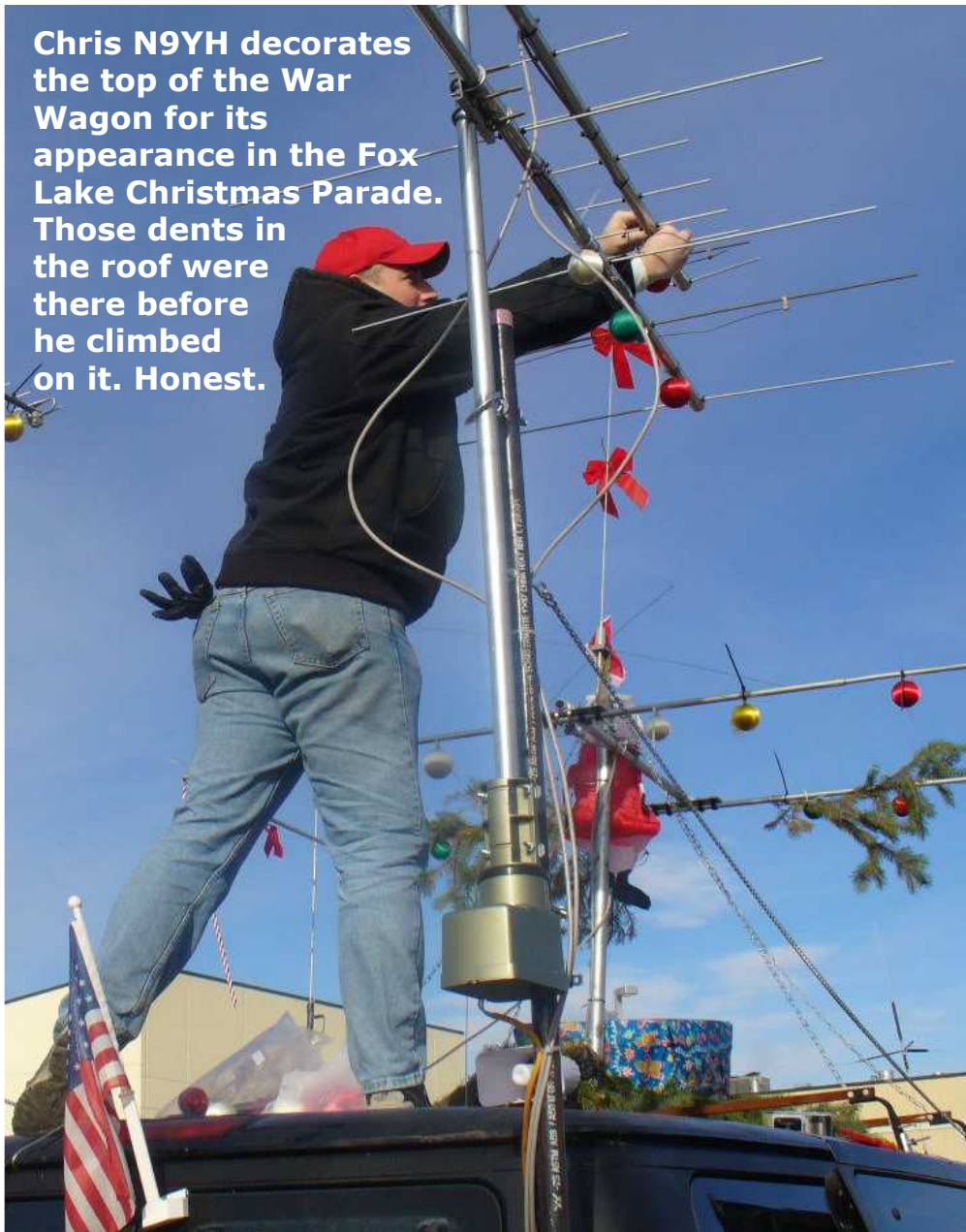


Lake County Holiday Radio Journal

December 2008

Chris N9YH decorates the top of the War Wagon for its appearance in the Fox Lake Christmas Parade. Those dents in the roof were there before he climbed on it. Honest.



In This Issue

WeLCARS Holiday Spectacular

November Sweeps WeLCARS Style!

