

MCWA NEWS



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May 2012



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VE TESTING

Testing by appointment only

7 PM 3rd Tuesday every other month

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, May 1
7:00 - 7:30 - Socializing
7:30 - Meeting

Program:

“Emergency Communications in
McHenry County - What's New ?”

Guest Speaker John Zelz, W9ZE

Treasurer's Report



Opening Bal.	\$3951.00
Interest	.33
Dues	30.00
Checks	0.00
End Bal.	3981.33

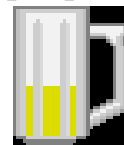
Barry, K9YVT

4/1/12

Join Us ?

After the meeting for pizza & beverages at the Village Squire in Crystal Lake (Rt. 14 just West of Rt 31). We usually have anywhere from 6-20 people and the cost generally

works out to
\$10 per person
with
pizza.



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“WHAT DO
DXERS TALK
ABOUT?”

When I explain to people that ham operators are not CBers with self-assigned handles, I often go on to mention some of the things ham operators do. For me this involves DX and I discuss some of the exotic locations I have contacted. The individual will usually ask, “How can you talk with other countries? Do they know English?” I explain that many of the foreign stations do speak favorable English. Occasionally, I tell them that I do some contacts in Spanish. In the middle of April, I heard an Argentine station, Miguel, calling CQ in Spanish. He mentioned that he knew no English. So we did a rather brief exchange in Spanish.

To be honest, most DX exchanges are brief. It can indicate limited English, but many DXers are working pile-ups and some of these operators do about 15 contacts per minute. This is sometimes true of DXpeditions. In contests, DX operators do up to about 20 contacts per minute. Fast talkers can do about 25 contacts per minute.

I worked the E51M DXpedition on 10m, 12m and 17m. The operator took a brief time to converse a couple times and I was grateful for the extended exchange. However, do not count on this luxury too often. I have had this happen a few times over the years.

Over April I had several nice QSO's with DX stations. When this occurs, I put the notation “nice QSO” in the log. Sometimes I even write the point of interest in the conversation. These personal

comments can provide a personal note on a QSL exchange.

Some of the more extended QSO's in April were with Japanese stations. Their English is usually good and their friendliness is unmistakable. With one Japanese operator we discussed cities in northeastern Illinois where we both had fond memories.

I also noted some fine QSO's with stations in Slovenia, The Czech Republic and Spain. Points of discussion range from family, weather, equipment, sports, QRZ pictures, natural disasters in the area, science and other items of human interest.

One determining factor in sustained QSO's are band conditions. Lately, conditions have been good, if you subtract the recent solar storm that played havoc with most bands. The HF bands below 10m have been staying open late on many evenings. There was a strong opening on 20m to Asia and Europe over the North Pole past midnight on April 17. I was talking with stations in Russia and the Ukraine with reports both ways of 20 over 9. Unfortunately, when contacts are like picking apples from trees, the QSO's come fast and furious!

I encourage you to take the time to do a ragchew DX QSO from time to time. A number of good things will happen. You will learn something new. You will make friends who will recognize you when you talk again in the next sunspot cycle. AND you may receive an invitation to pay a visit some time if you do international travel. Somehow this seems like the heart of the hobby---The part about international goodwill. The world could use more of this. Enough preaching for now. Get on the air and make a friend a few thousand miles away. 73 Dave KA9OZP



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24 APR 2012 - 2102 CDT

URGENT -To All Illinois Amateur Radio Licensees:

I realize many of you have received copies of Illinois ARRL Section Manager Tom Ciciora's urgent message asking you email your Illinois State Representative requesting him or her to support HB1390 which would make the FCC's PRB-1 part of the Illinois Statutes. If this happens, we would have a better method for using PRB-1 in Amateur Radio antenna issues and litigation in Illinois. This bill is now expected to be up for a full house vote as early as next week.

It's too late to use the U.S. Postal Service. We must use email. I ask you to be polite and to the point in your request for support of HB1390. Please use our emergency and public service communications abilities ("When all else fails... Amateur Radio") as your primary reason for making this request. And please send me a copy of your email so I will know how many messages have been sent to specific State Representatives.

