



HAMLETTER



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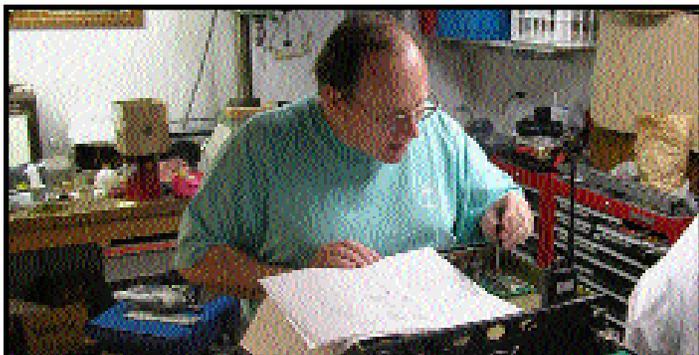
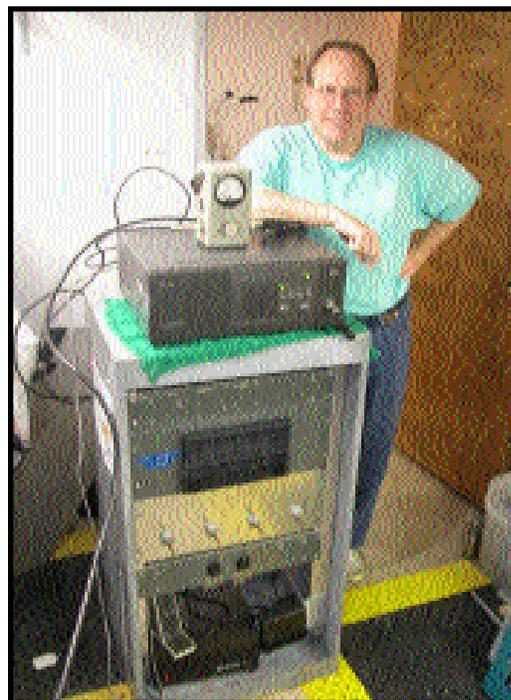
May 2002

WCRA's NEW UHF REPEATER HAS ARRIVED

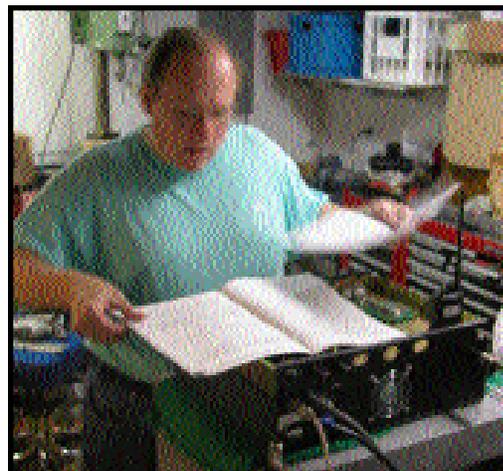
The ICOM repeater pictured at the right is residing in Bob, KE9A's, basement while we learn how to program the machine and understand its specifications. The new repeater is sitting on top of the old repeater's cabinet which we hope to replace with a newer cabinet. As soon as the 'newer' cabinet has been acquired and we install the components necessary to get the repeater back on the air, everything will be moved to KA9KDC's, testing tower. After a brief period of working the bugs out it will be moved back to its 22nd Street site.



Back of old and new repeaters (left) Upside down new repeater before resetting ID (above)



"Do you think anyone would object to W8CCU instead of W9CCU?" The joys of learning how to program a new repeater but it looks like Bob has solved the problem. Be sure to try the new machine soon.



WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Bob Fairbairn	KE9A	630: 682-3424
Vice President	Chris Cieslak	KC9L	708: 343-5507
Secretary	Robert Mitiileri	N9EF	630: 510-9783
Treasurer	Kim Wiese	N9XE	630: 545-9950
Custodian	Roberto Beltramelli	WA9E	630: 668-5688

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Christmas Party	Dale Kwarta	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Club Awards	John Truitt	W9LQL	630:682-0304
Club Truck	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630: 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 Mitiileri	N9EF	630:510-9783
Membership Retention	Robert Noles	N9XS	372-7036
Public Relations	Eileen Terry-Block	N9TWS	393-0742
Public Serevice	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 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
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
Tuesday8:00 pm	145.390(-600)	ARES Net
Tuesday8:30 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 Bob Fairbairn WCRA President

Wow has this been a fast three weeks. In case you missed it WCRA had our annual elections at the April meeting, and the membership elected me to the position of President, Roberto WA9E as Custodian, and Robert N9EF as Secretary. In behalf of the new members of the executive board I would like to thank the membership of WCRA for their confidence in us. We intend to serve Amateur Radio and the WCRA with all our dedication to this wonderful hobby and a great organization!

