



M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 16, No.9

Since 1978

September 2016

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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 umber required.
5. Location: Free Methodist Church, 934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL 60098

MEETING NOTICE

September 6, 2016

Socializing: 6:30 PM

Meeting: 7:00 PM

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

PROGRAM:

“HF Power Amplifier Basics for Hams Who Are Not Engineers” By Joe, N9OK

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Board Meeting

Tuesday 9/6/16 about 5:15 PM

Open to all, BUT please let Jim, N7US know that you will be attending or you will have to sit on floor ! **Place:** Asian One Buffet (Chinese) 18 Crystal Lake Plaza in Crystal Lake. The food was good last time we were there.

Aves Island YX0V DXpedition Put on Hold 08/24/2016

The planned YX0V DXpedition to Aves Island has been postponed. No new dates have been announced. A DXpedition team was set to depart on August 31 for the 17th most-wanted DXCC entity.

On August 24, the Amateur Radio Association of Venezuela, Santiago de Leon de Caracas Group, announced that it has been notified by the Venezuelan Navy that the DXpedition to Aves Island — to be held in commemoration of Navy Day 2016 — “ has been put on hold until further notice.”

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“VARIETY ON THE BANDS”

Over the last month my log shows good variety. At some point, I worked DX on 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters. 6 meters was very open during the middle of August. I know several in MCWA took advantage of the great conditions up to the midnight hour. I enjoyed working a number of stations on The Magic Band.

Last evening, I noticed that there was enhancement on 2m. Some FM repeaters were very strong. So I went to 144.200 and called CQ. W8MIL in Cadillac, Michigan answered. We moved up to 144.210 away from the calling frequency and had a nice QSO. This is a 200 mile line across Lake Michigan. As I was putting a QSL in the mailbox to this operator, the mail truck came along and dropped off three envelopes, along with the typical junk mail. There were a few DX QSL's (a couple from DXpeditions), but the majority of the cards were from the long awaited ARRL 100th Anniversary QSO Party from last year.....Here at last! We must thank the ARRL and all the bureau people from Newington to local incoming QSL workers. The volume of these cards is tremendous. We are grateful for our guys doing incoming QSL's at NIDXA.

Thanks also go to all the DXpeditions. CY9C from St. Paul Island did an excellent job. As time permitted, I worked them on three bands. Currently, Ken and Nob are doing a DX tour of islands in the South Pacific. They will operate as VP6J (on air now), E51Q, E6?, T2J and 3D2GG.

In addition, look for the following plus many other calls across September: XX9TYT (active now), 5U7RK, JT5NH, T32AZ, J28PT, OJ0W, VP6AH, OJ0JR, 5W0BOB, 5W0JHQ, TO5FP and PX0F. There are also many special event calls on the bands these days.

In the temperate days of early fall, it is a good time to tweak antennas before winter arrives. The Farmer's Almanac is calling for a cold and snowy winter in our area. Be prepared! And always be prepared to work the variety of opportunities on the wonderful bands of the radio amateur services. 73

Dave KA9OZP



Amateur Radio Sleuthing Pins Down Source of Strange RF Interference

08/09/2016

Police in Evanston, Illinois, contacted the ARRL Lab, after an apparent interference source began plaguing wireless vehicle key fobs, cell phones, and other wireless electronics. Key fob owners found they could not open or start their vehicles remotely until their vehicles were towed at least a block away, nor were they able to call for help on their cell phones when problems occurred. The police turned to ARRL for help after striking out with the FCC, which told them it considered key fob malfunctions a problem for automakers, although the interference was affecting not just key fobs but cell phones, which are a licensed radio service. ARRL Lab EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG, believes the FCC should have paid more attention.

“This situation is indicative of what can happen as a result of insufficient FCC enforcement, especially with regard to electrical noise and noncompliant consumer devices,” Gruber said.

Evanston authorities worried that a serious situation could develop if someone were unable to call 911, putting public safety at risk. They also were concerned that the RFI could be intentional and indicate some nefarious or illegal activity. Given the seriousness of this situation, Gruber contacted Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, to ask if he could look into the matter.

On June 2, Carlson met with an Evanston police officer, her sergeant, a local business owner, and the local alderman, and he quickly confirmed that the 600 block of Dempster Avenue in Evanston was plagued with an odd RFI problem. Carlson determined that the problem prevailed along a set of eight on-street parallel parking spots in the downtown commercial district of the North Chicago suburb.

