Seaside Tsunami Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

The WA7VE

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2013

Ham Angels Strike *Again*

INDOOR SALE GOES WELL

The Indoor Garage Sale at the Seaside Convention Center (sponsored by The Rotary Club) on the 16th and 17th of February went very well.

STARS had a number of interesting items donated for the sale. There was a good turn out for the sale by the community and a good turn out of STARS members to work the sale as usual.

The club earned $300.60 for the General Fund and a few folks got rid of their "junk" by donating it and the proceeds to the club.

Ken Butt

erfield (KE7PPD)

Joan Butterfield (KE7VBH)

Carolyn Lee Mason (KE7OXP)

Pat Craig (KF7VXM)

Albert Wood (KE7OUE)

Alice Wood (K7ERO)

Vianne Patterson (KE7ZFM)

John Patterson (KE7RKG)

Great job, everyone!

HAM ANGELS AT IT AGAIN

Hal Denison (WA7FIV) and Ken Butterfield (KE7PPD) Certified Licensed and Bonded Ham Angels were seen taking down Albert Wood's Diamond X-50 antenna at his old digs so it can be installed at his new residence. Hal advised me today (the 28th) that he had the antenna all tuned up for Albert and ready to go as soon as they can schedule the install. More to come on this story.

NEW IRC COUPONS FOR DXERS

The Universal Postal Union has introduced the newest model of the International Reply Coupon. The new Doha coupon named for the 25th Universal Postal Congress that took place in Doha, Qatar in October 2012 will replace the current model, known as the Nairobi model.

Although the US Postal Service no longer sells IRC's, they are still available in other countries and post offices in the United States are mandated to redeem them. The Doha model IRC will be available for purchase on July 1st and is valid for exchange until the end of 2017. The Nairobi model remains valid until December 31st of this year.

OVER THE HORIZON RADAR HEARD ON 10 METERS

The IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service reports on a mysterious Over The Horizon radar causing interference in the 28 MHz amateur radio band. The mysterious signal disturbs the 28 to 29 MHz segment of 10 meters often with signals are 60 kHz wide, and jumping in bursts.

The location of the transmitter appears to be someplace in the Middle East but so far getting precise bearings have proven to be difficult.

The entire report covering this situation and other intruders to our ham bands can be downloaded free of charge at tinyurl.com/iarums-jan2013.

SPRATLY ISLAND DXPEDITION

Steve, 9M6DXX, reports that the **9M4SLL Spratly Island DXpedition** will take place between March 10-18th.

Unfortunately Christian, EA3NT, had to withdraw from the DXpedition due to work reasons, but he has been replaced by two experienced Hungarian DXpeditioners: Pista HA5AO and George HA5UK.

The other operators are John 9M6XRO, Steve 9M6DXX, James 9V1YC, Don G3BJ, Tony KM0O and Ben N6MU/DJ0YI (total 8 operators).

9M4SLL will operate with five stations simultaneously at peak times, using mainly Elecraft K3 and K2 transceivers plus full legal power linear amplifiers on all stations. The antennas will all be verticals and all will be sited within a few meters of the ocean. In particular we will have a Titanex V160E 27m (87ft) high vertical for 160 and 80m with a Pennant antenna for RX on those bands.

Activity will be on 160 to 10m, CW, SSB and RTTY. There will be no 60 meters operation as that is not permitted by the Malaysian licence.

The QSL Manager is Tim, M0URX, and direct or bureau QSLs can be requested by OQRS from his website at http://m0urx.com/oqrs.

Logs will be uploaded to LoTW as soon as possible after the end of the DXpedition - within a few days. We plan to upload to an online log once per day during the DXpedition.

Further information, including suggested operating frequencies, can be found on the 9M4SLL page on M0URX's website at http://m0urx.com/9m4sll.

Just where oh where are the Spratly Islands??? Think warm weather and nice warm water you can actually swim in without a wetsuit. Check out the link to Wikipedia below if you need a geography lesson.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spratly_Islands

NEED A QSL CARD FROM KAZAKHSTAN??

The Association of Amateur Radio Services of Kazakhstan is announcing a launch of the new initiative - **Nauryz DX Contest** scheduled for March 23, 2013 on HF bands (80-10m). The contest is dedicated to the spring holiday Nauryz (Nowruz) celebrations taking place around March 22 throughout Central Asia and in many places around the world. Contest Organizing Committee is inviting all operators to take part in the event. More information is available on the contest website http://www.nauryz-dx-contest.com and on Facebook page at http://facebook.com/NauryzDxContest See you in the contest!

