



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 15 # 9

September 2015

AMATEUR RADIO

MEETING September 1, 2015

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

PROGRAM:

Challenges of Installing RF Sites in Maine

By: Ed, N9EP

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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

Sept. Hamfests

- 12 Radio Expo
Belvidere. IL
<http://chicagofmclub.org>
- 19 Peoria S-fest
<http://www.w9uvi.org>
- 26 Ozaukee R.C.
Cedarburg, WI
<http://ozaukeeradioclub.org>

Sept. Contests

- 5-6 ARRL EME
- 5-6 All Asian DX
- 6 DARC 10 mtr.
- 13 NA Sprint CW
- 19 Feld Hell Sprnt
- 20 NA Sprint RTTY
- 26-27 CQ WW rtty

SEPT. DX

- Galapagos Is -
HC8/G8OFQ til 9/27
- Dodacanese Is.
SV5/DL1ZB til 9/29

ARRL NEWS

Just found out from
IL section page that
ARRL is looking for a
new CEO. Sounds
like cushy job, but
the cost of living in
CT is high.

Required Education
and Experience:

1. Bachelor's degree
2. Ten years
management and
supervisory
experience
3. Demonstrated
ability in providing
effective leadership
and management of
business operations

Preferred Education
and Experience:

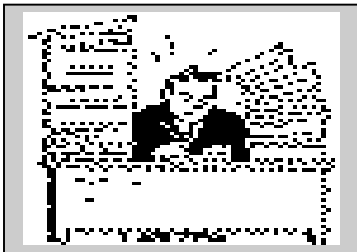
1. Master's degree
2. Fifteen years
management and
supervisory
experience
3. Active Amateur
Radio operator

ILLW

This August's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend was a huge success with over 500 of the special event stations on the air Aug. 15-16. This was more than ever before! With 506 stations in 32 countries. Hope some of you were lucky enough to catch some of these!

North Korea

Also known as DPRK, has been on the radar of the rumor mill of late. Several well-known DXers have been trying to activate this #1 most wanted country. If/when it will happen is anyone's guess. We all would love to see it happen next year, but the possibility seems between slim and none with the current political situation. At least one group has pulled their P5 website.



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FROM THE EDITOR'S

Commercial It's not often that commercial FCC actions are mentioned here, but it is proof that the FCC hasn't been idle.

Dayton attendance in 2015 was marked at 25,621 which was slightly higher than previous years. Perhaps cheaper gas and a better economy contributed ?

ARRL Dues will increase by \$10 on 1 Jan 2015. Have noticed QST pages are thinner and stick together more often. Another reason to go digital ? Pages don't stick together in digital.

HOW TIME FLIES ?

First issue of newsletter for this Editor was December 2007 !
Almost 7 years !

Stray instead of just calling CQ CQ for a contact the lazy ham now just self spots on a "DX spotting Net" and expects a pile up. ya like that will happen!

KI7DG via eham

FCC Deletes KXOL Salt Lake City

Lance Venta | August 17, 2015

1660 KXOL Brigham City Salt Lake La Raza Media 107.1 KEGH Salt Lake City 1550 KMRI 1660 KXOL The FCC has deleted the license for Inca Communications Regional Mexican 1660 KXOL Brigham City/Salt Lake City on the grounds that it was silent for more than twelve months. KXOL filed an STA to go silent on November 21, 2013 claiming first signal interference and then the failing health of owner/GM Nicolas Vicente and did not return to the air within one year. After a March letter by the FCC seeking proof that the station had indeed begun broadcasting before the license would automatically be cancelled, Inca sent a Petition For Reconsideration stating that the station began broadcasting again on March 26, 2015 and restoring the license would "promote equity and fairness". The agency has decreed that to be dismissed and has deleted the license of KXOL. The ruling can be read [here](#). Since returning KXOL to broadcast operation in May, Nicolas Vicente has begun operating via Time Brokerage Agreement and agreeing to purchase both 1550 KMRI West Valley City, UT and 107.1 KEGH Woodruff, UT under the name AASAA Media. While neither sale has been approved by the FCC yet, all three stations were simulcasting as Regional Mexican "La Raza".

[Ed. The FCC also does "other stuff"....]