Gift Ideas for our Sophisticated Readers

The Official
Newsletter Of

WeLCARS



W9WLC

www.welcars.org

Stoned Monkey VIII

Amateur Radio Club



N9UHF

www.stonedmonkey.org



KL4US

North Pole ARC

WelCARS Officers

President

Joe - N9IFG
joeserocki@gmail.com

Vice-President

Keith - N9QDS
n9qds@arrl.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Chris - N9YH
chris@n9yh.com

VE Testing

Max - N9MYT
n9myt@comcast.net

Stoned Monkey Officers

President

Tom - K9TMS
k9tms@mindspring.com

Vice-President

Wendell - N9REP
wjsmith@ameritech.net

Secretary

Dan - K9BTW
drbero@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Penny - K9PLS
k9pls@mindspring.com

LCHRJ Editorial Staff

Editors

Tom - K9TMS
Chris - N9YH

Contributors

Joe - N9IFG
Christopher - KC9MKL

Upcoming Events

WelCARS Meetings and Events

No December VE Session

VE Sessions resume in January

Social Meeting

Wednesday Dec 17 - 6:30PM
R Corner Bistro
1 Nippersink Blvd., Fox Lake

VE Session

Friday January 9 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center
23 South St., Fox Lake

Project Meeting

Presentation: Microwave
Equipment by AA9IL
Friday January 23 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center
23 South St., Fox Lake

Other Events

McHenry Co RACES Meeting

December 23 - 7PM
McHenry County EOC

MCWA Meeting

January 6 - 7:30PM
Nunda Township Hall

Hamfests

37th Midwinter Swapfest

January 3 - Waukesha, WI
www.warac.com

WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest

January 25 - Wheaton, IL
www.w9ccu.org

WelCARS TechFest IV: Son of TechFest

February 21 - Fox Lake, IL
www.welcars.org

Contest Calendar

North Amer. Meteor Scatter

Dec 10 6PM - Dec 15 1AM
50-432 MHz Digital
www.sportscliche.com/wb2fko

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Dec 12 6PM - Dec 14 6PM
28 MHz Phone, CW
www.arrl.org/contests

PSK Death Match

Dec 12 6PM - Dec 14 6PM
3.5-50 MHz PSK
www.mdxa1.org

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party

Dec 19 6PM - Jan 4 6PM
1.8-144 MHz Phone, CW
arlhs.com

RAC Winter Contest

Dec 26 6PM - Dec 27 6PM
1.8-144 MHz Phone, CW
www.rac.ca

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Jan 3 10AM - Jan 4 6PM
3.5-28 MHz Digital
www.arrl.org/contests

January VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 17 11AM - Jan 18 10PM
50+ MHz Phone, CW, Digital
www.arrl.org/contests

MRAC FM Contest

Feb 8 1-330 PM
50-432 MHz FM Phone
www.w9rh.org

Strange But True File: Ohio Hams Discover, Fix "Ditters" on 40 M

From the ARRL

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina. According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits,'" Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."

Once the general location had been pinpointed, Skolaut called on ARRL Ohio Section Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O for assistance. Swain immediately alerted his team of Official Observers (OO) to check out the situation. "Neither I nor the OOs could hear the transmitter," Swain said in his report. "In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. At just about the same time, I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] - - just above the noise level -- for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Swain also placed a call to Assistant Section Manager Bill Carpenter, AA8EY. "Bill lives within the target area. I briefed him on the situation and he went right to his station," Swain said. "Bill checked the frequency and told me he was hearing [the 'dits'] at about S9. He said he thought he might know who it could be and that would make some calls."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7."

Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

"I drove around the area checking the signal and noted that it was about S9 and climbing," Swain said. He and Carpenter met up and continued the search together. About 15 minutes later -- with Swain driving and Carpenter giving directions -- "we noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street."

Swain said he then injected 30 dB of attenuation and continued to drive in the same direction: "The signal was now reading 20 dB over S9 with the attenuator still on. We turned down the next street and the signal rose another 20 dB. I pulled into a parking lot and made a 360-degree turn as to determine the signal's direction. The turn indicated that we should proceed to a newly constructed housing area adjacent to the parking lot."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to the housing development and found that signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna. We went next door and spoke to the neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do."

With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter." [No word on if the cat's name was actually "Ditters." And no, we're not making this up. - Ed.]

