

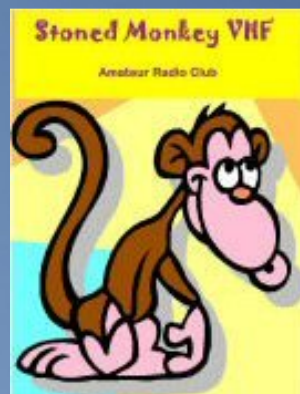
Lake County Ham Radio Journal

November 2009

www.hamradiojournal.com

The 6-meter array looming over the N9UHF September contest effort

The Official
Newsletter Of



N9UHF

www.stonedmonkey.org



W9WLC

www.welcars.org

In This Issue

September 2009 VHF Contest

Da Second Week of Nerd Camp
(aka November Sweeps Plans)

Upcoming Events

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WeLCARS Meetings and Events

VE Session

Friday November 13 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center

Meeting

Friday November 20 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center

ARRL November Sweeps

Da Second Week of Nerd Camp
November 21 - 22
Fox Lake Community Center

Hamfests

38th Midwinter Swapfest

Jan 10 - Waukesha, WI
www.warac.org

On the Air

144 MHz SSB SWOT Net

Sundays 7PM
144.250 USB

Informal Net / Radio Tradio

Sundays 8PM
KB9I Repeater
145.41(-) PL 107.2

Other Events

Lake Co RACES X-mas Party

Dec 7 - 7PM
"The In Laws" Gurnee

MCWA Meeting

Dec 2 - 7:30PM
Nunda Township Hall

McHenry Co RACES Meeting

Nov 24 - 7PM
McHenry County EOC

Contest Calendar

Worked All Europe DX

Nov 13 6PM - Nov 15 6PM
3.5 - 28 MHz Digital
www.waedc.de

Kentucky QSO Party

Nov 14 8AM - 8PM
1.8 - 50 MHz Phone, CW
www.wkdx.com

ARRL Phone Sweeps

Nov 21 3PM - Nov 22 9PM
1.8 - 28 MHz Phone
www.arrl.org/contest

CQ WW CW

Nov 27 6PM - Nov 29 6PM
1.8 - 28 MHz CW (Duh!)
www.cqww.com

NA VHF WSJT Contest

Dec 11 6PM - Dec 15 8PM
50-222 MHz Digital (WSJT)
[Their URL's too long! - Ed.]

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Dec 11 6PM - Dec 13 6PM
28 MHz Phone, CW
www.arrl.org/contest

PSK Death Match

Dec 11 6PM - Dec 13 6PM
1.8 - 50 MHz Digital (PSK)
www.mdxa1.org/deathmatch.html

South Dakota QSO Party

Dec 31 11AM - Dec 31 6PM
1.8+ MHz Phone, CW
www.w0blk.org

Straight Key Night

Dec 31 6PM - Jan 1 6PM
3.5+ MHz CW
www.arrl.org/contests

September 2009 VHF Contest - *Monkey Style!*

Tom Staley - K9TMS, Stoned Monkey VHF ARC President

The Stoned Monkeys returned to the VHF and up airwaves for the September 2009 VHF QSO Party. As you recall during the 2008 running of the contest we received a visit from the remains of Hurricane Ike which put about 10 inches of water on our September 2008 plans. This year we were able to avoid weather issues for the most part and enjoy one of the most memorable September contests I can recall.

The group again assembled an impressive array of antennas and equipment at the Pioneer Tree Farm in McHenry. We would like to express our appreciation to Alice, Bill and Chuck for allowing us the opportunity to use their facility for our contest efforts. They offer a wonderful setting that can't be beat! If your family is considering a real tree for Christmas this year please consider a trip to the Pioneer Tree Farm for an "Old Fashioned" sleigh or wagon ride out to select and cut your own tree. They are only open the 28th and 29th of November and 5th and 6th of December (www.pioneertreefarm.com). Tell them the Stoned Monkey Ham Radio group sent you!

The group added a 4th Hula tower this time out for the Micro Wave station. This put a total of 5 towers in the air with 50Mhz, 144Mhz, 222Mhz, 432Mhz and 1296Mhz antennas all consisting of stacked arrays.

