



### IN THIS ISSUE...

#### OFFICERS CORNER

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#### HOT OFF THE PRESS

FCC down  
Net to meet you  
License Arrangement  
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WARN training



March 5th  
7:00pm

## BIRTHDAY CLUB

Name	Date	Call
Roy	3/8	KF4ACO
Dennis	3/9	KC8GAC
Roy	3/11	KC4PWY
Lucius	3/21	KF8RC
Michael	3/26	KB8VLE
Garry	3/28	KB8VXB
Donald	3/30	KC8BHB

#### March Meeting Cookies

Polly - KC8CZC

#### March Net Control

John - K8RJ

## 1998 GARC CLUB OFFICERS

President - Jeff N1DJS  
 Vice President - Lisa KF4JNX  
 Secretary - Jerry KB8PVY  
 Treasurer - Dot KB8TQU

## G.A.R.C. MEETING MINUTES 2/12/98

The meeting was called to order by Club President, Jeff N1DJS, at 7:05 pm. The President inquired of the damage assessment demonstration that was scheduled for the last meeting. Jerry KB8PVY, reported that Bob Armstrong of the Red Cross was notified that we will not have a meeting on February 5 due to the bad weather. The Red Cross will be notified and try to get another schedule for our March meeting. Jane Cahall from the Commissioners will reschedule the EMA training that was to be held at the fair grounds last week on February 5th. Amateur Radio classes sponsored by the DeForest radio club are in progress. Discussion on the events for our club for the upcoming year.

1. Adopt a highway program suggested by Jerry, KB8PVY. A motion for KB8PVY to research this project by Jutta, N1WJM and seconded by Roy NL7FK. Motion carried by the membership.
2. Grants birthday Hal KB8SUM and Roy NL7FK will research this project.
3. Field Day to be discussed at a future meeting for the time and place.
4. Picnics to be held with other clubs and some for our own club. Will discuss at future meetings.
5. Dayton Hamfest participation, will also be discussed at future meeting.
6. Spring raffle. Motion by Russ N8CGO and seconded by Roy NL7FK to have this raffle. Motion carried by the membership. After a short discussion on what will be raffled, it was decided that a Kenwood TM-V7A dual band blue faced mobile will be the prize. Roy NL7FK, John K8RJ, and Al WB8UJM, will take care of this raffle. Meeting break at 8:05 pm. Meet back to order at 8:15 pm.
7. It was decided that there would be no fair activities this year.
8. Amateur radio class to be held on February 28. Motion by Roy NL7FK and seconded by John K8RJ, to have the club sponsor this class. Motion carried by the membership after a short discussion of possible conflict with the DeForest club having classes at this time. The class will be held at the ABCAP building in Georgetown.
9. Sponsors for our newsletter. Any one having knowledge of sponsors that would be interested in our newsletter, should contact Lisa KF4JNX, Lisa will then make the arrangements.

An honorary life time membership in our club will be presented to the owner of the 146.730 repeater. Jeff N1DJS will present this to him.

See meeting minutes continued later in newsletter



A view of the "elephant cage" receiving antenna at R.A.F. Chicksands, England. Antenna covers about 40 acres, has 2 outer rings of vertical antennas, a reflector screen and an inner ring of bow tie antennas. It's formal name is the Wullenweber antenna.

## FCC COMPUTER SYSTEM DOWN

The FCC says it hopes to have its Amateur Radio Licensing computer system, down since February 10, back on line by February 21. No paper or electronic applications have been processed since the computer system stopped functioning.

FCC sources attribute the situation to a combination of problems and say three people are working on it. Late word from Gettysburg was that personnel will try to process data submitted on February 11 and 12 by VECs. If all goes well, the FCC will have an updated file available for Internet call sign servers on February 21. The FCC's computer system has failed before, but never for this long.

Again pending successful testing, on February 23 the FCC plans to ask VECs to send on the applications they've been holding back at the FCC's request.

The situation has frustrated those who have been hoping to learn their new call signs or to check on updated licensing status. Call sign servers on the Internet also have been affected.

Earlier this week, the FCC apologized to VECs and asked them to not file any Amateur Radio applications. "We are sorry for the inconvenience," the FCC said.

## NET TO MEET YOU

(N1DJS) The Cincinnati FM Club is very pleased to host two important nets

[WARN](#) (Weather Amateur Radio Network) is the local weather spotting organization associated with the [National Weather Service](#). WARN operates on 146.88 upon request from the NWS. WARN conducts training nets on the same frequency on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM local time during severe weather season.

The Tri-State Network for Young Amateurs is a training net for young amateurs and meets on the 146.88 repeater at 8:30 PM on Tuesdays.

