

FEEDBACK



MARCH 2000

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 3



MARCH MEETING NOTICE

The meeting for the month of March will be held on Friday, March 3, 2000 at 8:00 PM. We will be meeting as usual at the Massillon Senior Center in downtown Massillon.

Last month we had a very unusual meeting. We had Mel Vye, W8MV, give a very informative discussion on his journeys to St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands (FP). Everyone sure liked his presentation. We all learned a lot about this group of islands off the coast of Newfoundland. One of the stories that he told was that the island was used for "bootlegging" in the 1920's and some of the streets and taverns are still named after famous gangsters!

I am sorry that the notice of his program didn't get into the last issue of Feedback. We apologize for that error.

Also last month was a "meet" the new officer's month. Perry and Don did a respectable job leading the group. Ann (N8GAF) seemed to take to the duties of Treasurer very well. Linda (K8MOO) also took to her duties as MARCS new Secretary.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Program for our March meeting will be ideally suited to the current situation of license restructuring and how it will play out on the Amateur Radio scene. The ARRL is heavily involved in this and we will have a chance to hear and chat with our nearest Ohio representative of the League....Section Manager (for Ohio), Joe Phillips, K8QOE, of the Cincinnati area.

Of all the Section Managers (SM) [or Section Communications Managers (SCM) as they were formerly called], Joe has to be one of the most outgoing and informative gentlemen to hold the post. I have known them back as far as Canton's Wilson Weckel, W8AL, who held that post for years back in the fifties and sixties. Back then Amateur Radio regulatory matters were rather stable and Weck reported the Ohio traffic totals and news faithfully in QST, but rarely made visits to radio clubs. In fairness to Weck, I have to add that he was physically handicapped in his later years and it limited his mobility.

Joe is a man of these times, with his overseeing of Ohio ARRL activities, not just in QST, but with active travel throughout the State. Joe will give us the latest on FCC and Ohio ham matters, and then invite questions. At refreshment time he will be available for direct one-on-one chats.

We have included a short biography of Joe, and after reading it I'm sure you will agree that he is exceptionally qualified for his position. You won't want to miss hearing him.

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, of Fairfield near Cincinnati, has been a ham radio operator for 41 years; first licensed in 1959. In the 70s, he served several Cincinnati amateur radio organizations as newsletter editor utilizing his journalism skills. Mr. Phillips, 58, for seven years wrote a weekly newspaper column called "Ham Call" in the local daily newspaper, The Cincinnati Enquirer, and also served as host for a cable television show by the same name in Hamilton County.

In 1984, K8QOE, was appointed to his first statewide office when he was selected public information officer for the Ohio Area Repeater Council (OARC). In 1986, he developed the first Ohio Repeater Directory (now in its 14th printing). In 1989 Mr. Phillips was appointed Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for the Ohio Section and organized in 1992 the first Ohio Section Ham Radio Newsletter Contest (now in its 9th year).

He has spoken to groups throughout Ohio and ran forums at the Dayton Hamvention (six times) and ARRL National Conventions in 1991 and 2000.

In 1998 Joe Phillips was elected Section Manager for the Ohio Section for a two year term which ends September 30, 2000.

Joe is married to Donna (WD8OTC) with three children - none in ham radio.

He has eight years experience as a reporter for major metropolitan newspapers (Indianapolis -Dayton-Cincinnati) and 30 years teaching high school English (recently retired).

**See you all at the meeting, Friday, March 3, at
8 p.m.**

February 4,2000

Our first official club meeting was held as usual at the Massillon Senior Center on a cold Friday night.

There were 25 members and guest present. The meeting was called to order by Perry W8AU at 8:15P.M. and the pledge of allegiance was given.

The meeting began by letting our guest speaker talk first. Mel Vye W8MV talked about his D X expeditions. He told of his thousands of contacts while visiting in St. Pierre and Miquelon. He also showed us how he packed his "radio suitcase" taking along everything he needed on his trip including an antenna.

We then had a brief intermission and everyone enjoyed refreshments. Thanks and 73's to Dan N8DZM for picking up the fresh donuts for the meeting.

