



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 15 #3

March 2015



MEETING

MARCH 3, 2015

Socializing - 6:30 PM
Meeting - 7:00 PM

PROGRAM:

A short program on
emergency setups

by:

W9MU & KF9D

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145.410 Repeater

Per FCC records and KK9DX
The following persons are not
allowed to use the KK9DX
repeater with either recent or
future callsigns:

Robert Abraham	W9RCM
Andrew Slythe	KC9ONA
Ray Kelly	Ex- K1MBE
Andy's club call	KD9BKM
Rob's club call	N9ROB

HAMFESTS

3/08 Sterling-Rock
Falls (IL)
<http://w9mep.org>

3/15 Jefferson, WI
<http://w9mqb.org>

April thru Sept. is more
like hamfest season with
better weather in out
area.

MARCH CONTESTS

7-8 ARRL DX SSB
14-15 Idaho QSO Party
15-16 Wisc. QSO Party
21/23 BARTG HF RTTY
28/29 CQ WPX SSB

For more info visit:

wb7bnm contest
calendar

MARCH DX

2 - 5/5 V63CO
10-25 9Q0HQ
11-4/1 7QAA
19-23 KH2/JR3CNQ
KH2/JS6RRR
25-4/4 C21EU
March VP6DOZ
(So. Georgia)
6 - 17 Eritrea (E3)

FIELD DAY 2015

Last year's MCWA
Field Day was met
with some success and
we had quite a few
members in there.

Now is a good time to
think about this year's
Field Operation. This
should be more of a
group oriented affair.
Perhaps we should
make a annual picnic
out of it ? This is the
time an individual or
groups should grab
the reins and start
planning this event.
We may possibly have
the same site available
and it's excellent for
kids with lots of room
to run around as well
as a playground.

There is no need to be
a big contest style
operation, but just to
have fun. It's not
about the points or
where we are in the
great scheme of
things.

It's all about getting
together and having
FUN !

Hams Encouraged to Hit the Water for New US Islands Awards "One-Day Getaway"

Fans of portable ham radio
are encouraged to grab
their equipment and head
for the water as part of the
new "One-Day Getaway,"
sponsored by the US
Islands Awards Program.
The annual event will
debut on Saturday, May 9,
from 0000 UTC through
2359 UTC (Friday
evening to Saturday
evening in the continental
US). Founded in 1994, US
Islands promotes portable
ham radio operation from
islands in all bodies of
water — lakes, rivers,
streams, ponds, and
coastal islands in US
territorial waters.

"US Islands is a great way
to go on a mini-
DXpedition without
spending a lot of money,"
said US Islands Awards
Manager Jay Chamberlain,
NS4J. "Discovering
islands in your own
backyard and setting up a
station outdoors is always
a good time. If hams have
only operated outdoors
during Field Day, we offer
another route to get
outside and enjoy portable
ham radio in a different
way."

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VE TESTING

7 PM on 3rd Tuesday of Month
(Sept. thru May)

Woodstock Free Methodist Church
934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL

Cost is \$15 one time charge, no matter how many elements are taken. Must show original license and/or CSE if upgrading. Valid photo ID needed (SS# or FRN#).

Call for appointment:

Steve, KB9OLD

847-477-3518

Unlicensed Religious Broadcaster Who Used Ham Frequencies Ordered Off Air:

Unlicensed Religious Broadcaster Who Used Amateur Frequencies Ordered Off the Air:

The FCC has ordered an unlicensed California religious broadcaster, who sometimes broadcast on a frequency in the 40 meter phone band, to shut down his station. On December 31, the FCC's Los Angeles District Office issued a Notice of Unlicensed Operation

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db0120/D0C-331583A1.pdf to Martin K. Elliott of Inyokern, California. The FCC said it issued the Notice in response to a complaint of unlicensed operation on multiple HF frequencies, including some allocated to aeronautical stations.

The FCC said its agents used radio direction-finding techniques to confirm that signals on 6280 kHz and 11,595 kHz were emanating

from a residence located near Inyokern, and property records indicated that Elliott was the current owner and resident.

“The Commission's records show that no license was issued for operation of a station on either the frequencies of 6280 kHz or 11,595 kHz at this location,” the FCC wrote. “Unlicensed operation of this radio station must be discontinued immediately.”

The pirate station, which identified <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBe0aXR6Cp4> itself as “YHWH,” was not cited for operating on Amateur Radio frequencies, although ARRL Official Observers had monitored the station in the past on 7185 kHz LSB. One short-wave listener said the operator of YHWH changed frequencies regularly.

The FCC warned Elliott that operation of radio transmitting equipment without valid authorization violates federal law and could

subject the operator to severe penalties including, but not limited to, substantial monetary forfeitures, equipment seizure, and criminal sanctions.

