



M.C.W.A. NEWS

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Since 1978

August 2016

MEETING NOTICE

August 2, 2016

Socializing: 6:30 PM

Meeting: 7:00 PM

Crystal Lake Bank
5100 Northwest Hwy (Rt. 14)
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

PROGRAM: NPOTA by WB8BZK

Officers & Staff

President.....	Jim McDonald, N7US
	jim@n7us.net
Vice President	Mike Metroka, WB8BZK
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News	Jerry Heien, N9AVY
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VE TESTING

Contact: Steve Maresso, KB9OLD at 847/ 477-3518

Testing is conducted quarterly at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday for the months of February, May, August, and November . Walk-ins are welcome until 8:00 PM. No appointment is necessary. Testing requirements:

1. Cost for 2016 is \$15.00 (Cash or check made payable to ARRL). If initial test element is passed, the person testing may continue take the next test element(s) at no extra charge during the given session. Retesting of an element failed during the same testing session will require payment of an additional \$15.00 test fee.
2. Must show original and provide copy of Amateur Radio license and/or CSCE (if upgrading).
3. Must show a valid Government Issued Photo ID (Passport, Driver's License or State ID card) for identification.
4. SS Security Number or FRN number required.
5. Location: Free Methodist Church, 934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL 60098

Changing of the Guard: By now everyone should have heard about the retirement of our Central Division Director, George "Dick" Isely (W9GIG) who has held that position since 2001. He'll be replaced by Kermit Carlson, W9XA, who has been Vice Direct for a number of years. This editor has known both of these fine hams for a few years and wishes them well.

Replacing Kermit as Vice Director will be Carl Leutzelschwab, K9LA. This editor has only met Carl briefly and he left a good impression. Carl has also done propagation programs at W9DXCC for years and has also volunteered as a DX card checker along with his YL, Vicky (AE9YL). These are excellent choices for the Central Division.

Future FAA Rules Could Affect Some Amateur Radio Antenna Support Structures

07/20/2016

Yet-to-be-developed Federal Aviation Administration ([FAA](#)) rules stemming from the recent passage in Congress of [H.R. 636](#), the FAA Reauthorization Act, could pose additional marking requirements for a small number of Amateur Radio towers. The bill instructs the FAA to enact rules similar to state-level statutes now in place that are aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of meteorological evaluation towers (METs) set up in rural areas. In the wake of fatal crop dusting aircraft collisions with METs, often erected on short notice, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended in 2013 that states enact laws — sometimes called "crop duster" statutes — requiring marking and registration of METs. While some state crop



M.C.W.A. NEWS

August 2016



WE LIKE BAND OPENINGS!

We ham operators love to hear of band openings. And depending on whether you are an HF or VHF enthusiast, certain openings are more appealing. Over the last month I enjoyed several band openings. Right after Independence Day, there was an exceptional opening before midnight local time on 20m. I quickly and easily logged a number of stations in Eastern Europe--- ES1QX, LY5A, OK2RZ, and EU6AF. The whole opening was peculiar. For one thing I had to switch to my vertical 6 band antenna for the best results. 95% of the time I use wire arrangements. The other interesting factor was the absence of sunspots--zero! Add to this that darkness was upon this region for three hours. The signals to Eastern Europe and other areas were very strong.

On July 20th shortly after 11:00pm local time, I heard Ed calling CQ on the South Island of New Zealand. ZL4IR and I were hitting each other with 59 signals plus 10 to 20 over. Ed asked what rig I was using. I told him that I was using the TS480hx into a long OCF dipole.. 200w. Ed said, "How far can you lower the power on that rig?" I said, "I can go down to 5 watts." And Ed told me to go ahead and lower it to 5w. His request was carried out in a few seconds. I said, "Ed, any copy?" Ed said, "Sure, Dave. You're about 55 now." We continued the QSO with 5w into a long dipole in the trees. I know guys talk of working the world on cw with milliwatts. This occurred late at night with a high noise floor and low sunspot numbers. I call this an interesting band opening

The other band openings have been especially nice on 6m. The time around the VHF contest had a lot of 6m activity. Some in the club were able to log some DX on 6m. This is always fun for HF and VHF enthusiasts alike.