A motion was made to suspend reading minutes of last months report by Dennis K1FFA and seconded by Gary WC8W.

The financial report was given by the treasurer Anne N8GAF . She told of the good millennium special on a short term C D and the good interest rate she found for the M.A.R.C. 's checking account. Motion to accept her report was given by Don W8DEA and second by Terry N8ATZ.

The communications report was given by Don W8DEF. He told of Joanne Solak KJ3O/8 resigning as ACC. He received letter from ARRL of testing after April 15,2000 the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses.

The ARRL report wasn't ready before the meeting. Sky Warn is coming up in March.

Don W8DEA has self study courses free on FEMA ,could earn you 1 college credit. See Don W8DEA for more information.

Perry W8AU talked about ARRL asking the FCC to deny Kenwood (sky Command) petition.

OLD BUSINESS

In old business Perry W8AU had given Egor WB8KEO his 25 year honorary life membership award while visiting in the area last week.

Jason KC8LIN was presented the Young Ham of the year award. Neither were able to be at the awards dinner. Congratulations to both.

Gary WC8W announced that on March 7th classes will start for Technician, General and Extra Class. So new and already hams can be ready for the May testing.

A motion was made to continue buying advanced tickets for Dayton Hamfest.

Don W8DEA will get information on the bus trip from Dover.

The first public service event of the year will be April 9th. Jack N8LCS needs 10- 12 volunteers for the M.S. walk at Quail Hollow. So mark your calenders and contact Jack, your help is greatly appreciated.

There was a 50-50 drawing with Rich KA8ZQH winning \$8.00.

The meeting ended at 9:55 P.M.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC

DUES ARE NOW DUE !!!

As reported last month, the Dues for the Massillon Amateur Radio Club are now due. If the dues are not paid by the meeting night of March 3, 2000, you will be dropped from the membership roles. This is a very difficult task, as we DO NOT WANT TO LOOSE A SINGLE MEMBER!!!

So while you are thinking about it, please let our Treasurer, Anne Ballinger, N8GAF, your intentions and we will renew your membership for another year! You can send her a check to:

Anne Ballinger N8GAF
2468 Bellevue Ave SW
Massillon, Ohio 44647

So please, while you are thinking about it, send the check, or come to the meeting and renew your membership!! Either way, you will not miss out on a single event!!

- SHORT SKIP -

With all the recent hot air comin' from our political leaders I'm surprised one of 'em hasn't stepped forward to take all the credit for the rise in the sunspot numbers.

Should this happen, one can only wonder which political party is best qualified to keep the economy and sunspots on the rise....

Perhaps one of 'em will drop by the DX forum at Dayton and promise MORE SUNSPOTS - if elected.

P S Don't laugh too hard, in this day and age it just could happen ! (HI)

73 DE WB80WM

MS SUPER WALK

Jack Wade, N8LCS has announced that he is looking for people to help with the MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Walk.

The MS Super Walk will be April 9, 2000 at Quail Hollow. We will meet at the elementary school again about 7:30am. The trail will be about the same as last year. I will bring a sign up list to the meeting.

STRAYS

a monthly plethora of misc info - by terry, n8atz

.... MARC WEBSITE UPDATE

Over the past month several changes have been made to the club website. One major change has been to the home page. Why the change ? For several reasons. One is that as new pages were added I discovered there was no good way to add them to the home page as it was configured. Since I first established the site, I've had an opportunity to view hundreds of other home pages. A common theme among most of them was a detailed home page with logical links to all other pages. This makes for a more uniform website that's easier to navigate. Another reason dealt with screen resolution. The original home page was designed with my computer set to 800 x 600 pixels. Without getting too complicated, the higher the resolution, the more information windows can display on the screen. When you view our website your resolution set to only 640 x 480 pixels, the information on the screen gets squeezed together and won't display properly. So the question became - how to design the web pages so they will display properly no matter what resolution your computer display is set to ? The redesigning of the home page was the first step. When the remainder of the site is changed over it should look perfect. Keep checking the site and see for yourself.

