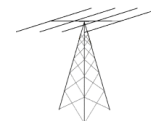


MCWA NEWS

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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, August 2
7 PM

Mobile VHF/UHF Installation
By W9MLP

This is a new program meant to provide information about a mobile VHF/UHF installation for both those who already have a mobile installation and those considering a mobile installation.

This is also a meeting for nomination of club officers for the coming year. Election is next meeting (Sept.). Showing up will not necessarily make you available for nomination, not showing up, well who knows ? If you're there you can always decline.

As usual, the meeting is at the Nunda Twp. Hall, 3510 Bay Road , Crystal Lake, IL. That's North of Rte. 176 and West of Rte. 31.

Welcome New Members !

A big MCWA to Bill (K9ZG) and Karen (WA9AEA) Early who recently joined MCWA !



Treasurer's Report



August 2011

Balance	\$ 3394.91
Dues	15.00
Interest	0.57
End Bal.	\$ 3410.48

Dave, KC9RSN



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Sometimes It's Hot ... Sometimes It's Not !

Through February blizzards, powerful lightning storms, 85 mph wind storms and power failures comes the DXer. Nothing takes him down. He climbs the tower, the roof, the trees. He repairs his antennas and waits for the next adversity (challenge) so he can do it all over again. And don't forget the heat ! He will climb in 100+ temps to fix the SWR on his antenna. If he dies trying, he died for a worthy cause !

Recently while talking with on 20m in Georgia, he stated that he has not been able to work on his antennas for over a month due to the terrible heat. Now...now ..none of this ! A real DXer will risk everything.

The truth of the matter is that conditions have not warranted risking one's life on a tower or any other high place. However, as this article is being written, conditions are improving even though the sunspot number is 38 and the solar flux is less than 100. Activity on 12m and up has been a lot of E-layer activity, typical of summer. This has allowed some propagation on 12 to 6m.

The big news right now in the DX world consists of two DXpeditions. There is ST0R in the newly formed Southern Sudan and VK9HR on Lord Howe Island . The Sudan tem will be on the air through August 10, but the Lord Howe team will go QRT on August 2.

One practice of ST0R has been the 20m utilization of a strange split operation. The transmit frequency has been 14.145 MHz. SSB while listening is on 14.205-215 MhZ. We do not have phone

privileges there (14.145) . Secondly, the operator is listening many Kc's up. The frequency police have been telling the offenders that they are out of band - which they are ... but the "police" do not identify themselves ... hmmmmm ? Could they be North American self-appointed FCC authorities ? Judging by their language, they could be sailors in International Waters.

The hams on the West coast are having better luck with the Lord Howe DXpedition. Their signals have been weak at best. However, other stations in places like New Zealand are strong. Perhaps it has to do with the set up, but the propagation has been generally poor. The same must be said about the Sudanese operation. I talked with a European with a solid 59 while the signal from North Africa on the same 20m band was often in the noise level. I did see ST0R peak at 58 on 20m, but this did not hold long.

I will be keeping my eye on the www.dxsummit.fi DX cluster and hope to catch both DXpeditions on a band or two before they go QRT. This may become more probable as numbers pick up a little. One member of our club has worked ST0R via CW on a few bands. CW may be the best choice of all modes during this time period of sporadic propagation.

Take a look at these two DXpedition groups on the web. Information on ST0R can be seen at www.dxfriends.com/southernsudan2011 and the VK9HR team can be studied via www.lordhowe2011.com.

Well, sometimes it's hot: sometimes it's not... This kind of sums up the band conditions across July. Let's hope for hotter solar numbers and cooler earth temperatures.

73, Dave, KA9OZP

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From the Editor's Desk

DX DX was a bit slow in July, but the numbers started climbing a July finished up. As Dave wrote both the ST0R and VK9HR were difficult catches at times due to the size of the pile-ups and the presence of jammers and "Kilocycle Kops" on both SSB & CW. The self-appointed guardians of the frequency probably do more damage than good. Many OO's were sitting on 14145 and listening for stateside stations. Many of the offending stations were simply not paying attention to where they were transmitting. This is more common than one would think.

IOTA On the last weekend in July there was an IOTAcontest which is Islands on the Air (or as one ham calls it, Italians on the Air). Many station visit small islands in Europe, Asia and the US to activate these islands for the once a year contest which unfortunately is a 12 hour contest. For the average ham, many of these islands in US are doable, but they are off both coasts and in the Gulf. Even Long Island (NY) counts ! The Florida Keys also count and the great thing is that it won't cost \$100,000 or more to get there ! Much the same for European hams who can usually get to their islands by ferry. It's a sort of "Poor Man's DXpedition" . Nice thing is that these islands operations go out throughout the year. Notice can be found in publications like 425 DX News from Italy, but it's in English.

Contests Contest season is fast approaching which means it's a great time to see what your station can do. or at least blow the dust off it. There are literally hundreds of contests available during the season. There are many small contests suited to almost any interest whether it be DX, States, SSB, CW, RTTY, or Digital modes. There's something for everyone. This editor never gets into a contests with any hope of winning. It's not about winning or losing, but it's about having FUN ! Only the guys who spend thousands of dollars on rigs and antennas ever really end up in the #1 slot. The little guys who make a handful of contacts are the real winners in that they meet some new hams and maybe works a new state or country. The only competition is against yourself. And, no, contesting isn't for everyone, but everyone should try it a couple times at least.

By the way, there is a 10-10 contest next weekend (first full weekend in August) which is a very laid back contest. It's not unusual for people to stop and chat in this one ! With the propagation on 10m being crummy and fewer openings, there may be more ragchewing than usual. Oh, and you don't need a 10-10 number to participate; stations with numbers are worth 1 point and stations with numbers are worth 2 points. For more info visit: www.10-10.org



Please join us after the meeting at the Squire on Rt. 14 in Crystal Lake. It 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 !

