



***The Feedline***  
***Oakland County Amateur Radio Society***  
***Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962***  
***Monthly Newsletter***  
***March 2015***



**President's Message, by Joe Miller KJ8O**

Picking up on last month's column, I managed to make a radio contact with the Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club on the weekend before Groundhog Day. They were kind enough to send a QSL card that plays into the sentiment that many/most are having with the weather this year. Ok, it is humorous, so I will discuss ham radio humor a little. No discussion of ham radio humor would not be complete without any mention of Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve W1CJD whose cartoons graced the pages of QST for almost 40 years until his passing in 1966. Another mention should also go to Jack Troster W6ISQ who passed away last year at age 93 and contributed a number of humorous articles in addition to his impressive list of ham radio achievements during the years.

Recently, I received a QSL card from a friend in Arizona who operates a 10 meter beacon, and I learned that he used a commercial artist to design his card. Jeff Murray K1NSS operates [www.dashtoons.com](http://www.dashtoons.com) and will create new artwork upon request.

With that mentioned, I have included some examples that I think will be some welcome relief after enduring another Michigan winter.

I poked around the K1N Navassa Island on-line checker and was pleasantly surprised with the number of our members who made contact with the Dxpedition. My congratulations goes to all. Certainly there is a long history about the island, and if you are curious, you might want to look at the article on the [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) web-site. While spinning the dial, I heard to gentlemen talking about the island, and one said that he had been operating on the island during the last Dxpedition there 20 years ago. He said that he walked up to the water well on the island, and dropped a rock to see how long it would take before he heard it splash. He never did hear it.

In other news, Scott Davis N3FJP recently announced the year-long QSO Party. The basic rules are that a multiplier can be earned for each mode and band in every one of the 3,077 U.S. counties as well as the 340 DX entities. I will include the entire announcement here as well.

Looking ahead, I will present a demonstration of the N3FJP DX Contest software, which should be very timely considering that the ARRL International DX Contest is this weekend, and is 48 hours of opportunities to work on your DXCC totals.

The April meeting has not been decided yet, but am hoping for the video of the Amsterdam Island DXpedition from last year will be ready for purchase. I saw a presentation (as did several of our OCARS members) and it was quite an amazing undertaking.

In May, local ham Russ W8UZZ has a truly one of a kind ham radio setup in his Jeep, and has agreed to come to our meeting.

Hope to see you tomorrow night.

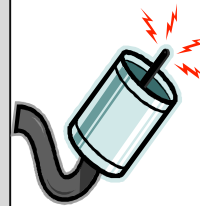
Thanks again.

Live long and prosper Joe, KJ8O, OCARS President





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***Siren Testing:*** March 7, 2015, at 1:00 pm. Please check into the Clarkston Repeater to volunteer

### **OCARS Meetings**

Tuesday, March 3, monthly meeting at 7:30, N3FJP contest software

Tuesday, April 7, monthly meeting at 7:30, tentatively a video from the FT5ZM DXPedition

Tuesday, May 5, monthly meeting at 7:30, Russ W8UZZ will bring his mobile Jeep

Tuesday, June 2, monthly meeting at 7:30, Field Day

***Meeting location:*** Bethany Baptist Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford  
doors open at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:30

***Social Gathering:*** Wednesday 10:15 – 11:30 am, Village Place restaurant  
S.W. corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Rd., Waterford

<b><i>Officers and Directors:</i></b>	President: Joe Miller KJ8O	Directors: Tim Pepper K8NWD
	Secretary: Scott Craig N2OPQ	Al Bailey K8SIX
	Treasurer: John Eldred N8FNN	Fred Holmes W1SKU
	Trustee: Brad Nowak N8SNM	Jim Vigne KB8TXZ

***OCARS Net:*** 8:00 pm (local time) on the Clarkston Repeater, 146.840 MHz, p.l. tone 100 Hz,  
Joe KJ8O is net control and welcomes participation from all area hams.

