



# M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 15 # 7

July 2015

## AMATEUR RADIO

### MEETING July 7, 2015

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

### PROGRAM

**"Only the Shadow Knows"**

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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 call signs:

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

### HAMFESTS

11 Oak Creek, WI  
<http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe>

12 Aurora, IL  
<http://frrl.org>

19 Peotone, IL  
<http://w9az.com/karsfest.html>

### JULY CONTESTS

1 Canada Day  
4-5 PODXS Firecracker  
40m Sprint

11-12 IARU HF World  
Championship

18 Feldhell Sprint

18-19 NA QSO Party  
RTTY

18-19 CQ WW VHF

25-26 RSGB IOTA  
For more info visit:  
[wb7bnm](http://wb7bnm) contest  
calendar

### JULY DX

7-14 ND7J/VY0  
Prince Edward Is

11-12 C4HQ Cyprus

15-23 FP/NY4G St.  
Pierre & Miquelon

### FCC Fines AT&T \$1 MIL

Comments Noted  
from Eham members:

*"I suppose it's just a  
"notice of apparent  
liability" for throttling  
download speeds to  
their unlimited data  
cellphone customers.  
If it's upheld, that  
would make AT&T the  
equivalent of about  
5000 lids on 14.313 "*

*"Couldn't happen to a  
nicer group of people.  
Screw 'em."*

### Public Relations

What do you do to  
"represent" ham radio  
to the public, other  
hams, SWLs?

Are you a good  
steward of the hobby?

What do you do to be  
a "good ham"?

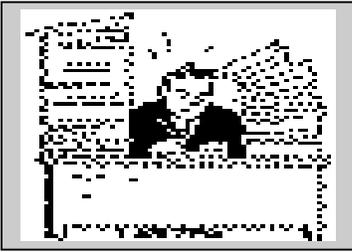
Points to ponder !

**STRAY** *When  
working simplex some  
Hams must think a DX  
station has call  
waiting because  
they'll keep calling  
multiple times while  
he is giving out a  
report.*

*KI7DG via eham*

### TIGHAR HAM

T31LP ---> Lee,  
KA3WRB operates  
onboard the vessel "Nai'a",  
offshore  
Nikumaroro Island,  
Central Kiribati. He has  
been active as T31LP  
since 14June and will  
remain there until the 26th  
as part of the TIGHAR  
(The  
International Group for  
Historic Aircraft  
Recovery, <http://tighar.org>)  
project aiming at finding  
"conclusive artifact  
evidence" that Amelia  
Earhart's final flight ended  
on Nikumaroro, back in  
1937 known as Gardner  
Island. He is QRV around  
14280-14310 kHz after 4  
UTC, but as long as he is  
not land based, the  
operation will NOT  
count for DXCC or  
IOTA. [TNX DX  
World]



# M.C.W.A. NEWS

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### RETURN TO 6

Meters , that is. After selling of my IC-756PRO a few years back as well as the little RCI-5054, I was fortunate to find another RCI 5054 through Tom, W9NBG. It took some time for band to open up as well as get a hombrew dipole up in the air. ^ meters finally opened up, or I just noticed it, and made a few contacts and added a few new states. I'm a happy camper !

**ELSEWHERE** It can never be stressed strong enough that safety in doing antenna installations is very important. Antennas mst NEVER come in contact with power lines nor anywhere near them. Every year it seems that we read of some ham who becomes an Silent Key because in a moment of losing concentration he made contact with the power lines (4800 - 7800 VAC or more !). Power lines carry lethal voltages and currents which are not healthy for humans. It can take power company up to 3 hours to turn off power and by then a person will look like an overcooked hotdog !



### Ham History - cont'd

Invariably, keen business people saw other uses for telegraph such as stock quotes, business correspondence , personal communications and fast transmission of news. Companies were formed such as Western Union and ,in time ,other uses were discovered such as transmission of money over great distances. We can still wire money across the nation and world.

Somewhere along the line good, old Yankee ingenuity came into play when some figured out the companies were changing by the number of words being sent and that a form of shorthand might be used to lighten the work load and also make more money for the company. So, the telegraph operators figured out some abbreviations such as "sked" instead of "schedule" which was 4 characters less to send , but customers still were charged for the whole word. Other things came across in time like standard "Christmas Greetings & Happy New Year" turned into a two digit number as did many other hum-drum salutations. Of course, "good night and best regards" became "73" and "love and kisses" became "88". There were dozens of such common phrases turned into short 2 number codes.

Later on when radio was discovered, many old time telegraphers discovered radio as a hobby and a way to keep in touch with other old time telegraphers. Naturally they brought along some of the familiar stuff they knew like "73" and many others. As radio progressed from spark gap to more common transmitters of today, hams were there making contributions to the technology because they wanted a better means of communications. Of course, as hams improved things the commercial interests were right there because they could smell the money.

