



The Feedline

“W9JZ – SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1933”

Volume 27, Number 1

Club Information

2005 FLARC Officers

Frederick Baguhn W9GOC - President
 John Steffi WZ9I - Vice President
 Gary Muskat KA9SRM - Secretary
 Don Michalski W9IXG - Treasurer

Board Members at Large

Phil Carlson WBOCLI
 Steven Elliott W9RAL
 Terry Bachmann WU9F

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS, etc.

Our club meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building in Madison, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue. Regular meetings start with the business meeting at 7:30 PM, followed by the program unless otherwise noted. Times and location are subject to change, with prior notice.

Saturday morning “Zilch” locations

The Eastside Zilch (ham breakfasts) are at 7:30 AM at the Green Lantern on the west end of Siggelkow Road in McFarland.

The Westside Zilch is at 10:00 AM at Village Green at 7508 Hubbard Ave. in Middleton. See you there.

Madison Area InfoNet

Thursday evenings on 147.15 at 8 PM; 146.76 is the backup frequency. Traffic and check-ins are welcome.

Madison Ham Web Page

Website is at <http://www.gsl.net/flarc>. Keep checking the links page for new goodies!

Meeting dates and programs

January 17th meeting will be at Red Cross, 7:30 pm.

AND REMEMBER, *The Feedline* is sent via e-mail beginning with this January 2006 issue. Send your e-mail address to the editor, w9ral@aol.com, or your concerns for other mailing options.

The Prez Says

Greetings to all!

The December meeting concentrated on nominations for Officers and Board members. Several of the nominees have notified me that they are not able to serve, so will withdraw their names from the balloting.

We were also treated to an eclectic array of Morse generating devices from the show-and-tell participants - - Carolyn's gold plated Begali paddles, Terry's Bulldog and Palm Paddles, Don's chrome Vibrokeyer and the rig-specific paddles on his Elecraft KX1 were some of the stars of the evening. Selecting a paddle or key from a picture in a catalog or on the web is a challenge - - after all, the device is intended to be the tactile input to the CW process, and I for one don't know how to convey the tactile experience with just a picture. The CW show-and-tell made it possible for our members to see and Touch the paddles that have been adjusted for use instead of trying to guess 'how it is supposed to feel' based on a half-page sheet of adjust-your-paddle instructions. ☺

Thank you to all who brought your CW toys for the edification of others, and thank you also to those who gave them a try! CW, even in this time of electronic keyers and memory keyers, is still a ham tradition. The 'right' paddle / bug/ key for one won't be the same for all individuals, and like art, "... you'll know it when you see it..."

The January meeting will concentrate on the election, review what we've accomplished in the last year, and what we hope to accomplish in 2006. We are now disentangled from the Big Project (at least for a while), and will have to consider what other ways FLARC can help nurture the development of potential new hams. *Feedline* is still being optimized to find the right

size and distribution medium - Steve is open to suggestions on how to best fit Feedline to meeting the needs of our membership. Current needs:

- We need someone to ramrod the FLARC effort in the Wisconsin QSO Party;
- Our new Field Day Chairman will be looking forward to your participation;
- W9CAR in his role as our Elmer/Mentor coordinator would be pleased to learn what specialties (or general areas) you'd like to mentor in;
- Kids Day and JOTA operators are needed.

As you see, there are lots of opportunities to share your ham radio interests and skills with FLARC and our community.

Upcoming activities

Kids Day - - Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/12/22/2/>

WI QSO Party - - 1800Z MARCH 12 - 0100Z MARCH 13, 2006
<http://www.warac.org/wqp/2006/06rules.htm>

Field Day - - June 24-25, 2006

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting - - remember, we need a quorum to hold the elections...

73, Frederick

News and Stories

Remote broadcast: A team of radio fans will go to great lengths to be on the air from the ends of the Earth.

By Aline Mendelsohn; Orlando Sentinel Staff Writer; January 4, 2006

This is not the kind of trip you can book on Travelocity or Orbitz.

Later this month, a group of amateur radio enthusiasts, including two from Central Florida, will embark on a journey to a remote Antarctic island called Peter I.

The expedition might as well be going to another planet: Peter I is one of the hardest places on the globe to reach, an uninhabited, volcanic island about 280 miles west of the Antarctic mainland and roughly 8,000 miles from Orlando.

One of the biggest challenges members have faced already is explaining why on earth they're doing this.

Why else? To communicate by radio from one of the most remote areas of the world. As the expedition's Web site helpfully points out, "It's difficult to make radio contact with a country without a population!"

For the uninitiated, amateur radio provides a way of communicating via noncommercial radio. An offshoot of the practice, known as DXing, challenges enthusiasts to make radio communication from as many different locations as possible.