KIT BUILDING ON THE RISE

I was at the Yuma Arizona Hamfest recently and met Doug Hendricks (KI6DS) and got a close-up look at what his company offers in the way of kits. You should check out their website at the link below.

Kit building seems to be back on the rise. With so many people talking about it lately I attempted to research sources for kits, only to find out that there wasn't a single-source for ham radio kit suppliers. I decided to put together a list of resources for kits. Many of these are for QRP operation, but a few are full-featured professional transceivers (Elecraft, DZ). A few months ago we had an article in this newsletter about an Elecraft kit build. You should look it up and re-read the article.

On the beginners side, there are a few sources that stand out: Hendricks has a great assortment of kits, including some SSB QRP equipment. I saw a new tri0band, SSB kit that would easily fit in a backpack and ran off batteries. I thought it would make a backup rig in emergencies. Keep your eyes peeled. There may be an article about that kit, in your newsletter, this summer. Here are some of their offerings:

- BitX20A/17A SSB Transceiver. The BitX20A and BitX17A are complete SSB kits with board, all parts, digital display and custom powder coated and punched case that is based on the BitX20 that was designed by Ashlan Farhan. Output is about 10 Watts. $180.00 + S&H
- PFR-3a 3-Band Portable Field Radio. Bands : 40 meters, 30 meters and 20 meters. Tuning range: Full band coverage. Mode: CW only. $240.00 + S&H
- NADC30/40 CW Transceiver. Nearly All Discrete Component CW Transceiver for either 30m or 40m. Tuning range ~ 60 kHz. Power output: 3.5 watts. Full Kit: $130.00 + S&H
- Ft Tuthill 15 Meter CW Transceiver. Two 60 KHz tuning ranges, ~ 21.000 – 21.060 and 21.075 – 21.135 MHz. Power Output: 5 Watts. Complete Kit (w/ case and digital dial) $130.00 + S&H
- Ft Tuthill 160 Meter CW Transceiver. Two 30 KHz tuning ranges, ~ 1800 – 1835 and 1830 – 1865 MHz. Power Output: 5 Watts. Complete Kit (w/ case and digital dial) $130.00 + S&H
- DCxxB Board Only Trasceiver Kit. These radios are the next generation of the popular DC40 transceiver that was also designed by Steve Weber. The kit will come with 1 crystal for the band specified. 7.040 for DC40, 10.120 for DC30, 14.060 for DC20. Board-Only kit with decals: $30.00 + S&H
- Weber Tri-Bander. The Weber Tri-Bander can be built for any three of these bands: 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, or 15. 5 watts out on all bands at 13.8 VDC. Built in Iambic keyer with 5 to 40 wpm code speed. DDS VFO for rock steady stability with 50 Hz and 200 Hz tuning rates. Many more features! $200 + S&H
- Scout Regen Receiver. A simple 2 band regenerative radio receiver that is capable of receiving signals from 3.5 to 11 MHz. A complete kit with L shaped aluminum chassis, quality doublesided silkscreened soldermasked board, all parts, hookup wire, board mounted battery holder. This kit is ideal for the first time builder. $50.00 + S&H
- SMK-2 40m Surface Mount CW Transceiver. The SMK-2 is a fully functional surface mount component 40 meter transceiver. It has an independently tuned transmitter and direct conversion receiver. Full break-in TX with side-tone, and a modest 350mW output. The crystal VXO on receiver allow about 3 kHz+ tuning range on the crystal frequency. It was originally conceived as the SMK-1, a platform to teach SMT construction techniques. Transceiver Kit: $40.00 + S&H, Optional switched crystal board: $10.00 + S&H

NEW- KD1JV Survivor 75m SSB transceiver. There is a long story about the history of this kit on the website. This is a re-design of the Epiphyte transceiver from Norcal. 10 Watts output, SSB, CW, and TUNE modes, Covers a user selectable portion of 75 Meters, either 325 or 175 kHz wide, selectable at build time. All through-hole construction. Requires 13.8 volts @ 2 Amps min. Basic kit: $100.00 + S&H, or Kit with Digital Dial, and Mic for $140.00 + S&H

Check them out at http://www.qrpkits.com.

HACKERS HIT EAS BROADCAST SYSTEM

The FCC, the FBI and several state and local law enforcement agencies are investigating what now appears to have been a widespread hack attack on the Emergency Alert System.

The full extent of the attack is not yet clear, but several HD2 stations aired a bogus message about zombies. Engineers say the hackers apparently had a solid working knowledge of EAS.

Bonneville director of engineering John Dehnel says the company's Salt Lake City stations were one target. While it never made it to news talk KSL (1160) — the LP1 station for the area — or its sister KSL-TV, the bizarre message was broadcast on the cluster's three HD2 stations.

