

CQ CQ CQ DE VE3WE

CQ CQ CQ DE VE3WE

CQ CQ CQ DE VE3WE



WAVELENGTH

Official bulletin of
 Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
www.ve3we.org

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

October 2008

Volume 2 Issue 6

President:	Bernadine Dinnard-Williams VE3YDB	Sunday
Vice-President:	Open	
Past President:	Bill Catlender VE3ILE	Tuesday
Secretary:	Ray Chow VE3ZXC	
Treasurer:	Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP	Thursday
Membership:	Joe Ditta VA3JDX	
Communications:	Open	
Field Day:	Rod Long VE3SOY	
Education:	Ralph Muecke VE3CIW	
Examiner:	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC	
Assistant Secretary:	Rudie Toroian VE3OUA	
Archives:	Gord Hogarth VE3CNA	
Elmer:	Tony Fegan VE3QF	
Security:	Gord Gault VE3UFF	

SARC Nets

28.730 Mhz
 CW 10:00 AM
 SSB 10:30 AM
 147.060 MHz (VE3RPT)
 7:30 PM
 Alternate frequency
 146.520 MHz simplex
 28.730 MHz
 SSB 7:00 PM

Everyone is invited to check in on CW before the nets start.

These are open nets. All licensed hams are welcome. Come and join us.

We also want to emphasize that 28.730 MHz is our calling frequency. Please monitor and/or call your friends. 7:00 PM is a good time.

School is in!

Ralph VE3CIW will be starting classes on Friday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, beginning Friday, November 7 at the Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre.

Elmering CW Ops

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have a reputation for being a CW zealot. It's a reputation that I quite deserve, thank you very much, and one that I'm proud of. Working CW is a heckuva lot of fun, and I want to help as many hams as I can enjoy it as much as I do.

Unlike some OFs (e-mail me if you're not familiar with that CW abbreviation) who just complain that no one operates CW anymore or bemoan the elimination of the code test, I try to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. Here are some of the things I do to get guys to operate CW:

- I always carry around copies of the K7QO Code Course on CD-ROM (<http://www.kc5cqm.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php?n=Main.K7QOcwCourse>). K7QO has graciously allowed this version to be distributed freely, and when I'm at a ham event, and anyone expresses even the slightest interest in CQ, I pull one out of my briefcase and hand it to him or her.
- I try to keep one or two inexpensive paddles around to sell to interested folks. Bencher BY-1s are good starter paddles, and you can often find them at hamfests or on EBay for fifty to sixty bucks. I usually keep one or two "in stock." When someone asks about paddles, I offer to sell them one of the ones I have for exactly what I paid for it. Since they know me, they get a good feeling that they're getting a decent paddle at a decent price. And once they have it in the shack, it takes away one excuse for not operating CW. I also, provide technical support. By that I mean I help them get the key and keyer adjusted properly and help them use it properly.
- I never denigrate or complain about hams that never had to pass a code test. That's a sure turnoff. As soon as people get the feeling that you're looking down your nose at them, you lose all credibility with them

and they just stop listening to you. My personal opinion is that if more folks have ham licenses, then the pool of potential CW operators is bigger.

- I never denigrate or complain about hams that don't operate CW. See above.
- I acknowledge that Morse Code can be difficult to learn. I often apologize for the fact that I got into it when I was young and it was easier for me to pick it up then. I also apologize that I seem to have at least a limited talent for Morse Code. I acknowledge that this is not something one learns overnight. You're more likely to win someone over if you sympathise instead of criticise. I like to challenge them to learn it, noting that once they've acquired the skill, it's something that they can be proud of. Not only that, it's a lot of fun!
- I try to show them how much fun CW is! I have an Elecraft KX-1, which I take to things like club picnics. Throw up a simple antenna and I am on the air making contacts. I also invite guys to my shack and show them in person how cool it is.

Finally, I give presentations to just about any club that invites me, if I can make the arrangements. On my blog at <http://kb6nu.com/a-cw-presentation-for-your-club/>, you can find the text for the slides I used for my presentation, "CW is Fun!" Feel free to use them to give a presentation to your club.