## US TO PARTICIPATE IN GUEST LICENSE ARRANGEMENT

(Weblines) US amateurs soon will not need to apply for reciprocal licenses in order to operate during short visits to most European countries. While an official announcement still may be a few weeks away, it's been learned the US request to participate in the European guest license arrangement has been approved. Similarly, most European hams visiting the US no longer will have to submit FCC Form 610A.

Last September, the US State Department applied for US participation in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Amateur Radio licensing system. A holder of a CEPT license can operate in CEPT participating countries without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

Approval of the US request came in late January at a meeting of the CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), in Groningen, The Netherlands. The European Radio Communications Office (ERO) has been instructed to officially notify the FCC of the decision approving US participation.

The State Department's action came at the urging of the ARRL that the US take advantage of the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 arrangements and issue a license that would be recognized by CEPT-participating administrations and would be valid for brief visits. Also last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a CEPT license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US.

Under the soon-to-be-implemented arrangement, a US Technician license would be recognized as a CEPT Class 2 (VHF-only) license, with full privileges above 30 MHz. Holders of Tech Plus through Extra tickets would be given a CEPT Class 1 license with full privileges on HF and VHF. Novice licenses would not be eligible for a CEPT equivalent license since most CEPT countries don't offer a license of this type. Once the ERO formally advises the FCC of the decision, the FCC must complete the steps to implement the participation before CEPT licensing can become effective.

"We've been urging the Commission to do this since 1991," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Now that CEPT has given the green light, we hope the FCC will step on the gas."

## CUSHCRAFT CONTINUES IN HAM MARKET; HIRES NEW VEEP

(Weblines) Cushcraft says reports of its demise in the ham radio market have been greatly exaggerated. Cushcraft Production Manager Art Hambleton, K1ART, says the New Hampshire antenna manufacturer is still very much a part of the Amateur Radio antenna industry. Rumors that Cushcraft was exiting the ham market apparently mushroomed when word spread of some layoffs at Cushcraft. Hambleton confirmed that a couple of people had been let go and that Cushcraft had cut back on its advertising in ham radio publications, and he attributed the moves to budgetary cutbacks.

Hambleton announced this week that Cushcraft has hired Adam Alevy, N1FXT, of Amherst, New Hampshire, as its vice president of engineering. Alevy was previously with Atlantic Microwave of Bolton, Massachusetts. At Atlantic he designed VHF through millimeter wave antennas for communications and tracking applications. As director of engineering at Cushcraft Hambleton said, Alevy, 34, will manage the engineering group and design antennas in both commercial and amateur radio markets.

# MARCH CONTEST CALENDAR

## 8th

ARRL International DX Contest, phone, see Dec QST, p 102.

## 14th-15th

QCWA QSO Party, sponsored by Quarter Century Wireless Assn, from 1900Z Mar 14 until 1900Z Mar 15 (the second QCWA QSO Party of the year takes place 1800Z Sep 19 until 1800Z Sep 20). <http://www.teleport.com/~qcwa/qsoparty.htm>.

Wisconsin QSO Party, sponsored by the West Allis RAC, 1800Z Mar 15 until 0100Z Mar 16. CW and phone. <http://www.execpc.com/WARAC/warac.html>.

Missouri QSO Party, Sponsored by PHDARA, 1700Z Mar 14 to 2400Z Mar 15. CW and Phone bands 160-10 MHz.

## March 17- 18th

CLARA and Family HF Contest, Phone, sponsored by the Canadian Ladies ARA, from 1700Z Mar 17 until 1700Z Mar 18.

## March 21- 22th

Alaska QSO Party, sponsored by the South Central ARC, from 0000Z Mar 21 until 2400Z Mar 22.

## March 21- 23rd

Bermuda Contest, sponsored by the Radio Society of Bermuda, 0000Z Mar 21 to 2400Z Mar 22. [http://www.bermudashorts.com/rsb/rules\\_1.htm](http://www.bermudashorts.com/rsb/rules_1.htm).

Virginia QSO Party, sponsored by the Sterling Park ARC, 1800Z Mar 21 to 0500Z Mar 22, and 1100Z Mar 22 to 0200Z Mar 23.

## March 28- 29th

CQ WW WPX Contest, phone, sponsored by CQ Magazine, from 0000Z Mar 28 until 2400Z Mar 29 (CW is May 30-31). [n8bjq@erinet.com](mailto:n8bjq@erinet.com).

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## WHY A SPOTTER PROGRAM?

(Weblines) You may be asking yourself "Why does the National Weather Service need a spotter program?" Many people get the idea that fancy new equipment such as satellites and Doppler radar is all the NWS needs to give accurate warning information. This is simply not true. When it comes to getting accurate information during potentially severe weather, it's hard to beat the human eye. Radar and satellites do not see a tornado. They see indications that a tornado or other severe weather MAY be occurring. Only the human eye can actually see a tornado, damaging winds, flooding, or large hail.

