

K9MCE QSN



February 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

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K9MCE Editors: Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF and Ron Ochu, KO0Z

K9MCE 2013 OFFICERS:

President: Gary Huff, K9AUB

Vice-President: Ron Ochu, KO0Z

Secretary: Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF

Treasurer: Jim Pitchford, N9LQF

Trustee: Skip Riha, WS9V

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Issac Pizzo, KC9NJW

Charlie Ritter, KB9OXH

Hugh Watson, AB9UB

Webmaster: Issac Pizzo, KC9NJW

K9MCE Membership Dues

It's well into the new year, and hopefully you have renewed your K9MCE ARC membership. Jim Pitchford, N9LQF sent a notice to all current members informing everyone that since he was absent in the Fall of last year lending communications assistance during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in NYC, he would grant anyone not yet paid a 90 day extension that is due to expire on February 1st, 2013. So, if you forgot you can still renew by bringing your dues to Jim at the February 6th, meeting or drop them in the mail to MCARC PO Box 253, Carlinville, Illinois, 62626. Dues are \$20.00/year for a single membership, family membership is \$25.00/year and senior/student membership is \$15.00/year. So don't delay, contact Jim today and continue in the amateur radio fellowship!



K9MCE Membership Database.

In addition to renewing your membership, club secretary Mark Kerhlikar WD9HBF along with the K9MCE club officers are requesting all present club members to fill out a club membership application form that will be used to update the club's master database. You will find a copy of this form on page 4 of this newsletter. Please take a moment to fill out this information and either drop it in the mail or bring it to the February 6th club meeting. You can also e-mail it to mkerhlikar@gmail.com. The information collected is beneficial in vari-

ous ways. Email addresses collected helps the club officers, especially the club secretary send out important notices and keeps all of us in contact with each other when we are not sitting by our base station or handhelds. Other information collected such as ARRL membership status enables the club to easily file the yearly club report requested by the ARRL. The information collected concerning your interests and operating preferences helps Ron KO0Z plan the program portion of our monthly meetings.

Don't Miss The Next Meeting.....

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6TH, 7:00 PM

MACOUPIN CO. COMPLEX 2ND FLOOR BOARDROOM

PRE MEETING GAHTERING AT RENO'S PIZZERIA ON THE SQUARE ABOUT 5:00PM

ADDITIONAL STORM SPOTTING CLASSES



SKYWARN

Last month QSN reported on the availability of area SKYWARN training classes. A class will be offered at

Lincoln Land Community College's Student Union at 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield, IL 62794 on Monday March 4, 2013 at 6:30 pm. Other area classes include:

- March 2nd, Lewis and Clark College, Trimpe Room 141, Godfrey, IL at 8:30 AM, call 618-468-2222 to register
- March 18th, Richland Community College, Schilling Center, Decatur, IL at 6:30 pm.

- March 19th, Jacksonville High School Auditorium, Jacksonville, IL, at 6:30 pm.

For further listings go to the NOAA website of the area of interest:

www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx

www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx



ARRL Board of Directors Convenes in New Orleans for 2013 Annual Meeting

01/31/2013 Taken from the ARRL website at www.arrl.org

The ARRL Board of Directors held its 2013 Annual Meeting January 18-19, 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana, under the chairmanship of President Kay Craigie, N3KN. The Board welcomed two newly elected members to the Board family: Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, and Northwestern Division Vice Director James Pace, K7CEX; Lisenco and Pace were elected in November 2012. At its meeting, the Board set its legislative objectives for the 113th Congress, approved the organization's amended financial plan, elected members to the Executive Committee and ARRL Foundation, bestowed awards and more.

Here are some highlights of the actions taken at the meeting:

Legislative Objectives: The Board set seven legislative objectives for the 113th Congress of the United States:

To seek legislation instructing the FCC to extend the requirement for "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Radio station antennas -- a requirement that now applies to state and local regulations -- to all forms of land use regulation.

To oppose legislation that would lead to the reallocation of amateur spectrum or to sharing arrangements that reduce the utility of existing allocations.

To oppose legislation that diminishes the rights of federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters or encourages the deployment of spectrum-polluting technologies.

To seek recognition of the unique resources, capabilities and expertise

of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation that addresses communications issues that are related to emergencies, disasters or homeland security.

To support the complementary legislative objectives of other radiocommunication services -- particularly the public safety and scientific services -- that require spectrum access and protection from interference for non-commercial purposes that benefit the public.

To oppose "distracted driving" legislation that does not clearly exempt two-way mobile radio transmitters or receivers used by FCC-licensed radio amateurs.

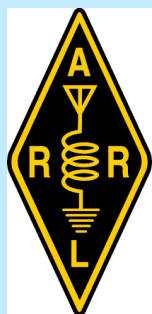
To read the entire article go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-of-directors-convenes-in-new-orleans-for-2013-annual-meeting>

Your ARRL Central Division contacts:

Director: Dick Isely, W9GIG.
w9gig@arrl.org. 630-584-3510

Vice Director: Kermit Carlson,
W9XA, w9xa@arrl.org. 630-879-0983.

IL Section Manager: Tom Ci-
ciora, KA9QPN,



New Hams and Upgrades

Last month's meeting was very busy and exciting for our VE's. We would like to congratulate Paul Durand for getting his TECHNICIAN CLASS license and his new call sign is KC9YCP. We would also like to congratulate Clark Jillson KC2ZPQ who upgraded to GENERAL CLASS and Garry Wnuk KCØQLW who upgraded to EXTRA CLASS. Wow, let's keep up the great effort and see how many newbie's and upgrades we can continue to achieve in 2013!



