

# M.C.W.A. NEWS

February 2014  
Vol. 14, No. 2

McHenry County Wireless Association

Since 1978  
35 Years



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## VE TESTING



### 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

847/477-3518

## FEBRUARY MEETING

### February 4, 2014

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

## PROGRAM :

### “I Want to Grow Some Steel In My Backyard”

Part 2

Guest Speaker : Ed , K9TX

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## MCWA Treasurer's Report February 2014

I won't be able to attend the February meeting. So if you haven't already paid your 2014 dues, please pay them by mail. Thanks! Feel free to contact me about any Treasurer related issues.

73

Bob Lubecker NZ1B  
3812 Monica Trail  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
boblubecker@gmail.com

Bank Balance:  
Per. 12-31-13 Statement

Beginning Balance	\$4,768.00
Checks written	.00
Deposits	280.00
Interest	.43
Ending Balance	\$5,048.43



## DX NOT IN DEEP FREEZE

If the Polar Vortex sends you into cabin fever, go to the shack and talk with those in warmer places. I talked with PY7DJ on 40m the other night and Neto mentioned that Brazil is in a heatwave. The thoughts of a heatwave warmed me up for two seconds! In any case, work some nice DX and tell the fellow in the heatwave that it is almost zero F here and maybe it will balance things out for a few moments. It's a fantastic hobby!

73 Dave KA9OZP

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Although the Polar Vortex has put us in a deep freeze this winter, it has not affected our winter time propagation all that much. In fact, this is the longest sustained hot spot of Cycle 24! At the writing of this article, the solar flux number is 157 and the sunspot number is 62. These numbers are not spectacular but they are supporting good propagation. During a lunch break today I worked ZD7FT on 10m and PY0F on 15m. Signals were strong both ways



Yesterday, TY1TT was strong on 15m with an incredible pile-up. It is not every day that Benin is on the air with an S-9. On the evening of the same day, January 27, I worked Aki, JA4FHE, with a 5-9 plus signal both ways on 17m. All of this to say that the bands are healthy. As the day skip dies out an hour or two past sunset on the higher HF bands, one can switch to the lower HF bands and work the world. On January 23, I worked S54ZZ and his friend YT1AA on 80m phone with 200w.



## PIZZA after meeting ?

The current Dxpedition of note, FT7ZM, is on the air. There have been some issues but they are refining their operations. In the first couple of days of operation I have noticed that certain band openings have not been utilized to the best degree by the team. Hopefully things will improve before their departure from Amsterdam Island.

**It Seems to Us** that those who put streaming audio of the KK9DX repeater on their QRZ pages are either trying to continue the madness or it's an admission of guilt. It would be nice if all the idiocy would just stop and we could all get on with business as usual.

Other DX of interest across February will include 5I0DX, 5X1XA, XU7ACQ, A35AX, A52JR, FT7ZM and TY1TT. These are not inclusive of all the interesting DX expected over the next couple of months.

ATTENTION:

Pool files that were posted on December 10, 2013 have been replaced with corrected content. If you visited this site on December 10, 2013 and downloaded files the following edits & corrections are in files released today, December 12, 2013:

- T3A05 Question was missing. Added to pool
- T3A09 "FM Voice" (capital V changed to lower case v)
- T7C06 Question modified to correct grammar
- T7B12 Word "you" in first line of question should be "your"
- T8C13 Line break in distractor "A"
- T9B07 Distractor "C", first word should be "They", not "The"

The NCVEC Question Pool Committee hereby releases into public domain the 2014-2018 Technician Class, Element 2, Question pool.

This pool becomes effective for all Element 2 license examinations administered on July 1, 2014 and is valid until June 30, 2018.

Files containing the question pool are available in PDF (Portable Document Format), Microsoft Word .DOC format, and .TXT format.

Three figures are used in the pool, and these are available as separate .jpeg and .pdf files as well as within the full pool .doc and .pdf files.

