

# MCWA NEWS

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January 2012



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## VE TESTING

Testing by appointment only

7 PM 3rd Tuesday every other month

Jan. 17 .. Mar. 20.. May 15 , 2012

Cost is \$15 one time charge for session; no matter how many elements taken. Must show original license and/or CSCE if upgrading. Valid photo ID needed. SS#.

Steve, KB9OLD  
 847/477-3518

## Meeting Notice

**Tuesday, December 6**  
**7 :00 - 7:30 - Socializing**  
**7:30 - Meeting**

**Program:** Dave, NT9E will present a program on the latest technology in digital sound systems and R/C control for G gauge model railroads. The gauge is that of the track which is actually 1:1.772 scale. as the trains themselves can vary in scale from country to country. The popularity of this has increased since its inception in 1968. While many are indoor layouts, there are many "garden railways" which are literally outdoors. Dave will tell us about some of the things he does to make this hobby more interesting.

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## Treasurer's Report

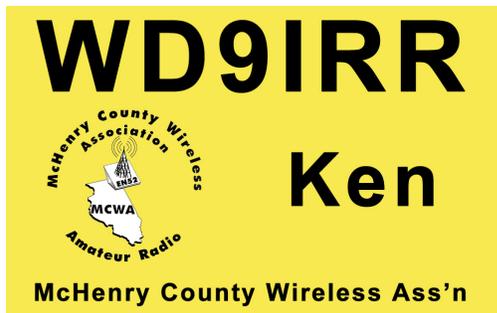


Opening Bal.	\$3472.74
Dues	300.00
Interest	.55
Checks	96.97
End Bal.	3627.32

Barry, K9YVT

12/31/11

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We've been working on permanent badges for members. Above is a sample. These will be pin back or magnetic back . The yellow would be a brighter yellow. Comments ????



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# MCWA NEWS

January 2012



## The Year Of Awakening Spots

In the November newsletter, this column predicted a milder winter due to the rising sunspot activity. This went against reports of a very cold and snowy winter predicted by nearly all long-range forecasters. The forecasters were relying on a moderate to strong La Nina pattern. This column went with the spot activity and apparently the theory is holding true.

Over the last two winters, cold and snowy winters were predicted by your author. This occurred in the absence of significant sunspot activity, with days in the zero count. Do sunspots really affect weather this much? You may wish to read an article I found entitled, "Sunspots Do Really Affect Weather Patterns" at [www.reason.com](http://www.reason.com).

Weather aside, Hams will remember 2011 as the year Solar Cycle 24 finally woke up. There were hints of an awakening as strands of moderate spots occurred across the earlier portions of 2011, but by Fall the sun "heated up" with more activity and many of us were working Asia into the night hours on the higher HF bands, namely 15m through 10m.

As an example, I worked JH3NGD on 12m at least an hour after sunset at the beginning of December. These higher solar flux days have allowed working southern African regions after 10:00pm local time on 20m. I had a very pleasant QSO with ZS6CCY late evening on 20m and many of the signals from that region were strengthening into the midnight hour. Look also for ZT1T ( the only ZT) on 20m about that time of the night.

Other good QSO's logged were with ZD7FT on 10m and 15m, VK3AKK on 10m and JA4DND on 12m. It has been fairly easy working Asia on the higher bands near sunset our time. The gray line principle still is a good way to go.

I have had some good DX contacts on the lower bands as well. We have had several nights where the "noise indices" numbers have been very low. This allows for some fine work on 160m, 80m, 60m and 40m. With changes soon coming on 60m rules, I want to point out that I had an easy QSO with G0HNV on that power restricted band. He was 5/9 and I gave him a solid 5/6 in England. Ten minutes after this QSO on 60m, George EI6S and I had a 5/9 plus QSO on 80m with my low elevation 80m dipole.

In January I will be looking for contacts with TO5G, TX2T, TN2T, 8Q7HU and a XU7, among others, who have announced upcoming operations at the beginning of 2012. I expect that the conditions of late 2011 will continue across 2012 with some minor fluxuations.

