Vol. 17, No.3 Since 1978 March 2017

VE TESTING

Contact: Steve Maresso, KB9OLD at 847/477-3518

Testing is conducted quarterly at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday for the months of February, May, August, and November. Walk-ins are welcome until 8:00 PM. No appointment is necessary. Testing requirements:

- 1. Cost for 2017 is \$15.00 (Cash or check made payable to ARRL). If initial test element is passed, the person testing may continue take the next test element(s) at no extra charge during the given session. Retesting of an element failed during the same testing 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's License or State ID card) for identification.
- 4. Social Security or FRN number required.
- 5. Location: Free Methodist Church, 934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL 60098



MEETING NOTICE

March 7, 2017

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

Crystal Lake Bank 5100 Northwest Hwy (Rt. 14) Crystal Lake, IL 60014

PROGRAM: South Shetland Is. & South Sandwich DXpeditions

By Mike McGirr, K9AJ

Mike has been a most welcome guest at previous MCWA meetings. Mike is a well know DXpeditioner as IOTA operator throughout the world. He has been on many DXpeditions as a doctor for the group treating coral wounds and other maladies.

March Hamfests

March 5 Sterling-Rock Falls http://www.w9mep.org

March 19 Jefferson, WI http://www.w9mqb.org

STRAY Can you operate without your computer? Turn it off and try it. You might be surprised how big a role it plays in your operation.

K0RO

STRAY If, at first, you succeed with your project, try not to act amazed and astonished.

N9LCD





PLEASANT DX SURPRISES

AND A BUSY MONTH AHEAD

Late winter conditions on the bands have been fair. Of course the lower bands have offered some good DX openings, as one would expect in shorter daylight conditions. My log shows some favorable DX on 80m. And 60m has become quite popular for DXing. The DX has been mostly logged on clusters as digital modes. Occasional phone DX is also posted from time to time for the five channels available on this unique band with 100w maximum output. This levels the playing field, but coastal stations have a significant advantage over the Midwest. Try 60m anyway. You may enjoy the challenges.

I have worked a few of the DXpeditions. These include HU1UD, TL8TT and VP6EU. On Sunday afternoon (Feb 26), I saw VP6EU listed on a cluster at 24.955 up 5. I went into the shack, turned on the rig and was pleasantly surprised to hear this operation coming in very well on 12m. On second or third call, the QSO was logged. There was QSB but on peak the station was 59. Now if a station is coming in from the South Pacific 6,000 miles away on 12m, that sounds like the band was open. However, the VP6EU group was the only signal heard on the entire 12m band. As mentioned in previous articles, the bands are often more open than we think.

Among the recent DX offerings, there have been quite a few special event stations like VE100VIMY and J62P/38. These are fun to log. The Canadian special event will feature each province at some point. QRZ.com will fill you in on the significance of VE100VIMY and the other interesting call signs.

As we look forward to March, there are many operations that will increase our chances of logging nice DX. Look for such calls as JW6VDA, 8Q7LH, 9M4IOTA, JD1BLY, 9G5X, 9N7EI, TU7C, 5U5R, E51KTA, 5H3MP, S21GM, S21KW, EG9TOR, V633KS, and A35JP/p. TX5T and VP6EU will be winding down soon.

Asia is starting to open on 40m up to 15m and this will improve as Spring Equinox approaches. Japan has been consistently heard on 20m. Spring is a great time to log DX. It seems like we did not experience Winter this year. Most of you are not complaining. Nevertheless, the decrease in darkness will help us work the upper HF bands during often meager sunspot activity. In spite of a declining solar cycle, expect some pleasant DX surprises.