Carlson employed a Radar Engineers 240A Noise Signature Receiver and UHF Yagi antenna to survey the affected block. Since key fobs typically operate at around 315 MHz and 433 MHz, he looked on both frequencies. The survey identified several noise sources in the affected block, but in particular a strong signal in the middle of the block. The interference source turned out to be a recently replaced neon

sign switching-mode power supply, which was generating a substantial signal within the on-street parking area just across the sidewalk, between 8 and 40 feet from the sign. The problematic power supply interference also disabled Carlson’s cell phone when he was within a few feet of the device. Carlson anticipated that further investigation would show that the harmful interference could disrupt licensed radio services in close proximity. The troublesome transformer was not replaced, but the building owner agreed to turn off the sign should problems arise.

Carlson called the Evanston case “a particularly alarming example of radio interference,” especially since local authorities considered it a public safety matter. “This situation demonstrates the electromagnetic compatibility problems that are evolving in an atmosphere of noncompliant, unintentional RF-emitting devices,” he said.

A return visit to the area with calibrated antennas and equipment capable of measuring the radiated signal strength with quasi-peak detection is planned for later this year. Since the initial visit, several other instances of unexplained key fob malfunctions have been reported in the Greater Chicago area. — Thanks to Kermit Carlson, W9XA, and Mike Gruber, W1MG

[Ed. -Kermit, W9XA, is our Central Division ARRL Director]

Aves Island Put on Hold

Aves Island was last activated on February 13, 2007, by YW0DX. The group had hoped to be on the air for up to 10 days as YX0V and already had begun preparations. Tiny Aves Island is situated west of the Leeward Islands. It’s only about 1200 feet long and some 150 feet wide. — Thanks to YX0V Pilot Station Steve Romagni, W4DTA



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Bored with ham radio - maybe you're the problem ?

Seems like there aren't many interesting conversations on ham radio these days . What could be the reason for this ? Operating digital, I often get the feeling that no one pays attention after I send a macro with all my info and they come back with wrong name and QTH. They're probably on their social networks ! SSB can be just as boring with the usual "599 QSL".

The following may offer some insight into solving the problem.

A ham asked this question on a forum:

"After 48 years I'm about burned out on ham radio. I may get 1 in 25 QSO's that is interesting. I had a Military Career with 12 years in foreign Countries. And rode a motorcycle in most of them. However I've never had much money and don't have 16 antennas or 7 ham rigs with matching linear amps to talk about. Self-regulation (discipline) does not exist on the HF bands where amplifiers are used the most. The worst thing is the fact that the FCC can no longer police the bands enough to require at 3 kc's between QSO's. AND keep the filthy language off the air. Plus all the promises the ARRL made about band expansion to the WARC bands never came to pass. Enough is enough"

Of all the responses he got was the following was probably the most straightforward and interesting:

"Well now, this is a challenge.

First, thank you for your service, patriotism, and dedication. All benefit from the military, but a rare few commit.

Now, to the problem at hand. One thing I admire about those who have served is their ability to examine a challenge, and see the problem for a uniquely internal perspective; in other words, many of the active duty service men and women, and vets, I've met will take ownership of the situation and ask "What action can I take to fix this?"

So, to that end, allow me to ask and suggest the following:

(1) Have you mastered digital modes? If not, you might find more challenge away from the amplifiers in that spectrum. Plus it gets away from the SSB crowd.

(2) Have you mastered CW? Again, different demographic, and lends itself to more civil conversation.

(3) How do you draw out the other party in the QSO? How are your interviewing skills? Example: DX at 0200 local is more prone to rag chewing, in my limited experience. I'll compliment them on their English skills, and ask where they learned English so well. I'll ask if they were educated in the US, or if they have visited? If so, what was their favorite city, or event? IF not, would they like to visit? See? it's a chess game - whatever their answer, have a follow-up comment, or question. Share stories, especially funny and uplifting ones. Play off of their responses.

(4) I read. A lot. Check out How to talk with practically anybody about practically anything by Barbara Walters and How to Talk to Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere: The Secrets of Good Communication by Larry King and Bill Gilbert. Even if you dislike their professional style, both are accomplished interviewers; learn from them. If you pick up 5 skills from each, you will be far ahead.

