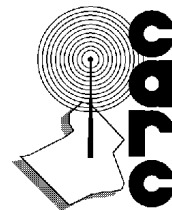




The Illuminator



The monthly newsletter of the Carbon Amateur Radio Club

April 2003

April Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Carbon Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the EOC in Nesquehoning. See you at the meeting!



Treasurer's Report

By John, W3MF

Previous Balance	1134.28
Receipts (dues)	115.00
Subtotal	1249.28
Disbursements (newsletter)	7.77
Final Total	1241.51



Walkathon

The annual Walkathon is on April 26 this year, but is located at the Weissport Town Square Park, with the walk taking place along the Lehigh Canal. Walker registration starts on 8:00 a.m., walking starts at 9:00 a.m., and the event should end at 1:00 p.m.

We need volunteers, preferably with 2-meter equipment, to man the walk route and provide communications back to the walk headquarters. In the past, we have met on site at 7:30 a.m.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Goody, K3NG, via e-mail, on the repeater, or at his home telephone.



Rock Mite Nite a Big Success

By Lamar, N3AT

Eighteen persons from four area clubs met at the Monroe County Vo-Tech School on Wednesday, March 12, to begin construction of the great little Rock Mite kits. In addition to those who were building, there were at least a half dozen "helpers" and several people who just came to watch. The helpers included Jerry, N3SEI, from EPARA, Goody, K3NG, from CARC, Mike, KB3HMR, and Al Owen, from NJQRP, Norm, K3NZ, from DLARC, and Bill, W3MJ, from PARK. The Director of Vo-Tech was among those who came to watch.

The group agreed to meet again the following Wednesday night to complete the kits by installing them into Altoid mint tins or some other appropriate enclosure. Lamar promised to bake cookies for this second night as a reward to those who will have completed their rigs.

Dave Benson of Small Wonder Labs, who furnishes the kits, has informed us that the Rock Mite will be featured on the cover of the April issue of QST. And Norm, K3NZ, one of our own builders, will be featured in the June issue of CQ magazine. Norm has been making a fantastic record with his 20-meter Rock Mite. Since November, he has worked 45 states and 15 DXCC countries. His prize possession is now a QSL he received from a ham in Australia, whom he worked with his 275 milliwatts of "power!"

The Rock Mite is a complete transceiver with a built-in electronic keyer. It is crystal controlled, hence its name. It is built on a PC board that is 2 by 2.5 inches in size. It has become very popular in the QRPP world. Close to 2000 of the little rigs have been sold.



FCC Proposes to Hike Vanity Call Sign Fee
(From the ARRL Letter)

The FCC has proposed increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released March 26. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5.

"We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its NPRM. That's up by 800 from FY2002. The agency expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

If all goes as it has in the past, the FCC will adopt a Report and Order on the FY2003 fee schedule this summer, and the new fee will become effective sometime in early September.

The FCC NPRM also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$14.50 regulatory fee per call sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2003 fee schedule becomes effective. The FCC has said in the past that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes a regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Enter "03-83" in the "Proceeding" field. The FCC said it expected to have the docket available by March 28 for the posting of electronic comments.

Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov and include the

words "get form <your e-mail address>" in the message body. The ECFS will reply with a sample form and directions on filing comments.

A copy of the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-64A1.doc>.



Famous DXpeditioner Danny Weil, ex-VP2VB, Reported Ill
(From the ARRL Letter)

DXpeditioner Danny Weil, ex-VP2VB, of YASME fame, reportedly is in a nursing facility after suffering a stroke late last year. Now 84, Weil would welcome cards and notes from his friends and acquaintances around the world. He was active under a variety of call signs in the 1950s and early 1960s from various ports of call while sailing one of the three YASME yachts. His address is Danny Weil, Regency Care at Medical Center, Room 101, 3935 Medical, San Antonio, TX 78229. More information is available on the Danny Weil, VP2VB, Page <<http://www.qsl.at/common/weil.html>>. ARRL soon will publish the book YASME: The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions by Jim Cain, K1TN, which includes many tales of Weil's DXing adventures. — Jim Cain, K1TN, and The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>>



ARRL DX Bulletin

DX Bulletin 14 ARLD014
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 3, 2003
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by AA1K, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, 425DXnews, DXNL, The Daily DX, QRZ DX and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

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AZERBAIJAN, 4J. 4J85YGA has been QRV on 17 meters using SSB around 1200 to 1500z. QSL via UT3UY.