***Checkins:*** Dates are local time, Monday evenings, with number of check-ins, and NCS:

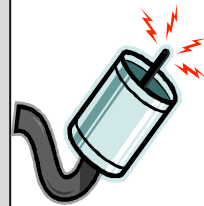
- February 2	<u>15</u>	KJ8O	- February 16,	<u>16</u>	KD8TXZ
- February 9	<u>16</u>	KJ8O	- February 23,	<u>20</u>	KJ8O

***Website:*** [www.qsl.net/w8tno](http://www.qsl.net/w8tno) maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ

***Contact information:*** [w8tno.ocars@gmail.com](mailto:w8tno.ocars@gmail.com) or [kj8o.ham@gmail.com](mailto:kj8o.ham@gmail.com) (for an immediate response)



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**Upcoming Hamfests**

Mar 14, 2015      Crossroads Hamfest (new location in Kalamazoo)  
<http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest>

March 15, 2015    Toledo Mobile Radio Association  
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org/hamfest.php>

May 2, 2015      Cadillac Swap, Cadillac, MI  
<http://wexaukeearc.org/>

Jun 7, 2015      Chelsea Swap and Shop, Chelsea, MI  
<http://www.wd8iel.com/>

Jun 21, 2015      Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI  
[http://www.mcrca.org/index.php?page=hamfest&keep\\_session=2114201193](http://www.mcrca.org/index.php?page=hamfest&keep_session=2114201193)

**Upcoming Contests**

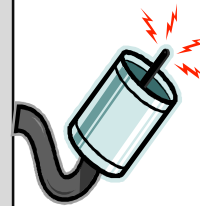
February 21-22      ARRL International DX – CW

March 7-8            ARRL International DX – SSB

April 18-19          Michigan QSO Party



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**OCARS Meeting Minutes for 02/03/2015**

Scott A. Craig N2OPQ, Secretary

Members socialized from 7:00 to 7:37pm

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm by Joe Miller KJ8O, president.

**Business Meeting**

Feedline and minutes were sent out on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Motion to accept minutes for January were accepted by Doug Basberg, N8VY. Tim Pepper, K8NWD seconded. Motion carried. No one objected.

The Treasurer's report was given by John Eldred N8FNN. Motion to accept by Dan Truhn KD8TXZ. Seconded by Mike Ellis KB3QIY. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Old business, Jim Vigne KB8TXZ has golf Shirts for \$23. Regarding t-shirts, they need a minimum order of 10 along with club artwork to make an order. Each t-shirt goes for \$10.

Michigan QSO party is coming up on April 18 thru April 19.

**Note that ARRL Field Day is right around the corner.**

Mike Ellis KB3QIY mentioned he was interested in the club sponsoring a DIY workshop 2 months ago. Doug Basberg N8VY volunteered to help and has some equipment that could be used during the workshop. Greg Siemasz W8VIJ also expressed interest.

Gary Truhn KD8EWG and Doug Basberg N8VY expressed interest in a field exercise such as a Fox Hunt or GeoCaching.

**Michigan Passes, Governor Signs Antenna Accommodation Legislation:** Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed the measure, Senate Bill 0493, into law on January 15, creating Public Act 556.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/michigan-passes-governor-signs-antenna-accommodation-legislation>

Our weekly Monday night net is now in the ARRL Net Directory:

<http://www.arrl.org/resources/nets/client/netdetail.html?mfind=3582>

There was a coffee break after the business meeting from 7:58 pm until 8:25pm, then we began our sharing of projects various club members have worked on or are still working on.

**February Special - DIY Projects**

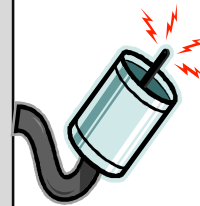
Ken Stuter W8KRS spoke about the shock mounted boom mike that he built.

Tim brought several kits such as a 30 meter CW transceiver with RIT. A CW filter, a keyer kit (Island Keyer), a 30 meter superhet referred to as a 38 Special, and more.

Ned --- I had several notes such as Veneer Saw/Miter Box used to build Manhattan Style. Signal generator, Muppet board, the "ugly" method, and how he typically would recycle old printer switches which were in steel boxes. He mentioned he should have brought the Flying Pigs Rig.



