



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 15 # 5

May 2015



MEETING May 5, 2015

Socializing - 6:30 PM
Meeting - 7:00 PM
Back at Bank !

PROGRAM:

VHF/HF Rover

Presented by Mike, WB8BMK

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145.410 Repeater

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

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

REPEATER QRM LEVEL

CONTUNUES

HAMFESTS

MAY CONTESTS

- 2-3 10-10 Spring CW
- 2-3 7th Call Area
- 2-3 IN QSO Party
- 2-3 DE QS) Party
- 2-3 New England QSO Party
- 8 NCCC RTTY
- 9 FISTS Spring Sprint
- 24 EU PSK

For more info visit:
wb7bnm contest
calendar

MAY DX

- til 5 HR5/F2JD
- til 30 JW9JKI
- til 31 C35 (Andorra)
- til 2 9H500
- til 5 EK/DL7UCX
EK/DK7AO

HAMFESTS

- 2 Ozaukee /Cedarburg
<http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>
- 3 DeKalb /Sandwich
<http://www.karc-club.org>

FIELD DAY 2015

June 27 -28

Harvard Moose

This message contains blocked images.
For those that were not able to attend the club meeting last Tuesday, I wanted to give an update on the Field Day planning.

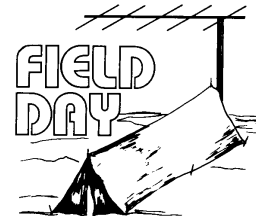
If you are new or not familiar, ARRL-sponsored Field Day is a US and Canada wide weekend event where groups or individuals are encouraged to take their equipment to a field location and operate for 24 hours continuously under less than ideal conditions. It is also an opportunity to showcase our hobby to the public. It is held this year on June 27 and 28.

This year, MCWA members would like to expand our operation into a 2A category, meaning 2

transmitters operating simultaneously. In addition to these, we would operate a VHF/UHF station and a "Get on the Air" station (GOTA) for inactive/newly licensed or unlicensed operators, directed by a GOTA coach.

The site has been reserved and is the same as last year, the Harvard Moose Lodge on route 173 on the west edge of Harvard, IL. If you haven't been there, it offers great facilities in a park-like setting.

We are planning to have food provided Saturday evening for those in attendance, which was a big hit last year.



(Cont'd next page)

M.C.W.A. NEWS

Officers & Staff



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VE TESTING

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

Woodstock Free Methodist Church
934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL

Cost is \$15 one time charge, no matter how many elements are taken. Must show original license and/or CSE if upgrading. Valid photo ID needed (SS# or FRN#).

Call for appointment:

Steve, KB9OLD

847-477-3518

FIELD DAY - cont'd

Planning and coordination this year will be provided by the following people:
CW Station Captain -N7US

SSB/Data Station Captain - KA9CAR

GOTA Coach and site coordinator - W9MU

VHF/UHF Station Captain - WB8BZK

Of course all these great plans cannot happen without participation from the club members. Station Captains will be recruiting for equipment , operators and help with setup/teardown. Please offer them your support and commitment. We will continue using the club reflector as a way to communicate and coordinate.

So mark your calendar and get involved. It does not have to be for the whole weekend, whatever time you can spare will be appreciated. Come out and join fellow club members for food, fun and operating on June 27 and 28th.

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73,
Roger, KF9D
Field Day Chairman

[Ed. - Make plans for this year's Field Day now ! It should be more fun that it was year's ago. Some members who were around for MCWA Field Day s back in the 80's still talk about how much fun they had. ... If you don't know where you fit in to the Field Day scheme of things, ask Roger for a suggestion. You can just come to visit and/or operate. Please join us !]

Dayton Hamvention

May 15 -17 , 2015

This is the biggest hamfest in the U.S.A. !

If one has never been there, they owe it to themselves to to put this one on their calendar at least once. Usually the numbers run upwards of 20,000 or so. Hotel reservations need to be made nearly a year i advance if you want a decent hotel rather than

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one that rents by the hour. Most of the manufacturers are represented there during the 3 day run of the Hamvention. The flea market is a plus with about 3 1/2 acres of space.

There are many seminars during the Hamvention which are always informative. In addition there are many groups which meet at various hotels where they have "hospitality suites". There are plenty of restaurant which will meet everyone's tastes in the Dayton area.

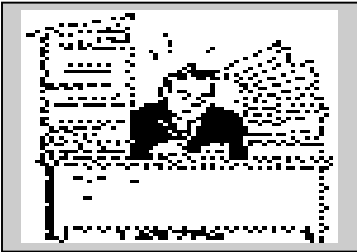
There are hams from all over the world that one can meet. Many DX operators attend the Hamvention.