How about the new features ? Let's start with the home page. Several new clickable pages have been added including Membership and Service Awards. Membership is up and running, here you will find all the information necessary to join or renew your club membership including a downloadable membership application. The Service Awards page is ready to upload as soon as the pictures from the awards banquet are developed and digitized. Thanks to an agreement with QRZ.COM we have established a callsign lookup link on the home page. Just enter the callsign in the box and click Search to display the callsign information.

.... SKYWARN TRAINING MARCH 22 & DRILL MARCH 8

Two important events are on the schedule for this month and be sure to mark your calendars. On Wednesday - March 8, join us as Ohio conducts the Annual State Wide Tornado Drill scheduled to begin at approximately 9:50 AM. This yearly exercise is designed to increase awareness and sets the stage for the 2000 severe storm season. Checkins will be taken on the 147.12 ARES repeater. Take a minute to check-in ! Then.....

Plan to join us on Wednesday night March 22 at 7:00 PM as the Stark County Severe Storm Spotter Training program will be held at Stark State College of Technology. This training is essential to anyone wishing to become involved in the severe storm spotter program. This years program will be conducted by Mr. Gary Garnet, the new Chief Meteorologist of the Cleveland National Weather Service. Gary has developed a completely new program for spotter training that you will find very interesting. Always well attended, this is your only opportunity this year to refresh your training. In addition to the training program, we have made arrangements for Mr. Marvin Secrest of M & K Engraving to be in attendance. You have probably seen him at area hamfests, he makes one of the best available. Marvin will be on hand producing a Stark County Skywarn badge complete with picture. This will be available at a special event rate of only \$ 6.00. Make sure to join us for this important night !

.... NEW WEBSITE FOR STARK COUNTY SKYWARN

A new website has been established for Stark County ARES. Centered around the WD8AYE Repeater System, the site was designed to keep the amateur community here in Stark County informed of current activities involving the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the Skywarn spotter program. Learn about the 147.12 repeater system, its features, construction details, etc. Information about the Tuesday night ARES net as well as current public service information is updated regularly. How much do you know about the Skywarn Spotter program here in Stark County ? This valuable public service program has changed dramatically over the past several years, and this site will help keep you up-to-date. Round-uping out the site are several links and contacts to your local skywarn coordinators. Check out this new site and let us know what you think. It's located at www.qsl.net/wd8aye

That's it for this month, till next time 73's

Terry - N8ATZ

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MARCH 17



PREZ PROSE

For those of you who missed the last meeting, I wanted to let you know that it wasn't so much a "meeting" you missed.....the business meetings are interesting, but..... It was an outstanding PROGRAM that you missed.

Two factors contributed to this, perhaps. One was weather, which wasn't bad, but could have been better. The other was that the Program Notice didn't make it into the newsletter! This was no fault of the editor.... or of the originator of the Program Notice. (me) Give this credit to our current whiz-bang state-of-the-art landline communications system, Electronic Mail (Email).

The Program notice was sent right along with the PrezProse column, but it never appeared at the other end! After finding the Newsletter minus the program notice, we did a duplicate sending of the Email, and Gary STILL got only the Pres column, not the Program notice! My, my, what a mess. What part of the vast infrastructure of the Internet caused this catastrophe? We won't ever know. What we may need to do in the future is use reliable ham radio packet.....an infrastructure far simpler and thereby more reliable than Email. Live and learn!

However, the program was by an outside speaker, Mel Vye, W8MV, who spoke of the joy of DXpeditioning on a Shoestring. He has been to many DX locations including China, and has shared these adventures with other groups, such as QCWA. His program for us was his trips to St. Pierre & Miquelon Island (FP7) in the North Atlantic. You may have seen the article in QST by Rick, N1RL, of the ARRL, last year. He went along with Mel to FP7 and loved it! Mel has been there during both winter and summer seasons and described it as a terrific place for DXpeditioning. His simple setups and 100 watt power levels are tailored more for CW than FONE, as much less power is required to be heard thru QRM. His whole station is housed in a canvas carrying bag, including knock-down antennas, IC-706, switching power supply, antenna tuner, ground wires, keyer, mike, etc. It's great when you can tote your complete station in a "carry-on bag." Makes it easy to get through customs, too. After hearing this, most any of us "non-DXers" would be inspired to give this a try, let alone our real true-blue DX nuts!