- 2014-2018 FCC Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool.doc
- 2014-2018 FCC Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool.txt
- 2014-2018 FCC Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool.pdf

- 2014-2018 FCC Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool Graphics Only.doc
- 2014-2018 FCC Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool Graphics Only.pdf
- 2014-2018 FCC Element 2 Technician Class Question Pool Graphics Only.jpg

- Graphic T-1.jpg
- Graphic T-2.jpg
- Graphic T-3.jpg

Users of the pool documents are free to correct minor typographical and punctuation errors, including obvious minor omissions. Such corrections must not cause a change in the meaning of a question or any of the proposed answers to the questions. Also, since rule citation references are not part of the questions themselves, but are included only to assist when looking up the applicable section of the rules, errors in the reference identifiers are not considered adequate reason for removal of a question from the pool.

Rol Anders-K3RA, Laurel VEC  
Chairman, NCVEC QPC



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### UPCOMING DXPEDITIONS:

**V7 Marshall Is.** V73MW Feb 4-14

**TO4/FM Martinique** Feb. 8-24

**TO7 Reunion Is.** Large Dxpediton 2014 TBA

**FR7 Tromelin Is.** Rare one 2014 TBA

*(TBA = To Be Announced)*

Some of these DXpeditions are getting smarter and paying attention to Club Log stats and will be working towards bands needed rather than most needed DX. Definitely a good move.

**STRAY:** The probability of one person being right is directly proportional to the number of people and the amount of time spent trying to prove them wrong' *(KG7GDC on eHam)*

**AES DATA Breach :** Friday January 24,2014 I received an email from Tom Pachner W9TJP an official at AES. He said that "consumer information" from AES orders from January 6 to January 23,2014 had been compromised.

I ordered from AES during this time period. I guess this circumlocution means that means credit card data has been stolen.

The email didn't say if the data breach had been stopped, nor if AES what if anything AES was going to about problems this data breach at AES has caused for AES customers.

I had to close my account, and have my credit union issue a new credit card; which meant I couldn't access my money over the weekend

**YOU TUBE** There seem to be many ham related videos on You Tube and many of them are totally boring using hams with monotone voices. Those guys will make excellent CW ops. Heard one the other day that nearly put me to sleep. Listened to one where a hammy explained that there's an Extra portion of 10 meters ????? These are great videos when you have insomnia !

## **Radio Pirate' Accused Of Hijacking Police Over The Airways**

*by Nick Beres*

MCMINNVILLE, Tenn. - A so-called radio pirate has been accused of hijacking police over the airways.

Officials with the McMinnville Police Department said the suspect piped loud rap music into squad cars for weeks, putting the public's safety risk.

"I don't think it was very funny," said McMinnville police detective, Todd Rowland.

Rowland said someone found a way to tap mostly rap and some country music onto the official radio frequency. During a four week period, the music could be heard playing in every single police squad car on patrol.

Officers could not turn off the radio because they had to maintain contact with dispatch. They could still talk to one another, but the music was a huge distraction.

"We could have missed emergency calls," said Rowland.

Police turned to a local electronics expert to help them track the frequency of the radio pirate. They did locate the suspect as he was sending the signal from his car. They confiscated his ham radio, but he has not yet been arrested.

"My intention and hope is to deter this from ever happening in the future," said district attorney Lisa Zavogiannis.

Zavogiannis said it's such an unusual case she wants to research the potential criminal charges first. The suspect could also face stiff fines from the FCC for interfering with an official police frequency.

Investigators said they do believe this was no mistake and the suspect did this intentionally. The motive has remained a mystery.

## **You Don't Need a Big Gun Station !**

No doubt you've all read about all these "big gun" stations working DX all over the world . They make it seem easy. Given enough time and money to toss into building a mega-station, anyone can do that.

What about the guys out there who don't have those huge mega-budgets to build a super station ?

