



HAMLETTER



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Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Issue 484

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October 2003

What programs have you missed by not attending the monthly WCRA meetings?



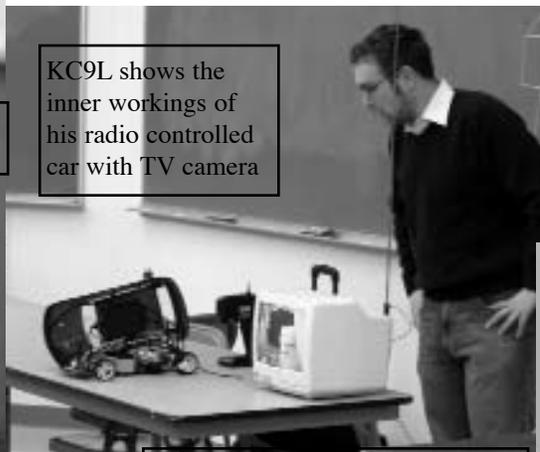
Electric truck demo by Ted Lowe



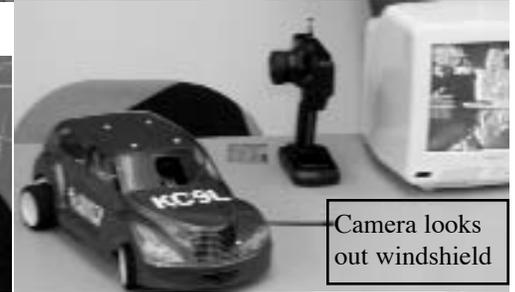
Chris, KC9L, lectures on radio controlled cars with a TV camera



Some of the new digital radios



KC9L shows the inner workings of his radio controlled car with TV camera



Camera looks out windshield



Larry, KA9KDC, introduces club members to the new digital handhelds.



Roberto, WA9E, shares new items from Dayton.



Do I have to buy all new handhelds?



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From the President's Gavel

by Mike Wolff, AB9AX WCRA President



Dear Fellow Members,

The seasons are changing! Out here in Sugar Grove, the formerly green fields of corn and soybean turn yellow, as the air grows crisp, and the nights chilly. You can tell its coming as the conditions improve on the low bands. The daylight hours are noticeably shorter. So, I hope you've made good progress on any outdoor projects, and that your stations are ready for the coming fall and winter months. Before you know it, contest season will be back in full swing, with the 'big ones' right around the corner in November. Are you ready?

Its been a busy summer, with lots of other things to do, and lots of time spent doing things other than getting on the air. Most of my operating this summer has been on the WCRA repeaters during commute time, where more often then not, there's a friendly fellow ham to talk to. If you don't get on the repeaters at drive time, you're missing out on some usually light-hearted, fun conversation on a variety of topics. Join in the fun and start your work day off with light conversation!

It is time to start checking out the low bands some more. With a lot of the business of summer behind,

(Continued on page 4)

WCRA Staff

Elected Officers

President	Mike Wolff	AB9AX	630: 778-1070
Vice President	Steve Peterson	N9OA	630: 742-3581
Secretary	Robert Mitiieri	N9EF	630: 510-7816
Treasurer	Jack Feldman	KA9HEL	630: 515-0377
Custodian	Roberto Beltramelli	WA9E	630: 668-5688

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Club Call Trustee	Tom Geletka	N9CBA	630: 289-2535
Christmas Party	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Club Awards	John Cheney	N9MWF	708: 848-2885
Club Truck			
Elmer/Know-Code	George Reichert	W9GWR	630: 871-1786
Elmer/Know-Code	Charlie Matthews	WB9SGD	630: 665-4506
Field Day	Frank Krozel	KG9H	630: 653-9090
Field Day	Dale Kwart	NJ9E	630: 858-8541
Field Day	Peter Richey	N9HDW	630: 260-9447
Hamfest	Bruce Plantz	K9OZ	630: 604-0157
Chaplin	Harry Sheaffer	W9AXI	630: 483-2044

Historian

Interference

Refreshments Steve Peterson N9OA 630:742-3581

Membership

Membership Robert Mitiieri N9EF 630:510-7816

Membership Retention Robert Noles N9XS 630:372-7036

Public Relations

Public Serevice Joe LeFebvre N9WRO 630:587-8059

VHF/HF Awards John Cheney N9MWF 708: 848-2885

Amateur License Staff

Training Classes Jack Feldman KA9HEL 630: 515-0377

Tech Instructor Mike Wolff AB9AX 630: 778-1070

Tech Instructor Robert Mitiieri N9EF 630: 510-9783

General Instructor Pat Byrne K9JAU 630:858-1959

Extra Instructor

Volunteer Exam. Harry Kamer K9HK 630: 953-0519

WCRA Repeater Administrative Board (RAB)