Mel's next location will be Wake Island in the Pacific. Perhaps we can look forward to a future program.....

73, W8AU

MORE ON LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

For those that were not at our Feb. meeting missed a very good presentation from Mel Vye W8MV. His presentation was on DX trips to the islands off the coast of Canada SW of Newfoundland and NE of Nova Scotia. St. Pierre and Miquelon.

The islands are owned by France. French is the major language of course and English is secondary. St. Pierre or Som Pierre as it is called in French is the smaller of the two. It has one village of about 6,000 people. There are several small restaurants with French food in both villages.

Today, fishing is the main industry but tourism is also a business for the islands. About 20,000 people visit the islands yearly but the cost to go there from the states is limited. Ferry's service the islands about once a week. Miquelon is a much larger island but mostly all rock so the only village of about 600 people is on the north shore. It has a 10 room motel as close as 300 feet from the shore. Mel operated from Room 10 as FP8CW which he had to receive from the French government. Room 10 is the closest room to the ocean with which to have a ground poise and improved operation for antenna. His entire station would fit in a large canvas bag.

His Station includes :

MFJ Tuner (didn't make it threw last trip)

Icom 706

Multiple Voltage Power Supply

25' of flat copper ground poise multiple power cords

2 Portable Antennas

1. HF—Outbacker (brand) mobile antenna (80-10m)

2. G5RV

Mel will be in Monaco (Africa) March 19 to 24th.

He will operate CW only. He states that the US does not have good propagation from this area very often.

Mel will keep us informed of any future operations. Mel talks to Perry (W8AU) often so he will keep us informed threw Perry.

I hope this has given you an insight to a mini DX expedition.

Don Wade, W8DEA

HUMOR

Could This happen to you?

The other day I was on my way home from work when the most remarkable thing happened. Traffic was heavy as usual, and as I sat there at a redlight, out of nowhere a bird slammed into my windshield. If that wasn't bad enough, the poor creature got its wing stuck under the windshield wiper. Just then the light turned green and there I was with a deceased bird stuck on my windshield. Without any other apparent options, turning on the windshield wipers seemed the only thing to do. It actually worked. On the upswing, the bird flew off, and here is the crazy thing... it slammed right onto the windshield of the car behind me. No, it didn't get caught under the windshield wipers of that vehicle, but the car behind me was a police car. Of course, knowing my luck, immediately the lights went on and I was forced to pull over.

The officer walked up and told me he saw what had happened at the light. Trying to plead my case fell on deaf ears. He simply stated: I am going to have to write you up for.... flipping me the bird.

PROPAGATION NEWS

ZCZC AP08
QST de W1AW
Propagation Forecast Bulletin 8 ARLP008
From Tad Cook, K7VVV
Seattle, WA February 25, 2000
To all radio amateurs

Solar flux and sunspot activity were down last week, but heading back up. Average solar flux for last week compared to the previous week was down almost 4 points, and sunspot numbers were off about 28 points. The low point was Friday, February 18, when the three solar flux measurements for the day were 139.6, 141.1 and 140.4. The noon measurement of 141.1 is the official reading for the day. Solar flux is expected to rise, with the projection for Friday through Tuesday of 197, 197, 200, 200 and 204. Solar flux for the near term is expected to peak around 205 on Wednesday or Thursday, March 1 and 2, then decline to below 170 by March 9, and bottom out near 130 around March 23 or 24.

Planetary A index has been rising, due to a well-placed coronal hole streaming charged particles toward the earth. NASA has an interesting article about this as well as a dramatic photo online at <http://www.space-science.com/>

headlines/y2000/ast23feb_2.htm. Also check <http://www.spaceweather.com>, which on Thursday had an article about a gust of solar wind at 1430z on February 24.

