

M.C.W.A. NEWS

December 2014
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McHenry County Wireless Association

Since 1978
36 Years



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DECEMBER MEETING

TUESDAY , December 2

Crystal Lake Bank

5100 Rt. 14, Crystal Lake, IL

6:30 PM - Socializing

7:00 PM - Meeting

Program will be an open forum led by Dave, KA9OZP
Bring your questions and we'll provide some answers

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Testing By Appointment Only !

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#

Steve, KB9OLD





**“ALL BANDS
STILL OPEN !”**

At the writing of this article the sunspot numbers are respectable. The A and K indices are good. All bands remain open! One notable change is that the upper HF bands have become very reliant on daylight conditions. Here in the northern hemisphere the bands above 20m are good for about eleven hours now.

My log for November shows ZW75PSO, S01WS, many Japanese QSO's and a host of other DX contacts for 10m. 12m has also been quite hot up to a hour after sunset. Indeed all of the bands are respectable. More DX is opening up on 40m and 80m at night. There have also been some good spots for 160m. Add to this some sporadic openings on 6m and some enhancement on VHF and UHF bands.

Things are good to very good when all is taken into consideration.

Across December look for such DX operations as E6XG, 8Q7UX, 7P8NH, VK9N, T8CW, D44TWO, and VU4 and T88 prefixes.

As the snow was falling I put up some Christmas lights today. I don't recommend this practice as a ladder was required. Thankfully, I was on the roof on warmer days and inspected, secured and adjusted my several antennas knowing that this day would soon arrive. Having stated this, please exercise caution with climbing whether it be for Christmas lights or antennas. We want everyone to enjoy DXing in 2015!

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Work some DX on these colder days of winter.

73, Dave KA9OZP



A Word From the President

It was so good to see so many at November's meeting. The Batavia Fermi Lab is a good distance making it a little harder discussion to go to the meeting. However, those who made the trip enjoyed the presentation and tour given by Kermit, W9XA on many of the RF devices used at the National Accelerator Laboratory there. While there, one of our attendees found a note book in the conference room we were in. It was apparently left behind apparently belonging to a William Bardeen. There is a physicist named William Bardeen that works at Fermi. The interesting part is he is the son of one of the inventors of the transistor – John Bardeen! The notebook was given to Kermit for its proper return.

On a sadder note, it was learned that the first president of MCWA, Capt. Adolf E. “Hymie” Fullgrabe, N8HF passed away on November 12th. He apparently was quite accomplished in many areas. Besides being a “Ham” and being our clubs first president, he was a previous Captain in the US Army Airborne. He was a graduate of Ohio State and worked as an Electrical Engineer for the US Coast Guard. Hymie worked for the Federal Aviation Administration before retirement. The family relocated to Rochester, IL (just outside of Springfield) about 30 years ago. The family requests in lieu of any flowers, memorial contributions may American Lung Association.

The December meeting is coming up on Tuesday December 2 so hope to see everyone there. The December meeting program will be an open forum on amateur radio entertaining any questions or comments for the good of ham radio. Our Vice President, Dave KA9OZP will be our moderator. Bring lots of questions.

Hope to see you all there.

Kent, K9KMD





FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

FCC Reverses ALJ's Decision, Revokes Convicted Sex Offender's Ham Radio License

The FCC has reversed the decision of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) who had ruled in 2010 that David Titus, KB7ILD, of Seattle, Washington, could keep his Amateur Radio license in the wake of his conviction for a sex-related crime 17 years earlier. In his March 9, 2010, Initial Decision, ALJ Richard L. Sippel determined that Titus “has been a law-abiding member of his community for many years” and, based on evidence that Titus and witnesses on his behalf had presented, ordered that Titus's amateur license not be revoked. Sippel also ruled that the FCC's Enforcement Bureau had failed to meet the burden of proof necessary for revocation. He determined that Titus had shown remorse and been rehabilitated, and that the Enforcement Bureau had presented no credible evidence to indicate that Titus should be categorized as a high-risk sex offender. In a November 5 Decision in the proceeding (EB Docket 07-13), the FCC reversed Sippel's decision.

“We find that the ALJ erred in holding that the Enforcement Bureau failed to meet its burden of demonstrating that Titus is currently unqualified to remain a Commission licensee,” the Decision said, “inasmuch as the ALJ failed to consider relevant convictions for sex offenses and failed to give appropriate deference to the judgment of local law enforcement authorities that Titus is a convicted sex offender who poses a high risk to the safety of the community.”