Our station equipment list remained pretty much unchanged from June. Running 50Mhz on the K9HA IC756. 144Mhz running on the K9TMS IC756 + Elecraft XV144 Transverter and TE Systems 400 watt amplifier. 222Mhz utilizing the K9TMS TS2000 + Elecraft XV222 Transverter and the Mirage 120 Watt amplifier. 432Mhz ran using the K9BTW IC7000 and the K9TMS RFC 110 Watt amplifier. On the Microwave station we again used the K9TMS setup with an FT817 running DEMI transverters on 903, 1296 and 10G. The major change for the stations this time around was placing the Microwave station in it's own shelter so that the radios set close to the antennas and that the antenna tower was in the clear. This move proved to be a great idea.

The band conditions from 2 meters to 1296 were to say the least outstanding. Saturday night saw contacts on 2 through 432 well into the FN grid squares. Something that we had never attained before. Comparing scoring from past years, 2008 was rained out, 2007 our score was ~62,000. This was surpassed this year with a total score of 88,578 an over 20K improvement. So you ask what did we do so right this time? The answer is a bit



2 meter antenna stack

complex. First we have a group of operators now that I will tell you are well seasoned and have really learned a lot in the last year. The cool thing is we have so much help now that setup and tear down go extremely fast. The operating skills of our crew of operators has increased greatly and this is shown in the score. Now along with this also is the fact that conditions were some of the best Tropo conditions I can ever remember during a contest. The fog that rolled in on Saturday night really enhanced the band conditions allowing contact far to the east all the way up to 1296. When was the last time you ever heard Mike or me mention making a contact to Pennsylvania?

So each contest we always look at what we can do better, so lets look at what many of us see as things to change for the better.

Feedlines: We are getting better, the 222 and 432 stations are greatly improved with the addition of the Cinta Cable assemblies. 2 meters needs to have similar cables built. The feedline for 6 meters was just too short so this will also be looked into. The Microwave stack really has issues with it's feedlines. AA9IL and I will investigate the building of 2½ Hardline cables for this antenna system.

Additional Bands: There are many looking into adding 2.3Ghz and 3.4Ghz as well as 5.7Ghz. Had we had these bands and made just one contact each our score would have been about 94,000.

In closing I would like to thank the Operators, with out you this article wouldn't need to be written. I look forward to watching the excitement in coming contests.

Scoring Break Down			
Band	QSO's	QSO Points	Multipliers
50:	90	90	22
144:	212	212	42
222:	57	114	28
432:	93	186	24
903:	4	12	4
1.2:	12	36	11
2.3:	0	0	0
3.4:	0	0	0
5.7:	0	0	0
10:	1	4	1
24:	0	0	0
74:	0	0	0
LGT:	3	12	1
Total Score:	472	666	x 133 = 88578



Microwave antennas. Contacts as far as Pennsylvania were made Saturday night.



432 and 222 antennas

Grids Worked

Grids Worked: 50Mhz

EN25	EN35	EN45	EN55	EN65	EN75	EN85	EN95	FN05	FN15	FN25
EN24	EN34	EN44	EN54	EN64	EN74	EN84	EN94	FN04	FN14	FN24
EN23	EN33	EN43	EN53	EN63	EN73	EN83	EN93	FN03	FN13	FN23
EN22	EN32	EN42	EN52	EN62	EN72	EN82	EN92	FN02	FN12	FN22
EN21	EN31	EN41	EN51	EN61	EN71	EN81	EN91	FN01	FN11	FN21
EN20	EN30	EN40	EN50	EN60	EN70	EN80	EN90	FN00	FN10	FN20
EM29	EM39	EM49	EM59	EM69	EM79	EM89	EM99	FM09	FM19	FM29
EM28	EM38	EM48	EM58	EM68	EM78	EM88	EM98	FM08	FM18	FM28
EM27	EM37	EM47	EM57	EM67	EM77	EM87	EM97	FM07	FM17	FM27
EM26	EM36	EM46	EM56	EM66	EM76	EM86	EM96	FM06	FM16	FM26
EM25	EM35	EM45	EM55	EM65	EM75	EM85	EM95	FM05	FM15	FM25