If you did not attend the April meeting then you not only missed the election, you missed an absolutely fascinating and educational presentation on APRS by **Dale Weiss, N9XD**. I learned a lot and had some fun in the process. Thanks Dale. Be sure to come to the May meeting as **Chris KC9L** is giving us a preview of the presentation that he will be giving at the Dayton Hamvention on Amateur Television and remote control. If you missed last years Field Day Chris had his RC car with Amateur Television on board, a real hit.

There is a lot going on in Amateur Radio this month with the Dayton Hamvention being one of the highlights of the year. If you have never been to Dayton it is an amazing visit. Plan for next year or slip out for the weekend you will enjoy it! May 16, 17, 18 2002. There is a lot of information at their web site <http://www.hamvention.org>. Speaking of web sites you can visit the WCRA web site at <http://www.qsl.net/wcra>.

The executive board conducted our first meeting with both the incoming and outgoing board members. We spent about three hours working together to ensure an orderly transition and discussing some of the ideas we have received to make 2002 a great year for the WCRA. There is still some transition work to complete this month. I will be meeting with the auditor and our treasurer in the very near future to get our books independently audited and to ensure that we are

From the President's Gavel(continued from the previous page)

maintaining the best practices for an organization of our size and type. I could talk a lot about what we intend to accomplish, but actions speak louder than words so stay tuned and watch your mailbox.

In the next few weeks I will be working with the executive board and the committee chairs to complete a budget for this year. We have a few challenges this year with some of our equipment and other projects. Our next executive board meeting will be on May 20th 2002.

There has been a lot of activity going on in the background. The RAB team has gone through the 145.39 machine and tuned it up. In addition Larry (KA9KDC) has re-integrated our main controller. The machine really does sound a lot better. We are still waiting to see that nice new tower rise at the College of DuPage. I would like to personally thank Larry for hosting our machine. The other great news is that we received the Icom UHF repeater and it is up and running at my house for checkout and setup. The duplexer needs to be tuned and the system will be integrated into a commercial cabinet before the machine is returned to its' home.

I would like to thank Joe N9WRO and Kurt KB9RTO for their service and leadership during their tenure as President and Custodian. It takes a lot of dedication to the hobby to serve in a leadership role, thanks again.

Finally I would like to welcome all one-hundred members of the WCRA to a great new year. See you at the May meeting.

73

Bob Fairbairn KE9A



NEXT TECHNICIAN CLASS STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

Know someone who is interested in Ham Radio. The next Technician class will start this September at the College of DuPage. Here's a chance for them to learn about the exciting world of Ham Radio by taking an eight-week course, which culminates in an exam session. They will be assisted in learning both theory and operating practice by two experienced instructors: Bob Mitilieri, N2EFT, and -----

Classes are held Monday nights in room K144, from 7:00 PM, to 9:00 PM. K144 is equipped with ham gear.

The class is listed in the Quarterly in two places. Under Adult and Continuing education for those who have graduated high school, and under the Teen program for students 13, and up. If the student is under 13, they should simply notify the instructor that they plan to attend. They need not register. Registration can be done over the phone using a credit card to pay for the course. The course costs \$30, payable to the College. See the Quarterly for registration instructions.

The text is Now You're Talking published by the ARRL, and available at -----.

Watch this space for more information when it becomes available!

