
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

March 2001

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....N3OJN Stan Riffle
1.V.PRES.....KB3EAQ Debbie Mehutcs
2.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid
TREASURER...N3ALS Wes Morar

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

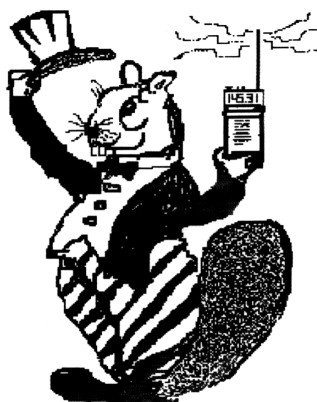
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petrucci/Stations Trustee

Newsletter Editor

N3NBJ.....Janet Petrucci

Newsletter Distribution

KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs



THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585

TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898

HOSS TRADERS.....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910

CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5

WPA PHONE & TCF.....6:00 PM DAILY...3.983

ROOSTERS NET.....6:00 AM DAILY...3.990

E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255

COUNTY HUNTERS.....10:00 AM DAILY..14.336

RIP VANWINKLE.....7:00 AM DAILY..145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 2 METER.....8:30 PM WED....145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 10 METER...9:30 PM WED...28.360

WPA TRAFFIC.....9:00 PM DAILY..146.88

QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03

VISIT THE B.V.A.R.A.'s WEBSITE AT:

www.geocities.com/the_bvara

If you have a submission for the B.V.A.R.A. QRM you may submit it to Janet N3NBJ by any of the following means.. E-mail: ke3ed@arrl.net, Packet: ke3ed@k3oiw.wpa.pa.usa.na, or typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

Inside This Issue

-
- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Club News |
| 2 | ARISS Talks to Texas School |
| 3 | SO-35 Failure? |
| 4 | WWV Survey |
| 5 | And More.... |
-

CLUB MEETING

Plan on attending the next B.V.A.R.A. meeting to be held on Thursday March 8th at 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA.

FIELD DAY

It's never too early to start thinking about field day. As in years past The B.V.A.R.A. will hold its field day operation at Bradys Run Park, Shelter #10. This years field day activities will be held on the weekend of June 22nd with a covered dish dinner to kick off the weekends festivities. Al WA3GFM was kind enough to volunteer as chairman this year. Al tells us that we will be logging with computers which will drastically increase the accuracy of the finished logs. But until then we have stations to plan and food to arrange so plenty of help will be needed. Please be sure to let Al know how you can help.

B.V.A.R.A. CORN ROAST

Well the weather now is cold and bitter. Trees are bare and the grass is brown. But before you know it we'll be enjoying the outside weather and the delicious aroma of corn cooking on a summers evening. Be sure to mark you calendars for The B.V.A.R.A.'s annual corn roast is currently scheduled for Thursday August 16th. This years roast will also be held at Brady's Run Parks, Shelter #10. More information to come in the months ahead.

PSK31 AWARD

Greetings from the Penn-Ohio DX Society (PODXS)...Please pass the word to the PSK'ers in your group about our free Ø7Ø Club PSK award program...Info about the Ø7Ø Club can be found at our website < <http://hometown.aol.com/n3dqu/podxs.htm> >...Tnx es 73 de Jay, N3DQU

SKYWARN TRAINING

Those operators interested in the Skywarn program are welcome to attend a training session on March 15th from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Location will be at the Beaver County Red Cross located adjacent to the Beaver County Geriatric center on Tuscarawas road in Brighton Twp.

==>INDIAN HAMS WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK IN QUAKE RELIEF

One week after a devastating earthquake struck the State of Gujarat in Western India, Amateur Radio continues to play a major role in the relief effort. Amateurs have established HF and VHF nets throughout Gujarat to aid in supplying food, clothing, medicine and shelter to the earthquake victims.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

More than 20,000 have perished, and the death count is expected to go much higher.

The US and India do not have a third-party traffic agreement, and no plans have been announced at this point to seek a suspension of that arrangement to permit international third-party message traffic via Amateur Radio. Raj Kumar, VU2ZAP, in Bangalore has agreed to accept earthquake-related inquiries via e-mail from the US to vu2zap@yahoo.com. VU2ZAP says he is in touch with Amateur Radio teams and Amateur Radio Society of India officials and will do his best to assist those seeking information. He requests that all inquiries include all possible information, in particular telephone numbers. There's no guarantee of a reply, however.

Amateurs from ARSI--the IARU member-society--and from the National Institute of Amateur Radio have been on the scene since January 27 providing communications support and information on victims. D.V.R.K. Murthy, VU2DVO, reports that amateurs are "working round the clock." Most telephone service in the earthquake zone remains out.

Traffic is being handled on 40 and 20-meter frequencies as well as on VHF. Indian amateurs have asked for cooperation in maintaining clear frequencies in the vicinity of 14.155 and 14.160 MHz as well as on various net frequencies between 14.250 and 14.270 MHz.

B.L. Manohar, VU2UR, in Bangalore, says media reports about ham radio's presence in the quake zone have led to a flurry of calls from all over India requesting hams to radio the affected region for information on friends and loved ones. "Most of the Amateur Radio operators manning the stations in Gujarat do not know the local language or the streets and areas of the city where they have stations established," he said. "With no help in the form of local people to run about, all such messages are getting piled up."

The epicenter of the 7.9 magnitude earthquake January 26 was reported to be 20 km northeast of Bhuj. Manohar said more than 250 aftershocks have been reported in the affected area. "All sorts of help is pouring in—equipment to move debris, gas cutting sets, concrete cutting saws, huge excavators, and many others," he said.

==>ARRL TAKES PART IN ITU STUDY OF UNWANTED EMISSIONS.

The ARRL Technical Relations Office in Washington participated in just-completed International Telecommunication Union studies of "unwanted emissions" in the radio spectrum. Unwanted emissions consist of out-of-band and spurious emissions. The ITU-Radiocommunication Sector has conducted two multi-year studies of unwanted emissions during the past decade.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, of the League's Washington office chaired a second-round task group with an international membership, drafting out-of-band emission specifications. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, and his staff participated in task group meetings and provided technical support. Representatives of the International Amateur Radio Union also took part.

"Had we not invested all those hours and travel, the amateur and amateur-satellite services probably would have some unwanted emission limits that would be more difficult to meet and make amateur equipment more costly," Rinaldo said. The panel's recommendations are being circulated to governments for final approval.

