



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 16, No.10

Since 1978

October 2016

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 2016 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. SS Security Number or FRN number required.
5. Location: Free Methodist Church, 934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL 60098

Radio Expo It was nice to see so many McHenry county hams there. KB9I, W9JWN, WB7DKZ, K9MS, NT9E, KC9CUK, K3RFC, KF9D, KC9Q, N9JAY & W9ZE were noticed there. Got there late and probably missed a few - sorry if anyone was missed on this list. Missed seeing KA9OZP, KA9CAR, K9EYE and perhaps others.



MEETING NOTICE

October 4, 2016

Socializing: 6:30 PM

Meeting: 7:00 PM

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

PROGRAM:

Ham Radio Logging Software:
Focusing on DXLab Suite.

By Jim, N7US

* * * * *

ROBBED !

T30COW ---> Tom, KC0W started his operation as T30COW from Western Kiribati on 25 September. On the 28th, his equipment and personal belongings were stolen: "they took all my radios, computers, amplifiers, antennas, coax, everything", he said. "They even took my clothing & shoes". He has now cancelled "all future DXing activity until I return back to the USA and purchase new equipment". Tom's "Cows Over the World DXpedition" included activity as KH8/KC0W, 5W0COW, T2COW, YJ0COW and T30COW. See Tom's bio page on qrz.com for updates.

[Ed. Even ham radio Dxpeditons aren't safe in some parts of the world. This is a sad story and we hope it won't be repeated.}\]



M.C.W.A. NEWS

October 2016



DX IS USUALLY POSSIBLE

On clusters some stations will sometimes post, "10 meters open to NA (North America)." The operator is basically telling hams to take advantage of an opening. Many times hams post this message when a DXpedition is on an island somewhere. This sometimes happens when the solar numbers would indicate no band opening. Does this mean that 10m is dead based on the numbers? In actuality, I have worked some neat DX when the numbers looked awful. Tonight conditions look bleak. SFI is 84, SN is 21 but the A index is 42 and the K is 4. Hams too often look at the report and figure there is no reason to turn the rig on. Even when the SN = 0, I have logged DX. Various other factors can make up for the lack of decent sun spots.

During the WAE DX Contest (Work All Europe) back on September 10-12, there were lower solar numbers but plenty of DX. In the short time periods I could log stations during the contest, I quickly logged six DX stations with no problem on 15m SSB in about 20 minutes. This was casual operation. With some effort more QSO's could have been added. 20m was very active with lots of DX. The lower bands also offered DX through the typical QRN heard before Fall Equinox begins. Unfortunately, 10m remained fairly dead during most of the contest

When a novice in the 1980's, 15m appeared closed one evening. But then I heard SU1EE calling. What a neat catch! The propagation didn't last long but it gave a novice on CW a big thrill. I learned back then that DX happens when least expected. That's one of the challenges of DXing. Get on the rig and make something happen! Work your way down from 10m. As you go down to 80m or 160m you will likely find DX to work.

Across October we can look for such DX as A35JP/p, VK9LX, 8Q7MS, S79PA, 9H3LH, T2J, H40GC, T31T, S9YY, 3D2GG, 3W2R, 3W2DK, 5H3DX, XT2AW, CE0Y, 7P8AO, H44GC, 9G5AM and ZL7G.

Get the DX itch and make some friends thousands of miles away. Get the antennas ready before it's too snowy and cold. And remember, DX is usually possible. "You got to play to win." I heard that slogan somewhere. It's true with the great hobby of amateur radio.

73 Dave KA9OZP



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MCWA Honors Marty Parrish W9MLP

At the recent MCWA Board of Director's meeting which was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, the Board of Directors moved to honor one of our club's longest term members, Martin L. Parrish W9MLP. With a unanimous vote, the Board approved to elevate Marty to Honorary Member for life. This was the first time that the club has honored one of its members in this fashion.

Marty has been with the MCWA since its start. Jerry Heien N9AVY indicated that Marty was at the club's very first meeting. John Dewey KA9CAR, who is a Director for the MCWA, also noted that Marty's name, call and signature are recorded as a Charter Member on the club's original constitution, on September 12, 1978 when Marty held the call WB9VPN.

Dave Cooper KA9OZP, who attended the board meeting, stated that "Marty had fervor for the MCWA. He often filled in where ever needed when the membership ran much lower. He didn't give up!"