THE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF MARCH

Robert	KG9U	05-02-41
Thomas	N9WBW	05-08-57
Gene	W9LIW	05-11-25
Richard	AA9KZ	05-12-53
Susan	AA9MO	05-18-48
Wayne	KF9JC	05-19-39
John	N9PPO	05-23-25
Jim	KA9OSW	05-26-27
Eileen	N9TWS	05-27-39

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



WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitiileri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Minutes from the April 5, 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 March meeting. It was seconded and carried. 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. The web addresses w9ccu.com and w9ccu.org will soon point to the WCRAweb site. New member, **John Baker, KC9OO**, was voted in. Treasurer, **Kim, N9XE**, reported on the club's financial. Custodian, **Kurt, KB9RTO**, thanked the membership for their support and reported that all equipment was in working order. Health and Welfare is an open position awaiting a volunteer. Former WCRA member, **Ray Kreml, KA9CAL**, has passed away. **Eileen, N9TWS**, is still in the Sycamore facility and is still on a respirator. Public Service, Joe, N9WRO, read the schedule of Public Service events: 3/14 MS Walkathon, 4/28 Special Olympics at North Central College – 2 shifts are needed, 6/2 Trail Days, 7/4 Wheaton's July 4th Parade, 8/24 Glendale Heights Parade (evening) – please contact Joe to volunteer. Truck, **Steve, N9OA**, thanked those who volunteered cleaning and repairing the truck. Steve is looking for volunteers in the near future to put equipment away. RAB, **Don, N9NYX**, asked the board to approve \$1500 for a new ICOM UHF repeater. Don reported that the old 440 machine has been repaired many times and the club may end up spending a lot to keep it in operation. The 200 machine is still at Robert's house. COD is having core samples prepared for the new towers. Don reported that the cost of the new feed line (7/8 inch hardline) is about \$6/foot. The 2 meter repeater antenna will be at the 180 – 200 foot level. **Larry, KA9KDC**, reported that the cavities and notches on the 2 meter repeater are adjusted properly. Historian is another open position that is waiting to be filled. Training, **Jack, KA9HEL**, reported that registration was closed early for the Tech class and there would be no Technician class offered at COD this quarter. Jack asked that class information be placed in the Newsletter and on the Web site. Field Day, **Dale, NJ9E**, reported that he had received a verbal ok for using Panfish Park. A motion was made to accept the committee report, it was seconded and carried. Old Business: Joe, N9WRO, handed out and reviewed the budget reconciliation. New Business. A motion was made to approve the purchase of the new UHF repeater recommended by the RAB. After some discussion a vote was taken and the motion was carried. Kim, N9XE, reported that she will not be able to continue as net control for the Tuesday night ARES net. Volunteers? **Steve, W9SRB**, would like to turn the truck keys back if there is no further interest in driver training. Elections: **Bob, KE9A** President; Robert N9EF, Secretary; **Roberto, WA9E**, Custodian. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 and was followed by refreshments and a demonstration on APRS.

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Activities on the HF Bands

by: Peter Barr W9UF

Contrary to my last column, Dennis, NB1B who is a Post-master, says that despite "scuttlebutt," so far there has been no literature sent out within the USPS mentioning a foreign postage rate increase in June and no information that the rate of redemption for IRCs will be changing or that current IRCs will not be accepted for exchange after some date in the future. Dennis notes rate increases must first be announced in the Federal Register, an official publication of the U.S. government, with significant lead-time to allow for public comment. Dennis says he thinks it is likely there WILL be an increase in the price of postage to send mail from the U.S. to overseas destinations this summer, but it won't necessarily coincide with the already-announced increase in U.S.-to-U.S. postage cost. So far, though, there is nothing official, even within the U.S. Postal Service.

Nenad, VE3EXY reports the KH1 DXpedition to Baker and Howland Islands is still on track, and should be coming on the air just as you read this. According to the latest press release, activity should take place between April 29th and May 9th using a special 1x1 callsign. All standard DX frequencies will be used according to band plans. Operating modes will be CW, SSB, SSTV, PSK, RTTY, FM and SATELLITE. Here are the suggested frequencies that will be mostly used, unless they experience poor propagation, or the pile-ups become too big:

CW - 1.825, 3.505, 7.005, 10.005, 14.025, 18.075, 21.025,
24.895, 28.025

SSB - 1.825, 3.795, 7.045, 14.195, 18.150, 21.295, 24.950,
28.495, 28.900 - FM only

All QSL cards for CW, RTTY, SSTV, PSK, FM, SATELLITE, will go to YT1AD: Dr. Hrane Milosevic, 36206 Vitanovac, Yugoslavia, Europe QSL cards for SSB will go to RZ3AA: Roman Thomas (Address will be provided later). The KH1 web page is now available at: <http://www.kragujevac.co.yu/kh1>