Out-of-band emissions are those falling outside the necessary bandwidth of a signal and are the result of modulation. "Amateurs know them as key clicks and splatter," Rinaldo said. Out-of-band limits for amateur equipment were agreed upon at the final task group meeting last year, and Rinaldo says these are consistent with the idea of establishing a safety net—not stringent levels of emission.

The ITU defines spurious emissions as emissions beyond 250% of the necessary bandwidth, but the definition is still under debate. Spurious levels already are spelled out in the international Radio Regulations. ARRL Lab tests have shown that amateur gear could meet a standard of -50 dB relative to main signal for HF and -70 dB for VHF bands and above.

A suite of ITU-R recommendations on unwanted emissions is being circulated and should be approved by mid-year.

More work lies ahead for the ARRL Washington staff. Radio astronomers and earth-exploration passive services are not satisfied with present levels of unwanted emissions from satellites and are concerned about interference to their sensitive receivers. A new ITU task group is studying the issue and preparing information for presentation at WRC-03.

==>ARISS QSO WITH TEXAS SCHOOL GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH

Youngsters at George West Elementary School in George West, Texas, enjoyed the latest in a series of successful Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school contacts. "The contact this morning went without a hitch, with a full 10 minutes of QSO from horizon to horizon!" exulted Gene Chapline, K5YFL, the ARISS Amateur Radio coordinator for the school. "Signals were Q5 all the way."

Chapline says 10 students asked two questions each of Space Station Alpha Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, with time left over for what Chapline called "a civilized 'thank you, good luck and 73' to Shepherd" before contact was lost. Students asked several questions related to microgravity aboard the ISS, including how it might affect viruses, plant growth and even the dreams the crew might

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

have. Teacher Keith Rogers said Shepherd's replies impressed him and his young charges. "His kind and caring answers really impacted my students," he said. "He will forever be their hero!"

Assisting were members of the Boy Scout Troop 277 Amateur Radio Club. Thirteen-year-old Bradley Henicke, KD5FAL, served as the primary operator, and 16-year-old Alonzo Cuellar, KD5FAM, was the standby operator. "It was perfect," Chapline said of the QSO. A crowd of about 75 teachers and relatives filled the classroom. Two Scouts escorted interested parties outside during the contact to see the ISS pass overhead while listening to the QSO on a hand-held scanner.

Reporters were on hand from several newspapers as well as local TV, and Boy's Life magazine has scheduled a story on the event. For more information on the ARISS program, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov> .--Gene Chapline, K5YFL

==>FCC BEGINS WRC-2003 PREPARATIONS

In preparation for the next World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003, the FCC's WRC-03 Advisory Committee met for the first time January 30 at FCC Headquarters in Washington. The FCC International Bureau's Planning and Negotiations Division has primary responsibility for guiding the FCC's WRC-03 efforts.

A WRC-03 Web site has been set up at <http://www.fcc.gov/wrc-03> along with a mailbox for the committee, wrc03@fcc.gov.

The Advisory Committee provides an opportunity for interests outside the federal government to develop and debate US draft proposals for possible adoption by the FCC, the National Telecommunications and Information administration and the US Department of State.

WRC-03 will deal with wide-ranging telecommunications issues, including IMT-2000 or so-called "third-generation" or "3G" cellular telephone devices, fixed services, mobile and fixed-satellite issues, HF broadcasting, satellite broadcasting, and regulatory matters.

Amateur Radio-related issues on the WRC-03 agenda include the revision of Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations--the basic rules for the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services. This includes the issue of whether to retain the treaty requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency for access to amateur bands below 30 MHz.

WRC-03 also will review the terms and definitions of Article S1 to the extent required as a consequence of any changes made in Article S25. Among other things, Article S1 contains the definition of the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services. In addition, WRC-03 participants are expected to review the

provisions of Article S19 concerning the formation of call signs in the amateur services, in order to provide flexibility for administrations.

WRC-03 will consider realignment of amateur and broadcasting bands around 7 MHz on a worldwide basis. The long-standing problem was identified in a WARC-92 recommendation that called for realignment at a future conference. The International Amateur Radio Union is committed to supporting a "harmonized" worldwide 300-kHz allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz.

An examination of the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations from approximately 4 to 10 MHz also is on the agenda. Conference participants also will consider abandoning an earlier commitment for HF broadcasters to shift from double to single-sideband AM modulation and move instead to digital modulation.

Among other issues that could affect Amateur Radio, WRC-03 will consider allocations for non-geostationary, non-voice mobile satellites (the so-called "Little LEOS") below 1 GHz, as well as spectrum above 1 GHz for feeder links. In addition, the conference will consider Earth Exploration-Satellite Service in the 420 to 470-MHz band.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, says that most of the issues of concern to amateurs have been assigned to the WRC-03 Advisory Committee's Informal Working Group 6. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, has been appointed as vice chairman of IWG-6. Rinaldo says Ireland's presence "will be key in seeing that amateur issues have fair treatment." He said Ireland's experience with the Voice of America also will be helpful in dealing with HF broadcasting issues being considered by the panel.

Expected to take place in Venezuela, WRC-03 is scheduled to begin June 9, 2003, and continue until July 4, 2003.

==>W8HKY: HAMMING IT UP AT 100

ARRL member Michael J. Anuta, W8HKY, of Marinette, Wisconsin, turns 100 years old on Sunday, February 4. In anticipation of the momentous occasion, the ARRL has sent special greetings to Anuta, who is among the very oldest League members.

"We at the League are so happy that you are one of our senior members and still an active and vibrant Amateur Radio operator," wrote ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. On behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors, Sumner congratulated Anuta on attaining centenarian status.

First licensed as WN8HKY in 1952, Anuta upgraded and remained active through the 1970s. When he moved into a retirement apartment, he sold his equipment but, fortunately, kept his General license current.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

Last year, Mike Anuta read a newspaper account of the 50th anniversary of the Marinette and Menominee Amateur Radio Club, and he decided to rejoin. He bought a 2-meter hand-held radio and now regularly checks into the club's Sunday night 2-meter net--usually the first to do so, according to Ed Engleman, KG8CX. Anuta also rejoined the ARRL.

Although into middle age when he became licensed, Anuta remembers his first encounter with the radio hobby during World War I, when, as a teenager, he erected an "aerial" on the roof of the family's house in Milwaukee and listened to spark gap signals. He later worked as a railroad telegrapher.