Our Illinois ARRL State Government Liaison (SGL) Charles Richey, K9DUE (the person who has been calling all of the shots) also requests the following information. If you personally know your representative, please send Charlie an email advising him of your knowledge and possible influence you may have with your representative. Please send this email to me and to --

Charlie Richey <k9due@k9due.com>.

If we are successful in the Illinois House, there will be another opportunity when this proposal reaches the Illinois Senate.

I thank you for your participation in this political process.

- George R. (Dick) Isely, W9GIG
ARRL Central Division Director



de n9avy

WOODSTOCK CHALLENGE

It's planning time again!

Will the McHenry Court Wireless Association be available to assist again?

June 16, 2012 : first race, the 10K starts at 8 a.m. and the second race the 5K starts at 8:05 a.m.

Thanks for your assistance and have a great day!

*Mary Lynn Lisk, Recreation Center Manager
City of Woodstock
Health, Fitness and Recreation Department*

*Phone 815/338-4363 Fax 815/334-2279
www.woodstockil.gov*

Dayton 2012 May 18-20, 2012 The premier event of the year for hams. Everyone should go at least once. To all those going, have a safe trip and find lotsa goodies !

Live Video Feed from Dayton Hamfest. Every year w5kub.com has a live video feed from the hamfest. Usually in the fleamarket at his location, but he has been known to roam about with his "helmet cam". It's almost like being there !

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The Band Edge- How Close is Too Close?

By Duane Traver, WV2B

It was a situation heard all too often. In fact, it can be heard almost every contest. A DX station calls "CQ Contest" on 14349 KHz. Strings of US stations answer and exchange the contest exchange. But in addition another voice can be heard.

Besides the stations exchanging contest reports another voice rings out- "You're out of band stupid, don't you know the rules." Some contesters are bewildered, doesn't the band go to 14350? Others are argumentative- I am not out of band, they contend.

Obviously the mystery voice is not handling things in a proper manner. After all, if the stations he is condemning are out of band so is he. In addition, he is not identifying his transmissions. But why do these arguments keep erupting? Does this guy know what he's talking about?

The Rule

If the band goes to 14350 KHz, then contesters can just set their dials to that frequency and operate- right? Wrong! The crux of the matter is found in FCC rule 97.307, which reads in part: "Emissions resulting from modulation must be confined to the band or segment available to the control operator."

What must be taken into consideration is the fact that the frequency displayed on the radio's digital display is the carrier frequency. A suppressed-carrier single-sideband signal is considered to be 3 KHz wide. So, for an USB signal to be confined to the 20 Meter Amateur band, the frequency displayed on the transceivers digital dial should not be higher than 14347. That may even be too close unless the transmitted signal is attenuated by at least 40 dB at 3 KHz. Of course, the same goes for a LSB signal transmitted near the lower end of a band or segment.

Please see illustrations A and B below for help visualizing the situation.

USB Signal

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

I-----I-----I

347 14350 353

A. USB signal transmitted with dial frequency of 14350 KHz.

LSB Signal

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

I-----I-----I

147 7150 153

B. LSB signal transmitted with dial frequency of 7150 KHz.

So, the fellow telling all the contesters that they were out of band was right! But, is it a big problem? Obviously more education is needed on this particular rule. In the 2001 ARRL DX phone contest one Dx station was heard running US stations on 14349 KHz. in excess of 5 hours straight with a steady stream of US callers. Most were Extra class licensees.

Although certainly the majority of these callers didn't realize they were violating an FCC rule, the action could result in an FCC warning, ARRL OO notice, or perhaps an argument from a frustrated fellow contester as mentioned at the outset of this article. Since all contesters who submit a log sign a statement that they have followed their country's Amateur regulations they should be willing to take this rule into consideration and modifying their operation as needed.

In addition, contesting ethics are involved. What if a station finds a clear running frequency by operating too close to the band edge, while his competitor perhaps fails to find a run frequency out of respect for this regulation? Or what if a multiplier is counted by working a station calling too close, while other stations don't get the multiplier because they want to obey the rules? Perhaps such situations are part of what causes our mystery stations to vent their frustrations.

cont'd next page

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Band Edge - cont'd

hope you find this article of help in your contesting efforts. Further information about this particular FCC rule can be found on page 4-34 of the ARRL's "FCC Rule Book." See you in the contests.