All that said, if your time in the ham community has run its course, then it is time to explore new adventures. I wish you the best OM; we'll be here if you decide to return later. "

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Sept. Hamfests

“ Ham Radio Vs. The Pros ”

- 16 W9DXCC Schaumburg, IL
<http://www.w9dxcc.com>
- 17 Peoria <http://www.w9uvi.org>
- 24 Belvidere Radio Expo
<http://www.chicagofmclub.org>
- 24 Cedarburg (WI)
<http://www.ozaukeeclub.org>

I read with great interest the article in the MCWA News titled “Please don’t do this”. The author outlines various “mistakes” being made by “new” ops calling their mis steps “silly” and making many assumptions regarding CW formatting and procedures. He states that “operating CW is great fun” then goes on to criticize other CW ops. Huh? Maybe the author should not leave the Extra class portion on the CW portion of the band and never operate below 30 WPM.

Sept. Contests

- 3- 4 All Asian DX , SSB
- PODXS Hudak Mem, 80m Sprint (PSK)
- 4 DARC 10m Digital
- 10-11 WAE DX , SSB
- 11 NA Sprint CW
- 14 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 24-25 CQ WW RTTY

If your read the article he picks out several CW contacts and the “mistakes” made by each operator. I too have been operating CW for years and hear the same thing on a daily basis. My first point would be this, at least guys are giving CW a try! Last I checked, there is no official law regarding CW procedures, even the most rigidly conforming ops do things a bit differently. OK, I have heard and understand the points he is making. Until Ham, or Amateur radio becomes the “League of Extraordinary Radio Operators”, then please leave room for us Hams. We don’t have it all figured out, but more and more guys are either trying out or coming back to CW, let’s encourage them!

Sept. DX

- 9-25 VP6AH Pitcairn Is.
- 15-25 OY/ON6NB Faroe Is.
- 16-30 D66D Comoros Is,
- 9-Oct 3 H40GC Solomon Is. Guadalcanal
- 20-29 E6 Niue Is.

My second point is this. As I make CW contacts, I do as much encouragement as possible I often hang out on the old Novice frequencies (7.10 – 7.15) and pick up the slow operates and (often painfully) hang in there with newer ops and help them through a QSO knowing their next QSO will be that much better. I also find that when I am done with the current contact, another Ham is calling me to tailgate onto the contact. Bring ‘em on.

Third and final point. If you don’t like something work for change. I have been teaching the Level 1 CW Ops class for a few years now, taking students from 0 to a solid 12 wpm over an 8 week, 16 session class. Remember when you learned, or tried to lean code? Just getting these guys on the air during the last few class sessions is monumental, and just as exciting! I repeat, just getting the new guys on the air for their first, second, third time and beyond and is major enjoyable rewarding effort. How about we encourage and reward these scared hard working growing CW operators. We are all “Hams” after all.

In conclusion, send your “silly” CW ops to me and we will have a great time.



Andy, WB7DKZ

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FROM THE
EDITOR'S
DESK

FCC Actions Seems like the FCC is catching up with some of the most egregious violators and hitting them where it hurts - in the wallet. At the end of this column there are a couple of actual cases from FCC. What these perpetrators are finding out is that if they want to play they're going to have to pay. Hopefully, this will end up being too expensive for these operators. As the FCC tightens the reins on violators there should be many more of these notices.

STRAY During a recent physical, my doctor asked me about the frequency of sex. I said : "14.313MHz" He looked concerned.

W7ASA de eham

STRAY So the USAF wants to add some sort of ionizing gas to the atmosphere...HF & radio on all freqs depends on that fat 'ol sun doin. Hopefully it doesn't smell bad

KB3WGE de eham

WEIRD ? " I bought a tube for a homebrew project off Ebay from a guy called "antique-tube-picker". The tube arrived today. It was wrapped in bubble wrap, but the rest of the space in the box was filled with the strangest packing material I've ever come across...what appears to be pages torn from an ad brochure for the Hallicrafters SX-28! AND they appear to be original! What would be going through the mind of somebody who would tear up a 1940s ham radio ad brochure for throwaway packing materials? Jim Morrison was right, people are certainly strange. Anyway, this seller has a 99.7% positive rating, so he follows through, but his noggin may be missing some screws otherwise."

de Eham

I FCC Notice of Violation Alleges Malicious Interference, Transmitting Music, Failure to Identify

07/25/2016

The FCC has issued a Notice of Violation ([NoV](#)) to a California Amateur Radio licensee, alleging that he caused willful and malicious interference, transmitted music, and failed to identify properly. The FCC Enforcement Bureau said in the Notice, issued on July 13 to Philip J. Beaudet, N6PJB, of Burney, that agents from the San Francisco, California, and Portland, Oregon, offices observed the violations on four occasions in August and October 2015. A General class licensee, Beaudet formerly held the call sign WD6FGE. Agents responding to an interference complaint used direction-finding techniques to pin down the source of an interfering signal on 3908 kHz to Beaudet's residence. The FCC agents also observed and recorded transmissions of music on 3908 kHz from Beaudet's amateur station. They further said that while they were monitoring and recording, the station's assigned call sign was not transmitted at the end of each communication.