Even when a sunspot cycle is declining in potency, there are openings. Some are enhanced with day-light, the season, the weather, etc. Real DX operators check the bands at lunch break or other schedule opportunities and keep an occasional eye on DX clusters. My favorite site that has served me well for many years is www.dxs.ummit.fi . It works for me. Ops have their favorites and a presentation on clusters will be given at the club meeting soon.

Meanwhile look for some of the following DX operations across August: PJ6Y, OH0/OH2IS, XU7AKB/D, OJ0DX, TX2AH, CY9C, JD1YBV, XX9TYT and JT1DBS. With some favorable openings and just plain old smart band operation, you can work some neat DX!

73 Dave KA9OZP

M.C.W.A.

AUGUST 2016

Cont'd from page 1

registration of METs. While some state crop duster laws exempt ham radio towers, the federal legislation does not. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said, however, that the list of exemptions in the federal legislation restricts application of the new rules to a very small subset of Amateur Radio towers.

“The FAA Reauthorization Act has very little application to Amateur Radio antennas. We will have a good opportunity to address the final FAA rules through the normal rulemaking process,” Imlay said. “We’ll be meeting soon with FAA officials to learn their intentions as well as to advance our own concerns to the agency. Uniform federal regulation is beneficial to hams, because it eliminates a patchwork of state statutes that can impose significant constraints on ham antennas in rural and agricultural areas.”

The FAA Reauthorization Act gives the FAA 1 year to issue regulations requiring the marking of towers covered by the new legislation. Marking of towers covered by the legislation will be in the form of painting and lighting in accordance with current FAA guidelines.

The law covers towers that are “self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground anchors;” are 10 feet or less in diameter at the above-ground base, excluding concrete footings; are between 50 feet above ground level at the highest point and not more than 200 feet above ground level; have accessory facilities on which an antenna, sensor, camera, meteorological instrument, or other equipment is mounted, and are located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town or on land that is undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes.

Imlay said the law excludes towers erected adjacent to a house, barn, electric utility station, or other building, or within the curtilage (enclosed area

occupied by a dwelling, grounds, and outbuildings) of a farmstead, among other exclusions. He said “undeveloped” land refers to a defined geographical area where the FAA determines that low-flying aircraft routinely operate, such as forested areas with predominant tree cover below 200 feet, and pasture and range land.

The FAA will develop a database containing the location and height of each covered tower, but Imlay noted that the database contents may only be disclosed for purposes involving aviation safety.

“We do not anticipate that a significant number of Amateur Radio antennas will be subject to these rules,” Imlay said, “but we need to monitor the FAA rulemaking process carefully to head off requirements that could put the cost of installing and maintaining affected structures out of any reasonable reach.”



Towers pose a danger to crop duster aircraft

M.C.W.A. NEWS

August 2016

New European Table of Frequency Allocations Released

07/21/2016

A new edition of the [European Table of Frequency Allocations](#) in the range 8.3 kHz to 3000 GHz has been released. The table is maintained by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations ([CEPT](#)) Working Group Frequency Management.

Information collected in the European Common Allocation (ECA) table is intended to reflect the main usage of spectrum within CEPT countries. A fully searchable [electronic version](#) of the ECA table can be found on the European Communications Office (ECO) Frequency Information System site. Among the changes the EUxx footnotes have been renamed to ECAXx, and the new Amateur Radio secondary allocation at 5351.5 kHz-5366.5 kHz has been included (de ARRL)

ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, to Keynote W9DXCC DX Convention Banquet

07/18/2016

The 64th annual [W9DXCC](#) DX Convention and Banquet will be held Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, in Schaumburg, Illinois. ARRL's new CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, will be the Saturday evening banquet speaker. Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, the W9DXCC DX Convention is an ARRL-sanctioned operating specialty convention.