Released: August 5, 2015

By the Resident Agent, Portland Office, Western Region, Enforcement Bureau:

* This is a Notice of Violation (Notice) issued pursuant to Section 1.89 of the Commission's rules (Rules) to Maritime Fire and Safety Association (Maritime), licensee of radio station WHW656, Portland, Oregon. Pursuant to Section 1.89(a) of the Rules, issuance of this Notice does not preclude the Enforcement Bureau from further action if warranted, including issuing a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture for the violation noted herein.

* On August 3, 2015, in response to a complaint from the United States Coast Guard in Portland, Oregon, concerning a continuous, un-modulated signal was transmitting on Marine Channel 16, an agent of the Enforcement Bureau's Portland Office, investigated and determined that the source of the interfering signal was transmitting from station WHW656.



BAD NEWS

AND

GOOD NEWS

MCWA Treasurer's Report

September 2015

No report this month

If you have been surfing the bands over the majority of August, you have noticed a lack of strong propagation on the higher HF bands. The SN and SFI numbers have been mediocre and the A and K indices have been poor. The sun has been active with lots of unhelpful flares. In addition, summer can be the doldrums here in the northern hemisphere when it comes to HF propagation. On one of these challenging evenings, I worked AI5I on 6m and T46BC on 80m. The bands in between were basically useless. Some of the solar activity has sparked aurora conditions for VHF. So all was not lost in August.

And now for the good news--- Conditions are improving even as I write this article in the last week of August. The SFI is 125 and the SN is 93. The A and K indices are a lot lower (which is what we want). Past sunset tonight moderate to strong signals are coming in on 10m. These signals are mostly domestic and likely from the E Layer, but it is sign of life and I suspect that the bands will open up better as we approach Labor Day.

Other good news is the fact that more DX operations and more contests will open up DX contacts as we transition into fall. In the closing days of August, look for such calls as C5WP, 8Q7DX and C81AK. In September we will be looking for YJ0NH, JD1BOH, 5H3DX, OH0 calls, 5WRM, T88KH, T88QB, E51DLD, 3D2YA, and XV2VTC

So the negative side has been sluggish conditions in August, but the positive side is that conditions are looking up for September. See You in September on the bands! 73 Dave KA9OZ

STRAY The fellowship of ham radio is like a large bowl of rice crispies. Once you've poured the milk, you'll never get them to stop crackling!
KG4CLD de Eham.net

Rehab

Technology has brought many changes to our hobby. The recent spate of revelations of logging improprieties... no, let's use the right word, the harsh word, the word that creates the more visceral reaction - cheating - has been argued more effectively, more definitively, by using technology. The ability to analyze cumulative log data allows contest sponsors to present evidence which indicates that some individual winning logs contain an over-abundance of erroneous information. If left to stand, awards to cheaters devalue and diminish the experience of everyone participating.

The CQWW committee announced recently that it is examining the last four years of CQWW logs for evidence of log padding. If a winning entrant is found to have violated the rules, he/she will lose the award, and be subject to varying levels of future disqualification.

Besides the loss of standing in the contest results, what about the hit to character points that the cheater faces? What is the road back?

Over the past few years we've seen a number of public figures and celebrities who have fallen from high esteem. There's an industry built around the rehabilitation of character; according to one expert in sports marketing, Paul Swangard of the University of Oregon, one formula is to "... apologize, then act responsibly and then get back to what people liked watching you do -- compete and win."

Individually, and as a community, we must not accept the charade of "I made a mistake..." as if the competitor intended to do the right thing and somehow, improbably,

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The Friday before Super Bowl Sunday in January 2015, the KK9DX repeater locked up.
On Monday the tech team went out to look at the repeater.
It was determined that a signal was present on the input causing the repeater to lock up.
The tech team was able to make a change so the repeater would no longer be locked up. Then they only had to wait for the FCC to appear. On the day the FCC arrived, the tech team had found the interfering signal but they couldn't disable it until the FCC arrived.

In this photo the tree line along Rte 120 to the NW of the repeater is shown.