Two previous amateur radio expeditions landed on Peter I, most recently in 1994. The current group hopes to connect with 100,000 amateur radio operators around the globe.

"We're trying to achieve international goodwill," says Bill Beyer, 46, an engineer from Ormond Beach.

The rest of the 22-member clan includes professors, doctors, other engineers -- and a San Francisco man hoping to break world travel records. They hail from eight different countries and they came together mainly through previous friendships and "meetings" over the airwaves. In addition to a fun radio trip, Beyer and the others see the adventure as a personal challenge, a chance to see a part of the world few will ever visit and an experience that will feed their need for excitement.

They know it won't be easy.

"Let me put it this way: It's not like going on a vacation to Disney World," says Al Hernandez, 58, a Melbourne engineer.

A trip to Disney World might be expensive, but it's much cheaper than this venture's price: half a million dollars.

Some of the cost will be funded by business sponsors and DX associations. As for the rest of the cash, team co-leader Bob Allphin, of Marietta, Ga., says each member is shelling out more than \$16,000, "for the privilege of going to this God-forsaken place and freezing."

Way off the beaten path

Peter I was discovered in the 1820s by a Russian explorer who named it after Peter the Great. About 100 years later, a Norwegian explorer made the first landing on the island.

"It's a very, very difficult place to get to," says Eugene Domack, an Antarctica scholar and professor of geosciences at Hamilton College in New York.

It will take eight days for the group to reach Peter I. A series of flights and boat rides will whisk the team to Chile to King George Island and finally to Peter I. The sea voyage alone will last about four days.

But because walls of ice surround the island, Peter I is inaccessible by ship. So from the vessel, the team members will fly in by helicopter -- and they might have to wait a few days to do that.

After all, Peter I is moody. At times the island is placid and pristine, with stunning mountaintop views and icebergs drifting by. Other times it turns hostile, with zero visibility and howling winds.

"It isn't beautiful very often," says expedition co-leader Ralph Fedor, 61, a Minnesota radiologist who visited the island in 1994.

Though it's summer right now in the Southern Hemisphere, the members should consider leaving their Texas and flip-flops at home. At this time of year on Peter I, the temperature can range from a few degrees below zero to a balmy 30 degrees during the day.

Once the team reaches Peter I, the helicopter will make 50 round trips to deliver radio equipment, as well as generators, tables, chairs, food, kitchen supplies and other items that will sustain group members. They're even bringing a bread

maker, mainly for the comforting and morale-boosting smell of baking bread.

Excluding food and fuel, the supplies add up to an astonishing 30,000 pounds.

The expeditioners are the kind of guys who generally pack lightly, but Peter I is an unforgiving destination.

"You don't just bring a windbreaker and shorts," Beyer says. Adds Allphin, 61, "We have to prepare ourselves for whatever Mother Nature decides to throw at us."

The team will set up camp on top of the glacier, a few hundred feet above sea level. They will sleep in cold-weather-rated sleeping bags tucked inside insulated tents. For safety reasons, generators will not heat their sleeping quarters.

In addition to making radio contacts, the team will conduct scientific research such as measuring the depth of snow, collecting rock samples and setting up a weather station for various scientific groups as well as for a university in Germany.

Once they have completed their mission in a window of 2 1/2 weeks, they will pack up everything -- including waste -- and return to the ship.

"We don't leave anything behind but our footprints," Hernandez says.

Hernandez's son Alberto is proud of his dad but nervous at the same time. "If anything fails, it can be a life-or-death matter," says Alberto Hernandez, 31, of Palm Bay. But the risks don't seem to faze the team members.

About this time two years ago, George Nicholson of Atlanta was having bypass surgery. Early in his recovery, he vowed he would go on the Antarctic expedition.

True to his word, Nicholson, now 59, is part of the team. He will have with him a banner that reads, "Heart Surgery 2004, Antarctica 2006."

When he arrives at Peter I, Nicholson plans to find a scenic spot, unfurl the banner and have his picture taken.

Aline Mendelsohn can be reached at amendelsohn@orlandosentinel.com or 407-420-5352.

Four Lakes Club Items

The NEW Feedline

Beginning in January 2006, *The Feedline* newsletter will be provided to the membership in electronic format only. Each member will be sent a PDF (Adobe Acrobat file) copy of the newsletter in full color. Please be sure you renew your membership and put your e-mail address on the form. If you prefer to send your e-mail address directly to the editor, please send it to w9ral@aol.com or w9ral@arrl.net. File size will be kept to a minimum to allow for fast as possible downloads from your Internet Service Provider (ISP).

