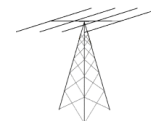


MCWA NEWS

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VE TESTING

Testing by appointment only

7 PM 3rd Tuesday every other month

Sept. 20 ... Nov. 15.. 2011
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, June 7

7 PM - socializing
7:30 PM - meeting

Nunda Twp Office
3510 Bay Road. Crystal Lake

Jack Hudson , W9MU

Will tell you everything you always wanted to know about operating HF. on 160 through 10 meters. Jack brings over 50 years of experience to this presentation. It should be good.



Gosh, we've had a lot of these lately, but not in our area.

Treasurer's Report



June 2011

None received .



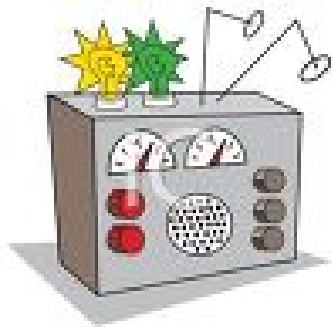
Heard from Jack, W9MU that Alan, W9HOG was hospitalized. We wish Alan a speedy recovery.

Alan was a guest speaker back in 1980's.

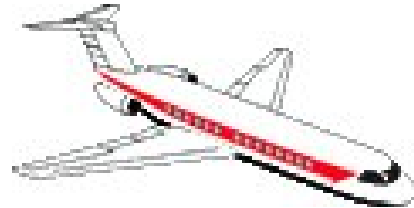
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MCWA NEWS

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“ Nice ”



Sometimes our hobby can best be described with a word like “nice”. As I look over my May DX logs, I worked 66 DX contacts in my spare time. In the log, I commented that at least 10 of the QSO's were “nice”. That, in my log keeping, means that the contact was more than just a signal report exchange. The contact was a conversation and I connected with an individual on the other end.

Such notations were listed with QSO's with France, Germany, Italy, Israel, Greece, Slovenia, Skiathos Island, Spain and New Zealand. These “nice contacts” imply that conditions were so good that there was “armchair copy” --- and there was in each case.

But of all the DX QSO's in May, the most exciting was with N4RK over Iceland. I went into the shack late one night and heard a mobile station calling, “CQ... aeronautical mobile over Iceland .. N4RK.” At first, I thought it was Rick who flies with a company jet around the globe, but as Mark and I talked, we realized we knew each other. Mark lives in Woodstock and

next column

flies passenger planes internationally with United Airlines. He checks in on the K9ESV repeater on Monday nights. He was piloting from Kuwait to Washington, D.C. He was using the HF rig in the plane which operates across many amateur bands with an automatic tuner. The one difficulty with 80m and 40m operation is that it does not transmit LSB. In any case, Mark chose 14,290 MHz. and he was 59 initially. As he neared the East Coast, the signal dropped into the Midwest. I spotted him on a DX Cluster and he put out an announcement that he was looking for McHenry county hams on the KB9I 145.41 [Ed. note - now KK9DX repeater] repeater.

Conditions have been best on 20m and 30m. These bands are generally open all night. Around 10 PM local, Russia and the Western Pacific have been strong. 15m has had some good DX. 12m has been okay. 10m has had occasional openings but still needs a boost. Tonight I did contact a VP5 on 6m. Yes, June is here and 6m will be more active as the month progresses.

The sun did experience lower activity over the last couple weeks of May, but on May 31 it is rebuilding. The number of spots is currently 105 and the flux is at 112. The bands are

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“ Nice ” cont'd

improving. The activity is expected to grow and the pictures of the sun look promising. There are clusters in several regions of the sun.

Conditions are NICE ! All the storms have caused some disruptions, but the higher HF bands are still usable with static crashes. So get on the air. Summer is going to be prime time for DX this year !

73, Dave KA9OZP

* * * * *



After the Meeting ...

Join us at the Village Squire on Rt. 14 for pizza and beverages. Everyone is invited, both members and non-members. We usually all chip in \$10 to cover food and tip.

The Squire is just West of Rt. 31 on Rt. 14 . We all have a great time socializing.

Hope to see you there !



From the Editor's Desk

K1MAN Most of are familiar with ol' Glen Baxter, K1MAN, and his shennigans on 14.275. The FCC has pretty much had it with this fellow. by leveling over \$21,000 in fines. Glen went to court to appeal and lost ! Imagine that. We're a step closer to having another pest off the airwaves.

CB Shop Cited On June 2, the FCC cited Gary L. Stanford, owner of Spark Gap CB Shop in Lincoln, Illinois, for mag “unauthorized radio frequency devices and external radio frequency power amplifiers”. In November 2010, a FCC employee entered the store and asked if they had a amplifiers for sale. The clerk showed him a showcase full amplifiers and suggested he buy a 10m radio modified for use on 11m. The clerk also showed him a 10m transceiver that was operating on 11m frequencies. Spark Gap could be looking at fines of \$16,00 per day up to \$112,500 for not responding. They have until July 2 to “clean up their act”.

Radio Shack is looking for input from US to find out what kind of components they should stock. There's a video at RS's web site. Gee, guess the cell phone market peaked out, huh ?

MCWA NEWS

JUNE 2011

Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One thing that I find amusing about Morse Code is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are to rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I say "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column.

Having said that, let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* by Carlo Consoli, IK0YGI. This book is available free as a download in the original Italian.

http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART-ita_v20100826.pdf
and in an English translation
http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf

What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse Code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill. To succeed in learning Morse Code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning: "when learning CW, therefore we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of the day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and pleasure. When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learnt from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness. This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation.. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day: you can take care of your "more serious" stuff later on."



Consoli also has some

things to say about getting faster. He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon the pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key.

He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter again.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators. If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator. and one day you will be one.

That seems to have worked for him. He is a member the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm.

Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your code speed, the Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

When not pondering the psychology of operating CW, Dan actually operates CW. You'll find him almost every day on either 40m, 30m, and as we transition to ZWinter here in North America, 80m. You can email him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com