

Lake County Ham Radio Journal

June / July 2010

www.hamradiojournal.com

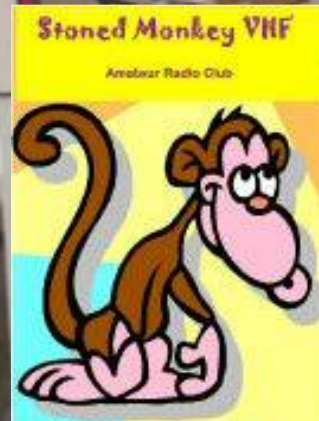
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N9UHF

www.stonedmonkey.org



W9WLC

www.welcars.org

Upcoming Events

WeLCARS Officers

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Secretary/Treasurer

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LCHRJ Editorial Staff

Editors

Tom - K9TMS
Chris - N9YH

Contributors

Larry - W9LGP

WeLCARS Meetings and Events

VE Sessions

June 11 and July 9 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center

Dinner Meetings

June 18 and July 16 - 7PM
Dino's Den - 88 E. Grand Ave.

Regular/Project Meetings

All Other Fridays - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center

Hamfests

54th Wheaton Hamfest

June 20 - Wheaton, IL
k9ona.com

South Milwaukee ARC

July 10 - Oak Creek, WI
www.qsl.net/wa9txe/

FRRL Hamfest

July 11 - Aurora, IL
www.frri.org/hamfest

KARSFEST

July 18 - Peotone, IL
www.w9az.com

Other Events

Lake Co RACES Meeting

June 7 - 7PM
Lake County EOC

McHenry Co RACES Meeting

June 22 and July 27 - 7PM
McHenry County EOC

MCWA Meeting

July 6 - 7:30PM
Nunda Township Hall

Contest Calendar

Alabama QSO Party

June 5 11AM - 11PM
1.8 - 28 MHz Phone, CW
www.alabamagsoparty.org

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 12 1PM - June 13 10PM
50+ MHz Phone, CW, Dig.
www.arrl.org/contests

West Virginia QSO Party

June 19 1PM - 9PM
3.5 - 28 MHz Phone, CW, Dig.
www.qsl.net/wvsarc

ARRL Field Day

June 26 1PM - June 27 4PM
1.8+ MHz Phone, CW, Dig.
www.arrl.org/contests

IARU HF World Championship

July 10 7AM - July 11 7AM
1.8 - 28 MHz Phone, CW
www.arrl.org/contests

NA RTTY QSO Party

July 17 1PM - July 18 1AM
3,5 - 28 MHz Digital
www.ncjweb.com

CQ WW VHF Contest

July 17 1PM - July 18 4PM
50, 144 MHz Phone, CW, Dig.
www.cqww-vhf.com

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

Tech Fest V: The Mother of All Tech Fests

Chris Burke - N9YH, WeLCARS Secretary and Treasurer

Tech Fest V: The Mother of All Tech Fests was held at a bigger venue this year at the Fox Lake Lakefront Park building. There were a lot of advantages to the bigger space, including a real kitchen, plenty of space for tailgaters, lots of available parking, and VE testing held in a real room away from the rest of the action.

VE testing did well with a few new Technicians and a few upgrades to General. Tom KD6KHK graciously provided food service that featured the usual Tech Fest fare minus the pizza but with Italian beef - delicious! Inside the Fest had the usual vendors of DC Ace and Gold Medal Ideas as well as a few new ones.

The outside space for tailgating proved very popular with 'Fest-goers with spaces going only for \$5 apiece and beautiful weather on hand. Lee KC9JQX did an excellent job of keeping everyone honest and soliciting donations for our bucket. Financially, the 'Fest did very well for itself. After expenses, the club netted over \$400 easily making it the most successful venture to date.

See you next year at Tech Fest VI: Bride of Tech Fest!



Though doughnuts must be "State Trooper Certified," we left certification of the muffins in the capable hands of K9TMS



Gold Medal Ideas had plenty of discriminating customers



The VE Testing Crew ready for action!



N9QDS likes to tell people where to go.

Announcing Field Day 2010: WeLCARS and the Stoned Monkeys Do It Again!