Ask Perry: Why is the ARRL in Connecticut?

from the ARRL

Every once in a while, ARRL Archivist Perry Williams, W1UED - a rich source of information about the early days of the League - runs across a question that really needs an answer. Earlier this month, someone posed this question to Perry: Why was Connecticut chosen as the site for ARRL?

"To answer that question," Perry explained, "consider a parable: Why did the tree choose to grow in this forest? Because that is where the seed fell on fertile ground. [Now consider, "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" - Ed.] The seed that became ARRL fell on Hartford, Connecticut in 1914. When it sprouted, it was cultivated initially by two men: Hiram Percy Maxim, 1WH (he became W1AW after World War I), and Clarence D. Tuska, 1WD, who was still in his teens when the League began.

"Maxim was an inventor in a family of inventors, an industrialist. He was founder of the Maxim Silencer Company, making devices to keep firearms and engines quiet, as well as a principal in a company involved first in making bicycles and then autos. He was also a writer with an early interest in motion pictures (he was also founder of the Amateur

Cinematographic League) and on and on. Most of these activities were in or near Hartford, where he lived with his family.

"Tuska manned the hoe and trowel around the ARRL seedling. Soon after the ARRL's founding, Maxim settled in as President, an office he held until his death in 1936. In those early days, Tuska served as Secretary. Together, Maxim and Tuska founded the magazine QST as a private venture in 1915 out of their own pockets; Tuska was its Editor until the United States got into WWI and amateurs were taken off the air. Tuska closed down the 'offices' of ARRL and QST - they were in his mother's kitchen [Any resemblance to the spacious mid-town offices of the Journal is purely coincidental. - Ed.] - and joined the Army." To find out more, see "Two Hundred Meters and Down," by Clinton B DeSoto, W1CBD (SK).

Williams continued: "By the time the Tree had grown to the point to merit relocation elsewhere (this issue has been examined many times by the ARRL's Board), transplanting it never came out as feasible: The Hartford-area roots were too deep."

New Basic Antenna Book Available from ARRL

For something that is often so simple to make, an antenna is remarkably difficult for many people to understand. The antenna is one of your shack's most important elements and can make your radio system a success. Now available from ARRL, "Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design" (\$29.95 from www.arrl.org) is a comprehensive introduction to antennas -- basic concepts, practical designs and details of easy-to-build antennas. You'll learn how to make antennas that really work. This book will provide a foundation in antenna theory and design necessary for anyone undertaking more advanced topics and projects such as those presented in "The ARRL Antenna Book."

Written by ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, this new book includes an introduction to antennas, as well as sections on dipole antennas, antenna impedance, transmission lines, practical two element arrays, wideband and multiband antennas, monopole antennas, reflector antennas, Yagis for HF and VHF loop antennas, antennas for microwave applications, vehicle antennas, antenna measurements and an introduction to antenna modeling

2nd Annual WeLCARS Holiday Spectacular

Chris Burke - N9YH

WeLCARS Secretary/Treasurer

WeLCARS held its Second Annual Holiday Spectacular, "Awards" Ceremony, and Junta Coup on November 19 at R Corner Bistro in Fox Lake. First, and most important, the club members really enjoyed the food; enough to have the club vote to have the monthly social meeting at R Corner Bistro instead of Dino's Den during the colder months. The fact that the men's room walls are covered in diamond plate probably didn't hurt.

This year's Junta Coup (aka "elections") was as uneventful as last year. With the sound of much rejoicing befit a Monty Python movie the club elected the same board as last year. In truth, we received only one nomination for, "Same board as last year." Club President Joe Serocki N9IFG opined, "Either we're doing a really good job, or nobody cares." Since I'm a tad more optimistic than Joe and I assume you DO care, here are the results of this year's elections:

President: Joe Serocki N9IFG

Vice-President: Keith Schreiter N9QDS

Secretary: Chris Burke N9YH

Treasurer: Chris Burke N9YH

Contest Coordinator: Tom Staley K9TMS

Executive Chef: Georgette Serocki KA9VPG

(okay, I made that one up)

On to the "Awards" ceremony... First, the traditional WeLCARS and Stoned Monkey awards for various "achievements" throughout the year:

The "David Copperfield Magic Trick Award" went to Jason "Evil Joe" KC9LWF for disappearing from Field Day to the Sweeps. Fittingly, Jason had disappeared again and wasn't there to receive his award.