If one can spare time away from the Hamvention, there is the U.S. Air Force Museum at nearby Wright-Patterson AFB. Was there a few years ago and it was worth the visit.

Everyone should visit the Hamvention at least once in their life !



WA5KUB Helmet cam



M.C.W.A. NEWS

A Little of This'n'That

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Malicious Interference

This has become nearly an epidemic in the ham bands lately. With DXpeditions being interfered with regularly it has cost them thousands of dollars in support from stations around the globe. When operators spend \$15-20K each just to go on a rare DXpedition somebody has to make up the shortfall. I'd like to see the interfering station identified and then sued in international courts for loss of revenue to the DX group that went on the DXpedition.

On the home front, the repeater interference seems to be getting worse. This Editor had an email from an out-of-state ham who was traveling through our area and heard the usual bunch of miscreants making their usual noise and potty mouthed comments. He was not upset so much as wondering why those

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.individuals haven't progressed much since they left grade school.

We're fairly sure as to identity of these folks and know that the FCC is gunning for them. It's just a matter of time before their careers are ended. One such individual who ventured out of the ham bands is now serving a lengthy jail term.

This is just one instance of what is happening to repeaters across the country. It pretty much started in California several decades ago and we all know that California has been sarcastically referred to as "a bowl of granola". This all reflects badly upon Amateur Radio because the public has access to scanners and can hear what is happening on our VHF & UHF bands .

These people have nothing better to do with their meaningless lives other than to cause malicious interference to Amateur Radio operators. These jammers are sociopaths

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who would be served better if they were institutionalized before they cause harm to themselves or others.

This subject was just addressed by Dave, K1ZZ in the May issue of QST Magazine.



REPEATER JAMMER

My Dawg Has RF Ears ...

For the past few months, whenever I'd fire up the amp on the HF bands, my lab go into a barking frenzy. I was beginning to wonder if she could sense RF!

Last night I fired up the rig, kicked on the amp, and KERPOW! The antenna system went down. The remote Transco antenna relay also appeared to be jammed. This morning I opened the electrical box on the tower and removed the relay. On the bench I found the entire rotary mechanism for selecting the four N fittings had vaporized! And from the amount of carbon and crud, I suspect it may have been arcing for some period of time. The lab must have been able to hear it!!! Even indoors, and 120 feet away from the remote switch! Next time she barks, I'll check things out more closely!

Does anyone know the RF power limits on the old surplus, indexing Transco relays? I usually run under a kW to the antennas... and the relay looked to be more robust than that.

[Ed. - As we grow older our hearing range decreases. Probably due to listening to LOUD music]



**Spring
Conditions are
Very Good So Far**

With the exception of one significant flare several days ago that diminished propagation for a few days, conditions have remained very good this spring. 10m and 12m have offered some modest dx, but 15m down to at least 40m have offered many hours of excellent dx. 20m is at the time of year where it is staying open the better part of 24 hours. Late last evening I worked eastern European stations with 20 over plus reports going both directions on 20m. In addition, 17m was open very late into the evening. I logged R120RX on 17m at 10:36pm local time. A special event station in New Zealand could be heard on 17m up till midnight. Many of the Europeans with beams are shooting their signals over the North Pole. I have one OCF dipole that favors Polar propagation and it has served me well with 200w output.

We are hearing numerous special event call signs these days observing all kinds of anniversaries. Some of my recent special event call logs show such stations as: PY90IARU, R120RM, TO90IARU, EG90IARU, TC1000K and R120RX. Many of these have pile-ups but are still fun to work.

Not too many weeks ago, I worked BD7BM on 15m with easy copy both ways. It just verifies the fact that the whole world is open on some band at some time of each day. You may need to take a coffee break or lunch break to catch some of the more exotic dx. I often work a station or two during my lunch break and many times these are dxpeditions.

As the daylight increases into June, we can expect longer openings on the bands from 20m and up. Recently, some 6m cluster reports are starting to show increasing activity on the Magic Band. The

more you work the bands the more you will see that each band has its own distinct character.

In the month of May we may look for such calls as VK9X, 8Q7BI, E6ZS, XT2AW, and OJ0W. DX0P had to jump some hurdles in April but logs are loaded now. And there is hope of a P5, North Korea, operation around November of 2015. I need that one! So do a lot of other hams around the world. We will keep posted as plans unfold.

We are being reminded that frequencies such as 14.205mhz are being used for the earthquake communications involving Nepal. It's always good to listen and give such operations space to do what hams do best in time of need.

Happy dx! Dave KA9OZP

Splatter, Who's the Fault

The wood pecker on 40 M (The Pecker) is splatter on an industrial scale. But it gave me the clues as to where to start reduction. The Pecker sweeps the 40 M band from 7.032 to 7.200 receivable in California beginning at about 1000Z and ending at 1600Z.

