



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 15 # 11

November 2015



MEETING November 3, 2015

Socializing - 6:30 PM
Meeting - 7:00 PM
Crystal Lake Bank
5100 Rt, 14
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

PROGRAM:

will be a special "show and tell" for members' homebrew projects. Please look around your shacks and where you store your favorite radio treasures and bring an interesting homebrew project to share.

Maybe you have modified a piece of commercial equipment to improve its performance or update it. You might have developed an interesting ham computer program.

=====

145.410 Repeater Report

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

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

Nov. Hamfests

nothing local

Nov. Contests

- 7-8 ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- 14/15 WAE DX RTTY
- 14/15 10-10 Digital
- 14/15 KY QSO Party
- 21/23 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
- 28/29 CQ WW CW

See: **WA7BNM**
Calendar (web)

Nov. DX

- 6 V47JA St. Kitts
- 27 4U0ITU ITU HQ

IOTA NEWS - changes coming up

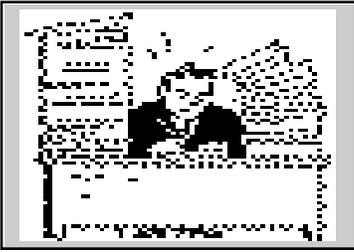
RSGB NEWS (The future of the Radio Society of Great Britain's IOTA Program). Press release dated October 10th [edited]: Islands on the Air (IOTA) celebrated its 50th anniversary as a premier DX program in July 2014. The last fifty years have seen the program grow to 2,500 active island chasers and approximately 15,000 more casual participants. It is perhaps second in scale and scope to the DXCC award; indeed, many would argue it is even more challenging than that program.

Last year the Society's Board identified a number of challenges that the program faced, not least of which was the need to provide an IT system that would allow online island credit submission akin to Logbook of the World (LoTW). Since that time, a small group of IOTA enthusiasts has been working with the Society to ensure that the IOTA program continues to grow and play the prominent role that it has done in Amateur Radio DXing and contest activity for the last fifty years.

That work has now come to fruition and we are pleased to announce that a new organization will be formed, to be called the IOTA Foundation. It will be run by IOTA enthusiasts and will manage the IOTA program in partnership with the Society. One major task for the new organization will be to develop a new online credit system that is due to be completed in 2017.

Roger Balister, G3KMA, Bob Barden, MD0CCE, Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC and Johan Willemsen, PA3EXX, are the team who will implement the IT changes and form the IOTA Foundation, with representation from radio amateurs at home and abroad..... Heather Parsons, RSGB Communications Manager

STRAY *Man is the only living being who cuts trees, makes paper, and writes "SAVE TREES" on it.*
KI7DG de eham.net



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Q: Does anyone know of a service where I can upload needed qsls for awards (people who don't use LOTW) where they will print and mail cards for me. DX and Stateside?

A: Google is your friend....<http://www.globalqsl.com/>

Congrats W9CA !

3D Field Day 2015

10642 pts 3213 QSOs

Nice job guys !

Tnx KK9DX

STRAY Man is the only living being who cuts trees, makes paper, and writes "SAVE TREES" on it.
K17DG de eham.net



M.C.W.A. NEWS

OFFICERS & STAFF

President Jim McDonald, N7US
jim@n7us.net

Vice PresidentMike Metroka, WB8BZK.
wb8bzk@arrl.net

SecretaryRoger Scott, KF9D
kf9d@arrl.net

TreasurerJoe Robin, N9OK
n9ok@arrl.net

ProgramsJack Hudson, W9MU
jack@w9mu.net

Newsletter Jerry Heien, N9AVY
n9avy@arrl.net

VE TESTING

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

Cost is \$15 one time charge for session no matter how many elements are taken. Must show original license and/or CSCE if upgrading. Valid photo ID needed SS# or FRN # Call for appointment.

Steve, KB9OLD

847/477-3518



**“THERE'S
NOTHING
LIKE DX”**

In the Land of DX any light signals were squashed by the loud QRN. The Fairy of DX (a good fairy) saw the homesickness for better propagation among the DXers and offered them hope. She said, “ You must turn off your linear amplifiers, click your relays three times and say, 'There's nothing like DX.' If you hang in there, DX will return regardless of the waning Solar Cycle.”

It may seem like a fairy tale, but the propagation has returned big time. I am glad it is here because I did forecast much better conditions in the last two DX articles. The problem was nasty flares (not the good kind). The extreme A and K indices have subsided and the numbers have been good in terms of SN and SFI.

The World Wide CQ phone contest was spectacular. I had 53 DX contacts during the weekend and I was barely home Saturday and Sunday. 10m to 160m were very open. I logged 26 contacts on 10m alone. A while ago this evening (two days after the contest) I worked V73D on first call on 15m. I also heard a faint signal from this DXpedition on 12m. I had an armchair QSO with a station in Washington state on 12m. Meanwhile Japanese stations were coming in at about

55 to 57 on 15m. This was an hour past sundown. It would be great if these conditions continue into the winter. Solar cycle studies would not give this a good chance, but Cycle 24 has been anything but predictable.

