



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 15 # 4

April 2015



MEETING

APRIL 7, 2015

Socializing - 6:30 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Meeting - 7:00 PM

Meeting at:

**Colonial Ice Cream
in Crystal Lake
on Rt. 14**

**Across from Sam's Club
(Meeting Room at West
End of Restaurant)**

PROGRAM:

Field Day Discussion

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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

4/11 Madison Hamfest
Stoughton, WI
<http://www.qsl.net/mara>

5/11 DeKalb Hamfest
Sandwich, IL
<http://www.karc-club.org>

APRIL CONTESTS

11-12 GA QSO PARTY
1800 UTC 4/11 to
2359 UTC 4/12

18-19 MI QSO PARTY
1600 UTC 4/18 to
0400 UTC 4/19

19 ROOKIE ROUNDUP
(ARRL) SSB 1800
- 2359 UTC

**25-26 10-10 Spring,
Digital 0001**
4/25 to 2359 UTC
4/26

For more info visit:
wb7bnm contest
calendar

APRIL DX

2 - 5	3A Monoco
Until 4	C2 Nauru
14-20	DX0 Spratly Is.
until 14	FR Reunion
until 5	P J7RL
2 - 4	PQ0 Trinidad
17-25	V6 Micronesia
11-16	vp5/ve3oc

FIELD DAY

Once again MCWA
returns to Harvard
Moose for Field Day !

In 2014 we all had a
great time running 1A
from the Harvard
QTH. Setting up
antennas went without
a hitch. Thirty feet of
tower with a 2-
element beam and an
80m dipole went up in
seemingly. record
time. A small truck
was used to pull up
the tower and the
crew very carefully
coordinated this
operation with safety
the primary thought.

There was great food
available thanks to
our great Chef Tom,
KD6KHK. There was
a surplus of food so
no one should have
gone hungry. We
hope we will have the
honor of having Tom
as our Chef again this
year !

We are hoping to have
enough
members/visitors this
year to go to class 2A

which will allow us
to have a GOTA
station as well. This
allow us to give some
of the drop-ins and/or
visitors a chance to
get a taste of ham
radio.

At the March meeting
there was a lot of
interest in the
upcoming field day
operation. Let's hope
the interest will
continue and possibly
even snowball. This
Editor was there for
MCWA's first Field
Day in 1978 and we
had a great time of
fun, food and
fellowship. People
came back year after
year for Field Day. It
grew to a huge group
who would plan
months in advance for
this last weekend in
June.

Every MCWA
member should get a
chance to operate
Field Day. This
Editor will be happy
to yield his chair to
anyone who wants to
operate. There will be
help available when

M.C.W.A. NEWS

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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

FIELD DAY - Cont'd

needed. The software we're using will be N1MM Logger. It is simple to operate all that need be done is enter a call sign and FD category (1A, 2A, 3A, etc.). It's simple !

In the next couple months we'll be making more plans for Field Day, but at this time we already have the Moose Lodge site firmed up.

Even if you don't want to operate, there are picnic tables outside with plenty of shade trees. Come and have a picnic or just come to chat !

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MCWA was started in August 1978 after a very successful Field Day operation. Many local hams came together for a combined Field Day and Picnic. Family members were welcomed. It was a great success followed by many more through the 1990's. Everyone was in tents and it made for a great experience.

STRAY You can see *HUNDREDS of cats proudly displayed (here: www.universal-radio.com/cats.html) with their owners rigs from all over the world! what's the connection - so many of us have with radios and cats!*
(W8LV de ehama)

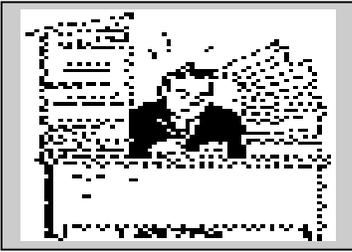
STRAY After placing a sell ad for one of my radios I remember being asked several times why I was selling it. Maybe I wasn't asking enough for what it was worth.
(KK7JS de)

Who remembers drinking at least one bottle of this as a teenager?