1. I turned the preamp to off, receive filter to 2 KHz, turned on the DSP noise reduction and increased the AF gain. The Pecker must have been over-driving my front end since the preamp is just a broadly filtered first stage (no crystals). These settings increased intelligibility but reduced The Pecker noise substantially.

2. I tried the same approach to strong adjacent signals (I thought they were splattering) and found that their 'splatter' was greatly reduced although I could still hear the on-frequency signals. Most received signals were from 5 kHz to 2.5 KHz wide.

3. I concluded that much of what I thought was splatter were strong signals over-driving my front end, creating adjacent RF products that passed through to the IF stages.

M.C.W.A. NEWS



APRIL 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

Here is the monthly treasurer's report. We added 5 paid memberships last month. Feel free to contact me if you want confirmation of your status. 73

Bank Balance (3-23-15)

Beginning Balance:	\$4,964.45	
Checks written	0.00	
Deposits	110.00	
Interest	0.43	
Ending Balance:	\$4,964.45	(as of 3-31-15)

Dave Cox – N9ITE
410 LakeAveWoodstock,IL.60098
DLCox2@gmail.com

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All Band Wire Antenna

lou giovannetti (KB2DHG) on April 16, 2015

I have been a ham for near 30 years and have worked with all kinds of antennas. At my first home I had a tower and Mosley TA-33 beam antenna with a 40-80 meter dipole. I worked the world with this antenna arrangement no problem. But life changes and relocation's forced me to give up my nice antenna arrangement.

I was forced to move to a very restrictive apartment and my hamming days were put on a shelf for a while. Fortunately I was able to buy another home and this time with out any restrictions or neighbors to upset. I can finally have an antenna farm again.



Well with all the work I had to do with restoring this old 1933 farmhouse there was no money or time to erect another tower. BUT I had built a fine radio shack in a spare room (look me up on QRZ to see the shack) and just to get me on the air fast I decided to build a dipole. I like multi band usage, so for me I decided to use an old faithful the G5RV.

First let me say (and I am sure the manufacturers will cringe about this) DO NOT BUY ONE, Wire antennas are the simplest antennas to build and cost next to nothing. I started by doing all the research I could about G5RV antennas. What I have come up with was a simple diagram and using the measurements of the diagram I proceeded to build my antenna.

I built a full size G5RV using 104 feet of #12 Copper clad wire cut in 2 at 52 feet each. Giving me about 6 inches on each side to wrap around the insulators, making the total length 102 feet across (51 feet each leg) Then I purchased 31 feet of 450 ohm ladder line and attached it to the 102' leads. I attached the coax directly to the 450-ohm ladder line at the other end making sure the connections were clearly separated and insulated from both each other and the weather. (NO BALUN.)

As this was only to be a temporary antenna I only got it up about 25 feet, strung flat topped from 2 trees, The G5RV ideally is supposed to be set at a height of between 30-40 feet. The ladder line is ideally supposed to be hanging down vertically, 90 degrees from the flat top or inverted V configuration. Mine was only 25 feet up and the ladder line hanging on an angle.

Well like I said it was only supposed to be temporary just to get me back on the air until I could get time and money to put up a better antenna.

WELL LET ME TELL YOU THIS! I have been working the world with this home brew G5RV antenna and on 80-40-20-some of 15, 6, and 10 meters! Yes I use a tuner but on 40 and 20 barely need it. This home brew piece of wire I threw up between 2 trees has been performing so great that I think all I am going to do is try to get it up higher.

Look people, especially newcomers to the hobby, before you go out and spend all this crazy money on an elaborate antenna systems OR buy a commercially made wire antenna, BUILD IT YOURSELF. I can tell you that I get more of a thrill making a DX contact with his HOME BREW piece of wire than I did with my tower and beam antenna.

Amazing how simple and inexpensive this hobby can be if you just try...

M.C.W.A. NEWS

MAY 2015

Giving out ATNO's

Splatter - cont'd

4. To do my part I set my transmitter's band pass width to 3 kHz. Each radio has some band pass adjustment on the transmit side. Adjusting this BP may go a long way to reducing station generated splatter.

5. I adjusted drive to the amp and found that 75 Watts is the maximum to use for full power. Anything more may produce unwanted RF products with no more output. We noticed that local radio and TVI stopped.

6. It's very possible that some transmitters are truly splattering due to poor design or poor alignment. These may need to be repaired by a service technician.

(de eham.net)

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

KI7DG de eham.net

You can see HUNDREDS of cats proudly displayed (here: www.universal-radio.com/cats.html) with their owners rigs from all over the world! what's the connection - so many of us have with radios and cats!

