



R F Feedback

Volume 5 Issue 7

P O Box 91 Lovington. IL 61937

July 17, 2006

The regular monthly meeting will be on July 17th at 7 Pm at the club house in Bruce IL All amateur & their guests are welcome

Program

Clint – KC9S presentation on fuses

Notes From June Meeting at Airport

By Sam K3BY

June meeting of MARK was held at the Airport Steakhouse at Mattoon Airport. There were over 20 people present. AB9GI and wife from Westfield were special unanticipated guests.

Good food was served by the Steakhouse people.

A short meeting was held. President Bob ask how many would be participating in Field Day. Bill W9LYN, Sam K3BY, Ralph WC9V, and Bob KA9LRZ will be operating. A pot luck will be held at noon on Saturday. Field Day was held at the clubhouse in Bruce.

Brad Euro KC9GAV stopped by to say hello to all.

No bill has been received for the repeater as yet.

The 220 repeater is on 223,860 neg offset with PL of 103.5. It is at 210 ft high with 10 watts output.

H F CONDITIONS

The graph of the Solar Flux Index for the last month, June 13th to July 11th, varied 16 points from a low of 72 to a single high of about 88. That is similar to what we had from mid-May to mid-June. There was a period of about a week, however,

when the SFI stayed at or slightly above 85. Currently, July 11th, it is at 73.

There was little activity at W9LYN after June 11th until early July so nothing much can be said about conditions during that period. Then on the 3rd and 4th there were contacts on 30 meters with Bulgaria and Estonia and on the 3rd with the Cayman Islands and Guatemala on 17 meters. On July 6th an "all time new one" was added in the form of a contact with Tom - C91TK, one of the operators with a five man American Dxpedition to Madagascar. The contact was on 20 CW using the now faithful 160 meter inverted "L" since the two element Delta loop beam was not tuned for the CW end of the band.

This past weekend, July 8th and 9th, the IARU, a 24 hour contest, ran its course. It was the contest used for World Radio Team Championship held this year in southern Brazil. For us in the Midwest most of the thunderstorm activity was some hundreds of miles away. As a result the lower bands had relatively little QRN (static).

Jerry – WB9Z, near Crescent City, IL, whose "new toy" is a stack of three of fun playing with my new 20m array. Never got run off a 20m frequency all weekend.... that's a change." Nearly 1400 or more than two thirds of his 2033 contacts, running high power on SSB, were made on 20 meters during the 24 hours.

Since there were 46 two man WRTC teams in Brazil operating both Phone and CW, many people were trying to contact as many of the teams as possible. Each had a distinctive call beginning with either PT5- or PW5- followed by a single letter. One person, Scott - KA9FOX using high power to Force 12 antennas at 95 feet, reported working all of the WRTC teams on BOTH modes.

Another report, this one by Phil – WX9U, was interesting when compared with W9LYN's results. Phil ran low power CW to a CL33 beam at 40 feet and to a 40 meter dipole and a 40 meter inverted "V" both at 35 feet for nearly 90 % of his 239 contacts. At W9LYN more than 95% of the 125 low power contacts were made on 40 and 20 meters using the 160 meter inverted "L". We both worked 10 of the PW5- teams but Phil worked 11 PT5- teams while I only worked 7 of them in my 10

plus hours of operation. This suggests to me that conditions were rather good on both 40 and 20 even for a low power station with a rather minimal antenna.

2005 DXCC YEARBOOK

When a person with a DXCC makes a submission to add to their award credits during a year, they earn a yearbook for that year. The 2005 edition arrived here in June.

Two of the sections in this year's edition are concerned with the DXCC Challenge Award. One is a listing of all 1732 holders of the award as of December 31, 2005. Each one had a 5Band DXCC and has submitted at least an additional 500 DXCC "entities/countries" for a total of 1000 or more current entities. It was interesting to skim through the list and recognize the calls and names of hams one has worked, knows about, or has met. The other section is a listing of the top fourteen on the list all of whom have more than 3000 entities. The person at the very top of the list each year earns the DeSoto Cup for that year. The first ever winner of that Cup in 2000 was Bob Eshleman – W4DR with more than 1500 entities. By 2002 he had acquired 2753 entities and was still at the top. This year, at the end of 2005, he had 3095 entities and was 13 entities ahead of the nearest competitor. Bob is still the only person ever to win the DeSoto Cup.