The "Boy Scout Preparedness Award" went to Tom K9TMS for actually bringing a bottle of Bean-O to the November Sweeps outing.

The "Tim Allen 'More Power' Award" went to Jonathan for observing that if we had more power it would be easier to work all 80 ARRL sections during the Sweeps.

The "Corporal Max Klinger Wheeler Dealer Award" went to Joe N9IFG for somehow conning various people out of 80 radios for the club during the course of the year.

The "Mother Teresa Patience of a Saint Award" went to Mark KC9KCW for being the only person to hang in with the Never-Ending Antenna Project and actually get a working set of antennas.

The "eBay Shopoholics Anonymous Off the Wagon Award" went to Jay KC9NJZ for the collection of 800 and 900 MHz radios and amplifiers he amassed off of eBay that he had little use for and little idea of what they actually were.

The "Earl Scheib 'Don't Worry - That'll Buff Right Out' Award" jointly went to Terry K9HA and Joe N9IFG for the David vs. Goliath confrontation between Joe's canopy and Terry's car during Field Day.

The "George Washington Carver Peanut Use Award" went to Max N9MYX for bringing more peanuts than a herd of elephants could eat to test sessions.

The "Dan Akroyd Johnny Human Torch Award" went to Marlene N9VUD for the chili she made for the November Sweeps. Runner up was K9TMS for the ham and bean soup. Marlene won a year supply of Deep Woods Off courtesy of Max N9MYX.

The "Macaulay Culkin Home Alone Award" went to Carl N9KTL. Carl had promised to come out at about 4AM on Sunday morning of Field Day. To be honest, I'm not really sure if

he ever made it out or not since, like in the movie, we had already left.

The "Understatement of the Year Award" went to Keith N9QDS for his catch phrase, "Yeah, I've got a few radios."

The "Sally Struthers Feed the World Award" went to Georgette KA9VPG for her relentless struggle to keep us fed with bratwurst.

The "Nanny McPhee Ham Radio Nanny of the Year Award" went to Becky for her relentless struggle to keep the kids out of our hair.

The "Willy Loman Ham Radio Promoter of the Year Award" went to Dan K9BTW for trying to sell ham radio to every man, woman, and child from his gun club and hunting buddies to his mom and sister, who he brought to the Second Week of Ham Camp.

Of course, not all of the awards were ridiculous. Our Contest Commandant Tom K9TMS also doled out some real awards. First were the awards for the Stoned Monkeys' First Place Central Division effort in September of 2007. The mosquitos spurred us on to make more contacts. Next were the awards from the Second Week of Ham Camp. Joe KC9LFP walked away with most of them: most points, most QSOs, most sections, and most islands contacted. The only award that Joe didn't win (and it was a close one!) was snagged by my son Jonathan who got the farthest contact award, basically for listening to static on 20 meters long enough to hear Hawaii to come in.

The last award is probably them most meaningful, and like most things in this group completely concocted at the last minute. Tom had the great idea of creating the WeLCARS/Stoned Monkey Ham Radio Engineer of the Year Award doled out to any amateur that comes up with something that makes our contesting and portable events easier. Wendell N9REP was an easy choice for the invention of the "Hula Tower." Note that Wendell did NOT earn "Dancer of the Year" for

doing his Chubby Checker impression while on the tower, nor for his brief stint in Swan Lake. [Yikes! - Ed.]

We conducted a little bit of club business at the meeting. First we talked about the upcoming January VHF Sweepstakes. Joe KC9LFP was volunteered to lead an intrepid group of hams at the WWHQ while a few others went out on roves and sing along to K9TMS's collection of CW McCall 8-tracks. For next year, we talked about increasing our public service activity and making the February classes more adult oriented. TechFest IV: Son of TechFest is scheduled for February 21. We plan to have more formal presentations and such on the first meeting of the month. Some of the upcoming topics include HF digital voice and microwave transverter projects.

In short, I think we can sum up both the party and the last year with, "And a good time was had by all." Here's to more craziness in 2009!

New Uniden Scanners in 2009

Uniden recently announced the release of two new scanners due to be out the first quarter of 2009. The BC346XT will replace the BC246T as their flagship analog trunking model and the BCD396XT represents an incremental improvement over their current BCD396T digital scanner. Both scanners will feature location-based scanning using a GPS, a feature that until now was present only on Uniden's base/mobile units. Pricing has yet to be announced, but expect an asking price of nearly \$500 for the BCD396XT. A little pricey, but you'll need the digital capabilities to monitor the state's Starcom21 system or the new APCO25 digital system in the works for McHenry county.