The January FLARC Election

At the January 17th meeting, the FLARC election for officers and members of the board of directors will be held. PLEASE ATTEND THIS MEETING! We need a quorum and every one of you has an important duty for our elections ... TO VOTE!

And the Nominees are:

President - W9GOC, Frederick Baguhn
Vice President - WZ9I, John Steffl
Secretary - KA9SRM, Gary Muskat
Treasurer - W9IXG, Don Michalski
Board Members At Large -
W9RAL, Steve Elliott
W9DCQ, Doug Ward
One position open for write-ins.

Please plan to attend and let your vote count for the future of our great organization.

Looking for Fun at Field Day?

FLARC is looking for a volunteer to be the chairperson for the Field Day event in June, 2006. If you have an interest in Field Day, and would like to be on the cutting edge of Field Day activities, contact Frederick or John, the FLARC President or Vice President, respectively.

A site for Field Day 2006 has been selected, which will be Token Creek County Park, near I-90 and Hwy 51, northeast of Madison. This appears to be a very good location, and a map of the location has been attached at the end of this newsletter.

FLARC Treasurer's Report

The FLARC treasurer reports \$3937.76 in our banking account at the December meeting, and a total of 95 members in the club.

Technician Class in February 2006

A Technician License training class will be held February 11 and 12, 2006, at Space Place in Madison. This training class is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. This training course provides you an excellent opportunity to learn the basics of amateur radio, and is one of the best methods to prepare for the Technician Level examination. The Technician Level examination, along with all other level examinations, will be administered at the end of the training session. Please contact Don Michalski, W9IXG, for more information.

The Big Project Update

The Big Project is on OFF for the moment. Our school has no instructor for the program, so we are "back to square one." If you know of a local school which would be interested in beginning an amateur radio program, please contact Don Michalski, W9IXG, or Frederick Baguhn, W9GOC.

Programs for FLARC Meetings

We need lots more ideas and topics for programs to present at our meetings. So let us hear from you. Send your ideas to Frederick, W9GOC, or to any of the FLARC Board Members. Thanks for your support.

FLARC Web Site

The FLARC URL is <http://www.qsl.net/flarc>. If you see any errors, please let Steve Elliott, W9RAL know, e-mail: w9ral@aol.com.

Elmers

If you are interested in being an Elmer, one who helps newcomers get started in ham radio, we would like you to contact FLARC. We are currently searching for a member who would like to be the Coordinator of the Elmer Program for FLARC. If you are interested, please contact Frederick, W9GOC, or John, WZ9I. Let us all get involved in helping others become better amateur radio operators. *BECOME AN ELMER!*

VE Testing Program

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club of Madison, Wisconsin sponsors a monthly VE testing program at the University of Wisconsin Space Place, 2300 South Park Street, downstairs on the lower level, in the Villager shopping center complex (located in the middle of the shopping center).

Exams are given the first Saturday of the month. Holidays included. Doors open at 8:00 AM, and we hope to have all exams completed and graded by 10:00 AM. Testing is also available to all candidates on Sundays after the Ham Training classes, which are offered three times per year, and after the spring MARA Swapfest.

We offer special accommodations for testing to those with alternate abilities. We require some advance warning on the nature of the accommodations you will need, e.g., an exam reader, visual code, etc. Other than that no reservations are necessary. Walk-ins preferred. Try to arrive at 8 AM or shortly thereafter.

UW-Space Place is located at 2300 S. Park Street, lower level, in Madison, WI. Watch for the Park Street, highway 151 north, exit from the Beltline which is highway 12 & 18 - UW-Space Place is approximately 1/2 mile north of the Beltline, and will be on your left as you head toward the heart of town just past McDonald's. That landmark is more identifiable than the Space Place signage. The Villager shopping center's 2300 S Park Street is the middle of the first parking lot past McDonald's. The UW radio club's BARS repeater, 146.685, pl 123.0, is used for talk in before the start time of 8 AM. Testing is in the lower part of the building in the Space Place class room. Look for signs when you enter the building.

Things to bring:

- Photo ID or two other forms of identification; If you have another FCC license (for example, GMRS) in your name, please bring your Federal Registration Number as it is used by the FCC's

Universal Licensing System. (If you have no such license, your Social Security number will serve as an interim identifier until your FRN is generated.)

If you have a current amateur radio license, please also bring:

- The ORIGINAL license and ORIGINALS of any CSCEs which should be considered (both returned to you after inspection), and
- a photocopy of the license and CSCEs (sent with your application to the ARRL VEC) \$14.00 exam fee, preferably as a check or money order made payable to ARRL/VEC

Things NOT to bring:

- A fancy programmable calculator. (the calculator must not have memories, or the memories must be cleared before you use it on the test. This includes clearing the PDA or cell phone memories, so those would not be good choices to use for a calculator.) Simple calculators are provided for your use.

