

UP-LiNK



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



November 1999

**BOARD MEETING Nov. 10
CRA II CLUB MEETING Nov 12
7:30 P.M.**

JOTA JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

MOSESON NAMED EDITOR OF CQ

Current CQ VHF Editor Richard Moseson, W2VU, has taken on additional duties as the new editor of CQ magazine. CQ Communications Inc President Dick Ross, K2MGA, announced Moseson's appointment Wednesday--six weeks after the death of long-time CQ Editor Alan M. Dorhoffer, K2EEK. Moseson's appointment was effective as of September 1.

Since joining CQ Communications in 1992, Moseson has been involved in numerous projects, including creation of CQ's Amateur Radio videotape series, management of CQ's 50th anniversary issue, development of the magazine's various Web sites, and--most recently--the launch of CQ VHF in 1996.

An Amateur Extra class licensee, Moseson has been an amateur since 1970. He is active on a variety of modes and bands on HF, VHF, and UHF. Rich was also the ARRL NNJ Director and was present at most CRA hamfests. CQ has been in publication since 1945. Moseson said one immediate change would be to actively solicit feature articles on all aspects of Amateur Radio from all segments of the amateur community.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

December 10, 1999

- Entertaining Speakers •Slide Show
- Door Prizes
- Coach N' Paddock

This year the CRA participated in JOTA. The Jamboree is a 48 hour worldwide event, this year on the 16th and 17th of October. Many Scouting organizations participate, some from their Camporee, others from a park or other public area while still others arrange to have small groups of Scouts tour through a local ham's shack. The object is to allow the Scouts an opportunity to speak to each other on the amateur radio bands and at least generate an awareness of radio technology. Hopefully, though, the opportunity will generate an interest in the hobby.

A member who recently joined us, Nick (KC2EVJ), has an affiliation with Boy Scouts in the Clinton area. He indicated that there were several area scouts that would love to participate in JOTA this year. As many of you already know, any chance I get to participate in any event that looks like Field Day interests me. Another recent member, Greg, KC2DWF was interested in the club pursuing involvement in JOTA.

As Nick and I discussed our options it seemed like we were going to need a centralized location that could handle many scouts at a time. Nick coordinated occupation of a local elementary school while I handled the radio station end. Once the general plan was laid in place, I could begin to work out the details.

We set up a tiny field day at the elementary school in Annandale. We used the Novice's tri-band beam on the 20' Satellite tower loaned by KB2EBL. We also set up the Novice's multi-band dipole for 40 & 80M. Pete, KD2EL, allowed us to use one of his Signal One rigs. Pete, K2YSY brought his rig (not sure of the model, sorry). We had a fairly easy time assembling the beam and tower. We muscled it up with about six of us, thanks to the help of some of the parents of the scouts. Tim, N2UYV brought his rig but as it turned out we didn't need it. Duncan, KE2HG joined us for part of the afternoon to help get the scouts on the air.

In addition to the stations, Nick brought a laptop with a Morse code program so the scouts could give the ol' straight key a try.

Does anyone here remember your first or second time on the air?? A little Mic fight?? It was fun to coach the scouts through some of their QSOs. In many instances they had absolutely no clue what to say or how to say it. Sometimes the scouts parent was beside them helping them make conversation. This was very successful. But the most enjoyable part was toward the end of the day. Some of the scouts who had been there most of the afternoon finally figured out that it's just a Mic but that didn't matter. The scout on the other end had similar interests and that's what you talk about.

At the end of the day we had seen about 25 scouts varying in age I'd guess between about 7 and 13 years old. I'd like to thank Nick, KC2EVJ, for coordinate all of the stuff with the scouts. Also, I'd like to thank the club members that came out to help make it a good experience for the scouts. Thanks go to KC2DWF, K2YSY, KC2EVJ, KE2HG and N2UYV. Thank you, Tim, for bringing a spare rig in case we needed it. Also, I'd like to thank KB2EBL for providing the tower. Thanks go to the club for allowing the use of the antennas, rotor, coax, ropes, coax, and other sundry items.

I look forward to this event next year.

Thanks & 73, N3QDC

SOLAR ACTIVITY: WHAT THOSE NUMBERS REALLY MEAN ARLP042 PROPAGATION DE K7VVV

Solar activity is up by quite a bit this week. Average solar flux values increased by nearly 30 points over last week, and average sunspot numbers were up by almost 80 points.

