in. The responsibility for maintaining membership records will now be assumed by the Secretary and Treasurer. Carol is finally getting a break after about 12 years in that position (wow!) Health and Welfare is still an open position just waiting to be filled. Hamfest, **John, N9MWF** made a motion that **Bill Hollister, K9WH** (does the WH really stand for Wheaton Hamfest?) be awarded life membership in WCRA for many years of hard work on the Hamfest committees. The motion was seconded and carried. John reported that the Hamfest was successful from the vendor's perspective. He will get a report from the track next week and we will be able to determine the extent of our financial success. Tome announced the winners of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. Janie reported that there were approximately 850 advanced tickets sold. The number of people passing through the entry gates is in the neighborhood of 2000. John suggested that we should continue with a search committee for another site to keep our options open for following years, and to keep the track and the town on their toes. John noted that the cost of holding the Hamfest at Hawthorne Racetrack was about a third (1/3) of the cost of the Odeum three years ago. John then recognized the members of the Hamfest committee for all the hours of hard work. RAB, Joe, N9WRO, presented **Larry, KA9KDC**, and **Tom, N9CBA**, with plaques to thank them for all their hard work relocating the 2 meter repeater to Carol and Larry's house. The 2 meter machine is back on a single antenna after some adjustments to clear up intermod. The 220 machine is on the air at Roberto's house. Repairs on the 440 machine are under way. RFI is also still an open position. Training, **Jack, KA9HEL**, the COD Quarterly is out. The next scheduled class is in April. We need students. Field Day, **Dale, NJ9E** reported that it will be in June. Historian is another open position just begging to be filled. Christmas Party, **Ruth, KA9RZG** reported that it will be the first Sunday in December (mark it in your calendars now!) New Business: Prize drawings were held for all the Hamfest workers. Joe, N9WRO, reminded the membership that we need a nominating committee for the offices of President, Secretary, and Custodian. Contact Joe if interested. Jack, KA9HEL, discussed a suggestion from a contact at COD. The suggestion is that WCRA return it's meeting to the college and list the club in the area of Continuing Education. This would mean that there would be no fee for meeting there. A discussion took place. Jack will ask about the availability of A/V equipment and about having meeting outside the normal quarterly schedule. Jack will wait until COD completes

the new tower and the WCRA antenna is installed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55, refreshments and the program followed. →

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Shack of the Month

by Bruce Plantz
K9OZ



N9XS

Robert Noles

Carol Stream

First licensed: 1997

Favorite rig: Icom 746

When Robert Noles, N9XS, was growing up in Louisville, KY, he had a neighbor that had a huge tower in his back yard. His neighbor's radio was causing TVI to Robert's cartoons, so he and his brother, Geoff, went over to complain.

When they complained to the neighbor, they got invited up to his shack and had the chance to talk to someone in Italy. They discovered the magic of radio. Both became short-wave listeners, but never thought about becoming hams, "because we thought our parents would never buy us the radios," says Robert.

Robert's SWL interest continued into adulthood, but in 1996 his brother called him to tell him he had just gotten his Extra Class amateur radio license and was now AE4RV. "So I had to do it," says Robert. He bought the "Now You're Talking" book and passed his Technician license during a trip to Louisville in 1997, becoming KB9QZC. By the fall of '98 he had passed his General. He wasn't satisfied with that, and upgraded to Advanced and to Extra in the fall of '99. Shortly after that he changed his call to N9XS.

Today Robert is active in a variety of modes. He says he operates primarily SSB, but spends time on PSK and CW, "but I'm not the CW operator I want to be. I still make too many mistakes."

He points to a QSL card on the wall from his first CW contact, K0VX. "Frank (KG9H) had loaned me a FT 101 with no microphone, so I was trying to operate CW. I answered this guy's CQ and when he came back I was so nervous I couldn't answer him. I sent him an e-mail telling him what was going on, and he replied and we met on a frequency and he helped me through that first CW QSO."

That type of helpful attitude is part of what has attracted Robert to the hobby.

Today he has a cozy shack loaded with "all the gear I really need." That includes a Yaesu FT8500 dual-bander that was his first rig. His HF radio is an Icom 746, which replaced a Icom 706 MkII that has now become his mobile rig.

"I have as much fun with the mobile as I do from the house," says Robert. He's been running mobile about a year on 6 through 40 meters with a set of Hamsticks.

Robert is restricted to attic antennas and has a full-size 20 meter dipole and a z-shaped dipole that tunes on 10, 15 and 40 meters with the help of an MFJ VersaTuner.

