

## 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

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## FIELD DAY 2107

There was some discussion about next year's Field Day operation. Judging by the hands that were raised in favor of Field Day next year there was quite a bit of interest; in fact, it appears there was more than last year.

Field Day can be a great experience for both newcomers and old timers. The very first Field Day back in June 1978 was both an operating event and a picnic. We appealed to several Woodstock merchants for donations for this "emergency operation test" and got a few donations which helped. Families were present during the day. Think about what you want out of FD and make your wishes known

## MEETING NOTICE

November 1, 2016

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

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

PROGRAM: "Before & After the Q"

Presented by Paula Uscian, K9IR

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## Broadcasters, Jammers Wreak Havoc on Amateur Radio Frequencies

10/25/16

The battle continues between Radio Eritrea (Voice of the Broad Masses) and Radio Ethiopia, which is said to be jamming the Eritrean broadcaster with broadband white noise. The problem for radio amateurs is that the battle is taking place in the 40 meter phone band — 7.145 and 7.175 MHz — with the jamming signal reported by the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) to be 20 kHz wide on each channel. The on-air conflict has been going on for years; Ethiopia constructed new transmitting sites in 2008 and is said to use two or three of them for jamming purposes. The interfering signals can be heard in North America after dark. According to IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, Radio Eritrea is airing separate programs on each frequency. He said in the IARUMS September newsletter that telecommunications regulators in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland have been informed, so they could file official complaints

Other AM broadcast intruders on 40 meters include Radio Hargeisa in Somaliland on 7.120 MHz, which, Hadel said, is even audible in Australia and Japan. He further reports that the Voice of Iran's signal on 7.205 MHz is splattering up to 5 kHz on either side of its channel, while Radio France International, which operates on the same frequency, is splattering down to 7.185 MHz.

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# M.C.W.A. NEWS

November 2016



## WORK ME IN THE DX CONTEST THIS WEEKEND!

In the previous DX article, I suggested that bands are a lot more open than we think. Cycle 24 is fading. The current solar numbers are odd: SFI=77, SN=13, A=60 and K=5. The A index indicates some sparky activity that also means plenty of QRN. Maybe there will be an aurora with a light show tonight. I always check the night sky when numbers are unusual. You never know.

Getting back to the idea that bands are better than we think, last night the solar numbers were modest but okay. One might have concluded that DX went down with the darkness of these shorter days, but that was not the case. How did I know to search the bands? The big DX contest is coming up next weekend. Perhaps the largest international DX contest of the year will occur next weekend. Stations are setting up a week or two in advance on islands and in foreign lands. Sure enough powerful DX signals were coming in on 15m and down. Although 12m is not a contest band, it even had some activity. Most of these foreign stations setting up were saying the typical words, "Be sure to work us this weekend" or "I will see you in the contest." These strong signals were coming in well past sunset here. Yes, even when things appear to be closed, the bands are often still open.

This is verified in my log. It even shows a DX entry a couple days ago on 10m. It wasn't very exotic, but 10m was indeed open. 15m is beginning to take on fall characteristics. As we approach the winter months 15m will continue to stretch out. Although I have heard some Asian activity, it will likely improve as the days go on. We often see this characteristic in the spring and the fall seasons. 20m has been very good for DX. But 30m and down are really taking on fall-like conditions. Even 80m sounded much more friendly last evening. The summer-like QRN is going down and the signals are trending up. Due to the winds, my 80m dipole showed a problem. I was able to fix it before the temperatures took another plunge. Honestly, these are the days to fix the antennas. You may avoid doing so a month or two away.

Currently, XT2AW, 9N's, V6Z, 3W2R and others have done good DX operations and will be wrapping up soon. For the CQ WW DX Contest such stations as E51RR will be active. Crossing into November, we will be looking for such calls as T88AB, V63AJ, V63DX, 5H3MB, T30KJ (and other T30 calls), XU7AEZ, 8Q7SP and 9N7NZ on the air. Hints about a P5 from North Korea still seem to be problematic.

