



W2CRA

UP-LiNK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II, INC.



January 2000

The New Cherryville Millennium

BOARD MEETING Jan 12

CLUB MEETING Jan 14

HAPPY 2000 TO ALL

FROM THE PRES...

Well, did everyone make it through the change of the millennium? If so, I'd like to know how? It isn't until next year! I am amused, however, with the confusion promulgated by marketing types trying to make a fast buck... getting two years worth by starting over a year early. Somehow the changeover of the millennium was confused with buggy software containing a two-digit field to represent the year. Oh well. I am writing this before the ominous day when computers will stop working. Gee, I hope this makes it to press. As you may already know, being the programmer that I am, I find it hard to believe that the world is going to stop turning because of a computer bug like this. I've heard some hysterical things in the past two years and probably you have too. Let me give you a piece of advice: if you receive a utility bill for over \$100,000, don't pay it. It's just that simple. Also, be sure to check the date on your vehicle. I haven't found where to do so in either of mine. Guess I'll just have to suffer. Oh well.

And now, after having had some fun, let me get down to the business at hand. Our Club. Or, better yet, our Organization. I'm going to let you all in on my little secret. Perhaps I'll be sorry for what I'm about to say but that's OK, I'll deal with it. All right, here it goes: As the elected president of our organization, I have very little to do. Instead, it is the rest of the board of directors and committee chairpeople & members that do the work. I just do some coordinating here and there. As a matter of fact I don't even have a vote at board meetings, excepted only by the need to prevent a tie vote. The important point here is that this organization is kept alive by its membership. Without members, we are nothing. This club comprises members from many different walks of life ranging in level of education, experience, interests, and beliefs. But the common interest, amateur radio, is the thread that binds us all together. Each person brings to the club certain specific talents that are unique to that individual. In effect, each of us colors the clubs' activities & functions in our own way. Also, each of

us has the capability to guide the club for the good of all. In the past year this club has done some things differently than in the past. The board of directors, committee chairpeople & members, and myself has been working diligently to affect minor changes in preparation for our future as a club. We have identified a few areas that needed attention, such as textual record keeping/historical records, by-laws edits, and tax-exempt status to name a few, and then took necessary corrective action. The bottom line is that the club now works better for you. Where this is leading is right here to you: Due to discussions with a few of the board members, I suspect that there will be several positions that are opening up for the coming election in April. Two of the member-at-large positions are up for election since their two-year 'tour of duty' is up. Perhaps these individuals will run again for another two-year tour. But there are other positions that will be vacated due to time constraints. I'm not going to jump the gun on any announcements but I am going to ask each of you, the general membership, to think seriously about getting involved in your organization's decision-making engine. By the way, all four executive board positions are up for election each year. That means you can run for office, even if occupied.

In closing I'd like to thank everyone in the club for becoming members and participating, each in their own way. I periodically go over your comments from past years' surveys. Also, I take to heart the many discussions we've had and suggestions for improvements. If there is anything that is gnawing at you, please be sure to seek out one of the board members or myself. The only thing I can promise is that we will listen. I think that everyone I have worked with will agree that although our primary focus is club business, we also know how to have fun. Won't you join us?

73 DE N3QDC

DUES DUES DUES
Don't forget to pay your Club dues at the January meeting
or mail to the Club PO Box

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W2GD: SPEAKING IN HELSINKI & NEW QRP CONTEST RECORD

**6th *International* Contest/DX Meeting,
Helsinki, FINLAND
21-22 January, 2000!**

John will be one of the featured speakers at this meeting of the worlds top contesters and Dxers, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of Finnish Broadcasting Company (FBC) - OH2NM / OH2YLE - a club with long and remarkable traditions in OH contesting.

*"The Great 1999 CQ160 CW ShootOUT
(between W2GD/W8JI/K1ZM)"
by John W2GD (P40W, etc.)*

And, in the CQWW DX CW contest, John set a new QRP world record! Operating from Aruba as P40W, John made 3338 Qs, and 5,523,280 points surpassing HI8A's (JA5DQH) 3.3M in 1991!

Congratulations John!

P40W CQ Worldwide DX Contest - CW Summary:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160:	26	7	18
80:	424	17	61
40:	555	25	77
20:	574	28	81
15:	788	32	90
10:	971	30	94
Total:	3338	139	421 = 5,523,280

CONTEST CALENDAR

By the time you read this, the CQWW CW contest will be over. Band conditions were pretty good, hope you all did well.