Trustee/Tech Adv Tom Geletka N9CBA 630: 289-2535

Chairman Don Motz, Jr. N9NYX 630: 665-7757

Secretary Doug Totel W9NJM 630: 469-3001

Tech Advisor Gary Henle N9VLL 630: 736-9102

Member George Henry KA3HSW 630: 830-6659

Member Larry Schroeder KA9KDC 630: 665-3228

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 Repr

HAMLETTER

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WCRA Meeting Minutes

by: Robert Mitilieri
N9EF
WCRA
Secretary



WCRA Meeting Minutes for the September, 2003 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by the President, **Mike AB9AX** and introductions were made by the board and all in attendance (including **John, WB9VGJ** from Prescott Valley, AZ). There was a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting by **John, N9MWF**. The motion was seconded by **Don, N9NYX**, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. Mike reported that the all electric S10 pick truck is here to view. The

owner is Ted Lowe. Ted will be a presenter for an upcoming program. The Vice-President, **Steve, N9OA**, reported that tonight's program is Digital Voice presented by **Larry, KA9KDC**. Next month's program will be show and tell. Treasurer, **Jack, KA9HEL**, reported that, to date, the club spent \$2,314.11 more than it took in. Hamfest expenses yet to be paid total \$2,686.22. Hamfest, **Bruce, K9OZ**, Hamfest tickets are available. Bruce needs help in two weeks to distribute flyers at 3 hamfests. Elmer, **George, W9GWR**, is trying to set up the fall Know Code class. He needs three more students. Public Service, John, N9MWF, Finished all known events for the year. Glendale Heights was once again impressed. We had 15 members participate. Let **Joe, N9WRO** know if you know about any events that need communications. RAB, Don, N9NYX, spoke with COD. A high-speed Internet company contacted N9NYX via WA9E. He said Scott, WDCB Station Manager, said that we should have our antenna up by the time it snows. **Steve, W9SRB** asked about the missing squelch tail and beep on the 440 machine. **Bob, W9TIE** asked if anyone knows about 2M noise floor. AB9AX asked about the packet repeater. Training, Jack, KA9HEL, said that seven people are interested in the Tech class but none have registered. Class starts September 22 if there are 6 students. It will be held in room M133. **Dale, NJ9E** suggested a combined class with another club. **Carol, KB9FYL** suggested changing the night. W9GWR suggested using Wheaton College. Jack thinks our relationship with COD is important. The registration code for the class is 15701. Field Day, Dale NJ9E, We will do it again next year. We still need to replace a generator. He found a 3 KW for \$399 at Home Depot. W9SRB cautioned to check the regulation, as it can be a limitation. He also suggested Menards. VE, Mike, AB9AX, reported that one person passed the Extra exam. Holiday Party, Dale, NJ9E, - We need an idea of how many people are interested. **Ruth, KA9RZG** is looking into options. Hamletter, Don, N9NYX, Hamletter (N9NYX) - Checked to see if anyone is not getting the notice for the Hamletter. Don is also interested in re-starting the "Shack of the Month". Custodian, **Roberto, WA9E**, the 220 repeater is up. We have re-acquired some missing vests. We will get more vests. KA9HEL asked about cost of all of the repairs to the truck and if there would be more. Roberto said that there is just body work to be done. Truck, Roberto, WA9E, The brakes were adjusted and the horn was fixed. We have to be careful not to over fill the gas tank. The gauge registers as 3/4 full when the tank is full. Announcements: CFMC changed Radio Expo to September 20 and 21. A motion was made by **Jim, W9DHX** to accept the committee reports as read, it was seconded by **Wayne, KF9JC**. A vote was taken and the motion carried. New Business: A motion was made by KF9JC to allocate an additional \$100 to the Field Day committee to replace the generator. It was seconded by W9VGJ, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Anchors: KF9JC is looking for a 10 Amp power supply for KI4CVN. There was a motion to adjourn by N9NYX. It was seconded by **Mary, K9GAL**, vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Thanks to Steve, N9OA for taking the meeting minutes in my absence – N9EF

(Continued from page 2)

there is more time for the shack and the HF bands. I have been listening around a lot on the CW sub-bands to catch what I can of the code, and see if I can come across some rare DX. Since we are on the downhill slide of the sunspot cycle, it seems like CW is the best mode to pursue the DX. In any case, the low bands are starting to come alive. I use the W1AW code practice sessions / bulletins during the evenings on weekdays to gauge the conditions. Normally, at my QTH, I hear W1AW best on 40 meters, with 20 meters a close second. Well, very recently, I see a shift where 40 meters is still good, but 20 isn't so good. Checking 80 and 160 meters, I hear stronger signals there as well. One night in the last couple of weeks, the best signal was on 160! So, I guess the silver lining in the declining solar cycle cloud is that the noise will be less on the low bands, making life on frequencies below 40 meters much more tolerable!

So, have any of you been able to get on 60 meters yet? I can hear there with my current rig, but can't transmit there. I've thought of 'opening up' my rig to do this, but the manufacturer recommends against this practice because of the way the bandpass filters are set up in my radio. In any case, if any of you have been on 60 meters, please share your experiences with us! You might even consider writing up an article for the Hamletter relating your experiences on the new band.

Lastly, as we approach the end of the year, I would ask you to think about what is important to you, and what you would like to see the club do, and what direction you would like for us to take. I have an idea that is by no means original, but a bit more democratic. I'd like to know what you think of a survey listing various things about the club, and letting the membership speak about what thoughts they have on what our club should be doing.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on 10/3. Until then....

73, Mike -- AB9AX

OCTOBER QST REVIEW – ARTICLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The Big Cheese Sounds Off

David Sumner, K1ZZ, and Executive Director of the ARRL, takes the page 9 “It Seems to me” column to opine on the FCC Inquiry of Broadband over Power Lines. He uses very strong language to put down those who would propose that BPL transmission would not cause interference to radio reception in the ham frequencies.