Have a good Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving and lots of DX memories.....Oh, and work me in the contest!.....73 Dave KA9OZP

# M.C.W.A. NEWS

November 20167

## MacLoggerDX Version 6.05 Released:

Don Agro (VE3VRW) on October 21, 2016

Dog Park Software is pleased to announce that version 6.05 of MacLoggerDX has been released.

What's New in this version:

- \* macOS 10.12 (Sierra) compatible.
- \* Added frequency Echo over USB/Serial for amplifiers, SteppIR, etc.
- \* Added 2nd Rx button for FTdx5000, FTdx9000, K3, TS-990 and Flex.
- \* New dxcluster list (pref is reset -make a note of your dxcluster).
- \* Added IW1QLH dxcluster health check.
- \* Added check for internal db updates at midnight as well as startup.
- \* Added IOTA to Log panel search fields.
- \* Added support for VUCC\_GRIDS ADIF Import/Export and Awards.
- \* Added power and powerMultiplier AppleScript properties.
- \* exportADIF will obey prefs for addresses and skip ignored QSOs.
- \* Labels, QSL Panel Mark Sent changed from overwrite to append.
- \* Fixed IC-7300 Report Split.
- \* Fixed TS-990S Split and VFO B Mode.

MacLoggerDX is the Total Mac Ham Radio Assistant and premier Mac logger:

Organizing and filtering the spots from your favourite DX Cluster for DXing, casual Contesting or rag-chewing. It supports close to a hundred radios, automatically tuning to the spots you are interested in and optionally swinging your beam around.



Alerting you to rare contacts or Band Openings and looking up, displaying on 2D, 3D and Satellite Maps and logging your contacts to a super fast sql database.

MacLoggerDX can also text or email you when the Bands are open or that rare DX is spotted.

Awards Tracking, Band Activity, Schedules, Memories, QSL Generation, ADIF import, export, eQSL, LoTW Confirmations and much more.

This is a free update for all Version 6 customers and can be downloaded from:

<http://dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html>

# M.C.W.A.

November 2016

## Less Power to To You

Gil, AK4YH

On September 5, 1977 NASA launched the Voyager 1 space probe from Cape Canaveral to study the outer Solar System. The little guy just kept on going into interstellar space, still transmitting out of its twelve foot dish antenna, blissfully unaware that QRP doesn't work. Well, Voyager cheated a little, I do too sometimes, by using twenty three Watts of power, still almost 538 million miles per Watt. Imagine waiting more than thirty seven and a half hour to get a reply to your CQ! Sure, Earth has big ears, but let's not tarnish NASA's golden record; pun intended.

Back down to Earth, are we? Some amateurs use levels of power that if not your head, will make your electricity meter spin. How much power do we need? The FCC says as little as possible to make a decent contact. Some play with micro-Watts and get through; millions of miles per Watt. Transceiver manufacturers seem to have settled on one hundred Watts, a number most likely based on marketing and economical factors rather than real life applications. One hundred is a nice round number. I am a big fan of QRP, or rather, ultra-portable radios, usually five to ten Watts. My friend Ray and I used to experiment with reduced power down to one hundred milliwatts over more than eight hundred miles; CW of course. Why signal with a flashlight when you can use a laser pointer? I was making regular contacts to Eastern Europe from Florida using from one to five Watts to about six thousand miles. Power is expensive, in dollars, Amperes and kilograms.

The military figured it out long ago. They deal with life-and-death communications from the field, portable man-pack operations in HF, which is still in use, just not the only option anymore. My RT-320 outputs about twenty five Watts, as do most military portable transceivers.

Power does help, nobody can deny it. There is however the law of diminishing returns. When the ionosphere isn't cooperating no amount of power will get through. When it does, you don't need much to be heard. A good resonant antenna and some knowledge will go a long way. I bet inadequate antennas radiating only a few Watts rather than the hundred coming out of the transceiver are the norm rather than the exception.

I suggest any new Hams to save their money, study antenna designs and spend an afternoon at the hardware store. Amplifiers are mostly used for contests where the goal is not to

make contact but crush the competition. Better chase losses, hunt for noise sources, use better aerials and more efficient modes like CW or PSK-31.