"I operate 75 percent SSB, 10 percent PSK and the rest CW," says Robert. He is passionate about several other hobbies – computers, astronomy, guitars, his cats – but he finds time and room for amateur radio.

"I'm always trying to convince other people to come into the hobby," says Robert. "I enjoy being active in the club, taking part in public service events, and listen to the repeater a lot." He is still active as a SWL, and uses the Icom 746 to listen to Radio Havana and other foreign broadcast on a regular basis. "I love Cuban music, and it just sounds better coming over the airwaves with static and interference. Radio is magical, and that's what attracts a lot of hams. Even when you understand how it all works, it's still magic."→

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 Joe, N9WRO, or any executive board member.

A DXpedition to San Felix Island will be conducted March 12-30th using the callsign XRØX. Lying 900 km northwest of Valparaiso, Chile, San Felix is a barren rocky island about 3 km across, with two small islets nearby. Access to the site is restricted, due to the presence of a military garrison there. Little is known of the natural history of the island or of its possible prehistoric importance. The major goal of



this expedition is provide radio contact with this remote and seldom-activated island. Secondary goals include documenting indigenous species and searching for evidence of ancient occupation. The expedition is being organized and led by Carlos G Nascimento, NP4IW/CE3AQI who was a principal organizer of the 1995 Easter Island/Salas y Gomez (XRØX/Y) and the 1997 Heard Island (VKØIR) expeditions. The project is

being carried out in conjunction with Cordell Expeditions (Robert Schmieder, KK6EK), a nonprofit

Activities on the HF Bands

by: Peter Barr W9UF

organization that has carried out expeditions to remote sites for more than 20 years. All permits,

including landing, radio operation, and specimen collections have been obtained. The 13-member team includes the following radio amateurs: NP4IW, K5AB, I8NHJ, N7CQQ, DJ9ZB, CE0YWS, N6MZ, KO4RR, KK6EK, W6KK, HB9AHL, K5AND and N6TQS. The team and a 20-ft. container of gear will travel from Valparaiso to San Felix aboard the Chilean Navy vessel Chacabuco, and be airlifted on the island by Chilean Navy helicopter. The vessel will then proceed on to Easter Island, leaving the team on San Felix. Returning 2 weeks later, the vessel will retrieve the crew and gear and then return to Valparaiso. The expedition is being financed by the participants, and supplemented by donations from DX associations, radio clubs, and individuals. Contributions made to the expedition through Cordell Expeditions are eligible for deduction as a donation to a 501(c)(3) organization. The San Felix Expedition Web site is: <http://www.cordell.org/SFX>. For more information, please contact: Carlos George-Nascimento, NP4IW/CE3AQI, 2061 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 or E-mail: cgnascim@attbi.com

Carl Renz, K4YT has been in Kabul, Afghanistan for about one month and has obtained a club license from the Minister of Communications for the American Embassy in Kabul. The license, YAØUSA, is good for operation from the Embassy by fellow US government officials, of which there are now several stationed here. Carl will be here working and active in his spare time and will be using a TS-50 and 80 meter dipole with a tuner. His activity will more than likely be on 10 and 15 meters. Don't look for much CW, he'll probably only operate SSB. No QSL route has been established. Additionally, Nick, G4KUX has been active as G4KUX/YA and usually on 20 meters. Reports indicate that he is there working and setting up an international communication network. As this is being written, the ARRL has NOT received any documentation from Nick. So Work them first, and worry later (WFWL). He is expected to be here for a while. Watch 14198 kHz after 0330z.

Stig, LA7JO is now working for the United Nations in Iran. He has been building a telecom network since October. Stig plans to be there for another 2-3 months and will be going into and out of Afghanistan from time to time. He is the first foreigner to get permission to operate from the Islamic Republic of IRAN, since 1979. Operations have been from the PTT club station EP3PTT. QSL for his operations only via LA7JO either to P.O. Box 827, N-7408 Trondheim, Norway or UNICEF IRAN, Stig Lindblom, No. 30 East Farzan St., Naji St., Dastgerdi Ave., Tehran 19187, Islamic Republic of IRAN. If you do QSL to the IRAN address do not put the callsign LA7JO on the envelope. Do not send IRCs, as they are no good in this country. One US dollar will work. Stig has a web page at <http://www.qsl.net/la7jo/qslinfo.html>.

