



SPURIOUS EMISSION

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (OCARC)

14064 West County House Road
Albion, New York 14411

OCARC Newsletter March 2008

News Ed Terry W. Cook (KC2JKU) Email kc2jku@ocarc.us

The Orleans County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC) meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Management Office at 14064 West County House Road in Albion, New York except in August when we have our meeting at the Picnic and September when we have a dinner meeting. The next meeting will be *March 10, 2008*

February Meeting

Video of the BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition of 2007 Located in the South China Sea just west of the Philippines.

March Meeting

I will give a demonstration of my remote station, make a contact both on VHF and HF with someone on the club radio so people can see how it works. Explain how I control my station accessories including an amplifier and external tuner. Give an overview of the hardware and programs that I use for it and answer any questions that people might have about them. Also I will control the same radio with Ham Radio Deluxe and Echo Link so people can get an idea of how these great freeware programs work and how easy and inexpensive you can set up a link station if needed. **Andy KC2HZM**

Club Officers

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ORLEANS CO. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2-METER NET

WA2DQL) repeater 144.67 MHz in/145.27 MHz out with a tone of 141.3. Every Tuesday night at 9:00PM We will be calling for officers first then anyone else that wishes to join in. We also have a simplex net once a month on the Third Monday at 9:00PM on 145.270.

March 4	N2LVW	Liz
March 11	KA2ZPQ	Rocky
March 17	KC2JKU Simplex	Terry
March 18	KC2JKU	Terry
March 25	KB2LXD	Ted
April 1	KA2BCF	Dick
April 8	N2LVW	Liz

Silent Key

We have lost another fine member.

Leonard Cataldi N2HS

I was not able to find any pictures of him but I am sure we all know who he is.

OCARC BEST WISHES

Birthdays

Rocky Harris KA2ZPQ 03/30
Dick Cooper KB2FRF 03/28
Robert Spriegel N2UJL 03/02
Gary Smith WB2GLU 03/12

Wedding Anniversary

Steve Schrader and XYL K2SNS 03/17/85
Jean N2MBV and Elton Seward 03/15/52

MISCELLANEOUS NETS

Gram (Genesee Radio Amateurs) Tuesday 7:30 p.m. 147.285 Tone 141.3 Cw Code Practice every night (except Tue.) at 8:30 pm. Voice bulletins from ARRL Head quarters every Tuesday night after the net at 8:30 pm. Please try to check in on the 147.285 Repeater

Lara (Lockport Amateur Radio Club)
Sunday 8 p. m. 146.820
Swapnet after regular net Sept- May

Stars (Southtown Amateur Radio Society)
Saturday 10:00 a.m. 3.925 HF Net
Tuesday 7 p.m. 147.090 Swap Net
Wednesday 7 p.m.

Hamfest

April 19, 2008
Drumlins ARC
<http://www.drumlinsarc.org>
Newark, NY
Marbletown Fire Department
6416 Silver Hill Road

Contest

March 29-30, 2008--CQ WPX SSB
<http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

I Think About 2008 Field Day

Anybody interested in going to Dayton. Maybe we could go as a group and get a room in the same Hotel.

Let me know.

Other Interesting Nets

All net on PM

Slow Speed CW Training Net Daily 3.576.00 6:00

ARRL RTTY News on Rtty 3.599.66 9:00

10 Meter Net 28.323.00 Friday 9:00

2 Meter Sideband Net 144.260 USP 9:00 Mondays

WorkedGrids software released

Bert, VE2ZAZ released WorkedGrids, ham log grid square mapping software this week. It is freeware and it runs under Windows.

The program displays a map showing the amateur radio grid squares contacted and logged in using third-party logging program.

WorkedGrids uses colors to display information on a per-band basis. Up to four bands can be displayed concurrently on the map. The program reads plain-text (ASCII) log files generated by most logging programs.

The software is directed towards the VHF and above operators who collect grid squares for contesting or award purposes. It is designed to supplement a logging program and it replaces the pen and paper technique for marking worked grid squares.

Please visit <http://ve2zaz.net> for more details. Your input is welcome!

Bert, VE2ZAZ

VP6DX sets world DXpedition record

The International DXpedition to Ducie Island, VP6DX, in the South Pacific headed by the German DXer Carsten Esch, DL6LAU ended its operation on February 27 with the incredible amount of 183,686 contacts made on all amateur bands and modes thus breaking all previous DX expeditions' records regardless of the rather poor propagation conditions.

The operators demonstrated high skill fighting nicely the huge pile ups in an excellent style.