Dehnel believes the culprit was EAS boxes that were left set to factory-installed default passwords to accommodate tech support crews. "We left the default password in and frankly I forgot about it — my guess is you'll find everyone still had the default password on it," he says.

The Bonneville HD2 stations fired the bogus EAS messages about one hour before a Great Falls, MT television station that made headlines yesterday. Several other stations also aired a fake EAS message, including TV stations in Albuquerque and Marquette, MI.

A radio station in Los Angeles apparently thwarted its attack. It is possible other stations also broadcast the alert.

Read the full Inside Radio article at http://www.insideradio.com/Article.asp?id=2616689&spid=32060

BATTLESHIP QSO'S COMING UP

If you enjoy having QSO's with historic vessels, this QSO party will be right up your alley.

Gene, K9UTQ, will activate the 'USS Wisconsin Battleship BB-64', N4WIS, during the Wisconsin QSO Party on March 9th.

QSL via N4WIS.
For more details and updated, visit:
http://www.n4wis.org/n4wis/index.php

DXCC IMPORTANT INFO

The DXCC Blog reports: "Before proceeding with an Online DXCC application you '**must**', first, have Mozilla Firefox installed on your computer.

Online DXCC is **not** compatible with Internet Explorer.

"If you do not currently use Firefox please visit this site to download and install this ***free*** program: http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/"

For the complete announcement, go the DXCC Blog page at:

http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-blog

Also in DXCC news, Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, is now accepting the following operations for DXCC credit:

4S7DXG – Sri Lanka; Only operations in 2008 and 2011
8Q7VR – Maldives; Only operations in 2008 and 2011

If you had credit rejected for contacts with dates during the periods noted, contact dxccrules@arrl.org to be put on the list for an update. Contacts before or after these periods cannot be accepted.

RADIO THIEVERY REPORTED AT NWS

National Weather Service Coordination Meteorologist Hector Guererro reported a case of vandalism at the Coleman National Weather Service transmission site in Texas. One that took the Weather Radio station transmitter temporarily off the air.

Guererro said that county authorities reported that vandals broke into the transmitter building north of Coleman and stole the copper data feed lines that come from the city of San Angelo. The weather alert transmitter, which identifies as WXN-89, operates at 162.475 MHz. News reports say that many area Weather Alert radios and scanners are tuned to that frequency.

The lines are being replaced and the transmitter should be back on the air by the time you hear this report. Federal officials as well as Coleman county authorities are investigating the break-in and vandalism that damaged the federal government transmitting facility.

KWWK KNOCKED OUT BY COPPER THIEVES

Rochester Minnesota police are investigating a recent copper theft that took a local radio station off the air. Early Monday, February 4th, someone broke into the KWWK radio transmitter and tower site. The thief made off with both copper transmission line and a motor. An engineer found the crime when he went into work around 4 AM. Damage to the property is estimated at $550.

BEHAVING BADLY IN PILE-UPS

I was in the basement, cutting up some cardboard boxes for the recycling pickup tomorrow. To dispel the quiet and to have something to listen to, I turned the radio on.

I worked K6K/MM on 17 Meters. My friend Bob W3BBO worked them last night on 20 Meters and let me know that these folks are the DXpedition that is heading to Clipperton. I worked Clipperton back in 2000; but that was with 75 Watts (QRO). I will try again; but QRP this time (of course).

From there, I tuned up into the SSB portion of 20 Meters. I figured I would listen to either some guys chewing the rag, or some guys working DX. I ended up listening to guys try and work some DX. To be honest with you, I don't even know who or where the station was. He was working simplex and the pile up was not huge; but he wasn't calling CQ, either. He had enough stations to handle.

Why do people insist on calling a DX station when they can't adequately hear him? I ask this, because there were guys throwing out their calls, while the DX station was still in QSO with the previous station!

It seems to me, that if you can't hear the DX station well enough to know that he's still talking and hasn't finished ..... what makes you think that you'll hear him come back to you? Do these folks think that propagation is going to magically improve so that a 2X contact can be made?

I'm not getting just on the SSB guys. It's no better on the CW side - heck, it's no better in the QRP Fox Hunts! I cannot tell you how many times guys just keep throwing out their call signs over, and over and over and over (Did I say over?) until you want to tear your hair out. Call signs being spewed out when the Fox is in the middle of making a contact with someone else.

If you can't hear THAT, why even bother to try to work them? Unless you can hear him well enough to respond to you, it seems to me that you're just setting yourself up to be thought of as a Lid by your peers.

That old saying holds true - "You can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em." But maybe we should also add, "You shouldn't try to work 'em if you can't hear 'em!"