*Happy DX 2012 ~ Dave KA9OZP*



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# MCWA NEWS

## December 2011



### *From the* **Editor's Desk**



Please join us after the meeting at the Squire on Rt. 14 in Crystal Lake. It's about 1 block West of Rte. 31 on North side of 14. We usually have a couple of pizzas and drinks can be iced tea, soda or brewski's. Lots of ragchewing and we may solve all the problems of the world. It's a lot of food, fun and fellowship !

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### **Dues Are Due !**

**Postage Increase, Revisited** January 22, 2012 the USPS will increase postcards by 3 cents to 32 cents. Additionally, international postage will go up 7 cents to \$1.05. Stock up on Forever stamps now !!!

**Board Meeting** Well actually it was a meeting of advisors to the President since the current constitution has no provision for a "Board". Among things discussed were future programs, possible events using K9RN callsign, badges and a possible rewrite of constitution. It was a relatively short meeting. Members were invited, but none were present.

**KK9DX Repeater** was visited by some old friends during the holidays. Most notable were N9UNJ (D.J.) who spent the past several years on the road as a trucker, but has opted for a less demanding job in field service just across the state line in WI. Another visitor from the other side of Cheddar Curtain was Dave, KB9YRI, who used to live in McHenry, but moved to Fond du Lac where the fishing is better ! Sure there were probably more, but ye olde editor has a short memory. On another note, the interference is still on the repeater, but has lessened somewhat. Rumor has it that it may soon come to a halt.

**Dues for 2012 will be accepted at the January meeting. Dues are \$15 for a full year of membership. An application form needs to accompany your dues payment and that form can be downloaded from the**



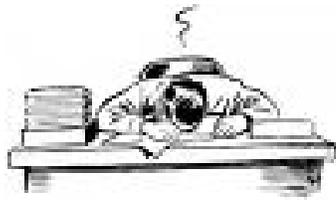
**MCWA site (<http://www.mcwa.org>) . A limited number of blank forms will be available at the meeting, but downloading and completing the form at the meeting with your **check** will speed things up. **Check** is the preferred method, but we grudgingly take cash if you don't want to use check. Payments, if you cannot make meeting, can go to Treasurer, K9YVT at: 336 Georgetown Drive, Cary, IL 60013. Remember that MCWA is YOUR club and needs your dues to continue. Thanks !**

**Barry, K9YVT**



# MCWA NEWS

DECEMBER 2011



## From The Editor's Desk

**Holidays** Hope every one had a good holiday season this year. As you can see above it was too much for this old editor.

**Yaesu Breaks with Motorola** After 4 years with Motorola Yaesu has changed their name for Amateur & Marine sales to Yaesu-Musen, effective 1 January 2012. Looks like a case of they should have kept the name they've had for 50 years. In USA, Dennis, K7BV will still be in charge of USA sales.

**Hamfests** Two major hamfests coming up this month.

**Waukesha WI** - 7 Jan 12 by West Allis Amateur Radio Club. For full info visit:

[http:// warac.org](http://warac.org)

**St. Charles IL** - 22 Jan 12 At the Kane County Fairgrounds. Mid-Winter Hamfest by WCRA . For full info see:

<http://www.w9ccu.org>

**Top Ten Most Wanted** countries, that is !

These DXCC countries are the ones most hams need. If you are lucky enough to have one (or more) consider yourself either lucky or you've been around a few sunspots !

- 1 P5 North Korea
- 2 KP1 Navassa Island
- 3 3Y/B Bouvet
- 4 VK0/H Heard Island
- 5 7O Yemen
- 6 FT5Z Amsterdam
- 7 FT5/W Crozet
- 8 BS7H Scarborough
- 9 VP8/S South Sandwich
- 10 ZS8 Marion Island

Malpelo Is. which is coming in February is the 12th most wanted. This will be a "chip shot" for most U.S. stations; so, grab it when you hear them !

**Propagation** Speaking of propagation, were we ? Well there is a "massive solar flare" on its way as of 12/29/11 which should create some disturbances for next 3 days or so. Or is this just one of those "rumors" ? We'll see ....

**What The ... ?** Do a search on "Ham Radio" online and it seems that WalMart has Ham Radio. Guess another big store has decided to do some mass marketing.... to bad WalMart doesn't have any Ham Radios. Wonder what happens when you do a search for "Cow Flop" ???

