BARC's BARK
March 2013

Repeaters: Voice 2 m 146.70 MHz (-)
70cm 448.90 MHz (-)
DStar 2 m 145.3875 (-)
70cm 446.8625 (-)

Web Site: www.qsl.net/w0dk/

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Newsletter Mike Stutzer ----- KDØFDJ

Coming Events

Sat. March 16, 8:00-10:30am: Technician Class License Class, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 100 East Malley Drive in Northglenn (one block south of 120th avenue, between Grant and Washington streets).

Class will be taught for five Saturdays, with the exception of Saturday, April 6th. The license exam will be on Saturday, April 27th, 8:00 a.m. The exam is open to all hams and will offer exams for all licenses -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra.

Contact Kelly (KTØKT) at KT0KT@arrl.net in advance for class registration and textbook information. There is no charge for the class, but a textbook will need to be purchased.

Tues. March 19, 7:00pm: BARC monthly meeting, at the University of Colorado. Rob Steinberg, KA8JBY, will stipotfy us on the subject: "Space Weather for the Radio Amateur"

The location is again in Room 1B70 of the Engineering Discovery Learning Center at CU. Parking is free after 5 p.m. in huge lots near the DLC, across Regent's Drive to the east (see map at end of this newsletter).

February Meeting

Larry Benko drew a near-record audience (actually, it could have been a record for all I know) for his boffo show about microcontrollers and processors. Sparkfun for the whole family!
Avid readers of this column, if there are any avid readers whose memories have not been blurred by age and/or chemical dependence, may recall that I last reported on my pathetic contesting attempt. I was shocked, as the rest of you will soon be, to discover that I won the "single band, World" category in that QRP contest. All I can say is that it is indeed a small World, with only 20 total entrants. Still, I am the proud owner of a full color albeit cheaply reproduced certificate proclaiming my good ionospheric fortune.

Flush with success, I recently spent some time taking advantage of the surprisingly frequent 10 meter openings. During a March 2 contest that attracts serious stations, I bagged a couple of islands that had hitherto escaped my clutches: J88DR in St. Vincent and J79GV in Dominica.

The trusty Wikipedia, which has replaced the Great Alexandrian Library as the source of all that is known, reports that Dominica means “Tall is her body”. I am not sure what St. Vincent means, except that it is a popular name for hospitals. Cinema buffs will recall that this was the hospital that Woody Allen checked into for ulcer surgery, to awaken 200 years later at NCAR during the filming of "Sleeper".

The only other thing I remember is when the Prime Minister (perhaps the only minister) of Dominica appeared alongside President Reagan, when he explained why he dispatched elements of the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions, the 82nd Airborne Division, U.S. Marines, U.S. Army Delta Force and U.S. Navy SEALs to defeat some Cubans unfortunate enough to be garrisoned on a
rock called Grenada. Apparently the Dominicans (who may be Republicans, but not Dominican Republicans) felt their lives were in danger from the secondary cigar smoke wafting over from Castro's troops in Grenada.

Now that you have finished your history lesson, I will turn to advice you might actually want: monitor 10 meters around 10:00am our time. This morning (Thursday, March 14) I ran 10 watts into my trusty W7WKB 2-element wire beam to find friendly foreign accents in the form of I2YTK, I5ZSS, F6IGS, F4GBU, DK8ZZ, and OT4A. In honor of Don Nelson, I was emboldened to try 6 meters, but that was above the MUF, as it usually is. I would have gone back to 10m to "work" a bunch more of these EuroHams, but had to go to work (yes, CU Profs do actually work for a living).

Let's hope that 10 meters continues to star this Spring!

**KH6 - DXing**

*Jim Andrews  
KH6HTV*

Operating HF here in Hawaii (KH6) is more of a challenge than on the mainland. No such thing as short skip of a few hundred miles which works well for hams in Boulder. Short skip exists, but it doesn't land on anything but salt water. The nearest tiny islands of Midway, Kingston Reef and Paymyra are 1,100 miles away. California is 2,400 miles away. The sole exception is daytime, NVIS, propagation on 40 meters between the islands. We do have a daily 40 meter, ARES net every afternoon at 4 pm HST (02:00 UTC, 7.088 MHz). I am able to work all of the islands on this 40m net. The distances are 17 miles to Lanai, 25 miles to Molokai, 80 miles to Oahu (Honolulu), 120 miles to the Big Island of Hawaii, and 190 miles to Kauai.