I believe the magic numbers are five Watts CW and twenty five Watts SSB. You can go on a nice DXpedition for the price of an amplifier. If someone doesn't believe how well they hear your five Watts, tell them the story of the little probe that could.

de eham 10-22-16

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The number of current unexpired FCC issued amateur licenses held by individuals on August 21, 2010 was:

- Novice: 16,134 (2.3%)
- Technician 341,643 (49.2%)
- Technician Plus 0 (0.0%)
- General 154,598 (22.3%) (new all-time high)
- Advanced 59,867 (8.6%)
- Extra 121,879 (17.6%) (new all-time high)

Total 694,121

\* \* \* \* \*



**Nov. Hamfests**

Nothing in area until January

**Nov. Contests**

- 5 - 7 ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- 12 - 13 WAE DX RTTY
- 14 - 21 ARRL Swepstakes , SSB

**Nov. DX**

COWS OVER THE WORLD (Update). "The Daily DX" reports that Tom, KC0W, and his all-CW "Cows Over the World" DXpeditions which was recently halted after the theft of all of his equipment, is getting ready to be active again with his "next 2 DXpeditions. Possibly "this November/December. He did not say where but did mention they would be from two different continents. One of the locations 'is needed by EU/JA' while the second country will be with a 'very unusual prefix' which Tom expects to 'generate some good pileups'. QRX for more details."

until Nov 15 Viet Nam Mike, N0ODK will be there using 3W6DK, 3W2DK, XV4MN, or N0ODK.

6 -13 PJ4 Bonaire N5NR, N5NR & NT5V all operating PJ4/

Nov 15 - Dec 15 V4 St. Kitts V47JA & XYL V47HAM



There are some real animals on 20 meters

**Officers & Staff**

- President.....John Dewey, KA8CAR  
ka9car@arrl.net
- Vice President .....Mike Metroka, WB8BZK  
wb8bzk@arrl.net
- Secretary .....Roger Scott, KF9D  
kf9d@arrl.net
- Treasurer .....Joe Robin, N9OK  
n9ok@arrl.net
- Programs ..... Jack Hudson, W9MU  
jack@w9mu.net
- Past President.....//...Jim McDonald, N7US
- Director .....Jack Hudson, W9MU  
jack@w9mu/net
- Director.....
- News ..... Jerry Heien, N9AVY  
n9avy@arrl.net
- Webmaster .....Ken Farver, KB9I
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- Social Media Director .....Dave Whaley, NT9E

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**Broadcasters, Jammers - cont'd**

up to 5 kHz on either side of its channel, while Radio France International, which operates on the same frequency, is splattering down to 7.185 MHz.

Other odds and ends on 40 meters include the so-called "V beacon" on 7.091.5 MHz. The looped CW signal, which sends the letter "V" over and over, is audible every day. Hadel said the signal originates in Kazakhstan.

Hadel has reported HF radar signals from Russia on 40 and 20 meters, with "long-lasting transmissions, often with many spurious emissions."

A Russian Air Force frequency-shift keyed signal identifying in CW as "REA4," has been active on 7.117 MHz, while a Russian Navy FSK signal "Sevastopol" has been observed on 14.180. Hadel said Germany's telecommunications regulator has filed an official complaint. Other Russian military signals have been heard on 7.016 MHz.

# M.C.W.A. NEWS

November 2016



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**QSL Cards Via Bureau** Seems that ARRL has seen fit to increase the rates to members for sending QSL cards to foreign bureaus.

“The Service has been a member benefit for decades,” an ARRL statement said. “Since its official formation in November 1976, tens of millions of QSL cards have been shipped from ARRL Headquarters to Amateur Radio QSL bureaus of other national societies worldwide. At one time, this benefit offered a safe, reliable, and inexpensive way to exchange QSL cards for a fraction of the cost of the postal service. What amateurs saved in financial cost, however, was made up for in time; it could take months, or even years, to send and receive a QSL through the bureau.”

Effective on November 1, the rate for 1 ounce of outgoing QSLs via the Service will increase to match the 1 ounce USPS international postage rate. As of September 2016, this rate is \$1.15 per ounce -- about 10 cards. An additional service fee of \$7 will be charged per individual transaction, to cover administrative costs.