A multi-national group has announced their plans for a DXpedition to Myanmar during August. The group will use XY3C on CW, XY5T on SSB and XY7V on the digital modes between August 4 and 22. The group will start operations in Yangon between August 4 and 8 on 6- 40 meters. Then they will operate between August 9 and 22 from Ngapal, near Thandwe (formerly known as Sandoway) on the Arrakan coast. Operations are expected on 6 through 160 meters using 3 stations simultaneously with amplifiers. Team members include DF2IC, DF7KP, DL4KQ, DL5OAB, DL8KBJ, IN3QBR, IN3ZNR, XW0X and YB0US. They will use yagis on 6 through 30 meters and horizontal and vertical antennas on the lower bands. There may be an opportunity to operate from the Arrakan IOTA Group. QSLs for XY3C go via DL4KQ, XY5T via IN3ZNR, and XY7V via DL8KBJ either direct or via the bureau. The team also has a web site at <http://www.dx-pedition.de>.

Toshi, JA1ELY and Masa, JE1LET announced soon you will hear a new Macquarie Island ham station. Peter Andrew Pokorny, VKØMQI, a friend of Masa's will be working as a member of the 2002 Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition to Macquarie Island. Peter is 43 years old and has working under contract with ANARE as a supervising communications technical officer. He had operated as VKØAC from Davis Base, Antarctica in 1998. Between 1977 and 1979 he visited Japan 17 times as a deck officer of an Australian merchant ship. Peter departed Australia on March 11 and arrived on the island late at month's end. A hectic work schedule greeted him, but he was hoping to set up his equipment as quickly as possible. His gear will consist of an Icom 706 with an end-fed long wire antenna. Peter really only plans to be QRV on SSB, although Masa personally gave him the IC-706 along with a key paddle for CW operation from the island. He will be staying on the island until December of this year. He will only be on the air in his spare time. His operating site will be

the same house which Tom, VKØTS, used in 1997. Look for Peter to operate all bands including 6 meters. He does not have much experience as a DXer, so please be patient in the early part of his operation. QSL manager is Toshi,JA1ELY.

The Washington Post, recently reported, "Papua New Guinea voted to grant autonomy to fractious Bougainville Island, taking the archipelago a vital step closer toward ending the South Pacific's longest-running conflict." Additionally, The New York Times said, "PNG analysts say the election of an autonomous Bougainville government can not be held before 2003, citing six months to write a constitution and six to eight months to complete weapons disposal. We should be keeping a close eye on this one as another DX country is born.

Bernard,T9/F5LPY is on until the end of through the month of May from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Look for him nightly at 2Ø3ØZ on 20 CW. A QSY to 80M is possible. Strong local QRM makes 40 difficult and Bernard has to use a very sharp filter. If you don't get through you might move your transmit frequency in small increments. Bernard operates SSB every Sunday morning from Ø7ØØ-1Ø3Øz 20M. QSL to the French bureau and Bernard will answer 100 percent after he comes back home.

"National Mills Weekend" will take place on May 11-12th. The Denby Dale Amateur Radio Society (DDARS) is once again coordinating the "Mills On The Air". The "Society for the Protection of Ancient Building" (S.P.A.B.) runs the mills event every year on or around the second weekend in May; however, amateur radio is only one event of the many attractions that take place. Certificates this year will be issued like last year by working 10 stations or more on one or both days. Send \$6.00 to DDARS via Sue, GØWFE. Currently, S.P.A.B has not decided what mill to activate during this event, but details are forthcoming. Watch for up-to-date info via the following Web pages:

<http://www.spab.org.uk/mills>

<http://www.qsl.net/g4cdd/mills.htm>

NOTE: This event is not a contest. They just want to have a good time promoting the wonders of amateur radio while helping to remind "Joe Public" that there are still a few individuals left who enjoy preserving our heritage. The above group would like to see more wind and water mills active during this event.

Dave,AH6HY will be going to the rare IOTA OC-077, Manua Islands, in the American Samoas from May 18-24th. His activity will be on 10,15 and 20 meters, SSB only. Look for him on the usual IOTA and DX frequencies. His callsign will be AH6HY/AH8. QSL to his home call. More info is at: <http://www.qsl.net/ah6hy/samoa.html>

Alexander,UR5EAW says to look for some activity from Ukrainian islands to qualify for the "Islands of Ukraine on Air" and "IOTA" Award Program. The special expedition callsign, EM11E, will be used between May 1st through August 31st. The expedition will cover the Dniپر - River islands, and the islands of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. QSL Manager is UR5EAW: Shevchenko Alexander, Pelina str. 29, Dnepropetrovsk 49107 UA, Ukraine.