The Commission gave him 10 days to respond. The FCC said its Notice “does not preclude this office from pursuing additional sanctions based upon our investigation of this incident.”

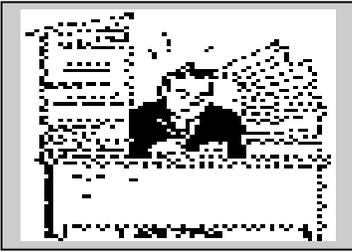


STRAY If the DX is operating split and is clearly announcing it, and you transmit on the DX' frequency...doesn't that mean you're not listening? Aren't we supposed to listen first?

KB9WQJ de Eham

STRAY Radio Police, they don't need no stink'n badges!

KC9RNK de eham



M.C.W.A. NEWS

A Little of This'n'That

From The Editor's Desk

KK9DX REPEATER

Don't know how many even monitor this repeater lately but the weekend of 2/1/15 was a classic case of the mental midgets (a.k.a. jammers) at work again. This time they were using a new noise generator which after listening to it would cause a headache.

This is just another case of proof that the FCC's lowering of licensing has allowed some mental defectives into the hobby. Certainly, no sane, well-balanced individual would pursue this type of activity, only those who are a few fries short of a happy meal.

There are others now who jam DXpeditions with a vengeance. Not exactly sure what drives them to do these sorts of things, but I do believe they belong in a mental institution away from normal people. One thing is sure and that is that one day they will be institutionalized for their activities.

The Ability to Learn International Morse Code

The ability to learn International Morse Code (IMC) is apparently a special aptitude.

I was wondering if my personal difficulty in learning to copy CW at a relatively high speed was due to my lack of training, my own laziness, or was it perhaps an inherited trait. I know that certain people have trouble with reading, because of dyslexia, and so on. Certain people can't carry a tune in a wheelbarrow. So are some people naturally gifted in CW, and some not?

I Googled the following (Google: Morse code military class washout rate) and found a document that has just been released from the NSA ("No Such Agency") that has studied the issue.

The ability to learn International Morse Code (IMC) is apparently a special aptitude unrelated to other aptitudes or skills (Goffard, 1960). Goffard said: For some men code skill seems to be impossible to learn, while for others it presents no problem. Although methods of selecting men with a high aptitude for learning IMC have been the object of research for a number of years, they are

still only moderately satisfactory. With the least apt men eliminated by the Army Radio Code Test of the Army Classification Battery, the range of aptitude for code among men in courses which include IMC is still wide.

Low correlations have repeatedly been found between Morse code achievement and intelligence, educational level, mechanical ability, and knowledge of subject matter.

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Approved for release by NSA on 12-01-2011, https://www.nsa.gov/public_info/_files/cryptologic_quarterly/the_use_of_compressed_speech.pdf

I also found a page from a ham that holds the Coast Guard record for CW.

Morse code and the United States Coast Guard:

My Ham radio experience paid off in that the United States Coast Guard eagerly accepted me at their Petaluma, California Radioman "A" School in 1975. Radioman School was an intensive 5 months of study covering everything from teletype and maritime radio procedure to Morse code and search and rescue communications. Unfortunately the course work was a bit difficult, resulting in a washout rate of over 50% of my classmates. <http://www.rogerwendell.com/morsecode.html>

The "Low correlations" quote from the NSA is especially interesting. It must mean that even someone of high intelligence could be poor in CW, and also the opposite.

So, apparently CW skill can be developed with practice for some people, while others get little or no advantage with extra practice, no matter how hard they try.

I have to conclude that high speed CW will forever elude me. But that won't stop me from enjoying the hobby and operating in CW. I just will stick to people like me who go slow, or the polite operators who will slow down for me. The hobby is big enough for everyone to get in, have fun and enjoy, whether on CW or any other mode.

Thanks for looking,. 73, Joe Cotton W3TTT



WX is Cold
But DX is
Warm !

MCWA Treasurer's Report – March 2015

Here is the monthly treasurer's report. We added 7 paid memberships last month (one of which I just received and is not reflected in the numbers below) Feel free to contact me if you want confirmation of your status. 73

Bank Balance Beginning

Balance:		
1-25-15 Balance		\$
4843.68	Checks written	
0.00	Deposits	
60.00		
Interest		0.39
Ending Balance :		
\$4,904.07		

Dave Cox – N9ITE410 Lake Ave., Woodstock, IL 60098

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The One-Day Getaway is an on-air activity, not a contest. No scores are tallied, and no prizes are awarded. Participation from all radio amateurs, regardless of experience level, is encouraged. Contacts may be made with any station. US Islands offers achievement awards for both island activators and island chasers, including a certificate for your first US Islands activation.