Tom Staley - K9TMS, WeLCARS Contest Commandant

Would you believe this is the 4th annual Field Day for WeLCARS and the Stoned Monkey clubs? Not bad for a group that wasn't supposed to last more than 6 months. OK, lets get to the dates: Field Day for 2010 takes place on June 26th and 27th.



After checking the wants of the club it was determined that we will again run Field Day out of the WeLCARS World Wide Head Quarters (WWWHQ), otherwise known as the Fox Lake Community Center, at 23 South Street in Fox Lake of course. After discussing the two available locations we determined the WWWHQ would serve our needs better for several reasons. It's hard to say if the lack of bugs or indoor facilities won the vote. Also we found that the tremendous noise floor seems to have been corrected thanks to the folks at METRA.

This year we will be operating most likely as class 4A or 5A depending on the turn out. To capture the higher power multiplier we will be using power levels of 150 watts or less for all stations. I am hopeful that we can find someone to make a few CW QSOs, let us know. Better yet, if you know someone that could man the GOTA station and rack up 500 CW QSOs let us know quick. [Before another group snatches them up! - Ed.] Remember a GOTA operator is defined as a recently licensed/upgraded ham (since last F/D) or a "generally inactive" Ham, though they don't define inactive very well. If you fit the classification of having obtained your current license since last F/D and would like to operate the GOTA station please let us know.

At the current time we are gathering specifics on station equipment. The information at this time is the basic antenna list that generally is the first out.

Starting at the bottom:

80 Meters: We will be using the K9TMS shortened Dipole. Come see whether we are able to use the Spud Guns to get this up nice and high.

40 Meters: We will most likely be using the K9TMS rotatable dipole we used last November for Sweeps. This antenna will be mounted on a Hula Tower with rotor.

20 Meters: We will have N9QDS's rotatable dipole as well as theon a Hula Tower.

15 Meters: Is a question at this time.

6 Meters: One K9TMS 5 element beam on a Hula Tower

2 Meters: "N9IFG Rover antenna minus feathers" mounted to the K9TMS Trailer Tower. [New for dinner this year: shish kebab and hot squab on a stick. - Ed.]

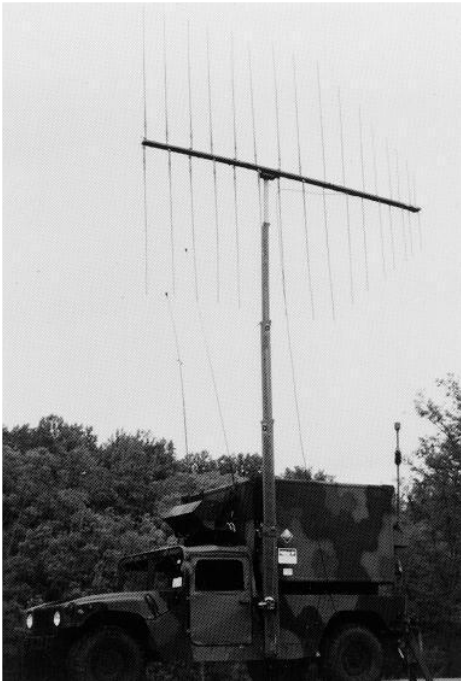
At the present time this is the information we have. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact K9TMS at 847-546-7380 or @ email at k9tms@mindspring.com.

We want to encourage every Ham to get to a Field Day site and play on the air.

Station	Band	Manager	Power
1	80/15	N9QDS	100 W
2	40	K9BTW	100 W
3	20	K9HA	100 W
4	6	K9TMS	100 W
5	2	K9TMS	150 W
Propaganda	---	N9IFG	10KW Mr. Microphone
GOTA	ALL	???	100 W

K9TMS Trailer Tower - Now New and Improved

Tom Staley - K9TMS, President - Stoned Monkey VHF ARC



Over the years I have been on the quest of locating a really good antenna system for Roving as well as suitable for PSA events. Recently my poor utility trailer has seen several different configurations of mounting antennas to it and being dragged from Wisconsin to central Illinois. But the issue has always been height, or the lack of, until now.