Grids Worked: 50Mhz

Grids Worked

Grids Worked: 144Mhz

EN25	EN35	EN45	EN55	EN65	EN75	EN85	EN95	FN05	FN15	FN25
EN24	EN34	EN44	EN54	EN64	EN74	EN84	EN94	FN04	FN14	FN24
EN23	EN33	EN43	EN53	EN63	EN73	EN83	EN93	FN03	FN13	FN23
EN22	EN32	EN42	EN52	EN62	EN72	EN82	EN92	FN02	FN12	FN22
EN21	EN31	EN41	EN51	EN61	EN71	EN81	EN91	FN01	FN11	FN21
EN20	EN30	EN40	EN50	EN60	EN70	EN80	EN90	FN00	FN10	FN20
EM29	EM39	EM49	EM59	EM69	EM79	EM89	EM99	FM09	FM19	FM29
EM28	EM38	EM48	EM58	EM68	EM78	EM88	EM98	FM08	FM18	FM28
EM27	EM37	EM47	EM57	EM67	EM77	EM87	EM97	FM07	FM17	FM27
EM26	EM36	EM46	EM56	EM66	EM76	EM86	EM96	FM06	FM16	FM26
EM25	EM35	EM45	EM55	EM65	EM75	EM85	EM95	FM05	FM15	FM25

Grids Worked: 144Mhz

Grids Worked

Grids Worked: 1.2Ghz

EN07	EN17	EN27	EN37	EN47	EN57	EN67	EN77	EN87	EN97	FN07
EN06	EN16	EN26	EN36	EN46	EN56	EN66	EN76	EN86	EN96	FN06
EN05	EN15	EN25	EN35	EN45	EN55	EN65	EN75	EN85	EN95	FN05
EN04	EN14	EN24	EN34	EN44	EN54	EN64	EN74	EN84	EN94	FN04
EN03	EN13	EN23	EN33	EN43	EN53	EN63	EN73	EN83	EN93	FN03
EN02	EN12	EN22	EN32	EN42	EN52	EN62	EN72	EN82	EN92	FN02
EN01	EN11	EN21	EN31	EN41	EN51	EN61	EN71	EN81	EN91	FN01
EN00	EN10	EN20	EN30	EN40	EN50	EN60	EN70	EN80	EN90	FN00
EM09	EM19	EM29	EM39	EM49	EM59	EM69	EM79	EM89	EM99	FM09
EM08	EM18	EM28	EM38	EM48	EM58	EM68	EM78	EM88	EM98	FM08
EM07	EM17	EM27	EM37	EM47	EM57	EM67	EM77	EM87	EM97	FM07

Grids Worked: 1.2Ghz

Grids Worked

Grids Worked: 222Mhz

EN25	EN35	EN45	EN55	EN65	EN75	EN85	EN95	FN05	FN15	FN25
EN24	EN34	EN44	EN54	EN64	EN74	EN84	EN94	FN04	FN14	FN24
EN23	EN33	EN43	EN53	EN63	EN73	EN83	EN93	FN03	FN13	FN23
EN22	EN32	EN42	EN52	EN62	EN72	EN82	EN92	FN02	FN12	FN22
EN21	EN31	EN41	EN51	EN61	EN71	EN81	EN91	FN01	FN11	FN21
EN20	EN30	EN40	EN50	EN60	EN70	EN80	EN90	FN00	FN10	FN20
EM29	EM39	EM49	EM59	EM69	EM79	EM89	EM99	FM09	FM19	FM29
EM28	EM38	EM48	EM58	EM68	EM78	EM88	EM98	FM08	FM18	FM28
EM27	EM37	EM47	EM57	EM67	EM77	EM87	EM97	FM07	FM17	FM27
EM26	EM36	EM46	EM56	EM66	EM76	EM86	EM96	FM06	FM16	FM26
EM25	EM35	EM45	EM55	EM65	EM75	EM85	EM95	FM05	FM15	FM25