Gathering for the January pre-meeting dinner at Angus Bailey's (Reno's was closed) are pictured from the left: Jim- N9LQF, Garry-KCØQLW, Gary-K9AUB, Hugh-AB9UB, Skip-WS9V and with his back to the camera, Roman son of Debbie-KC9ULA



K9MCE members gathered at the January club meeting. Debbie-KC9ULA and her son Roman, Gary-KCØQLW, Jim-N9LQF, Clark Jillson KC2ZPQ, Tim-KC9HQA, Bill KJ9Y, Jeff Naville, KC9WZO Hugh-AB9UB and Skip WS9V. I apologize if I skipped someone!

Macoupin County ARES NET



ARES is an acronym for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Any ham radio operator with even a slight interest in Emergency Communications is invited to participate in the ARES Net which occurs every Thursday evening at 9:00 pm on 147.480 MHz simplex. Bill Ogle, W9FJ is the net control operator.

Macoupin County Emergency Operations Director, Jim Pitchford, N9LQF appointed Bill as the Macoupin County ARES director. Bill runs a very professional yet relaxed net and he invites everyone to participate. Most of the time the net starts at 9:00 pm, but Bill cautions participants that due to the onset of an occasional memory lapse the net may sometimes begin ten minutes later!

The net is conducted on a simplex frequency(147.480) primarily as a means to assist ops with testing their station's state of preparedness in the event a repeater is unavailable and emergency communications need to be relayed county-wide. All that is needed is a two meter capability call sign, ten minutes of time and a willingness to air your callsign when Bill asks for check-ins!



Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 253

Carlinville, Illinois 62626-0253

ARRL Affiliate EST. August 4, 1992

Dues are payable beginning with the October club meeting.

Membership is dropped if not paid by the January club meeting.

Please check the space if you DO NOT want your email and phone # on website roster _____

Name _____ Call: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of License Currently Held: _____

Expiration Date of License _____

Phone Number: _____

Cellular Number: _____ Other _____

Repeater Monitored: _____

Type of Membership (please check one)

Full _____ \$20.00

Family _____ \$25.00

Senior _____ \$15.00

Student _____ \$10.00

Associate Membership _____ \$10.00

What bands can you operate? 160 _____ 80/75 _____ 60 _____ 40 _____ 30 _____ 20 _____ 17 _____ 15 _____ 12 _____ 10 _____ 6 _____ 1
1/4 _____ 2 _____ 70cm _____