73, Sam Rowe KG9NG acting coordinator
E-mail: KG9NG@arrl.net
608 246-8582, 24-hour machine.

Buck Nite Winner at FLARC

The Buck Night Winner at the December meeting was AB9LQ, Daniel Grim.

Mission Statement

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club (F.L.A.R.C.) is a non-profit, general interest club that exists to promote the growth and enjoyment of Amateur Radio in South-Central Wisconsin. The club's mission is to encourage new operators, enhance the skills and interests of those already licensed and to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies. To accomplish this mission, F.L.A.R.C. will:

- Schedule regular meetings with informational programs and the opportunity for informal fellowship.
- Publish a monthly newsletter for the membership.
- Sponsor training classes.
- Sponsor Volunteer Examinations.

The Feedline is the regular monthly newsletter of the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club (FLARC). The editor for *The Feedline* is Steve Elliott, W9RAL, and can be contacted at (608) 345-2286 or e-mail: w9ral@aol.com.

Member Birthdays

January:

2	KE9XN—Phil Koclanes
6	AF9B—Bill Fletcher
13	N9CP—Curtis Peters
17	AB9FN—Ed Wagner

- 21 K9ADN—Ken Trachte
W9VFD—Frederick Weigt
- 28 NK9U—Eldon Boehm
- 31 W9LA—Herb Jordan

February:

- 4 N9CK—Steven Franzen
- 9 W9UPK—Colin Wheatley
- 15 KC9EHR—Mark Kovelan
- 25 N9UDG—George Edgerton
- 27 K9REO—Jim Lattis

Wisconsin Items

Wisconsin Section News

Keep in touch with the ham action in Wisconsin by going to the Wisconsin section website:
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=Wl>.

73, Don, W9IXG, Wisconsin Section Manager

Awards Checkers

Checker for the WAS Award is Gari, NG9V. When you are ready, just contact him; he'll be glad to do it, 608-221-2022 or gberliot@ameritech.net.

Checker for the VUCC awards is Richard, K9APW. Contact him at 608-833-0011 or k9apw@arrl.net.

For Weather Net Folks

The Wisconsin-based Badger Weather Net is held every morning on 3.985 MHz, between 0500 and 0715 local time.

2006 Severe Weather Spotter Class Schedule (subject to change)

Mar 02-04	no spotter classes
Mar 06	Milwaukee Co. - City of Milwaukee - Milwaukee Fire & Police Academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Ave., 600-830 pm
Mar 07	Milwaukee Co. - City of Franklin - Milwaukee Police Academy, 1000 am-noon, 100-300 pm (both classes - dispatchers only)

Mar 07	Milwaukee Co. - City of Milwaukee - Red Cross Bldg at 26th and Wisconsin 700-815 pm, (for hams only)
Mar 08	Rock Co. - afternoon and evening classes for sure, possibly a morning class, time/location TBD.
Mar 09	Waukesha Co. - Waukesha Memorial Hospital, 630-830 pm
Mar 13	Kenosha Co. - Kenosha County Center at intersection of Hwy 50 & 45, 630-830pm (basic)
Mar 14	Dane Co. - Monona - Monona Community Center (old city hall), 1011 Nichols Rd., 630-830 pm
Mar 15	Columbia Co. - Portage - Law Enforcement Center, John Roach room, 711 East Cook, 630-830 pm
Mar 16	Sauk Co. - Baraboo - West Square Bldg, 3rd floor county board room, 10-noon (basic)
Mar 16	Sauk Co. - Baraboo - West Square Bldg, 3rd floor county board room, 2-4 pm (advanced)
Mar 18	Milwaukee Co. - Greenfield High School, MASA event, TBD
Mar 20	Dane Co. - Sun Prairie - City Hall, 300 E. Main St., 630-830 pm
Mar 21	Fond du Lac Co. - City of Fond du Lac - in basement of County Courthouse - 630-830 pm, open only to law enforcement officials, firefighters, hams, and emergency responders
Mar 22	Sheboygan Co. - City of Sheboygan - UW Campus - Large bldg on southwest side of campus, 630-830 pm
Mar 23	Ozaukee Co. - Port Washington - Sheriff Bldg. in basement, 630-830 pm
Mar 27	Green Lake Co. - Berlin Fire Dept., 630-830 pm
Mar 28	Walworth Co. - East Troy Fire Dept., 630-830 pm
Mar 29	Dane Co. - Madison - Alliant Center? 630-830 pm
Mar 30	Dodge Co. - Juneau - County Admin Bldg (in city square), 630-830 pm
Apr 3-5	Gov Conf - no spotter classes
Apr 06	Marquette Co. - Montello - Sheriff/Public Safety Bldg., 1-3 pm
Apr 06	Marquette Co. - Montello - Sheriff/Public Safety Bldg., 630-830 pm