The projected solar flux values for the next three days, Friday through Sunday, are 200 for each day, and the planetary A index is forecast at 25, 20 and 15. Solar flux is expected to drift lower after the weekend, reaching 150 around October 20 and a minimum of 125 from October 23-39. Predicted disturbed days, when the A index is 25 or more, are October 24 and 27 and November 6-8.

Amateur Radio operators who use HF generally like increased sunspots because it correlates with better worldwide radio propagation. When there are more sunspots, the sun puts out radiation, which charges particles in the ionosphere. Radio waves bounce off of these charged particles, and the more dense these clouds of ions, the better the HF propagation. When the ionosphere is more dense, higher frequencies will reflect off of the ionosphere rather than passing through to space. This is why every 11 years or so when this activity is higher, 10 meters gets exciting. 10 meters is at a high enough frequency, right near the top of the HF spectrum, that radio waves propagate very efficiently when the sunspot count is high. Because of the wavelength, smaller antennas are very efficient on this band, so mobile

stations running low power on 10 meters can communicate world wide on a daily basis when the sunspot cycle is at its peak.

The sunspot numbers used in this bulletin are calculated by counting the sunspots on the visible solar surface and also measuring their area. The solar flux is measured at an observatory in British Columbia using an antenna pointed toward the sun tuned to 2.8 GHz, which is a wavelength of 10.7 cm. Energy detected seems to correlate with sunspots and with the density of the ionosphere.

Other solar activities of concern to HF operators are solar flares and coronal holes, which emit protons. Since the charged ions in the ionosphere are negative, a blast of protons from the sun can neutralize the charge and make the ionosphere less reflective. These waves of protons can be so intense that they may trigger an event called a geomagnetic storm.

The Planetary A index relates to geomagnetic stability. Magnetometers around the world are used to generate a number called the Planetary K index. You can hear the Boulder K index updated every three hours on WWV, or by calling 303-497-3235.

A one point change in the K index is quite significant. A K index below 3 generally means good stable conditions, and above 3 can mean high absorption and poor reflection of radio waves. Each point higher than 3 is a big change in conditions.

Every 24 hours the K index is summarized in something called the A index. A one point change in A value is not very significant. A full day with the K index at 3 will produce an A index of 15, K of 4 means A of 27, K of 5 means A of 48, and K of 6 means A of 80. You can find an explanation of these numbers on the web at http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/GEOMAG/kp_ap.html.

The number reported here is the Planetary A index, which is a worldwide average based on the K readings from a number of magnetometers. The numbers reported on WWV are the Boulder K and A index, measured in Colorado. Generally the higher the latitude of the measuring station, the higher the K and A indices reported. This is because the effects of geomagnetic instability tend to concentrate toward the polar regions of the globe.

Sunspot numbers for October 7 through 13 were 184, 170, 235, 195, 163, 191 and 210 with a mean of 192.6. 10.7 cm flux was 129.4, 151.2, 153.2, 160.5, 166.6, 183.6 and 191, with a mean of 162.2, and estimated planetary A indices were 6, 8, 6, 28, 23, 34 and 26, with a mean of 18.7.

USEFUL METRIC CONVERSIONS

1 million microphones = 1 megaphone
1 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
365.25 days = 1 Unicycle
500 millinaries = 1 seminary

PUBLIC SERVICE

The next Public Service Event, an equestrian endurance event at Blackwells Mills, is November 7th. About 4 or 5 people are needed to work the event. Contact Tim, N2UYV.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

The Battle of the Bands public service event was held Saturday October 16th. The following people operated at the event: W2RIJ, AA2MJ, WA2YXY, WA2YYB and N2UYV. We could have used a few more operators. The Battle of the Bands was held at Hunterdon Central High School. The event is a contest between High School Marching Bands. The music was very good and included some fireworks this year. We helped with communications and some of us helped with parking. I helped park cars at the main lot.

I used all of the spaces available including the reserved spaces - Hey how was I suppose to know that the Principle was going to come to the event! I gave away her space - then I told her she could not park in front of the doorway to the high school! (I did not know who she was at the time)! I told her I was with the Band Parents. We had a very good night. The early fall weather was great. Thanks to every one that took time out to help!

JOTA

Also, on the 16th was the JOTA. We contacted the First Waters Troop in Canada! Call sign was VE2CWJ on 14227.9. About 12 scouts talked to the Canadian scouts. Turns out that the other troop was camping about 250 miles north of Toronto. Any way the scouts really enjoyed the chance to talk on the radio. Funny thing happens - first you can not get them to pick up the Mic, then you can not get them to stop talking once they start. Its funny to watch as the get started. Maybe well get a future ham out of the scouts. Any way I had fun and I think the scouts did too.

