



## **LETTER FROM THE EDITORS**

This is the second newsletter for 1999. The editors and the publisher (Guy KC5ZIM) made a decision back in January that the newsletter would come out every 3 months as we are a small club and it would not be worthy to publish sooner and we didn't want our members being left out with any thing longer. Expect issues for 1999 to come in July, October, and our big Y2K issue; if we can publish it, in January if our manual typewriter doesn't conck out in the mean time :-).

## **MEETINGS AND DUES**

This is a reminder that April 1st is the deadline for club dues for 1999 or you will have your membership privileges suspended. Meeting reminders that are being sent out via mail to people, who also have a e-mail address, will no longer get them to save postage as it is costing us \$4.80 for every month's meeting notice mailings. If you wish to stop receiving them because you have an e-mail address, let Guy know about this. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th, and July 2nd.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

One new member has joined our ranks bringing the number up to 27 in the club. We welcome Ronald Barbier Jr. KD5GAG of Belle River who joined us in January after passing his no-code tech license. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

## **ON THE AIR**

A decision was made at the March meeting, for the club to start holding a weekly on-air net on club member Newton N5BOD's 146.745-repeater on every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. starting March 11th, for an on-air informal gathering of members, and to let members know of any events or issues coming up they might want to know about . This net will also introduce

many hams to the club who may not know of us as check ins by non-members will also be welcome.

## **REPEATER REPORTS**

### **2 Meter**

The 145.43- repeater is still in the building stage, but this may change due to a club member possibly buying some former business repeaters, but no more is known. This member also suggested he will check the ability to put a repeater in northern Assumption or southern Ascension parishes for our members there.

Club member Newton N5BOD's 146.745- and 146.910- repeaters; that the club uses in addition to our own, are doing fine at last report.

### **440 MHz.**

The 444.625+ repeater is still having problems with it's tone board not allowing us to put it on the air due to intermod related interference. Talks are going on slowly but surely for space for a 440 repeater in Franklin with KA5TJQ ; who has a repeater at the proposed courthouse site, but nothing more is known.

### **6 Meters**

The 6 meter repeater has a bug and is being sent to vice president Paul KM5GD for very much needed straightening out of its drifting off of frequency problem.

### **10 meter**

No more is known about the proposed 29 MHz. repeater.

## **WEB SITE INFORMATION**

The club's web site is still going on strong and now has more features than ever before and we must thank club president Joel KC5RFO and secretary Guy KC5ZIM for the wonderful work. Now you can find club minutes, club information , this newsletter, new club member biographies(that is what the forms were for in January) as well as a meeting place for members to meet with other members on the net called the boardroom (which is sort of like a bulletin board where you can post new events and ideas for the club ), Coming up on the site is a possible chat room! where members can get on the net and converse with other members and will include an area for members to vote for things if they can't make it to a meeting which will be password protected for members only. Also look for other stuff such as event calendars and such coming up soon. Remember this is all done free of charge and we salute these two for their numerous hours unasked of them to do.

Guy and Joel also ask that if you find a worthy site for hams, to send them a e-mail for possible linking to our site. And that if you have a site of your own , they ask if you are willing to, please link to our club site for more exposure of the club and to have your site included in our members web site showcase that we have for those who have chosen to link with us, and which gives more exposure of members sites.

WE ARE FOUND AT <http://www.qsl.net/wa5mc>

E-MAIL US AT [wa5mc@qsl.net](mailto:wa5mc@qsl.net)

### **FIELD DAY 1999**

We are in the planning stages of field day ;which will be held June 26 and 27,1999, at an as of press time undetermined site. We are looking for suitable sites in St. Mary parish; but are willing to consider certain St. Martin and Assumption parish sites. Proposed, as of this time, are community centers in Patterson, Berwick, and Amelia; the Belle River Fire station as well as the Masonic Lodges of Morgan City and Patterson have been offered to us for free by new member Ron KD5GAG. If you can help us with any other possible sites, please contact one of the elected Officers about this, as we are trying to settle on a site for the April meeting.

### **CLUB BANNER**

Due to the graces of our president Joel KC5RFO, the club has been graciously donated a 3ft.x10ft. banner from local Morgan City business Plus signs. This banner will be used at club events, but should get its debut at our Field Day event in June. He is also working on name tags for club members but these however will have to be purchased.

### **HAMFESTS**

A number of our members made the travel to Rayne March 13 and 14 at the civic center there for the annual Lafayette hamfest . The jury is still out on how it fared but one of the things club members did was make a presence at the LCARC meeting seeking more information on this club and how it would benefit us as a whole. If you are wondering , LCARC is the club that fights for amateur interest in Baton Rouge and is the repeater coordinator for Louisiana. We will be discussing our possible membership at the April club meeting which will be covered in July's issue.

### **WEB PUBLISHING**

Club president Joel KC5RFO, will do a presentation of building your own web site for the net, over the next couple of meetings starting with the April meeting, which will be an intro to this exciting new project for most hams . Future episodes will go into advanced site building bringing this club to basically be the only “rural” ham club on the net in Louisiana! If you have any ideas for a presentation bring it to the attention of a club official for inclusion into our minutes.