Contest University and DX University programs will be presented on Friday. Day-long sessions on Saturday will include speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking, and a CW pileup contest. On Saturday, there will be presentations on the VP8STI/VP8SGI Sandwich Island/South Georgia Island, VK0EK Heard Island, and K5P Palmyra Island DXpeditions, as well as a Cycle 24 update, "DXing During Declining Conditions," and using the FLEX-6000 for contesting and DXing.

[Register](#) online. For more information, contact [John McCormick](#), N0FCD
(de ARRL)

STRAY You want me to buy your radio listed in the classified ads...OK (if I want it). You want me to pay shipping...OK. You want want me to pay YOUR PayPal fee because you CHOSE to use that payment...Keep your radio.

[W8LGZ](#) de eham

STRAY "...selling for health reasons..." READ: "I'm sick of this rig."

[N9LCD](#) de eham

M.C.W.A.

August 2016

August Hamfests

- 7 Peotone Hamfesters
<http://ham-ham.org>
- 27 Circus City Swapfest
<http://yellowthunder.org>

August Contests

- 5 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 6-7 10-10 Summer QSO Party SSB
- 13-14 WAE DX , CW
Maryland-DC QSO Party
- 20 Feld Hell Sprint
- 21 ARRL Rookie Roundup
Hawaii QSO Party

August DX

XX9, MACAO. Andrea “Andy”, IK7YTT, will once again be active as XX9TYT from Coloane Island (AS-075) between **August 29th** and September 5th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using SSB. Operations will include the All Asian DX SSB Contest (September 3-4th). Before the contest he will try to focus on 40 meters. Rig is a Ten Tec Omni VII using an Acom 1000 amp into Ultrabeam for 40-6m. QSL via IW7EGQ (for this operation). See QRZ.com for more details.

dates TBA Myanmar: AS-182, AS-183, AS-184 (IOTA new ones) 1293
dates TBA P5/3Z9DX: North Korea 1311

TURKEY STILL ON THE AIR!

Tevfik, TA1HZ, informs OPDX, “as of this time there is no curfew imposed on amateur radio in Turkey. The country is now under 'extraordinary circumstances law', but BTK (The Communications Authority) has not released any announcement about ham radio restrictions. Some local professional radio and TV stations have their licenses revoked, but there is no information about any restrictions for amateur radio.

If I receive any info I will share it with you. Till then 73”.

VK0EK VIDEO (Short Cape Town to Heard Island Video from Bill, AE0EE).

Bill, AE0EE, has created a video which encompasses the voyage of the Braveheart from Cape Town through the landing on Heard Island. In it, not only is there the rolling of the sea, but the deployment of two types of scientific buoys. First up is an ARGO diving buoy, followed by a NOAA drift buoy. The birds seen as the ship arrives at Atlas Cove are the endemic Heard Island cormorants. Upon reaching the island, the team was greeted by king penguins. The 2:35 minute video can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu-vwl6_y7U

NAQP CW

The North American QSO Party, CW, is on August 6th. With a maximum power level of 100 Watts, and 63 possible per-band multipliers, everyone can be on more equal footing. You can also join up with others to field a team of up to five stations.



M.C.W.A. NEWS

AUGUST 2016



FROM THE
EDITOR'S
DESK

Bicycle Trip Back in July I worked K1YPP/7 who had just started out on a bicycle trip from Oregon to Massachusetts; plan is to spend July through September riding towards MA. When Dennis hits WI he plans on taking a ferry across Lake Michigan.

While Dennis is not on-the-air while bicycling, he does operate from his campsites in the evening hours or whenever he stops for the days. He runs a small 2.5 watt transceiver, a tuner, and a wire antenna which he strings up in trees. He will either be on CW or PSK31 using a small laptop. For more info check out K1YPP web page.