Here from my Maui condo QTH, I am able to work 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m & 10m. Most of the time when I turn on the rig and scan these HF bands, I hear nothing, especially on the SSB, phone portions of these bands. I do have more luck using the weak-signal digital mode of BPSK-31, usually to the western Pacific rim. Recently, 15 meters SSB has been open in the afternoons, primarily to Japan (JA).

I really hit the "jack-pot" the weekend of March 1st & 2ed. There was an HF contest going on. The solar conditions were: SFI = 113, A = 27 & K = 3. Friday evening about 10pm local (08:00 UTC), Janet and I returned from a dinner party with neighbors and I flipped on the ham rig on 40 meters. It was really hoping. I made the most and longest distance 40 meter contacts ever from my marginal antenna, home QTH station. I worked several stations stateside with the farthest east being Arkansas (3,900 miles). I also worked New Zealand (4,500 miles) and Australia (4,800 miles). I heard strong signals from Japan (4,000 miles), Argentina (7,300 miles), Chile (6,800 miles) and Asiatic Russia (3,800 miles) also on 40 meters. They acknowledged my calls, but didn't want to work me because I was not "DX" for them in the contest. Early the next morning, (06:30am), 40 meters was still open for long distances.

Saturday afternoon, after playing tennis all morning, I again turned on the rig. The bands were open all the way up to 10 meters. I heard stateside stations on 10 meters, but they said my signal was too weak for a contact. I did, however, make a very strong, 5x9 contact with NH2DX on the island of Guam (3,900 miles). I next switched down to 15 meters and got the surprise of my life. I was trying to work through a pile-up to contact ??? in California when I heard UX7ACQ calling him on the same frequency. I immediately recognized the voice and call sign as that of BARC/LARC member, John Stransky! John was in Cambodia (6,500 miles from KH6) on his annual winter visit with his daughter and family in Phnom Penh. I tried to call John on the same frequency, but it was too congested. Thus, I immediately gave John a call on Skype to tell him the path between UX7 & KH6 was open on 15 meters. We didn't end up making a 15m contact, because John was being called away for breakfast. John said he had been working the contest, but without a lot of success to the states because the JAs in Japan were booming in too strong.
The ham HF station here consists of a Yaesu FT-857, all-mode, 160m - 70cm, 100 watt transceiver, an MFJ-941E antenna tuner and a Samlex 1223 power supply. For 2m/70cm, I use an old Icom IC-W32A hand-held with a dual-band mag mount antenna slapped on top of the window air conditioner. The HF antenna here is a "totally invisible", top-loaded 40m / 20m vertical. It is a wire stapled to the side of the wood frame condo building starting at ground level. I buried lots of radials in the lawn (late at night!), plus ran some under the building. The wire comes up the side of the building to my balcony. The distance from the ground to the floor of my balcony worked out to be a perfect 1/4 wavelength for 10 meters. Thus, by moving jumper wires, I also have a 1/4 wave vertical for 17m, 15m and 10m and a bent inverted L 1/4 wave for 30m. EZNEC modeling of the antenna showed the gain to be -1.8 dBi for 40m and -1.1 dBi for 20m over real earth. Full details are found in an old issue of BARC's Bark [1].


W7W SPAR Winter Field Day

We applied for, and were excited that we received, the W7W special event call sign for the 2013 Winter Field Day. We set up camp at Vedauwoo in the Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming.

We used HF stick antennas for 15m, 20m, 40m and 2m. The 20m antenna was set up on “antenna rock” using a magmount on a sheet metal plate between two 25 ft. perpendicular lengths of wire fence. The fencing was draped over the rock as a counterpoise. The other antennas were mag-mounted to the roof of the Dodge Durango, which also held the solar panel.