Apr 10	no spotter classes
Apr 11	Green Co. - perhaps 3 classes
Apr 12	Lafayette Co. - Darlington - Courthouse board room, 630-830 pm
Apr 13	Iowa Co. - Dodgeville - Courthouse 2nd floor, 630-830 pm
Apr 17	Washington Co. - St. Lawrence Fire Dept., 2-4 pm
Apr 17	Washington Co. - St. Lawrence Fire Dept., 630-830 pm
Apr 18	Kenosha Co. - Kenosha County Center at intersection of Hwy 50 & 45, 630-830pm, (advanced)
Apr 19	Jefferson Co. - City of Jefferson - Courthouse board room 2nd floor, 630-830 pm
Apr 20	drill day, no spotter classes
Apr 27	Racine Co. - Gateway Tech in Racine, Racine Bldg, 630-830 pm

For Sky Warn Watchers

If the weather gets active in the Dane County/Southern Wisconsin area, you may want to follow the action on 444.375MHz.

Submitted by Kevin, K9EV.

And Also...

The Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association (storm spotters) webpage has a state-wide list of frequencies used for severe weather reporting.

Follow the link near the top of the page:

<http://www.mke-skywarn.org> .

ARRL Items

W1AW 2006 Winter Operating Schedule

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 98 in the January 2006 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> .

ARRL EXPERIMENTING WITH ICOM D-STAR DIGITAL SYSTEM

Thanks to the generosity of Icom, MFJ and NCG (Comet), the ARRL has embarked on a project to learn firsthand what D-Star <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/techchar/> digital technology has to offer and to assess its capabilities in a real-world Amateur Radio environment. Icom, so far the only ham radio manufacturer offering D-Star equipment, has donated a D-Star voice repeater, data repeater and controller to W1AW. Eight model ID-1 D-Star 10 W mobile transceivers are on loan from the manufacturer.

"We appreciate Icom's cooperation and support as we explore D-Star's capabilities and learn more about digital radio systems," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said in expressing the League's gratitude.

MFJ donated an MFJ-1532N Pulsar, which is serving as the transmitting antenna, while NCG contributed a pair of Comet GP21 antennas to receive digital data and voice for the 1.2 GHz (23 cm) multipurpose D-Star system. The antennas have been installed on two of the W1AW antenna support structures.

Although still in the early phase, the project plans to exercise the technology's digital voice and data capabilities as well as its capability to become part of a wider D-Star digital repeater network via an Internet gateway.

Icom Amateur Products Division Manager Ray Novak, N9JA, says the D-Star standard, first published four years ago, resulted from government-funded research in Japan administered by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) to investigate Amateur Radio digital technologies. Novak emphasizes that D-Star is an open protocol that's available for implementation by anyone, and Icom is working with other manufacturers to get more D-Star compatible gear on the market.

"Amateur Radio is again out there in the forefront of technology," Novak says. Although he concedes there's a steep learning curve ahead, he predicts Amateur Radio users will invent new ways to put

D-Star technology to work as they get better acquainted with its possibilities.

At this stage, the D-Star 23-cm repeater is up and running in digital voice mode, and W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, and ARRL Web and Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, enjoyed the first contact through the repeater on November 30. In the meantime, Bloom has been working to interface the D-Star system with a Linux server, which will serve as an Internet gateway, to check out that aspect of the system.

Novak says the digital voice stream can simultaneously handle voice at 3600 bps with error correction and data at up to 1200 bps. Since a D-Star voice signal occupies only 6.25 kHz, Novak says, the potential is there to make more efficient use of available spectrum on 2 meters by squeezing up to four D-Star repeaters into the same space as two analog channels. New repeater modules are in development for 2 meters and 70 cm.

Working through a D-Star repeater is a bit different than using an analog repeater. Your call sign is the key to a D-Star system, since it's incorporated into every transmission you make. "Because of D-Star's call sign-routed system," Novak explained, "registered users are able to cross-communicate with stations registered on another network's D-Star repeater, wherever it may be."

Novak says the 1.2 GHz D-Star system's high-speed (128 kbps) data capability is another exciting feature. With the Ethernet jack on the Icom ID-1 transceiver, you now have the functionality of an ISDN (integrated services digital network) line available in your vehicle," Novak said.