Fox Lake Christmas Parade

Chris Burke - N9YH

For the second year WeLCARS made it out to the Fox Lake Christmas Parade. The biggest hit among the townsfolk, of course, was the War Wagon decked out in all its holiday glory.

Several WeLCARS members were on hand to help get the War Wagon to its holiday best: Brandon KC9AER, Joe KC9LFP, Dan K9BTW, Georgette KA9VPG, Joe N9IFG, and your humble servant, not to mention a cast of a few kids running around all looking forward to meeting Santa after the parade was done. Dan also drove his car in the parade outfitted with a few verticals and the loops he used during the Fall Sprints. Craziest, of course, was Joe driving the golf cart he "bought for the batteries" along the parade route complete with a dual band vertical mounted on the back. That vertical would become a casualty of the day, however, when it hit many trees as Joe drove the golf cart along the sidewalks of Fox Lake to get the golf cart back to the trailer after the parade.

In all, our "operation" at the parade was a success, though Joe was more than a little disappointed when the yellow flashy light I brought for the van took out the fuse on the inverter so we weren't able to blast music at the spectators this year.

This is just one of those things where a picture is worth at least a thousand words. So, without further ado...



November Sweeps, WeLCARS Style!

Tom Staley - K9TMS
WeLCARS Contest Commandant

After being blown off the site in June at Field Day and then almost drowned by Hurricane Ike during the VHF Contest in September, everyone was wondering if the Ether Gods had it in for us. However, armed with a large pot of chili as well as pot of bean and ham soup we were able to create our own ether and survive [Barely! That ether was THICK! - Ed.].

After a bit of preparation we all pulled together and were able to gather together a small fun-filled gathering for the ARRL November Sweeps, phone edition of course.

The group tried to keep things on the simple side. This was most likely the right thing to do as mother nature tried her best to convince us once more that contesting wasn't the wisest of things to be doing on November 15th. With temperatures in the low 30's and snow flurries in the air we managed to get several antenna systems in the air high enough to be heard.

Our Antenna Farm though small used examples of a lot of different antennas both of the fixed and mobile variety. With antenna wires strung from the air raid siren pole it is amazing we didn't wake up all of Fox Lake early Sunday morning with a rare 40 meter contact. Of course with our future generation of cops in training taking up residence in the basement of WWWHQ the siren would have been a real welcome sound at about O-Dark-Thirty after twenty some odd hours of exercise and plastic BB shooting.

We were finally able to try the Hula-2 tower setup. I am happy to say that it remained

upright in 30 mile per hour winds and kept the 20 meter Ham Stick beam at 26 feet all weekend. The 20 meter beam did suffer a shorted balun on Sunday morning. Being the beam was on the Hula tower lowering the beam and correcting the problem and re-raising the beam took only 60 minutes. Had we been using a conventional tower this time would have been a bit longer.

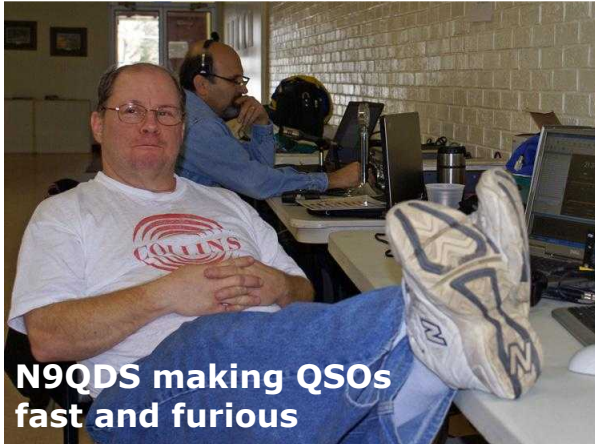
Keith N9QDS brought out his multi-band dipole and was able to get it up in short order on Saturday night in the dark between his trailer with a push up mast and his truck which was holding down the Penninger Tipper. His performance on 80 and 40 was fairly good with this setup. Keith was instrumental in helping a lot of us troubleshoot problems from K9BTW's intermittent IC7000 display issue, which was fixed with a pencil eraser, to my 20 meter beam with a shorted balun that he helped isolate and fix. Never feed a balun chili!