Dany,F5CW will be in Guadeloupe from June 22nd to July 12th. He will be jointed by F8CMT from July 5-25th. Both will be active from Saintes Islands (NA-114) from July 4-9th with the callsign TO8CW.

Rick,KL7AK, Blaine,KL7TG, Linda,NL7RE, Larry,KF6XC and Jim,K9PPY will activate Deer Island, part of the Southern Alaska Peninsula West group, an unnumbered (new) IOTA island group. Listen for the call-sign KL7AK. They are projecting they will be on the island late in the evening on the 31st of July (UTC) until mid-afternoon on the 5th of August.... Their main station will be a Kenwood TS-570S(G) HF transceiver with an Ameritron AL-80A amp, using a Mosley Mini-33 tri-band Yagi up about 30 feet. A Cushcraft R-7000 will be used for 40 and 80 meters. Rick,KL7AK, has found during his many Alaska island DXpeditions that 20 meters is the optimum band from Alaska. There is normally good propagation up to 20 hours a day. However, they will operate 80-10 meters, both SSB and CW, including the AO-27 and UO-14 Amateur Satellites. They will operate on or near the IOTA frequencies on each band. The QSL Manager is Fred Stenger, N6AWD, good in the call-book/Internet databases.

Operators JM3FVL/JD1, JG4LSR/JD1, JL4CVB/JD1 and JE5DTS/JD1 have been active from Ogasawara Islands for the last few weeks(AS-031), but will wrap up on May 4th. Activity is on CW and SSB on all bands. QSL to home call signs.

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

In addition to the above activity from Ogasawara, JD1YBO will be a new club station on Ogasawara Island. Tack, JD1BKQ, Nori, JA1OZK and others plan to set up the station this month and be on the air May 1-5, CW, SSB and RTTY on all bands including WARC. QSL via the bureau to JD1YBO or direct to Tatsuhiko Kimura (JD1BKQ), 79-142 Nara-cho, Saitama-city, 331-0042 Saitama, JAPAN.

Robert, S53R/YA5T, informed OPDX that on the 26th of March he left Kabul to Islamabad and will continue to Dubai, from where he will be travelling home for a break. He states, "Last two months have seen quite some activity from YA5T, since Mark and myself were there. Peter also came for a short visit, but working commitments kept him from operating. There are 22,571 QSOs in total made from Kabul in the first three months of this year. Mark was on a 10 day trip to Fayzabad, in one of the most remote places in Afghanistan and made additional 404 QSOs from there. And as have written previously, Peter initially made over 2000 Qs in December. They will be back in Afghanistan starting this month, so get ready for more activity. The YA5T logs are now up-to-date on Andy's, VE9DX, Web page at <http://www.ve9dx.com/ya5t/ya5t.html>

Stig, LA7JO continues to be active as EP3UN while in Iran. Activity over the past several weekends has been on 30/15/12 meters CW. Watch 10.103 kHz after Ø215z, and 21.017 and 24.901 kHz between 14ØØ and 163Øz. Also, recent ARRL DX Bulletins report Abdullah, EP2FM active using RTTY on 20 meters around Ø3ØØ to Ø4ØØ and 16ØØz.

Just prior to leaving on vacation last month, I was asked on the repeater if the ARRL had reversed its stand on the use of electronic QSLs, or "eQSLs" as they are commonly known. On my return, the following press release from the ARRL was waiting for me courtesy of Bernie McClenny, W3UR of The Daily DX. I'm printing it in its entirety to end the confusion. If anybody has questions, please catch me on the air. Let's preserve the value of QSLs.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recent discussion regarding the QSL service offered by eQSL.cc™ suggests that there is some confusion about ARRL QSL policy. Simply put, there has been no change in League policy regarding eQSLs. The ARRL does not accept QSLs that have been transmitted to the recipient via electronic means for its awards. Anyone, acting as an authorized QSL manager, however, may receive logs via email (or any other direct means) and send QSL cards, via post mail, to recipients. This is the traditional QSL manager process. As has always been the case, certain norms are expected when handling cards in this manner.