Dick, AH7G reports the Phoenix Company on Midway Island, who are in charge of the island's infrastructure, will be abandoning this semi rare island March 1st. This would leave on the Fish and Wildlife Service on the island. Airline transportation, shops and accommodations will all be closing. This will definitely have

an impact on future operations from KH4. If you need this one you'll want to pay special attention to this upcoming operation.

Jim,G3RTE and Phil,G3SWH will activate Midway Island on both SSB and CW between March 30th and April 6th. Jim has been licensed since 1962, is on the DXCC honor roll (CW and Mixed), a keen DXer on both CW and SSB, a member of FOC and has operated as GI3RTE/P, GJ3RTE/P, F/G3RTE/P, 5Z4LI and 5Z4WI. Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH, has been licensed since 1963, is a member of FOC and an avid DXer on CW. They have already secured the special callsign of W4M, which will be used exclusively during their stay on the island.

Midway was ranked number 27 in Europe and number 55 worldwide on the "425 DX News Most Wanted DXCC Countries Survey in 2001" and number 89 on the ARRL list in 2000. In addition, Midway counts as OC-Ø3Ø for the "Islands on the Air" (IOTA) award. Propagation permitting, their main objective is to work as many European stations on as many bands as possible. They have an expedition target of 10,000 QSOs with an approximate 50/50% split between CW and SSB. They expect to have two stations on the air on all bands between 40 and 10 meters. QSLs will be handled by G3SWH.

There has been a lot of activity from EP3PTT in Iran lately. That's because Stig,LA7JO had been given permission to operate the club station of the PTT. In Late February, Stig came on the air and announced that he had received his his own Iranian Callsig, EP3UN. He reported that he was leaving Iran on a five week mission but should be back in Tehran by the end of March for a three-month stay. He will try to get on as many bands as possible. QSLvia LA7JO. ADDED NOTE: It has been mentioned that you can QSL Stig direct to the address: UNICEF Iran, Stig Lindblom, No. 30 East Farzan St., Naji St., Dastgerdi Ave., Tehran 19187, Islamic Republic of Iran. However, please avoiding writing any callsign on the envelope and DO NOT send IRCs.

Michel,F6COW and Dominique,F6EPY will be QRV from Vanuatu this month. After a weeks worth of operating in Upolu, Samoa (OC-097) from February 19 to 28 as 5WØMP and 5WØDA. They'll go on to Efate and Espirito Santo, Vanuatu (OC-035) as YJØAOW and YJØAPY from March 4 to 15. The operation will be mainly CW with an emphasis on Europe on 12, 17, 30, 40 and 80 meters. They will have an ICOM IC706-MKIIG, FT100D and two FL2100B amps. Look for them to be QRV also on RTTY, PSK31, MPSK and MP63. Suggested frequencies are as follows:

CW - 3515, 7015, 10115, 14015, 18095, 21015, 24905, 28015, 50085

DIGITAL - 7035, 10145, 14085, 21085, 28085

SSB - 3780, 7075, 14215, 18135, 21215, 24985, 28465, 50125

Their web site at is now up and can be viewed at <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/dominique.auprince/>.

QSL 5WØMP and YJØAOW via F6COW. QSL 5WØDA and YJØAPY via F6EPY.

World traveler Bert vd Berg, PA3GIO, has set his sights on the Caribbean. He'll be QRV from the following islands this month, SSB only. March 5-6 - St. Martin - FS/PA3GIO/M - 10-20 meters March 5-6 - St. Maarten - PJ7/PA3GIO/M - 10-20 meters March 7-14 - Saba Island - PJ6/PA3GIO/M or /P - 10-40 meters

March 15-21 - Dominican Republic - PA3GIO/HI9 - 10-80 meters March 22-28 - St. Barthelemy Island - FJ/PA3GIO/M or/P - 10-80 Meters. Check out his web site at <http://www.qsl.net/pa3gio/>. QSL (preferably by bureau) to PA3GIO.

A contingency of Amateur Radio operator from Thailand will be in Laos in early March. The purpose

John, N9LIN, sent this picture in with the following comments: "On a visit to son Larry, N9KIQ, we came across this store in Brentwood, TN. No ham gear, just ham'n goodys."→



of this trip is to have dinner and meet with Kam Fan, XW1FAN, one of the XW8KPL operators. While there the group will do some reconnaissance work for a future DXpedition, which is expected to take place in April or May 2002. Participants in this future operation include HS1CKC/XW1CKC, HSØGBI/XW1GBI, HS9EQY/XW1EQY, HSØ/G3NOM/XW1OM, E2ØHHK/XW3CW, E21EIC/XW1IC, HSØ/KA3TDZ, HS0/EA4BKA and HSØ/SM3DYU.