Anuta spent 67 years as an attorney. He and his wife, Marianne, recently celebrated their 79th wedding anniversary.--Jim Callow, K8IR; Badger State Smoke Signals

==>W4DR IS 2000 CLINTON B. DESOTO CUP WINNER

Bob Eshleman, W4DR, of Midlothian, Virginia, is the winner of the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup for 2000. The DeSoto Cup--a new ARRL award being presented for the first time--recognizes the station that's on top of the DXCC Challenge List as of September 30 each year. The Cup will be presented in May at Dayton's "DX Dinner" sponsored by the Southwest Ohio DX Association.

Eshleman is practically a lifelong DXer and DXpeditioner. First licensed in 1950 as W4QCW at age 14, Eshleman says his first station was a crystal-controlled 6L6 oscillator on 80 meters, a folded dipole made of 300-ohm TV twin lead and a BC-454 military surplus receiver. He subsequently graduated to grander gear and much more effective antennas. By 1954, he had DXCC in the bag (#2037).

After completing dental school and starting a family, he soon achieved DXCC Honor Roll and the first-ever Five Band DXCC, among other DXCC honors, including the first single-band DXCC awards on 40 and 10 meters. He credits the 119 countries he worked in the 1980s and 1990s on 6 meters as being "probably decisive in winning the first DeSoto Cup."

Now retired as a full-time dental school faculty member, he's used the intervening years "to catch up on the WARC bands" he'd neglected while chasing DX on 6 meters. He and his wife Rosalie, N4CFL, are headed for a month's trip to Syria and Egypt, during which they will be operators as YK9A. His sons Curtis and Lee both are licensed, KK4HJ and WA4CSG respectively.

==>CLUB 2000 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GO TO FOUR OUTSTANDING CLUBS!

When the ARRL Volunteer Resources Committee met recently in Texas, they had a 10-gallon size job in front of them--to review the ARRL Headquarters work party's

recommendations of four clubs to receive the first-ever Club Achievement Awards.

The winners were the 10-70 Repeater Association of Wanaque, New Jersey, in the Over 100 Members category; the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club, Paris, Michigan, in the Under 100/More than 25 Members category; Peninsula Electronic Amateur Radio Society, Hampton, Virginia, in the 25 or Fewer Member category, and Central Bible College Amateur Radio Club, Springfield, Missouri, in the School Club category.

Throughout last year, clubs from all over the US visited the ARRL Web site to learn about the program and start the process of documenting all facets of their club's special achievements. The new incentive awards were aimed at recognizing clubs that are growing, thriving, and developing positive community relations.

Participation in emergency and public service activities, public relations and ham radio recruitment, building ARRL membership, volunteer examination participation, outreach to the disabled, educational and instructional innovations, and Field Organization volunteerism were important criteria. A \$1000 award for the Top Achiever Club in each category was ARRL's way of saying, "Great job!" Awards for this program were funded by The ARRL Foundation Inc.

Submittals arrived from more than 40 clubs. The ARRL hopes to offer this achievement incentive for clubs again in two years. Honorable Mention clubs will be posted later on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org>. --Mary Lau, N1VH

==>AO-40 FUTURE RESTS ON REDUCING SPIN, REGAINING ATTITUDE CONTROL

The key to a successful AO-40 recovery continues to be a matter of reducing spin and regaining the ability to adjust AO-40's attitude from the ground. AMSAT says the current problem is a lack of accurate AO-40 attitude data.

Only when ground controllers can accurately determine the satellite's attitude will it be possible to change it and correctly aim AO-40's high-gain antennas for optimal reception on Earth. Ground controllers have had no luck hearing AO-40's transmitters on the omnidirectional antennas on 2 meters, 70 cm or 1.2 GHz. Since the satellite's computer was reset and telemetry resumed December 25, the AO-40 ground team has been analyzing telemetry sent via the 2.4 GHz beacon--the only transmitter now operating.

In its latest dispatch on AO-40, AMSAT-Germany waxed nearly poetic in describing the satellite's present situation. "AO-40 is currently like a ship that's lying on a sandbar in the fog at low tide," an update on the AMSAT-DL Web site declared. AMSAT-DL said AO-40 was "in the fog" because its high angle with respect to the sun temporarily prevents the sun sensors from providing attitude data. It's "at low tide"

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

because the steep solar angle means less illumination of the solar panels and less energy produced. And it's "on a sandbar" because the satellite can't be set free from its present situation without some effort.

Ground controllers have been hoping that a previously announced "de-spinner" programming routine could permit AO-40 spin control without having to rely on the sun sensors. But even if the programming fix fails, by April, controllers reason, the satellites sensors will again see the sun and "thanks to magnetorquing, spin and attitude can be actively improved upon the rising tide." Once the spin is reduced, sun angle improved, and antennas pointed, testing can resume. Still outstanding are tests of the VHF and UHF transmitters, the arc-jet motor, and the reaction wheels, among others.

Both AMSAT-DL President and AO-40 Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, and AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, have continued to be optimistic that AO-40 will have a useful life of Amateur Radio service. AMSAT-DL says the recovery effort has been slowed somewhat because of limited access time on the part of the command team, due to AO-40's current orbital parameters.

==>INDIAN HAMS PUT AVAILABLE HAM TECHNOLOGY TO THE TASK

Hams assisting with earthquake relief operations in the Indian State of Gujarat are even taking advantage of the UO-14 amateur FM satellite as they continue providing communication from the stricken region. Hams within the quake zone and those keeping touch from the outside also have found themselves caught up in the human tragedy. The death toll from the quake now is estimated at up to 50,000 and could rise higher. More than 600,000 were left homeless.

Bangalore-based Guru Rao, VU2GUR, and Sandeep Shah, VU3SXE, a Gujarati Bangalorean engaged in relief work in Gujarat have been using UO-14 to touch bases. "Guru and Sandeep were quick to seize the opportunity and roped in the amateur satellite UO-14 to maximize all possible communication routes," said Raj Kumar, VU2ZAP, another Bangalore ham who's been following the Amateur Radio effort.

While some telephone service in the earthquake zone has been restored, Amateur Radio was the primary link to the outside world in the immediate aftermath of the January 26 earthquake.