"We'll have to find new ways of using this technology," he continued. "That will be where ham radio changes. This opens up an unbelievable array of features for repeater systems--including graphics, schedules, tables, photos, you name it!"

A D-Star Last Heard Report Web page <http://www.dstarusers.org/> lists stations heard, their location and the date and time and, sometimes, type of transmission. The K5TIT Dallas D-Star Web site <http://www.k5tit.org/> includes a

repeater listing and a discussion forum, and a promise of more to come.

Information Locator

Amateur Radio Web Sites

MARA	www.qsl.net/mara
WAR	www.wi-repeaters.org
MDXC	http://www.madisondxclub.org
N9MW	http://www.n9mw.com (DX-Cluster)
SMC	http://www.w9smc.com

Dane County ARES/RACES

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dane_co_ares-races/
(has a current listing of Public Service Events)

Note: The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) site, <http://www.wi-repeaters.org/>, will provide a current list of all repeaters in the state of Wisconsin. You can get the list sorted by frequency, by city or by region. The list has the offset, tone frequency, availability of auto patch, emergency power, owner, if open and if it's associated with emergency nets.

MDXC works with Internet Explorer and not with some versions of Netscape.

Other interesting sites are www.qsl.net and www.qrz.com. There are many, many links to other sites, which promote things from antennas, antenna construction to software. Also www.ac6v.com and www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/index.htm are full of links about ham radio. The latter is NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX page with the link ADXO, Announced DX Operations.

If you click on some of these URLs, they may not work and you will get an error message. They are OK if you type them into your browser.

Also, the ARRL Letter is a weekly update of amateur radio news, which can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

Badger Amateur Radio Society (BARS)

For those of you who utilize the 146.685 MHz, p123.0 Hz (W9YT), repeater in the Madison area, the Badger Amateur Radio Society (BARS) is the group which operates this equipment. The BARS group is the student based organization of the University of Wisconsin, and is open to amateur radio operators who are students, alumni, or just involved in amateur radio. BARS meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, at 5:00 pm and 5:45 pm, respectively, in room 1055 ECB (Engineering Center Building).

Currently, the BARS Echolink® unit is off-line and not operational, due to questions concerning the operation of the simplex unit under FCC rules.

QRP - A New Section

QRP is a subject within amateur radio which has been somewhat "low key," or lacking power. (Sorry, I got a million of them.)

The Feedline is about to answer the call of QRP by introducing a QRP section in our Newsletter. So, calling all you QRP fans and operators, we need your assistance in bringing our new QRP sections to life. We are interested in your stories, technical topics, references to articles you have seen or read, anything related and a part of QRP in amateur radio. We shall put the items together, and begin the QRP Section in next months *The Feedline*.

Thanks in advance, and we look forward to hearing from you. (Remember, submissions may be greater than 5 watts at the output/input for this section.)

And Other New Topic Areas and Sections for The Feedline

As our newsletter continues to develop and grow, we are always looking for topic areas and sections to add to our monthly writings. If you have any ideas, are willing to contribute to a topic area, or just have found some information you think amateur radio operators need to know about, let

our editor know. You can contact Steve Elliott, W9RAL, at w9ral@aol.com or w9ral@arrl.net.

Learn Morse Code

Here is yet another location on the Web where you can gain information about Morse Code and get assistance with your learning. The website: <http://justlearnmorsecode.com/>

Technical Round-up

ICOM MANUALS

If you have ever had a difficult finding one of those needed ICOM owner's manuals, here is the official website you need to know about:

<http://www.icom.co.jp/world/support/download/manual.html>

This site probably has what you been looking for, so have a fun time.

Need Manuals or Tech Info for Your Radio?

The following website has a lot of information for a very large number of amateur radios by many manufacturers.

<http://www.ham.dmz.ro/>

Give it a whirl the next time you need a manual, schematic, bulletin, or how to repair a problem.

For Sale and Advertisers

BUY — SELL — TRADE

ATTENTION FLARC MEMBERS: If you have amateur radio or computer items that you would like to BUY, SELL, or TRADE, you can do it in *The Feedline*. There is no charge for non-commercial advertising. Ads can be sent to Steve Elliott, W9RAL editor, w9ral@aol.com, and will be posted for 3 months. Continuations for additional months can also be sent to Steve.

FOR SALE

Great Prices -- local ham selling as follows:

- Vertical antenna - Eagle by Gap - list \$239 plus shipping, now \$50.
- Rig Blaster - manual uncertain but guaranteed, list \$129 - now \$20.
- 2 coax cables - make offer.

Bill Gulley, KB9SUP, 218-9293,
bgulley@charter.net

FOR SALE

Mosley TA-33 3 element/3 band beam. \$50.00
Pick up only, no shipping.
Roger, K9EMG at +1 (608) 221-8496.