Picture Section (Up Front in QST)

Good set of picture stories this month—including a fabulous “Shack of the Month”. QST is looking for pictures, too! (Pages 21 and 22)

RV Radio

Several pages of tips for RV Hams begin on page 52. We know that some of the Club members already have done some hamming from their vehicles, but Indiana residents Ruth and Dick Stroud have done a number on their Cruisair III motor home. They are both active in the Amateur Radio Chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association (www.rvweb.net/club/fmcarc/index.html). If you enjoy RVing, you should read this article. **(Continued on page 5)**

Do you have some old radio magazine around the shack? John Dilks, K2QON, writes about them in his “Old Radio” column on page 90. You’ll enjoy looking at the cover of *The Wireless Age* (cover price 25 cents). The competitor, *Radio News*, was only 20 cents.

Introducing - - *The Logbook of the World*

LoTW – the electronic way to confirm contacts –started operating September 15th. Read the details on page 46 and 47. Also get Peter Barr’s comments elsewhere in this issue.



Postman

TOASTED GENERATOR GETS REPLACED

The Postman is happy to report that the generator that the Club borrowed for Field Day from KA9OEB (the Orange Easter Bunny) is being replaced with a modern one.

As readers may or may not know, a back up unit was needed for our Annual Event and Vicky volunteered hers. Unfortunately, the unit did not survive the reserve assignment and so a new machine, sufficient to keep Vicky’s refrigerator, freezer and lights functioning if the power goes out, has been ordered. Thanks, Vicky for your patience with the replacement.

NO CODE REQUIREMENT IS STILL A QUESTION?

It seems “impossible” to old timers that some type of code proficiency would not be required for a General Class license—but it has already happened in some places around the world. No word about what will happen in the USA. If it will keep the hobby prospering—so be it.

The period for “public comment” to the FCC ended Monday, Sept. 29th, so we’ll soon find out what happens. There were 1800 comments received by the FCC so that will keep them busy. Singapore and Ireland are the two latest countries to remove Morse restrictions for accessing HF frequencies. Meanwhile, don’t throw away your keys—The Postman is dusting off his black crackle base E. F. Johnson “Speed-X” with a serial number of 354. They are very collectible items.

ANY CHALLENGERS IN THE WCRA FOR THE OLDEST HAM?

A Texas ham, W5BQU, claims the title of the “oldest ham in the U.S.” He is Byrl “Tex” Burdick of ElPaso. He was 103 on Sept. 25th. He is reported to be on the air every day, and enjoys ragchewing on 21.314MHz. He is a member of ARRL and sends out those old fashioned QSL cards.

BIOGRAPHY – SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW – RUDOLPH KELLER

This month our "Person to Know" article is a little different. I was pleased to receive from Rudy Keller, a scrapbook that he was given by his employee's on his retirement from Motorola, after 40 years of service. Rudy retired in 1980 at the age of 65.

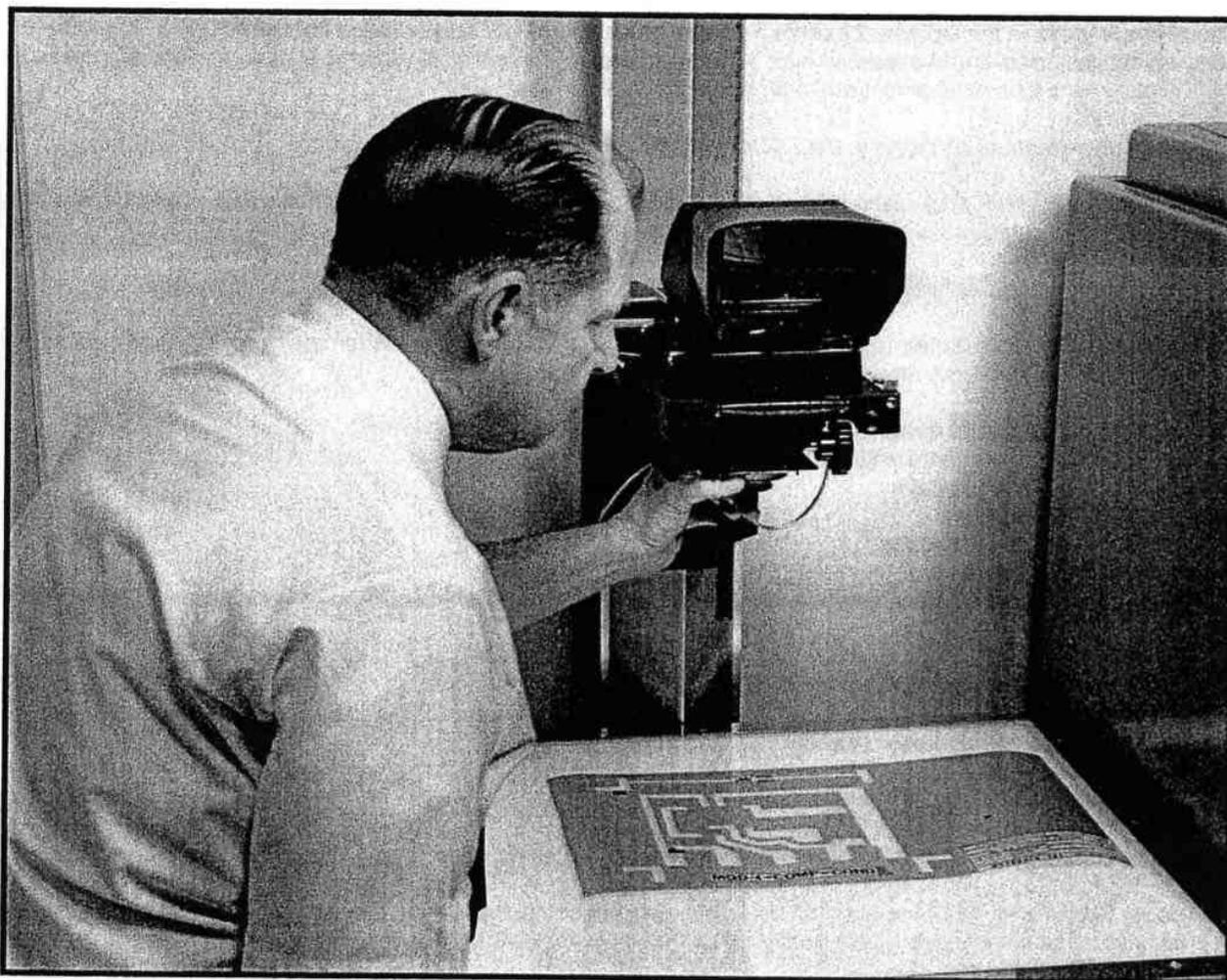
The scrapbook contains letters of praise and thanks from his co-workers, pictures of his work desks and offices. Letters from Vice Presidents of the Communications Group and Communication Product Division, recognizing his 40 years of service with Motorola are also in the book. What a wonderful remembrance.