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**OCARS Meeting Minutes for 02/03/2015 - Continued**  
Scott A. Craig N2OPQ, Secretary

Jim Built ~ 20 years ago a wilderness or wonder radio. 40 meters 7.4 MHz.

Sam – showed us a QRP radio that he got the kit for a small amount of money.

Joe – Discussed his project to improve the lighting in his basement. Wants to put in vanity bars with 6 bulbs.

Chris Shubert KD4JT drew the winning 50/50 ticket and the winner was Bill Jones N8KF.

Chris Shubert KD4JT brought some items to sell. \$35 for all.

Motion to adjourn by Ken Stuter W8KRS, Greg Siemasz W8VIJ seconded.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:02pm.

**CQ CQ CQ CQ all hams in Northwest Section of Oakland County.**

Winter is still here and so is the snow. This is the time of the year that Homeland Security has requested our assistance in checking the Early Warning Sirens in our area of the County. The first test will be held on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. We did a great job last year but we still missed a few and hopefully this year we can check them all. This is a big job but if everyone helps it can be done without taking much time for anyone person.

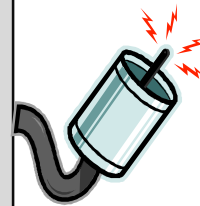
I have agreed to help get things started but I only have the use of one arm, due to surgery, and I can't drive. My wife will be helping me again and with some understanding by all of you we will get the job done. I would like each of you to check a siren in the area near your home or work in March. We will get off to a good start, but only if everyone helps.

I would like you to email me the siren you can check at [kb8pod@arrl.net](mailto:kb8pod@arrl.net). If you have any questions or if I can help you with a location you are welcome to call me at 248-421-2617. We will be using the Clarkston repeater, 146.840 MHz with a 100 Hz PI tone for our part in the test. I will start taking check-ins at 12:15 p.m. and the test sirens will activate at 1:00 p.m. There are a couple of sirens in Holly Township that are "Hot Sirens" and if anyone would like to check one of them please let me know.

**KB8POD, Larry 73**



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**Worked All States / Counties QSO Party**

**[Click here to upload your log, see your current rank and score now!](#)**

**How to play in the Annual Worked All States / Counties QSO Party:**

The Annual Worked All States / Counties QSO Party is a fun, year long operating event that facilitates reaching your Worked All States (WAS) goals, county hunter objectives and DXCC achievements. Every new station you work on each band and mode is worth a point and each new county and DXCC entity is a multiplier. Just upload your log in ADIF [here](#) **often!** The web site will process your score for you and display your real time current standings.

Great ways to play in this contest are to participate in other contests throughout the year including the DX contests, state QSO party contests and any other contest or activity that puts Qs in your log. Contacts you make in those contests count for this one too!

When you aren't working contests or making rag chew QSOs, call "**CQ Counties**" ("**CQ CNTY**" on CW and digital) and work as many folks as you can!

In short, work as many stations as possible, seek out county and DXCC multipliers and [upload your log](#) **often**. That's all there is to it!

Here are all the details, with additional thoughts and future possibilities below.

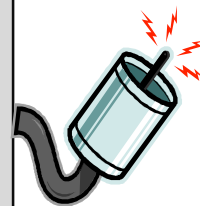
**Worked All States / Counties QSO Party Rules**

**Objective:**

Create a **fun** operating event that will be engaging and encourage on air activity on multiple bands and modes for a long duration (12 months). This event will facilitate reaching personal, multi band Worked All States (WAS) goals, county hunter objectives and DXCC achievements.



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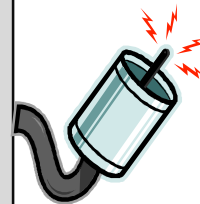
**Rules:**