H40, TEMOTU PROVINCE (Update). During the period from March 28th through April 12th, Nick, VK1AA, will be organizing a DXpedition to Temotu Province (H4Ø). The team will be active in CQ WPX Contest as Multi/Single and will be active on all amateur bands from 160-6 meters, all modes. The group consists of VK1AA, YT6A and probably YT6T. They were still looking for a few good CW/SSB operators to round things out. You can visit their WEB page at: <http://www.qsl.net/vk1aa/temotu>. All questions and requests can be sent to VK1AA at: watchman@tig.com.au
QSLs are via VK1AA.

In a recent press release, Mike, GM4SUC announced that the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2002 would take place from 0001z on Saturday, August 17th until 2359z on Sunday, August 18th. Last year's activity had 348 amateur radio stations established at lighthouses and lightships in 46 countries. A full list of stations that were active with their QTH and QSL information can be found at: <http://vk2ce.com/illw/2001.htm>.

THE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF MARCH

DON	WB9VFC	03-04-45
JOHN	KOQLS	03-04-22
HOWARD	W9DYP	03-08-21
JON	KA9EPK	03-11-39
RUDY	W9RKA	03-11-15
MIKE	N9KYG	03-12-59
BOB	W9TIE	03-17-22
ALLEN	N9DYX	03-28-46
BRUCE	KA0DSF	03-31-32

Let's all remember to wish these folks a Happy Birthday!



While on the subject, the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS), the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to maritime communications and light beacons, is proud to announce its "Patriot Award." This award commemorates the disastrous events of September 11, 2001, in New York City and Washington, DC. It is available to anyone who establishes radio contact with a lighthouse or lightship in each of the USA's original 13 colonies. A list of the original colonies and the lights in each, along with complete details about applying for the award, is available on the Society's web page at: <http://www.waterw.com/~weidner/arlhs/index.html>. For further information, visit the Web site or send an E-mail to the ARLHS founder and president, Jim, K2JXW at k2jxw@arll.net

Joaquim, PS7JN is planning another DXpedition to Saint Peter and Saint Paul Archipelago operating as ZYØSAT from February 23 to March 10 (dates may change). He expects to operate only SSB on 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters with an ATLAS 210X. Jo, as he likes to be called, will be running off battery power with 10-50 watts into a dipole and will operator split. He will be surveying the geology on the island for about 15 days and will be QRV during his spare time, usually during his evenings. Look for activity on satellite and digital modes (Packet, RTTY, SSTV and PSK31).

Ray, G3NOM/A52OM, reports 16 students recently passed the Radio Amateur examinations and were presented with their license certificates by the Director General of the Bhutan Telecom Authority. The call signs should be issued by the time you are reading this. They are Novice Licenses permitting CW, Digital, and voice communication. Ray set off for Puentsholling on the Indian border to set up A5ØB, the new club station for the Technical College. If you needed a good reason to operate down in the slow speed CW subband, this is it.

Pete, K8PT, and Craig, K3PLV, will make their 3rd annual trek to the Channel Islands and activate Jersey from March 13-19. The emphasis will be on CW & RTTY, however Craig will try RS-12/13 for evening (USA time) passes. Concentration will be on 12 and 17 meters during daylight and 30, 40 and 80 meters during the evenings. Calls will be MJ/K8PT and MJ/K3PLV. QSL via home calls.

Bob, N3NGC (ex EL2RF, A92GD, J28BM) is finally on the air from Azerbaijan as 4K0RF, after trying to get a ticket for quite some time. He was briefly active during the ARRL CW DX Contest and should show up regularly now, probably on 20 meters. QSL via K1SE, Bill DeLage, P.O. Box 685, Manassas Park, Virginia 20113-0685. Bill also has the logs for all of Bob's previous operations.

With the recent volcano activity in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, don't be surprised to see some Amateur Radio activity. After failure of radio-telecom systems between Goma and Kinshasa, the ARAC has been invited to set up an emergency HF link between the 2 areas. The IARU society's proposals have been given to the Ministry of PTT, which would include four permanent ham radio licenses to be issued. Patrick, 9Q/F6BLQ says to look for some contest activity during the CQ WPX SSB Contest at the end of March.