Rudy was in charge of factory specs, process charts, memos, prints and pink slips. He worked in Augusta and Schaumburg in the lab doing prototyping, making screens, boards, washable runners and much more.

Now, at 88 years old, he says he is still kicking but not very high. Thanks for sharing, Rudy.

Eunice Frederick

Unfortunately we could not reproduce Rudy's scrapbook in our newsletter due to the amount of pages involved. However, Eunice has volunteered to bring Rudy to the September Museum meeting. He will be there with her in the entrance lobby with his scrapbook on display for anyone who wishes to view it and say hello again to Rudy.



RUDY ALWAYS SO HARD AT WORK WE COULD NEVER CAPTURE HIS FACE ON FILM.

This item recently appeared in the Motorola Retirees' Newsletter featuring Rudy, W9RKA. Ed.



Activities on the HF Bands

by:
Peter Barr
W9UF

Bob Allphin, K4UEE and Ralph Fedor, KØIR have announced they have organized a DXpedition to Peter I Island (3YØ/P). Ralph was the coordinator of the 1994 3YØPI operation, which was voted that year as DXpedition of the year. The operation is scheduled to occur during the upcoming Austral summer 2004. Their 15-person team is scheduled to depart from Ushuaia, Argentina on January 3, 2004 and arrive at Peter I on approximately January 9th (+/- weather). They will build the camp infrastructure and install all antennas before going QRV. This will be a high power DXpedition with an international team of experienced operators and multiple stations on all HF bands covering SSB, CW and RTTY modes.

Peter I Island was discovered in 1821 and named after the Russian Czar, Peter the Great. It is currently a Norwegian possession, having been claimed by that country after the first successful landing on the island by explorers Olstad and Larson in 1929. The most prominent feature of the island is the mountain peak at the island's center, which rises to approximately 5,000 feet elevation. At the time of the 3YØPI operation, Peter I Island was the most needed country on the ARRL DXCC "needs list", and had been visited fewer times than had the surface of the moon.. The island is located at 65 degrees, 50 minutes South and 90 degrees, 35 minutes west. It is an extinct volcanic island of about 230 square kilometers area. The island is typically surrounded by pack ice, which prevents, or complicates any direct access to the island. Peter I had been activated once prior to the 1994 DXpedition, that time by two Norwegian amateur radio operators Kaare Pedersen, 3Y2GV and Einar Enderud, 3Y1EE who were accompanying an expedition. The 3YØPI expedition was conducted from a glacier site. A picture of the base camp/QSL card is available at <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~gejones/peteri.jpg>.

The 2004 team hopes for a 3-week stay on Peter I. Weather, of course, may dictate otherwise. Additional details including QSL information, website and the team roster will be forthcoming in the months leading up to the start date.

The Annobon DXpedition was on schedule and should be QRV when you read this. Members of the DX Club of Tabarca Island are sponsoring this trip, which was scheduled to kick off September 27. Operations will run through October 11. Team members are Franz, DJ9ZB, Victor, EA5FO, Elmo, EA5BYP and Vicente, EA5YN. They planned to have three complete stations. One station will be set up for CW, one for SSB and the third for RTTY, PSK31, SSTV and 6 meters. For antennas they will have a 3-element yagi for 6 meters, yagis for 10-20 meters, and dipoles and verticals for 30 through 160 meters. The QSL manager will be DJ9ZB. A web site has been set up and logs will not be posted until their return home. You can visit their Web page at <http://personal.telefonica.terra.es/web/ea5yn/>.

A team of eight French military operators will be active from Europa Island (AF-009) from November 22nd until December 5th or 6th. Europa is a small island that is part of the DXCC Entity called - Europa & Juan de Nova. They hope to have three stations active on 6 through 160 meters on SSB, CW and digital modes. The team plan to operate in the CQ World Wide CW DX Contest on last weekend of November.

The possibility exists that the operation could be cancelled if an international situation were to unfold, as these operators would have to all go on active duty because of their military jobs. It has been a difficult project to secure permission to go to this rare island, however with the persistence of Didier, F5OGL and his team, they did receive the blessing from the general headquarters to go.