The FCC also said Sippel should have given more weight to incidents in 2002 and 2004 that, while not resulting in conviction, “prompted the Seattle Police Department to raise Titus's assessed risk level from moderate to high.”

In January 2007 the FCC issued a show-cause Order and designated for hearing the issue of whether Titus was qualified to remain a licensee in light of a 1993 felony conviction for “communicating with a minor for immoral purposes.” The Communications Act provides that the FCC may revoke any license, if conditions come to its attention conditions come to its attention that would have warranted a denial of the licensee's original application. The Commission has said in the past that felony convictions, “especially those involving sexual offenses involving children,” raise questions regarding a licensee's character qualifications.

Titus's General class license expired in 2009, and the FCC deferred action on his renewal application while the revocation proceeding was still in play.

The FCC said that given “known risks of Amateur Radios in the hands of sex offenders, such misconduct is prima facie disqualifying, and has resulted in the loss of licenses in past cases.”

“In focusing on the impact of Titus's misconduct on his qualifications to hold an Amateur Radio license,” the FCC concluded, “we would be remiss in our responsibilities as a licensing authority if we continue to authorize Titus to hold an Amateur Radio license that could be used to put him in contact with children.”

The above article from ARRL Letter of November 1, could have far reaching complications should FCC decide who is fit to hold a license and based on what criteria. Would it come down to holding one accountable for previous felonies and misdemeanors ?

Perhaps the recent traffic ticket you got for doing 50 in a 35 mph zone may get your Amateur License revoked ? There should be some further word from FCC on what would constitute “unfit to hold an Amateur License” ? Although this will no doubt never be forthcoming from the FCC because it would stir further controversy. - Ed.



The Best Birthday Gift

from Otis, NP4G on October 28, 2014

Last Thursday night, as I usually do once my kids are put to sleep; I sneak my way to the shack to see if I can catch any new DXCC / Band Slot, or just to see what is around. I have put up a new 30m / 40M beam so it is the perfect time to use it.

After making some Q's on 30M I see EK3GM from Armenia posted on the cluster calling on 20M SSB. I was very tired so I figured it was going to be my last contact for the evening since I have to get up early for work. He was coming strong to the Caribbean. I gave him a call and got to work him. I uploaded my log to LOTW and went to sleep.

The Following day I checked my LOTW and I had his confirmation. When I started looking around my DXCC record, to my surprise, Armenia was a new DXCC. This is after about 6 years for intense DXing and Contesting I somehow have never heard an Armenian station on the air. Perhaps I am not as active I make myself believe.

I was thinking to myself, would it be nice to get EK3GM in the log for other bands? I sent Boris an email about scheduling a contact and I immediately got a response via email. He could work a few other bands in CW as well. We managed to schedule for 20M CW and then move to 17M CW. After I got off work, I managed my way home early and about 20:00UTC I started calling on the 20M CW frequency and there he was. So that makes it 20M in both CW and SSB. We tried to make the contact on 17M but there was no propagation at the time.

I sent him an email thanking him for the 20M CW and wishing him a great weekend. To my surprise he said to try 40M. I did not know what to do. I had to go drop off the kids at grandpa and grandma's so that my XYL and I could attend the meeting. I had told him that I should be back home at around 2:00UTC but I was going to confirm via email. He said, "no problem, will be QRV", I thought to myself if he ever sleeps! It must be really late in Armenia. He had already been so nice to be there when I got home from work and he was going to be there when I got home from the meeting!!

At 2:00UTC I sent him an email on the 40M CW frequency and got to work him. Then we QSY'd to 30M and another QSO. What an awesome operator! By that time it was Saturday so that marks my birthday. I told him that not only working a new DXCC entity, but working him on 3 bands was the best Birthday gift I could wish for.

Many thanks to Boris EK3GM for this birthday surprise and wishing for many more birthday DX in the future.

73

Otis, NP4G (de Eham.net)

STRAY *You know that you are a ham when you realize that Ohm, Kirchhoff, Norton and Thevenin are not a bill collection firm.*

AA4HA de eham.net

OPERATING TIP

Please copy? Please don't! Imagine this pre-Sweepstakes conversation as Elmer prepares to hand off the controls to his protégée:

“OK, when the clock rolls over to 2100 UTC...”