- Contest Period: This is a 12 month, annual contest, January 1, 00:00:00 UTC through December 31, 23:59:59 UTC. Everyone starts fresh January 1st each year.
- Bands: Any Amateur Radio band except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters.
- Modes: CW, PH and DIG. PH includes any voice mode such as SSB, AM, FM, etc. DIG includes any digital mode such as RTTY, PSK31, etc.
- Choosing an Operating Frequency: In addition to FCC rules and regulations, please always be mindful of the [Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide](#) and be careful to choose a frequency that will not interfere with other QSOs and operating nets.
- Making Contacts: Call "**CQ Counties**" on phone and **CQ CNTY** on CW / Digital, similar to the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. All QSOs, including QSOs made during other contests, as well as casual operating, can be counted for points and multiplier credit.
- Exchange: Exchange of state and county is encouraged, but not required. The county and state do not actually have to be exchanged during the QSO, but must be included in your upload for multiplier credit. It's fine to use another data source to determine the state and county after the contact and add it to your QSO record before uploading.
- Score: QSOs are one point each. Multiply the number of unique counties and DX entities worked on each band and mode (CW, PH and DIG) times the number of QSOs. Your score will be calculated for you when you upload your log and we encourage you to do that often. Please see Reporting / Score Tracking for more details.
- Multipliers: 3,077 counties and 340 DX entities are counted for multiplier credit on each band and mode. For example, assuming you work Harford County MD on 5 different bands on CW, SSB and Digital, Harford County MD will be counted as a multiplier 15 times (5 CW, 5 PH and 5 Digital).
- Duplicates: The same station may be worked once on each band and mode for QSO points and multiplier credit (if applicable). There is no penalty for working the same station on the same band and mode again, but no additional points or multipliers will be earned. Exception - if the station worked is a rover and has activated a different county, the contact is eligible for QSO points and multiplier credit.
- Country List: Country multipliers are the 340 DXCC entities [documented here](#). The DX [ADIF country code](#) must be included in your ADIF file (most logging programs include the country code number in their ADIF export).
- County List: Counties and their spellings must match [this list](#). Missing or misspelled counties will not be counted for multiplier credit.





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**- Categories:**

Power: High (1,500 watts or less), Low (150 watts or less) and QRP (5 watts or less).

Operator: Single, Multi

Rover: A rover is any station, mobile or stationary, operating outside of their home county. There isn't a separate rover category, but rover operation is fine. Rovers may activate any county and apply QSOs made while rover to their yearly total. Rovers who work the same station on the same band and mode from a different county do not receive additional QSO points as defined by the duplicate rule.

**Reporting / Score Tracking:**

Please [upload your log](#) in ADIF format ***often*** throughout the year! Track your current score and leader board rank on line [here](#)!

Please include your entire year's data with each upload, as your previous data is replaced. When you upload your log, any duplicates and ineligible bands are removed, so simply uploading your entire general log for the contest period is fine. Your final log file submission must be uploaded before January 7th, 23:59:59 UTC of the following year.

**Achievement Levels:**

**First Level:**

10,000 points (Could be achieved with 100 QSOs with 100 unique multipliers)

**Second Level:**

150,000 points (Could be achieved with 500 QSOs with 300 unique multipliers)

**Third Level:**

500,000 points (Could be achieved with 1000 QSOs with 500 unique multipliers)

**Fourth Level:**

2,000,000 points (Could be achieved with 2000 QSOs with 1000 unique multipliers)

**Top Level:**

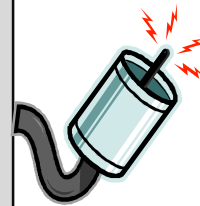
10,000,000 points (Could be achieved with 5000 QSOs with 2000 unique multipliers)

These QSO and unique multiplier values are just examples. Points can be earned with any QSO / multiplier combination.





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#### More Details and Back Story:

With the success of the 2014 ARRL Centennial QSO party fresh in our minds, my son Chris, KB3KCN, good friend Dave, N3HCN and I started brainstorming. We thought it would be great fun to develop an annual, year long, Worked All States / Counties QSO Party, with a similar flavor to the ARRL Centennial!

With lots of great input from other interested folks, we developed a [set of rules](#) to facilitate reaching personal, multi band Worked All States (WAS) goals, county hunter objectives and DXCC achievements. By making all counties multipliers, virtually all stations will be sought after when calling "**CQ counties**" on the air, encouraging lots of fun activity!