It was cold and windy, but we had a great time operating from this unique site. Although we did not rack up that many QSOs, it was fun to work the other Winter Field Day outdoor adventurers and those who participated from home. Thanks everyone!

Dave Farrell, ACOQG
Kevin Farrell (ed.: I can't find his call sign)
Stuff from ARRL, QRZ, ETC.

US Postal Service Introduces Intergalactic Forever Stamp

In addition to an increase in postal rates in January 2013, the US Postal Service introduced a new Intergalactic Forever First-Class Mail stamp. Priced at $1.10 each and offered in a pane of 20, the new stamp offers a single price for any First-Class Mail Intergalactic 1-ounce letter to any DX-entity in the universe, as well as 2-ounce letters to Canada and other primitive nations on the home planet. The Post Office plans to contract Elon Musk's fleet of spacecraft to control delivery costs. The stamp is available online, at post offices in the US or by calling 1-800-782-6724.

The K7RA Solar Update

Steve Hawkins, NGØG, of Boone, Iowa, wrote: “On March 5 at 2213, I had just worked TX5K (Clipperton Island) on 24 MHz CW. After working TX5K, I stumbled across XT2TT (Burkina Faso) on the same band. Since by then it had been dark in Africa for hours, I was very skeptical and thinking pirate. But I adopted the standard ‘work now, worry later’ mode. I’ll admit it took tweaking everything built into my rig and listening so hard there may have been arcing inside my skull, but I could hear them. I called and worked them about the third call. At first I thought it must be a pirate, as with my wimpy vertical -- and the solar flux as low as it is -- 24 MHz should not be open to Africa from Iowa at 2213. I was astounded when not only did they answer me, but I quickly showed up in their online log. Talking later with a friend, I was reminded that near to the equator, the MUF can be surprisingly high up until midnight.”

Ken Miller, K6CTW, of Rancho Cucamonga, California wrote: “I was up late last night working on the computer and saw that the Clipperton DXpedition was operating on 80 meter CW near the bottom end of the band. Just to satisfy my curiosity, I turned on the 1960s station I’ve restored to see what I could hear. Their signal here in Southern California was 20 over S-9 or better, so I loaded up the rig and gave a call after figuring out where the operator was listening -- he was running Japanese stations. Imagine my amazement when he came back to my call! I am always impressed that the operators at these DXpeditions can sort out a weak signal like mine out of the unbelievable racket. Thanks to them, and also, what a surprise to see how good communications can be on the low bands late at night.”

Like Generalissimo Francisco Franco, Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić Still Does Not Hold Personal Call Sign

In a news item posted on the ARRL website on August 1, 2012 and published in October 2012 QST, it was reported that Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić held the call sign YU1YU. The ARRL has learned that although Prime Minister Dačić was a radio club member and passed the examination for an Amateur Radio operator license, and while YU1YU was suggested to him as a call sign for which he could apply, he has never applied for a personal call sign.

We extend thanks to our dedicated editorial staff for uncovering this information of vital importance to our members. Call sign fraud is a very serious violation of international law. This was a scandal in the making, and might otherwise have necessitated a trial of Dačić by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, similar to that held for former Serbian Prime Minister Slobodan Milosevic. Generalissimo Franco was not available for comment.
BARC Virtual Board Meeting
March 12, 2013

Via Conference Call:

Gary Carroll, WØQN, President
Tom Thompson, WØIVJ, VP
Mike Derr, W3DIF, Treasurer
John Reilly, NOTA, Secretary

Discussion of membership renewals: Seems a little behind where we were in previous years.