I will be listening for your call on the air........... 73 Dave KA9OZP



Mar. DX RL DX SSB Mar 3-4

Contest DXCC Class QSL Callsign Entity Route

5J0NA San Andres/Providencia M/S LW9EOC
8P1W Barbados SOAB LP KU9C
8P5A Barbados SOAB HP LoTW
8P50B Barbados SOAB HP LoTW
8P9AL Barbados KG9N (L/d/B)
C37NL Andorra M/2 C37URA
C6ANA Bahamas M/? LoTW; QSL via N5NHJ
E51DWC South Cook Islands HP OK1DWC
EA8/HB9EMP Canary Islands HB9EMP
EA8BH Canary Islands OH2BH
EA8DO Canary Islands SO LoTW
ED8W Canary Islands SO LoTW
FY5FY French Guiana SOSB 80M FY5FY
FY5KE French Guiana SOSB 15M FY1FL
KP2M US Virgin Islands SO LoTW; QSL via N2TK
(d)
KP3Z Puerto Rico SOAB LP N4AO
MM1E Scotland SOAB HP MM0GOR
NP2P US Virgin Islands SO LoTW
NP4DX Puerto Rico M/S W3HNK
P40P Aruba SOAB LoTW
P49Y Aruba SOAB LoTW; QSL via AE6Y
PJ2T Curacao M/M W3HNK
PJ4G Bonaire M/2 LoTW; QSL via WA2NHA
PJ7AA Sint Maarten SO (L/C); QSL via AA9A
PJ7PL Sint Maarten SO LP WA1ZAM
PS2T Brazil M/? LoTW
PZ5K Surinam M/? LoTW; QSL via G3NKC
RW2F Kaliningrad M/M (d)
TI5M Costa Rica M/2 TI2KAC; QSL via TI (B/d)
TI5W Costa Rica SOAB HP W4FS
TI7/K0BBC Costa Rica K0BBC
TO3Z Guadeloupe F6HMQ
TO5A Martinique SOAB HP WA6WPG or F5VHJ
(d/B/L/C/REF-B)
V26M Antigua SOAB W3HNK
VE3VSM/HR9 Honduras LoTW MM0NDX; QSL
via VE3VSM (L)
VP2MMF Montserrat SO LP LoTW; QSL via K1XX
w/SASE
VP5H Turks & Caicos SO W0GJ
VP9/W6PH Bermuda SOAB LP W6PH (d)
WP2AA US Virgin Islands SOAB WD9DZV
TEAM C I I COAD HD MAN

ZF2MJ Cayman Islands SOAB HP N6MJ

(e) eQSL only (d) direct only (B) Bureau only (L)

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In years long past, MCWA used to have a fall banquet at The Warsaw Inn (now closed). If we could find another restaurant that could accommodate a large group would you be in favor of resurrecting this tradition?

de Dave, NT9E

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ARRL DX SSB March 4-5, 2017

(e) eQSL only (d) direct only (B) Bureau only (L)
LoTW only
(O) OQRS only (C) ClubLog only





From the Editor's Desk ...

Tom Cicora, Illinois section SM In February, Tom resigned as SM after a 10 year run. Many thanks Tom for doing a great job all these years. You will be missed.

Old Ham Comes Home

Glenn C. Peck (KE5GK) on February 8, 2017

After a hiatus of a decade, I have returned to the airwaves. Here are some current, non-scientific, general observations:

- 1. Hams calling CQ on 75M are rarer than caramel popcorn one day after the ubiquitous Christmas round tin of popcorn is opened. Most of the evening QSOs on 75M are informal "nets" with enforced protection as a result of "squatters rights."
- 2. QSO content today often deals with the following:
- a. Doctor appointments, medications, and recent Silent Keys.
- b. Weather observations, in great detail. NOAA wannabes abound.
- c. Newly acquired ham gear and regret for letting old gear go.
- d. QRO advocates enjoy describing how they brought old (usually Heathkit) amps back to life.
- e. Homebrew antennas are the source of great pride—especially, if they work!
- f. The Big Gun contesters are faster than ever.
- g. SDR and digital modes occupy many new ham QSOs.
- h. Email confirmation---either sent or received.
- i. Intentional QRM seems much more prevalent today.
- j. Profanity, religion and politics are no longer off-limits.
- k. I have thankfully only heard one ham that invited a fist fight. Could have been a case of a "suitcase of 807s" talking.
- 1. On 20M there are several QSOs between cold weather hams and their ham friends who have moved to Florida, Texas or Arizona. It is always a discussion about snow or sunshine or both.
- m. Ham clubs, ham fests, and beginner classes are seldom mentioned.
- n. Hams on AM talk technical more than SSB hams. For the AM hams, size matters, transformers that is.
- 3. In over six decades of being a SWLer and Ham operator, I have never observed propagation so poor. That being said, I am very glad to being back on the air. Is this a great hobby or what?

KE5GK

[Ed. Has anyone else noticed this stuff going on?]