Just sayin'

72 1/2 de Larry W2LJ

SAT DEAD SINCE '67 STARTS TO XMIT

An Amateur Radio Astronomer in North Cornwall accidentally picked up the signal and after cross checking with various lists, has identified it as **LES1** built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and launched in 1965. The satellite failed to reach its intended orbit owing to a wiring error and has been drifting out of control ever since. **Phil Williams G3YPQ** from near Bude noticed its peculiar signal drift caused by its tumbling end over end every 4 seconds as the solar panels become shadowed by the engine. 'This gives the signal a particularly ghostly sound as the voltage from the solar panels fluctuates' Phil says it is likely that the on board batteries have now disintegrated and some other component failure has caused the transmitter on 237Mhz, to start up when its in sunlight.

LES1 is about the size of a small car, It is not likely to re-enter the atmosphere for a long time as the orbit is still relatively high. It poses no threat other than that caused by the thousands of other pieces of space junk in orbit. Phil says its remarkable to think that electronics built nearly 50 years ago, 12 years before Voyager 1, and long before microprocessors and integrated circuits, is still capable of working in the hostile environs of space.

Listening to the signal you can easily imagine the craft tumbling over and over every 4 seconds and the transmitter starting up as the sun rises. He refers to the hobby as 'Radio-Archeology'!

ARS SET TO GIVE HAM STATION TO A YOUTH

Amateur Radio Supplies of Haverhill, Mass., has announced a ***new*** biannual giveaway to promote youth in amateur radio DXing and contesting. "Getting on HF (high frequency) in today's economy is very challenging for many, but especially for our youth operators," said Jeff Demers, owner, Amateur Radio Supplies. "Many youth operators are unable to purchase the needed equipment to get on the air.

Here at Amateur Radio Supplies, we want them to experience the joy that has propelled us in this hobby for many decades. Thus, on June 1, 2013, we'll be doing the second of many station sponsorships to support youth in DXing and contesting."

Amateur Radio Supplies will give a complete HF (high frequency) station to the selected applicant, including:
• Alinco DX-SR8T/E 160-10m All Mode Transceiver & 30 Amp PS
• LDG AT-100 Pro II Desktop Antenna Tuner
• Choice of Rugged All Band G5RV or HyGain DX-77A Vertical 100' of
• Premium RG-213 Coax
• Vibroplex Brass Racer Iambic Paddles
• SignaLink USB Sound Card for Digital Modes
• Heil Pro Set Plus Headset

Applicants from any country under the age of 21 are invited to provide brief answers to the following three questions, as well as their name, call sign, and license class online.
1. How often are you able to operate on the HF bands?
2. Where (what QTH) do you typically operate from?
3. How do you intend to use the equipment provided?

Nominations will also be accepted. If you know of a deserving youth, please email Randy Rowe at randy@amateurradiosupplies.com.

2013 HOLY LAND CONTEST

Shalom OM's & YL's We have the honor to invite you for the 22nd annual **Holyland Contest**.

Each year, more radio amateurs from all continents and countries world wide, participate in this extraordinary contest. Each one hopes to add some new squares to his existing collection in order to obtain the most exquisite Award.

Therefore, it is with the greatest pleasure that, we announce the Holyland Contest 2013, and invite all Radio Amateurs and Short Wave Listeners, to participate.

Please Your attention to the Contest starting time: This year's contest will start on Friday 19 and end on Saturday 20 April 2013 from 21.00 UTC until 21.00 UTC.

Special Trophies and New certificates will be issued to participating Radio Amateurs and SWL's for different classes and modes of operation.

We are happy to announce that last years, digital modes were a huge success as well, and will continue with this mode in the present contest.

As usual, we invite, the entire Amateur Radio Community to be on the bands, knowing full well, that propagation at times is not in our favor, nevertheless we will demonstrate and exercise, the spirit of friendship between all Radio Amateurs.

Thanking you for your co-operation, see you in the "pile-ups".

Good luck in the contest! Best 73's and Shalom **Mark Stern, 4Z4KX/4Z0X Amos Barak, 4Z1AB** Contest Manager I.A.R.C. President I.A.R.C

Israel Amateur Radio Club http://www.iarc.org/iarc/en/

ST. LUCIA MINI-DXPEDITION

Rob, N7QT, will be heading back to Saint Lucia on a suitcase mini-DXpedition as J6/N7QT between April 5-16th. He will be using the new CrankIR portable antenna system from StepIR. Operator **Frans, J69DS**, will join him.

Their operational base will be a magnificent villa located in Babonneau, which overlooks the city of Gros Isle and Cap Estate.

