



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 2017 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. FRN number required.
5. Location: Free Methodist Church, 934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL 60098

MEETING NOTICE

January 3, 2017

Socializing: 6:30 PM
Meeting: 7:00 PM

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

PROGRAM: Yaesu Fusion

By Dave, K9RUF



FCC Enforcement Just recently it came out that the person in charge of Amateur Radio Enforcement Bureau, Laura Smith, has been on a leave of absence for the last 2 years. What ??? No wonder there has been so little enforcement all this time! This is a slap in the face to Amateur radio by the FCC. At a time when Amateur Radio is inhabited by numerous rule-breakers and miscreants when enforcement is so badly needed, the FCC has chosen to take the teeth out of the Enforcement Bureau.

Perhaps with the departure of Chairman Wheeler and other deadwood at FCC, some serious enforcement may return. Let's hope so.



M.C.W.A. NEWS

January 2017



DX WASN'T SO GREAT, BUT I DID TALK WITH SANTA!

With all the solar disruptions and high noise levels, DX has been a bit difficult to come by. The log shows a few DX entries such as 5T5TI, V51WW, TG9IIN and OF9X. So... I did talk with the Santa station! What else matters at this time of year? Yes, the DX has been more difficult of late. But a QSO with Finland, Tidra Island and Namibia reminds one of better days.

I did enjoy working 15 contacts during the 10m contest in a couple hours of radio time. The band was open with most of the contacts being domestic, but a Brazilian station is in the 10m mix. I also enjoyed the annual rite of the Canada Winter Contest where I also logged 15 Q's in limited time. As noted in prior articles, the bands are a lot more open than most of us think they are.

Across January, look for such calls as A70X, 8Q7AZ, XW4XR, XW4ZW, E51AMF, ZS8Z, J5UAP and TU5MH, among others.

I tweaked and repaired my antennas before the cold air rushed in. I'm ready for what conditions allow. I hope you are also.

I wish you a Happy DX New Year!

73 Dave KA9OZP

STRAY In "For Sale" ads, is it really "TOO MANY RIGS"? More likely, it's "NOT ENOUGH CASH".

[N9LCD](#) de eham

Look Mom, No Ladder

[Glenn C. Peck \(KE5GK\)](#) on December 24, 2016

Prior to falling from a ladder and breaking four ribs, I always skipped articles dealing with aids to putting up an antenna. I would simply lean a ladder up against a roof or a tree and install the antenna. This article is my recent experience of putting up an antenna without a ladder and without leaving Terra Firma.

1. My main antenna support is a metal mast that I can raise or lower by myself. The real key to flying solo in antenna construction is an eye bolt mounted on the end of the mast and several feet of paracord run through the eye bolt. (Make sure you have something attached to each end to prevent the paracord from falling out of the eye bolt when the mast is raised.) Paracord is super strong, relatively small in diameter, very inexpensive, and slides easily through the eye bolt.
2. The antenna I installed was an end fed long wire that has the coax attached to a matching transformer and a long wire that runs lengthwise over my roof. Raising this part was a piece of cake.
3. My initial efforts to get a monofilament up over the roof was my tried and true Zebco rod and reel with a sinker attached. This failed because my house, at the mast end, is very close to the house next door and distance casting was impossible.
4. Another trip to Wal-Mart and I returned with a slingshot, 1 ounce egg sinkers, and an inexpensive spool of 20# test mono. The spool of mono was placed on the ground and held in place by a homemade tent stake through the center hole of the spool. At age 75, my slingshot learning curve was a bit rusty. Three tries were needed to shoot the sinker over the roof.
5. I next cut the mono from the spool and attached the mono to a paracord and pulled the mono and paracord over my roof. Heavy duty mono, such as the 20# test, has less stretch and is more resistant to shingle abrasions.
6. Meanwhile, back at the mast end, I attached the insulator on the long wire to the paracord and was able to easily pull the paracord and wire over the apex of the roof. Also, at the mast, I pulled the transformer, coax and long wire up the mast and secured it. I used an 18 inch length of small diameter PVC pipe to keep the transformer away from the eye bolt on the metal mast.
7. Another trip around the house and I secured the paracord that is attached to the insulator on the long wire to the rack containing my garbage cans.
8. Coax run through the bottom of the window sill, connected to the transceiver and “Look Mom, I did it myself without a ladder.”

KE5GK -- Glenn C. Peck, Shawnee, OK

M.C.W.A.

January 2017

Jan. Hamfests

7 Waukesha WI West Allis R.A.C.
<http://www.warac.org>

22 St. Charles WCRA
<http://www.w9ccu.org/Hamfest.html>

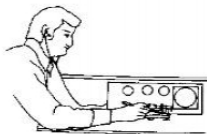
Jan. Contests

For more contests see: WA7BNM calendar

- 1 SARTG New Year RTTY
- 6 NCCC R TTY Sprint
- 7 PODXS 070 Club PSKFest
- 7 ARRL Kids Day (work some small goats ?)
- 8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 7 - 8 EUCW 160m
- 14 - 15 NAQP , CW
- 21 -22 NAQP SSB
- 21- 23 ARRL January VHF
- 27 - 29 CQ 160m , CW
- 28 Montana QSO Party
- 28 -29 BARTG RTTY Sprint