In the not too distant past Marty was active on eHam.net and also on the QTH.com Swat Chat page providing help to other hams.

Marty holds an Amateur Extra Class license, and has a special, vanity call sign with his initials. He has supported the club well during the past 38 years, right up to his recent medical conditions have prevented him from participating in club activities.

Marty was presented with his Honorary Membership Award certificate during the week of September 25th.

Please join the Board of Directors in congratulating Marty. Marty is 74 years young and currently resides at the Autumn Leaves memory care center in Crystal Lake, Illinois. He would enjoy visits from his long-term amateur radio friends from the MCWA.

* * * * *

Under the topic of old business:

Gary KD9FML presented very nice embroidered samples of MCWA club wear and items that could now be purchased with the MCWA logo. Keep in mind he can put club logo on ANYTHING in the catalog ! Pretty much all you have to do is go to the online catalog [Just For You Custom Apparel – Illinois Custom Screen Printing and Embroidery](http://www.just4ucustom.com) www.just4ucustom.com

Find the items you like:

You will see a part number associated with every item. You then send a e mail to: just4ucustomapperel@yahoo.com

Scott Carter

example: (What I ordered) page 57

description performance polo
color dress blue navy
size medium
number K574

name of product
color
size
part number

That's all you need to do

Gary, KD9FML

M.C.W.A. NEWS

October 2016

[RE: I was too late in 2005 to scream NO Please NO](#)

At the risk of upsetting people, I'm going to express some of my views about ham radio...

Of all the hobbies I've been involved in over the years (SCUBA diving, motorcycles, photography, firearms) ham radio has the largest per-capita collection of whiners. People find it so easy to sit behind a keyboard or a microphone and whine about the "good old days." Well, the elimination of the Morse Code requirement or the publication of the license exam question pools isn't what has led to the decline (if it even exists) of amateur radio.

Here's my suggestion: Instead of sitting back and doing nothing, why not get out, join a club and mentor some new hams? Instead of expecting someone who has just passed the Technician exam to be an expert operator, why not help them become a better operator? Were you a competent operator when you first got your license? Probably not...

I've been licensed since January of 2011 so I'm one of those people you're complaining about. I found a club that had a number of very experienced, competent hams as members. After five years, I've gone from a raw newbie to being a VE Team Leader, a member of ARES, the Public Information Coordinator for the San Diego Section of the ARRL and President of my club. I'm also a net control operator for my club's nets and also during ARES-related exercises and drills.

Like any hobby, ham radio is only as good as what people put into it. So get off your butts and get out and do something!

(de Eham forums)

[Ed. Do you think that hams are "whiners" ? Were you around 30 years ago ? Will things ever be the way they were ? 95% Of the hams I run into on a daily basis are decent hams, but there are a few "bad apples" out there who get their joy from making others upset. What do YOU think ?]



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M.C.W.A.

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Oct. Hamfests

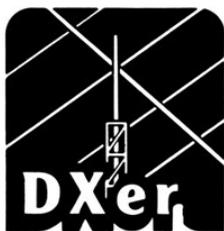
Nothing in area until January

Oct. Contests

- 8 - 9 Makrothen RTTY
- 8 - 9 PODXS 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint
- 10 10-10 Day Sprint , 10m
- 15-16 10-10 Fall QSO Party , SSB
- 15-16 South Dakota QSO Party
- 15-16 Illinois QSO Party
- 17- 21 ARRL School Club Roundup
- 22-23 Stew Perry Topband 160m
- 29-30 CQ WW , SSB

Oct. DX

- 2 - 12 Seychelles Is. S79PA
- 4 - 7 Palau T88MZ
- 4 - 16 Maldive Is. 8Q7HX
- until 5 Turkey , Manama Is. TC0MI
- 6 - 11 Belize V31VP
- until 8 Seychelles Is. S79KB
- until 8 Norfolk Is. VK9NZ
- 31 Samoa 5W/JF1OCQ & 5W/JH1BED



Officers & Staff

- President.....John Dewey, KA8CAR
jdewey@mc.net
- Vice PresidentMike Metroka, WB8BZK
wb8bzk@arrl.net
- SecretaryRoger Scott, KF9D
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- TreasurerJoe Robin, N9OK
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- Programs Jack Hudson, W9MU
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- Past President.....//...Jim McDonald, N7US
- DirectorJack Hudson, W9MU
jack@w9mu.net
- Director.....
- News Jerry Heien, N9AVY
n9avy@arrl.net
- WebmasterKen Farver, KB9I
- LibrarianJeff Schmidt, KC9WSJ
- VE Commander Steve Maresso, KB9OLD
- Chairman of Nominating CommitteeDave Cooper, KA9OZP
- Social Media DirectorDave Whaley, NT9E

Club Logo T-shirts

John KA9CAR presented a sample of a very nice heat transfer club logo T-shirt that can now be purchased through Think Ink, 890 Cog Circle, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 815-459-4565.