The Five Star DXers Association (who brought us last year's D68C) is now starting to think about the perennial question, "Where do we go next?" They are seriously considering a DXpedition to one of the top 100 DXCC Entities in late 2003 or early 2004. The group is not planning to head to Peter I or Bouvet, but rather one of the rare ones "where you may have a 20 meter QSO, but are finding those low band, WARC or data slots hard to fill." They are interested in your 9-band, 3-mode "wanted" lists, so they can gain some idea of which these entities might be. You can e-mail your needs to Don at g3xtt@lineone.net. Seeing how most of the group is from Europe they are partial to Africa, for "reasons of cost, propagation and travel time."

Effective immediately the ARRL DXCC Desk will no longer accept unauthorized QSL cards from DX stations being managed by Michel Hamoniaux, PY3ZM/F (ex HH2HM, OK8ZM). In order for any Hamoniaux QSL cards to be accepted by the ARRL, he must first have the DX station send an authorization letter to the DXCC Desk. This QSL manager has been under investigation for some time now and this is not the first time the ARRL has not accepted his QSLs. Omar, YK1AO, reports he does not have a QSL manger and that includes PY3ZM! Otto, HC2DX, is currently QRV and giving PY3ZM as his QSL manager. These QSL cards will not be accepted from PY3ZM until an authorization letter is received by the DXCC Desk.

The following operations had been on hold for DXCC credit pending receipt of documentation.

Documentation has been received and they are OK for DXCC credit: CAMBODIA (2001): XU7ABZ, XU7ABW, XU7ABY, and XU7ACA GUINEA (2002): 3XY6A, 3XY8A If you had these rejected in an application, you can contact DXCC for an update (dxcc@arrl.org), or, just include it with your next submission.

I have been getting some pieces of information about the future of International Reply Coupons (IRCs) and things are finally happening. The type of IRC that we have been using worldwide for so many years is being phased out. A new (larger) type is now in use. The old type will be honored for a short time, but nobody (including my local post office) was able to give me a cut-off date. The new one, besides being larger, have a "use by" date printed on them (appears to be 5 years from date of issue) and will not be honored beyond that date. To avoid being caught with useless coupons, stop circulating the old ones if you receive any, CASH THEM IN NOW !!! QSL managers and DX stations with whom I have spoken to agree that if they receive "out-of-date" IRCs, they will be unable to respond to the QSL request. So, wouldn't it be cheaper and easier to just stick a dollar bill into the envelope with your card? The correct way to answer that is, sometimes. Remember that there are many countries, like Germany, where one dollar no longer covers for an airmail letter overseas. So the choice is not one IRC or one U.S. dollar, but two dollars. So then the IRC is the cheaper solution. Also, in some countries, it is illegal to own dollars; another reason that it is often better to use IRCs.

DX POTPOURRI

Oleg,UA1PBA is a commander of the Russian Antarctic base Bellingshausen, King George Island, South Shetlands. He is the operator of club station R1ANF and can be found on 21275 at 1700Z. Look for activity until March 2003. QSL via RK1PWA, P.O. Box 73, Amderma, Arkhangelskaya obl, 166744 Russia, or direct to Bellingshausen base, via base Frei, King George Island, Antarctica, Punta Arenas, CHILE.

Bruno,F5DKO, will be active March 4-16th from some Madagascar islands. He expects to be active during the first week of his trip from Madagascar's Coastal Islands West Group (AF-057), and the second week from Madagascar's Coastal Islands East Group (AF-090). QSL via IZ8CCW: Antonio Cannataro, P.O. Box 360, 87100 Cosenza, Italy

T9/F5LPY has been causing havoc from Bosnia with his cut number approach as he send TN instead of T9. N is a short way for sending number 9. It's fun cracking the pileup, but a bummer when you get the QSL and it's not what you thought!

Vit,EZ8CW reports that all QSL's for EZ8CW, EZ3A, EZ9A, EZ1ØA, EZ21A, EZ75R and EZ56V must now be sent via RU4SS, Konstantin Vakhonin, P.O. Box 57, Yoshkar-Ola, 424000 - RUSSIA. North America stations can send cards to mail drop KJ6OW, Terry Morton, 66190 Third St., Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240, USA. US mail drop needs SASE to send your EZ QSL(s) to you and \$2 for mail costs. Typical turn around is 4-8 weeks.

Oleg,UT2VU will be active as UT2VU/DU7 from Cebu Island (OC-129), Philippines from the end of February to the end of March. QSL via UR7VA either direct to P.O. Box 23, Kirovograd 25009, Ukraine or through the bureau. UR7VA is now beginning to dispatch QSLs for UT2VU/DU7 April 2001 activity.