Another Bangalore amateur, Chandru Ramachandra, VU2RCR--a former UNESCO official--drove his SUV to Bhuj, 1700 km distant. Carrying a medical team and some 400 kg of gear and supplies, he set up a station to establish a link between Bhuj and Bangalore. As of a few days ago, 18 amateurs from the State of Karnataka were handling communication regarding placement of doctors and medical

supplies as well as health-and-welfare inquiries into areas where the telephone system is still out.

"This has become a practical exam showing our capability and preparedness in disaster management," said Bangalore Amateur Radio Club President Lion Ajoy, VU2JHM.

Most of the earthquake-related traffic continues to be handled via HF on 40 and 20-meter SSB, although some VHF FM links have been established for local work in Gujarat.

Horey Majumdar, VU2HFR, says hams in Calcutta, where he lives, have been able to locate and pass along information about the well being of several individuals. "However, the best option would have been to have our own team from Calcutta at Bhuj," he said. Majumdar says handling some of the H&W inquiries has been tough. In one case, the information he got via ham radio from the quake zone was not good news. "It was extremely difficult for me to convey to their family that this person, his wife and 7-month-old daughter didn't make it," he said. "There must have been thousands of families like this."

Late word from Prem Manani, VU2XMX, in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat, is that reliance on amateur communication has ended with the restoration of normal communication channels, although he said some stations were still in action at the request of the Indian government. "The untiring job done by all hams was appreciated by one and all in the government," he said.

==>ARRL OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS CLUB STATION CALL SIGN ADMINISTRATOR

The ARRL is open for business as an FCC-designated Club Station Call Sign Administrator. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, reports that the ARRL CSCSA has received 10 club station applications to date since the program officially began January 22, the date the FCC stopped accepting club station applications.

"Beginning this program has been a relatively painless and very straightforward process," Jahnke said. "Keeping the procedures simple has played a big role in how smoothly things have gone."

Once an application is received at the ARRL-CSCSA, processing typically takes two business days, Jahnke said. All but one of the applications received by the ARRL CSCSA have been processed and granted by the FCC. "The remaining application was faxed to us, and we need the original signed application rather than a fax in order to process such requests," Jahnke pointed out.

Last month, the FCC designated the ARRL-VEC, the W5YI-VEC and the W4VEC Volunteer Examiners Club of America as Club Station Call Sign Administrators. Club station applicants may file via any of the three FCC-designated CSCSAs using either NCVEC Form 605 or W4VEC Form

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

CSCSA to file. The new CSCSAs receive and process hard-copy applications and submit the information electronically to the FCC. The three FCC-designated Club Station Call Sign Administrators do not charge for their services. Club Station Call Sign Administrators do not handle requests for vanity call signs.

Amateurs may seek a new club or military recreation station license, or may file for modification, renewal or duplicate (requesting another hard copy license, if the original was lost) of a club or military recreation station license using NCVEC Form 605 or W4VEC Form CSCSA. NCVEC Form 605 is available from the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html>.

RACES stations may file modification or duplicate requests, but RACES licenses may not be renewed, and the FCC is no longer granting new RACES licenses.

The FCC requires applicants to obtain and use an Assigned Taxpayer Identification Number--or ATIN--on their club station applications--although a club that already has registered with the FCC's Universal Licensing System may use its Licensee ID Number instead of its ATIN. If a club has its own IRS-issued Entity Identification Number, or EIN, that number also may be used instead.

==>A SAD END TO ROUND-THE-WORLD SOLO SAIL ATTEMPT

An attempt by 76-year-old David Clark, KB6TAM, to become the oldest person to sail solo around the world came to a sad end this week when Clark's vessel, the Mollie Milar, sank two days after leaving Cape Town, South Africa. Clark was rescued, but his "constant companion" Mickey, a west highland terrier, was lost at sea during the rescue attempt. Clark was on the final leg of his journey.

"David has been rescued by a container ship and is okay, although I have not been able to talk with him yet," said his wife Lynda, in an e-mail posting. "The ship is heading for East London, South Africa, and I am waiting for a phone call from him, hopefully tomorrow."

David Clark's 44-foot sailboat went down the evening of February 7. Lynda Clark said that she got the news via ham radio. "According to the ham operator who contacted me, the boat sprang a leak and the pump could not cope," she said. "It was very heavy weather, so when he realized that the situation was hopeless he called for help and a passing container ship sent a lifeboat to pick him up, and he had Mickey with him."

Lynda Clark said that the lifeboat capsized on the way back to the ship, and everyone ended up in the water. "It would have been pitch dark, and in all the trauma Mickey got lost. I'm sure David is heartbroken, as am I," she said. "All of you who have met Mickey along the way know what a special little guy he was."

" 'So close, and yet so far away,' I guess the quote goes," she concluded. Lynda Clark said she would post additional information as soon as she hears from her husband.

During his journey, which began in late 1999, Clark had been keeping in touch with his wife and family via ham radio, and he was a regular check-in on the Maritime Net on 20 meters. His vessel, which was named for his mother, also had satellite communication gear aboard.

Clark had been hoping to return to Ft Lauderdale, Florida, in mid-May, in time for his 77th birthday.

==>SO-35 SATELLITE FAILURE BELIEVED PERMANENT

SUNSAT SO-35 has ceased operation, and ground controllers at South Africa's Stellenbosch University, where the satellite was built, say SO-35 appears to be off-the-air for good. The satellite had served as a popular and easily accessible FM-mode repeater.

"Unfortunately, little hope remains after two weeks of recovery attempts," said Stellenbosch University's Johann Lochner, ZR1CBC, in a posting to the AMSAT bulletin board. "Thanks to all who shared in our fun. Your feedback and encouragement made most of it happen."

A statement (<http://sunsat.ee.sun.ac.za/news/20010201.html>) from Stellenbosch University's Electronic Systems Laboratory said the last communication with SUNSAT was on January 19 at 1522 UTC. "We are certain, after having performed several tests since the last contact, that an irreversible, probably physical, failure has occurred on the satellite," the statement said. "It is therefore unlikely that we will have any further contact with SUNSAT, apart from the occasional visual sighting by telescope!"

Built by Stellenbosch grad students, SO-35 was launched February 23, 1999, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California aboard a Delta II rocket.

Ground controllers say it's unlikely that battery failure was the cause of the shutdown. It's believed the failure resulted from multiple internal problems or possible collision with an external object resulting in major physical damage.