In the mobile antenna Department K9BTW managed to work a number of nice contacts on a very small Diamond antenna. Chris KC9MKL was also able to several contacts on



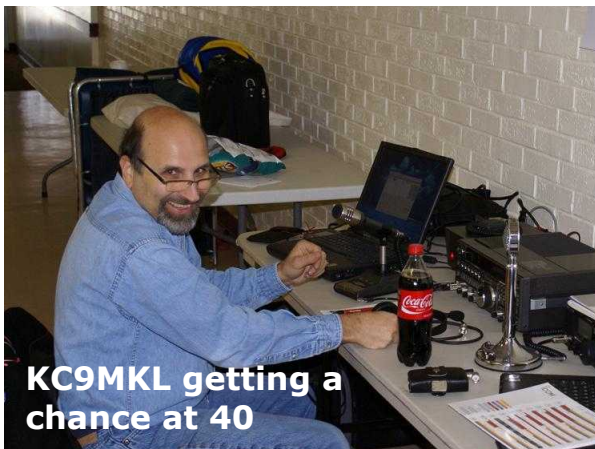
his mobile array. This just goes to show that if you try hard you can make HF contacts on not much of an antenna.

Joe KC9LFP armed with his Buddi-Pole and a 40 meter Ham Stick dipole was able to make the most QSO's out of all participants.



Chris N9YH's son Jonathan managed to snag the longest contact bragging rights with a QSO all the way to Kauai, Hawaii a distance of 4260 miles. Jonathan hasn't got his license yet, but I bet he will be studying so that he can be using his Dad's radio soon.

We were all fed good by Marlene's chili as well as Georgette and Joe's efforts in the Brat and Pizza department. Thanks for insuring none of us went hungry as a well fed ham always makes more QSOs!



Hopefully a good time was had by all. It sure was nice having a nice warm, DRY place to come in and make radio contacts in.

Hopefully we can repeat this again in 2009 and further improve our operating skills. Well done to all participants.



Official Unofficial Scores

K9BTW
QSO's – 46
Points – 92
Mults – 27
Total – 2484
1 island

KC9LFP
QSO's – 74
Points – 148
Mults – 43
Total – 6364
3 islands 2-VI, 1-PAC

N9QDS
QSO's – 34
Points – 68
Mults – 25
Total – 1700
2 islands

N9UHF
Ops: K9TMS, N9KTL,
KC9LWF, N9YH + Jonathan
QSO's – 83
Points – 166
Mults – 42
Total – 6972
2 islands

W9WLC
Ops: N9IFG, N9YH,
N9KTL, KB9BNY
QSO's – 55
Points – 110
Mults – 29
Total – 3190
0 Islands

Club Total 20708

Cold Months Amplifier Projects

Tom Staley - K9TMS
WeLCARS Contest Commandant

Well the cold months are again here. So it's time to put another pizza in the oven and a bag of popcorn in the microwave and start thinking about how we will improve our stations for that time when the temperature again turns water to liquid. [The "ether" from the ham and bean soup still has me a little fuzzy... - Ed.]

Last year we all got together and started working on a series of antennas for 432 and 2 meters. This year I am planning on a couple of amplifier projects and figured it would be a good opportunity for the rest of the group to possibly get some experience in what goes into creating an amplifier from a surplus treasure.

I have had on my to do list for some time a 150 watt 900Mhz amplifier. This summer Mike AA9IL was able to supply me with a 26 volt power supply that is able to run the amp. This will become the first of two amplifier projects. This project will require work in setting up the in and out RF connections, the power connections and bias. This should be a fairly easy project to complete. There maybe one or two others of these floating around the club as well, I encourage you all to join in the fun and

see if we can't get these all working.

The next project is supposed to arrive with in the next day or so. This is an AM-6155 FAA Amplifier that will allow my 222 Mhz weak signal station to reach the 400 watt mark. This project will require a bit more work and planning but is well documented on the web. Many Big Gun VHF stations run these amplifiers on 2, 222 and 432. Being I already have 400 watts on 2, this one will see duty on 222. This amplifier is a tube type amp that we will have to use care with as there are voltages in excess of 1000 volts in the chassis. So come and learn but we need to be careful. My understanding is that AA9IL has a 2 meter version of this amp, I am trying to entice him into bringing his on over and joining the fun.