Jan. DX

- Till Jan. 6 KENYA 5Z4/AK0SK
- Till MAR 17 ANTARCTICA R1AND
- TILL FEB 17 ANTARCTICA R1ANC
- till APR 17 ANTARCTICA VP8DPJ
- 2018 BOUVET IS. 3Y0Z

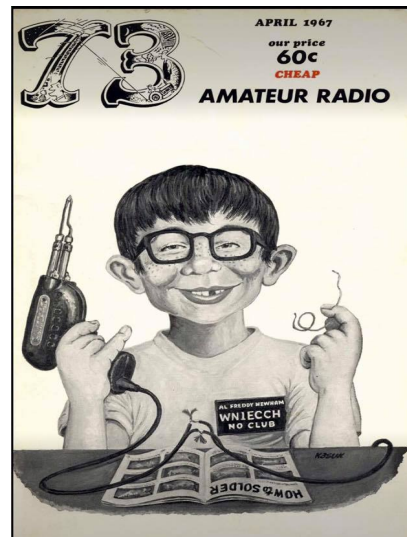


Officers & Staff

- President.....John Dewey, KA8CAR
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- Vice PresidentMike Metroka, WB8BZK
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- SecretaryRoger Scott, KF9D
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- Programs Jack Hudson, W9MU
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- Past President.....Jim McDonald, N7US
- DirectorJack Hudson, W9MU
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- Director..... Pierre Berube, K9EYE
- News Jerry Heien, N9AVY
n9avy@arrl.net
- WebmasterKen Farver, KB9I
- LibrarianJeff Schmidt, KC9WSJ
- VE Commander Steve Maresso, KB9OLD
- Chairman of Nominating CommitteeDave Cooper, KA9OZP
- Social Media DirectorDave Whaley, NT9E

STRAY “VINTAGE” is for wine, not for electronics!

[N9LCD](#) de eham





FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Amateur Radio Parity Act On a sad note, this bill was defeated in the Senate by just one vote from Senator Bill Nelson of Florida. This is a setback for this important piece of legislation, but it will go back and make the trip one again, but with different results. We should all jump on the bandwagon for this in 2017 when it again goes through Congress.

M.C.W.A. Dues 2017 With an all time high of over 90 members, let's hope we are all paid up for this year. As clubs go, we can be proud of such a large membership when many clubs are suffering from low membership. We must be doing something right. We can thank our officers & staff, past & present, for their efforts. Jack, W9MU, deserves special recognition for his efforts to provide the club with our monthly programs; there is a lot of work involved in obtaining guest speakers. Finally, thanks to ALL the members for keeping this club going by showing up for meetings. Our members are making this club what it is. As we move into 2017, it would be great to see even more growth.

FCC Chairman Steps Down On January 20th with the changing of the guard in Washington FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's job ends. While it is unknown who will succeed him, let's hope it will be someone who will be a "mover and a shaker" who will restore the FCC to its former glory.

Chinese Over-the-Horizon Radar QRming Low End of 40 Meters

12/14/2016

The IARU Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System [newsletter](#) reports that one of China's HF Over-the-Horizon radars (OTH-R) has been transmitting on 6.999 MHz, impinging on the very low end of the 40-meter band.

As the newsletter reported: "A jumping Chinese OTH radar covered the CW DX-edge of our exclusive 7 MHz band on November 17 at about 1500 UTC and later (long lasting)." The signal was 67 sweeps per second with a 10 kHz bandwidth.

Elsewhere on 40 meters, military ALE transmissions have been heard from Kyrgyzstan on 7050.0 kHz. IARUMS also reports that the Australian Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) has been heard on 10.131 MHz in the amateur 30-meter band; Amateur Radio is secondary on 30 meters.

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Eleven US Schools, Organizations Advance to Next Stage of ARISS Ham Contact Selection

ARRL and AMSAT — the US managing partners of the Amateur Radio of the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program — have announced that 11 schools or organizations submitting proposals have been selected to advance to the next stage of planning to host scheduled Amateur Radio contacts with ISS crew members next year. ARISS's primary goal is to engage young people in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities and raise awareness of space exploration, radio communications, and related areas of study and career possibilities.

ARISS anticipates that NASA will be able to provide scheduling opportunities for these US host organizations during the second half of 2017. The 11 candidate schools/organizations must now complete an acceptable equipment plan that demonstrates their ability to execute the ham radio contact. Once their equipment plan is approved by the ARISS technical team, the final selected schools/organizations will be scheduled as their availability and flexibility match up with NASA scheduling opportunities. The schools and organizations are:

- 2017 Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree, Glen Jean, West Virginia
- Antietam Elementary School, Woodbridge, Virginia
- Bishop Hendricken High School, Warwick, Rhode Island
- Chiddix Junior High School, Normal, Illinois
- Fleet Science Center, BE WiSE Program, San Diego, California
- Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas, Texas
- Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America, Kansas City, Missouri
- Los Angeles Academy Middle School, Los Angeles, California
- Meadows Elementary School, Manhattan Beach, California
- South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, West Palm Beach, Florida
- West Virginia University, Lane Department of Computer Science & Electrical Engineering, Morgantown, West Virginia.

(de ARRL)

Chinese Over the Horizon Radar - cont'd

Radio Eritrea appeared in November on 7180 kHz together with white noise from Ethiopia. The frequencies 7146.5, 7175, and 7185 kHz were reported to be still in use as well. Reports of Amateur Radio band intruders may be [logged](#) on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System logger.