Simultaneously, in early January, 2015, ARRL President Kay Craigie reflected on the [success of the Centennial QSO Party](#) and included these thoughts:

*President Craigie said some have asked what the ARRL will do next. She said that while the League doesn't want to wear out the exuberance and goodwill the Centennial events engendered, "it's clear that operating challenges outside of the traditional menu of contests and awards have a great appeal." **She expressed the hope that, in the months and years ahead, all hams will seek out other operating challenges sponsored by all sorts of ham radio groups and keep the bands alive with signals.***

We'd like to think this contest fits in beautifully with President Craigie's hopes!

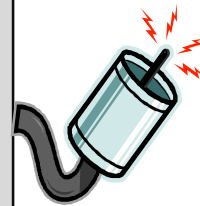
#### Future Suggestions:

This Worked All States / Counties QSO Party is now up and running as we originally envisioned. Meanwhile, we've received lots of additional suggestions to our [basic rule set](#) including:

- Schedule an emphasis on specific states each week, similar to the Centennial. The schedule for each state may be close to the time of that state's QSO party weekend. Coordinators in that state would encourage activation of as many counties as possible.
- Create a web site of specific calls signs in counties to look for and when.
- Issue plaques, certificates to leaders in each state, overall, etc.
- Issue awards to stations who have the largest number of states with a "clean sweep". You earn a "clean sweep" for a state when you have worked all the counties in that state.



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**Current Status and Future Possibilities:**

We have to reign in some expectations for now, while opening the door to these and other possibilities. This project is something Chris, Dave and I are working on in our "spare" time. I'm not planning to write a program for this project. AC Log (or any program that exports in ADIF) will work fine, as it did for the Centennial.

With the volume of work I already have creating, supporting and maintaining N3FJP Software, my involvement in this QSO party is very enthusiastic, but limited to helping craft the rules and working with Chris to create the web site infrastructure for log scoring. Answering contest support e-mail, organizing on air scheduling, coordinating plaques, etc., simply isn't something we have the resources to do here.

We've created the rules, built the basic web infrastructure and set it on automatic pilot, so we are up and running! If we remain at this level, that's fine, we will have a lot of fun! Go make contacts, [upload your log](#) and see your current score!

That said, it's clearly possible this can become much more! I couldn't be more pleased if an experienced organization or contesting group would like to take the lead on this contest and take it to the next level. If your group would like to support this event and make some the of these other suggestions happen, please e-mail me!

Thanks for your interest in the Worked All States / Counties QSO party!

73, Scott  
N3FJP  
<http://www.n3fjp.com>

PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.  
PUNXSTAWNEY, PENNSYLVANIA  
GROUNDHOG DAY SPECIAL EVENT STATION  
JANUARY 31, 2015



Confirming QSO with

KJ80

Contact # 484

Date: 31-JAN-2015

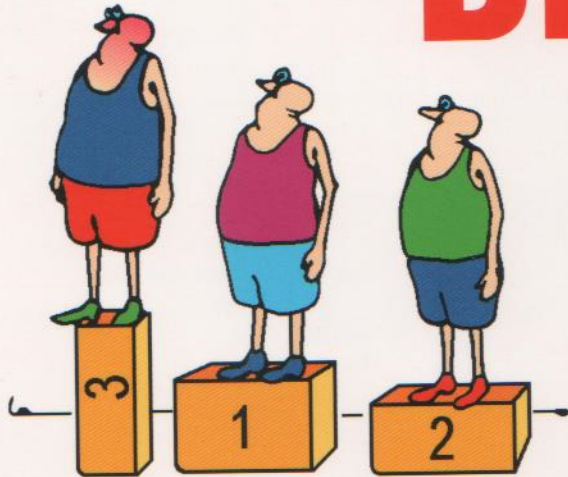
Band: 40

Signal Report: 59/59

Operator: MIKE KB3SGY



# DL80H



To win a Ham-Radio-Contest  
is to outperform others with  
sophisticated methods ...!



**GERMAN AMATEUR RADIO STATION**  
ZONE ITU 28 - ZONE CQ 14 - WW LOC. JO51GO - DOK ~~F79~~

## DK5AI



**WOLFGANG HELLBERG**  
Am Mühlenberg 34  
D-37441 BAD SACHSA

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
K780	—	>					

*Wolfgang*

☒ PSE QSL ☐ TNX QSL

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