



MCWA NEWS

Vol. 11, No. 12

December 2011



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VE TESTING

Testing by appointment only

7 PM 3rd Tuesday every other month

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, December 6

7 :00 - 7:30 - Socializing

7:30 - Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Tom Pusateri, W9NBG

The month's program will be about "Dipoles" ! It's aimed at the beginner intermediate ham who has never made a HF/VHF dipole or has wondered why the SWR changed as the coax was moved. This program will also cover how to make a dipole that works well without a tuner. Future programs will cover verticals and beams.

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.

Treasurer's Report



Opening Bal.	\$3168.17
Dues	240.00
Interest	.57
End Bal.	3408.74

Barry, K9YVT

11/30/11



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DX ATTACK !

Those who have been on HF these days know that we are under attack. It is happening on all bands, even 12m and 10m. It is not enough that it happens in the daylight propagation. Sometimes it goes on all night and all day on 20m. Right now it is happening on 10m through 20m, even though the sun has been down for two hours!. Then it happens to the tune of 40 over 9 on 40m in the night hours. This attack that is taking over precious frequency spectrum is the infamous DX. Those who have prayed for propagation can slacken off a bit.

Often 15m is plagued with Asian stations coming in to three or four hours past sunset. Right now Korea is blasting away on 15m. Others are dealing with Vietnamese signals on 17m and 20m, as I write this article. During the North American Sweepstakes Contest, I heard one bold ham say, "Sorry! North American stations ONLY!" Perhaps the rag chewers will have to adopt this policy and stress, "No DX! Domestic QSO's only. American made ONLY"

I must confess that in desperation I have worked stations in Africa (picked up a couple new countries), Asia and even Islands I have never heard of before. But what can an op do? These DX stations sometimes line the bands from one end to the other..... Digital, CW, SSB, AM... There is no end to it.

For those who do not talk with strangers or foreigners, there is the option of VHF and UHF. These bands can offer a safe haven away from the propagation of the world. Just avoid those link modes that connect you to repeaters in exotic locations. Otherwise, you will be talking with some guy whose first language is not English! I warn you now.

This attack of DX was enhanced when the sun spots peaked on November 11 to 209. These numbers are holding steady. So I am afraid the DX interference is not going to go away soon. I heard a fellow from Japan coming in strong with 50w just an hour ago. See what I mean? It is common for these "not made in America" stations to report my signals as 5/9 plus... plus! What can a modest op do under these conditions? I could reduce my signal to 5w and still be heard on the other side of the world! I hear it happening these days. I could use a tuned tomato can as an antenna, but the DX is so strong I would never be able to do domestic ragchewing. Wait... There is always CQ100! \

Enough of this. What I am saying is that the time is here. Cycle 24 is peaking and holding. If you haven't gotten your antennas ready for winter, do it soon. The Ice Man cometh. You can have arm chair QSO's with hams all over the world these days. Like this Season we are entering, it is time for peace and goodwill on earth. Ham radio is an avenue for spreading good cheer in these stressful times.

Merry Christmas and Happy DX New Year, Dave KA9OZP



Merry Christmas !



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From the Editor's Desk



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.

70 cm. The FCC met on Nov. 30 and decided to allocate more of our spectrum to new implanted medical devices. So, this means that they'll be utilizing the portion from 413-457 MHz. . Although this is a secondary allocation under Part 95, this editor can't help but wonder if this is the beginning of the end for our 70 cm. band.

Lots of ragchewing and we may solve all the problems of the world. It's a lot of food, fun and fellowship !

Fastrac-1 Satellite A new satellite is now available for packet digipeater use for those who have a VHF/UHF transceiver and a 1200 baud packet TNC. Frequencies are 145.825 IN and 437.325 OUT.

Dues



Are

Due

Fox News Video There has been a lot of talk about the recent Fox News video on Amateur Radio buzzing about the repeaters and HF. While this is definitely a good piece of advertising for Amateur Radio, one wonders if they have their facts straight. The claim of 700,000 U.S. hams does seem just a wee bit inflated. Perhaps the number is more like 400,000 considering all the quiet repeaters in metro areas and the seeming lack of activity on HF bands. Don't think the FCC keeps track of all the Silent Keys and those who just dropped out of the hobby.