The Enforcement Bureau said the Notice does not preclude it from taking further action, if warranted, including issuing a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture with respect to the cited violations.

The Bureau requested that Beaudet submit additional information in writing within 20 days "concerning the violations and any remedial actions taken" His response, in part, "must fully explain each violation, including all relevant surrounding facts and circumstances."

In another action, David Tolassi, W4BVH, was fined \$1000 for failure to identify. "1. We impose a penalty of \$1,000 against amateur radio station operator David J. Tolassi for failing to transmit his assigned call sign in the Amateur Radio Service. Failure to transmit call sign information undermines the purpose of the Amateur Radio Service by preventing licensed users from identifying a transmission's source. Mr. Tolassi does not deny that he transmitted on 14.313 MHz on the date in question, but argues that his comments were within the 10 minute window mandated by the rules. Mr. Tolassi also requests cancellation of the NAL and substitution of a Warning Letter based upon the fact that similarly situated amateur operators have received multiple warnings before being issued a fine. Considering the entire record and the factors discussed below, we find no

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FCC Actions - cont'd

reason to cancel, withdraw or reduce the proposed penalty, and we therefore assess the \$1,000 forfeiture the Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) previously proposed. II. BACKGROUND 2. On June 24, 2015, agents from the Bureau's Atlanta Office (Atlanta Office) used mobile direction finding techniques to locate the source of a signal on 14.313 MHz to Mr. Tolassi's residence. 1 On July 22, 2015, the Bureau issued the NAL proposing a \$1,000 forfeiture against Mr. Tolassi for his apparent violation of Section 97.119(a) of the Commission's rules (Rules). 2 On July 27, 2015, Mr. Tolassi filed a response to the NAL. 3 In his NAL Response, Mr. Tolassi argues that the NAL should be cancelled because any comments he made on 14.313 MHz on the date in question were within the 10 minute window prescribed by the Commission's rules. 4 Mr. Tolassi also contends that the NAL should be reduced or cancelled because other amateurs have received non-monetary warning letters for more serious infractions. Mr. Tolassi requests that the Commission issue him a Warning Letter rather than the NAL for his violation. III. DISCUSSION 3. The Bureau proposed a forfeiture in this case in accordance with Section 503(b) of Act, "

Full document available at:

<http://transition.fcc.gov/eb/Orders/2016/DA-16-858A1.html>

RF Exposure Complaints



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Often neighbors will complain about antennas being unsightly, blocking the view and creating EMF which can effect their alleged health. In the worse case the can be a nuisance and start a nuisance lawsuit which usually results in expense for one or both, Here are some answers opined by several hams.

"OK, she's fruitloops. You probably can't get her institutionalized (which might get her the help she needs) so that leaves ignoring her and letting her fester or escalate, or, telling creative lies to defuse her. "

"A friend of mine was passed a complaint letter at Zenith, when they made TV's in fancy cabinets. Some lady said "I know there's a camera in there, they are watching me, they talk to me all the time!" and it was hilarious but driving people crazy. Finally they wrote back, the government requires that camera, all you can do is close the doors on the TV cabinet to block it. "

"Maybe tell her it only LOOKS like a radio antenna, all the energy goes STRAIGHT UP. Sorry for the delay but they had to run a deep background security check on her before you were allowed to tell her "it is part of the Star Wars Defense Initiative, you know, the one Ronald Reagan started. But don't tell anyone, they'll arrest you if you do. "

There's only so much you can do with fruitloops "

" I'll bet she has a cell phone and a microwave. These will fry her before any of your radiation. "

Seriously, if one runs up against neighbors who complain, the first thing you should do is run an RF Exposure test as required by FCC. If all checks out, the nieghbor won't have a leg to stand on !

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Icom IC-7610, IC-R8600, IC-R30 and ID-51 PLUS2 models Shown at Tokyo Ham Fair 2016

After an online teaser campaign featuring silhouettes of mystery radio models, the secret is out and Icom Inc. has shown the very first samples of the IC-7610 IC-R8600, IC-R30 and ID-51 PLUS2 to the public at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2016 (August 20-21, 2016). Details are relatively scarce but here are the basic details we have so far on these models.