[Large batch of W1AW/portable centennial QSL's](#)

These QSL have now hit the Bureau system. This editor has been the 9D cards for several years and had a small batch in June, but the "mother lode" hit in July. So, some will be getting their W1AW/x cards shortly, BUT they had to request the card from ARRL HQ and they have to have envelopes on file at the bureau.

[Drones on wires!!!](#)

Knew it was bound to happen! Just heard a ham chatting about his "HOA Destroyer" drone which can stay up in the air indefinitely because it's tethered by small wires to his house! Apparently he is using his wires to power the drone as well as an antenna, and flying after dark!! Can you imagine a stealth 80 meter vertical??

I [Please don't do this...](#)

I work CW quite a lot, and have done so for more than fifty years; still a lot of activity and great fun.

I do notice some "new" ops, including new licensees and also some long-licensed ops just getting into CW now, who do some things that are real time wasters and really should be avoided.

Just worked an op yesterday afternoon who said he'd been using CW since January (about six months) now -- won't mention his callsign -- and here's what happened:

-He called CQ in a way that won't get a lot of answers, although I did answer him. The CQ included sending his own callsign 7 times in a row, which is 4-5 times more than needed. Nothing illegal about this, it's just kind of a time kill. Better to call CQs that last 15-30 seconds depending upon keying speed and not send your own call more than 3x in any part of the CQ.

-He didn't end the CQ with an invitation to transmit: "K." That's kind of silly. How will anyone know when you're finished and listening, without a K?

-I answered him by sending his call once and my call twice. He got it! But he replied to me by sending my call, then his call, then K. Why? When someone answers you, it's your turn. Provide a report! Then, turn it back over to the other station.

-On his next transmission, he provided first his name, with a period after that. Then "QTH IS" with his location, and a period after that. Then "NAME HERE IS" with his name, and a period after that. Nothing illegal about any of that, but it's kind of silly.

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M.C.W.A. NEWS

AUGUST 2016

CONT'D PREVIOUS PAGE

First, I'd always recommend sending a signal report FIRST, before anything else. He didn't actually send me one. It's important to have this first, as it lets you know if the other guy is really hearing you well, or poorly, or at all. If poorly, it might be time to increase power if possible. If well, great. But this is nice to know right up front.

Then, there's no reason to send periods in a ham radio rag chew. They might be important if relaying an important message someone else wrote; I'd never change anything about "someone else's message." But when you're making up your own text and just exchanging conversation periods are a waste of time and never needed. Hams use _..._ (BT) for that, or if what you're sending obviously contains unrelated pieces of information, you really don't need to separate them with anything at all. I usually send (example) RST 599 HR QTH LOS ANGELES OP STEVE STEVE HW? Anyone who can copy code knows where the "breaks" are without me adding them. It makes conversation run smoother and exchanging more information more quickly an easier task.

Also, DO send a signal report, don't omit it. It's not for "vanity," it's to let the other party know if you can really copy them well -- or not.

If someone gives me a 599, I don't increase power or repeat information. If they give me a 339, I might increase power (if available) and will send everything twice to help assure they get it. Also, "QTH HERE IS" is superfluous -- "QTH" already means "my location is," so no reason to add more words to it. "NAME HERE IS" also seems a little silly...who else's name would you give?

-The op also took a very long time to respond to

each of my transmissions. I'd send some stuff, send "K" to turn it back to him, and be met with dead silence for maybe 15-20 seconds. Figured I'd lost him (happens), but then there he was replying to me with "R R" and stuff saying he got it all. What takes another 15-20 seconds to get it all? I don't understand that one. But I'll tell you if you do that when working DX, or making a contest contact, or contacting anyone in a pileup -- this won't work. During that 15 seconds, whoever you were after will make two other contacts and won't hear you again.

I love that a lot of newer guys (and some older ones, too!) are getting into CW and hope they're all enjoying it. But really listen to how you operate and if there are places to improve...go for the improvements.

* * * * *



STRAY CW, the heart and soul of amateur radio. But, for all those modern 'no code' hams, merely an incomprehensible annoyance...

[K7FF](#) de eham