The projected planetary A index for Friday through Tuesday is 20, 18, 15, 13 and 10. Conditions may be disturbed again around March 4 and 5, and fairly quiet between March 13-20. Based on the current solar rotation, disturbed conditions may recur around March 22-23, and possibly quiet conditions again around March 26-29, although predictions that far in the future are more of a guess. These projections are based upon sunspots and coronal holes moving across the visible solar surface, as the sun rotates relative to earth every 27.5 days. Various features grow and fade with time, and new areas appear. Some are oriented toward earth and have a large effect, while others do not.

The coronal hole that is causing the current geomagnetic disturbance has been visible for the last seven solar rotations.

Doug Brandon, N6RT wrote to ask about the URL for Cary Oler's Solar Terrestrial Dispatch web site, which seemed to disappear some time back. Doug did some detective work, and found that it had moved. The new site is at <http://solar.spacew.com/>.

George Jacobs, W3ASK has an interesting item in his propagation column in the March issue of CQ Magazine concerning equinoctial propagation. This is about the effect that occurs in spring and fall seasons when the daylight distributed between the northern and southern hemisphere is roughly equal, dependent on how close the date is to the equinox. He says that during March intercontinental openings on 160-30 meters should peak just before local sunrise and again at local sunset. 20 meter openings should peak an hour or two after sunrise and again for an hour or so after sunset. 17-6 meter intercontinental openings should peak during daylight hours. Signals on these upper bands are stronger toward the west around and after sunset, while toward the east they are stronger before noon. He notes that signals to the south are stronger after sunrise and again late in the afternoon. W3ASK has a web site at <http://www.gjainc.com/>.

Sunspot numbers for February 17 through 23 were 152, 146, 126, 131, 122, 129 and 155 with a mean of 137.3. 10.7 cm flux was 168.4 141.1, 144.8, 153.3, 152.1, 172.3 and 185.1, with a mean of 159.6, and estimated planetary A indices were 6, 2, 4, 5, 15, 5 and 9, with a mean of 6.6.

Path projections this week are from Boston, MA, and are based on Sunday, February 27 with a solar flux of 200.

To Western Europe, 80 meters 2200-0800z, peaking 2300-0000z and again at 0630z, 40 meters 2030-0900z, 30 meters 1830-1100z, 20 meters 1030-0400z, 17 meters 1130-2230z, 15 meters 1230-2130z, 12 meters 1330-2030z, 10 meters 1430-1930z.

To Eastern Europe, 80 meters 2130-0530z, 40 meters 2130-0630z, 30 meters 2030-0730z, 20 meters 1730-0630z, 17 meters 1100-2300z, 15 meters 1200-2030z, 12 meters 1230-1930z, 10 meters 1300-1830z.

To Southern Africa, 80 meters 2200-0430z, 40 meters 2200-0500z, 30

meters 2100-0500z, 20 meters 2030-0600z, 17 meters 2000-0030z, 15 meters 2000-0000z, 12 meters 1830-2230z, 10 meters 1900-2130z.

To South America, 80 meters 2300-0930z, 40 meters 2300-1000z, 30 meters 2200-1030z, 20 meters 2200-1100z, 17 meters open all hours, strongest 2300-0500z, weakest 1300-2000z, 15 meters 1100-1300z and 1930-0300z, 12 meters 1200-0030z, 10 meters 1200-0000z.

To the Caribbean, 80 meters 2200-1100z, best 0100-1000z, 40 meters 2030-1300z, best 2330-1000z, 30 meters open all hours, best 2330-1000z, weakest 1530-1800z, 20 meters open all hours, best 2300-1030z, weakest 1500-1830z, 17 meters 1130-0130z, 15 meters 1200-0030z, 12 meters 1230-2300z, 10 meters 1300-2200z.

To Australia, 80 meters 0930-1130z, 40 30 meters 0900-1300z, 20 meters 1200-1330z and 0800-0830z, 17 meters 1330-1530z, 15 meters 1400-1600z, 12 meters 1500-1530z.