### **NON PROFIT STATUS**

The club has found a CPA, who is also a Ham, in the area to help us out in obtaining a non profit tax id number. He is sending the forms and instructional information to Guy KC5ZIM to obtain the information he needs to fill out the 501c3 form for us . This id number is needed for banking purposes as well as our ability to gain donated materials and funds which are desperately needed for this club and is being done free of charge for us so hopefully this two year problem will finally be solved!

### **ALLIANCES**

Another reason the club needs the above id. number is that, as discussed in the January meeting, we are looking to bring this club into affiliation with local emergency services groups that could possibly depend upon us in natural disasters and other causes as discussed earlier in the club’s life in 1997. If you are affiliated with one of these groups; see Noel KB5GON for more information or have them check out our cool web site .

### **WEDDINGS**

There were two recent weddings for members in our club. One happened after our January deadline, so congratulations goes to Joel Ohmer KC5RFO and Michelle who were married December 22, 1998 at a small family ceremony in Amelia; and to Freddie Crochet KD5FIX and Pier Angeli whom were married in a private justice of the peace ceremony January 30th. Both plan for bigger weddings later in the year.

### **LICENSING PROPOSALS**

The proposals on FCC Docket 98-143 (amateur restructuring) that people sent in are starting to get some publicity. One of the biggest surprise came from the National Conference Of Volunteer Exam Coordinators (of which ARRL and W5YI are members) calling for the maximum code to be at

5 wpm and only 3 classes which would be technician no-code, general (where displaced novice and tech+'s would go), and extra (which would combine advanced and extra into one super license). The NCVEC if you are wondering, is the actual group who write the amateur test questions . In fact they are holding up on revising a new question pool for the advanced class until 2000 because of the FCC docket. Others include a proposal from 73 magazine owner Wayne Green W2NSD of one license class with no code requirement and another from CQ magazine suggesting three licenses plus a basic amateur permit- a kind of learners permit- but most suggest basically what the league has proposed before or leaving well enough alone. More will be published as it becomes available.

### **AWARD PROGRAMS**

At the March meeting, a proposal was introduced for three separate award programs to hopefully start this year and will be awarded at the Christmas party in December. The proposed include a ham of the year award for the ham that has done the most for the club in the last year, a dxer of the year award for the person who has the most confirmed dx contacts for the period May thru November 1999 (sorry everyone, 11 meter contacts do not count :-), and a cw straight key contest; to be held at one of the meetings, for the best finger in the west at tapping out the dits and dahs. Final decision on the three awards will be at the April meeting.

### **ARRL NEWS**

There is new news from the ARRL in the way of a members only section on their web site including a web only magazine and exclusive pictures, features, news and reviews as well as a members only web e-mail address you may get from them . For more information go to <http://www.arrl.org> .

### **WHOSE CALL IS IT ANYWAY?**

At the March meeting, Guy noticed during the meeting, that Tyrone KC5NNC had signed our members present list with the call KC5AFO and asked Tyrone if he was getting senile in his age or just got a new call sign. responding with a no to both and saying that he filled out the sheet correctly, got the surprise of his life when he was shown the evidence. And fairly-new ham Lew KD5FNR, got a surprise on the air earlier in the year, when asked if his call was FNR or FRN. Seems that he had accidentally id-ed once or twice with FRN. Now finally corrected, he is still said to be in hiding from the ham police however :-).

### **BUY, SWAP, BARTER, SELL**

A non-member is looking for a vhf 2-meter amplifier that is capable of at least 100 watts continuous fm. If you have one please contact Mike KC5OKP who is helping non-member Allen KC5GBY of Mathews, La.

### **CRAWFISH BOIL**

Another discussed proposal made at the March meeting, was to have a crawfish boil for club members, family and friends in the coming month . Lew KD5FNR offered his home in Belle River for the feast as there is lots of parking and room for the kids to run or take in a little fishing off of the small adjacent boat landing he has in the front yard. Final decision is to be made in April.

### **WEB FORMS**

Both Guy and Joel ask that you please return the personal information forms that were sent out back in January's newsletter packet. A lot of people have either lost them or didn't know what they were for. Don't worry, the information given by you will be only for the club web site and nothing else. You may include as much or as little as you want as the only information listed for people who haven't returned the forms are the call sign information from qrz. If you are worried about how it will look, contact Guy and he will print you a sample of what will be on the net. For samples, check our web site.

### **VE REMINDER**

This is a reminder to those who are VEs or are General class or above, we are actively recruiting for volunteer examiners, so we can give tests at the meetings and are trying to do it through the ARRL VE program. If you want more information contact Guy on this important thing we are trying for.

### **HOW TO GET IN TOUCH**

If you would like to reply to anything here, or submit an article for printing, send e-mail to wa5mc@ qsl.net and put as a subject (newsletter), snail mail us at 1027 4th St. Morgan City, La. 70380 (unofficial

club postal drop) or get in touch with either editor Jared KC5WOS, co-editor Mike KC5OKP, or publisher Guy KC5ZIM.

NOTE- We do have the right to edit for size and/or content and ask that you leave a name, callsign, and a way to get in touch with you; for any possible questions or comments on your submission.

***UNTIL NEXT TIME OR ONE OF US GETS ARRESTED***

***....73,88***

JARED BOURGEOIS KC5WOS, MICHAEL ROBICHAUX KC5OKP  
GUY MORRISON KC5ZIM