Which modes do you operate? CW _____ Phone _____ Digital _____ Other _____

What is your primary interest in ham radio? _____

Are you a current member of the ARRL? Yes _____ No _____

Signature _____

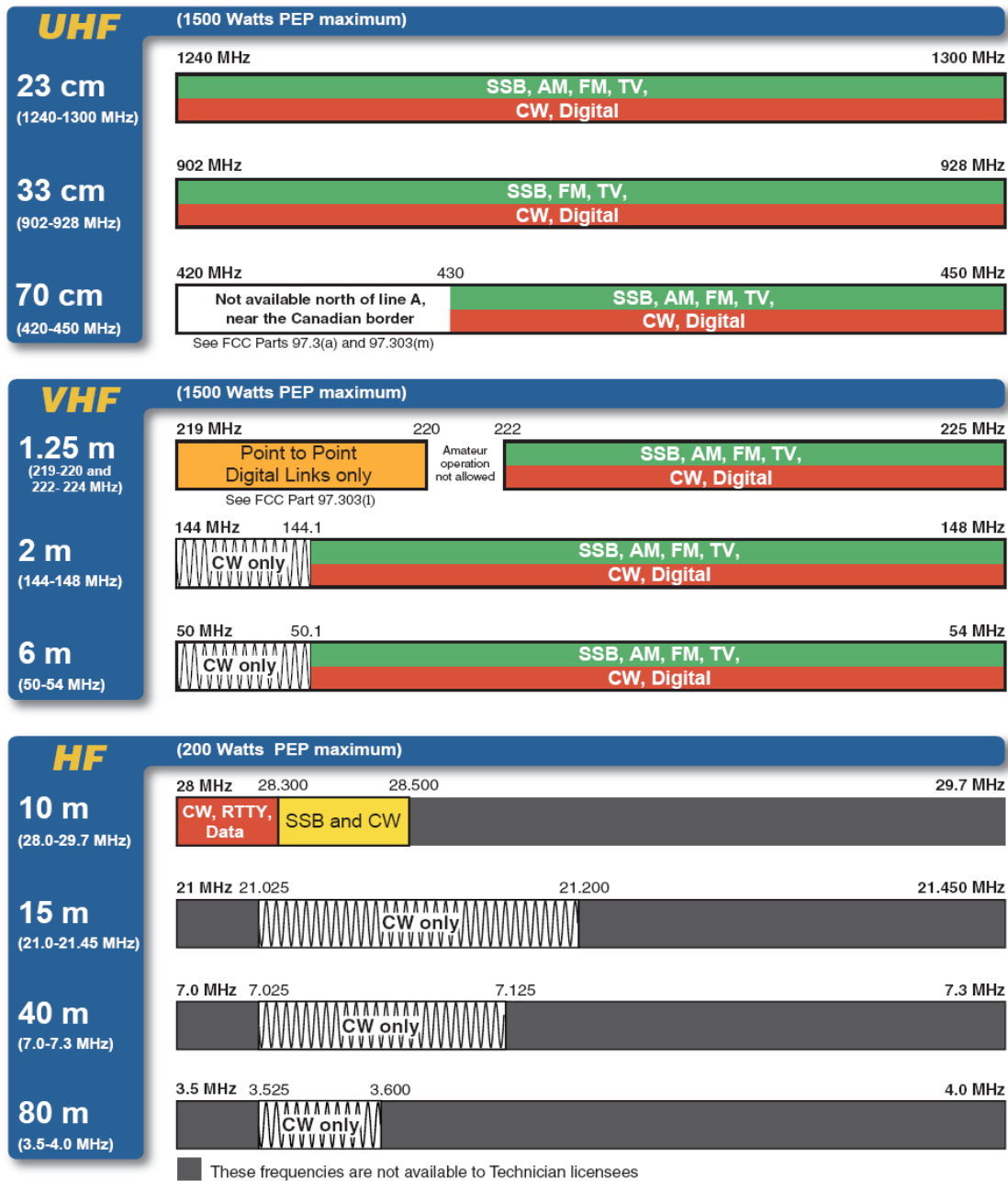
US Amateur Radio Technician Privileges

This chart shows privileges and band plan recommendations for each of the frequencies, as granted by the FCC to the Technician licensee. It is good amateur practice to follow the band plan established by the Amateur Radio community. The band plan is developed so that spectrum allocated for our use is used most effectively. You'll find a complete description of the band plan online at www.arrrl.org/band-plan.

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ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®
www.arrrl.org



Effective Date March 5, 2012



Notes:

Technician Licenses may use up to 1500 Watts PEP on the VHF and higher bands, but are limited to 200 Watts on the HF bands.

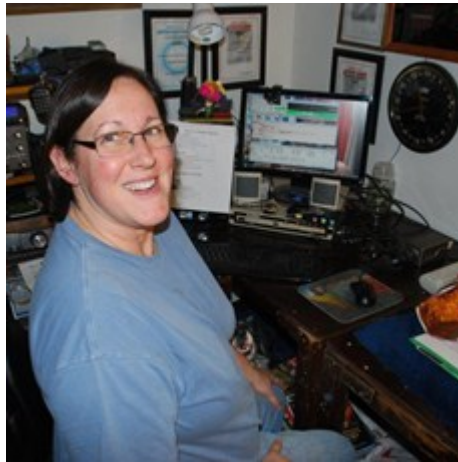
You also have privileges to explore these microwave bands with CW, Digital, SSB, AM, FM and TV:

2300-2310 MHz	2390-2450 MHz	3300-3500 MHz	5650-5925 MHz	10.0-10.5 GHz	24.0-24.25 GHz
47.0-47.2 GHz	76.0-81.0 GHz	122.25-123.0 GHz	134-141 GHz	241-250 GHz	All above 275 GHz

rev. 10-24-12

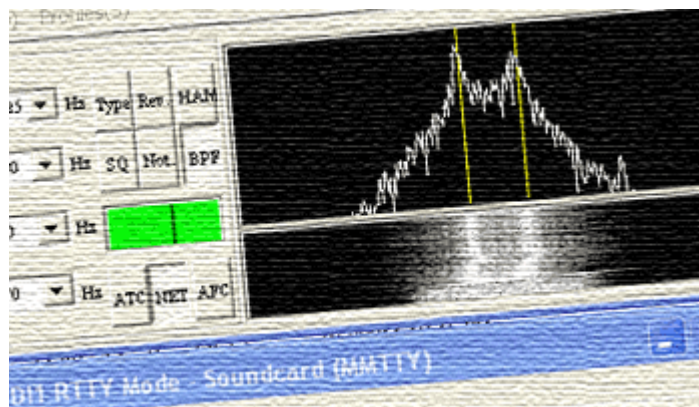
RTTY ROUNDUP FUN!

By Ron Ochu, KO0Z and Debbie Ochu, KC9ULA



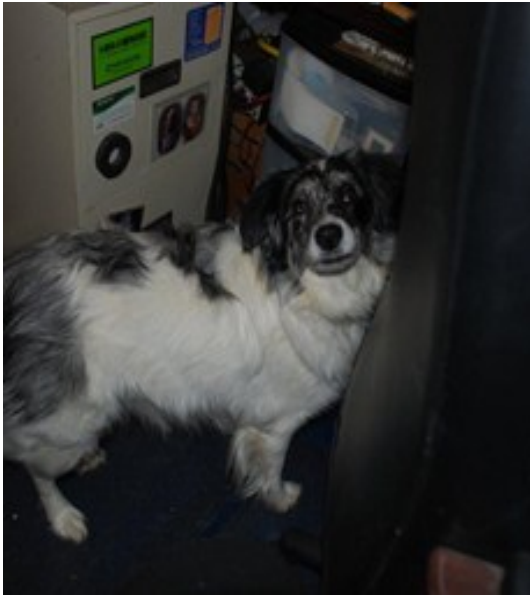
(Debbie, KC9ULA taking a moment's respite from the contest!)

