# The Illuminator

The monthly newsletter of the Carbon Amateur Radio Club

September 2001

## September Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Carbon Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. ***at the EOC in Nesquehoning.***

## New Officers

At the August meeting, new officers were elected for the 2001-2002 year. Our new officers are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President | – | Goody, K3NG |
| Vice-President | – | Rob, KB3BYT |
| Secretary | – | Larry, N3CR |
| Treasurer | – | John, W3MF |
| At-large Directors | – | Bob, K3PH |
| | | John, K3CT |
| | | Bert, W3OWP |

## From the President's Desk

By Goody, K3NG

This month we welcome in a new set of officers to lead the club in the coming year. I'd like to thank our outgoing officers, especially Larry, N3CR, and Bob, K3PH, for their hard work.

The Club has a long history of service to the community and brotherhood within the amateur community. I want to continue this tradition and strengthen the club in the coming months. In recent years, attendance at the meetings has dwindled. We've been in the typical club Catch 22, you can't get the members out unless you have a good program and you can't have a good program if there aren't members attending. We also have a lot of members or former members who occasionally attend operating events, but don't attend meetings.

Things are different today. People work longer hours, or so it seems. Free time just isn't as plentiful as it was in the past. Family should always come first and work comes second. Hobbies, like ham radio, come in third. We all have limited time for doing what we enjoy as hobbies. Clubs are meant to enhance your ham radio experience, teach you new things, and enable you to meet new people. When a club fails to provide these things, it not longer makes sense to devote what limited time you have to something that isn't providing a return on your time investment.

I have identified several issues with the club and how I think we should address each one in the coming months.

1. **Increase Meeting Attendance.** There are two simple solutions to this. The first one is continue the "meal and meeting" events that Larry started. These have proven to bring people out. The second is programs, programs, programs. Again, we have the Catch 22 to contend with, but we have to work with what we have.

2. **Advertise and "Sell" the Club.** We have several local media outlets to let people know what we're doing. Cable classifieds come to mind. We need to continue newspaper coverage of events. Also, we should take advantage of free newspaper classified advertising where available. Last, every free bulletin board in Carbon County at a restaurant should have a CARC flyer on it. Get the word out.

3. **Operating Events.** Members love to operate. Instead of talking about what you do in the shack, just do it and do it with other members. Show others what events and

activities you like to do, get the new members interested and involved. This doesn't just have to be limited to contesting? Do you like satellites? PSK31? Invite the club to your QTH for an event!

4. **Volunteer.** Do whatever you can, no matter how small your contribution is. What you put into this club will be returned to you tenfold in enjoyment of this great hobby. I'd like to open or re-open several positions to encourage this.

**Operating Events Chairman** – This person will be in charge of identifying things like contests, shack visits, and anything ham radio related that club members could participate in, as a team in competition, or a casual social event.

**Communications Chairman** – This position, which we've had in the past, will be "reinitialized." The Communications Chairman will be responsible for all media, flyers, and other communications to the public.

**Meeting Program Chairman** – This chairman would identify and arrange meeting programs.

**Public Service Chairman** – The Public Service Chairman will be tasked with coordinating events such as the annual March of Dimes Walkathon we participate in.

5. **New "Excited" Members.** There are potential members lurking out there. They are subscribed to our email reflector. They're listening in to the net, but don't check in. There are check-ins who we haven't heard from in a long time. There are non-hams who are interested and just need to find out about CARC. All of the items I describe above are the key to this. We should not, however, strive to make this a large club. We just need new blood and interested people who want to volunteer. The more people we get, the less everyone has to volunteer. The more volunteers, the more we can do and attract and keep new members. Once we reach a certain number of volunteering active members, we will no longer need to actively pursue new members – the Club will be self-sustaining.

Neither I, nor the officers, can do this alone – we need your ideas and help. Let's roll up our sleeves and have some fun.

Goody K3NG

## Brandenberg Amateur Radio Operator Scholarship

By Rob, KB3BYT

Amateur radio operators learn some hard-core basic training in electronics and communications and computers just to get a ticket into the hobby. This early training is recognized as the exact type of person that colleges want to fill engineering classes and will go as far as paying for ***FULL*** scholarships. Check out the Texas Instruments training ground college and their scholarship package.

Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science Scholarship Award. The Brandenburg Amateur Radio Operator Scholarship is being offered as a renewable four (4) year scholarship. The scholarship amount will be $6,500 a year payable at $3,250 a semester. The first use of this scholarship will be to pay all tuition and fees. Any remaining money will be issued as a cash award to cover the cost of books, room and board.

Applicant must be a licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Applicant must be intending to enroll or currently enrolled in one of the following major fields of study: Electrical Engineering, Telecommunications Engineering or Computer Science.