FOR SALE

The following items are for sale:

- M-18, 50-foot, Glen Martin tower with a Hazer 6 tram system for antenna mounting.
- XP-70 Series Sommer antenna which appears to be a 706 model or 708 model.
- Miscellaneous feed line and tower guy wires.
- Antenna rotor (no current information on what unit it is, or whether it works).

Tower is located in Madison, Wisconsin, and further information can be obtained by calling Steve, W9RAL, at 608-345-2286. Proceeds from the sale of this equipment is being donated by the Family of Mas Iyama to the Big Project work in our area and supported by FLARC.

Advertisers

The club is always looking for advertisers for our club. This helps defray the cost of the news letter some. If you have a candidate(s) in mind; see Don or any board member for details. It is a good way for some business to get exposure and help the club out. It isn't very expensive at all. Contact Don Michalski, W9IXG or Frederick Baguhn, W9GOC.

The Ham University

Ham University is the premier Windows program for helping you pass your FCC Exams. Ham University contains all the questions for all *three* FCC written exams. You can browse the questions, quiz yourself on your weak areas, or set yourself a mock exam. Ham University provides you with *three* ways to learn Morse code. First there are formal lessons which introduce the code one letter at a time. Then there are exercises, a set of typical transmissions to practice on (you set the speed). And finally there is *Pentode*[®]. This highly motivating game (inspired by *Tetris*) makes acquiring the code effortless.

Requirements: You will need a PC with a 386 or higher running Win95, Win98, Win-ME, WinNT, Win2000 or WinXP plus a sound card.

Goto: <http://hamuniversity.com/>

Contest Information

WA7BNM Monthly Contest Calendar

Please note that you may not be able to operate during all of the total hours of the contests listed below. Total operating time may also vary by entry category. See individual contest rules for allowed operating hours. This calendar comes from website: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>.

January, 2006	
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Jan 1 (432)
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 3
WQF QRP Party	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 6
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 7
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 7 to 1500Z, Jan 8
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 7 to 2400Z, Jan 8
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 7 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 8
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 8
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 8
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 8
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 14 to 2400Z, Jan 15
070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 14
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 14 to 2359Z, Jan 15
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 14 to 0600Z, Jan 15
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 15
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 16
NAQCC 80m Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 19
LZ Open Contest	0400Z-1200Z, Jan 21
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 21 to 1200Z, Jan 22
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 21 to 0600Z, Jan 22
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 21 to 0400Z, Jan 23
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 28 to 2359Z, Jan 29
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 28 to 1800Z, Jan 29
SARL Youth Day	0700Z-1100Z, Jan 28
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 28 to 1200Z, Jan 29
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 28 to 1300Z, Jan 29

February, 2006	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 4 to 2400Z, Feb 5
YL-ISSB QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5
YLRL YL-OM Contest, CW	1400Z, Feb 4 to 0200Z, Feb 6

Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 4
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 4
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 4 to 0500Z, Feb 5 and 1300Z, Feb 5 to 0100Z, Feb 6
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 4 to 1759Z, Feb 5
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 5
ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Feb 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 7
KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 9 to 1200Z, Feb 10
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12
New Hampshire QSO Party	0001Z, Feb 11 to 0001Z, Feb 13
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 11 to 1000Z, Feb 12
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 11
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 11 to 1200Z, Feb 12
YLRL YL-OM Contest, SSB	1400Z, Feb 11 to 0200Z, Feb 13
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 11 to 0300Z, Feb 12
OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 11 to 1459Z, Feb 12
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 11
British Columbia QSO Challenge	1800Z, Feb 11 to 1800Z, Feb 12
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Feb 11 to 0100Z, Feb 12
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 12
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 17
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 15
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 18 to 2400Z, Feb 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 20
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 24 to 2100Z, Feb 25
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 25 to 2359Z, Feb 26
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 25 to 1800Z, Feb 26
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 25 to 1300Z, Feb 26
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 25 to 0300Z, Feb 26
CZEBRIS Contest	1600Z, Feb 25 to 2400Z, Feb 26
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 26 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 26
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 26 to 0300Z, Feb 27
CQC Winter QSO Party	2200Z, Feb 26 to 0359Z, Feb 27

Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Revision Date: March 13, 2005

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Information is also available from the ARRL contest web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html> and the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/>. You can also get the Rate Sheet emailed to you once a week. (You may have to copy these URL's into your browser to make them work.)