Europa ranks #6 (Worldwide) on The DX Magazine's 2002 Most Wanted Countries list. In Europe it ranks #10 and in the US it is #6. Team members for this operation include Didier, F5OGL, Dany, F5CW, Eric, F5JKK, Stephane, F5KIN, David, FØCRS, Chris, TU5AX and two unidentified operators. The callsign for

this much-anticipated DXpedition will be announced when the operation begins. QSL cards will be handled by F5OGL and may be sent via the bureau or direct to Didier Senmartin, P.O. Box 7, 53320 Loiron, France.

A three-man group of Italians are QRV now from French Polynesia. The first stop will be from Maria Island (OC-NEW) in the Austral Islands with plans for a September 30th startup. They plan to operate for three days. Next they will move to Herehertue Island (OC-Ø52), French Polynesia for a two-day operation. Team members include Nando, IT9YRE, Alfio, IT9EJW and Claudio, I1SNW.. KB5GL will be the U.S. pilot station. Look for them on both CW and SSB. The team has a Web page at <http://www.printed.it/fo.html>.

Bill Perkins, KC4D is currently on a missionary trip to Malawi and should be there through the first or second week of this month. By the time you are reading this, he will be in the northern part of the country, operating from Embangweni in the northern part of the country, and planned where to put up antennas and some kind of a receiving antenna (EWE or beverage) for the low-bands (80-160 meters). Bill was to take either an IC7Ø6MKIIG or an IC756PRO and a 500-watt amplifier. This will be a mostly CW operation during his evenings and mornings as during the day he is working on the mission field. He has been assigned the call 7Q7WW, but may end up using Dr. Martha Summers' call 7Q7TX up in the northland. QSL cards for 7Q7WW go via KC4D, with SASE.

Members of the Chumporn Amateur Radio Society (HS8AC) in Thailand, will demonstrate Amateur Radio operations in the 16Øth anniversary of Langsuan traditional long boat racing. The group will use the call HS8AC/P on October 11 & 12. They plan to be QRV before and after. The group will consist of operators: HS1NGR, HS8LR, HS8FZ, HS8JJ, HS8BA, E2ØHHK, HSØEHF, HSØXNO and E21EIC. Look for activity on 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters (80 and 16 meters may be possible also) on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK-31 and SSTV. QSL via E21EIC.

The BQ9P Pratas Island DXpedition is still on schedule for an operation October 7-16. Operators so far are BV4FH, BV3BW, BV3FG, JI6KVR, DL3DXX, DK7YY, ZL4PO, OE1WHC and N2OO. Lee, ZL2AL will be the pilot station for ZL/VK. More pilot stations were still being sought as of mid-September. The group web site is <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~iota/newpage64.htm>.

Andrea, ZS6WPX is currently active from for the next four months as C91Z. He will be using a 6-element log periodic, Icom radio and a 500-watt amplifier. Andre says he will be operating on all bands and is still trying to get some satellite gear together to work the birds too. QSL direct to ZS6WPX.

Still need Iraq? QRZ DX reports that Trent, YI/N2OBM advises that the locals from Baghdad show up on 21.305 at 18ØØZ then QSY to 14.240 at 21ØØz. Some of the active ones include Able, YI/KCØLEK, Mark, YI/NG5L, Amer, YI1SPY and Esam, YI1EM. Trent says the 80 meter band in Iraq is 3.600 to 3.800.

HBØ/HB9AON will be the 20th expedition by some of the operators from Germany's Rhein-Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA), this one set for the CQWW phone at the end of this month. This operation will be larger than usual, with operators from the Wulfrath, Neandertal and Mettmann/Erkrath DARC-associated clubs joining the RRDXA members, other guests who have been part of the operation before, and outside operators from the U.S., the rest of Europe, and central Asian former-Soviet countries. Look for their activity to be October 20-31 and CW, PSK and RTTY on all bands outside of the SSB contest.

Hubert, XU7ACI was assigned a missionary project in Phnom Penh, Cambodia two years ago. He received his license about a year ago but has just recently been getting active. He has a TS430S running 100 watts. He expects to be there for another two years and has been mostly active on 15 and 20 meters SSB. QSL via KB8TJP.

Jaak, ES1FB is heading to Cambodia this month. He plans to go back to Shianoukville between October 19 and 28. Once again he will use XU7ACE and plans to be operating in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest in the Single-Op All-Band category. From October 21 - 23 Jaak also anticipates on operating as XU7ACV from Koh Poah Island (AS-133). He is also planning a trip afterwards to Vientiane, Laos where he will probably be assigned XW1FB. Look for this activity from October 30th through November 4th. QSL all via ES1FB. Keep an eye on his home page at <http://www.hot.ee/xu7ace>.

The Korea DX Club and Seroak DX Club members travel to Cho Island, (AS-168) this month on October 2nd through the 5th. Their callsign is DXØDX/2 and they plan to be on 80-10M CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via HL1XP.

IOTA frequencies -

CW 3.530 7.030 10.114 14.040 18.098 21.040 24.920 28.040

SSB 3.765 7.055 14.260 18.128 21.260 24.950 28.460 28.560

Special Call YE32OB will be on the air from Batam Island (OC-Ø75), Indonesia on October 10-12. This special call will be used to celebrate the 32nd anniversary of Otorita Batam (OB= Otorita Batam). At the same time the ORARI Batam branch will hold a Ham Festival. Many participants of this Ham Festival will operate the special call YE32OB. Look for activity on 10, 15 and 20 meters on SSB, CW and digital modes. Hams who are able to contact YE32OB on three bands or three modes are entitled to have a very memorable souvenir from Otorita Batam. QSL via IZ8CCW, direct only.