To Japan, 80 meters 0830-1200z, 40 meters 0800-1230z, 30 meters 0700-1330z, 20 meters 0600-1430z and 2130-2230z, 17 meters 2000-0000z, 0530-0830z and 1300-1600z, 15 meters 2100-0200z, 12 meters 2130-0030z, 10 meters 2200-2230z.

NNNN

DX NEWS

ZCZC AE08
QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 8 ARLD008
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 24, 2000
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, QRZ DX, Walt, W0CP, Bill, N2BT, The Daily DX, 425 DX News and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

NEPAL, 9N. Nab, 9N1AC, is usually QRV on 40 meters CW around 2300z. QSL via KC3AJ.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0Y. Vladislav, G0KBO, and his brother Victor, UA6AF, are active as CE0Y/G0KBO and CE0Y/UA6AF, respectively, until March 2. QSL both calls via G0KBO.

MAYOTTE, FH. Christian, 6W1QV, is QRV as FH/TU5DX for the next 6 months from Mamoudzou. QSL via F5OGL.

SCOTLAND, GM. Leo, W3LEO, will be QRV as MM/W3LEO from Portpatrick in southwest Scotland from February 29 to March 17. Activity will mainly be on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters SSB. QSL to home call.

active until May 7 for the World Flower Exhibition in Koyang. QSL via bureau.

SVALBARD, JW. Ken, LA6WEA, and LA7FD, are QRV as JW6WEA and JW7FD, respectively, until February 27. They are mainly active on the low bands, and will participate in the CQ WW 160 Meter Contest. QSL via home calls.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Fred, K4FMD, and Wicky, W4WWT, will be QRV as K4UP/KP2 from February 28 to March 5. This includes an entry in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. Activity will be on all bands. QSL via K4UP.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo has received special callsign SY2A to celebrate his 10th anniversary of activity from Mount Athos. He will use this call until December 31, 2000.

EASTERN KIRIBATI, T32. Walt, W0CP, and Jim, KK0T, will be QRV as T32B from February 29 to March 6. This includes an entry in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via KK0T.

COTE D'IVOIRE, TU. Martin, TU5IJ, is active using RTTY. QSL via I2AOX.

LAOS, XW. Hiroo, JA2EZD, is QRV as XW2A until May 5. Activity is on all bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

IRAQ, YI. Peter, OM6TY, is a member of the Slovak Embassy for another 2 years and is licensed as YI9OM. QSL via OM6TX.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide 160-Meter SSB Contest, REF French Phone Contest, UBA CW Contest, YL International Phone QSO Party, RSGB 7 MHz Contest, CQC Winter QRP QSO Party and the North Carolina QSO Party are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see January QST, page 100, and February QST, page 97 for details on these operating events.
NNNN

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VE EXAM INFORMATION AND NEWS

There has been several inquiries about the new ULS System and what everyone is to do. First EVERY-ONE is to register with the ULS. There are several ways to do this. First you can log on to their web site at - <http://www.fcc.gov/vAb/uls/>. Also at this site is the instructions for "Getting connected to ULS" to actually make on line updates to your record.

Secondly, if you fill out a Form 605, (an upgrade or address change, etc.) , you will automatically be entered into the ULS. Clubs and Club trustees are also required to supply a Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) And they are to contact the FCC and obtain an FCC - Assigned TIN of ATIN (to get an ATIN contact the FCC Tech Support weekdays at 202- 414-1250).

A TIN Number is your Social Security Number. This whole thing has come about because congress has passed the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. The bottom line is: every person seeking a service from FCC must now supply a TIN.

VE EXAM INFORMATION

As everyone should know by now the FCC has reduced the requirements to obtain an Amateur Radio License. There are three class licenses now. The Technician (no code) The General and Extra. They have eliminated the Novice and Advanced Class Licenses. They have also eliminated all code requirements except for the 5 WPM code tests. This means that you can get an Extra class license with 5 WPM code!