Bencher Sold

Vibroplex Purchases Bencher Amateur Radio Product Line: Bencher Inc has announced the sale of its Amateur Radio product line to Vibroplex LLC
<http://www.vibroplex.com/> of Knoxville, Tennessee, owned by Scott Robbins, W4PA. "This sale ends Bencher's presence in the Amateur Radio field, thus allowing the principals, Jere Benedict, President, and Bob Locher, W9KNI, to move towards retirement," the announcement said. Product lines included in the sale include the Bencher BY series of iambic paddles as well as the ST series of single-lever paddles, the Bencher Hex Paddle, the N2DAN Mercury Paddle, and the Bencher RJ series hand keys. The sale also includes the HK-1 Universal Hook-up kit and the YA-1 Low Pass Filter. Vibroplex has agreed to honor the manufacturer's warranties and to provide parts and support, and it will continue offering Bencher products through existing marketing channels. Benedict and Locher expressed "gratitude to the Amateur Radio community for its interest and support since the sale of the first Bencher Amateur Radio products in the early 1970s."



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A Little of This'n'That

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ARRL IL SECTION

In this week's ARRL Letter, we hear that the FCC Field Enforcement Bureau is intending on closing two thirds of its field offices and cutting half of its field agents. It's really bad enough that enforcement is next to nil in the Amateur bands. A true cynic would offer the opinion that we're really not losing anything as there is very little enforcement going on. If there was something truly egregious occurring, we had at least an outside chance of getting it rectified. Now, I honestly do not know what recourse that we'd have.

Which brings up a popular misconception which occupies a good deal of my admin time. The Official Observer program is the FCC's Amateur Auxiliary. The League administers it for the FCC. Our OOs put in

countless hours of monitoring. However, their only recourse is the of monitoring. However, their only recourse is the once-dreaded "yellow card", which is mailed to the alleged violator. The theory was that the wayward soul would respond to this display of peer pressure. Yellow cards carry no weight of official sanction, nor is any notice given to the FCC. It's just a gentle nudge back onto the straight and narrow path. Once upon a time, to receive the yellow card was a major calamity in a ham's existence, and cause to rectify the offending behavior immediately, if not sooner. Now, these cards have very little meaning, and are quite liable to be thoroughly ignored. We still have our over-modulated and overdriven potty mouthed "free 'mericans" on HF, the kerchunkers and jammers on the repeaters, the slobs in the weak signal and DX window portions of the bands, and deliberate

interference everywhere. And now, we really have no recourse. Not only is the FCC pulling in its horns, but the League is not nor ever has been the Radio Police. We have have no greater standing than an individual ham. We only have a central collection point for our complaints, which get forwarded to DC in bulk. And lately, those pretty much sit on the corner of a desk somewhere in the bowels of the FCC.

Which all seems pretty bleak when described. And, it is fairly bleak. People are people, and there is a certain type of which there is a certain percentage in our population that is going to flaunt the Rules, do what they please, and thumb their collective noses at anyone who complains. This is not a new phenomenon, either. There will be a chorus who blames the bad behavior on relaxed licensing standards, or no-code operators or (insert your pet gripe here). I am here to tell you that, as a puppy shortwave and VHF/UHF listener in my teens, I heard the same grade of slob operating then as now. Only now, it's not funny.

de Tom, KB9QPG, ARRL SM

STRAY Used to be I selected a crystal for an open frequency and called cq. There was then a pause while the guy at the other end looked through his crystals so he could answer me. Today we rarely use crystals but there is still the pause. The guy at the other end is reading about me on eHam or QRZ to see if he wants to talk to me!

K7NSW de eham

STRAY Contacts = Time + Effort + Money (ie, equipment, antenna, QTH, etc). All parameters must be non- zero or you can't expect contacts.

AD7DB de eHam



DXUpdate

de Jim , N7US

Guest Editor

I enjoyed making a short presentation on awards and QSLing to the class at McHenry County College that Jack, W9MU, organized. Roger, KF9D, gave a very nice talk on DXing. Roger, Jack, Cornel KK9DX, and I are all on the Top of the DXCC Honor Roll, meaning we have all 340 current entities confirmed, and John N9DJ and Jerry N9AVY are also on the Honor Roll, so you have lots of DXing experience to draw on in MCWA.

The E30FB DXpedition to Eritrea was the most exciting DX happening in March. Eritrea is in the Horn of Africa, 7200 miles from here, and has no resident hams. One of the operators was a long-time friend of mine, Tom, NQ7R, whom I've known since I was a teenager in Iowa.

They made over 62K QSOs, including 16K with North America. I called and worked them only on bands where I needed them, 80, 40, 30, 17, and 15, all CW; I never heard them on 160. The pileups were horrible, which seems to be the norm these days. DXpeditions usually listen above, or sometimes below, their frequency.