For almost a year, Debbie, KC9ULA and I of Team KO0Z have been looking forward to the weekend of January 12-13. For on that weekend, the airwaves on 80-10 meters will be filled with the cacophony of contesters' mark and space tones participating in the ARRL's annual RTTY Roundup!



(Indicator of RTTY mark and space tones)

So what's so special about this year as to be looking forward to it with great anticipation? First off, this contest is fun, fun, FUN! I've been participating in the Roundup for twenty-three years and about three years ago I introduced Debbie, KC9ULA to it. She immediately loved it and at that time she neither had a license or that great of an understanding of ham radio, but she enjoyed the excitement and she was hooked! Secondly, the contest is action packed, but not so competitive that contesters don't take a



(Kip is wondering what is that strange ringing noise?)



(Ron, KO0Z at the RTTY keyboard)

moment to wish you good luck and to thank you for the Q (contact). In short it is a competitive, but very friendly contest! Thirdly, this contest allows one to really work towards Worked All States (WAS) on RTTY and Worked All Continents (WAC).

Okay, so the contest allows you to see old, familiar call signs, but there are new ones every year as well and that is the point of this contest. Namely, the goal is to work as many Radio TeleType(RTTY) operators in as many different states, provinces and countries as possible. Here's an example, let's say that you get on the RTTY Roundup from your QTH and you make just ten Qs (contacts) all within the same state. Then your total score for the Roundup will be ten points. However, let's say that those same ten Qs were made between different states. Each state counts as a multiplier and now your score is ten Qs times ten multipliers (mults) which now results in a total claimed score of 100! Every state, Canadian province and DX country counts as a mult and that is precisely what makes the contest exciting. The points start to add up dramatically!

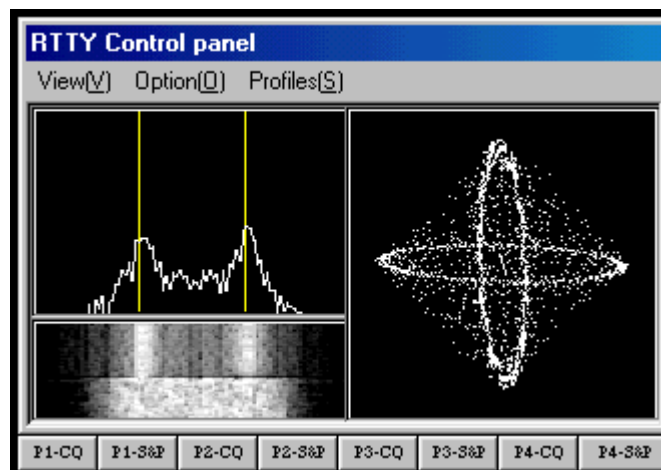
It's fun to challenge yourself in the Roundup to see if your station can make a "clean sweep" of all 50 states and all of the Canadian provinces. Anyone interested in working for RTTY DXCC? Best of all, it is fun to see over the years how station improvements, operating improvements and solar cycles impact your scores. I believe that even big time contesters would agree that it doesn't matter that you have a "killer" RTTY station. What's more important is that you get on the air and have fun. Be competitive with yourself and you'll be guaranteed to meet with unqualified success and fun!

This RTTY gig sounds like fun, but how much does it cost and how do I get started? For starters the aspiring RTTY operator doesn't have to wait for a contest to get started. There are RTTY signals almost always on the airwaves between .075 and .100 on the main HF bands, e.g. between 14.075 and 14.100 or 21.075 and 21.100. On forty meters RTTY signals can be found a bit lower in frequency starting around 7.045 and up. It's a good idea to get a feel for RTTY before plunging into a contest and RTTY ops are some of the friendliest and most helpful to assist you with this mode.

(Continued on page 8)

Now that you've got an interest, what do I need? If you have an HF rig, and a computer with a sound card then you are almost there! I would suggest downloading a free, excellent RTTY software program called MMTTY from this URL: <http://hamsoft.ca/pages/mmtty.php> Over ten years ago Mako Mori, JE3HHT wrote and developed this RTTY decoding/encoding program to work with Windows and made it available free to the amateur radio community. He could have charged for it, but in true ham radio fashion, it is free and not only that, Mako provides open source code and now his RTTY engine can be used in other programs such as N1MM Logger and WriteLog. It is not a hard program to install or to use and it has become the RTTY "standard."

Next you will need to have an interface between your rig and your soundcard. Rascal, Signalink, WestMountain Radio and MFJ are just a few of the manufacturers available for this purpose. Or, if you prefer, a homebrew interface can be easily made. But before you make your purchase, first determine if you are going to generate RTTY using either FSK (Frequency Shift Keying) or AFSK (Audio Frequency Shift Keying). What's the difference? Basically, the transmitter shifts frequency between the "mark" and the space tones with FSK; whereas, with AFSK the rig's modulator injects a mark tone and a space tone on the carrier signal which results in the RTTY shift in frequency using Baudot (RTTY) code. In essence, the result is the same, but either flavor of generating RTTY has its plus and minus sides. For an excellent tutorial on this subject go to Don, AA5AU (RTTY guru)'s website <http://rttycontesting.com/> Check out his tutorial page for a great, easy to comprehend discussion on RTTY FSK, AFSK and a schematic on how to build your own sound card interface board. Most ops tend to go with AFSK and with rigs built from the 80s on there usually isn't a problem with AFSK stability.