A group of ops from Bruges, Belgium will use the call OP1A all bands and modes February 20-December 31, 2002. They are promoting "Bruges 2002, Cultural Capital of Europe." QSL to ON5TO.

The RW4LYL club in Russia will be using the callsign RI4M the rest of the year. QSL to RN4LP, Vladislav Lakeev, P.O. Box 208, Dimitrovgrad, 433512, Russia.

Look for Sabu, VU2ELJ on 40 CW from India daily between ØØØØ and Ø1ØØz.

Hiroo,XWØX puts Laos on the air daily on 40 CW at 21ØØ and 23ØØz. QSL via XW2A with IRC (no grrenstamps – see my comments above.).

ZB2FK in Gibraltar can be found most days on 12 meters CW from 11ØØ to 12ØØz and sometimes even a few hours later.

RTTY DXers should take note that Claudio,LU1ZA on South Orkney Island likes 20 meters between Ø6ØØ and 1ØØØZ. QSL via LU4DXU.

Sur,JT1BH in Mongolia likes 30 meters just after 0000z.

SWL Kurt Brandstetter (OE 1002419) has updated his "Marconi QSL's 2001" Web page. (QSLs from the International Marconi Day 2001 and Marconi Memorial Stations that was active on the 12th of December 2001 Celebrating the first radio transmission across the Atlantic on December 12, 1901). The Web page is at <http://www.swl.net/oe1002419>.

IRØMA will celebrate the 2755th anniversary of the founding of Rome in a special activity April 1-30. QSL direct only to IØMWI.

Now here are the contest activities for March:

- | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 0000z 2 March ARRL DX | 1200z 17 March Contest | 160-10M | CW/SSB |
| 2359z 3 March Contest 160-10M SSB | 1800z 16 March Virginia QSO | | |
| 1700z 6 March CLARA/Family | 0200z 18 March Party | All Bands Except 17-10M | |
| 1700z 7 March HF Contest(Canada) 80-10M CW | | CW/SSB/FM | |
| 0000z 9 March WW Locator | 0000z 23 March CQ WW WPX | | |
| 2359z 10 March Contest (Czech) 160-10M CW/SSB | 2359z 24 March Contest | 160-10M | SSB |
| 1200z 9 March Commonwealth | That's it for now. Hope everybody has enjoyed the propagation this winter. But keep in mind that the bands don't die just because the flowers are starting to bloom and there's yard work to be done. 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!→ | | |
| 1200z 10 March Contest (U.K.) 80-10M CW | | | |
| 1200z 10 March Novia Scotia QSO | | | |
| 2200z 10 March Party 80M CW/SSB | | | |
| 1900z 10 March Wisconsin QSO | | | |
| 0100z 11 March Party All Bands Except 17-10M CW/SSB/FM | | | |
| 1700z 13 March CLARA/Family | | | |
| 1700z 14 March HF Contest(Canada) 80-10M SSB | | | |
| 0000z 16 March Bermuda DX | | | |
| 2359z 17 March Contest 80-10M CW/SSB | | | |
| 0000z 16 March Alaska QSO | | | |
| 2359z 17 March Party 160-10M + Satellites CW/SSB | | | |
| 0000z 16 March YL ISSB | | | |
| 2359z 17 March QSO Party 160-10M SSB | | | |
| 0200z 16 March BARTG | | | |
| 0200z 17 March RTTY Contest 80-10M RTTY | | | |
| 1200z 16 March Russian DX | | | |

This space could have that anchor you were unable to unload at the Hamfest.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st of March: 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.
- 5th of March: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 7th of March: Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 14th of March: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- 15th of March: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL.
- 27th of March: Plainfield Radio League March meeting on Wednesday, 3/27 we will be hosting ARRL Central Division Director George "Dick" Isley, W9GIG. The meeting will be held just east of Plainfield at the Highpoint Community Center 175S.HighpointDrive,Romeoville. Take I-55 and exit on Weber Road. Go about 2 miles south and turn right onto Highpoint Drive. There is a link to a map on our web site: <http://www.prlham.org/meetings.html>. Please RSVP to Tom Kulasik, KB9WOU, so we can get a rough head count: kb9wou@yahoo.com.
- 28th of March: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - March 1st - Wheaton College - 7:30 PM

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

HAMLETTER

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First Class Mail