Back last Christmas I had been watching a series of bids for a military crank-up mast on eBay. I managed to finally get one of these military surplus wonders. For those of you collecting numbers the mast is part of the AN/TLQ-17 RF Jamming equipment. Generally my reading has found that these were mounted on vehicles from trucks to trailers.

After getting it I found a minor issue – a small dent that didn't want to allow the final section to deploy completely. KC9NJZ and his wonderful selection of body working tools came to the rescue. With a few taps here and there Jay was able to get the dent out enough to allow full deployment of the mast, which is 18 feet. In the down position the top is basically just under 6 feet. This allowed me room to mount a rotor above and still get it under the 12' 6" suggested height for your rover antennas heading down the road with out remodeling them on bridges. [The maximum legal height for vehicles is 13' 6", but that assumes you follow truck routes. 12' 6" gives you a comfortable margin. - Ed.]

After several sketches and considerations I finally arrived at a solution that kept the mounting simple, secure and not over engineered significantly. The photo to the right shows what it looks like.

In this photo the trailer tower is being used with a simple vertical antenna for the Udder Century Bike race that we provided communications for. Time to setup the antenna is fairly fast – roughly 10 minutes if you have things ready to go. During this outing the wind gusted to 20 MPH with out movement of the tower.

At the top of the tower is a Penninger Mast Clap and Military mast adapter that allows the use of 1.78" aluminum military mast sections to extend the height. My calculations are that I can add an additional 8 foot of mast for vertical use with out impacting the system.

The 2nd outing for the tower will be at the VHF contest which it will see duty as our 223 FM antenna support. It will also see use at F/D as our 2 meter antenna support.

It's taken a while but I think I finally have found a decent Rover/Portable antennas support system.

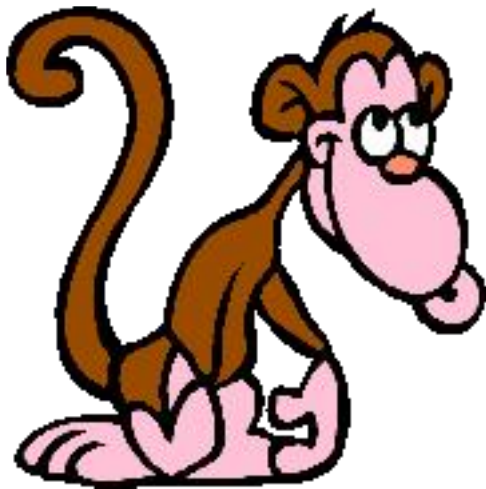


2010 ARRL Illinois Section Manager Election Results

The results are in and the word from Newington is that Tom Cicora KA9QPN was re-elected as Section Manager with 954 votes to Michael Schultz's 799 votes. Tom has been Section Manager since July 1, 2006. Section Manager is a volunteer position that manages other volunteers in the ARRL Field Organization such as Official Emergency Stations, Technical Specialists, and Official Observers in addition to Section-level positions such as Section Traffic Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator, and the coveted Affiliated Club Coordinator position. For more information on various positions and how to apply, go to <http://www.arrl.org/field-organization>.

Announcing the Stoned Monkey June 2010 Contest Plan

Tom Staley - K9TMS, President - Stoned Monkey VHF ARC



Once again the Stoned Monkey's will be setting up in McHenry and participating in the June VHF Contest.

June of 2010 will find the Stoned Monkeys attacking the VHF and up air waves from the Pioneer Tree Farm in McHenry. The contest dates are June 12th and 13th. Setup will begin June 10th and tear down June 14th. One change for this year is that the contest is by invitation only. If you have questions regarding this please contact Wendell N9REP or me.

We will again be improving several items this year. Although these improvements will mainly be in the microwave station. We will hopefully have some nice hardline up to the antennas for the microwave station as well as new antennas that Mike

AA9IL has acquired. Mike has also come up with a new Down East 10G setup that we hope to have mounted to the microwave tower to possibly get a contact with an additional grid on 10G. The rest of the stations are basically what we used last September in our effort that placed 5th in the nation.