W8LV de eham.net



There are big DXpeditions and there are small ones. My definition of "small" includes a handful of operators, somewhat limited amount of equipment, and a fairly short period of operation. More than a "vacation" operation but nothing like the big deals.

Obviously the aim of a small operation can be whatever the organizers choose it to be. For many giving out as many ATNOs (All Time New Ones) is the STATED OBJECTIVE. Measured against this objective some smaller DXpeditions badly fail to deliver.

So, arm chair critic that I am (never having been on a DXpedition, I don't have any real-world wisdom) - here are my thoughts on running a DXpedition specifically for maximum ATNOs.

The primary strategy is to operate only one or two bands on Phone, one or two bands on CW. I personally would choose 20M SSB and 40 and 20M CW. Definitely not 160, 17, 12 meters. Those are "band fills".

Other

1. Limited band operations means fewer/simpler antennas to haul and set up.
2. Try to operate two stations full time.
3. Absolutely forget about RTTY, PSK, etc. Stay with the main modes.
4. Get rid of any "leader board" (and not needed with just 20/40M op).
5. Pay attention to propagation and attempt to work the harder regions at the best times.
6. Operate reasonable splits
7. Operate some splits in the General Class region of 20M (>14225)
7. If possible do frequent uploads to ClubLog to reduce insurance dupes.
8. If possible update blogs/website as to status of operations.

de eham.net/KOIZ

HAM RADIO AND ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET

Also featuring Antique and Vintage Radios – now Bigger and Better than ever!

SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO

58th ANNUAL

HAMFEST

and *Antique Radio Club of Illinois* Swap Meet
plus *Midwest Classic Radio Net Hamboree!*

Sunday, June 21, 2015

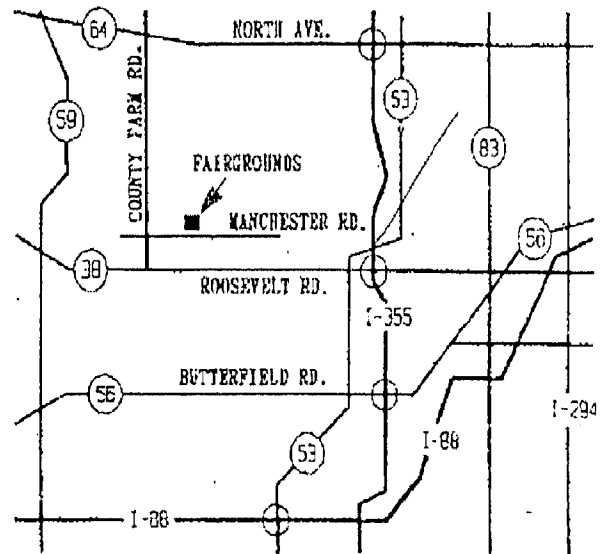
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois

2015 Manchester Road (North of Roosevelt Rd. [Rte. 38], East of County Farm Rd.

GPS COORDINATES: N41.866667, W-88.132989

GATES AND FLEA MARKET OPEN 7 A.M. BUILDINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC 8 A.M.

- All Weather, Large Outdoor Flea Market AND
More than 20,000 square feet of indoor selling space for those who prefer to be inside
- AMSAT, ARRL, NWS/Skywarn and Dealer Displays
- Good Food and Refreshments at Reasonable Prices
- Free Parking – no extra charge for outdoor space
- Donation Auction at 11 a.m. – Proceeds to ARCI (Radios, Test Eqpt., Parts Only – NO PCs)
- Overnight RV Parking w/110 V hookup -- must Register in Advance!
- 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$100 awarded at 1 p.m.
- TICKETS: Advance \$6.00; At Gate \$8.00 – Use form below to order advance tickets.
- ARRL VE Testing 9-11 a.m. \$15 Exam Fee
- ARRL Awards QSL Card Checking 9-11 a.m.
- TALKIN: K9ONA 146.52, K9ONA/R 146.37/97 (107.2)
- **ALL TRAFFIC ENTER GATE S-7 EAST OF BUILDING**
- INFORMATION: E-Mail WD9GJK@arrl.net or call our 24 Hour InfoLine – (708)442-4961.



VISIT OUR WEB SITES:

SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO: www.k9ona.com

ANTIQUÉ RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS: www.antique-radios.org

MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO NET: www.mcrn.tripod.com

PLEASE NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED

NO SALE OF FOOD OR BEVERAGES IN FLEA MARKET -- All Sellers Responsible for Cleanup of Their Spaces!

John, K9JK, will have advance tickets available at the May & June MCWA meetings.