Jan 8-9 ARRL RTTY roundup
Jan 28-30 CQ 160 CW
Feb 19-20 ARRL CW DX
Feb 25-26 CQ 160 SSB
Mar 4-5 ARRL SSB DX
Mar 25-26 CQWW WPX CW

NEW CALL

Paul Franson: W2HCA is no more - W2LE now.
:"Christmas present from the FCC. I've just changed my call from W2HCA to W2LE - got tired of SCA, CA, HC, VCA, and even RCA."

FIELD DAY RECORD CONFIRMED!

Cherryville and W2GD made the jump from class 4a to 5a last summer and WOW did they do a good job! Not only won the class, but set a **new all time record** in that class. Our official score:

6566 Qs and 20,520 points.

That is a new all time high for Cherryville Field Day, congrats to all. The previous 5a record was 7151 Qs and 19,836 points set by K5DX/ Texas DX Society in 1988.

And by the way, Cherryville/W2GD still holds the all time class 4a record (1995, 5341 Qs, 17,472 points!) The 1999 top 4a team had only 4372 Qs and 12,888 points, so that record should stand for some time to come.

Our finish position overall was fifth, behind stations running 20a, 13a, 28a, and 7a. W3AO took the #1 overall rating from the 7a class with 26,224 points. They (W3AO) are the team that beat us out of first place in 4a last year, quite a team to beat. Their 26,224 sets an all time high Field Day record, topping the previous high of 25,260 set in 1989 by the TX DX Society/K5DX running 23a/battery.

We've got a great team and a great system, no one, other than W3AO last year, has ever beaten us running the same or fewer transmitters than we run.

WAY TO GO CHERRYVILLE! Many thanks especially to all the members who help with setup, teardown, food, and operations. Be ready for Field Day '00, June 23-35th. Mark your calendars now!

NNJ SECTION ARES NET BEGINNING IN JANUARY

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) of Northern New Jersey will hold a Section-wide information and training net at 8:00 PM on Monday, January 10, 2000, on the 146.895 WS2Q repeater (-600 kHz, 151.4 Hz). While the net is labeled as an "ARES" net, all amateurs involved in emergency communications, including ARES, SkyWarn, RACES, Red Cross, etc., are encouraged to participate. The purpose of the net will be to provide a monthly exchange of current information and events and offer training, including net control and traffic handling. The net will be held on the second Monday of each month. A meeting for Northern New Jersey ARES DECs was held Saturday, December 11, at the Morris County Police and Fire Academy, in Morristown, New Jersey. For further information on the new monthly net, please contact NNJ Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Hoefl, K2MPH, by e-mail at k2mph@arrl.net.

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AMATEUR

Amateur Radio is one of the most unique communities in the world. It is truly transparent. Nowhere else do you find the prince with the pauper, the professional with the unemployed, the youngest with the oldest, male with female, people of all colors, and everyone is having fun. Why? Because there is one common thread in this group – Amateur Radio. Any doubt, just attend the next hamfest.

On occasion though, we forget that it is just that – Amateur. This community is not a giant corporation with deep pockets. It is not a company with an obligation to provide uninterrupted service over a given area for a fixed fee. This is Amateur Radio. It is our portion of the spectrum to enjoy and experiment with, to bend our minds.

We all realize that our portion of the spectrum plays host to the whims of Mother Nature. When the leaves arrive or they leave, when there are storms on the sun, when weather fronts form, when meteors shower the earth, all these and a few hundred more innocuous events affect our spectrum's effective operation. Every 'Ham' worth his license knows that these elements can and do affect our enjoyment.

So why do we hear the detractors, the critics, continually complain that 'The string is too short;' 'The power is down;' 'The ears are dead;' 'The machine can't hear;' 'The squelch tail is too long – or short;' 'The receive site is down;' 'The machine is noisy;' yada yada yada. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know when the repeater has a problem. It too is old and has probably seen its better days, but it does provide us with more social interaction and enjoyment than anything else you can name. In addition, it provides us with a reliable means of emergency communication with the appropriate arms of government, when necessary. Let's enjoy what we have by bringing our expectations down to reality. Let's accept what we have and stop looking for what we have not. See the glass as half full, ...

Talk to some of the residents of nursing homes who feel: 'Any day you can sit up and take nourishment is a Good Day.' We have that same opportunity every day. When the 'machine' is down, we all, to a person, miss it as we would miss a good friend. Let's appreciate Big Bertha in the same way and offer a word of 'thanks,' not criticism, to those who keep her in good health for they too are numbered in the ranks of unpaid professional amateurs.