More info can be found at /www.utdallas.edu/dept/eecs/scholarship.html

## Congratulations to…

Larry, N3CR, on becoming a grandpa again (they know what causes that now!).

Glenn, K3PP, who came in 9th place in the 2000 CQ Worldwide DX Phone Contest Single Op Assisted.

Bob, K3PH, who came in 10th place in the ARRL DX CW Contest Single Op Low Power.

## Another Tool for Your DXing Tool Belt

By Goody, K3NG

HF beacons enable you to tell exactly what propagation is like across the globe in minutes. The Northern California DX Foundation has deployed a network of beacons throughout the world that are synchronized via GPS. Each transmits into a vertical antenna on five bands. The callsign is transmitted, and then four dahs are transmitted, each with different power levels. The first dah is 100 watts, the second is 10 watts, the third 1 W, and the fourth is 100 mW. This allows you to determine the quality of the propagation.

Each beacon is synchronized to UTC. The schedule below shows what beacon transmits at what time; the times are in minutes and seconds. The cycle is continuous; there are no gaps (other than W6WX on 18 and 24 MHz).

| Country | Call | Frequency | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 14100 | 18110 | 21150 | 24930 | 28200 |
| U.N. New York | 4U1UN | 00:00 | 00:10 | 00:20 | 00:30 | 00:40 |
| Northern Canada | VE8AT | 00:10 | 00:20 | 00:30 | 00:40 | 00:50 |
| USA CA | W6WX | 00:20 | – | 00:40 | – | 01:00 |
| Hawaii | KH6WO | 00:30 | 00:40 | 00:50 | 01:00 | 01:10 |
| New Zealand | ZL6B | 00:40 | 00:50 | 01:00 | 01:10 | 01:20 |
| West Australia | VK6RBP | 00:50 | 01:00 | 01:10 | 01:20 | 01:30 |
| Japan | JA2IGY | 01:00 | 01:10 | 01:20 | 01:30 | 01:40 |
| Siberia | RR9O | 01:10 | 01:20 | 01:30 | 01:40 | 01:50 |
| China | BR2HK | 01:20 | 01:30 | 01:40 | 01:50 | 02:00 |
| Sri Lanka | 4S7B | 01:30 | 01:40 | 01:50 | 02:00 | 02:10 |
| South Africa | ZS6DN | 01:40 | 01:50 | 02:00 | 02:10 | 02:20 |
| Kenya | 5Z4B | 01:50 | 02:00 | 02:10 | 02:20 | 02:30 |
| Israel | RX6TU | 02:00 | 02:10 | 02:20 | 02:30 | 02:40 |
| Finland | OH2B | 02:10 | 02:20 | 02:30 | 02:40 | 02:50 |
| Madeira | CS3B | 02:20 | 02:30 | 02:40 | 02:50 | 03:00 |
| Argentina | LU4AA | 02:30 | 02:40 | 02:50 | 03:00 | 03:10 |
| Peru | OA4B | 02:40 | 02:50 | 03:00 | 03:10 | 03:20 |
| Venezuela | YV5B | 02:50 | 03:00 | 03:10 | 03:20 | 03:30 |

A great program I use to track the beacons is *DX Monitor* available at http://www.benlo.com/dxmon.html. It synchronizes your computer clock to any time server on the Internet and provides a graphical view of what beacon is transmitting at any given moment on an azimuthal or mercator projection map. It also can be used to retrieve and collect DX spots and graphical display them.

For more information on the NCDXF beacons, checkout http://www.ncdxf.org.

## ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 37 ARLP037
From Tad Cook, K7VVV
Seattle, WA September 7, 2001
To all radio amateurs

Compared to the previous seven days, average solar flux rose Nearly ten points this week, but average sunspot numbers dropped about the same amount. There seems to be quite a bit of new activity emerging. Earth is exiting a solar wind, which brought planetary A indices to 17 and 20 on Monday and Tuesday. There were nine 3-hour periods out of the two days which had a planetary K index of four.

A new sunspot group number 9608 is emerging on the southeastern limb of the solar disk, and this could bring more flare activity and coronal mass ejections. The current outlook calls for solar flux to rise over the next few days, to 225 on Friday, and around 230 on Saturday through Tuesday. This would be a big change, because flux values have not been above this value since April 1. This could be an exiting fall DX season, and since solar activity will be declining, perhaps the best for years to come.

The current forecast shows a planetary A index around ten for the next ten days, but of course this could change.

Shel Shallon has a new version 2.02 of W6ELprop, and you can download it for free from http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/. The new version has added some nice features, such as continuous scrolling (the spreadsheet doesn't stop at 0000 UTC, but you can now scroll backward and forward continuously).