Any one can order shirts from Think Ink. You just need to use their online design tool, and upload the MCWA logo to the parts of the shirt where you want it.

I THINK (please check) the logo is available on the mcwa website.

I recommend putting your call sign on the back of the shirt. You can use the “team member name” area to put in your callsign.

John, KA9CAR

www.thinkink.com

M.C.W.A. NEWS

October 2016

FROM THE

EDITOR'S

DESK



WHY ? Why quit Ham Radio ?

As one person put it:

“Bloody horrible propagation.

The death of the art of stimulating conversation.

Bad ham behavior.

Burned out.

HOA limitations are just too much to overcome.

All my friends are dead, and I don't like all these newbie,

”Young skulls, filled with mush!“

Bad health.

No money left for any radio gear, pension ran dry.

Heading for assisted living, no more ham radio on HF,

then there are all those ”Young skulls“ again on VHF/UHF.

Just old, tired, and cranky, nobody wants to contact that.

The list goes on and on.

We all have our own reasons for getting into ham radio, some leave, some come back.

Those of us who plan to die in my chair next to a radio that remains powered up until the body bag is zipped up, are a rare breed no days.

You see this same thing in most every hobby. ”

Sure we have some problems in this hobby, but is that why we quit after investing all sorts of time and money in something we love ? Sometimes people just lose interest, but it may eventually come back. Maybe we just need to change modes and try something entirely new or are we too set in our ways ? The face of Ham Radio is changing and we've done in the past, we need to adapt and progress. There was a huge contingent of hams of fought SSB (a.k.a. - duck talk) back in the late 1950-60's. The old AM crowd is still around, but their numbers are few. SSB was an improvement of the old AM and required less RF real estate. So, we grasped the technology and moved ahead. Digital is the future and there will be newer tech-

nologies in the future. Many of the old guard will be long gone, but hopefully those kids we got started in this hobby will still be around .

Ham radio has always been about change ... from the day when we “owned” everything from “200 meters and down to 2m”. Hams figured out how to make it work and the commercial guys grabbed it and ran with it while stealing more and more of “our” spectrum. Virtually every innovation in communications was implemented by hams. Of course, in all fairness , it should be said that those hams were scientists first and hams second. There's a site called, “Famous Hams” which lists hundreds of hams and the contributions to electronics & communications. It's a worthwhile read if you know a bit of history.

[Ed.- The comments on why people leave was drawn for a reader's response in the Eham forums.]

Thanks ! To members who contributed articles for last months News - KA9CAR, K9EYE , WB7DKZ and as always KA9OZP ! This helps the old Editor !

It Seems To Me: With the FCC's inaction to do anything about the current 145.41 repeater situation that the FCC doesn't care about Part 97.nor the future of Amateur Radio. So, a proposal should be made to the FCC to just do away with part 97 and thus uncompllicate the FCC's workload. After all, the Commission pretty much did away with all the rules governing Citizens band and 11 meters after it got away from them. Looking at cases like K1MAN which have dragged on for years with no apparent outcome and the 14313 group which continues to taunt the FCC . Even the repeater jamming has spread nationwide over the years and many repeaters have fallen inactive. At the Radio Expo held in Belvidere in September this editor noticed more used VHF 2 meter rigs for sale than in past years or so it seemed... more Techicians are bored/disillusioned with 2 meters. If they encountered the type of operation found on the 145.41 repeater in McHenry where intentional interference is a daily occurance as is the musical, foul language and the babblings of an idiot which are so distorted as to be nearly understandable. This is the work of someone who is seriously mentally disturbed. It has gone on for years with countless hours wasted in tracking down the source.

So, the best plan of action is to just have everyone ignore Part 97 and play music, make weird sound effects and spew forth bad language. Oh wait... that's CB Radio !