“I know - call CQ, right?”

“No, I want you to say ”please copy“ 500 times in a row.”

“What????!!”

“You might as well get it out of your system. Follow it with another 500 of ”You are“ and 110 leading zeroes. Then you can call CQ.”

“But that will take a half hour!”

“Sure will...but you were going to say it anyway!”

Unnecessary verbiage slows everything down, whether it's a contest or an emergency communication net. Try to eliminate it from your on the air transmissions. Write down a script to help you say only what you need to say. The editor fesses up to having a weakness for adding in an ex

(de ARRL Letter)



Alternators & Batteries For those interested in mobile operation there is a very good reference at: www.k0bg.com/alternator.html There is also information about batteries. Did you know that “dep cycle marine batteries” aren't what the name would indicate? Read the article to find out more.



Typical Sealed Lead Acid battery often incorrectly called Gel-Cell. Typical life is about 3-5 years, after that they become unreliable at holding charge.

STRAY

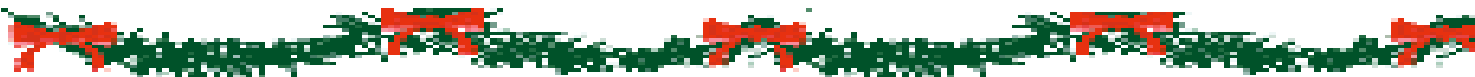
I got into ham radio due to the following:

- 1. SWLing*
- 2. Wanted to help on a lost child incident.*
- 3. Hams were very interesting to listen to.*
- 4. To get away from the foul language on CB radio.*

*After 47 years only item #2 remains, helping during emergencies. The rest are gone for the most part.
N4VNV de eham.net*

Per FCC records and KK9DX, following persons are not allowed to use KK9DX repeater with present and or future call signs:

Robert M. Abraham W9RCM
Andrew T Sylthe KC9ONA
Ray Kelly ex -K1MBE
N9ROB club call
KD9BKM club call



MCWA Treasurer's Report
December 2014
None

WW1USA Special Event, Dec 27-28:

One-Hundred years ago, a great war was raging across Europe. Regardless of this conflict, a small miracle of peace occurred over the battlefield on Christmas Eve 1914. The Christmas truce (German: Weihnachtsfrieden; French: Trêve de Noël) was a series of widespread, unofficial ceasefires that took place along the Western Front around Christmas 1914, during World War I.

Through the week leading up to Christmas, parties of German and British soldiers began to exchange seasonal greetings and songs between their trenches; on occasion, the tension was reduced to the point that individuals would walk across to talk to their opposite numbers bearing gifts.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, many soldiers from both sides—as well as, to a lesser degree, from French units—independently ventured into “no man's land”, where they mingled, exchanging food and souvenirs. As well as joint burial ceremonies, several meetings ended in carol-singing. Troops from both sides were also friendly enough to play games of football with one another, in one of the truce's most enduring images.

Special Event Station WW1USA of the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial will be on the air at Kansas City, Missouri to commemorate this historic event. The Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club will sponsor this special operating event at the museum, with assistance from the Joplin Amateur Radio Club from 15:00 UTC on December 27th through 22:00 UTC on December 28th.

All Amateur Radio Operators from around the world are invited to participate in this Special Event by contacting WW1USA on the radio. If you're in Kansas City during the Special Event, all Amateur Radio operators who present an operator license will receive \$5 admission to the Museum for themselves and up to three guests. (No other discounts apply.)

Stations making contact with WW1USA during the Special Event can request a Contact Certificate through the ww1usa.org website, December 27, 2014, through January 30, 2015. A QSL Card can be obtained via mail by sending SASE or by providing other return postage. You can also obtain an Electronic QSL Card via eQSL.

For more details, please visit <http://ww1usa.org>



Stray: Two often used Ham Radio Misnomers: “End Fed Dipole” (It's really a 1/2 wave end fed or 1/2 wave Hertz) and “Off Center Fed Dipole”
K9WN de eham.net

Stray The FT4TA effort is attracting the worst of Hamdom.... Intentional qrm, UP police, lids, and the DX station constantly shifting up and down in his QSX freq is producing nothing but massive qrm up to 15 kcs. A real sad zoo
NQ3C de eham.net