A DXpedition team of five British operators will be traveling to Eritrea in mid-February 2004. They will be active on all bands 160m-6m with three high-power stations. Operations will take place from the Nyala Hotel in Asmara, the location of several previous successful DXpeditions. The group will have Force 12 beam aerials for HF, a 2-element yagi for 30m and dipoles for 40-160 meters. All of the antennas will be well over 100 feet (32m) above ground level. For 6 meters they will use a 5-element yagi. The operating team are all seasoned DXpedition and Contest operators who have plenty of experience in handling pile-ups.

This DXpedition will cover two complete weekends and one station will enter the ARRL CW DX Contest. Two operators, G3AB and G3VMW, will stay on in Asmara for an additional week with two high-power stations and 6 meters. Operation will be on all modes CW, SSB and RTTY/PSK-31 on or around the following frequencies:

CW – 1.828, 3.507, 7.007, 10.107, 14.027, 18.077, 21.027, 24.897, 28.027 and 50.107

SSB – 3.790, 7.070, 14.195, 18.145, 21.195, 24.945, 28.495 and 50.150

Digital – 3.570, 7.037, 10.137, 14.070, 18.097, 21.077, 24.917 and 28.107

The group's callsign will be given every few QSOs and they will be listening up at all times. Their frequency split will never extend beyond 15 kHz and typically will be 1-5 kHz, especially on CW. The Pilot Station for the expedition will be John Dunnington, G3LZQ and he will pass on to the group any comments or suggestions that you might wish to make. Please email John during the expedition at: g3lzq@john-dunnington.freemove.co.uk or pass your comments direct to him on the air.

The team will have a web site with an on-line log to be updated daily together with full details of the DXpedition crew plus their operating location. The URL of the web site will be announced later on, once confirmation of the E3 callsign has taken place. There will also be a guestbook on the web site and the Pilot will check daily for comments, which he will pass on to the guys during daily skeds. The aim is to meet the huge demand out there for multi-band QSOs with Eritrea and they will pay special attention to the harder propagation paths such as the USA West Coast. Individual donations are welcome to help fund the cost of shipping gear to Eritrea and the very high cost of licenses (\$500 USD per operator) and there will be a Paypal donation facility on the Web site. QSL Manager for this operation will be Andy Chadwick, G3AB, 5 Thorpe Chase, Ripon, North Yorkshire, England HG4 1UA. You can email Andy at andy@g3ab.net.

Upon confirmation of the callsign with the Eritrean PTT, the group hopes to have QSL cards printed before leaving for Eritrea to reduce any delays in getting direct cards out. An email QSL Request facility will be available on the Web page for you to request cards via the Bureau.

For direct QSL requests please include sufficient return postage - either IRCs or US dollars. They will not support the E-QSL system, but will be happy to QSL via the Bureau.

This month is the official start of Contesting season, with the long awaited CQ World-Wide Phone Contest at the end of the month. If you are a newcomer to the hobby or just beginning to enjoy the world of DX,

you don't want to miss this one. The bands (excluding WARC) promise to be wall-to-wall with DX. In fact, it is quite possible to achieve the coveted DX Century Club Award (DXCC) on this one weekend alone. Will Frank, KG9H do it again this year?

Below is just a small sampling of what you will find on the air that weekend.

Top gun Contester N5TJ, Jeff Steinman, is getting ready for the upcoming CQ World-Wides. For the SSB Contest he will head to Anguilla (VP2E). He has not received his callsign as of yet. Jeff will operate CW after the SSB test. For the CW WW he's going to Puerto Rico where he will be QRV as KP3Z.

The "Team Antigua" V26B boys wanted a change of scenery so they're going to Costa Rica and TI5N for the contest this month. They will be multi-multi. For a few days before and after the contest some of the operators will be on with their own call /TI5. They expect to concentrate on 6M and the WARC bands some of the time.

V26B will still be on the air for the World Wide and their team for this fall was being finalized in September. Look for their big signal

Richard,M5RIC will man MJ2Z from Jersey Island for CQWW phone portion. He will be single-op all-band high power. QSL via M5RIC.

Joe,K1JN, William,N1HRA and Foster,N3KCJ, will team up as a multi-two from Bermuda (VP9) in the CQWW SSB. The callsign is not assigned.

A group of German operators plan to operate the phone contest from Sardinia (ISØ). The multi-multi team will consist of Lars,DF1LON, Marion,DF4UM, Peter,DH4JQ, Christoph,DK2CRN, Georg,DL1ECG, Karlfried,DL1EK, Stefan,DL1ELY, Gerd,DL3EW, Stefan,DL7AOS and Lars,DL9LR. They plan to have three run stations and one multiplier station. For antennas, they will use monobanders on 10, 15 and 20 meters, multiple dipoles on 40, 80 and 160 meters and a 4-square on 40 meters. Their proposed call had not been announced when this was written. For updated information, you can contact Karlfried,DL1EK via email at dl1ek@r25.de.

Hein,DL2OBF will be operating in the World-Wide as MU/DL2OBF from the Clubhouse of the Guernsey Amateur Radio Society. He will be participating in the single-op, all-band, low-power category. QSL via his home call either direct or via the bureau.