ARRL said QSLing is very different now, and, while postal services are generally more reliable than in years past, international shipping costs have risen significantly. “With the advent of the Internet and online QSL confirmation services such as ARRL’s Logbook of The World, fewer and fewer paper cards are being exchanged,” the ARRL statement observed.

Calling the Outgoing QSL Service “a significant tradition in the world of Amateur Radio,” the League said it’s committed to keeping that tradition and service alive for members who enjoy using it. “We are committed to ensuring our members will be able to send their QSL cards through the Service for decades to come.”

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**STRAY** Noted previous stray re long term viability of wire ties for outdoor use. I used them extensively on my tower, now up for about 8 years. I check periodically and the black wire ties seem as good as when installed. Better than sticky black tape.

KD8DZ via Eham.net

## Jamboree of the Air October 15th 2016

On Saturday October 15th some of MCWA radio amateurs took part in the 59th Jamboree of Air at the Scout Store on Route 31 in Crystal Lake. Dave Tanner KC9ZWE, John Dewey KA9CAR and Desmond Sharpe KB3LKM arrived at The Scout Store and met with our Scout Liaison Maria Kascher at 11am to set up a small station and antenna. We launched a Half size G5RV over some trees at the side of the building and set up a Icom 718 to get us on the air. We also had a few HT for two meter work on the desk.

The weekend was alive with radio with the New York , Indiana , Illinois QSO parties on the air, although conditions were not great on the bands. In addition to the QSO party operators the Radio Scouting side of the Boy Scouts of America activated 350 stations over the weekend. Since the bands were virtually closed we didn’t make any contacts outside the United States but did get some heavy QRM from Denmark on Twenty meters for a time.

HF contacts were difficult with so many stations trying to reach their county goals in the respective QSO parties however two highlights included making a sustained contact with WW2BSA the scouting headquarters in New Jersey who had 500 scouts there for the weekend. The operators on the other end did a great job in talking to the multiple cubscouts and Bears that came to visit that station while we operated with them. We also made a contact with the Voice of America Museum which had a special JOTA station in Ohio and also took the time to talk individually to some of the cub scouts who were at the station table at the time and later in the afternoon kindly repeated the adventure for some late comers.

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# M.C.W.A. NEWS

## November 2016

### JOTA - cont'd

Holding the microphone on the Icom seemed a bit intimidating for some of the kids but they greatly enjoyed being able to use the HT to talk to K9EYE who operated through the local repeater. As a former scout leader his knowledge of the scouting movement created a great rapport with some of the kids. At one point Dave went mobile and on simplex with his son to chat with a few cub-scouts who were sitting at the station.

Some of the parents had some very interesting questions and one middle aged man who has been in the scouting movement for a long time was awestruck with our ability to connect to New York without vast amounts of rf power. Overall we probably had about thirty kids show up with their parents and even some ham radio operators who aren't members of the club but somehow heard that we were having an activation and stopped by for a while. One visitor was originally from a rural area of the Philippines and had

Stray Having the money to invest in the very best Antenna and radio system is OK, but it doesn't give you a license to be a bully in the pile ups.

[KI7DG de Eham](#)

Stray Balun- Balanced to Unbalanced why is this word so difficult

[KI8DJ de eham](#)

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### Broadcaster, Jammers - cont'd

Chinese broadband OTH radars on 14 MHz generated some "Woodpecker" complaints, "but this was not the Russian "Woodpecker," Hadel clarified. Mario Taeubel, DG0JBJ,

Woodpecker," Hadel clarified. Mario Taeubel, DG0JBJ, observed 11 OTH radars on 40 meters, 40 on 20 meters, 13 on 15 meters and 2 on 10 meters during meters during September.

Hadel reports that signals from Spanish and Portuguese, UK, and Irish fishing operations, Indonesian and Philippine pirates, and OTH radar signals are sprinkled throughout 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters, while signals from oceangoing sensor buoys are heard widely on various discrete frequencies on 10 meters

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used licensed radio in her youth for local contacts and wanted her son to experience using a radio. Maria Kasher reported that everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and they would like to host another activation for the 60th Jamboree of the Air next year if we are willing and able to do something similar. With ample time to organize turn out would be expected to be greater than our first outing