N2UYV

ARRL ADOPTS CABRILLO FILE FORMAT FOR CONTESTS

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that it's adopting a new standard electronic file format known as Cabrillo for all ARRL Contests. Starting with the 1999 ARRL November Sweepstakes, the Cabrillo V2.0 file format will be the standard file format at the ARRL for electronic submissions. Previously acceptable file formats for ARRL contests may be submitted during a one-year transition period, however. Starting with entries for the November 2000 ARRL Sweepstakes, the Cabrillo format will be the only acceptable electronic file format for ARRL contests. Stations may still use text editors on their home PCs to generate the log files, but these "home-designed" files must meet the Cabrillo file format beginning with next year's November Sweepstakes submittals.

The Cabrillo format standardizes the QSO information that appears in each data column. Details on the format appear in the "General Rules for all ARRL Contests" in the November 1999 issue of QST. Specifications for the Cabrillo file format also are available on-line at <http://www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/>. Major software developers have agreed to incorporate the Cabrillo format into new updates of the programs. Operators should contact various software developers and distributors for information on upgrades to their specific programs. In addition to the file specifications, there are sample templates for various ARRL contests, a history of any modifications to the format, and some insight into the development of the Cabrillo file format.

For additional information on the technical specifics of the Cabrillo format, contact Trey Garlough, N5KO, trey@kkn.net. For more information on ARRL-sponsored contests contact ARRL Contest Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, n1nd@arrl.org; 860-594-0232.

NEW WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION

The ARRL Board of Directors has voted to approve a resolution to create a new West Central Florida section. The vote was 14-0 with one abstention, said Board Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. The resolution approved calls on ARRL Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE, "to establish, at the earliest date consistent with a smooth transition, a West Central Florida section consisting of the counties of Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota."

The January 15 implementation date means the new West Central Florida Section will not be a factor in any ARRL-sponsored contests until 2000. However, for all contests next year, including Filed Day, it will be included. *Since we have NFL and SFL, each with 3 letters, I wonder what the designation for West Central Florida will be? WCF? WCFL? ed.*

The nine Southern Florida counties involved voted overwhelmingly in favor of creating the new ARRL section, which will be number 71. Ballots counted September 15 at ARRL Headquarters showed 920 ARRL members in the proposed new section favored the idea, while just 86 were opposed. The West Central Florida Section Committee filed the petition with the ARRL last April. The Committee's Web site is at <http://www.qsl.net/wcfla>.

NEW PROGRAM CHAIRMAN!

2000 CALLBOOK CD-ROMS COMING IN NOVEMBER!

The 2000 edition of the "Flying Horse" CD-ROM will be available in late November. As the source for all your QTH needs, this tool will have over 1.5 million entries, thousands of new entries, QSL Managers, bearings and distance for US calls, maps for each State/VE Province, 6 search functions, prefix and zone lists, QSL bureaus and latitude/longitude. You are able to print directly on to you envelope or label.

This advance notice comes to you from "The 59(9) DX Report" folks, who have assumed the distributorship of Mike Klein, KC3NE. Mike sent out a message during the summer advising of his retirement. We offer the same fast service with the best price possible.

This year's edition sells for \$38.00 to USA addresses, \$39.00 to VE and \$41 to all other QTHs. Orders to outside the USA are shipped Air Mail. Note: Orders to New York addresses must add 8% NY Sales Tax. We accept Cash, Check, VISA and MasterCard. You can order by Mail, Phone/FAX, E-Mail, or from our Web Page. Why wait? Reserve your copy today by placing your order with us.

The 59(9) DX Report P.O. Box 73 Spring Brook, NY
14140 USA Phone and FAX - 716-677-2599
E-Mail: the599rpt@aol.com
Web Page: <http://members.aol.com/the599rpt/dx.html>
73, Bob, WB2YQH

NEW MEMBERS

KC2EVJ Nick Vitovitch
KC2DMM Howard Spitzer, Asbury
KB3CPN James Kocsis, Levittown, PA
K2YSY (formerly KC2EVT) Peter A. Sneed, Neshanic St.
Lisa France, Associate Member, Pipersville, PA

WA2PMH

Just a note, CRA founding member and Uplink guest columnist Jud White, WA2PMH, is at the St. Lawrence Rehab facility in Lawrenceville, NJ (and visitors are good therapy). Roy/WA2TWS

FOXHUNT

N3MSK and WB2NQV are rumored to have won the foxhunt Saturday October 9th. Pete, K2PM was the fox, and made it very difficult as usual. Ed actually finally found the transmitter. It was in the trunk of the third car he had at the Walmart parking lot. Other participants included N3QDC, KA2YYB and AB2DW.