Making do with a small station can be done and some contacts will be surprising. Antennas can be as simple as a vertical in backyard, a dipole or even a stealth antenna for those living with HOA's. The old adage about "where there's a will, there's a way" holds true. If you have a plan , then go for it !

Putting together a station is relatively simple after the antenna. All you need is a transceiver, some coax (for example RG-8X), coax connectors and a power supply of about 25-30 watts. Having a copy, old or new, of the Radio Amateurs Handbook (also known as the Amateurs Bible) will help in getting things going especially things that one might be unsure about. The Handbook shows how to install coax connectors and how to ground the antenna & radio.

What one does once they get on the air is up to them. No one should yell at you over the air, if they do, they are in the wrong. They should ask, "how can I help ?". We all started out as beginners and many forget that. Make all the contacts you can and with each contact, you will become a better operator. Small stations breed better operators in this writer's opinion, but not suggesting QRP until you become a bit more "seasoned", but if one chooses to start out with QRP (less than 5 watts) it will require a measure of patience.

One's entrance in the world of Amateur radio in more of an adventure for many that can span the decades. It's a hobby where you'll meet people of all ages from all walks of life. Someone once said that Amateur radio is a microcosm of society, that is, we have all types of people in Amateur radio that we find in everyday society. It's also a journey in learning where you will learn some about geography of far distant places you may never have heard of.

Happy Hamming ....

## JAMMERS OR, “GOD LUV UM”, NOBODY ELSE DOES

*By Peter Policani, K7PP*

Like everyone else, I have ways of dealing with jammers. I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I have had some luck with different ways of making their pas-time a little more difficult for them. “Just ignore um”! How many times have you heard that said? You know what? It doesn't work. Who came up with that little gem anyway? Some one who has a deep insight into the mentality of those who jam? Perhaps they say it because it's the only thing they CAN do. I have pursued and caught seven different jammers in the last 25 years while some of my cherished users sat at home watching TV. I even had one of them ask me “when are you going to do something about that guy”? Jammers are very well aware of the “ignore them and they'll go away” mentality. They love it! A very good friend once told me, “don't get stressed, give stress”. I have found this effective in dealing with jammers.

### Jammers come in many different flavors.

#### “The timid jammer”

This person likes to kerchunk the repeater over and over until the thumb gets tired. He likes to hear the courtesy tone go beep and the repeater go kerchunk. It's almost like the dripping water torture system. I have had good luck with making my hang time at least one minute and removing the courtesy tone. I have put this mode into a macro and can invoke it at will. I call it my “Bozo” macro. Now! The timid jammer must be very dedicated. He has to wait at least one minute to kerchunk. He no longer gets the courtesy “beep” and can't make the repeater come up, because it already is up. Too much work! The normal repeater user can still use the machine.

#### “The packet jammer”

This fellow likes to send packet information on repeaters. A macro with a delayed PTT and instant dropout has worked for me. An old modem with a data detect line hooked to your controler to inhibit PTT time and may include the stations call.

scious and the tape recorded data can be handy in identifying the problem station. It can be decoded at a later might help. Also use the data detect line to start a tape recorder. Sometimes the packet interference is not mali

#### “The part time jammer”

This fellow masquerades as an upstanding ham most of the time but makes his disgruntlement with different repeater users or the repeater operator known by disrupting communications. If he can't operate the system the way he wants, when he wants, then no one gets to use it. He may be part of your group and may even be one of the ones complaining the most about “the jamming”.

If you have a suspect, I have had good luck parking close by with a handy talky with the antenna removed to listen to see if the signal is coming from a suspects house. Listen for any tell tale noises that you might identify later when your suspect is involved in a legitimate QSO such as a stereo playing in the background, a clock ticking, dogs barking. Try calling his phone number while he has “key down”. In the mobile, listen for alternator wine, mike noise, mike gain, audio quality etc. This still may not be enough to say for sure, but it's a place to start. Be very careful as to the person you accuse publicly about jamming. If you are wrong or if you don't have enough evidence to prove it, you may be the one paying damages.