IC-7610 HF/50MHz Transceiver (Base Station)

The IC-7610 is the successor to the IC-7600 and will be a dual-watch capable HF+50MHz 100W base station with built-in antenna tuner. The LCD will be touch screen and you will be able to connect an external display.

IC-R8600 Wideband Receiver (Base Station)

The IC-R8600 replaces the IC-R8500 wideband receiver and will feature the technology incorporated into Icom's best selling IC-7300. The IC-R8600 will be able to receive a wide frequency range from 0.01-3000MHz frequency in analogue and various digital modes (D-STAR, P25, NXDN and dPMR). The IC-R8600 will feature a larger 4.3 inch touch screen display which will feature fast moving spectrum scope and waterfall display.

IC-R30 Communications Receiver (Handheld)

The IC-R30 is the successor to the popular IC-R20 compact handheld receiver. The IC-R30 can listen to two signals under certain conditions (analogue + analogue or analogue + digital). The IC-R30 will be able to decode D-STAR, P25, NXDN and dPMR digital (conventional) modes.

ID-51 PLUS2 Dual Band D-STAR Digital Transceiver (Handheld)

The ID-51 PLUS2 handportable is a special edition model which will come in several colours/patterns. The new 'Terminal Mode' and 'Access Point Modes' enable you to make D-STAR calls through the Internet, even from areas where no D-STAR repeater is accessible.

More details will be available nearer to each product's launch. There are currently no details about pricing and availability.

Stay tuned to this website and our social media pages for further announcements.

Icom UK Marketing: marketing@icomuk.co.uk



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A STEALTHY ASYMETRICAL OFF CENTER FED DOUBLET FOR 160 TO 10 OR IS IT JUST AN END FED WIRE?

A member of our club, K9EYE moved to a mobile home park. The property under and around the home is rented, and there are antenna restrictions in the lease. We noticed there were some of the modern small satellite TV antennas on some of the other homes.

The property manager is a reasonable person, and said something along the lines of “if I can’t see it from the road and no one complains, then I didn’t see it”.

We studied the situation for a while, and came up with an antenna that met the land lords restrictions, and works well on H.F. The neighbor’s only comment is that he watches the birds sit on the wire.

So how did we do it? The antenna has gone through some iterations in the last two years, I will describe only the current configuration.

The new shack is toward the middle of the home. The peak of the house is about 15 feet high and one end faces a field. About 100 feet away in the field is a tree. The field is currently unused, except for a semiannual mowing. This looked like a good place for an end fed wire, but what would we use for the other half of the antenna, and how would we feed it? There is a 70 foot by 12 foot aluminum car port on the south side of the house, it has grounded support posts about every 10 feet. The last 8 feet of the car port is an enclosed storage shed.

It took a little experimenting to find a solution, and this is how it turned out. From the shack to the shed, we ran RG8 coax. This was easy to conceal. Inside the shed is an MFJ 998RT legal limit remote tuner, it gets its power over the coax. A bias tee in the shack puts DC from the station power supply on the line. There is another bias tee built into the tuner to take the DC off of the line and feed the auto tuners circuits.

While experimenting, we found that a 4:1 current balun was required to get a good match. I don’t know if it is because of the 4:1 transformation, or the fact that it isolates both sides of the antenna from ground that makes this combination work. We used an MFJ 912 W9INN balun. The output of the balun goes to a DPDT knife switch which selects either the antenna, or a grounded connection which can be selected when the weather is threatening. From the switch one side of the balun output is connected to the aluminum 70 x 12 foot car port roof, and the other side to the wire running to the peak of the house then to the tree, a total of about 125 feet.

We used self-drilling self-tapping screws to bond the perimeter members of the car port together. This should provide a good connection between aluminum sections as the screw cuts into both sections at each joint. What we ended up with is a doublet antenna that has one very wide conductor (the 70 x 12 car port), and a 125 foot number 12 wire for the other side and is fed off center.

The auto tuner is always in automatic mode and the power is controlled from the shack, so if necessary the tuner can be power cycled to cause it to seek a new tuning solution.

So how does it play? Pierre is happy with the results. He routinely works friends on 160, 75, 40 and higher bands with better signal reports than he got at his last QTH.

There used to be jokes about tuning up a bed spring, Pierre just tunes up the car port.

John Dewey KA9CAR
Pierre Berube K9EYE