Much has been written about "DQRM," meaning deliberate QRM, which makes the pileups on popular DXpeditions much more challenging and frustrating. Listen carefully to what the DXpedition operator says and use your band scope, such as the Elecraft P3, and subreceiver if you have them. The size of the pileups made it very difficult to find the stations being worked and to discern a pattern to find where the DXpedition operator was listening. Don't call if you can't hear the DXpedition and don't bother on a large CW pileup if you need a code reader. I usually wait to call DXpeditions until they are working other Midwest stations.

Club Log has propagation suggestions based on predictions from VOACAP and, more interesting to me, based on actual QSOs with the DX station. For propagation from CQ Zone 4 in the US to E30FB, check out <https://secure.clublog.org/charts/?c=E30FB#r>. Also click on the Geo Propagation Map link for more propagation information.

I'm looking forward to a relatively small DXpedition to Trindade, PQ0T, which is east of Brazil in the South Atlantic, as I need it for RTTY (now called Digital) DXCC as well as the WARC bands (30, 17, and 12M), 80, and 160, with RTTY being most important to me. They will be active April 2-4.

I subscribe to both The Daily DX and The Weekly DX by W3UR. His website, <http://www.dailydx.com/>, has a list of current DX operations.

The 66th International DX Convention in Visalia, CA will be April 17-19. The convention moved a couple of years ago to a larger venue, and it now draws about 800 DXers and testers from all over the world, though most are from the West Coast.

James Brooks, 9V1YC, is an American videographer who lives in Singapore. He has been on many DXpeditions and has made professional videos of those operations. They have been available for purchase on DVDs, but he has now uploaded them to Vimeo for free viewing. Check them out at James Brooks, 9V1YC's Videos on Vimeo.

So turn on your radio and have fun working DX!

73, Jim N7US



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APRIL 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

Here is the monthly treasurer's report. We added 5 paid memberships last month. Feel free to contact me if you want confirmation of your status. 73

Bank Balance 2-23-15

Beginning Balance:	\$4,904.07	
Checks written	0.00	
Deposits	60.00	
Interest	0.38	
Ending Balance:	\$4,964.45	(as of 3-23-15)

Dave Cox – N9ITE
410 Lake Ave Woodstock, IL 60098
DL Cox2@gmail.com

Fun DX in March!

The ARRL International DX-Phone contest was the weekend of March 7-8 and while I didn't participate in the contest per se, I did use the extra activity to increase my overall DXCC award. I got 61 SSB contacts on 10, 12, 17, 15, and 20 meters! As of this writing (March 23rd) I have 19 confirmations (12 unique) increasing my DXCC from 19 to 25. Not a big increase, but it was a lot of fun. As for other statistics: 36 Distinct Countries, 4 states (CA, FL, HI, & CT) - 17 contacts on Ten Meters; 4 on Twelve Meters (Not contestors); 17 on Fifteen Meters; 1 on

Seventeen Meters (not a contestor – just a contact), and 22 on Twenty Meters. My antenna doesn't tune on 40 meters all that often so I was stuck with 20 meters and above.

Israel - I tried to talk 2 two stations that eluded me - 4X6TT out of Israel. I have repeatedly tried to raise his attention to Illinois but was foiled. Last August and July I was trying to get him, and missed, and this time he hid from me again. No matter, I'll get Amir eventually! To console myself, I found 4X6FR (Zvi) and made the hit. I hope he confirms - Then I won't feel so bad that Amir got away!

Wales - I also tried in vain to get a fellow from Wales. I heard him twice, over the weekend, at two different places on the band, but was not able to raise him. I cannot recall the call sign though. Wales has also eluded me one other time, as I tried to get someone in December but he just did not hear me! I was talking to a friend who's been to Wales, and He pointed out that it was the most mountainous area in Great Britain, so it may be tough geography.

Latvia - Had a rather difficult time pulling out of the noise YL2BJ (Vilnis) of Latvia but somehow he heard me! I find it amazing that somehow I, running 100 watts, could barely hear him but he seemed to hear me fine. His kilowatt wasn't helping get him in to the Midwest! Maybe it's that 's black hole effect W9MU was talking about in class...

*Best one so far - LX1HD Luxemburg, and he already confirmed! Having visited there last summer, it was exciting to make the contact.

See you all down the log, N9ITE, Dave in Woodstock

Equipment: TS-430s on a 20 Meter Dipole in the attic