What is predictable is an abundance of announced DX operations. We are coming into a DX concentrated part of the year. Across November look for such DX operations as T32DX, A35 calls, 3W3MD, 5R8IC, YJ0BJ, E51KIK, V63GG, 3C7GIA, VK9WA, XV2D, T2TT, CE0Y and 9X0NH.

Make sure the antennas are ready. Conditions (including sunspots) tell me we will see some ups and downs with temperatures, snow and ice (welcome to northern IL) as we enter November.

As for now you need not hunt for the DX Fairy. The DX is reality. Log it!

Best 73, DX and Happy Thanksgiving..... Dave KA9OZP

* * * * *



HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

M.C.W.A.

ARRL National Parks on the Air“ Event to Mark National Park Service Centennial

In 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event. The event kicks off at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016.

”As ARRL just celebrated our own Centennial, and Amateur Radio is often enjoyed in the great outdoors, it seemed fitting to devise a program to help NPS celebrate their own 100th birthday,“ said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. NPOTA will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US. This includes all 59 National Parks as well as National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, National Scenic Trails, and other units.

The program will have two participation tracks -- Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as possible. Activators will attempt to activate as many of the units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles. Chaser and Activator totals will be tracked via an online Leader Board based on LoTW data, just as was done during the Centennial QSO Party. Access the NPOTA Leader Board directly at <http://npota.arrl.org>.

Modeled after the Mixed DXCC award, only one contact with any given NPS unit will be required, and no tally will be kept of NPS units based on bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World (LoTW). No paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit will be added to LoTW as a ”location.“

Chaser Award and Activator Award certificates will be available to any radio amateur who has at least one confirmed contact with an NPS unit or who activates at least one unit, respectively. A station's total number of confirmed or activated units will be printed on the certificate. The National Parks Honor Roll certificate will be available to any station confirming contact with at least 75 percent of the 59 National Parks activated in 2016.

While there is no formal partnership between NPS and ARRL for this event, the League has been in discussions with the NPS over the past year, and the National Park Service is aware that increased Amateur Radio activity in their parks is likely during 2016.

The NPOTA will use the official list of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. Complete details on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website.

The NPOTA will use the official list of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. Complete details on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website.

* * * * *

Field Day Results

K9RN 6130 pts 1588 QSOs

37th overall in U.S.

6th in Cenral Division

3rd in Illinois

Way to go ! Congrats to all !

Tnx - KA9CAR, KF9D, N7US



M.C.W.A.

Ed. This was a bit of a trip down memory lane in another group . It was a few of the group who shared their humble beginnings. Please remember that back then the Novice license was only good for one year and you had to upgrade or get out of hobby for a year.

N4GBK was a 13 year old novice with the call WN4POP in 1963. The transmitter was loaned to me and was a 6AG7 crystal oscillator driving an 807 final with a PI network. Peak the grid, dip the plate. Power supply was built from an old TV power transformer using a 5U4 rectifier. Probably ran 25 watts output? Back then you measured power input to the final and that was about 50 watts. Novices were restricted to 75 watts input and crystal control. I recall we were not allowed on 20 meters. Receiver was a Hallicrafters S-40. I still have the RX. Antenna was a random length off-center “T” that was made from electric fence wire and went from the eaves of the house to a tree in the neighbor’s yard. Worked mostly 40 meters and the old logbook shows QSOs in the eastern US only, no DX. Antenna was switched from the transmitter to the receiver with a porcelain knife switch from Western Auto. The electric fence wire came in through the window to the TR switch. No coax anywhere The straight key was something that was given to me and had been reportedly used by the railroad.

A couple of memories from the Novice days. I was living not too far from my current QTH in Eastern NC. We were in a “fringe” area for TV reception. Nearest TV transmitters were 60+ miles and the TV stations were just starting to go to taller towers and improved antennas for better color reception. My CW transmitter did not play well with the local TV sets and the chimney mounted antennas with 300 Ohm twin lead. I had quiet hours most nights so the neighbors could watch TV and also on Saturday mornings so my siblings could watch cartoons.

Our old house was built in the late 1800s before electricity so the wiring was an add on that dated to the early 1900s. I think it had a 40 Amp service? The fuse box on the back porch held 4 round screw in fuses with the glass windows and there was a separate box with a cut off. I could not operate my transmitter when the washing machine was in use. Anytime I’d key the rig, the washing machine would slow down and make a groaning sound. I not only had TVI but WMI – washing machine interference.

I had just got on the air as a new novice when I received an official notice from the FCC. My 80 meter operation was heard in New York on 7.4 megacycles (no MHz back then). I quit using 80 meters after that. Several weeks after receiving the FCC “pink slip”, two ARRL official observer reports arrived telling me I had a 2nd harmonic problem. It took them a while to find me as the callsign and address were not instantly available like they are today.

A bit long but that’s my first call and rig. Happy Radio! - Bill

[Reprinted by permission of author]

Ed. Remember this was also in those years BC (before cable) and hams would assign themselves “quiet hours” to keep neighbors happy because off the air TV was very suceptable to interference from HF transmitters. These were the “good old days” ?

Submissions ?

If anyone has a similar story to this, we'd like to see it here in print.