Thanks for listening,
till next month
73, Guess

WB2CVL ESTATE SALE

Ham Equipment For Sale

Kenwood TS940S Transceiver w/Manual and Service Manual.	\$900.00
Eimac 3-500Z, New	\$ 100.00
MFJ Memory Keyer, w/manual	\$ 40.00
Yaesu HT, FT208R, ext mic, Nc8 Power and Charger, Case(Leath)	\$ 85.00
Lafayette 42-0123 Low Pass Filter	\$10.00
Larson LM150, 2 meter mobile lip mount antenna	\$15.00
Safe House 49-433A, Automatic Message Center 49-308, Passive Infrared Detector	\$40.00
AT&T answer machine	\$10.00
Creative Design 218, 3 Element 10/15 Meter Beam	\$100.00
Wilson Telescoping Mast tower, Electric up/dn, winch tilt over, and Ham M rotator w/2 Controls.	BEST OFFER

All equipment is in good working order.

To make a deal..... **Call John WA2F 908-722-9045**

FCC RESTRUCTURES

Three license classes, one code speed

ARLB096: The FCC has issued its long-awaited Report and Order on amateur licensing restructuring. The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes--Technician, General, and Amateur Extra--and a single Morse code requirement--5 WPM.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts."

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time, across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

RUMORS OF THE DEATH OF AMATEUR RADIO ARE PREMATURE!

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF subbands will remain and not be "refarmed" to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not reform these subbands because there was "no consensus" within the amateur community as to what to do with them.

The FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as "Technician" licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. The FCC said it may request documentation from a licensee or VEC to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy examination.

The FCC action also authorizes Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminates Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question Technician exam; Element 3 will be a 35-question General exam; and Element 4 will be a 50-question Amateur Extra exam. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap.

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. The Commission said it wanted to give the amateur community a chance to "reach a consensus" regarding new technologies before it tried to restructure amateur operating privileges and frequencies.

A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>

or

at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt

There were many comments flying on packet and email reflectors after this announcement came out, here are excerpts from two that I thought were best, the Editor...

"...the FCC decision is not the beginning of the end for the Amateur Radio Service. And we all have a responsibility to recruit the "next generation" of great operators!

No one gets a free ride (e.g. upgrade from current license class) without passing an additional examination. No upgrades from novice to general, advanced to extra, etc. And code speed is not an appropriate measure for "promotion" within the service in this day and age.

The bottom line is this has turned out to be a "non-event" with few if any dire consequences. So all you Advanced licensees, take that Extra written exam before April! "

W2GD

"Before we all start mourning the death of our beloved hobby, I want to inject some comments of hope.

This restructuring will NOT turn Amateur Radio into another CB "service" unless we (all of us in Amateur Radio) allow it to deteriorate. The future of Amateur Radio is in OUR hands, not those of the FCC, the ARRL, nor the IARU. These bodies will only do what we want of them and numbers count. He who has the most votes on his side wins. If you disapprove of any outcome, your camp was in the minority. That's what democracy is all about.

We have to face two facts. One, the world is changing and we must change with it. Two, the FCC has laid down the law and we must all abide by it, whether we like it or not. What's done is done. Now we must all move on.

If WE want Amateur Radio to remain a happy, cordial fraternity, WE must actively work to promote growth in our numbers as well as growth in our activity. Sitting on the sidelines, grumping about the way "it was" and the general decay of our hobby will only accelerate the demise of this most wonderful of pastimes. Our future is a self-fulfilling prophecy. You and I and all of our fellow hams need to keep a positive attitude about the future.

So, where's the good news? The FCC has gotten tough about enforcement. This alone will help moderate the general conduct of the bands, but WE still need to help. Despite the so-called decline in our numbers, the activity in contests has skyrocketed. The "dead" mode of CW is wall to wall in the CW contests. We ARE out there and we ARE active. Despite the explosion of cellular phones and other wireless services, it is STILL the hams who come through in big

disasters. I could go on, but the reality is that we can keep this thing going and growing if we want it bad enough. It won't take a lot of effort, just a unified and pervasive attitude of hope, not despair.

Make a New Year's resolution to do at least one thing to grow our hobby. Get some kid excited about Amateur Radio. Assume a leadership role in your local club. Organize a special event station at a local mall. Become an evangelist for some aspect of the hobby you particularly enjoy, like contesting, QRP, or public service. Get the media involved. You get the idea!

I look forward to the future! I hope you do also! We WILL survive Y2K and we WILL survive Amateur restructuring!

GLENN K3PP

TIME AND DATE WEBSITE WITH Y2K FIX

An interesting and useful website is:

<http://WWW.RIGHTTIME.COM>

They also have a Y2K patch you can download.