The top fourteen on the list this year are an international group. One half of the group are Europeans; two are Danes. The remaining seven are Americans. Number eight on the list is Don Karvonen – K8MFO. Last July he contacted Dave – KD9AC looking for a CW contact with Coles County and Dave suggested that he get in touch with me. Don was trying to complete the CQ Worked all USA Counties Award on CW and was still about three dozen counties short. We arranged a schedule, made the contact on 40 meters with him in Ohio, and I sent him off my QSL card.

Don said that in November 2004 he had gone through his 46+ years of QSLcards and found that he had 1007 counties confirmed on CW. Since he needed something to do to fill his time between working the harder and harder to find new entities, he plunged into working USA counties. Apparently there lots of hams with mobiles who specialize in providing counties on CW, especially on 10.114 MHz. He must have been very busy because by eight months later, when he contacted me, he had worked 2000 more counties. That is a rate of more than eight new counties per day! Don completed working and getting the cards for

the 3077 USA counties towards the end of 2005 or early 2006 when I saw his achievement listed in "CQ"

There are other stories in the Yearbook. One is about the brief KP5 – Desecheo Island operation off the coast of Puerto Rico in December. It is an entity that had not been on for years. Fortunately, both Dave – KD9AC and I were able to catch them. Then there are two stories that express different views on what Dxpeditons should be like. The one by Martii – OH2BH describes the kind of operations he has done for years where the objective is: "Each and every member of the audience should be served quickly. Period." That requires good advance advertising, good antennas, and high power. In other words a good size logistical operation is needed. The other story written by James –

9V1YC expresses an opposite view arguing that there should be no advance advertising, only small antennas, and low power. He has been on several "no-frills Dxpeditons", what he calls "Microlites", to rare places near the Antarctic. He is not in favor of DX clusters or Online Logs and believes real DXers should be more dedicated to listening. His article is titled: "Have We Lost the Magic?" The story that really caught my attention in this year's Yearbook is by David Schmocker – KJ9I about the effort he put in to earn a DXCC in less than five years. With a really well equipped high powered station a good operator would likely work a hundred or more entities on HF during a CQ WW weekend. The one David earned was not a "conventional" HF or a 6 meter VHF one. It was rather accomplished using 2 meters and the E-M-E (earth-moon-earth) path!

I will bring the 2005 DXCC Yearbook along to Monday night's meeting for those who might like to look at it. DE W9LYN

Your help is still needed in selling those raffle tickets. Remember we will not make out quota unless we get out there and sell. Also need three more volunteers for mowing for rest of year. Please contact me. Thank You. Bob
ka9lrz@consolidated.net

Field Day Operations

Field Day Operations were conducted by W9LYN-Bill, Sam-K3BY, Del-KA9TDT & Bob KA9LRZ. There were several others that did come out to have lunch then had to leave because of other commitments...Shown below are some pictures of this operation. Pictures by Alan KA9Z. Thanks



Weekly Nets:

Saturday Night 10 meter Net 28.400 MHz USB
8 p.m. CDT (1:00 UTC) Net control: Volunteers

Sunday Night 2 meter Net Temporarily 146.655, -
offset 8 p.m. CDT (1:00 UTC) NCS KA9LRZ

A Ham Radio breakfast is held every Friday
morning at the D and W Restaurant in Mattoon at
8 a. m.

Coles County ARES will meet Fridays at the
Forum from 6:30 AM to 7:10 AM until further
notice. This is located about four doors East of

Gowins restaurant in Mattoon.

Don't forget to check into the [Clark County ARES](#)
Net Wed nights at 9:00 pm on 146.520. N9YRX
NCS

Officers

President Bob Olson KA9LRZ

Vice President Clint Parrish KC9S

Treasurer Alan Dickens KA9Z

Secretary Sam Guccione K3BY

Trustees

Ron Amex N9GIF

Term Ends September 2006

Byron Abrams KB9BWS

Term Ends September 2007

Dave Riddle KD9AC

Term Ends September 2008

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