Bud Foster,K4ISV is leading a contest DXpedition to his home in North Caicos for the event this month. A top-notch team has been assembled to join Bud on North Caicos for a competitive Multi-Operator event. Their team includes: Bud Foster, K4ISV, Krassy Petkov, K1LZ, Donnie More,K4CN, David Horn,W5AO; Gary Hext,K4UU, Kirk Pickering,K4RO; and Jim Nitzberg,WX3B. The guys will arrive on Monday, October 20th and depart the following Tuesday, October 28th. They will be active on the bands before and after the contest with their home callsigns VP5/(home call). During the contest they'll be using VP5B. QSL VP5B contacts through N2AU, and all others via their home calls through qrz.com.

Vlado,ZS6MG and Emil,ZS6EGB will participate from Namibia. Operation will be from the QTH of Kosie,V51E in Outjo in northern Namibia. They will use his callsign in the contest. Before and after the contest they will operate as V5/ZS6MG and V5/ZS6EGB on most of the HF bands on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. These guys will be on the air from the evening of October 23rd until the morning of October 27th. QSL for the contest operation of V51E and V5/ZS6MG is via ZS6MG and V5/ZS6EGB via ZS6EGB.

9Y4TBG will be the Tobago callsign for operator DL6FBL, single op all band high power in the CQWW SSB. He will be at the 9Y4/DL4MEH QTH. The total duration of his visit is October 22 through November 2nd.

DX Potpourri

QRZ DX is once again doing the annual "Most Wanted Survey". You can take the survey, which helps DXpeditioners decide "Where do we go next", by taking a few moments and visiting <http://www.dxpub.com>.

Carl,N4AA says not all DXCC Entities are listed however the most likely ones are listed. For any that are not listed you can list them separately in the comments section. The results will be released in early 2004.

Thailand's Post and Telegraph Department announced authorization has been granted to Thai hams for operations on the 80 and 160 meter bands during all major worldwide contests for 2003. Frequencies are as follows: 1.800-1.825, 3.500-3.505 and 3.524-3.536. These are new frequencies, which were authorized by the Commissioner of the Post and Telegraph. Authorization was given to run 200 watts to amateurs from Thailand who hold a general or extra class license.

United Nations worker Robert Kasca, YI9R (S53R), has returned to Baghdad after several weeks' recovery in Jordan. His QSL manager Ralph, K2PF, Ralph reported early last month that all QSL cards for his YI/S53R activity had been mailed and were up to date.

Ian,9M2/G3TMA in West Malaysia can often be found on 17 CW between 1400 and 1600z.

Dr. Kazuo Miyamura,P29KM (H44H, H40H) has left Papua New Guinea and will taking up a new work assignment this month. Anyone still needing a QSL must go to Dr. Kazuo Miyamura, 1-50-12 Kaji, Hakodate 041-0852, JAPAN. These QSLs will be answered after November 2003. Kazuo says to please include 1 IRC or 2 \$ for postage from Papua New Guinea. He had been QRV since March of this year, making well over 11,000 QSOs.

George,JY9QJ spent much of September on 160 meters CW. Look for him starting about 0230z. QSL via DL5MBY.

Joe,K3KN will be soon heading to Kabul, Afghanistan for a one-year work assignment. He has been issued the callsign YA3R and plans to be QRV on the digital modes, satellite and the traditional HF bands and modes.

EA8ZS will be on in the CQWW CW with Daniel,EA5FV, Daniel, at the controls. That's November 29-30. He will be single op all band high power. QSL via EA5FV.

After a break of two and a half months, Peter,4W3CW is on the air again. He will be in Timor Leste (formerly East Timor) for about another year. Look for him on CW only on all HF bands. Don't expect big signals as he will only be running 100 Watts and a vertical! QSL cards go direct only to his Australia address on QRZ.COM or Buckmaster. Peter McKay, UNMISSET, P.O. Box 2436, Darwin, NT 0801, Australia. All direct QSLs received so far have been replied to.

HE2GR is the special event call for the club station HB9GR, celebrating 200 years of the Cantons (Swiss equivalent to counties) SG - St. Gallen and GR – Graubunden. The station will be active until December 30, 2003 from both cantons on CW, SSB and the digital modes. QSL for HE2GR via HB9DOT.

The ARRL DXCC Desk announced the following stations have been approved for DXCC credit: From Bhutan are A51AA, A51KC, A51PK, A51UD, A51WD and A51YL. Recently approved for Iraq are: YI/9Y4RD, YI/4L4FN, YI/SM4UZM, YI/SM3VRO, YI/SM0URK, YI/SM5WTI, YI/SM5VOH and YI3DX.

On the Web

The story of the Gatti-Hallicrafters expedition of 1947-1948, billed as "the first grand ham DXpedition ever," is now on the web, at <http://www.qsl.net/pa0abm/ghe/00ghe.htm>, aggregating previous accounts and adding a lot of new material.

Check out the recent Somerset Island (NA-225) DXpedition by K9AJ and K9PPY at <http://www.mdx.org/na225/>.

Bill,W9OL offers a website (he is currently doing updates),where you can check if DX countries will still accept old style IRC's" and/or if the country will allow U.S. currency ("greenstamps"). Check out his chart at

> <http://www.files.billnjudy.com/> or

> <http://www.files.billnjudy.com/ircchart.txt> or

> <http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/ircchart.txt>.

"Logbook of the World" (LoTW)—the long-awaited QSL-cardless ARRL awards and contact credit system has officially opened for business. Under development for more than two years, LoTW underwent a successful period of beta testing earlier this year. The system is open to all. News and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>.

