



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 16 #3

March 2016



MEETING March 1, 2016

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

Crystal Lake Bank
5100 Northwest Hwy
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Program :
Resonant antennas

By Roger, KF9D



Happy St. Pat's Day !

Mar. Hamfests

- 5 Eau Claire (WI)
<http://www.ecarc.org>
- 6 Sterling-Rock Falls (IL)
<http://w9mcp.org>
- 20 Jefferson (WI)
<http://w9mqb.org>

Mar. Contests

- 4-5 ARRL Int DX - SSB
- 12/13 Stew Perry Topband
- 12/13 Idaho QP
- 13/14 Wisc. QP
- 19/20 BARTG RTTY
- 19/20 LA QP
- 19.20 VA QP
- 26/27 CQ WW WPX SSB

Mar. DX

- 4/16 5X1XA Uganda QSL via G3SWH
- 1/7 V7 Marshall Is. QSL via AH6OY

5 MHz Band -- What Comes Next?

Many amateur radio operators are rejoicing about the new worldwide 60 meter band, 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz with 15 Watt limit, forged at the recent World Radio Conference WRC-15 in Geneva. However, in countries where 5 MHz channels already exist with 100 Watt power limits (or more) the hams are worried. They don't want their successful legacy allocation taken away. They protest that the extreme low power limits are totally insufficient to provide dependable SSB voice communications, especially in noisy suburban and urban areas.

Also, with a 15 kHz narrow slice of spectrum, hams argue that the mini-band could nearly be wiped out by a high powered primary user's AM or data station, noisy RFI from a power supply, over-the-horizon radars, or intentional jamming. These kinds of interference issues are less of a factor with the widely dispersed existing 5 MHz channels and band segments that already exist in USA, UK, Canada, and Europe.

In USA, before any changes to 5 MHz rules can happen, there will be a Notice of Proposed RuleMaking (NPRM) process with public comment and input, which could take more than a year. It will "open a can of worms" where anything can happen, good or bad. Hams need to start planning now for this.

What would be the best outcome? For USA, the following proposal has merit:

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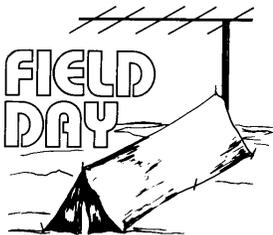
2016

Still only \$10.00

Pay at meeting (N9OK) or use application form at mcwa.org

FIELD DAY 2016 !

We lost our Harvard site ! Not our fault. We need to locate another site pronto ! Some folks are already working on it. Join in to help make FD 2016 a reality !



OFFICERS & STAFF

President	jim@n7us.net	Jim McDonald, N7US
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Pro grams	jack@w9mu.net	Jack Hudson, W9MU
News letter	n9avy@arrl.net	Jerry Heien, N9AVY

NEW ! McHenry Wireless Association VE Testing NEW !

Contact is Steve Maresso (KB9OLD) 847-477-3518

Testing is conducted (quarterly) at 7:00pm on the Third Tuesday for the months of February, May, August, and November. Walk in's welcome until 8:00pm. No appointment necessary. Testing Requirements:

1. Cost for 2016 is \$15.00. (Cash, or check made payable to ARRL) If initial test element is passed, the person testing may continue to take the next test element(s) at no extra charge during the given session. Retesting of an element failed during the same test session will require payment of an additional \$15.00 test fee.
2. Must show original, and provide copy of Amateur Radio license and/or CSCE (if upgrading).
3. Must show a valid Government Issued Photo ID (Passport, Driver License or State ID Card) for identification.
4. SS Security Number or FRN number required. Location: Free Methodist Church, 934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, Il. 60098



“ Between Here and There”

Schedules, difficult band conditions and a host of other obligations can make it hard to catch DX at the right moment. It was this way with some of the dxpeditions in recent weeks and months. But at the end of January band conditions did improve and the higher HF bands awakened. My log shows JA4CQS and V51WW as strong contacts on 15m. I had one South American station on 10m. I worked VY0ERC weather station on 20m way up north. At the beginning of February, 17m became hot. I logged 5Z4/DF3FS 5/9 each way and coming home from the office and preparing to leave for an overnight meeting I ran to the shack and finally worked the South Georgia dxpedition VP8SGI on 17m with little trouble. At last..... Many hams failed to log any contacts with the dxpedition crew down by Antarctica. They braved rough weather, lousy band conditions and other issues. As said in the last article, we are grateful for their efforts!

As time has permitted, I logged a couple other dxpeditions: 7P8C on 17m and 20m and 3XY1T on 17m. 17m has been good till an hour past sunset and 20m is showing signs of spring characteristics. In spite of continued high QRN on 40m, I logged such stations as FY5HB, UX2IO and ZS6CCY. By the way, I show C5YK on 12m for February 15.

The bands are open. Watch the clusters. I tend to log DX during lunch breaks, before appointments and whenever I can jump into the shack according to the spot. Most of the time I am successful. To do DX you have to think “between and here and there.” I have logged many exotic DX QSO's this way.