Grids Worked: 222Mhz

Grids Worked

Grids Worked: 432Mhz

EN25	EN35	EN45	EN55	EN65	EN75	EN85	EN95	FN05	FN15	FN25
EN24	EN34	EN44	EN54	EN64	EN74	EN84	EN94	FN04	FN14	FN24
EN23	EN33	EN43	EN53	EN63	EN73	EN83	EN93	FN03	FN13	FN23
EN22	EN32	EN42	EN52	EN62	EN72	EN82	EN92	FN02	FN12	FN22
EN21	EN31	EN41	EN51	EN61	EN71	EN81	EN91	FN01	FN11	FN21
EN20	EN30	EN40	EN50	EN60	EN70	EN80	EN90	FN00	FN10	FN20
EM29	EM39	EM49	EM59	EM69	EM79	EM89	EM99	FM09	FM19	FM29
EM28	EM38	EM48	EM58	EM68	EM78	EM88	EM98	FM08	FM18	FM28
EM27	EM37	EM47	EM57	EM67	EM77	EM87	EM97	FM07	FM17	FM27
EM26	EM36	EM46	EM56	EM66	EM76	EM86	EM96	FM06	FM16	FM26
EM25	EM35	EM45	EM55	EM65	EM75	EM85	EM95	FM05	FM15	FM25

Grids Worked: 432Mhz

Da Second Week of Nerd Camp 2009

Tom Staley - K9TMS, WeLCARS Contest Commandant

WeLCARS and the Stoned Monkey VHF radio clubs are announcing their plans for the November Sweepstakes HF contest – more affectionately known to the members as "Da Second Week of Nerd Camp." [Since we had "Da Second Week" last year, wouldn't this be "Da Turd Week?" - Ed.]

The contest will run on the 21st and 22nd of November. This year there will be two operating sites. The WeLCARS World Wide Head Quarters will be the primary site for the high power multi-op stations. The Grant Township Center on Molidor Road will be a secondary site for mobile and portable operations to occur.

I know you are out there saying, "How the heck will that work, Mongo?" Let me explain. During the 2008 version of Nerd Camp we experienced a lot of interference problems with multiple stations on the same HF bands. We also had several people express the desire to use a bit more power in an effort to punch through to some of the rare Sections and have a better shot at a Clean Sweep. So for 2009 we will place 2 multi-op stations at WWHQ. These two stations will be running high power on the order of 500 to 1000 watts. Both will be on separate bands to keep interference down. Band changes will be coordinated between the station operators. The Molidor site will be a place that we will have a set of Hamsticks up on a tripod for use on a first come first serve basis for single ops to use or they can choose to use their own mobile antennas. These single-ops will operate under their own callsign. This way we can have operators work on the multi-op station and then go do a bit of operating on their own. One rule on contacts – don't work either of the multi-op stations if you also plan to operate there. [Muy importante! Or Tom will be screaming "Aye! Carumba!" when he does the logs. - Ed.]

The main reason for this is to give the club the opportunity to have both multi-op and single-op operations available in an effort to educate and at the same time build up the club competition score for WeLCARS. WeLCARS will submit on either the Local or Medium Club competition depending on the number of logs we have submitted. It also hopefully spreads things out allowing more operating possibilities without interference.

Now for some of the detailed contest information that twisted minds thrive on: The contest will start at 1500 CST on the 21st of November. The contest ends at 2200 CST on the 22nd of November. The contest will be on the HF bands; 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands, our Multi-Op stations will have 80 through 10 meter bands possible to operate on. The contest period is 30 hours of which each callsign can only be on the air for 24 hours. We will shut down operations at WWWHQ for a few hours over night on the 21st. We will cease operation at the Multi-Op Stations at about 1600 CST on the 22nd so that tear down and clean up are done early. Basically you can work each callsign only once regardless of band, mode, location and planetary alignment. Contact information will be detailed below.

Contacts will count two points each. Each section worked will count 1 multiplier for a total of 80 possible. Multiply the total number of QSO points times the number of multipliers to reach the final score.

Basically there are 3 types of stations: Single-Operator, Multi-Operator, and Schools. Single-Operators are further broken down to power level – QRP (5 watts or less), Low Power (5 watts to 150 Watts), and High Power (>150Watts). Power level makes no difference. Spotting assistance through the Internet or DX Cluster is allowed under the Assisted category for Single Ops.

The contact exchange will consist of a Serial Number, Precedence, Your Call Sign, Check, and ARRL Section. Further explained: Serial Number is the contact number in your log. Precedence is based on class station – M for multi-op, S for school, Q for single-op QRP, A for single-op low power, B single-op high power, U for single-op with assistance. The check is the year that your station license took effect, for the multi-ops W9WLC was 2007 and N9UHF was 2008. Our section is IL. So for a contact between K9TMS and KC9NJZ would be: "KC9NJZ please copy 12 Alpha Kilo Nine Tango Mike Sierra 77 Illinois."