Of course, there's more going on in October than just CQ World-Wide. Here a listing of all the contests coming up this month. I'm sure there will be something that fits your interest.

Time	Date	Contest	Band	Mode
0000Z	September 16	AO-40		
0000Z	November 17	Birthday Bash	AO-40	All Modes
0800Z	October 4	Oceania		
0800Z	October 5	DX Contest	160-10 meters	SSB
0000Z	October 4	PSK31		
2400Z	October 4	Rumble	80-10 meters	PSK31
0001Z	October 10	10-10 Int'l Day		
2400Z	October 10	Sprint	10 meters	CW/SSB
1700Z	October 11	FISTS		
2100Z	October 11	Fall Sprint	80-10 meters	CW
0800Z	October 11	Oceania		
0800Z	October 12	DX Contest	160-10 meters	CW
0000Z	October 12	North American		
0400Z	October 12	Sprint	80, 40 & 20	
0000Z	October 18	JARTS World Wide		
2400Z	October 19	RTTY Contest	80-10 meters	RTTY
0000Z	October 19	Asia/Pacific		
0200Z	October 19	Sprint	40-15 meters	CW
0000Z	October 25	CQ World Wide		
2400Z	October 26	DX Contest	160-10 meters	SSB
1200Z	November 1	Ukrainian		
1200Z	November 2	DX Contest	160-10 meters	All Modes
2100Z	November 1	ARRL		
0300Z	November 3	Sweepstakes	160-10 meters	CW
0000Z	November 8	Worked All Europe		

That wraps it up for me again this month. I'd like to thank our editor, Don, N9NYX for having the patience of Job, Bernie McClenny, W3UR and the Daily DX, as well as the ARRL.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To Whomever;

I have a couple thoughts that I haven't heard or seen expressed so far about the BPL issue.

Hams are widely recognized for our public service and that is a part of our reason for being. By definition, stations communicating from distressed areas are distressed. Using low/battery power, make shift antennas, handling high volumes of traffic, etc. If the home stations they are relaying info to have their receiving capabilities degraded by BPL then our effectiveness and ability to serve those in serious need is reduced. Weak signal reception is not just a part of the hobby (qrp, moon bounce, etc.) - it's a critical function for us to be able to serve. So far it seems the arguments against BPL have been we would lose our hobby. That's true - and serious - but let's not forget our leverage as emergency communicators as we put forth our arguments.

We have the solution to the BPL issue at hand. We are already authorized to use the minimum power necessary to communicate. If that is a KW and we tear the hell out of BPL oh well. I saw a study saying as little as 10 watts bothered it and 100 watts destroyed it. I can do that - if I need to. We take the spectrum defense fund and give up on polite legislation and use the funds to buy an amp for everyone who lives near a power line.

No help in emergencies and qrm the thing into oblivion if need be. If they can't play ball nicely with us I suggest we stick the bat up their butt.

73, John; K9FID

ANCHORS...ANCHORS...ANCHORS

The following item was faxed to the editor.

This is a follow-up to my telephone call to you this morning. If any of your group has an interest, give me a call:

- Chassis of a tube-less Phillips radio. Horizontal dial, with 7 knobs,
- Board with two speakers (one is 3" diameter and other is 11" diameter)

Sincerely,

David W. Alspaugh
372 Cottage
Glen Ellyn, Ill
Home: 630: 469-6697
Work: 630 665-8470

BIRTHDAYS OF OCTOBER



JOHN	N9LIN	10-10-30
GERALD	WB9WBN	10-11-47
STEVE	N9OA	10-21-75

The names that appear in this Birthday Corner are current club members or those paying a very high extortion amount to the editor. As a reminder, the FCC database no longer provides date of birth as it once did. If you do not see your name appear in the list of birthdays and would like to be included please forward this information to the editor.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Several years ago we had various individuals who offensively interrupted the repeater transmissions and even Club net broadcasts with jamming. Has the lack of this type of conduct been the result of fines to those members, has it been just the threat of being caught by the FCC's new policy of enforcement?

Curious, but Pleased

Dear Reader/Listener:

Thanks for your note. Riley Hollingsworth has been at it for five years, and we can consider ourselves lucky that no recent offenders have surfaced on our repeaters. We don't know if any ham or broadcaster in our area has been among the 1000 enforcement cases that Riley has worked on, but the absence of "radio rage" is commendable. Use the frequencies politely and enjoy them. The Editor

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Monday - Saturday

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

2nd of October	Club brunch 1st & 3rd Thursday at 10:30 AM, Carol's Garden, Carol Stream
3rd of October	Monthly membership meeting at Wheaton College 7:30pm in classroom #138 in the Billy Graham Center. The Billy Graham Center is located on the South side of Seminary Avenue across from Old Main. Classroom #138 is on the first floor at the rear of the building on the west side. This months program will be member 'SHOW AND TELL'. Bring any item that you would like to share with the membership.
7th of October	Club breakfast every Tuesday morning 7-9 AM, Glen Oaks Restaurant, Glen Ellyn
15th of October	DEADLINE FOR HAMLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR OCTOBER. Remember we are doing a limited printed edition. Please be prompt.
23rd of October	VEC testing at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard from 6:30 till 8:30pm.

WCRA General Membership Meeting - October 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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eMail: donlin@xnet.com

Club Mailing Address:

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P.O. Box QSL
Wheaton, Illinois 60189

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