Sunspot numbers for August 30 through September 5 were 138, 142, 153, 141, 168, 168 and 175 with a mean of 155. 10.7 cm flux was 199.2, 188.7, 184.1, 182.5, 198.7, 218.4 and 218.3, with a mean of

198.6, and estimated planetary A indices were 13, 16, 8, 7, 17, 20 and 10 with a mean of 13.

## Carbon Amateur Radio Club
## Regular Meeting Minutes
## August 16, 2001

President, Larry Lilly, N3CR, called a regular meeting of the Carbon Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:36 p.m. on Thursday, August 16, 2001 at the Emergency Operations Center in Nesquehoning. Ten people attended.

The minutes were read by Bob, K3PH, and approved by the members in attendance.

Larry, N3CR, read the treasurer's report in John, W3MF's absence. At the last meeting, we had a balance of $804.94. We had receipts of $30.00 and disbursements of $4.76 for mailing the newsletter, $57.95 for a hardcover ARRL Handbook, plus $98.15 in expenses from our pizza party at Caruso's in July, leaving a total of $674.08. The members in attendance approved the Treasurer's report.

The ARRL Handbook that we are donating to the Slatington library in memory of Nancy Marsh, KF4TAA, has arrived. Glenn, K3PP, is doing an insert for the inside front cover, which should be available soon. When it becomes available, we will contact the library, as well as Patti Mihalik, as this should provide a good "photo op" for the club.

Larry, N3CR, reported on the issue of cell towers in Carbon County, noting that there is currently a moratorium on new towers in Jim Thorpe. Goody, K3NG noted that they should try to collocate services as much as possible to minimize the number of towers needed.

Election of officers followed. The following were nominated:

- Goody, K3NG, for President,
- Rob, KB3BYT, for Vice-President,
- Larry, N3CR, for Secretary,
- John, W3MF, for Treasurer, and
- Bob, K3PH, for At-large Director.

In addition, Bruce, N3RXJ, was nominated for Secretary, but he declined the nomination.

Andy, KB3FSV, moved that the nominees be elected by acclamation. The motion passed.

Goody, K3NG, reported on the Wednesday night net. Last week's net had about 5 check-ins, which is normal. Most nets last 30 to 35 minutes, with a trivia quiz to add fun to the proceedings.

Scott Forster, EMA Coordinator, gave a report. He expects there to be a HAZMAT drill at some time in the future, possibly about a spillage of waste water in Bowmanstown, but no date has been set. He also expects a weather exercise sometime in March. Goody, K3NG, suggested that we could use a presentation to the club on EMA procedures. Everyone agreed this was a good idea. Scott also requested a list of the new club officers, as well as a list of whom to contact in what order in emergencies.

It was noted that Carbon County really, really needs a Radio Officer.

Rob, KB3BYT, mentioned that we might consider putting a voice module on the repeater to advertise the net and/or club meetings, or make other important announcements. We could put the voice module on a timer and have it come on at prescribed times of the day and evening. The whole thing could actually be external to the repeater, say, using a 300 mW HT. The membership agreed that this was a good idea that should be investigated further.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## ARRL DX Bulletin

DX Bulletin 36 ARLD036
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT September 6, 2001
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, 425DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, TF8GX and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

**CROATIA, 9A.** Mario, DJ2MX, will be active as 9A/N0MX from Brac Island and other Croatian

islands on 80 through 10 meters, using CW and SSB, until September 15. QSL only via his German call, DJ2MX, through the DARC Bureau or direct.

**MALTA, 9H.** A group of Dutch amateurs will be active as 9H0VRZ, from September 14 through October 6. Operations will be on 40 to 2 meters including the newer bands. QSL via PA7DX.

**FUTUNA ISLAND, FW.** Guy, FW5ZL, will be QRV from September 6 to 21, using 100 watts and a dipole.

**GUATEMALA, TG.** Ramon, XE1KK, will be active as TG/XE1KK, from September 6 to 9. Look for him mainly on satellite UO-14 and AO-27. He will also try to be active on HF and 50 MHz as his schedule permits.

**VIETNAM, XV.** Sam, JA1EUI, expects to operate from September 21 to 28 on all bands from 80 to 6 meters, mainly on SSB. He is hoping to obtain either XV3Z or XV3ZZ. He will have a regular schedule on 21230 kHz at 2130z every day with JA1TAA or JA1BQ. QSL via home call.