The SUNSAT Web site is at <http://sunsat.ee.sun.ac.za>.

==>LF SIGNALS CROSSING THE POND, BUT NO QSO YET

While efforts to complete a transatlantic LF QSO still have not been successful, things have been looking up lately in the nether reaches of the radio spectrum. Amateur Radio activity in the vicinity of 136 kHz has resulted in several recent "sightings" of signals from the UK here in North America. The first such signals were heard in the US in late January

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

and early February. A report that the AMRAD WA2XTF 136-kHz beacon in Virginia had been heard in the UK turned out to be in error, however.

The most recent report came February 6 from Sandy Sanders, WB5MMB, in Oakton, Virginia, who says he was able to copy Lawrence Mayhead, G3AQC, and "dashes" from Jim Moritz, M0BMU, in the vicinity of 136 kHz. Sanders' monitoring station is in a three-story office building.

Such weak LF signals are not actually heard but seen. Reception of weak LF signals typically is done using spectrographic software. Signals are transmitted using dual-frequency CW--or DFCW (<http://www.qsl.net/on7yd/136narro.htm>)--or very slow-speed CW, also known as "QRSS." LF enthusiast Dexter McIntire, W4DEX, says that in DFCW the dot and dash elements are sent with the same duration in time being separated by frequency, making it easier to identify a signal from weak-carrier QRM.

From his QTH in coastal North Carolina, McIntire also has copied G3AQC on 136 kHz, possibly marking the first time an amateur LF signal from the UK has been heard and verified in the US. He also received M0BMU's LF transmissions for a possible distance record.

"My best reception of M0BMU, Jim Moritz, occurred at 0100 UTC on the 31st of January," McIntire said. For LF reception, he ties together both legs of his 160-meter dipole and tuned the antenna for resonance with a small ferrite-core inductor. Moritz estimated his effective radiated power at 1 W.

McIntire's reception of M0MBU might have set a new distance record. He calculated the distance at nearly 6394 km, and Moritz figured it at 6371 km--apparently edging out what's believed to be the record of 6311 km set by VA3LK and IK1ODO.

Mayhead said he'd been receiving "excellent signals" from John Currie, VE1ZJ, and Larry Kayser, VA3LK, so he decided to run his own series of beacon tests with the idea of encouraging stations in North America to listen.

McIntire says that on January 27, he captured some of G3AQC's DFCW transmission--including the letter "Q"--and sent him a screen shot, which Mayhead confirmed as his. On a subsequent evening, W4DEX copied G3AQC's entire call sign.

"I think that we can reasonably claim that these events constitute the first sighting of a UK station in the US," Mayhead concluded. He estimated that his setup generates an ERP of about 350 mW.

For a while, it had been thought that an Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) WA2XTF experimental 136-kHz beacon in Vienna, Virginia, had been spotted in the UK. John Sexton, G4CNN, had reported

copying the AMRAD experimental beacon on 136.750 kHz on February 5 and 6, momentarily raising the excitement level at AMRAD. That turned out not to be the case. Sanders announced this week that it was determined the signal heard in the UK was about 5 Hz high and did not have a characteristic "chirp" that distinguishes the WA2XTF beacon.

Like several other countries in Europe, the UK has an amateur band at 136 kHz. Experimental amateur operations have been authorized in Canada; the AMRAD beacon in the US is licensed under the FCC's Part 5 experimental rules.

In October 1998, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The FCC has not yet acted on the request.

McIntire is among those who'd like to see a new LF band become reality. "I'm champing at the bit to transmit on 136 kHz!" he said.

==>ARRL OFFERS NEW FIVE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP PLAN

With a membership dues increase going into effect July 1, 2001, the ARRL is offering a special five-year membership plan until then, so members can lock in at the current, lower dues rates. Effective immediately, current or prospective ARRL members in the US and US possessions can obtain a five-year renewal or membership for \$146 (\$122 for those 65 or older)--a saving of \$24 (\$18 for those 65 or older) from the cost of year-to-year renewal at current rates!

Due to postal considerations, this offer cannot be extended to those living in other countries. The special five-year membership offer expires June 30, 2001, the last day the present dues schedule is in effect. After that, annual dues will increase to \$39 for individuals (\$34 for those 65 and older).

Another option is to apply for an ARRL Life Membership for \$850. Special discounts apply to senior and visually impaired applicants. A complete rate schedule and application form is available on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/join.html>.

==>LF-TO-LF TRANSATLANTIC AMATEUR CONTACT IS HISTORY

Amateur Radio history was made this month when amateurs in Canada and the UK completed what appears to be the first two-way transatlantic Amateur Radio exchange on 136 kHz. Larry Kayser, VA3LK, and Lawrence "Laurie" Mayhead, G3AQC, managed the LF feat using extremely slow CW that featured 90-second-long dits and 180-second-long dahs. The two-way contact took two weeks to complete.

"We are the first to do a two-way QSO on LF across the North Atlantic as far as I am concerned," Kayser said. "We are the ones who put the stakes in the ground; others will build on what we have done."

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

The VA3LK-G3AQC contact began February 5 and was completed February 19 with the reception and confirmation of VA3LK's report by G3AQC. Kayser said the participants agreed in advance to a "firewall" between them for the duration of the contact and that all QSO information was exchanged over the LF radio link.

Mayhead said it was clear from the outset that, because of the relatively short band openings, he and Kayser would have to spread the contact out over several days. "It was not easy," he said. "I stayed up late most nights—3 AM on one occasion--changed blown fuses in my transmitter six times, and reconfigured my receiver to include a narrow filter because of interference that was desensitizing it." Kayser says he once had to climb the tower supporting his wire antenna in total darkness.

The UK has authorized amateur operation on 136 kHz, with special authorization and strict limits on radiated power. While Canada has not yet authorized general Amateur Radio operation on 136 kHz, Kayser and a few other Canadian amateurs have received special authorization to experiment there.

Reception of weak LF signals typically is done using spectrographic software like ARGO or Spectran. Signals are transmitted using dual-frequency CW—or DFCW--or very slow-speed CW, also known as "QRSS." Using their particular brand of QRSS, Kayser calculated that it took nearly 70 minutes for him to send his call sign. "Certainly the information rate will improve," he said. "We did the best we could with what we had to work with over the last two weeks."

G3AQC and VA3LK were using a combination of commercial and surplus equipment at their respective stations. G3AQC estimated his effective radiated power at 350 mW, while VA3LK said he might have been at the 5 W ERP level.