Another question we hear is "What is ham radio good for during severe weather?" Simply stated, we feel it is the most efficient communications channel available for reporting important information to the National Weather Service, quickly. Telephones are inefficient since only one report can be taken at a time. The first caller gets through on the line even if a more important call is pending. Ham radio is like a party line. Everyone on the frequency hears everything. This makes it easy to take several reports in quick succession. It also allows reports to be prioritized.

Ham radio operators with packet radio capability can view current weather reports from the Wilmington NWS office at packet node WILWX. Locally, this is on 145.01MHz, but may appear on other frequencies as routed through the packet network. Information on this system is taken directly off of the AFOS computers at NWSILN.

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## 1998 WARN ANNUAL TRAINING SESSION

The annual severe weather spotter training session sponsored by WARN will be held on Friday 3/27/98, in the same location as last year. The session will start at 7:30pm. The address and directions are listed below.

This training session will be conducted by the National Weather Service, WARN, and the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency. WARN recommends ALL amateur radio equipped weather spotters attend this session. In addition to weather training (which usually includes some really cool tornado pictures), radio net procedures and WARN club information will be presented.

Directions to the American Red Cross Blue Ash Office 10870 Kenwood Road

### From Southbound I-71:

Right on Pfeiffer Road

### From Northbound I-71:

Left on Pfeiffer Road

Right on Kenwood Road

Straight past Creek Road

Red Cross Building is on right at 10780 Kenwood Road

Parking is in the rear of the building

For more information contact:

Mike Nie - KB8VMX

[mnie@fuse.net](mailto:mnie@fuse.net)

513-741-9068

Amateur Radio Talk-in frequencies are 146.70- and 442.700+

# ADOPT A HIGHWAY

(KB8PVY) The club is considering the Adopt A Highway program, I would like to take a poll as to who would like to be involved. I contacted the highway department and the person that I talked to (Darrell Armstrong) was very responsive. He gave some regulations that we have to follow. He will also come to our meeting and present to us the procedures when and if we decide to do this.

Here are some of the items that he relayed to me

1. We have to be involved for two years.
2. We have to clean up at least four times a year.
3. We can do four lanes or two lanes
4. We do not clean up medians strips, (for safety reasons).
5. It takes about two hours to do the clean up at each session.

The highway department will furnish, safety vests, trash bags, and safety signs. The cone fits are, public relations, helping to keep our environment looking better, and we will have signs with our club name on it also the media will be notified of our activity in this project.

If interested, please contact me on the radio, phone or e-mail.

Jerry KB8PVY

e-mail - jerry@family.hopewell.net

Phone - 1-937-446-2234

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# FIELD DAY YEAH OR NAY

(N1DJS) Field Day, that glorious 24 hour period in June when we all get together to socialize and make a few contacts in the name of emergency preparedness. That's how it works in theory

The reality is however, that you need two operators per every station setup, times the number of times periods each much operate over the 24 hour period. Ideally, if you figure each operator operates a 4 hour shift and with 3 stations setup (1 HF CW, 1 HF Phone, and 1 VHF), you're looking at 18 operators. This doesn't include the support people to help setup, tear down and cook. Do we have even close to that kind of support for a G.A.R.C. Field Day?

At the February meeting we didn't find it. If field day is important to you, then make sure you make it to the March meeting and voice your opinion, or let another club member know. A final decision will be made at the March meeting and your voice could make the difference.

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## Meeting Minutes continued from Page 1

A wallet sized card that will have the frequencies and phone numbers that is used often, was passed around for the member to look at to see if the members had anything to add. These cards will be laminated and given to the members.

A motion to send a sympathy card to Doris Kendall, KE4MZJ for the passing of her husband, Charlie KC4VGF, by Kathie KA8FCX and seconded by Roy NL7FK, motion carried by the membership. Dot KB8TQU will take care of this.

Treasury report by Dot KB8TQU. There is \$ 4453.36 in the treasury as of this meeting date. Discussion on club assets. It was suggested that the club use some of the club monies for some of our activities. Roy NL7FK suggested that we purchase radios for field day activities. John K8RJ suggested scholarships. Russ N8CGO suggested that we use some money for our own activities such as, picnics, christmas parties, and other activities. A motion by John K8RJ and seconded by Gordy WB8YGW to form a committee to research these activities, motion carried by the membership. Dot KB8TQU, Lisa KF4JNX, and Al WB8UJM, will be on this committee.

A motion by John K8RJ and seconded by Rodney WD8CTX, to purchase tables for our Ham Fest and other activities. Al WB8UJM said that he would share the cost of the tables with the club Motion carried by the membership. A motion to adjourn by John K8RJ and seconded by Al WB8UJM. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

# PRESIDENTS VIEW

(N1DJS) Crashing noises startle you awake from your bed at 3:30am and in the same instant the power and your phone go dead. Before you've had time to react, a tornado has swept through your neighborhood and changed your life forever.