The confusion comes that some people think they can get an "instant" upgrade 1 NOT TRUE! Only persons who have a valid Technician Class license dated prior to March 27, 1987 are eligible to receive an upgrade to General Class without having to take an examination. This is still not an "instant" upgrade. They must take their ORIGINAL license to a VE Session and present the examiners with this proof and \$ 6.65, and they will issue them a CSCE stating they are indeed General Class. All of this will take place AFTER April 15, 2000.

Many people have already jumped on the bandwagon and have showed up at local VE sessions to take their Extra Class and General class license tests so when April 15 arrives, all they have to do is have a VE Team fill out the paper work and another \$6.65 and then, KaBam new License!

EXCERPTS FROM THE ARRL LETTER

The ARRL Letter

Vol. 19, No. 8

February 25, 2000

ARRL, NFCC FIRM UP RELATIONSHIP DURING ARRL HQ MEETING

A February 15 visit to League Headquarters by three Board members of the National Frequency Coordinators' Council has helped to solidify the relationship between the League and the NFCC. The NFCC had requested the meeting earlier this year.

"The main purpose of the meeting was simply to touch base," said Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Participants on both sides described the face-to-face session as constructive and positive.

On hand from the NFCC were President Owen Wormser, K6LEW, Secretary Dick Sely, W9GIG, and board member Nels Harvey, WAGJOB. Representing the League in addition to Sumner were Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, W1LSTO, and National Frequency Coordinators' Officer Tom Hogerty, K1CJ.

Participants discussed a potential shift in philosophy by the NFCC away from seeking mandatory coordination and toward serving as an educational organization, a repository for a master database, and a point of contact with the FCC on coordination matters. The NFCC also sees a role for itself as a "centrist" or neutral organization to mediate and arbitrate disputes that cannot be resolved at the local or regional level. Wormser said his Board believes the NFCC should "remain centrist in its dealings with everyone—keeping an open door policy."

Wormser emphasized, however, that any change in NFCC strategy would require a discussion and vote of the NFCC membership. Sumner suggested that the ARRL Board of Directors might be open to the change, given the directors' cool reception to the NFCC's draft Petition for Rulemaking last year that would have called on the FCC to codify mandatory coordination.

OLD SATELLITE RETOOLED FOR NEW USE

UO-14 is proving that you can teach an old bird new tricks. The venerable British satellite recently was switched to FM repeater mode, and reports already are coming in from hams who've worked it using pretty modest equipment. The satellite's controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN1 ZL2TPO, says UO-14 was launched in January 1990 and spent its first 18 months in orbit operating as an amateur store-and-forward satellite, prior to the launch of UO-22. It was then switched for use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, who used it for messaging into Africa.

"Since the computer which is used for store-and-forward communications is no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 is no longer usable in this mode," Jackson says.

The satellite works as an "FM bent pipe repeater satellite" in full duplex. Operators with full-duplex transceivers will be able to hear their downlink signal as they transmit. Half-duplex operation also will work satisfactorily.

The uplink is 145.975 MHz, and the downlink is 435.070 MHz. Jackson says he plans to leave the satellite in FM mode for the next few weeks. "If it is useful, then I will probably leave it running," he said. "If it isn't used, it will be switched to transmitting telemetry."

Houston AMSAT Coordinator Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says no more than 5W is required to make a contact with UO-14, and some have made it with as little as 1.5 W. "It should be a very suitable bird for those with an H-T and a rubber duck," he said.

"Cool satellite!" was the reaction of WI1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, who worked 11 stations during a 'very short' near-horizon pass this week. "Some of the stations sounded like they were next door!"

FOR SALE

Icom 28A two meter mobile radio. VM good shape, works super! This is an older unit, built like a tank so therefore it has no "bells & whistles". Just a basic two meter transceiver. The radio has touch tone for phone patches, etc.

Please contact Jim KC8AXR at 875-3865 (new number) AFTER 5:00 PM or on 147.180 MHz weekday mornings around 6:30 AM

Asking price : \$ 75.00. This is a steal folks! (ed note: I can personally vouch for this radio, I used to own it!)

FOR SALE

Yaesu Twins: FR-101S rcvr and FL 101 xmtr.

Good condition, asking \$265 for the pair.

Call Ed, W8ATF, at 866-2564.