* * * * *

DX Primer

Most of us have probably read about all the DX people have been working , but those of us who are new to the DX game probably are still in the dark.

DX is an old telegraphic abbreviation for distance. Today, DX means stations outside of the U.S. or one's own country. Stations in U.S. generally have call signs which start with K, N or W. Anything else would probably be DX. Exceptions would be KH7, KL7, KP2, KP4, KH0, KH2, and a few others in same vein. To find out more about these particular calls and other, you'll need to get a copy of Amateur Radio prefixes worldwide which can be found by doing a search on the web.

By now you should be able to tell DX stations from the usual stateside stuff. Next step is to find the DX. The old method is to simply tune the bands until you find something. Today, many DXers use a packet network to spot DX stations. Real time spots can be found at "Telnet DX Clusters" on the web.

DX Primer - Cont'd

There are also several email weekly DX newsletters from ARRL, 425 DX News, OPDXS Bulletin and others. These will tell you about upcoming operations.

So, armed with all this knowledge you should be able to find and work DX. But first, you need to know whether the DX stations are working simplex (same frequency) or operating split (5-10 or 20 kHz. up the band). You'll have to listen to determine this because DX stations can change their operating methods at any time.

At this point, it should be said that you don't necessarily need big antennas or high power. The average 100 watt station can usually work DX ("even a blind squirrel finds a nut one in a while !). Be patient and you will work DX.

At this point, it should be pointed out that while many DX stations are available on SSB, there are many DX stations which may only be available on CW. For some CW is a dirty word, but it seems that CW activity has grown now that it is no longer required. Weird, huh ?

The major award everyone chases is the ARRL DXCC which is awarded for working 100 countries out of a possible 341. Although some aren't really countries, but for ham radio purposes places like Alaska , Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and a host of other islands count as countries.

Cont'd next month

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4/26/12 de Chuck Kreswick, WV9C

Much, much has been happening. Not much you can see, but a million phone calls and chasing after votes. The emails are working. Rep Morrison, the first Republican came up to me and asked if he could be a co-sponsor. I put him on. I then went to Renee Kozel and she signed on quickly as a co-sponsor. My entire aisle where I sit has signed on as co-sponsors. I am really beginning to feel if the entire body is gently flooded with emails we have a chance. I went to Rep. Sydney Mathius, a legislator who I like a lot and respect. He is a Republican from the northern suburbs and a former mayor. As a former mayor he is siding with the Illinois Municipal League who got this Bill killed in Committee before.

I don't fault him, I appreciate his concern. But my focus on him is because he is on the Cities and Villages Committee and his view is respected.

I have been working the local liaison for the Illinois Municipal League (IML) with no luck so far. I have been trying to put the League's counsel on to the IML's legal people so they can talk. This may come about this week end.

We may or may not get the IML to switch to a NO POSITION or PROPONENT. In any case I'm going with this. This is a do or die, probably on Wednesday if I can handle this right.

More good news! I just came back from Senator Crotty's office. She will jump on as a prime sponsor (pre-filed) along with Senator David Luechtefeld of far southern Illinois who took it on his own! I am great. Nothing nasty...just as for support.

Friends this is it. This opportunity may not come again for years. I was fortunate enough to get this moved out of the Rules Committee by my personal appeal to Speaker Madigan. I sat with him and he got an earful about Amateur Radio and he listened with attention as I asked him for his help. He told me he would move the Bill from Committee to the Floor.

By the next morning it was done. I am told this is very rare. I don't know. I'm too new and dumb at parliamentary procedures to know better. My point...don't wait act now! We have a chance to get this Bill passed into law.

That's it for now. I ask that this email be forwarded to as many Illinois Amateur Radio operators as possible.....as quickly as possible.

My thanks to the League and the guys who have been helping me. There's more to getting a piece of legislation passed than just getting votes.

-
ARRL Illinois Section
Section Manager: Thomas T Ciciora, KA9QPN
ka9qpn@arrl.org

Editor's Note - It looks like the Amateur Radio population in this state can make a difference. Keep those emails coming !



Damn the torpedos and full speed ahead !