(MMTTY mark & space tone indicators. To the left are the tones tuned up when the peaks match the yellow lines. Some ops prefer the tuner on the right that looks somewhat like a cross. It is called a Lissajous pattern. When a RTTY signal is properly tuned a "cross" is formed. MMTTY includes both.



K9MCE QSN Contact Information: Mark Kerhilikar, WD9HBF;
mkerhilikar@gmail.com; Ron Ochu, KO0Z; ronochu.sky@gmail.com

Macoupin County ARC, K9MCE meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm on the second floor of the Macoupin County Sheriff Department

We're on the web!
www.k9mce.org

CLUB REPEATERS:

444.250 (103.5pl) Gillespie
146.865 (103.5 pl) Carlinville

LOCAL NETS: SUNDAYS @
9:00 PM, OKAW VALLEY
444.250 REPEATER(103.5
PL); **MONDAYS @8:30 PM,**
WA9RUM MEMORIAL NET,
146.820 REPEATER;



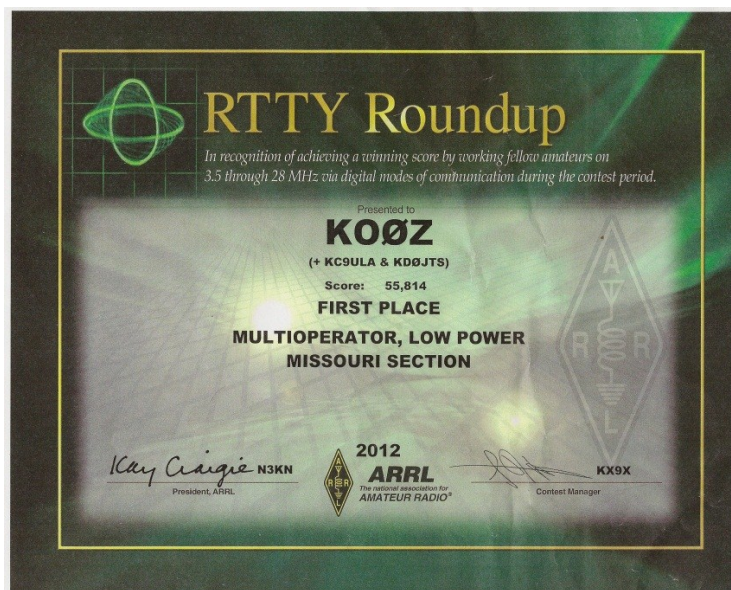
That's it, you now have what is necessary to join in the RTTY fun! As soon as your soundcard input and output levels are set then you'll see decoded information printed on your computer monitor.



(RTTY text being decoded on the monitor)

MMTTY software does come with a logging program, but if you are interested in contesting then I would strongly suggest a more robust logging program. I use WriteLog, but it does cost a few dollars. N1MM is an excellent program and it is available at no cost and it works extremely well for RTTY and other contest modes.

Now that you have a better idea of the digital mode called RTTY how did Team KOØZ do in this year's ARRL RTTY Roundup? Most important we had fun, fun, FUN! Second, we kicked radio hind end! Out of twenty-three years of participating we had our personal best score ever! Our claimed score is over 80,000 points! To be sure there are teams with higher scores, but it is a big improvement over our last year's score! The contest begins at noon local time on Saturday and ends at 5:59 pm Sunday local time. During that time period, ops are allowed no more than twenty-fours in which to operate. So some contest strategy is involved such as when to hunt and pounce, when to call CQ, which bands to operate and when, etc. KC9ULA and I missed having a USA clean sweep by just one state! Vermont was this year's hold out. Team KOØZ put into the log book eight Canadian provinces. Fifty DX countries were contacted. We worked all continents and we had 105 mults! We made 773 Qs! We did this with only 100 watts of power, but having a yagi, and some great solar indices such as a SFI of 143, A of 2 and a K of 0 sure did not hurt! It will be fun to see this year's contest standings and we are anxiously awaiting, but in the meanwhile we are already making preps for next year's RTTY Roundup and Team KOØZ plans to be QRV from Girard, IL in 2014!



ON FREQUENCY WITH: Bill Ogle W9FJ

by Ron Ochu KOØZ

For almost everyone active in Ham Radio in central Illinois and throughout the United States traffic nets the call sign W9FJ is a familiar and welcome one to hear on the airwaves. Bill Ogle was first licensed as a novice, while living in St. Louis in 1960, as KNOENH. FCC rules stipulated back then that the novice license was only valid for just one year; so, within the year Bill upgraded to General Class and he obtained the call KOENH. Wishing to get even more involved with this hobby, ten years later Bill passed his Advanced Class license, and in the late 70's he passed his Extra Class license and acquired the call NOAP.

For the initial part of his ham radio career Bill lived with his wife and their son in Florissant, MO while he worked in maintenance for Monsanto Chemical Company. In 1981, Bill retired from Monsanto World Headquarters as maintenance supervisor and both he and his wife retired to their present ranch style home in Carlinville. Since Bill was now a "9 Lander" Bill changed his call to W9FJ.