Their goal is to demonstrate "ultralite" DXpeditions from magnificent "vista" locations.

The operation's equipment will include a field portable radio (battery only) and using backpack/lightweight antennas.

Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY or PSK, as well as operating field portable (battery only) either from the St. Lucia beaches or scenic mountain tops. During field portable operations, they will sign their call signs /P.

QSL J6/N7QT via LoTW, eQSL, by the Bureau, or direct to his home call sign (SASE required!). J69DS will only accept direct QSLs with a SASE. NO Bureau QSLs!

TIP OF THE MONTH

What Is A VFO?

The acronym stands for variable frequency oscillator. A VFO is an oscillator whose frequency can be changed over a certain range. It is a required component in any modern, tunable superheterodyne. So what is a "superhet" receiver? A superheterodyne receiver (AKA superhet) uses a frequency mixing technique called heterodyning to convert a received signal to a fixed intermediate frequency or IF stage, where it can be more easily processed than in the original carrier frequency. Virtually all modern ham receivers use a superhet based circuit. Okay great, now explain a bit more.

My handheld transceiver has a VFO mode and a Memory mode. How do those figure into this?

Let's cover a bit of history first. In the golden days of yesteryear when I was a kid (late fifties and early sixties) most ham radios were crystal controlled. By that, I mean the single frequency they operated on was controlled by a crystal. You plugged the crystal into a socket and that was the ONE frequency you could work. Crystals were expensive, so I only had four. I tried to choose well because I could only work four frequencies. That was it. There was no dial on the transmitter to allow me to tune around on the band. The only "tuning" I did was when the radio drifted around the crystals frequency due to the weather and the instability of the circuits within the radio and power supply. The instability could be induced by temperature changes in the radio (hence the warm-up period before operation). Very small (millivolt) changes in power supply voltages could also be a culprit for drift as well as changes in component parts as they expanded and contracted with heat changes. This all changed with the introduction of the VFO. The early ones plugged into the radio's crystal socket and allowed you to tune the radio over a broad range of frequencies. The VFO was a tuned LC (Inductance & Capacitance) circuit that emulated (or performed as) a crystal controlling the frequency of the transmitter.

Check out this link to an early VFO at http://www.heathkit-museum.com/ham/hvmvf-1.shtml Next month we will discuss the PLL (Phase Locked Loop) and how that innovation dramatically changed the radio world.

To *finally* answer the question about VFO vs Memory Mode in your HT, here goes.
VFO Mode - It is essentially a tuning mode where you can enter a frequency or turn a dial to dial in the frequency you want to operate on.

Memory Mode - Is where you recall frequencies you have programmed into the numbered memory channels. You generally can not program frequencies while in memory mode. You can only recall numbered memory channels, and the frequencies you have previously stored in them.

In addition to storing a frequency, a memory channel will have the ability to store other information such as Channel name, power level, Tone and offset frequency.

The method to store frequencies into a particular memory channel differs between brands and even models of radios.

Note* (Yes, my "rich" neighbor had one rig in his station with a VFO in the sixties. I think it was an SBE brand rig. The rest was military surplus. Heck, some folks had Collins gear. Not me. I was throwing a paper route and earning $30 a month. You could not buy much Collins gear on $30 a month.)

Communication Tip of the Month

Effectively Handing Non-Negotiable Conflicts

Sometimes people find themselves frustrated and stuck in an unresolved conflict because they failed to appreciate the difference between negotiable and non-negotiable conflicts.

The vast majority of conflicts in our lives are **negotiable** in nature. This means that we need to rely on our ability to influence because we can't force others to behave as we want.

Non-negotiable conflicts are those that we are not willing to compromise on. These conflicts could ultimately result in someone's termination. Or they might result in someone needing to make amends to their coworkers for acting inappropriately. In non-negotiable conflicts we need to do more than influence; we need to prevail.

If we negotiate the non-negotiable than we are automatically communicating that we are open to compromise. It is imperative in non-negotiable situations that you stop negotiating and start clearly communicating what the future is going to look like if their behavior persists.

Here are the key steps to resolving a non-negotiable conflict.

1. Clearly communicate your expectations.
2. Identify the "follow through" or consequences that will occur if the problem is not corrected.
3. If the problem persists, follow through with the consequences in a consistent manner. If you follow through sometimes, then not at other times, you are essentially negotiating (and many individuals will take full advantage of this)
4. Be prepared to escalate the level of seriousness of the consequences. Some individuals only take issues seriously when you demonstrate your own level of resolve
5. If the behavior improves for a certain period of time but then returns, be prepared to administer consequences again. Don't start back at the beginning of the process.