In October 1998, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The FCC has not yet acted on the request.

==>WWV SURVEY PLANNED

The National Institute of Standards and Technology plans to survey users of WWV and WWVH later this year. The time and frequency-standard stations have been airing occasional announcements about the upcoming poll in order to start building a mailing list of survey recipients. The announcements state that NIST "is seeking information on how listeners use the broadcast services offered on the WWV broadcast," but the survey will not begin for at least several weeks.

WWV Station Manager John Lowe says the announcements are being broadcast now as a heads up and to encourage early

mailing list signups. The survey itself will not be released until approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Lowe said, and he doesn't expect that to happen until May, although it could be sooner. The survey period likely would extend through the summer, he said.

According to Lowe, the last WWV-WWVH user survey was done in 1985. "We just don't know who our user base is anymore," he said. Lowe confirmed that the data collected ultimately could be used to determine whether WWV and WWVH remain on the air--especially given the popularity of NIST's other outlets, including its Web-based time server that gets in excess of 3 million hits a day.

"If we get only two people who say they're using WWV, then we've got a problem," he said. Lowe added that he does not think WWV and WWVH will be shut down, and he vowed to "fight for the radio stations," if it came down to that. "But the ultimate decision is not in my hands," he said. "We have to look at our budget and our users."

Lowe strongly encouraged WWV users to get on the mailing list and to send in a survey when the time comes. He suggested, however, that more weight will be given to survey responses from corporate and institutional users of the radio service as opposed to individual users.

To be added to the NIST WWV-WWVH survey mailing list, send your name and postal address to the NIST Radio Station WWV, 2000 E County Road 58, Ft Collins, CO 80524, or e-mail the information to nist.radio@boulder.nist.gov. Lowe urged WWV-WWVH users to hold their fire until the survey begins.

WWV in Ft Collins, Colorado, and WWVH on Kauai, Hawaii, broadcast continuous time and frequency information to millions of listeners worldwide. For more information, visit the NIST Web site, <http://www.nist.gov>.

==>CANADIAN YOUNGSTERS SPEAK WITH COMMANDER SHEPHERD ON ARISS QSO

A dozen youngsters at Merivale Public School in Ottawa, Ontario, this week became the first Canadian students to speak with Space Station Alpha Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, operating from space as NA1SS. The successful Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--school contact February 22 likely will be the last for the Expedition 1 crew.

Amateur Radio coordinator Steve McFarlane, VE3TBD, worked in concert with his wife, Lori--a teacher at the school--to make the contact a reality. Lori McFarlane has been working with youngsters at the school for several weeks in anticipation of the ARISS QSO.

After a few unsuccessful calls, VE3TBD raised NA1SS on the ARISS backup frequency. Youngsters asked Shepherd about

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

trash disposal and recycling aboard the ISS, procedures for dealing with a sick crew member, and what the crew does for exercise.

One fourth grader wondered why building a space station was necessary, given problems with pollution and poverty on Earth. Shepherd had a ready reply. "We live on a planet that's really kind of an island, and it's not going to last forever," he said. Shepherd said he thinks humans probably will one day need to "go places other than Earth" and that the ISS made possible the research needed to do that.

Shepherd said the crew members all missed their families and friends but he said he gets to talk to his wife via Amateur Radio "every couple of days." He also said he has photos and videos of his family aboard. Responding to another student's question, Shepherd said the crew had exercise equipment aboard, and that exercising was considered essential.

Near the conclusion of the contact, the students on hand hollered "73, Commander Shepherd!" in unison. Looking on in addition to other students and teachers were TV and newspaper reporters. It had been hoped at Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien would be able to be on hand, but he was occupied with a visit by British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Merivale ARISS contact probably will be the last school QSO for the current crew of Shepherd, Yuri Gidzenko, and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. ARISS spokesman Will Marchant, KC6ROL, said he expects it will be sometime in late March--after the Expedition 2 crew arrives--before ARISS school contacts can resume.

For more information on the ARISS program, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

==>THREE ARRL SECTIONS TO GET NEW SECTION MANAGERS

Three ARRL sections will get new section managers, while incumbents were declared elected in six others. All new terms begin April 1.

The only contested race was in Kentucky, where challenger John D. Meyers, N4GNL, of Butler, outpolled incumbent SM William L. "Bill" Uschan, K4MIS, and another challenger, David W. Glass, WA4QAL. The final tally was 244 votes for Meyers, 236 for Uschan, and 137 for Glass. Ballots were counted February 20 at ARRL Headquarters.

In Arkansas, Bob Ideker, WB5VUH, of Little Rock ran unopposed and was declared elected to succeed Roger Gray, N5QS. Gray decided not to seek another term. In North Texas, Larry Melby, KA5TXL, of Dallas--appointed to take over the reins from Donald Mathis, KB5YAM, on March 1--ran unopposed and was declared elected to a full term in his own right.

Incumbent section managers were re-elected without opposition in six other ARRL sections. They include Cliff Hauser, KD6XH, Arizona; Jim Lasley, N0JL, Iowa; Randy "Max" Wendel, KM0D, Minnesota; Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Mississippi; Joe H. Brown, W6UBQ, Orange, and Robert Williams, N7LKH, Wyoming. Wendel agreed to run again last year when no other candidates came forward, and he has remained in office in the interim. As a result, his term will run through September of next year.

In Montana, a resolicitation for candidates will be announced in April QST. Incumbent Darrell Thomas, N7KOR, will remain in office at least through September.

==>MAINE LAWMAKERS KILL MOBILE HAND-HELD DEVICES BILL

A Maine legislative committee has killed a bill that would have made it illegal to use hand-held electronic devices such as cellphones and two-way radios while driving. ARRL State Government Liaison Zane Keeler, AA1WV, reports the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation on February 21 reported out an ought-not-to-pass recommendation for LD 95.

The bill would have restricted the use of hand-held cellular telephones as well as "computers, Citizens Band radios, dictaphones, microphones and other electronic devices" not essential to the operation of a vehicle on Maine's highways.

The same legislative panel also turned away a similar, but less restrictive bill, LD 102. Both bills would have permitted the use of hands-free accessories for cellular telephones used on the road.