Although Bill was first licensed as a "Zero lander" he is an Illinois native. He was born in Collinsville and raised in nearby Caseyville. Bill fondly recalls that in elementary school there was a teacher who taught first and second grade, another for third and fourth, another for fifth and sixth and the principal taught seventh and eighth grades. When Bill entered Collinsville High School, W9FJ played saxophone for the high school band. After he graduated from high school, Bill enlisted into the Army Air Corps in 1940 as an aspiring future aircraft mechanic. Like many enlistees of the time, Uncle Sam had other plans and Bill was trained as an auto mechanic. At first, Bill was sent to Scott Air Field, then to Jefferson Barracks before shipping off to California and eventually to Yuma, AZ.



(Bill, W9FJ as an Army Air Corps Sgt. 1940)



(Bill, W9FJ on the air 2013)

W9FJ spent most of the war years stationed at Yuma, but he did receive transfer orders to report to Seymour Johnson Air Base in North Carolina to be trained for the upcoming U.S. invasion of WWII Japan. Unbeknownst to anyone on base then, Col. Paul Tibbets and his crew of the Enola Gay were making preparations to drop the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan which led to the eventual unconditional surrender of Japan and the end of WWII. Fortunately for all the servicemen like Bill they did not have to invade Japan.

Bill first became interested in Ham Radio in 1948 while working at Monsanto Chemical during the second shift. He'd park his car and there was a gentleman named Pat that would sometimes arrive at the same time and he had a ten meter mobile radio which Bill found quite remarkable. That chance encounter led W9FJ down the path to shortwave listening and kit building. Bill built an Eico 720 transmitter which was a crystal controlled CW rig and a bit later a Heathkit SB 101. Bill listened to the ham bands with a Hallicrafters receiver. Later he acquired a Collins KW2, a Collins 75A4, a Hammarlund HQ 180 and a Gonset 6 meter transceiver.



(Eico 720 CW Transmitter)



(Hallicrafters receiver)



(Hammarlund HQ 180)

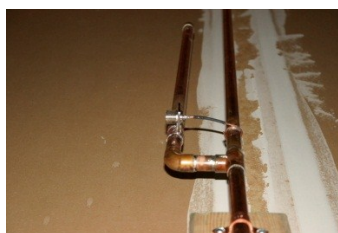


(Gonset 6 meter Communicator)

Today Bill's shack includes a Kenwood TS 940 S for the HF bands and various VHF transceivers which enables him to do what he loves best about Ham Radio. Namely, Bill enjoys traffic nets and being prepared to provide emergency communications. That's why W9FJ is active daily with the Illinois SSB and Interstate SSB Nets. He is also the net control operator for the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net every Thursday at 9:00 pm on the two meter simplex frequency of 147.480MHz.



(Heathkit SB 101)



(2 m copper Jpole antenna)

In addition to public service, Bill is just one state shy of achieving the Worked All States (WAS) award. He also enjoys listening and one of his fondest Ham Radio memories is while on his way to work in his car, he used a tuner that plugged into the car's AM Radio antenna jack and he would listen to an op in Nebraska using a rhombic antenna run phone patches for folks stationed in Antarctica. But don't think that W9FJ only listens to the airwaves. He has made more than just a few DX contacts. A memorable one was with the Belgium Congo and another one was while running only 25 watts on 10 meters from his car which resulted in a two-way QSO with Hawaii!



(W9FJ Antenna Farm)



(W9FJ Kenwood TS 940 and 450)



(W9FJ looking at club photos)

Besides Ham Radio, Bill is an avid collector of Jim Beam bottles! Not only does he have some very neat car bottles, but he also has a Jim Beam steam locomotive train set. Needless to say he has wonderful bottles that tell a story just like a QSL card, and he can also enjoy the bottle's contents!

When I dropped by Bill's QTH to conduct the interview, Bill brought out his album of club pictures he or his wife took throughout the decades. It was a wonderful visit and I thank you Bill for the visit and your dedication to the hobby of Ham Radio!



(Bill's Jim Beam Bottle collection)



(Bill's test bench)

K9MCE

February 2013

Ham Radio Events

~ February 2013 ~						
◀ Jan 2013						Mar 2013 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 K9MCE informal dinner gathering , Renos Pizza, at 5:00 pm Carlinville. Club meeting @7:00 pm Macoupin Cnty Sheriff Dept 2 nd floor.	7 IL Shakeout Drill @ 10:15 am www.ShakeOut.org/centralus . Macoupin Cnty ARES NET W9FJ Net Control. 147.480 Simplex @9:00 pm	8 Centaurids Meteor Shower Peak	9 CQ WPX RTTY CONTEST
10 CQ WPX RTTY CONTEST	11	12	13	14 Macoupin Cnty ARES NET W9FJ Net Control. 147.480 Simplex @9:00 pm	15	16 ARRL CW DX CONTEST
17 ARRL CW DX CONTEST	18	19	20	21 Macoupin Cnty ARES NET W9FJ Net Control. 147.480 Simplex @9:00 pm	22 CQ WW SSB 160M CONTEST STARTS 2200Z	23 CQ WW SSB 160M CONTEST
24 CQ WW SSB 160M CONTEST ENDS 2200Z	25	26	27	28 Macoupin Cnty ARES NET W9FJ Net Control. 147.480 Simplex @9:00 pm	Notes:	

Get Ready to ShakeOut.

February 7, 2013 Register Now at shakeout.org/centralus



Drop - Cover - Hold On!

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging businesses and other organizations to participate in the **Great Central U.S. ShakeOut on February 7, 2013, at 10:15 am**. This “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill will be conducted simultaneously with other states in the Central U.S. to draw attention to the earthquake hazard that exists in Illinois and other states in the region.