Article by Patti Lind of www.pattilind.com

OP ED - I would like to add a thought to Patti's if I may. Understand precisely why your position is non-negotiable. Is it ego, or is it principle?

Just a thought from your intrepid newsletter editor. AE7QU

LET'S JUMP IN THE POOL!

It's time to test our knowledge by taking a dip in the pool - the question pool, that is! Let's jump into the deep end of the Extra Class pool for a mini-quiz on contesting. Have a way to record each of the five answers, and give yourself 20% for each correct answer. All five correct equals a perfect score of 100%.

E2C01 asks: Which of the following is true about contest operating?

A. Operators are permitted to make contacts even if they do not submit a log
B. Interference to other amateurs is unavoidable and therefore acceptable
C. It is mandatory to transmit the call sign of the station being worked as part of every transmission to that station
D. Every contest requires a signal report in the exchange

E2C02 asks: Which of the following best describes the term "self-spotting" in regards to contest operating?

A. The generally prohibited practice of posting one's own call sign and frequency on a call sign spotting network
B. The acceptable practice of manually posting the call signs of stations on a call sign spotting network
C. A manual technique for rapidly zero beating or tuning to a station's frequency before calling that station
D. An automatic method for rapidly zero beating or tuning to a station's frequency before calling that station

E2C03 asks: From which of the following bands is amateur radio contesting generally excluded?

A. 30 meters
B. 6 meters
C. 2 meters
D. 33 cm

E2C04 asks: On which of the following frequencies is an amateur radio contest contact generally discouraged?

A. 3.525 MHz
B. 14.020 MHz
C. 28.330 MHz
D. 146.52 MHz

E2C05 asks: What is the function of a DX QSL Manager?

A. To allocate frequencies for DXpeditions
B. To handle the receiving and sending of confirmation cards for a DX station
C. To run a net to allow many stations to contact a rare DX station
D. To relay calls to and from a DX station

You do not need to be an Amateur Extra to know the answers to these questions! Here are the correct answers:
A. Operators are permitted to make contacts even if they do not submit a log
A. The generally prohibited practice of posting one's own call sign and frequency on a call sign spotting network
A. 30 meters
D. 146.52 MHz
B. To handle the receiving and sending of confirmation cards for a DX station

So, how did you do?

Five correct = 100%.	You are a contesting genius!
Four correct = 80%.	You're a runner-up in this contest.
Three correct = 60%.	Middle of the pack, but you'll do better with some practice.
Two correct = 40%.	Just enough knowledge to be dangerous. Time to get on the air and listen during contest weekends.
One correct = 20%.	You might want to think about some basic reading about operating and contesting. You have to start somewhere!

ILLW WEEKEND COMING IN AUGUST

This 48-hour fun event, now in its 16th year and held on the third full weekend of August, has reached 150 registrations.

With 25 countries registered so far, Germany has the most on 35 closely followed by Australia on 34, England and the USA.

Those participating promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is on August the 17th and 18th. Visit its website illw.net to make an online registration, read the guidelines and explore it for more details.

Jim Linton VK3PC

Do not forget that the Sunset Empire ARC has a station on the Lightship Columb-a. If you are interested in operating on that historic vessel at the Columbua River Maritime Museum. Email them at:

w7bu@sunset-empire-arc.org and make arrangements to be aboard.

RADAR AMERICA CONTEST

Marcus KD0JKM is organizing a **RaDAR-America Contest** - an event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations throughout North and South America. Prior to the contest you select one of the defined categories. The points system is structured to encourage portable operation, especially moveable stations.

The rule structure is similar to that formulated by the founder of the contest idea, Eddie ZS6BNE. This contest will take place at the same time in South Africa (the Nation from which the idea originated), as it will here in the Americas - the first Saturday of April and first Saturday of November starting at 14:00 UTC and ending at 18:00 UTC (4 hours)

For more information on the RaDAR-America Contest, visit the website http://radar-america.blogspot.com/

THE GUY WITH A HAM RADIO

Kraft foods has produced a new set of television commercials called the Velveeta-Eat-Like-That-You-Know campaign, and one of the 15 second spots features ham radio in a very positive light.

The ham radio spot is titled "That Guy with the Ham Radio" and appears to be one of five new commercials for Kraft's Velveeta Shells and Cheese lunch and dinner product. Others in the series are titled "That Guy That Drives That Limo," "That Guy That Paints Those Landscapes," "That Helicopter Guy at the Mall" and "That Guy That Owns That Aquarium Store." All are fast paced and fun to watch. You can see them online at: http://www.genericbaldman.com/Velveeta-Eat-Like-That-You-Know.