The committee's vote on both bills was 7-1. Keeler said both bills are dead for the current session. Those opposing the bill included several Maine Amateur Radio operators, cellular telephone providers, emergency medical service providers, and the American Automobile Association. The state Highway Safety Bureau took "a neutral position" on the measures.

Several hams, including Maine Section Manager Bill Woodhead, N1KAT, were on hand February 12 for a public hearing before the legislature's Transportation Committee. Keeler said a half-dozen Maine hams showed up for the February 21 legislative workshop.

In Maryland, a bill to ban the use of hand-held cellular telephones while driving was killed February 15 by a House of Delegates committee on a 14-7 vote. Several other states are considering similar measures. While no states have banned cellular telephone use altogether, California, Florida and Massachusetts impose some restrictions on their use. Nearly 40 states have considered such legislation since 1995. Five municipalities require drivers to use hands-free technology within their borders.

==>IN BRIEF:

*** ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service experiences outage:** E-mail routed via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service was delayed the evening of January 31. The problem was cleared up by the following day, and the flow of queued-up messages resumed. "While it has taken some time for the volume of queued messages to be delivered, the system is back to normal operation," the ARRL's Barry Shelley, N1VXY, said February 1.

*** Furchtgott-Roth to leave FCC:** FCC Commissioner Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth has announced that he will not seek reappointment to a second term and will instead return to the private sector. The announcement leaves President George W. Bush with another slot to fill on the FCC. A Republican and a Clinton appointee, Furchtgott-Roth's first term expired last June 30. "It has been a great honor to serve for more than three years on the Federal Communications Commission, more than half a year beyond the expiration of my term," Furchtgott-Roth said in a statement. "However, there comes a time when every free market advocate in government must fulfill his dream by returning to the private sector. For me, that time has arrived." Furchtgott-Roth said he will continue to serve on the Commission "until a mutually agreeable departure date is worked out with the Administration."

*** OMIK now an ARRL-affiliated club:** OMIK, the national organization of African-American amateurs, now is an ARRL-affiliated organization. An ARRL Charter of Affiliation was presented to OMIK January 27 in Atlanta, since OMIK President Frank T. Smith, KIUB, resides in Fayetteville, Georgia. OMIK, which is pronounced "Oh-Mike," was organized in 1952. The name OMIK stands for Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky.

*** ARRL Outgoing QSL Service announces revised rates:** The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has announced a new and simplified rate structure, effective March 1, 2001. The new basic rate will be \$4 per one-half pound (8 ounces, or approximately 75 cards) or any portion of a half-pound, a change from the current rate of \$6 per pound or any portion. DXers still may ship 10 cards for \$1, but the 20 and 30-card rates are being discontinued. The new rate structure will help to cover basic handling costs for smaller packages while actually offering a price break to moderate-volume users submitting up to one-half pound of cards. Under the current rate schedule, a half-pound of cards would cost \$6, but it will be \$4 under the new schedule. The new rates are in response to the recent postal rate increase and price restructuring. The Outgoing QSL Service is available to ARRL members. The last rate increase was in January 1999. For information on using the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, visit ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/qs/qsout.html>.

*** Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, recovering:** ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller,

N3EFN, is said to be doing well following bypass surgery on February 2. All indications are that he should be able to return home this week. Well wishers may contact Bernie via his home address, 17668 Price Rd, Saegertown, PA 16433.-- thanks to ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR

*** Call sign switcheroo:** A Florida ARRL member has a new call sign he doesn't want because he erroneously checked off the wrong box while changing his address on-line via the FCC's Universal Licensing System. The amateur, who shall remain anonymous, sought ARRL assistance to correct what he thought was an FCC error. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, looked into the matter. As it turns out, the applicant apparently answered in the affirmative on Schedule D of Form 605 where it asks "Is this a request to change a station call sign systematically?" The FCC accordingly changed the call sign. Jahnke points out that applicants seeking to change their addresses in the FCC's database do not need to use Schedule D, and even if it were used, the correct answer would have been "no" unless the applicant wanted a new sequential, or systematic, call sign. Jahnke said the applicant could attempt to plead his case to the FCC, which often is reluctant to correct such errors by applicants. He also suggested that the applicant could recover his old call sign by applying for it under the vanity program as a former holder and paying the \$14 fee. Late word is that the licensee is going the vanity route.

*** W9NN to observe 80 years as a ham:** Bob Baird, W9NN, of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, has been a ham for 80 years and is one of the founding fathers of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He also turns 95 on February. Friends will gather for a "dual-celebration" luncheon February 17, 2001 (11 AM-1 PM, at the Stage Coach Inn at Mosinee; contact Wayne Johnson, K9MIF, k9mif@arrl.net for details). Bob Baird's work in founding the QCWA took place about 1921. He's a member of Chapter 174. A QCWA plaque presentation is on the program. Baird was engineering supervisor at Chicago's WGN radio for 36 years. He also was the founder of the W9DXCC. He continues to be active on CW and possibly other modes.--Badger State Smoke Signals

*** Clarification:** A story in The ARRL Letter, Vol 20, No 7, FCC Queries Wireless 'Net Provider About Interference To Hams, quoted an FCC enforcement letter to the effect that Darwin Networks' Part 15 devices "apparently were installed in the apartment complex to provide Internet service using wireless 2.4 GHz nodes by Cisco Systems Inc." FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said his inquiry letter was not intended to suggest any defective operation on the part of the Cisco Systems nodes. "This inquiry was directed at Darwin Networks," he said. "The mention of the node manufacturer was incidental to the inquiry and was never intended to suggest that Cisco Systems equipment was faulty or that the company is part of this FCC inquiry."

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

*** RTTY signal in AM window being investigated:** In its periodic report to the FCC Notifications Branch, The ARRL Monitoring System has asked the FCC to help identify the source of a RTTY transmission near 3.885 MHz, the 75-meter AM calling frequency. "We received numerous reports of this signal from AM enthusiasts on February 22," said Monitoring System Administrator Brennan Price, N4QX. "We have asked the FCC HF Direction Finding Facility in Maryland to determine the origin of the signal." Price said this was the first step in resolving the situation, but he notes that the signal may not be illegal. "US hams are fortunate to have access to 3800 to 4000 kHz," he said. "In many countries, this segment is used by a variety of fixed, mobile, and broadcasting services." He said that if the RTTY transmission is not coming from the US, it may be legal in its country of origin. "In that case, any resolution will have to be achieved through negotiation rather than through enforcement," he said.