So, what is left now is how to get your QSL card. If you have to send your card direct and get a direct QSL card, please mark VP6DX on the envelope (it's easier to sort QSLs then) and send it to Carsten Esch, Drosselweg 3, 21376 Salzhausen, Germany.

Non European stations: send a SAE (Self Addressed Envelope) plus 3 US\$ or 2 Euro or IRCs.

European stations: send a SAE plus 1 US\$ or 1 Euro or 1 IRC. If the SAE and/or (not enough) postage is missing they will return via bureau.

Please remember that we can only accept the new valid IRC for direct return, they said in a VP6DX Press Release. There is no way to send your cards through the bureau. We will confirm the online requests for bureau cards at the very last after the direct cards have been processed (probably 8 to 12 months after the expedition.

<http://www.vp6dx.com/>

ARRL, FCC, Department of Defense Review New Developments in PAVE PAWS Interference Mitigation

The FCC, ARRL representatives and agents of the various US Air Force units working on developing a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to PAVE PAWS radar systems on both coasts met February 20 via conference call. The purpose of the conference was to review the status of the mitigation plans at both sites: the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod and Beale AFB, north of Sacramento, California.

Thanks to the cooperation and assistance of the involved repeater owners on Cape Cod, ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said, "I am pleased to be able to pass along that at this time that the Department of Defense has determined that the levels of harmful interference to the PAVE PAWS radar site on Cape Cod have been sufficiently reduced. As part of this determination, they are not rescheduling additional follow-up testing for that area until sometime in 2009."

Henderson said that this decision doesn't mean New England is back to pre-mitigation repeater operation: "Any mitigation steps that have been taken should remain in place. A repeater that has gone off the air should not be simply turned back on at its original power level - its previously determined mitigation standard still applies in order to protect the primary user from harmful interference."

Henderson stressed that the entire process is ongoing. "The high degree of voluntary cooperation shown by the owners of Air Force-identified repeaters has helped demonstrate to the DoD that the amateur community takes its responsibility seriously. This should help us retain access to the band in the long run."

Repeater Coordination

During the discussion of the Cape Cod radar during the teleconference, the ARRL broached the topic of allowing the resumption of coordinating new repeaters on the 70 cm band in New England. The Air Force has agreed in principle to allow the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC) to resume coordination efforts under certain conditions. "These include that in addition to NESMC's normal coordination policies, Longley-Rice signal strength plots are prepared to determine expected signal strength at the radar site," Henderson said.

Henderson said that the ARRL has a "fairly good understanding of what strength level at the site should be workable, even though the DoD has not given us specific information on the sensitivity of the radar. The Longley-Rice plots should indicate if the operating parameters of the proposed repeater might be sufficient to prevent harmful interference to the radar site. The Longley-Rice plots are not the 'last word' in the process, but are a good tool giving the repeater owner and NESMC a reasonable assessment of possible problems."

Henderson reiterated that "any specific mitigation number from the Air Force is an exact measurement, not a 'predicted' number from a computer analysis."

Once NESMC approves a tentative coordination, Henderson explained that NESMC would forward the complete information on the new repeater to the Air Force for authorization on a case-by-case basis, as provided for in Title 47 §2.106 Footnote US7. "During a 60 day trial period, the Air Force would contact NESMC for an immediate shut-down of a new repeater causing harmful interference. If that happens the new repeater would have to remain off the air until it can be successfully mitigated."

While this new process is a bit burdensome to NESMC and the repeater owners, it goes a long way toward keeping Amateur Radio in a position where 70 cm operation can grow with careful attention to the effect of our operations on the primary users.

California

During the update discussion of the Beale AFB PAVE PAWS site in California, the DoD was able to report that there was a reduction in harmful interference at the radar, though work remains to be done to bring the situation at that site to a successful conclusion. DoD officials announced that a new round of testing is scheduled during the spring at Beale, and that they will share the results after the next round of testing is complete.

During the teleconference, the FCC reported that it has received excellent compliance in the wake of their phone calls and letters to repeater trustees and owners. This cooperation has made it unnecessary for the FCC to issue any mandatory shut down orders to date. The Commission will continue to be the initial point of contact with the DoD should further mitigation be required based on additional testing at Beale.

The ARRL will continue to work with the FCC, DoD, repeater coordinating groups and individual repeater owners as requested. "Because of the sheer number of 70 cm repeater in that area, the Beale problem is taking longer to resolve," Henderson said. "We will continue to work toward a successful, constructive conclusion for as long as it takes."