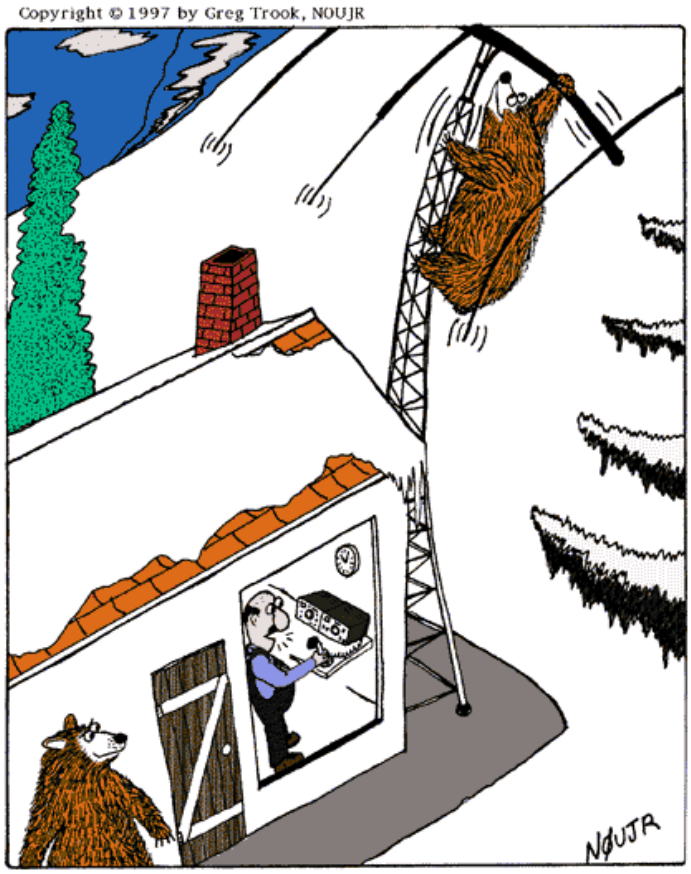
**TURKEY, YM.** Look for Mill, LX1CC, to be active September 16 to October 6, signing YM3CC. Operation will be mainly on SSB on all bands, including the newer bands. QSL via home call.

**U.K. SOV. BASES AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4.** Steve, ZC4BS, is expected to be active for the next 13 months on all modes from 160 to 10 meters, but mostly on 15 and 20 meters.

**CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7.** Nigel, ZL7/G3TXF, and Roger, ZL7/G3SXW, are expected to be active from Chatham Islands, on CW only, from September 13 to 23. Suggested frequencies are 3503, 7003, 10103, 14023, 18073, 21023, 24893 and 28023 kHz listening up 1-3 kHz. QSL via their home calls, direct or via the bureau.

**ICELAND, TF.** Tiny, ON4CAT, Gulli, TF8GX, Fred, DL8DXL and Norby, LX1NO, will be active from Flatey Island, EU-168, in the Breydjafjodur from September 12 to 19, on 80 through 10 meters, using SSB, CW and maybe some digital modes. Call signs will be TF4RX, QSL via K1WY, and TF4/LX9EG, QSL to LX1NO.

**BARBADOS, 8P.** Mario, K2ZD, is active as 8P9JM through September 9. He is active on 40 through 6 meters, as time permits.




"Hang on a minute Larry...my SWR is jumping...I'm going outside and see what the problem is..."

***Check out http://incolor.inetnebr.com/n0ujr for other cartoons and to purchase N0UJR's book, "N0UJR and His Friends."***

## Heard Through the Grapevine…

**The club needs an EC/RO for the ARES and RACES activities. Contact Larry, N3CR, for details.**

**Carbon Amateur Radio Club – 2000-2001 Officers**

President: Anthony "Goody" Good, K3NG, goody@fast.net
Vice President: Rob Roomberg, KB3BYT, roomerg@ptd.net
Secretary: Larry Lilly, N3CR, ka3afy@ptd.net
Treasurer: John Schreibmaier, W3MF, w3mf@ptd.net
W3HA Callsign Trustee: Bill Dale, WY3K
W3HA Repeater Trustee: John Bednar, K3CT
Public Information Officer: Bill Kelley, KA3UKL

**Directors**

Bob Schreibmaier, K3PH, John Bednar, K3CT, Bert Rex, W3OWP

**Illuminator Staff**

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Foxhunting: open
Propagation and Commentary: Larry, N3CR ka3afy@ptdprolog.net
Newsletter Printing, Folding, and Mailing: Bob, K3PH

**Services**

W3HA Repeater: 147.255 Mhz + PL 131.8

CARC Website: http://www.cpals.com/~elitehom/carc/
Webmaster: Rob, KB3BYT roomberg@ptd.net

CARC Email Reflector: see www.qth.net CarbonARC list for details

**CARC Membership Information**

Regular Membership is $15.00, which includes autopatch privileges.

*All amateur radio operators are invited to join the CARC ARES / RACES net held 21:00 local time every Wednesday on the W3HA repeater at 147.255 MHz + offset, PL 131.8. Any amateur radio operator or anyone with an interest in ham radio is welcome to attend our monthly meetings which occur the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Carbon County EMA Center on Route 93 in Nesquehoning.*

Carbon Amateur Radio Club
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