FOR SALE

Icom 3AT 220mhz portable - \$125.00
Icom H16 VHF field programmable commercial HT - \$150.00
Icom 2GAT 144mhz portable - \$125.00
Icom W2A 144/440mhz portable - 150.00
Bearcat BC760xlt 100 channel scanner (include 800mhz) -
\$125.00

Contact me at 732-752-4307 or email rguenta@telcordia.com
Thanks Randy WA2RMZ

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

Editors Marty Grozinski, W2CG
Roster & Mailing: mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Keith Burt, KB5U
Articles & Info: kb5u@blast.net
Roberto Matos, K2PA: Interviews
K2pa@arrl.net

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, 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 if 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.

UALR CALL SIGN SERVER GOES DARK

information now is available from the ARRL at
http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fcclook.php3.

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) has shut down its Amateur Radio Callsign Lookup Page "for an indeterminate time" and probably for good. An announcement on the page (<http://www.ualr.edu/~hamradio/callsign.html>) cites the FCC's new database format and location--necessitated by the switch to the Universal Licensing System--as the main reason for the closure. The UALR site, instituted four years ago, was among the first--if not the first--Web-based call sign servers. Up-to-date FCC amateur licensee and call sign

CALENDAR

ARRL Sweepstakes CW	Nov 6 to Nov 8
Japan Int. DX Contest, Phone	Nov 12 to Nov 14
ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	Nov 20 to Nov 22
CQ Worldwide DX CW	Nov 27 to Nov 28
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Dec 3 to Dec 5
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Dec 11 to Dec 12

1999 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

December 10, 1999

Social Hour at 7:00 P. M. Dinner at 8:00 P.M.

\$25.00 per person

•Entertaining Speakers •Slide Show •Door Prizes

Coach N' Paddock

Exit 12 on Route 78 West

Fellow Cherryville Members:

I want to remind everybody about the "Annual Awards Banquet" that will be held in place of our December Meeting. As most of you know from the past, it is ONE heck of a party! We will be in the same location as last year, but with a different menu. The date for this year's event is December 10, 1999 -- Social Hour at 7:00 P.M. Dinner at 8:00 P.M. This year the price will be \$25.00 per person. Once again, we will have Door Prizes (probably the best odds you will ever have at winning a radio) given away along with the Awards from the Board for the past year service to the CLUB. Dress will be Neat Casual.

If you plan to attend this year's party, **you must RSVP by December 1st.** The reason for this is that for the last three years we have Packed the House! Hor d' Oeuvre will be served from 7:00 P. M. to 8:00 P. M. There will be a cash bar this year. We are having a tasty sit down dinner. You have a choice of Roast Prime Ribs of Beef au jus or Shrimp Scampi. Dinner includes Fruit plate, Salad with House Dressing, choice of potato or rice, vegetable, rolls, and ice cream for dessert (and cheese cake too!).

This year's event will be at the Coach N' Paddock just off Exit 12 on Route 78 West. Feel free to contact me before 9:00 P.M. Monday - Friday and any time on Saturday and Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHERYL MC LAUGHLIN KB2RWY IS THE CONTACT.

Phone: (908) 253-8783

73 --- KB2RWY--

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 1st. PAYMENT WITH RESERVATIONS IS APPRECIATED. SEATING IS LIMITED, GET IN EARLY!

MEMBER : _____ CALL SIGN : _____ Number of Beef Dinners: _____

GUEST : _____ CALL SIGN : _____ Number of Shrimp Dinners : _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED : \$ _____ PHONE : _____

**CRA II MEMBER AWARDS BANQUET, PO BOX 308,
QUAKERTOWN, NEW JERSEY 08868**

UPLiNK

CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II, Inc.

P.O. BOX 308

QUAKERTOWN, NJ 08868

THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II

	REPEATERS	
2 meters	147.375 +	147.015 + (5Z)
220	224.120 -	
440	444.850 +	446.475-
CLUB INFO LINE (908) 788-4080	WEBSITE www.qsl.net/w2cra	PACKET W2CRA 145.51

CRA HAMFEST 2000

• North Hunterdon H.S. Clinton NJ • March 18th, 2000 •