HAMFEST NEWS

Mailings have gone out to vendors and magazines etc. Now is the time we have to get busy on all fronts, be sure to attend the January meeting and get involved to make OUR hamfest a success in 2000. Look for the sign up board at the meeting (and in the next issue of Uplink.)

ELECTIONS

Time again for the Cherryville Officer and Board member elections. Elections are held at the April meeting, with only those members in 'good' standing with dues paid eligible to vote. Ballots are mailed out after the March meeting. All officer positions are open for election as well as 2 Member-at-Large Board positions.

The Election Committee consists of those Board members not up for re-election (Board seats are two-year terms, alternating 2 or 3 open each election.) The Election Committee for this year consists of:

Ed Kita, N3MSK

John Crovelli, W2GD

Roberto Matos, K2PA.

Contact any of the above or a Club Officer if you are interested in running for a position or nominating someone.

DUES STRUCTURE

TIME TO RENEW

REGULAR	\$30.00
FAMILY	\$45.00
SENIOR	\$20.00

Please see the Treasurer, Brian, N2RDL or mail to the Club @ PO Box 308, Quakertown, NJ 08868

CRA II CLUB INFORMATION

The Cherryville Repeater Association II is a non-profit New Jersey Corporation dedicated to Community Service Through Communication. **Meetings** are held on the second Friday of each month at **7:30 PM** at the **Flemington Baptist Church** unless otherwise announced. Visitors are always welcome!

Also, everyone is welcome on the Thursday Night Traffic Net, at 8 PM every Thursday, followed at 9:30 by the Swap-Net, and the ARES-RACES net at 8:30 PM on the first Thursday each month (immediately following the traffic net), all on the 147.375 repeater.

UPLINK A CRA II Publication

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Many thanks to all those who have contributed articles or information for this publication, including: The ARRL, ARRL Letter, QST, The Hudson Loop, N2FF, N3QDC, N2MQZ, and all not mentioned for their help.

This newsletter is an open forum for the Cherryville Repeater Association, II Inc. and its members, of general interest Club and ham radio related interest items. The opinions contained herein are those of the authors who have contributed their work. The officers and members of the CRA II Inc. are not liable for its contents. Articles and information are always welcome, and may sometimes be edited for content, punctuation, grammar, and newsletter space.

Deadline for submission for all issues is two weeks prior to the Board meetings.

THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Pres	N3QDC	Rob France	(215) 766-8066	n3qdc@att.net
VP	KB2DDM	Susan MacRae	(908) 475-5299	kb2ddm@fast.net
Sec	N3ODB	Elaine Kita	(610) 252-6193	
Treas	N2RDL	Brian Campbell	(610) 559-1509	lupinus@fast.net

MEMBERS AT LARGE:*

	W2CGX	Barry Campbell	(908) 725-0478	barryc@compubell.com
	KA2TOV	Mike Grohol	(908) 782-9698	mjgrohol@blast.net
	W2GD	John Crovelli	(908) 996-3043	w2gd@hotmail.com
	N3MSK	Ed Kita	(610) 252-6193	n3msk@amsat.org
	K2PA	Roberto Matos	(908) 788-8253	k2pa@arrl.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Public service	N2UYV	(908) 253-8783	tmclaughlin2@worldnet.att.net
Technical	N3MSK	(610) 252-6193	n3msk@amsat.org
Hamfest	N2MQZ	(908) 454-4370	n2mqz@aol.com
	KC2CMC	(908) 806-3998	varas@sprintmail.com
Emerg Mgmt	KC2CMC	(908) 806-3998	varas@sprintmail.com
	K2PA	(908) 788-8253	k2pa@arrl.net
Education	W2CGX	(908) 725-0478	barryc@compubell.com
VE Testing	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Field Day	N3QDC	(215) 766-8066	n2qdc@worldnet.att.net
Holiday Party	KB3RWY	(908) 253-8783	
Merchandise	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@juno.com
Traffic net	N2MIF	(908) 638-6172	
Programs			
Refreshment	KB2YJX	(908) 725-0478	
Roster	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Scholarship	N2ZVY	(908) 479-6346	kc2boh@worldnet.att.net
SkyWarn	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@juno.com
Uplink	KB5U	(908)-252-1974	kb5u@blast.net

NET SCHEDULE:

Hunterdon County Traffic and Emergency net	Thursday, 8:00 PM	147.375
Races net	1st Thursday, 8:30 PM	147.375
SkyWarn net	Thursday 9:00 PM	147.015
Swapnet	Thursday, 9:30 PM	147.375
Complex repeater net	Sunday, 7:30 PM	147.015

CLUB LINE (908) 788-4080	INFO	WEBSITE www.qsl.net/w2cra	PACKET W2CRA•145.51
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