*** ARRL Emergency Communications on-line course again fills up fast:** The ARRL course, Introduction to Emergency Communications, was fully subscribed within 72 hours of the opening announcement earlier this week. A ham in Italy has been added to the growing list of foreign students "attending" this on-line course. Plans call for offering a new course every four weeks, and a "live" classroom version of the course is now in beta testing. For more information on this on-line course, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education page, <http://www.arrl.org/cce>.

*** ARRL seeks RFI/EMC specialist:** The ARRL Laboratory has a job opening for an RFI/EMC specialist. The successful candidate will work at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, on a variety of technical projects and programs relating to radio frequency interference and its effect on the Amateur Radio service. An Amateur Radio license and experience is required for this position. This job is a unique opportunity to work with ARRL members, the FCC, industry groups and standards organizations to make a real difference in this critical area for Amateur Radio. Some additional duties of this position are: Work with amateurs to find solutions to RFI problems; maintain and improve ARRL's RFI information; write articles, book material and papers about RFI; and develop and maintain a database for tracking and documenting RFI problems. The ideal candidate will have one or more of the following qualifications or experience: Experience in EMC engineering at the design, system or field level EMC testing or field measurements; RFI troubleshooting and debugging; authoring published papers, articles or reports related to EMC; experience with industry committees and/or standards organizations; BSEE or equivalent degree or experience. To be considered for this position, send a resume and salary expectations to Bob Boucher, Personnel Manager, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Resumes can be accepted by e-mail at rboucher@arrl.org. No telephone calls, please. ARRL is an equal opportunity employer. For information on other ARRL

openings, visit the "Employment at ARRL" page, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/jobs>.

*** China team to compete in first USA ARDF Championships:** The Chinese Radio Sports Association has announced that it plans to send a team to the first USA ARDF Championships to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 31 through August 4. The USA ARDF Championships invite all ARDF enthusiasts, at any skill level, from any country. ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says registration is now open, and a 10% discount is offered to those who register before March 1. For more information on the event, sponsored by the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/abqardf/files/web/index.html>.

For more information on Amateur Radio Direction Finding, visit Moell's ARDF Web site, <http://www.homingin.com> -- Joe Moell K0OV USA ARDF Coordinator

*** D68C DXpedition at 126,000 Qs and counting:** The D68C DXpedition to Comoros reports logging more than 4650 QSOs in the recent ARRL International DX Contest (CW), probably topping the current the Africa multi-two record by a significant margin. D68C has been active on 30, 17 and 12 meters as well as on 14 and 28 MHz RTTY and PSK31. The D68C will not do any satellite operation, as originally planned. The team reports occasional high noise levels on the lower bands. "We are working all we can hear. Sometimes it is really hard to hear anything at all with all the static," said John Linford, G3WGV. As of February 20, the team had 126,000 QSOs in the log, and Linford said he anticipates when all is said and done, the D68C operation will hold several new records, including total number of QSOs.--John Linford, G3WGV

*** Jack R. Carter, KC6WYX, SK:** Jack Carter, KC6WYX, of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, died February 20. He was 71. An ARRL member, Carter served as executive officer of the World War II Tank Landing Ship LST-325, which recently completed a 4200-mile journey from the Greek island of Crete to Mobile, Alabama, and gained extensive news coverage en route. Carter had ham radio gear aboard and used the WW2LST call sign of the USS LST Amateur Radio Club while under way. According to a report in Stars and Stripes, 29 sailors--men in their 60s, 70s and older--signed on to deliver the ship to a permanent berth to be used as a floating museum. Most of the sailors were US Navy retirees. Carter, an electrical engineer, was past president of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club. For details of Carter's "voyage of a lifetime," photos of the voyage, and information on the PVARC, visit the club's Web site, <http://palosverdes.com/pvarc/index.htm>.

*** New chair appointed for NTS Eastern Area staff:** Marcia Forde, KW1U, has been appointed as chair of the Eastern Area Staff of the ARRL National Traffic System. From Edgartown, Massachusetts, Forde was nominated by fellow Eastern Area staff members for the two-year term. She

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

continues as Transcontinental Corps director for Cycle 2, a position that she has held since 1984. A member of the ARRL for 19 years she also holds Official Relay Station and Official Emergency Station appointments in the League's field organization.

*** QCWA honors Bob Baird, W9NN:** Some 30 hams and friends gathered February 17 in Mosinee, Wisconsin, to honor and recognize a ham of 80 years, Bob Baird, W9NN. Baird, who turned 95 February 18, was one of the founding fathers of the Quarter Century Wireless Association in 1947. He also founded the W9DXCC gathering, which attracts hundreds of hams, DXers and DX each year. In his younger years, Baird was an engineer for WGN Radio, Chicago. He still frequents HF CW.--Badger State Smoke Signals

*** Vote on QST Cover Plaque Award:** The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for January was Murray Greenman, ZL1BPU, for his article "MFSK for the New Millennium." The winner of the February award was Larry Scheff, W4QEJ, for his article "How to Maximize Your Receiver's Effective Selectivity" (Part 1). Congratulations, Murray and Larry! ARRL members are reminded that the winner of the QST Cover Plaque award--given to the author(s) of the best article in each issue--is determined by a vote of ARRL members. Voting takes place each month on the ARRL Members Only Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvot.html>. As soon as your copy arrives, cast a ballot for your choice as the favorite article in the March issue of QST. Voting ends March 15.

*** World Amateur Radio Day set for April 18:** The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union has selected the theme "Providing Disaster Communications: Amateur Radio in the 21st Century" for World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2001. IARU has been the watchdog and spokesman for the world Amateur Radio community since its founding in Paris, France, in 1925. Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, was its first president. In a related item, the International Telecommunication Union has approved publication of the Disaster Communications Handbook for Developing Countries. The role of the Amateur Radio service in disaster communications is one of the main points of the Handbook. IARU is the principal contributor to the Handbook. This event will coincide with the 76th anniversary of the founding of the IARU.--Fred Johnson ZL2AMJ/IARU Region 3

*** W1-QSL Bureau changes address:** Effective immediately the address of the ARRL W1 Incoming QSL Bureau has changed. The new address is: W1 Incoming QSL Bureau, YCCC, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Mail sent to the Springfield address will be forwarded for up to one year.

Material from The ARRL Letter may be republished or reproduced in whole or in part in any form without additional permission. Credit must be given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.