We will also be attempting contacts via WSJT on 6 and 2 meters in the very late night and early morning hours Saturday and Sunday. Jay KC9NJZ and Joe KC9LFP will be heading up these attempts.

We would also like to extend an invitation to any people interested in Roving to participate in the contest. If you need assistance with setting up your equipment, logging software, or information on operating please feel free to contact any of the Monkeys and we will try to assist you with your needs.

So mark your calendars now and join in the fun of VHF Contesting.

[NOTE: The following pages were lovingly prepared by Tom a few days before we went to "press." At press time, Tom's wife Penny K9PLS had taken ill, so the plans outlined on the next few pages will have some on the fly adjustments over the contest weekend. We at the Journal wish Penny a speedy recovery. - Ed.]

Stoned Monkey June 2010 VHF Contest Setup

Station	50		Boss	K9HA
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		IC756ProII	K9HA	Yes
Power Supply		40 amp Diamond	K9HA	Yes
Amplifier		--	--	--
Antenna		2 - 5 Element Beam	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		120 foot RG213 + 100 foot RG213	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		30 foot tower	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		CD45II	K9TMS	Yes
Mast		18 foot Penninger	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Silver Boot Box - 50	K9TMS	Yes
Table		??		
Chair(s)		???	K9HA	??
Shelter		Chicken Coop		

Need Rotor cable extension K9HA building same.

Station	144		Boss	N9REP
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		IC756ProII & Elecraft Transverter	K9TMS	Yes
Power Supply		MFJ 40 - Radio Astron 60 - Amplifier	K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		TE Systems 400 Watt	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		Stacked 13B2's	N9REP	Yes
Feedline		120 foot LMR400	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Hula 1	N9REP	Yes
Rotor		HD73	N9REP	Yes
Mast		10 foot water pipe	N9REP	Yes
Computer		Blue Boot Bo	K9TMS	Yes
Table		Amplifier Cart	K9TMS	Yes
Chair(s)		????	?????	????
Shelter		Chicken Coop		

Station	222		Boss	K9TMS
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		TS2000 + Elecraft Transverter	K9TMS	Yes
Power Supply		Diamond 40 Amp	K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		Mirage 120 Watt	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		2 -15 Element Boomers & 4 Element boomer for FM	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		Cinta	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Hula 2	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		HD 73	K9TMS	Yes
Mast		10 Foot with Adapter	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Blue Boot Box 222 (Server Computer)	K9TMS	Yes
Table		K9TMS	K9TMS	Yes
Chair(s)		2 - Fold Ups	K9TMS	Yes
Shelter		Chicken Coop		

Stoned Monkey June 2010 VHF Contest Setup

Station	432		Boss	K9BTW
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		IC7000	K9BTW	Yes
Power Supply		40 Amp Diamond	K9BTW	Yes
Amplifier		RFC 110 Watt	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		2 - 719B Boomers	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		Cinta	N9REP	Yes
Antenna Support		Hula 3	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		Wilson HD	K9TMS	Yes
Mast		10 Foot with Adapter	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Not Determined at this time	K9TMS	Yes
Table		????	????	Yes
Chair(s)		????	???	??
Shelter		Chicken Coop		

Station	903/ 1.2		Boss	K9TMS
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		FT817 & DEMI Xverters	K9TMS	Yes
Power Supply		Jet Stream 25	K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		20 Watt 1.2G	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		Beams on both	AA9IL	Yes
Feedline		Hard Line	AA9IL	????
Antenna Support		Hula 4	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		Yeasu 450	K9TMS	Yes
Mast		??????????	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Note Book	K9TMS	Yes
Table		Fold Up	K9TMS	Yes
Chair(s)		Fold Up	K9TMS	Yes
Shelter		Tent	K9TMS	Yes

Station	FM		Boss	?????
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		??????????	????	??
Power Supply		??????????	????	??
Amplifier		NA	NA	NA
Antenna		Long Stick	N9REP	Yes
Feedline		RG8X	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Aluminum Tripod	N9REP	Yes
Rotor		NA		
Mast		?????		
Computer		Shared with 144		
Table		Shared with 144		
Chair(s)		Shared with 144		
Shelter		NA		