In the photo below, you'll see just the middle tree



Here is a vertical photo showing the device soldered to a 9 volt battery for power with a 19" lead above and another 19" lead below for the antenna

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Here is a vertical photo showing the device soldered to a 9 volt battery for power with a 19" lead above and another 19" lead below for the antenna



The picture below is a landscape photo of the same



Below is the gloved hand of the FCC official holding the device.

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So, this is what's been going on with the repeater earlier this year. Efforts in information gathering are still in progress.

-Tnx KB9I

FCC Stuff - cont'd

+ 47 C.F.R. Â§ 80.89(a): "Stations must not engage in superfluous radio communications." Marine Channel 16 (156.800 MHz) is the international voice distress, urgency, safety, call and reply channel for ship, public, and private coast stations. At the time of the investigation, the Portland agent determined that there was a continuous, un-modulated signal transmitting on frequency 156.800 MHz from station WHW656 near Kalama, Washington, with no authorized purpose for the transmissions.

* Pursuant to Section 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1.89 of the Rules, we seek additional information concerning the violations and any remedial actions taken. Therefore, Maritime, must submit a written statement concerning this matter within twenty (20) days of release of this Notice. The response (i) must fully explain each

violation, including all relevant surrounding facts and circumstances, (ii) must contain a statement of the specific action(s)

taken to correct each violation and preclude recurrence, and (iii) must include a time line for completion of any pending corrective action(s).

The response must be complete in itself and must not be abbreviated by reference to other communications or answers to other notices. *

In accordance with Section 1.16 of the Rules, we direct Maritime to support its response to this Notice with an affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury, signed and dated by an authorized officer of Maritime with personal knowledge of the representations provided in

Maritime's response, verifying the truth and accuracy of the information therein, and confirming that all of the information requested by this Notice

which is in the licensee's possession, custody, control, or knowledge has been produced. To knowingly and willfully make any false statement or conceal any

material fact in reply to this Notice is punishable by fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the U.S. Code.

* All replies and documentation sent in response to this Notice should

be marked with the File No. and NOV No. specified above, and mailed to the following address:

Federal Communications Commission
Portland Resident Agent Office
P.O. Box 61469
Vancouver, Washington 98666-1469

[Ed. - As we can see the FCC goes into a lot of legal detail to make sure the violator attends to this promptly. This notice is a matter of public safety and the violator is causing major problems.]



M.C.W.A.

AMATEUR LICENSEES

Updated numbers from:

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc-license-counts>

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	

it has been any time through out history. The simple truth is that “older hams” have been complaining about the “newbies” killing the hobby since the first Ham was licensed back in the spark gap days. When AM first started to come on the scene Spark Gap Operators complained about this new fangled mode of operating and how it was going to destroy the hobby, then few years later as SSB operating started to enter the picture those old AM operators complained about the Donald Duck Operators and how it was destroying the hobby and who can forget the day that CW was no longer required to gain a license, to hear from some old timers the planet Earth itself was going to stop rotating.

The simple truth it is the evolution of Amateur Radio that keeps us growing and the excitement and the

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K0RF QTH DESTROYED BY FIRE !



Firefighters say the house was destroyed by a dryer fire. The residents escaped unharmed. ' Now working with Red Cross to find temporary housing. This was a big contest station and well known among testers.

(Tnx K9DX & N1DXA)

Put The WOW Back Into Ham Radio

Greg Lewis ,N5XO

We have a couple of older Ham's {Licensed in the mid 70's} having what is a typical conversation of how the “newbies” have destroyed Amateur Radio, and the hobby is dying. The claim that “newbies” ruined the hobby by using computers to track propagation, useful tools such as DX Summit and these new fangled things called Grid Squares.

I started to think about this, do they have a point? A lot has changed since I got into the hobby, and we will see many more changes in the future, but the honest truth is that the hobby is not dying, it is in fact larger than

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the WOW factor. Yes, it is true that today very few Hams build his or her own radio, the simple truth is that we no longer need too with more modern transceivers on the market today and it is also beyond the capability of home technicians today with modern advancements such as surface mount devices, etc. Let's face it the average Ham does not own and cannot afford wave solder technology nor do we have the scopes and super vision required to place micro-circuitry, so it is actually impossible to build you're own high end transceivers with modern features and functionality. And modern technology has opened up many new and exciting aspects of this hobby. Just modern filtering would amaze a Ham as little as 20 years ago.

