



Visit the club website at <http://www.qsl.net/wa5mc>

AADXA NEWSLETTER April 2003

We are already here in the second quarter of 2003, My how time flies... Speakin of time flying, Someone gave me a copy of the November 1982 issue of QST and was told to read the editorial. In it; David Sumner K1ZZ, presented an editorial called "No time for No-code" in which the rallying cries that Morse code was not becoming obsolete and also as I quote "The more we talk to people around the country, the clearer it becomes that a no-code amateur license is an idea whose time has not come." " At the same time, it is equally clear that we must do more to swell our ranks with the bright young people whose attention is increasingly diverted into computers"

The irony of this was less than 10 years later, the no-code technician license became a reality and now this license accounts for 1/3 of the currently licensed amateurs! We also dropped code requirements to 5wpm in 2000 and now a revolution is coming with computers and the internet coming into ham radio ever increasingly (at the same fever and debateable points as the code issue, ssb vs. cw, and those before it) ..It seems no one can truly predict the thoughts of amateurs as a large.

With cable, DSL, and T1 lines in our residential areas now, the internet revolution has taken numerous potential hams from us. The hams on a whole however are fighting back. With 9-11 and homeland security still an issue, Ham radio is being brought back to the forefront. Even though our speeds are generally slower than even 28.8 dial-up, we are pushing worldwide digital communications to the extremes. We are linking repeaters and hams via the internet everyday. We are even pushing the code in a different way now with the digital modes and high-speed code (As in 100+wpm for EME contacts) starting to dot the landscape... But the biggest irony of all... Mr. Sumner was right to a point... Now that people are being burnt out on computers at work and at home (Sorta of like millions of webpages and

nothing new on) The computer "nerds" are just now discovering ham radio for our electronics,community service and our version of a computer revolution...Go Figure
73 Mike KC5OKP

To many of us amateur or "HAM" radio is a hobby, much like gardening, fishing, stamp collecting are to other people. How many of us realize the role that amateur radio has played in our lives without us never knowing it? Some will say " Yes, I remember the RACES drills or Yes, I'm a MARS member. Some of us may have actually used some of these nets or been a part of an information exchange in one. The fact is amateur radio goes much deeper than you realize. Did you know that Collins, Hallicrafter, RCA, Fransworth and others manufactured receivers and transmitters during and for use in World War II? Many of theses radios while not for use in the amateur bands, were used by coast watchers in Japan and the Philippines, not to mention the very large number found in aircraft, military vehicles and portable "field" radios carried by our troops.

Radios such as the Wireless Set # 19, The Hammarlund Super Pro 210 LX also known to some as the BC-779-B, the signal corps series which consisted of the BC - 224D, BC - 312M, BC - 348Q and many others are all very highly prized collectors items today, but the one radio that did more for the moral of our troops and POWs will not be found in some WW II data base,nor will an original one be found in someone's collection. These radios though simple to build, have become extinct with new technology. Yet there are those among us who served our country in WW II that will remember and may have even constructed one.

The receiver that I am referring to is the Fox Hole radio. Built by our troops in foxholes out of materials that were traded for or salvaged from junk. These receivers required nothing more than a few simple items, a double edge razor blade, a safety pin or lead pencil, a small roll of vanished wire, usually found in the headphones of a tank commander and a small amount of patience. While I could explain the concept and construction, a very good web site has been constructed and a link included here..<http://www.blackmarket-press.com/info/electronics/foxhole.htm>. If you feel adventurous, or want to re-live a lost time I suggest you try to build one of these, I have yet to get mine to work correctly!

73 Mark KD5NOY

Notes From The President

Dear Members and Friends,

Here we are again with April just upon us and as usual, many things on the horizon. Having all the ruckus behind us from recent and not so recent events, now it's time to get back to the business of having some fun!

With that said, our annual Field Day activities are fast approaching. We've got a few new additions to our 'Antenna Family' in hopes to solve our annual antenna problem. Also, a new operating class in which we qualify for. However, the most important element is all of you. I hope to see everyone at Field Day this year because we're going to kick butt and take names.....well at least it helps to be positive.

Recently, we've been informed of a minor little set back in our island activation project but I also understand that we have a plan in the works for that as well. I still feel this is an exciting project and hope everyone can lend a hand.

Not much more to say but just hope to see everyone at the meetings and such and hope everyone takes care. Also, a month and a half and counting...

Guy W5ZIM

Important Notice To All Amateurs

By Mark KD5NOY

Now that Iraq is in the middle of a conflict, amateurs may wonder if the FCC will curtail the use of "HAM" radio for the duration of the conflict? Section 214.4(b) (4) of title 47 of the code of Federal regulations mandated the closing of all Amateur Radio stations except Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations in the event that the president proclaimed a war or national emergency.

Prior to the Gulf War, this mandate was resended. The last time amateur radio was shut down was during World War II although the FCC continued to give exams. While the amateur radio service will not automatically be shut down, licensees must continue to observe any directives to FCC may issue in the interests of national security and of making spectrum available for government use.

The FCC will work in coordination with the national Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to issue " appropriate rules, regulations, orders and instructions" for use of the spectrum "as may be necessary to ensure the effective use of those portions of the radio spectrum shared by government and non-government users."

Although it is doubtful that amateurs will be required to abandon their hobby, I should remind all operators that we are still required to comply with ALL FCC regulations and rulings as set forth in times of war or national emergencies.

Please remember we share a lot of space with the military on bands above 420 Mhz. as well as the military activating itself in the recent past on 6 meters and other bands during military exercises/activations. So if you are a frequent user of these bands please take extra notice of this warning.

To read more on this there are several articles listed on E-Ham.com and the ARRL web site as well as their March 14th ARRL Letter, I urge you to read these and the readers comments.