#### “The sound effects jammer”

This fellow feeds on indignation and disgust. Sound effects are “his bag” and even a disgusting word or two in a disguised voice. His favorite pastime is waiting until someone is making an autopatch to a family member and then unloading his best stuff.

I have had good luck with a second macro position that allows my repeater to respond to any signal on the input. Anyone with carrier squelch will bring the repeater up. The only difference to normal operation is that the system will not pass audio unless the right sub-audible tone is used. There is no indication that there is anything other than normal operation. If I used courtesy tones, I would include one. That way the jammer thinks he is getting his “licks” in. In reality, no one through the repeater. The only problem I see, is finding

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## *JAMMERS - cont'd*

a way to keep your users from talking about it on the air. (hey old man, you need to run a 103.5 tone to get ur audio to go through)

For those who have a carrier system, you could try variations of carrier squelch with tone for autopatch or the tone for autopatch changing each month. If you wanted, you could change the tone everyday and publish a list. There are lots of variables. Of course, if the jammer is a member of your group or club, this won't work either, but it will tell you that the offender is allot closer than just a casual user.

### **“The rabid jammer”**

I have just run across one of these “things”. They are very sick people that need to do what they do in order to have some effect to the world around them. Every thing else they do is a zero and I think that the ability to affect a large number of people, even in a negative manner, is just to good an opportunity to pass up. Combinations of the two methods may not be enough. Turning off the repeater might have to be your alternative. There are other ways that one might still continue to operate, but it might involve using a non standard subaudible tone or perhaps an alternate input frequency or, better still, a special alternate subaudible tone frequency that is only active during jamming sessions. The jammer might not be smart enough to look for a second tone and e that is not active unless it is turned on. (one goes on as the other goes off) This method is very effective if used in combination with the carrier only to get push to talk and the special tone to pass audio. Your users, of course, would know this. Nothing enrages this type of person more than hearing a conversation that he cannot effect.



## **The Future.**

Well, what's to be done? Do you track the jammer down and confront them? I have been stupid enough to do this on several occasions with out thinking. It didn't occur to me that I was putting myself at terrible risk. Most of the jammers I have dealt with have been sniveling cowards, but two were not. They were just crazy. You never know who or what you are dealing with. Don't put yourself at risk, it's not worth it. If you call the FCC, you are just wasting your time. Nothing will be done. The worst part about this is that they will take your information and pretend that they intend to do something. If only they could be honest with the hams. Just simply say “we can't help you”. At least they wouldn't be wasting our time. You might have better luck dealing with local law enforcement. It's against the law to stalk someone. Using a radio to do it shouldn't make any difference. Perhaps, the computer hacking law? Since most repeater controllers are computer controled this may apply. If a criminal o obtain a rest

approach doesn't work, a punitive one might. If you can show that you and your group are suffering damage from an action perpetrated by a person or persons, you may be able t raining order and then sue for damages. Other groups in Calif action perpetrated by a person or persons, you may be able to obtain a restraining order and then sue for damages. Other ornia have used this method successfully.

The best thing to do, in my opinion, is to collect all the information you can and above all, all the evidence you can to support your case. This includes statements from witness and perhaps a log of the times and places. Any tape recordings or other items to support your position.

**THEN SEE AN ATTORNEY. DON'T DO IT YOUR SELF!!!!**

If you can show damage and have witnesses to support your position, you may very well win a judgement. If you wanted to make a point, you could have as many in your repeater group that could afford it, file a civil suite separately for damages. This way the jammer would have to hire an attorney to defend himself in each case. He might find it cheaper to take up boating. We shouldn't have to put up with this type of harassment. There are ways of dealing with it legally. Going to our government to enforce Federal Communications laws is a sad joke. There is no enforcement.

I have often thought that a group within the WWARA might be formed to tackle these types of offenses. If we can make it very expensive for people to jam repeaters, it might have an effect.

*Pete Policani, K7PP*