What we need to do is embrace the changing technology and learn to use it. RETURN THE WOW FACTOR to the hobby. Here's a shocker for some of you. Ham Radio is COOL AND HAS A HUGE WOW FACTOR. We do really cool stuff with cool radios, I mean really how many hobbies let you talk to the International Space Station, Bounce signals off the moon to work stations around the world, play with Satellites, AND HOW MANY PEOPLE GET TO SAY "THEY CAN PLAY WITH METEORS." And this is just the fun stuff we get to do in Space; there is an entire host of exciting activities and innovation awaiting us on our very own planet. HAM RADIO HAS A LOT OF WOW FACTOR. No matter what your interest from Wood Working, Electrical, Kit building, Circuit Design, Antenna design and building it is all there in our exciting hobby. So to say the "hobbyist and experimenter" is gone from our hobby is out right false.

What we need to do is get all this WOW FACTOR out to New Hams, make sure they know they can do all so much more than simply talk through a Repeater on 2 meters.

WHEN YOU GET NEW HAMS OR INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS say WOW, then we will continue to grow the hobby, we will continue to appreciate

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ourselves what we can do within our hobby and we will continue to advance technology and capability of our hobby.

Ham Radio is a WOW HOBBY, and even the simple aspects of Amateur Radio can create some strong WOW factors. Take a Ham Radio Operator who has only experienced 2-meter Repeater use, introduce them to SSB 2 meter operation and show them how to work stations daily 100 to 200 miles on frequencies that the average ham believes is only good for 15 to 20 miles.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY has opened the doors to allow the average ham to enter new and exciting worlds. Today thanks to Digital Technology Hams today with modest stations can bounce signals off of the moon and talk around the globe. Modern Technology has opened the door to allow the average ham with a modest station communicate 1,000 to 1,500 miles by using the comet trails of passing comets.

LET'S CHANGE OUR ATTITUDES AND BREAK THE CYCLE OF NEGATIVITY. SUPPORT THE HOBBY WE LOVE BY SHARING THE WOW FACTOR and down the road rather than bemoaning change and advances in technology let's EMBRACE IT AND THE NEW HAMS ENTERING THE EXITING WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO. Ask yourself, what have the guys who are always putting down the hobby and "newbies" and declaring it a dying hobby, just what have they done to promote and encourage growth in the hobby or themselves.

IT'S A GREAT HOBBY AND LET'S ENCOURAGE NEW HAMS INTO THE HOBBY AND MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME RATHER THAN ISOLATED.

The next time someone ask you what Amateur Radio is reply, "WOW what is Amateur Radio NOT!" then share with excitement the ability to talk to the Space Station, bounce signals off the moon, of comet trails, talk to far away people and make good friends. I can truthfully say that some of my dearest friends came from this WONDERFUL HOBBY.

M.C.W.A.

Joe, N9OK, asked a question on the K9RN reflector about grounding a roof top antenna on a tripod. One of the answers he got was from former MCWA member Dale, WA9ENA, who now lives in Iowa. Thought it was reposting the information.

Good questions. I had been a rooftop antenna farmer from the time I was first licensed, in 1962, until I left Crystal Lake in early 2000. Along the way, I was very lucky to have never taken a direct lightning hit. Let me say this: providing a low impedance grounding path for a roof mount mast support is mostly a way to attempt to lure lightning strikes to follow that path, as opposed to burning thru the roof and coupling into AC wiring within the house. You do need to make this path as enticing as possible to the stray energy that is present as a strike forms.

do agree that placing a solid, well-bonded connection on one leg of the tripod or similar support is adequate. The most important factor is that grounded down lead. In theory, it should be very wide so as to keep Z as low as possible. How wide? Oh, 4 to 6 inches, or more! We're talking copper flashing material. If you have a way to use such material for your installation, do so. If not, you will probably end up using a round, heavy gauge conductor of some sort. Now, you might think that copper or tinned copper braid might make for a good grounding conductor. Yes, it would ...

BUT... unless it is fully covered with an appropriate jacket material, braid has a problem: it corrodes. The idea of braid is that you have lots of thin conductors in parallel with each other, which reduces resistance and self-inductance. Corrosion reduces the benefits because as it sets in, the individual wires become insulated from each other, and so that braid conductor is a lot less enticing after awhile.