First, we expect that a QSL manager will seek permission from operators for whom QSLs are handled. We do not accept cards from unauthorized QSL managers for DXCC credit. Such an authorization must be a proactive choice of the DX station rather than an "opt out," default authority given to a bulk mailer.

Second, since most operators requesting QSLs expect that the returned cards will correctly reflect the actual QSO data, we expect that a QSL manager will do the checking required to assure that only real contacts are verified. We all know that raw logs contain many errors. A recent sample from a bulk-mailing QSL service show three out of five QSOs confirmed were not in the recipient's log. This is unacceptable. Often, these errors are only detected when incoming cards are compared to the log. The distribution of QSLs, without any checking of the information contained on the incoming cards, is poor QSLing practice, and may lead to blanket rejection.

tion of all QSL cards from the station/manager in question.

Also, we expect to be able to identify cards as authentic. Many cards are printed on home printers, and in many cases, the data is printed on card stock at the same time. Although this is technically acceptable, the process often makes verification difficult. In certain cases we may reject these cards. Cards should be personalized or otherwise made unique through the use of a stamp or other personal mark (signature or initials) across a label boundary.

Finally, the concept of obtaining a QSLcard at no charge is a long-held tradition in ham radio and DXCC, and we endeavor to continue this tradition. QSL managers handling cards for DXCC submission must make cards available if adequate postage is supplied. Postage can be supplied by sending IRCs, direct funds, or SASEs. We consider it an ethics violation if cards can only be claimed through payment of a fee, and thus we will not accept cards for DXCC credit for which a fixed charge is made. A number of well-known DXpeditioners and QSL managers do not accept bureau cards, but we are not aware of any cases where a card will not be forthcoming if adequate postage is provided.

For its awards, the ARRL does not accept electronically transmitted QSLs that are printed by the recipient. There is no restriction placed on how log information is conveyed to an authorized QSL manager, however. Cards provided by QSL managers who make a reasonable effort to comply with the guidelines presented here will be gladly accepted for DXCC credit. TM eQSL.cc is a trademark of eQSL.cc

Bill Moore, NC1L, DXCC Manager, reports: "XU7ABA and XU7ABB for Cambodia have been on hold awaiting supporting documentation, as well as the recent DXpedition to Cocos Island, TI9M. Documentation for all three has now been reviewed, and they are now being accepted for DXCC credit. Anyone who had these rejected during a recent submission can contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org for an update to their record. Or, it can be sent with the next submission for credit."

A recent "ARRL Letter" reports that the ARRL's DXCC Desk now is down to days in terms of application turnaround time. It was not long ago that DXCC hopefuls waited in line for more than two months to get their certificates or updates processed. Now applications are taking approximately one week. For more details, read last week's "ARRL Letter" or visit the ARRL Web site at: <http://www.arrl.org>

Also, reported in the "ARRL Letter", ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG indicated that the DXCC Desk will begin offering the last of the single-band DXCC awards--for 30 meters. An official announcement is pending, but it's expected the new award will debut October 1, 2002. Those planning to participate may send cards now to get a leg up on the new award.

The ARRL DXCC Desk has announced that the 2001 DXCC Yearbook is currently being assembled and should be ready for mailing sometime late this month or in early June. 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. Those not eligible for a free copy may order one (or more) from the DXCC Branch after June 1. Copies are \$5 each, post paid. For more information, contact the DXCC Desk, dxcc@arrl.org."

DX POTPOURRI

Don't forget that our own George Henry, KA3HSW and his son and will be in the Dominican Republic on a missions trip from June 15 to 27. He is hoping to take a rig along and operate HI8/KA3HSW. There is a possibility of RTTY and MMTTY.

Lefty, K1TOL, says he's doing a 6M expedition to St. Pierre et Miquelon Islands, June 14-23. Also going is Tim, NA1CW. They will have their beacon on 50.120 CW plus or minus QRM 24 hours a day and will use FP/ their home calls.

HV5PUL from the Vatican will be on May 16th, check the usual DX frequencies.

The new U.S. ambassador to Belarus is a ham, callsign WA6LTP. Check out his biography online at http://www.usis.minsk.by/html/chief_of_mission.html#bio.

Dany,F5CW, will be in Guadeloupe from June 22 to July 12. He will be joined by F8CMT from July 5 to 25. Both will be active from Saintes Islands (NA-114) from July 4 to 9 with the callsign TO8CW.