Participation in this drill is as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. **REGISTER** your organization on the ShakeOut website:

www.ShakeOut.org/centralus. If this date and/or time will not work, a different date may be selected and registered on the ShakeOut website. Once registered, your point of contact will receive ShakeOut news and other information about earthquakes and preparedness.

2. **INFORM** the members of your organization of your participation plans.

3. **PRACTICE “DROP, COVER and HOLD ON”** on February 7, 2013, at 10:15 am. These are the recommended actions to take during earthquake shaking.

The date for the 2013 ShakeOut drill coincides with the 201st anniversary of the February 7, 1812, earthquake near New Madrid, Missouri, the last of a series of earthquakes that were felt as far away as the East Coast. Earthquake preparedness is important in our state, as Illinois is home to two major earthquake faults, the New Madrid and Wabash Valley. Northern Illinois has also experienced several quakes in the past 100 years.

Do your employees know what they would do to protect themselves if a major earthquake happened right now? As with tornadoes, fire and other threats, practice is essential. ShakeOut provides the opportunity to practice.

Thank you in advance for registering your business. Your support and commitment to earthquake preparedness are appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the ShakeOut drill, please feel free to contact Kate Mackz with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency at kate.mackz@illinois.gov or 217/785-9925.



Serving the Amateur Radio Community in Terre Haute, IN, and the surrounding area since 1927.

THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS:

2013 Terre Haute Hamfest & Computer Expo

Saturday -- March 9, 2013

Dede Activity Center Indiana State University

(39° 28' 16" N, 87° 24' 39" W)

Indoor Event – Rain or Shine!

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST

(Vendor setup begins at 6:00 AM)

Admission \$7.00 (12 and under free)

Free Tables

Hourly Door Prize Drawings

Free VE Testing Session at 11:00 AM

Talk-In: K9IKQ/R, 146.685 MHz, PL 151.4 Hz

***For More Information about the W.V.A.R.A. please visit
www.w9uuu.org***

Saturday, March 2, 2013

Sangamon Valley Radio Club

SVRC Club Dinner 2013. The Sangamon Valley Radio Club is hosting the SVRC 2013 Club Dinner. Following the Dinner, Lisa Spahr, author of WW2 Radio Heroes, will present the Program. This Program will bring history to life, while also relating a touching human interest story that spans generations. For more information regarding the author and links to Radio Heroes interviews, please see the page below.

Where: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10302

2349 Stockyard Rd

Springfield Illinois, 62702

Phone: 789-4725

When: Saturday, March 2nd, 2013 - 5:00 pm 8:30 pm

Schedule: Registration - 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Dinner - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

“Meet the Author” - 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Program: “Radio Heroes - Letters of Compassion” – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Menu: Grilled Chicken Breast, Au gratin Potatoes, Vegetable, Tossed Salad, Assorted dressings, Dinner Roll, Coffee, Iced Tea, Water.

Meal Cost: \$12.00

Reservations: An accurate meal count for the caterer is a must. Please call KA9ETP at 217.628.3697 or email ed@efgaffney.com for reservations. Please provide Name, Call, Phone Number, email address, and number of meals.

Pay at the door on the night of the event. If you make reservations and later find that you are unable to attend, please contact KA9ETP to cancel. Meal reservations cut-off date is February 24th, 2013.

Directions: From I55, take Sangamon Avenue Exit (100B) to Sangamon Avenue. Proceed on Sangamon Avenue to Stockyard Road, Turn right on Stockyard Road, and proceed about 1000 feet (past the grain elevators). The VFW will be on your left, parking on the right. <http://www.vfwpost10302.com/directions.php>

Sponsored by: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10302 and the Sangamon County Radio Club W9DUA

When in a pinch, DXing country style!

Skip, WS9V



If there's DX to be had and Skip needs a tower in a hurry to put up a yagi then a little ham ingenuity goes a long way towards getting that sky hook up in the air . And that's how it's done to put a much needed Q into the log book!