Depending upon what you can find locally, I recommend not less than #6 AWG insulated stranded wire for the down lead, and better if you can run #4 or even #2. You can also use bare wire, but if you use stranded, the jacket will reduce corrosion problems between the strands, as described for braid. Also, you can paint the jacket if it helps to provide a better appearance.

You are correct about bonding this grounding wire to a ground rod that is part of both the station grounding scheme and tied to the AC power panel (per the NEC as an auxiliary ground). This last point is important. By tying the station and power panel grounds together, you force the grounds to track each other in electrical potential during a lightning strike, and that is how you minimize the differential voltages that can destroy lots of stuff in your shack and house.

Moving out here quickly showed me the many mistakes I had made as a roof top antenna farmer (mostly due to having inadequate paths to ground from the mast to ground). My main tower (I have 3 total) has taken 2 direct hits and no damage has occurred inside due to the use of the bonded grounding systems and protectors on all I/O lines of the house. Roof top farming worked well for me - lots of VHF and UHF DX, but I sure am glad that *Thor and Zeus did not visit me during those years.*

73, Dale - WA9ENA

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*The FCC is remaining tough on WiFi jamming, with a recent \$750K fine announced for actively blocking access to the usage of the spectrum. Earlier this year, Marriott Hotels were fined for the similar activities. The method used to 'jam' the spectrum involved sending 'disconnect' packets to clients of 'rogue' access points.
(de ARRL Contest Letter)*

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just didn't. Their hands did not just slip on the power control or amplifier switch, or “mistakenly” enter tens or hundreds of bogus (“wishful thinking”) contacts; the logging program did not malfunction and suddenly display the band map window loaded with spots. Baloney! Intentional and willful transgressions are not mistakes. Errors in judgment are more difficult to admit both to oneself and to one's community.

While it's doubtful that Oprah will invite a fallen contender onto her show for a mea culpa and heart-felt apology, there will have to be a conversation between the disqualified and the contest community. The first step, apology, could be the hardest, and perhaps insurmountable. An ego may just not be able to withstand it. It requires the acknowledgement that willful, conscious violations of the rules - cheating - occurred.

The contest community should be dismissive of the unrepentant, of those who don't take the difficult first steps, and understandably wary of those who do. Actions and motives of the previously disqualified will be highly scrutinized for a long time, as the trust deficit is diminished.

The words of the contest community to “follow the rules, and be ethical in your contesting” only have the power and meaning that we as a community give them through our actions and follow-through.

73, Brian N9ADG (*ARRL Contest Update*)

Ham Operator Hit with \$8k Penalty

As every amateur radio operator knows when he logs on, there are a few key rules to follow. Don't cause interference to other operators. And every 10 minutes, transmit your assigned call sign.

That's a lesson that a Cincinnati amateur radio operator has been reminded of — the hard way— when the FCC slapped an \$8,000 fine on Daniel R. Hicks for allegedly intentionally causing interference to other amateur radio operators and allegedly failing to provide his proper station identification. The interference violation was by far the higher of the two, with the FCC proposing a \$7,000 fine for interference and a \$1,000 fine for failing to provide station identification.

The two alleged infractions go hand in hand: Amateur radio frequencies are shared and licensees may not monopolize any frequency, and failing to transmit call sign information means others can't identify transmission's source.

After receiving several complaints in 2014 and 2015, the FCC Enforcement Bureau used mobile direction-finding techniques to determine that the source of the transmissions was the address of record for Hicks' amateur station KB8UYZ. Monitoring the transmissions in stealth in March 2015, the FCC said its agent heard Hicks' station transmit several prerecorded messages, which were preventing other amateur licensees from communicating over the frequency. Section 97.101(d) of the FCC rules states that “[n]o amateur operator shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communication or signal.”

In addition, the FCC found that Hicks did not transmit his assigned call sign during that hour-long transmission, but instead used a false call sign that's assigned to another amateur licensee.

Based on the evidence, the FCC found that Hicks apparently willfully violated the FCC Rules. He has 30 days to submit payment or offer evidence as to why the penalty should be reduced or cancelled.