KENYA, 5Z. Tom, DL2RUM and Jan, DJ8NK are QRV as 5Z4BL and 5Z4BK, respectively, until April 12. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, including 17 and 12 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home calls.

BARBADOS, 8P. Richard, G3RWL will be QRV as 8P6DR from April 5 to 20. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

SIERRA LEONE, 9L. Zbig, 9L1BTB has been QRV on 40 meters around 2330z. QSL via SP7BTB.

MADEIRA ISLANDS, CT3. Ben, DJ8FW will be QRV as CT3AS from April 9 to 21. As time permits, his activity will be on 80 to 15 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL to home call.

FRANCE, F. Jean Marc, F5SGI will be QRV using CW as TM6ILE from Groix Island, IOTA EU-048, from April 7 to 12. QSL via bureau.

GUERNSEY, GU. A group of operators from Scout Radio Club SP5ZCC are QRV as MU/SP5UAF, MU/SP5LCC, MU/SP5MBQ and MU0ULC until April 8. They will be active in the SP DX Contest as MU0ULC. QSL all calls via SP5ZCC.

DOMINICA, J7. Jon, AA1K and Jeanie, AB1P will be QRV as J79K and J79P, respectively, from April 5 to 12. This is a casual DXpedition. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands. They will monitor 50110 kHz. QSL to home calls.

JAPAN, JA. Look for JA1KJW, JJ1JGI, JK1EBA and JN1IKT to be QRV as homecalls/0 from Sado Island, IOTA AS-117, from April 10 to 13. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

GUAM, KH2. Look for Yoshi, JE2EHP to be active as K1HP/KH2 from April 11 to 14. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

DENMARK, OZ. Ela, OZ/DL3YMK and Torsten, OZ/DH3YMG will be QRV from Vendsyssel-Thy,

IOTA EU-171, from April 5 to 17. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 meters. QSL to home calls.

MICRONESIA, V6. Jeffrey, KI0RO is QRV as V63JE from Kosrae, IOTA OC-059, until April 7. Afterwards, he will be QRV from Pohnpei, IOTA OC-010, from April 9 to 14. QSL to home call.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X. Steve, VK3OT will be QRV as VK9XI from April 7 to 21. He will be active on HF and 6 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

MYANMAR, XY. Frank, DL4KQ is QRV as XY4KQ until April 17. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. He hopes to visit an island in the Mon Region Group as well. QSL to home call.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. Phil, G3SWH, David, G3UNA, Vidi, ZS1EL, Kosie, ZS1SR, Malcolm, ZS1MC, Andrew, ZS1AN and Hester, ZS1ESU are QRV as ZS1RBN from Robben Island, IOTA AF-064, until April 7. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB, including the newer bands. QSL via G3SWH.



ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 13 ARLP013
From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA March 28, 2003
To all radio amateurs

Solar flux and sunspot numbers declined again this week. Average daily solar flux was down over 31 points to 100.6, and average daily sunspot numbers were down nearly 30 points to 62.4. Solar flux was lowest on Saturday, March 22 at 89. Solar flux has not been this low since 1998 when it was 89 on May 21 and 87.4 the following day.

Geomagnetic conditions were still active this week but finally settled down after March 23. Currently on Thursday the earth is again in a solar wind stream from a coronal hole. The best guess is for unsettled geomagnetic activity over the next few days, but no severe storm. The predicted planetary A index for Friday through Monday is 15, 12, 12 and 15.

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A few days ago the sun was almost devoid of spots, but more have now rotated into view. Predicted solar flux for Friday through Monday is 150, 155, 155 and 150. Unless new activity emerges, based upon the current solar rotation solar flux values below 100 may return by mid-April. Propagation relative to recent conditions should be fairly good for the CQ World Wide SSB WPX Contest this weekend.