While there are some 2800 islands on the US Islands list, there are more than 17000 islands within the US. Participants can use Google Earth to locate new islands and be the first to operate ham radio from that location.

Complete information on the US Islands Program, a how-to guide for One-Day Getaway participants and a list of currently qualified islands is available on the group's

If the propagation were as cold as the weather, signals couldn't make it across the street. However, DX has been favorable and even hot on occasion. The upper DX bands have been surprisingly good up to an hour or so past sunset. With the increase of daylight, 20m is open till late evening. On February 16th I heard a station calling on 20m SSB at 0505 UTC and answered. It was Tom, ZS1AFS. Our QSO was not in and out. We chatted for 20 minutes or so. He had a keen interest in our Ice Age. We discussed the weather here and solved the rest of the world's problems. We also chatted about the Dxpeditions.

This brings to mind the excellent operation of K1N. Some parts of Asia had trouble logging them, but they opened a window of opportunity for those who had not worked them on their last Saturday on Navassa Island. That's a sensitive team! They did everything they could to give everyone a chance to log this rare one. I was able to log them on 10m, 15m, 17m, 20m and 80m phone. They persevered in spite of "the zoo." I swept across the phone portion of 40m where they were listening and the wall was a solid 30 over 9! I can only imagine what it was like on the island. On their calling frequencies they endured "radio cops" cussing, jamming and hard heads that assumed they were using simplex. I will forever remember the one Hispanic station yelling, "Spleet you eediot!" It was sadly amusing. The ARRL and the general ham community wonder if Dxpeditions will go on with all the interference they face. However, the K1N team did well in spite of the poor operators fighting their efforts.

I also am grateful to the TI9/3Z9DX operation. This operation on Cocos was not as rare as Navassa but they are on the "wanted list." This operation also did a good job.

You may want to work JW9JKA on Bear Island (where air conditioning is not necessary). I have worked the station there on 15m and 17m so far. He plans to be there a while. FO/K8PGJ and VK9LC are also active and workable. K8PGJ is having a blast on Bora Bora and is fun to contact.

As the daylight lengthens, look for XV7BM who is putting up a better antenna (QRN in Vietnam is bad though). Also look for the following across March: V63CO, V63JYR, 5Z4LS, VU4I, 9Q0HC, and groups of operators from E3 and 9N.

Stay warm with some hot DX! 73 Dave KA9OZP

M.C.W.A. NEWS

Denying Permission for FCC Station Inspection Nets Florida CBer a \$3000 Fine

[Ed. - Not normally an area covered here, but this does show that FCC is still working.]

02/06/2015

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has imposed a reduced fine of \$3000 on a Florida, CB operator for failing to allow FCC agents inspect his station. The Commission issued Tommie Salter of Jacksonville a Forfeiture Order on February 5. Last August the FCC had proposed fining Salter \$14,000 for denying agents from the FCC's Tampa Office permission to check out his station in the wake of renewed complaints of interference to a neighbor's "home electronic equipment." In March 2014, agents monitored radio transmissions on 27.245 MHz and used radio direction-finding techniques to track the signal's source to Salter's residence. The FCC said it agreed to reduce the proposed forfeiture based on Salter's financial circumstances.

"Mr Salter does not deny that he refused to allow the agents to inspect his CB station but alleges he could not stay for the inspection, because he had a doctor's appointment," the FCC Forfeiture Order said. The Enforcement Bureau said it was unable to substantiate Salter's appointment claim but said that he could have asked to reschedule the inspection in such a situation. The Bureau concluded that it could "find no reason to reduce the forfeiture based on his alleged appointment."

The FCC said financial documents that Salter provided offered "sufficient basis" to reduce the forfeiture to \$3000. "We have previously rejected inability to pay claims in cases of repeated or otherwise egregious violations," the Commission added. "Therefore, future violations of this kind may result in significantly higher forfeitures that may not be reduced due to Mr Salter's financial circumstances."

The FCC's Forfeiture Policy Statement and its rules set a base forfeiture amount of \$7000 for failure to permit inspection. Salter had previously received a Notice of Violation for refusing an inspection request in 2004, the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the case noted, and he also had been fined for operating with a non-certificated transmitter during restricted hours the Commission had imposed following similar interference complaints.

"Misconduct of this type is serious, exhibits contempt for the Commission's authority, and threatens to compromise the Commission's ability to fully investigate violations of its rules," the FCC said in the NAL in making an "upward adjustment" of \$7000 in the proposed forfeiture. Salter has 30 days to pay the reduced fine.