20 METERS = 20 GRAND - WOW!

The ARRL reports on the latest enforcement action by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to protect amateur radio spectrum

On February 25, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the amount of $10,000 to **Jared A. Bruegman**, ex-KC0IQN, of Bolivar, Missouri. The FCC said that Bruegman "apparently and willfully violated Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 14.312 MHz in Bolivar, Missouri."

Mr. Bruegman (who does not currently hold an Amateur Radio license) was operating in the phone portion of the 20 meter band that is assigned to the Amateur Radio Service on a primary basis; his Amatueur Radio license expired in 2010. As a former Technician class licensee, he did not have privileges to operate in that portion of the 20 meter band when he held an Amateur Radio license.

Read the full ARRL saga at:

http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-issues-10-000-fine-to-missouri-man-for-unlicensed-operation-on-14-312-mhz

NASA SDO SHOWS "RAIN" ON THE SUN

On July 19, 2012, an eruption occurred on the sun that produced a moderately powerful solar flare and a dazzling magnetic display known as coronal rain.

Hot plasma in the corona cooled and condensed along strong magnetic fields in the region. Magnetic fields, are invisible, but the charged plasma is forced to move along the lines, showing up brightly in the extreme ultraviolet wavelength of 304 Angstroms, and outlining the fields as it slowly falls back to the solar surface.

Watch this remarkable NASA video at:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sdo/news/coronal-rain.html

BRANSON BELLE SHOWBOATING

The **Tri-Lakes Amateur Radio Club** in Branson, Missouri, will be operating the Special Event Station, **K2O**, from 1800 UTC March 1 to 1800 UTC March 3 to honor the 20th Anniversary of the Showboat Branson Belle.
Frequencies include 28.477, 21.277, 14.227, and 7.178 MHz.
Certificates available for a nominal fee.
Contact: Don McMahon, N7BD, Senior Captain, 4800 State Highway 165, Branson, MO 65616

http://www.sbbevent.com/
http://www.showboatbransonbelle.com/
http://qrz.com/db/n7bd

TWO RIVERS OREGON CALLING...

Monday was dedicated to science, especially physics, math and astronomy. Tuesday brought lessons in geography, history, languages, and *patience*.

After a slow morning of attempting to contact other ham radio operators, middle-schoolers at Two Rivers School in North Bend enjoyed an afternoon chatting with people all over the world, as part of the annual School Club Roundup.

"All of a sudden the band has come alive!" announced ham radio operator Steven Kangas, who volunteered two days helping the students to get on the air for the twice-yearly roundup.

Sponsored by the ARRL, the School Club Roundup ran through last week, giving students a chance for hands-on learning in many science based subject areas.

At Two Rivers, students learned about the science of short-wave radio, then ventured outside to build their own "home-brewed Delta Loop" antenna, as Kangas called it, on the first day of the roundup.

Read the full Snoqualmie Valley Record newspaper article at:

http://www.valleyrecord.com/news/191903921.html

TX5K CLIPPERTON DX-PEDITION

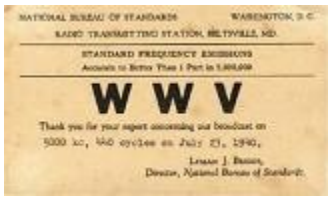
"All the California equipment has been assembled and is on the truck. It will be transported to San Diego on Wednesday, Thursday, February 13th. The boat (Shogun, San Diego) will be loaded on Thursday-Friday, February 14-15th. The first half of the team will board on Monday, February 18th, and the boat will sail for Cabo San Lucas, to pick up the rest of the team.

We expect to arrive at Clipperton Island on February 26th. It will take at least one day to land and get the camp set up, so QRV should not be expected before February 28th. Please watch the BLOG, and various news outlets for the anticipated start of operations.

We look forward to having a rewarding DXpedition.

WWV, WWVB & WWVH

This article tells the story of the **NIST** Time and Frequency Radio Stations: WWV, WWVH, and WWVB It is important for new operators to understand the roles these station play and have played in the amateur radio community.



Read NIST Special Publication 250-67

http://tf.nist.gov/general/pdf/1969.pdf

PROPAGATION & WEATHER INFORMATION

WHAT'S A QRP'ER TO DO?

So you say you're not into the "Big Gun" contests; because as a QRPer, you feel like a fish out of water. What's a QRPer to do?