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

January 2006 QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

40 METER FOXHUNT - Each Friday 0200z to 0329z

(Thurs 9 PM to 10:29 PM EST)

80 METER FOXHUNT - Each Wednesday 0200z to 0329z

(Tues 9 PM to 10:29 PM EST)

Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org>

ARRL Straight Key Night

Jan 1, 0000z to 2400z

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/skn.html>

AGB NYSB -"New Year SnowBall" Contest (80M - All) ...QRP Category

Jan 1, 0000z to 0100z

Rules: http://www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm

AGCW Happy New Year Contest (CW)...QRP Category

Jan 1, 0900z to 1200z

Rules: http://www.agcw.org/agcw-con/2006/Englisch/happynew_e.htm

AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest ... QRP Category

Jan 1, 1600z to 1900z (144 Mhz)

Jan 1, 1900z to 2100z (432 Mhz)

Rules: http://www.agcw.org/agcw-con/2006/Englisch/agcw-d10_e.htm

Adventure Radio Society - Spartan Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!

Jan 3, 0200z to 0400z (First Monday 9 PM EST)

Rules: <http://www.arsgrp.com/>

The World QRP Federation (WQF) QRP Party (All) ... QRP Contest!

Jan 6, 0000z to 2400z

Rules: http://ruqrp.narod.ru/wqf_e.htm

Original QRP Contest (CW - 80, 40 & 20m) ... QRP Category

Jan 7, 1500z to Jan 8, 1500z

Rules: <http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html>

ARRL RTTY Roundup ... <= 150W Category

Jan 7, 1800z to Jan 8, 2400z

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2006>

EUCW 160 Meter Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Jan 7, 2000z to 2300z and

Jan 8, 0400z to 0700z

Rules: <http://www.uft.net/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=123>

DARC 10-Meter Contest ... <=100 W category

Jan 8, 0900Z to 1059Z

Rules: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/xedczr.htm>

070 Club PSKFEST Contest ... QRP Category

Jan 14, 0000z to 2400z

Rules: <http://www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html>

Michigan QRP Club Contest (CW) ... QRP Contest!

Jan 14, 1200z to Jan 15, 2359z

Rules: <http://www.gsl.net/migrpclub/contest.html>

North American QSO Party (CW) (100w max. QRP Entries Noted)

Jan 14, 1800z to Jan 15, 0600z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>

Run For The Bacon (CW) * QRP Contest *****

EST: Jan 15, 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM

UTC: Jan 16, 0200z to 0400z

Rules: <http://fpgrp.com>

NACC Straight Key/Bug Sprint * QRP CONTEST! *****

EST: Jan 18, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM

UTC: Jan 19, 0130z to 0330z

Rules: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/contests.html>

LZ OPEN CONTEST (CW 80M/40M) ... QRP Category

Jan 21, 0400z to 1200z

Rules: <http://www.linkove.com/lz-open-contest/>

North American QSO Party (SSB) (100w max. QRP Entries Noted)

Jan 21, 1800z to Jan 22, 0600z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes ... Low Power Category

Jan 21, 1900z to Jan 23, 0400z

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2005>

CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Jan 28, 0000z to Jan 29, 2359z

Rules: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html>

BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest

Jan 28, 1200z to Jan 29, 1200z

Rules: http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk/Contests/06_sprint_rules.htm

UBA DX Contest (Belgian) (SSB) ... QRP Category

Jan 28, 1300z to Jan 29, 1300z

Rules: http://www.uba.be/hf_contests/rules_en.html#

Thanks to K3WWP, LA9HW, SM3CER, WA7BNM, ARRL and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

Ken Newman - N2CQ N2CQ@ARRL.NET ; <http://www.amqrp.org/contesting/contesting.html> ;

<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/Contest/contest.htm> ; *Ed Note: Thanks to Terry, WU9F.

General Information

Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club Membership Mail-In Application

Date: _____ Callsign: _____ License Class: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Month & Day of Birth: (optional) _____

E-mail address: _____

ARRL Member: Yes _____ No _____

Newsletter delivery is via E-mail, so please include your E-mail address above. If you require a mailed copy, please check here _____.

Dues: \$20 regular, \$17 Senior (65 plus), \$10 Student, \$14 additional family members.
(one newsletter per family)

Mail check and this completed application form to:

**FLARC c/o Don Michalski
4214 Mohawk Dr.
Madison, WI 53711**

MDXC Scholarship

The Madison DX Club (MDXC) has established a student scholarship program to financially assist students enrolled in institutions of higher learning. The program is intended to be a public service for this community and it is hoped all amateur radio operators and friends will contribute support.

For complete details of the program you may go to <http://www.madisondxclub.org>. You may contact us at scholarship@madisondxclub.org.

The MDXC (Madison DX Club) thanks you for your support to this important project.

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