

M.C.W.A. NEWS

Vol. 10, No. 3 March 2010



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MEETINGS ???

Are usually the first Tuesday of each month with only exceptions due to voting at Nunda Twp. Hall.

Material from this publication may be reprinted provided that proper credit is given M.C.W.A. .Publication deadline is always the Tuesday before a meeting.



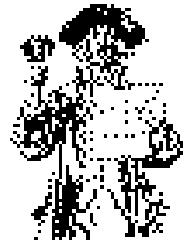
VE TESTING !

3rd Tuesday ,7 PM

Woodstock Free Methodist Church

Contact: Steve, KB9OLD

847-516-1292



Meeting

Notice !

Tuesday, March 2,
7 PM

Nunda Twp. Hall
3510 Bay Road
Prairie Grove, IL

This Month's Program Is:

THE 2009“UNAUTHORIZED” HAMVENTION TOUR

Unauthorized ? Well, they didn't say we could (and they didn't stop us). ARVN's intrepid reporters Jeff, AC4ZO, and Gary, KN4AQ, uncover the interesting, unusual and odd-ball the Hamvention (Dayton, OH). And there's plenty of that ! At 42 minutes, this episode makes a great club program, whether you've been to Dayton or not. It includes a lot of footage from 2008 which wasn't edited last year.

Happy St. Pat's Day !



Jim Durante W9NB - SK

Feb. 1, 2010 - Jim was a long time MCWA member. On occasion, Jim would present programs including his history with Motorola and cell phone saga.

I attended Jim's visitation and spoke to his wife, Mary. I expressed the sincere condolences of the MCWA membership. MCWA donated a \$50 donation in memory of W9NB to the family. They turned that donation over to the St. Thomas More Catholic Church where Jim and his family have been long time members. We'll miss Jim and we will always have fond memories of him.

--W9MLP

MARCH HAMFESTS

Mar. 7 - Sterling-Rock Falls

<http://www.sterlinghamfests.com>

Mar. 13 - Eau Claire, WI

<http://www.ecarc.org>

Mar. 14 - Jefferson, WI

<http://www.w9mqb.org>



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THE BANDS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF DX

By Dave Cooper, KA9OZP

You see the title and you know the song (modified from "The Sound of Music") ... Yes, DX is abundant now ! It's as easy as picking W2's out of the mailbox. A caveman could do it ... Almost a CBer ! Yes, Cycle 24 is waking up like a patient coming out of a 2-year coma. The patient is looking good and full recovery is expected, but still in guarded condition.

For those who said Cycle 24 would not happen and propagation, as we know it, would not happen for the foreseeable future (during the 8-year Obama administration term, at the least) , you are wrong. In all honesty, we hope this is the case (the cycle and not necessarily the 8-year term).. Enough political pandering.

The sunspots have been promising. Some days registered 40 plus spots in February with flux in the 90's. This is not a record by any means. But it is a good start in contrast to strings of zero spot days. The bands are responding. Today they are holding around 17.

Even as I write this article my log shows a lot of European QSO's. During the Netherlands Contest I worked nearly a dozen stations there. To the West, Japan has been strong on 20m-15m. HL3ERJ (South Korea) had a huge pileup on 17m. His signal was peaking at 5-5 here, but I worked Japanese stations that were 5-9 !

A few guys in our club worked TX4T on several bands. This DXpedition from French Polynesia operated during an excellent time for propagation. I worked them on 17m SSB split [frequency] with a response on the first call. This was done with 200 watts and an OCF dipole. As already mentioned, 17m has been super. It was jammed with stations today. I worked Greece and Italy with good armchair copy.

cont'd - next column

TX4T has done a nice job and the group is to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts. One major disappointment was an occasion when they were doing split on 80m and some "good ol' boys" saw their operation as a nuisance. They would not move from their "personally owned frequency" and some were generous enough to throw 1 KW carriers [Ed. - more like 5 KW.] on TX4T. Unfortunately, the operator went QRT on 80m phone. Thanks good ol' boys ! If 80m gets too noisy for you , go to channel 19 on 11m ! Your mentality belongs there .

The bands are alive with DX. It is a pleasant sound after slim pickings. All kidding aside, get on the bands and enjoy the hobby. Try 10m even though it is a little slower in waking up. At times it is quite usable. 15m is doing well. With the end of Winter conditions, there is still a lot of DX on the lower HF bands.

