

W7Xaq NEWSLETTER

AMATEUR RADIO FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT TOWER ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2002

WEBSITE: www.qsl.net/w7xaq

E-MAIL GROUP: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w7xaq_lookout

TO: ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

Welcome to the first edition of the W7Xaq Newsletter. My apologies for the delay in getting this first newsletter distributed. With the birth of my second daughter in April and a very intense fire season at work, I have not had any time to dedicate to "hobbies". I hope this newsletter will provide some updated information on some changes, new tools to allow the membership to communicate, and more importantly, begin the process of becoming an active and involved organization.

ASSOCIATION CALLSIGN:

The FCC granted the "vanity" call sign for the association on March 7, 2002. The new call sign is: W7Xaq. The originally assigned call sign of KCOLFZ is no longer in service. As a result of the new call sign, I have changed the association website and E-mail addresses to reflect the change (Please see details below).

W7Xaq is the original call sign of the U.S. Forest service Radio Laboratory in the 1930's. Details on the history of the call sign and the radio laboratory are in the publication "FS-369 RADIO FOR THE FIRELINE: A History of Electronic Communication in the Forest Service, 1905-1975: This document will be posted at the association website: <http://www.qsl.net/w7xaq/fs369.htm>. Unfortunately, I have not had time to scan and post this publication on the website. I will post the publication, by chapters, as I can. I will post an E-mail on the groups list as chapters become available. Please check the website for updates.

ASSOCIATION WEB SITE:

The Association website has changed to <http://www.qsl.net/w7xaq>. The old web site of <http://www.qsl.net/kc0lfz> is still available but will be removed from the host server in the near future. Please visit and bookmark the new web site location as soon as you can.

ASSOCIATION E-MAIL ADDRESS:

The association primary E-mail address is now: w7xaq@aol.com. Please use this address if you have specific association business that you would like me to address. Please see below for the information on the E-mail group that can be used as the primary communications method for members.

E-MAIL GROUP:

I have set up a group E-mail Group at the following web address:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w7xaq_lookout. Please visit this site and subscribe to the "Group" list.

This service will allow you to send E-mail to anyone that subscribes to the group and post messages on the web board by using the following Group E-mail address: w7xaq_lookout@yahoo.com. You may unsubscribe from the group at any time. You should receive an invitation to join the group within a few days of receiving this newsletter. The invitation will include instructions on "how to join". Please read the "HELP" section at the E-mail group web address for details on using this service.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP/ROSTER:

The association currently has 28 members. This was through word of mouth only and I expect that we can generate additional members with some concerted effort. You can view a list of current members, e-mail addresses, and any associated websites at: <http://www.qsl.net/w7xaq/roster.htm>. Many of you have submitted interesting facts and details on your background and interest in Lookout towers in your membership request E-mails. Please take advantage of the E-mail group and post a short biography of your lookout tower background/interest so that other members know a little about you.

W7XAQ ASSOCIATION LOOKOUT NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL HISTORIC LOOKOUT REGISTER:

One of the primary objectives of the association is to help preserve the history and heritage of fire lookout towers. One of the key ways to do this is to nominate/sponsor lookout towers for addition to the National Historic Lookout Register. On behalf of the association, I am currently researching and documenting a few lookouts in my area that are not currently listed with the NHLR. These lookouts are posted on the association website at <http://www.qsl.net/w7xaq/lookouts.htm>. Members are encouraged to network and support sponsorship, on behalf of the association, any lookouts in your area that may be eligible for addition to the register. If you sponsor or nominate a lookout please e-mail me a photo and short description of the lookout and I will add it to the web site. Another aspect of this program will be to participate in the maintenance of the facilities and preservation of their cultural heritage.

SPECIAL EVENT OPERATIONS:

A priority for next summer will be to coordinate and sponsor some "special Event" amateur radio operations from a few lookouts. We will need to develop some access and operating guidelines to do this. Special emphasis needs to be placed on developing a brief standardized about the association, and its function, to use during amateur contacts. Any input on these guidelines would be appreciated. I will post the guidelines on the web site when they are ready.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Although the association does not have membership dues, please consider joining or supporting the following organizations in place membership dues:

Our website host; WWW.QSL.NET is funded by user contributions. Please visit the following website if you would like to make a contribution: <http://www.qsl.net/donations.html>. Please reference the W7XAQ Association with your donation.

Join the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA): <http://www.firelookout.org/join.htm>. Annual membership in the FFLA is \$10.00. Members receive quarterly issues of LOOKOUT NETWORK the newsletter of the FFLA. A "Plus" membership is available for a \$22.00 annual fee. "Plus" members will also receive quarterly issues of NATIONAL WOODLANDS magazine, which includes updates on FFLA activities and news of the National Historic Lookout Register.