With all this talk of building amplifiers I would also like to extend an invitation to Terry K9HA to bring over the long awaited 6 meter amplifier and see if there isn't a way that all of us couldn't help him out doing a bit of construction on it as well.

I will be looking to start these projects in the late January time frame and hope to finish in time to be able to disturb the June Ionosphere. If you do the math the addition of 400 watts will take our 222 Mhz signal up roughly 7 to 8 db. 150 watts on 900 Mhz will take that signal up over 10db. This can only help!



Christmas Gift Ideas for our Sophisticated Readers

Chris Burke - N9YH

Pneumatic Antenna Launcher



"You can't be serious!" you say? Oh, yes, we can! These antenna launching bazookas use compressed air or CO₂ to launch a tennis ball with a line over the trees in your yard, making easy work of erecting wire antennas. Don't worry if Santa says, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid!" The manufacturer's website insists that it's safer to use a tennis ball than to launch an arrow, weighted sinker, wrench, or other heavy object up over the trees. But we know the real reasons you'll buy one: 1) because you've always dreamed of having a bazooka and 2) to be the envy of

everyone at Field Day. Kits range in price from \$97 for a basic kit (you supply the PVC) to \$337 for a fully assembled monster. <http://www.antennalaunchers.com>



Acer Aspire One Netbook

"There's something to be said for a computer that can fit in your coat pocket," K9TMS said as we sidled up to the counter at Chez Mac last Friday. These miniature notebook computers, or "netbooks" in geek parlance, are surprisingly capable. No, you can't play the latest 3D shooter on them, but you can easily browse the Internet, use Microsoft Office, or Ham Radio Deluxe. The Acer Aspire One is one of the least expensive netbooks in a field that also includes the Asus Eee PC and the MSI Wind. The version favored by our intrepid group of Field Reporters features a 160GB hard drive, Microsoft Windows XP Home, built-in Wi-Fi, and an asking price at Wal-Mart of only \$348. (Though Wal-Mart ad says 120GB hard drive both N9QDS and K9TMS advise their models came with 160GB drives.) Don't bother with the SSD hard drive - their capacity is very limited at 8GB and there isn't a speed advantage with today's models. The Acer Aspire One is one of the least expensive netbooks on the market today, but also one of the best - it was the favorite in a recent comparison by Maximum PC magazine.



Twisted Christmas by Twisted Sister

If you remember telling Neidermayer, "I wanna rock!" in the 80s you'll get a good laugh out of this album of Christmas tunes by Dee Snyder and company. (If you don't, search for "Twisted Sister" on YouTube right now and play the first video that comes up. They don't make stuff like this anymore!)

Radio Wonderland

Lyrics by N9YH (Sung to Winter Wonderland as done by Johnny Mathis)

CQs ring, are you listenin'?
On the air, DX transmittin'!
Propogation is right,
We're happy tonight,
Tuning in a radio wonderland.

DX knows no season, DX knows no clime
The bands can blossom any old time
Oh, look, they're open!
We're tunin' and hopin' together,
Together, together, together!

Gone away is the tube rig,
Here to stay is the new rig,
The QRM's gone,
As we tune along,
Tuning in a radio wonderland.

CQs ring, are you listenin'?
On the air, DX transmittin'!
Propogation is right,
We're happy tonight,
Tuning in a radio wonderland.

In the meadow we'll put up a dipole,
Then we'll hope that we can work DX
We'll say, "How's my signal?"
They'll say, "59!"
And that's another new one in the log.

Gone away is the tube rig,
Here to stay is the new rig,
The QRM's gone,
As we tune along,
Tuning in a radio wonderland.

Later on, we'll conspire,
As we dream by the fire,
To face unafraid,
The face the wife makes,
When we bring those hamfest treasures home.

In the shack we'll set up our new amp,
And get on the HF bands LOUD,
We'll have lots of fun with our new amp,
Until our neighbors make us turn it down.

Out on the air the noise is so quiet,
All kinds of signals come in through the night,
My heart is thrillin',
Because I'll be making some QSOs!

Contestin', ain't it thrillin'?
All those mults - we'll make a killin'!
As we frolic and play in our nerdy way,
Tuning in a radio wonderland.