Dues for 2012 will be accepted at the December and January meetings. Dues are \$15 for a full year of membership. An application form needs to accompany your dues payment and that form can be downloaded from the MCWA site (<http://www.mcwa.org>) . A limited number of blank forms will be available at the meetings, but downloading and completing the form at the meeting with your check will speed things up. Check is the preferred method, but we grudgingly take cash if you don't want to use check.

Postage Increase January 22, 2012 the USPS will increase postcards by 3 cents to 32 cents. Additionally, international postage will go up 7 cents to \$1.05. Stock up on Forever stamps now !!!

Barry, K9YVT



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MCWA Newsletter Survey

1. Do you read the MCWA newsletter?
Yes - 33
No - 2
I didn't know MCWA has a newsletter - 0
2. How would you prefer to read the newsletter?
As an email attachment - 27
On the club website (clicking on a link in an email) - 7
3. What section(s) of the newsletter do you read (check as many as apply)?
The meeting notice - 30
The treasurer's report - 24
"From the Editor's Desk" - 31
KA9OZP's DX column - 29
Other content - 26
4. Do you read the meetings minutes that are posted on the club website?
Yes - 15
No - 18
I don't know how to find them on the website. - 0
I didn't know the minutes are on the website. - 2
5. Are you receiving the meeting notices?
Yes - 34
No - 1
I don't know. - 1
6. Are you a member of the MCWA K9RN Yahoo Reflector?
Yes - 28
No - 7
I don't know how to subscribe. - 0
I don't like Yahoo Groups. - 1
7. What would you like to see changed in the newsletter? - 19
 - a. New member just figuring things out about the club and the newsletter.
 - b. ???
 - c. Maybe local EMS ARES/RACES info in the Tornado season. John Zelz maybe could help
 - d. Add some additional columns, such as public service, along with a reminder 7 days before content is due for those columns.
 - e. Delivery by email attachment preferred. If it goes on the web site, a reminder email would be nice or else a reminder post on K9RN.
 - f. It might be nice to include DXpeditions that will be starting within the next 4 - 6 weeks.
 - g. More technical content
 - h. You are doing a very goooooood job thanks
 - i. No changes are needed. Jerry, you do a great job of keeping us informed. I now live in Hannibal Missouri and miss the McHenry Country Wireless Association. Larry WB2UFO
 - j. I would like to see it come out more than 3 days before the meeting.
 - k. more on home brew equipment, and antennas and less on appliance equipment/antennas.
 - l. I don't seem to getting the newsletter via the internet on a regular basis. My email address is: lmiglore@sprynet.com. Thanks
 - m. None
 - n. Nothing, it is great as is!
 - o. SP
 - p. Great job Jerry!
 - q. The News letter is a good source of information for the MCWA.
 - r. It's OK



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SURVEY - cont'd

s. nothing

8. Are you a McHenry County Association member ?

Yes - 31
No - 4

9. Optional: What is your call sign ? - 26

- a. WB8BZK
- b. W9JWN
- c. KC9TCX
- d. K9ATI
- e. K9GLN
- f. W9ZE
- g. K9DCI
- h. K9WMS
- i. K9ZKJ
- j. WB2UFO
- k. WB7DKZ
- l. KA9TVU
- m. guess
- n. K9EYE
- o. KB9DIP
- p. K9YVT
- q. K9PK



Where are my QSL Cards ???

Well, unless you sent them direct or LoTW they may come back via the bureau. Using the bureau system is really quite easy and does not require ARRL membership. Instructions can be found at <http://qsl.nidxa.org/> . Notices are sometimes sent out via postcard or email (a good reason to have your email address on QRZ.com); if the notices are ignored, QSL cards are usually tossed into circular file. So, if you keep just one envelope on file with bureau, you can be certain that those DX cards will find their way to you. I've spent a lot of hours just trying to get cards and owners matched up. Changes of address are a real pain; especially when the FCC doesn't have your current address on file.