Contest software remains unchanged from last year with the exception that the Cabrillo portion of the K9TMS logging software has been updated a lot. Hopefully requiring fewer corrections when the logs are uploaded to the ROBOT. Please contest K9TMS if you need the software or an update.

This year the ARRL has cut in half the time we have to get the logs in after the contest ends. This means I will need the logs that you need me to submit on your behalf by Thanksgiving. The deadline for submissions is 0300 UTC on

December 8th. If we are able to get a "Clean Sweep" (all sections worked) out of either multi-op, clean sweep mugs would be available from the ARRL at \$12 each as kind of a trophy for your efforts.

In addition to the ARRL rules we will be adding the following requirements for the multi-op stations that will be located at WWHQ. Only operators with a General class or higher license will be able to operate either of these stations. Technician class operators will be on third party operating conditions that will require direct transmitter control of a General or higher class licensed ham. We will strictly enforce this as with 500 to 1000 watts of RF power these will be stations that require retuning and monitoring of the equipment to ensure proper in-band operations [More power! - Ed.]. We also ask that guest operators provide their own headsets, hand mics will be provided. We will have operating schedules for the various stations. Please contact K9TMS or K9HA for details.

So there we have the details we have at this date. Please contact K9TMS if you have any questions.

Yaesu FTM-350R Dual Band Transceiver



Yaesu has announced the introduction of a new 2 meter / 70 centimeter radio with 50 watts on both bands. The radio sports dual receivers and dual speakers. Interestingly, one of the receivers is capable of receiving the AM and FM broadcast bands. The FTM-350R is reportedly APRS capable and is ready to accept Yaesu's optional FGPS-1 GPS receiver/antenna. So far so good, but like the FT-10R the radio seems to not come with a DTMF mic -

there is a built-in microphone on the front panel with a PTT, while a conventional DTMF mic is optional. In what will surely receive a chorus of, "Finally!" from the ham community, the radio is Bluetooth capable with the optional \$74.95 BU-1 adapter. Yaesu's Bluetooth headset has a street price of \$89.95. While other Bluetooth headsets geared for the cell phone market can be had for much less, the Yaesu models have an integrated PTT. The same Yaesu headset works with both the FTM-350R and VX-8R.

Odds and Ends

We Jammin' in the Name of the Lord

Unless you live in an RF cave you've been annoyed by intentional interference at one time or another. If you feel you have to respond to intentional QRM, nothing I'm going to say here will stop you. But all I ask is please don't fight fire with fire - don't make pirate transmissions of your own. It's up to us to keep our bands from turning into 11 meters where anything goes. Let's keep it clean, folks, and please ID. Now, on a lighter note as I climb down off my soapbox...

Third Annual WeLCARS Holiday Party, Junta, and Rythm and Blues Revue

...is still coming faster than you think. Anybody with award ideas send them to chris@n9yh.com - there have already been some great suggestions for this year already. This is also the WeLCARS general election meeting. Positions up for grabs are EI Presidente, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (yes, Secretary and Treasurer and technically two positions. You people keep electing the same guy to both.). Last time I said to send nominations to N9IFG, but I don't see why you can't send nominations to any officer. For those of you keeping score at home, they are:

EI Presidente
Joe Serocki N9IFG
joeserocki@gmail.com

Vice-President
Keith Schreiter N9QDS
n9qds@arrl.net

Secretary and Treasurer
Chris Burke N9YH
chris@n9yh.com

Contest Coordinator
Tom Staley K9TMS
k9tms@mindspring.com

We still haven't decided on a location or date, since this has kind of snuck up on your humble servant as well. Any ideas are welcome, feel free to talk them up on the Yahoo group or at a meeting.

Club Projects

The club has the following projects in the works or ongoing:

- 1) W1GHZ Transverter Group Buy and Build: Projected Spring 2010 (before the June VHF contest)
 - 2) Morse Code Practice: Currently ongoing at meetings.
 - 3) VHF/UHF Yagis Part II: Projected December-January (before the January VHF contest)
- More details about this one forthcoming on the WeLCARS Yahoo Group.



No word on if Tom Turkey plans on making another run for Club Mascot. But K9TMS's long lost cousin Bubba leads is a strong contender for the "Best Oral Hygiene" Award.