Meetings:

March: Rob Steinberg, KA8JBY, Space Weather for the Radio Amateur
May: Home Brew I
June: Field Day
July: Picnic
August: Parking Lot Swap Meet

Field Day: Allen, Bishop, KDØARK – Fearless Leader
VE Testing, 2nd Thursday, Louisville
Treasury: $5,800
98 members have renewed for 2013

BARC Treasurer’s Report
February 28, 2013

BARC Membership (as of February 28, 2013):
Renewed 2013 Members: 100
Unrenewed 2012 Mbrs.: 103
Total BARC Membership: 203

During February, BARC welcomed two new members:
Daniel Ong (ACØXI)
Jeff Bundy (KDØJCP)

Beginning balance (as of January 31, 2013): $5,793.07
Income: $167.83
Expenses: $110.00
Ending balance (as of February 28, 2013): $5,850.90
February income exceeded expenses by $57.83

73,
Mike W3DIF
Treasurer
mderr44995@aol.com

BARC New Member & Renewal Invitation

New, or Renewal -- $25/year -- includes all family member hams in the same household.
Name: __________________________
Date: __________________
Call Sign: _____________ License Class: _____________ ARRL Member: Y/N
Phone: __________________ Email: __________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Additional Family Members (circle here, if continued on back)
Name: __________________________
Relationship: __________________
Call Sign: _____________ License Class: _____________ ARRL Member: Y/N

Please consider making a donation to the Larry Amann (K5TQN) and Yardley Beers (WØJF) Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donation: __________________
Make check payable to “BARC” and mail to:
BARC / M. Derr
13815 Meadowbrook Drive
Broomfield, CO 80020 12/11/2012

OR If you are so-inclined, there are now PayPal buttons on the BARC web site:
http://www.qsl.net/w0dk/ (see "BARC Membership" at the bottom of the page)
http://www.qsl.net/w0dk/scholarship.html (for scholarship fund donations)

If you have information changes (call sign, license class, address, phone, e-mail, ARRL affiliation) please let us know by e-mail to barc70@arrl.net, or print, fill-in and mail the paper form.
Historic BARC's Bark

The venerable BARC's Bark newsletter dates back to early 1957, when Jack (KØHEH) was appointed Chairman of the Publications Committee and began publishing (he owned the only duplicating machine in the club). Some 40 years later, at the end of the 1990's BARC's Bark moved into the digital age, when it shifted from a printed format to computer generated pdf files.

Through the years, BARC's Bark has become the only enduring historical record of club members, activities, events and technical interests. While the club has many of the digital BARC's Barks, much of the previous 40 years of printed history has not followed the club into the present.

BARC would like to develop an archive of old newsletters, as a historic resource. Occasionally, members have generously shared a few past issues, but most BARC's Barks remain lost in the cobwebs of time.

If you happen to have historic BARC's Bark newsletters that you would be willing to pass along, we would appreciate hearing from you. We would be grateful if you would contact Mike (W3DIF) at barc70@arrl.net or call 303-404-2161 (day or evening). Many thanks.

FOR SALE

HP/Agilent 8568B Spectrum Analyzer

Thoroughly checked out, cleaned and repaired and is now in excellent condition. Fans replaced with new, quieter models. Input attenuator repaired with Agilent factory parts. CRT is sharp and bright. Computer interface works great with free EZGPIB software and GPIB/USB or GPIB/Ethernet converter. Makes excellent quality plots on your computer in seconds. This is an oldie but goodie: better dynamic range than many other HP/Agilent models, including much more expensive newer models. 100 Hz to 1.5 GHz. Includes all cables. Guaranteed. $1,000 to a BARC ham home. Try it before you buy. Contact Jim Schatzman ACØXU. 303-873-9969 or James.Schatzman@ac0xu.com.

LDG YT-450 auto tuner

in mint condition. Rarely used. This is for Yaesu FT-450. Includes manual, all cables, and original box and packaging $200 plus shipping. Great value. Contact David Reeder WA0URJ at WA0URJ@yahoo.com or 903-583-1023

Textronix 2465 300 MHz Oscilloscopes

Refurbished and calibrated. Guaranteed for 1 yr. to hams for amateur use, including free re-calibrations at 6 mos and 1 yr. Includes 4 probes. $400 complete. Contact Jim (ACØXU) at 303-873-9969 or James.Schatzman@ac0xu.com.

The Last Picture Show:

Discovery Learning Center and parking for monthly meeting Easy-Peezy!!