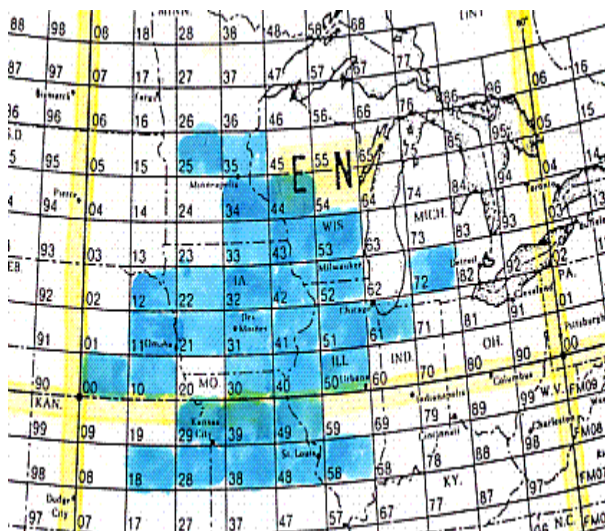


By Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF

I'm not much of a contester, but with a few minutes on my hand on the afternoon of Saturday, January 19th and some very unseasonably warm winter weather, I thought I'd give the ARRL VHF Contest a bit of my attention. I thought I would have a chance at making some QSO's because this year's contest had a "FM only" category. So with my tower sitting at 64 feet, and a small dual-band yagi pointed south, I started listening on the suggested simplex frequencies of 146.550 MHz, and 446.00MHz. However, before I started I needed to know my Maidenhead Grid Square identifier. I quickly found that information on www.levinecentral.com, by entering my callsign. So armed with my grid info, EM59, I started listening. I didn't know what to expect because I usually monitor repeater frequencies except for participating in the weekly ARES net on Thursday evenings. I soon heard a mobile station heading south on I-55. Not bad I thought but not too exciting. I then worked a MCARC member in the southern part of Macoupin county (I live in the northern part of the county). So my radio is getting out as I expected. Later in the day I heard my friend KOØZ calling from his St. Peter's MO. QTH, but he was very weak and not readable. So I decided to quickly erect a higher gain 2 Meter antenna oriented horizontally on a 16 foot mast and gave him call. Bingo! We established contact. Not bad for a field day sort of setup. So did I make a bunch of QSO's? Nope. Did I learn how to re-program my dual-band radio for the correct SIMPLEX frequencies? It took me longer than I thought and I actually learned more about the memory features of my radio! Did I learn how well my equipment works on certain SIMPLEX frequencies? Yep! Did I learn how to set up another antenna quickly to establish a contact? Sure did and you know what, I'm glad I spent the time experimenting because I now know my radio settings better and I'm more familiar with what my antenna system is capable of achieving! Maybe next year I will be more prepared with better 2 Meter and 70cm antenna's.

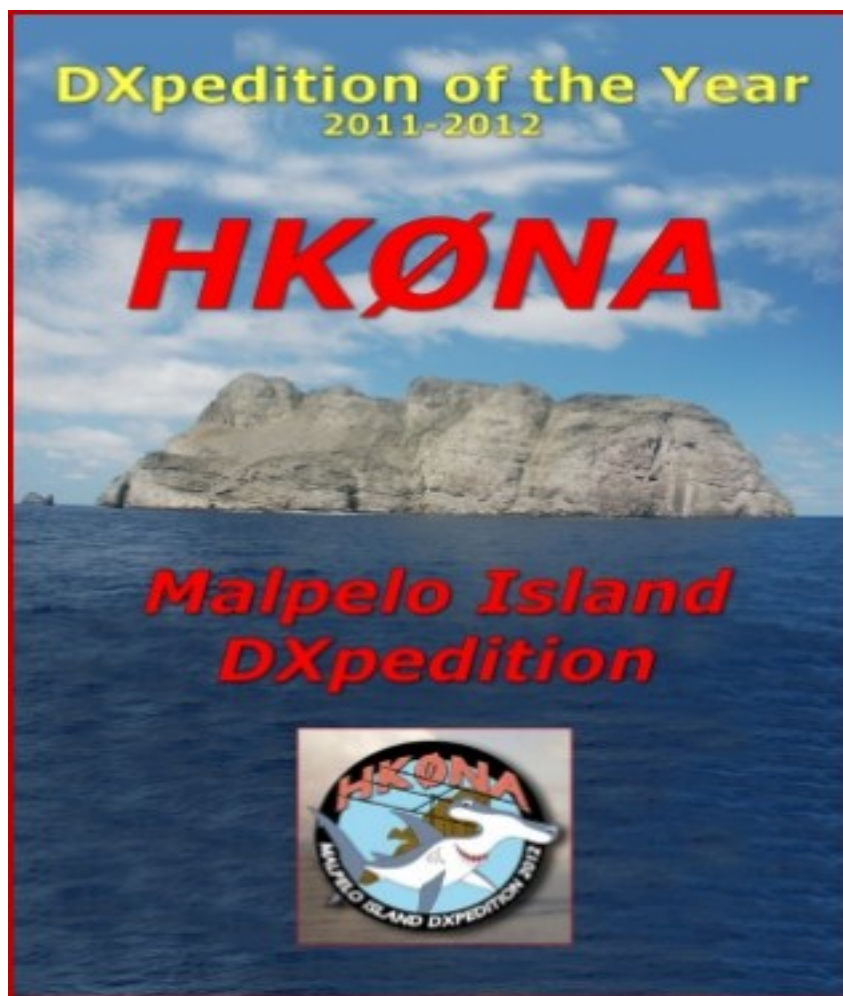


(WD9HBF's 2 meter yagi used to work KOØZ)



(An example of a grid map with grid squares)

A distance of almost 60 miles using FM)



World class DXpeditioner Bob Allprin—K4UEE and the HKØNA team just released a new video of their recent experience on Malpelo Island. According to the HKØNA website: Malpelo Island, off the coast of Colombia in the Pacific, ranked #12 on the DXCC "most-wanted" list -- but no longer! An international team of twenty hams from six nations made an astonishing 195,292 QSOs in fifteen days of operation. This set a new world record for "tent and generator"-type DXpeditions. And we were rewarded by being selected as DXpedition of Year for 2011-2012.

This near-vertical island of 86 acres represented an extreme physical challenge for the team. Team members were winched onto the island from zodiacs and then faced a 300' climb just to get to the first operating site. Even more challenging was the 600' vertical climb to the operating site located at the top of the 980' mountain peak.

This video captures the planning and organization phases, the non-stop pileups, humor and local animal life -- as well as incredible footage of team members climbing the mountain. In all my experience, this was the most physically difficult DXpedition of all. For more information about obtaining this new video go to www.k4uee.com/dvd.