Meeting Moments

We are still trying to have a event separate from Field Day this year with the island activation talked about in the October 2002 issue of this newsletter (a copy of which can be found on our website at the address listed above). At the February and March meetings, we discussed the island activation and was told our first choice of Avoca Island was basically off limits unless we could secure permission from a land holder on the island. Talk has begun of using other islands in South Louisiana, including operations from Morgan City (Officially Morgan City and Amelia are on an island called Tiger Island), One of the coastal marsh islands, Avery Island, or as a last resort, Grand Isle. We will inform everyone as this approaches.

Due Deadline Fast Approaching

The membership dues deadline for AADXA is here and is officially due on April 1st. Those who haven't paid since 2001 will be dropped! We are still currently at \$12/year. We have two ways now of paying dues. One is at the meeting and the other is via our P.O. Box by check or Money Order made out to Atchafalaya Amateur DX Association Inc. We will include a membership application with this newsletter to help in rejoining the club.

Field Day

The club will hold it's annual Field Day contest on June 28-29th . We are currently looking for radios, towers, antennas, computers, feedline, and other supplies for the club event. We will send out reminders and such as Field day does approach.

We also plan on having T-shirts made once again this year, but with the logo issue still pressing, the club must take a wait and see approach to ordering and pricing.

The Club Logo

The club officially surrendered the club logo used for almost 5 years back to Joel KC5RFO on January 31 as per his request as this has become the best thing for the club to do that push the issue further and possibly split the club as we were in danger of doing last year.

We are currently looking for a new club logo and are looking into different member and non-member's renderings for a new logo. When we have a few to pass on, Current members (2002 and 2003) will receive a email or letter with the choices and are asked to return your vote to the proper people at that time.

If you have an idea you would like to share with the club, please feel free to send it to the club at our email address of wa5mc@qsl.net or via our regular address at the bottom of this newsletter.

We are hopeful to have a new logo in place for May 2003 so we can have Field Day 2003 t-shirts again

VE Testing

AADXA tests every regularly club meeting night at 6:30 pm at the meeting site. This year we will once again hold testing on the Saturday night of Field Day, June 28 at 6:30 pm at the Field day site.

Please note that the test fees are scheduled to go up to \$12 in 2003 for all Amateur VE testing as per notifications found on the web.

The following are the people we would like to congratulate on their passings of the amateur radio test:

December 2002

- A correction for December's testee. who we would like to congratulate is Daniel Brown KD5UTL of Houma who passed his no-code.

February 2003

- Walter "Robby" Burnett II KD5VHH of Pierre Part passed his no-code

March 2003

- Sean M. Stilts KD5VRR of Thibodaux passed his no-code

Repeaters

Huey N5DVI reported to the newsletter earlier this year that a duplexer was built by Paul KM5GD allowing the 6 meter repeater to operate off of one antenna. Huey said he will hopefully set it up at his work and have it running for a testing hopefully soon.

We are finally able to report the status of the 146.745- repeater. The problem was found to be on the tower in the antenna....which had very high SWR, cause it was actually non-existent! That's right folks, Somebody 5 finger discounted the repeater antenna.... A new one is now on the tower and the .745 is back to it's former glory with great reports from Baldwin to Houma. The 146.910-, 444.625+, and 147,120+ are working properly with the 147.120 Franklin repeater reportedly suffering from bad reception and Transmit due to a case of Leaning Tower..The tower at the Franklin courthouse was said to have bent during the last hurricane.

The Future Of Ham Radio?

This following is courtesy of the ARRL letter dated March 14,2003 Vol.22 number 11.

Amateur high-speed Internet link used during shuttle debris recovery: Amateurs involved in the Texas search for debris from the shuttle Columbia used a 802.11b high-speed Internet link, using equipment provided by Michael Willett, KD5MFM. Others involved in the system installation were Robert Judy, KD5FEE; James McLaughlin, KD5POY; and Tim Lewallen, KD5ING.

The link utilized a mix of directional antennas to provide a robust connection through the intense radio traffic in the area. The 2.4-GHz radio cards were set to produce 100 mW of power and utilize direct sequence spread spectrum encoding. A 24-inch parabolic dish was installed on one end of the link. On the other end, an 11-element shrouded Cushcraft antenna was mounted on a temporary mast. Net control utilized the link to look up call signs and for quick e-mail communication, weather-radar monitoring and weather tracking. "This application and installation of the 802.11b link was one of many examples demonstrating the extensive capabilities of volunteer ham operators, government authorities and local businesses teaming together to help during a crisis event," said Doug Kilgore, KD5OUG. Pictures of the link as well as other operations are available on the Richardson Wireless Klub, K5RWK, Web site <<http://www.k5rwk.org/Shuttle/index.html>>.

As a follow up, The ARRL has a new website dealing with high speed internet using the Amateur Bands. With a working name of "Hinternet" check it out at <<http://www.arrl.org/hsmm>>.

Meeting Dates

2003's calendar of club meetings:

April 4th	July 11th (moved)	October 3rd
May 2nd	August 1st	November 7th
June 6th	September 5th	December 5th

We will hold testing on these nights also but meetings start at 7pm. The July meeting was moved due to the First Friday being Independence Day.

Where To Write

If you would like to reply to anything in this newsletter or submit an article for printing, send email to either the editor directly at kc5okp@hotmail.com our co-editor at kd5noy@qsl.net or by snail mail to:

AADXA Newsletter

P.O.Box 337

Amelia, Louisiana 70340-0337

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

73 de aadxa -wa5mc newsletter k...ar...sk

Mike Robichaux KC5OKP Mark Robinson KD5NOY