Rick,AI5P plans to be in England from May 1 to 3 and on May 14. He may be QRV as M/AI5P. Between May 4 and 14 he'll be operating as 5B4/AI5P. Rick will try to operate from a ZC4 club station from the British Base in Cyprus.

Look for John A25/G3HCT daily on 30 meters CW from Botswana between 0500 and 0600 and after 20000z. Check around 10120. QSL via G3HCT.

Michel, F5IN, will be on holiday from Capesterre, Guadeloupe (NA-107) from May 1 to 10. In his spare time he'll be QRV as FG/F5IN on CW only on the HF bands. He'll join forces with Pierre, F6FXS, who will have already been there since April 16. QSL via F5IN.

A team of Italian Amateurs plans to operate from Brunei and some new IOTA islands in Indonesia. Team members will include Dario,IT9SSI, Paolo,IK1NLZ, Livio,IK1RLI and Antonio,IZ8CCW. The group is looking towards the second week of August time frame. More details will be available in a month or two.

Sahrudin,VU2SDN President of the Amateur Radio Society of India says that the Indian, VU QSL Bureau have been receiving a very large number of QSL requests for pirate stations using Indian callsigns. Calls beginning with VU2 followed by 2 or 3 letters and VU3, followed by 3 letters are the only calls valid. Contest calls are AT0, AT2 and AT3 followed by 1 or 2 or 3 letters. Since there is a blanket ban on operations from Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, call signs VU4 and VU7 have not being assigned to any one since 1992. Calls with prefixes like AU to AW, VT, VV to VW and 8T to 8Y are not authorized calls. The VU bureau has received a few hundred cards, from several countries, indicating QSOs with amateurs using the above prefixes as well as VU4 and VU7. In addition, radio amateurs as well as QSL bureaus should be informed that the following big time DXers do not accept Bureau cards: VU2AU, VU2DX, VU2FOT, VU2TMP, VU2TRI, VU2WAP and VU2XX.

Bruce, KK5DO QSLmanager for Ed,P5/4L4FN, has added a FAQ page to his web page. Those still looking for a QSO or QSL can read about it at <http://www.amsatnet.com/p5news.html>.

Gil,F5NOD has put together an interesting Web page of his picks for the top 50 Dxpeditions. You can check it out at <http://www.qsl.net/f5nod/top50expe.html>

You can now view the Galapagos Islands DX Award at: <http://www.octavia.com/qsl/awards/htm>

For the latest 3-day Solar-Geophysical Forecast: <http://www.sel.noaa.gov/forecast.html>.

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

Contest season is winding down, but there are still plenty of activities to get into to hone your skills for Field Day next month.

Here's a look at what this month has to offer.

1200z May 4 Volta RTTY

1200z May 5 Contest 80-10 Meters RTTY

1600z May 5 Indiana QSO

2300z May 6 Party 160-70 CM CW & SSB

2000z May 4 ARI DX

2000z May 5 Contest 160-10 Meters CW,RTTY & SSB

2000z May 4 New England QSO

2000z May 5 Party 160-10 Meters CW & SSB

0000z May 4 Nevada QSO

0600z May 5 Party 160-6 Meters CW,RTTY & SSB

1600z May 5 Indiana QSO

2300z May 6 Party 160-70 CM CW & SSB

1400z May 11 Oregon QSO

0200z May 12 Party 160-10 Meters CW & SSB

0000z May 25 CQ-M Int'l DX

2359z May 26 Contest 160-10 Meters CW,SSTV & SSB

2100z May 18 Baltic DX 80 Meters CW & SSB

0200z May 19 Contest

0000z May 25 CQ WPX

2359z May 26 Contest 160-10 Meters CW

1200z June 1 South America DX

1800z June 2 Contest 80-10 Meters CW

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, think Field Day, and remember DX IS!

WHY NOT ADVERTISE YOUR ANCHORS HERE? THIS HAM-LETTER IS SEEN AROUND THE WORLD BY DISCERNING HAMS. PLEASE SEND A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ITEMS TO THE EDITOR. REMEMBER THAT DAYTON IS ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY.



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 3rd of May: 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.
- 7th of May: Club breakfast **every** Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
- 2nd of May: Club brunch **1st & 3rd** Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
- 9th of May: Club dinner held at the Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
- 15th of May: DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR MAY.
- 23rd of May: VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - May 3rd - 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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