Fortunately, there are a bunch of operating events (contests, if you will) that were designed just with you in mind. Some of these are annual events, some are monthly, some are seasonal. Here are some good ones that I can think of right off the top of my head:

Monthly ARS Spartan Sprint - this occurs on the first Monday of every month - this is a two hour sprint that runs from 9:00 to 11:00 PM Eastern time (you can do the math for your time zone). Sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society, there are two divisions - the Tubby and Skinny Divisions. The divisions are determined by the weight of the equipment you are using. The goal is to use as small and light and portable a station as you can manage - although that's not a requirement to participate. Information about these Sprints can be found here.

Flying Pigs Run For the Bacon - this sprint occurs on the third Sunday of every month. Another two hour sprint that again, runs from 9:00 to 11:00 PM Eastern time. This is a very friendly, low pressure sprint where slow speed coders are welcome. You don't need to be a member of the Flying Pigs to participate; but it's fun to have a Piggie number to exchange instead of just the "standard" 5W designation. Besides, it's free to join - the club's motto? "No dues, no rules, just have fun!" I am a member of this group. Further information can be found here.

NAQCC Monthly Sprint - these sprints are rapidly gaining in popularity. The North American QRP CW Club was founded by Tom Mitchell WY3H and John Shannon K3WWP. They recently just held their 100th sprint since the club was founded and close to 200 logs were submitted after all was said and done. That amount of logs has to rival even the bigger QRP ARCI contests, I'll wager. You have to pay attention to the days on these sprints however, because they alternate monthly between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. And the contest time is a bit different also - 8:30 to 10:30 Easter time. Membership in the NAQCC is also free and more info can be yours, here.

Of course the QRP Amateur Radio Club International sponsors a whole bunch of contests and sprints throughout the year. There are Spring and Fall QSO Parties and events such as the Hoot Owl Sprint, QRP Field Day, the HF Grid Square Sprint, Fireside Sprint, etc. QRP ARCI is a fine organization and they publish a tremendous magazine called "QRP Quarterly". More information about these operating events can be found here.

Then there are also the seasonal, primarily outdoor sprints such as the recently completed Freeze Your Buns Off, and others such as QRP To The Field, QRP Afield, Flight of the Bumblebees, (and my favorite) the NJQRP Skeeter Hunt. Google any of those for further information.

The NJQRP Skeeter Hunt will be held again this August. The sprint will be have an SSB category for 2013, so those of you who are not into CW can also join in on the fun. There will be a theme and bonus points awarded for home brewing something specifically for the event; but those details haven't been ironed out yet. A general contest announcement will be made near the beginning of May, and Skeeter numbers can be applied for as of May 1st.

There are also the Winter and Summer QRP Fox hunts. If you like the thrill of navigating your way through a QRP pile up, then these are for you. The Winter season runs from November to March. There are two hunts each week, usually on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. One is on 80 Meters and the other is on 40 Meters. During the Summer, the hunts are on 20 Meters and past practice is that they have been held on Thursday evenings. Details here.

If you want to build up your log totals, hone your operating skills and have a ton of fun in the process, take some time to investigate what I've mentioned here. If you've never tried any of these before, get your feet wet and join in. You'll be an Old Pro in no time!

72 de Larry W2LJ

QRP - When you care to send the very least!

WA7VE

Seaside Tsunami Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 128
Seaside, OR. 97138-0128
503-739-5465

www.wa7ve.org
Email: wa7ve@wa7ve.org

President - Pat Love (KE7RBM)
V.P. - Terry Williams (KE7QFR)
Secretary - Carolyn Lee (KE7OXP)
Treasurer - Kelly Larkins (N7IXI)
Trustee - Hal Denison (WA7FIV)

Our membership meetings are held at 5:00 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the Seaside campus of Clatsop Community College. We will be upstairs. The Board meeting begins at 4:30 PM. All are welcome.

Please visit our website for updates and information.

ITU ADOPTS HAM'S VARICODE FOR PSK

Varicode, developed by radio amateur Peter Martinez G3PLX, has been adopted as an ITU recommendation.

On Tuesday, February 19, François Rancy - Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (ITU-R) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - announced the simultaneous adoption and approval by correspondence of a new Recommendation entitled Telegraphic Alphabet for Data Communication by Phase Shift Keying at 31 Baud in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services.

The alphabet - commonly called "Varicode" because the more frequently used characters (in the English language) occupy fewer bits - was developed by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, in the 1990s. Martinez was awarded the ARRL Technical Innovation Award for the year 2000 by the ARRL Board of Directors for his development of PSK31, which uses Varicode for transmission efficiency in much the same way as the Morse code. In ITU parlance, it now becomes Recommendation ITU-R M.2034.

Read the full ARRL story at
http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-created-varicode-adopted-as-itu-recommendation

PSK-31 Varicode
http://www.arrl.org/psk31-spec