The recent wind storm ripped up a couple of my wire antennas due to falling trees and branches. Except for an 80m dipole, things are near normal. I hope your antennas withstood the 55 to 60 mph

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gusts. The antennas would have made it but an old tree weighing hundreds of pounds was no match for the wires.

With antennas ready again, I will be watching for such calls as TX7EU, 5X1XA, 3DA0, T88XH, J34G, 3W2BR, VK9K, XW7FG and FT4JA among many others. The ARRL DX PHONE Contest will be March 5-6 and the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest will be March 26-27. These contests allow one to work lots of countries within a couple days. Also note that there are many African countries active these days, if you can use more countries from that continent.

Happy DST Day, Happy Spring and Happy Easter..... Have some fun and work DX.....

Dave KA9OZP

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FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

02/24/2016

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder’s lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC’s workload.

“It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing.

“The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs.”

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).



M.C.W.A.



Tech Class in Hoffman Estates

"I'm putting a technician level class together in Hoffman Estates.

I've got a room from the Schaumburg Library for 7 consecutive Saturdays (1030 - 1230) starting on April 2nd.

The course is divided into 18 30 minute sessions and I'm looking for interested presenters willing to present a session. The structure is much more about the knowledge and experience; we are shying away from a "ham cram" like setup.

For additional information and presenter sign up please go to: Presenter Signup Text link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZYQ269>

The signup holds the necessary info and a session choice selection to help us in matching presenters with sessions.

There will also be a meeting on Feb 20th at the library to discuss the course details and kick this off. Meeting details are included in the signup (click the above link).

Students can sign up by contacting the library:
www.stdl.org or 847-885-3511

Feel free to distribute the above link to club members and other interested parties. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. 73,
Jarek, KB9IIZ"

www.qrz.com/db/KB9IIZ



Field Day Freeloaders "A club plans for its participation in FD and decides to have a potluck dinner that Saturday evening. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish and the club provides for the meat (usually hamburgers, hot dogs, or pulled pork BBQ). The dinner is well attended by both members and non members, as well as the spouses/harmonics. Everyone enjoys the meal and the fellowship.

Here is the catch: There are usually some people who come to the dinner without bringing a covered dish or has helped in setting up or operating/logging at one of the stations. That person loads up his plate and sticks around to visit with some of his buddies after dinner. He then decides to go home and you don't see him anymore until the next year's FD. Pretty much that person shows up each year for free food.

If the club chooses to hand out dinner tickets to any and all who has set up or operated and has made at least 1 contact then the club is being childish. If everyone brings a covered dish donations could be solicited for the cost of the meat. But then again the freeloaders get their belly full at the expense of the others.

The club treasury should not be expected to furnish the meal completely as it has expenses to take care of. If the club repeater goes down and a major repair is needed the treasury would be pretty much wiped out.

So the club could:

1 Forget about the dinner and just have a small dinner for the FD group doing the operation
2 Have the dinner and have to deal with the freeloaders as always

3 Bring in a food truck and have everyone order off the food truck

4 Have the dinner catered by the food truck at so much per plate per person

Anyone have this issue ???

From an Eham.net Forum 2/10/16 WD0CJB

[Ed. - This should apply only to non-members, not guest operators. There are those who "visit" FD operations, but never operate - "FD voyeurs" ?]



M.C.W.A.



From the Editor's Desk

Strays Back in the day this editor was always a fan of the “Strays” in QST. They were just 2 or 3 lines of text or maybe a picture. They were mostly just small space fillers and were fun to read. Today, I seems as though QST has fewer than they had back in the day.

STRAY “At my age ”Getting lucky“ means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.”

KI7DG de eham.net

STRAY “Store bought Antenna no way. Buy a antenna hand book and the building begins.

W8WAM de eham.net

Are Windows ”Upgrade to 10“ Popups Annoying? There is an app for that..

I haven't tried this yet, but will probably do it today since a client called me and asked me to remove them for him.

<http://www.howtogeek.com/218856/how-do-you-disable-the-get-windows-10-icon-shown-in-the-notification-tray/>

STRAY ”I'm sure it's been said before: “If all else fails, read the manual”“

K9WN de eham.net

5 MHz. Band - cont'd

1. Keep four (4) of the present legacy channels with ”no changes“ :

-A. Keep existing 100 Watt power level and mode/bandwidth rules.

-B. Keep existing channels 5330.5, 5346.5, 5371.5, 5403.5 kHz USB.

-C. Keep existing 2.8 KHz bandwidth, any mode or content.

2. Exchange the present existing 5357.0 kHz channel for the new WRC15 VFO band:

-A. 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz

-B. 100 Watts ERPd

-C. Bandwidth 2.8 KHz max, any mode or content.

If USA hams can achieve this in the FCC RuleMaking procedure, then the present domestic HF Interoperability for Emcomm can be maintained, as well as providing worldwide and regional service.

Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA (de eham.net)





M.W.C.A.



The End of Ham Radio?

There's an old saying "if you can't hear them, you can't work 'em." Over the years, hams have built ever better receivers, designed specialized antennas and adapted technology so that even the faintest signal can be heard. By using those techniques, world wide contacts on the HF bands have become commonplace.