Whether we like it or not, prepared or not, we all are approaching the time of year where this scenario is a real possibility for us. Pretend for a moment that you were one of the lucky ones and that you, your loved ones and your possessions survived intact. What happens next?

The power's out. Do you have some kind of battery powered communications to call for help for your neighbors who were not so lucky? Could you find it in the dark? Do you need more than a rubber ducky to get into the repeater? Is your emergency antenna easily accessible? What happens when our local radio club gets called into action by Brown County EMA, in a moments notice? Do you have what it takes to respond? Questions, questions, so many questions! Friends of mine in the Orlando area struggled with just the above mentioned questions in just the same scenario. But these are questions that you can have answers for now.

Part of the way we justify keeping the billions of dollars worth of bandwidth that we amateurs use, is by coming through for our community in times of disaster and distress, when normal communications are not available, have failed or are tremendously overloaded. Charge your spare batteries, locate that portable antenna and fill out the Emergency Reference Information found elsewhere in this newsletter. If disaster ever strikes us, you'll be glad you did, and more importantly, so will our community!

## FOUR!

(N1DJS) No we're not talking about the golf course! In this case, we're talking about the number of new hams from the intensive class held at the end of February. Now it's time to welcome these new hams into the Amateur Radio fold and into the Grant Amateur Radio Club.

## WANTED: G.A.R.C. HAMS

(N1DJS) You may have heard the Cincinnati Chapter of the red cross testing their new and improved antenna site in Cincinnati through the 146.73Mhz machine in the last weeks. This improvement was done just so that they could have reliable communications to us during severe weather times such as the flooding of February of 1997.

To further show their commitment to the hams in our county, they have invited the president of the G.A.R.C. To attend a process improvement meeting to be held in the latter part of March. A full report of that meeting will be made available at the April meeting and on the air during the regularly scheduled Sunday night net.



## SETI LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING SET:

(Weblines) The SETI League Inc will hold its fourth annual membership meeting and a press briefing Sunday, March 29, 1998, starting at 2 PM Eastern Time, at the organization's headquarters in Little Ferry, New Jersey. At the press briefing, SETI League scientists will report on the progress of their *Project Argus* search, launched just over two years ago. The SETI League calls *Project Argus*—named after the fictional search in the late Carl Sagan's 1985 novel, *Contact*—“perhaps the most ambitious radio astronomy project ever undertaken without government equipment or funding.” *Project Argus* will deploy and coordinate approximately 5000 small radio telescopes around the world in an all-sky survey for signals of possibly intelligent extraterrestrial origin. For more information or to join The SETI League, see <http://www.setileague.org/> or send e-mail to [join@setileague.org](mailto:join@setileague.org) or call toll-free 800-828-7384 (TAU SETI).

## HAMS HELP

(WA4NDA, AA4HT and others) Hams pitched in to help in the aftermath of intense storms and tornadoes in Central Florida that killed more than three dozen and injured hundreds of others. The tornadoes and heavy thunderstorms struck early Monday while most people were asleep, surprising the residents of the affected areas between Daytona Beach and Orlando. Many were left homeless by the storms, now being called the deadliest and most destructive in Florida's recorded history.

## PRESIDENT FLIES THE COUP

(N1DJS) This month's meeting is in the capable hands of V.P. Lisa KF4JNX, as the fearless leader and his finance minister is heading across the pond to visit family and friends.

Lisa has lots of things to cover at the March meeting including, newsletter ads yes or no, where to spend our money and G.A.R.C. Activities for 1998 including field day.

Stop by Thursday evening and make her first turn at the gavel an enjoyable one.

## FREE SWL CONTEST LOGGER AVAILABLE:

(Weblines) A free SWL logger program *SDL* (Super-Duper for Listeners), is now available. *SDL* is a comprehensive MS-DOS HF contest logger for SWLs. It's derived from *SD* and shares all its relevant features. *SDL* offers direct support for most international contests. Some 35 country and area multiplier reference files are supplied. *SDL* links to Kenwood and Yaesu radios to follow band and mode changes. It offers fast simple logging and editing, and it tracks multipliers, dupes and points in real time. It is not designed for post-contest logging, however. *SDL* runs under MS-DOS or in a DOS window with Windows 3.11, 95 or NT. *SDL* may be downloaded from <http://ve7tcp.ampr.org/ftp/software/sd> *SDLCHECK*, a post-contest program to edit *SDL* files and to generate printed logs, multiplier lists, check sheets and summary sheets. An *SDL* reflector also is available. To subscribe, send e-mail to [majordomo@blacksheep.org](mailto:majordomo@blacksheep.org) with the message “subscribe sd-user”.—Paul O’Kane, EI5DI

Some thing to think about!

Why isn't phonetic spelled that way?