As the bands stay open past sunset, the conditions will get even better as the days grow longer into the Spring season.... 73, Dave, KA9OZP

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Treasurer's Report

1/26/10

Beginning Balance	\$ 3193.71
Interest	
	1.29
Income - Dues	
	60.00
Memorial W9NB	50.00
Rent - Church.	-25.00
Ending Balance	\$ 3180.00



de Marty, W9MLP





From the Editor's Desk ...

DX Stuff

Cycle 24 appears to be upon us. In the last week of February, activity was seen on 12m as well as some on 10m. Keep in mind when watching spots on the DX Clusters that they may only be heard in the area they were reported from. In other words, stations on the East Coast may be hearing DX well, but the Midwest (Black Hole for DX at times) may not hear the DX; same goes for West Coast.

DX Clusters are invaluable tools which can lead you to DX, but the work of putting the DX in your log is up to you ! Also, keep in mind that stations spotted on the clusters may not be accurate; seems like some fellow hams are either dyslexic or have hearing problems. DX clusters are available 24/7 via the internet; just do a search on DX Cluster.

Which brings us to the subject of learning to copy what you're hearing. It happens in both CW & Phone. Many letters sound the same under noisy conditions and DX operators accents add to the problems. Learn to listen and take notes. Good listeners make better hams.

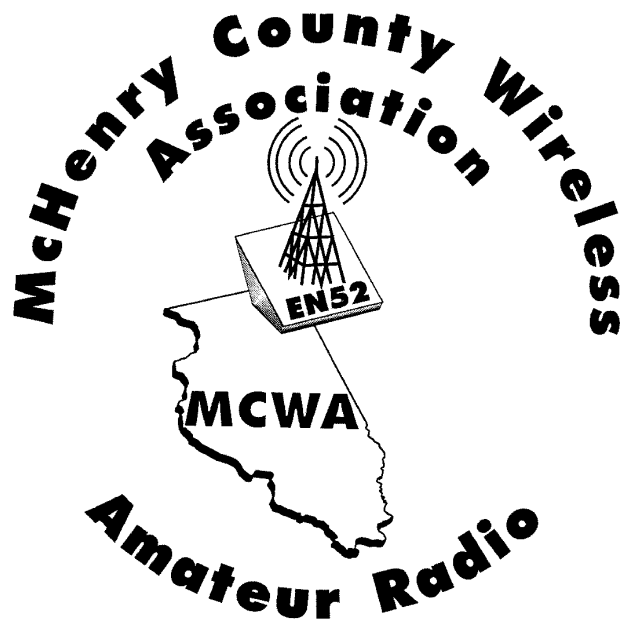
Logging programs are plentiful; some are free and some aren't. Ham Radio Deluxe is an excellent program and does just about everything, but make the coffee ! It has digital modes already installed, but you'll need an interface like the SignalLink (about \$99 plus S&H). Many contesters prefer N1MM logging program which is also free and available on line. N1MM has several small windows which allow you to log contacts, watch the DX spots (keeps track of DX already worked), has a band map which shows activity on other bands and also has macros which are great for CW as well as the ability to send CW via keyboard with a small interface you can build up in less than an hour.

440 Grab ! If anyone read the news posted on the K9RN reflector, you'll know by now that a commercial interest (ReconRobotics) has made a grab for our 440 MHz,. band for their surveillance robots. They already have the FCC's blessings for 1 watt transmitters to be used by police agencies for surveillance on 430-448 as a secondary service. This editor believes this will turn out badly for the firm marketing these when Joe Ham is running his 50-watt mobile in an area where these devices are used. Let's hope that these devices will all end up at hamfests in a year or two.

Chile Earthquake Fortunately the damage and loss of life in Chile was not as great as in Haiti. As the emergency communications go on the next week or so it has been requested that certain frequencies be avoided. 3720,3738, 3750, 7045, 7050, 7100, 7060, 14200, 14300, 14350, 18160, 21350, 21360, 21300, 28300, & 28500. Please do not transmit on or near these frequencies.

ARRL DX CW Contest Don't know if any members were in this contest Feb 20-21, but this writer had lots of fun and made over 600 CW contacts on 80-10m. Worked Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Brasil, Malta, Greece, Asiatic Russia, Faroe Is., and many more countries. Also, got the crew at 5W0 YA and 5W0OU in Samoa. They were stuck their due to bad weather which prevented them moving to another island paradise.

ARRL DX SSB Contest This one is coming up on March 6-7, 2010 ! This one is a lot of fun. It's a good way to work a lot of countries and get a few "new ones". Even with a 100 watts and a simple antenna you can work a few.



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