Jon, N0JK, of Wichita, Kansas reported good 6-meter conditions while geomagnetic indices were again active today. He reports that Diego, HC8/LU8ADX on San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos was working U.S. stations coast to coast around 2015-2130z. Diego peaked at S-9 at Jon's location, and Jon worked him at 2048z running 10 watts or less into a dipole.

A month ago during another period of geomagnetic activity Jon submitted a report that the HC8GR beacon on Galapagos was loud at his QTH, and K2RTH/4 heard the LU9EHF beacon from Miami. Readers can submit reports of interesting propagation via email to k7ra@arrl.net.

Tomas Hood, NW7US has developed some interesting methods for delivering propagation data. Go to his web site at <http://hfradio.org> where you can sign up for email alerts, propagation data delivered to an RSS headline reader program, or WAP enabled wireless device.

Sunspot numbers for March 20 through 26 were 45, 40, 40, 43, 64, 89, and 116, with a mean of 62.4. 10.7 cm flux was 97.4, 91, 89, 93, 97.8, 108.8, and 127.2, with a mean of 100.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 21, 29, 16, 24, 10, 6, and 8, with a mean of 16.3.



Helpful Hints

A teaspoon placed in a glass on the back seat of your car makes a handy audible gauge for road bump severity.



Shallow Thoughts

Why do kamikaze pilots wear helmets?



Buy the Extended Warranty...



Carbon Amateur Radio Club Membership - 2003

Call	Name	E-mail	Web Site
KB3BPR	Bednar, Abbie	bednar@fast.net	
K3CT	Bednar, John	k3ct@fast.net	
WB3ESS	Bednar, Jonathan	swimkid@fast.net	
N3DVF	Bednar, Suzie	sbednar@fast.net	
K3II	Berger, Jim	k3ii@noln.com	
KB3CFV	Creitz, Ron		
KB3IDV	Culp, Bob		
N3AT	Derk, Lamar*	n3at@enter.net	
W3EFI	Diehl, Denny	wb3efi@ptd.net	http://home.ptd.net/~wb3efi
K3VA	Eroh, Ed	k3va@enter.net	
N2DIY	Gibson, Darryl	n2diy@losch.net	
K3NG	Good, Anthony	goody@fast.net	http://www.qsl.net/k3ng
N3OWC	Hinkle, Randy	n3owc@webtv.net	
KO3M	Keiser, Anne	ko3m229@ptd.net	
N3CR	Lilly, Larry	ka3afy@ptd.net	
	Merluzzi, Carl**		
KB3BDU	Ockenhouse, Danny**		
KB3AGZ	Provizzi, Jack		
W3OWP	Rex, Bert	w3owp@fast.net	
KB3BYT	Roomberg, Rob	roomberg@ptd.net	http://www.learnmorsecode.com
N2ROD	Salotto, Pat	n2rod@aol.com	
K3PH	Schreibmaier, Bob	k3ph@ptd.net	http://home.ptd.net/~k3ph
W3MF	Schreibmaier, John	w3mf@ptd.net	http://www.qsl.net/w3mf
WB3ESQ	Shaub, Barry	bshaub@agere.com	
WA3IEM	Shiple, Kent	wa3iem@arrl.net	
NM3Y	Terry, Robert F.	mtnhome25@hotmail.com	

* Associate Member

** Honorary Life Member

Carbon Amateur Radio Club – 2002-2003 Officers

President: Anthony "Goody" Good, K3NG, goody@fast.net
Vice President: Rob Roomberg, KB3BYT, roomberg@ptd.net
Secretary: Larry Lilly, N3CR, ka3afy@ptd.net
Treasurer: John Schreibmaier, W3MF, w3mf@ptdprolog.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, Bob Culp, KB3IDV

Illuminator Staff

Editor: Bob, K3PH k3ph@ptd.net
DX: Bob, K3PH
Foxhunting: open

Propagation and Commentary: open
Newsletter Printing, Folding, and Mailing: Bob, K3PH

Services

W3HA Repeater: 147.255 MHz + PL 131.8

CARC Website: <http://www.learnmorsecode.com/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 2:00 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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P. O. Box 166
Kresgeville, PA 18333-0166