But what if background noise levels become so high that they drown out all signals, even local signals? We are already moving in that direction and I predict that within five years, RFI could become so bad that our HF bands are unusable. Let me explain my position: My wife and I recently moved from a suburban location into the city. At forty feet wide, the lots in our neighborhood aren't gigantic, but they aren't tiny either. Our home is over ninety years old, so we completely renovated it, including re-wiring from top to bottom. After several months in our new home, I decided it was time to get back into ham radio.

I dragged out an old RX and hooked up a short interior antenna. Nothing. Not a peep on all bands. "Stupid boat-anchor." Oh well, I obviously needed to get the tower put up and see how things worked on the beam, A few weeks later the tower was up, the feed-line was in and I expectantly hooked up the receiver. Nothing. "OK, time to hook up the new solid state transceiver." Still nothing but buzzing - 'Hmm, the noise is 2 units over S -9." Oh, oh, must be the power lines out front. "

So, I fired up a portable receiver and started down the street. By the time I wandered into the middle of a nearby intersection the buzzing was reduced, and I could clearly hear signals. Next I checked out the power-lines - surprisingly, all clear. Back to my house and the noise was so high, all signals were crushed.

Long story short, our new pot-lights are LED types. All radiate RF. The security lights, also LED, radiate RF. The built in night-lights radiate RF. The source of most of the interference was those LED lamps, all of

which need low voltage to operate. To convert from household power to low voltage, each lamp has a built in switching power supply. Each power supply is noisy as hell. Pot lights are extremely popular. I counted a total of 26 in my home, and each one was a little transmitter spewing out RF. The cumulative result was an incredibly high noise-floor. That's just in my house.

I turned all the lights out. Still noise, this time from the digital stove and the digital washing machine. Turned off the main breakers, less buzzing, but still no signals. "Guess my neighbors have new pot-lights as well." In fact, using the portable receiver, I determined that there are only a few homes on the street that aren't radiating RF. The scary part is that the switch to LED's and digital appliances has just begun. In the rush to get cheap, energy efficient products into the hands of consumers, our regulators have been caught flat-footed, if they even care...

At one time the HF bands were a valuable commodity. But technology has moved on and today there are relatively few users of HF frequencies. Those users that do exist, including radio amateurs, just don't have the same sort of clout with the government as say a cellular company. (You can bet that if these devices wiped out cellular service, they'd be off the market in a jiffy). There doesn't appear to be any scrutiny of this flood of new products. From light bulbs to coffee pots to digital cable, household appliances have become digital noisemakers.

So where does that leave us as hams? If our own regulators don't care, surely we can't expect that manufacturers located on the other side of the world are going to be concerned. Why should they worry about the impact on little used radio frequencies? I hate to be a pessimist, but if this trend continues, we may soon reach the point where in many parts of the world, operation on the HF bands will become untenable.

I'm going to replace my LED lamps with incandescent, but that won't resolve the interference



M.C.W.A.



End of Ham Radio ? - cont'd

from the neighbors. And I sure can't go up and down the street demanding that they turn their lights out. I'm going to try to reduce interference at my side through use of a shielded loop antenna at the end of the yard. That may help out a bit, but I could be fighting a losing battle. I just don't know if I will be able to enjoy the HF part of the hobby in a few years.

Is this the end of Ham radio as we know it?

Doug Bingley, VA3BD (eham.net)



CW Does Reboot of "Frequency"

The CW's small-screen reboot of Frequency has found its female lead: Peyton List (The Flash, Mad Men).

That's according to Deadline, reporting that the casting of List for the sought-after role brings an end to an extensive search. Currently ordered to pilot at the network, The CW's modern-day spinoff is based on Toby Emmerich's cult sci-fi thriller, and is set to place List in the role of Raimy, a police detective who stumbles upon a means of contacting her absent father via ham radio (Riley Smith) – who was last seen more than two decades ago.

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"Frequency" - cont'd

Penned by Supernatural showrunner Jeremy Carver, Frequency will explore their relationship twenty years on from his supposed disappearance, but as any sci-fi film outside of Back to the Future can attest, dabbling with the past often evokes big consequences for those in the present day. A brief logline reveals that the pair partner on "an unresolved murder case, but unintended consequences of the 'butterfly effect' wreak havoc in the present day." Mekhi Phifer co-stars as Lt. Satch DeLeon.

Jim Caviezel and Dennis Quaid originally played the supernatural father-son dynamic in Emmerich's 2000 original, and it'll be fascinating to see what Peyton List brings to The CW's new and modern take upon picking up the ham radio.

No word yet on a premiere date for Frequency. but now that Peyton List and Riley Smith are on board, it's expected that production will get underway soon ahead of an arrival in late 2016 or early 2017.

{Ed. - BTW, this will be a series.}

STRAY "Don't be, just another ham radio "operator". Learn how your gear works. Learn the "nuts & bolts" of how radio works."

KK5DR de eham.net

STRAY "First rule in a pile up is listen listen listen, hard to do when your mouth is spiting out your call 6 to 7 times without taking a break.

KI7DG de eham.net