Still , as a hobby we carry these early roots with us from those early telegraphers who spent years "pounding brass" (operating a key) and making sense of all those early digital communications. We still have their legacy when we send "BCNU", "CUAGN", "73" (not 73's !), "SKED", "GN" , "GA" and all those other abbreviations that save time on CW.



**ALL FLARED  
UP FOR FD  
2015**

Happy 4th of July and Good DX!

Dave KA9OZP

\* \* \* \* \*

**STRAY** *The best place to find DX used to be under some lid calling CQ DX at 7 wpm. Now it's under the full power key down tuner uppers.*

*KA1EBU de Eham*



The DX news of late has been focused on the three solar storms in the week before FD. The notable storms were on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The first two were listed as severe. The Thursday storm interfered with FD operations. The conditions above 20m were especially anemic. This did not prevent QSO's but it did make contacts more difficult. At the club site in Harvard, 15m had limited stations on Saturday. 10m was very sparse with operators during a long portion of the 24-hour contest.

The one positive effect of the solar disruptions has been the enhancement of activity on 6m. The aurora effect has been enjoyed by 6m enthusiasts. Already, I have received a QSL in the mail for a NJ station needing my grid square. The summer 6m enhancement has coincided well with the aurora effect to produce outstanding 6m signals from coast to coast. Some operators have been able to log DX on 6m beyond the typical 2,000 to 3,000 mile range.

Before the week of flares, conditions were especially good on 17m and down. I worked stations thousands of miles away on 17m and 20m up to midnight local time. I added OJOB to the log on first call one evening on 20m. The Mideast and Africa have been active in the evenings, our time, in addition to Europe.

As we get past the solar flares, the bands will pick up on propagation again. We are at the Cycle stage where 12m and 10m will have ups and downs, but expect some good moments on these upper HF bands.

With these expectations in mind, look for DX such as T88MZ, E51AGY, S79OWZ, HH2TD, J20JM and multiple operators sharing duties from HC8, JW, FP and TF sites.

**MCWA Treasurer's Report – July 2015**

Here is the monthly treasurer's report. We added 13 paid memberships. Feel free to contact me if you have any treasury questions. 73

**Bank Balance**

Beginning Balance:	\$5,095.70	6-02-15
Checks written	\$0.00	
Deposits	\$130.00	6-19-15
Interest	\$0.41	5-29-15
Ending Balance:	\$5225.70	6/29/15

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## From The Editor's Desk

Sometimes being an Editor is a lonely job. There is very little feedback on one's monthly effort. This scribe often hears questions at meetings that were in the latest newsletter which seems to indicate no one is reading the News. Staring to question the value of this monthly effort. - end rant

**2015 Field Day Is History !** This scribe wasn't able to be there as much as in past due to work commitments and personal projects. Bad planning on my part, but was available for tear down.

**Kudos** to all those who were participants this year. For those members who weren't there - WHY ? Where is your club spirit ???

Perhaps this is a symptom of the state of ham radio today. Today we have many folks who don't have the Ham Radio spirit of camaraderie for even one day a year. It's true that our hobby has long been a "lone wolf" pursuit, but the fellowship side has always been there as well. We can meet at hamfests and go out to breakfasts and stuff like that, but is that enough ?

For the short time this scribe was at FD site, it appeared that the turnout was light. With all our members there should have been more bodies there.

So maybe the real question should be: Can we justify 2016 Field Day, merge with another group or just forget about Field Day altogether ??? **Be at the July meeting to voice your vote !**

## SK SALES

During a recent trip to the Dayton Hamvention, I noticed that a person had a table with a sign that said I buy entire SK estates.

That started a thought process, we should do that for our local ham radio club. I brought the idea back to our local ham radio club (Lake Amateur Radio Association) Board of Directors. The board thought it was a good idea, so we set up a program. Whenever a member passed, we told the widow that we would sell the equipment for them or they could donate it to the club and take a tax deduction. We are a 501c3 corporation. The donated equipment is either used at our clubhouse, ARES trailer or sold and the proceeds go to the club treasury.

We have a 4 position operating station that includes such modern equipment as ICOM 746 pro, Ameritron 411H amplifier and many other radios. When we sell the equipment for the widows, we charge a commission of 20% (some give the club a higher commission) and the proceeds go to the estate. We usually sell this equipment at various hamfests or from our web page (k4fc.org). We had some very nice gold foil stickers made for the members to place on their equipment so their widows would know who to call. From our proceeds selling the equipment, we have purchased a 40 foot shipping container placed at the clubhouse, wired with electricity, lights, hangers and shelves to store the equipment. We had a very large banner made to use at the various hamfests which helps draw folks to our location. Since starting this program, we have sold approximately \$16,000 worth of equipment. Our original idea was to dispose of the equipment for the members. However the program has been so successful that we now dispose of equipment for any local ham. If you want any additional information on how we set up the program, you can contact me at phemby@hotmail.com WN4AMO Paul,

*de 10-10 News, summer 2015*