Who knows? If you give this presentation to your club, maybe you'll even get one or two guys interested enough in CW to learn the code and get on the air. If every current CW op Elmered one other ham every year, the CW bands would be chock full of activity. We'd be complaining that it's impossible to find a clear frequency instead of complaining that it's getting hard to find a contact.

Using a Mac in the Shack

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of years ago, I decided to switch to the Mac for business use. (I am a freelance website developer.) I haven't regretted it for a second. The thing just seems to work better.

Last October, I decided to switch to a Mac in the shack and purchased a used, iBook G4 Mac laptop. Unfortunately, I can't say that I've never regretted this move. The reason I sometimes regret this choice is that there just aren't as many ham radio programs available for the Mac as there are for the PC, and those that are available are either more expensive than their PC counterparts or don't work as well.

For example, let's take a look at logging programs. When I first started looking, I found one that was kind of expensive (MacLoggerDX - www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html); one that was free, but didn't want to work so well (RUMLog - <http://www.dl2rum.de/rumsoft/RUMLog.html>); and one that worked OK and cost somewhere in between the first two (Aether - www.aetherlog.com/). Considering that there are at least a dozen logging programs that run on a PC, this was slim pickings.

I ended up purchasing Aether, but was never very happy with it. For one thing, it took forever to do any kind of sort or look up previous QSOs. Another pain was that it carried over none of the information from the previous contact, so you had to enter all of the information from scratch, even if you didn't change frequencies or bands. It also had an odd way of doing notes about a contact, and I was disappointed to find out that it didn't import the notes from the ADIF file I created from the N3FJP logging program I used previously.

For PSK, It's CocoaModem

I had much the same experience when looking for a PSK31 program. Instead of a the wide variety of PC PSK programs, I only found a couple of Mac programs that decode PSK. Fortunately, I am much happier with my choice here (cocoaModem - homepage.mac.com/chen/index.html). It's a great program, with a polished user interface, and it's free, to boot.

The only problem with cocoaModem is that it doesn't support the wide range of digital modes that some of the PC programs do. One I'm interested in is SSTV. Unfortunately, cocoaModem doesn't do SSTV.

A Happy Ending

Well, a couple of weeks ago, I'd had enough of Aether and decided to start searching for logging software again. Since RUMLog was still free, I decided to give the new version (v 3.0, March 15, 2008) a go. I'm happy to report that this version likes my computer a lot better, and I like using it a lot!

One of the coolest things is that it did import the notes from my N3FJP ADIF file properly. So, now, when I type in a callsign, the program searches the database, finds all the previous contacts I've had with that station, and then displays them in spreadsheet style WITH the notes. If I've taken notes about a previous conversation, I can pick up right where I left off. Very cool.

It also has a very nice way of showing you what countries you've worked, on what bands you've worked them, and whether or not you've QSLed that country or not. Not only that, it shows what type of QSL you have, either a paper QSL or a Logbook of the World (LOTW) QSL. And, after you supply your user ID and password, it will download your LOTW QSLs and update the appropriate QSO records. Very cool!

Still unresolved is what to use for contesting. None of the programs I've seen so far are useful for contesting, and I think that what I will end up doing is using my old PC laptop running N3FJP

or N1MM software. I'm not a big contester, so I think I can live with that.

One thing is for sure--I'm not going back to the PC aside from some niche applications like contesting. The Mac's ease of use and ease of setup has won me over. For information on even more ham radio software for the Mac, go to www.machamradio.com.

When not trying to convince his friends and family to convert to the Mac, Dan works a lot of CW and PSK, and even a little SSB, on 20, 30, and 40m. You can read more about his adventures in amateur radio by pointing your Web browser to www.kb6nu.com.

Meetings

We are very happy to be back at the Seniors Lounge in the Don Montgomery Recreation Centre for another year. Thanks to Bernadine VE3YDB for making the arrangements. Please note that the meetings will now start at 7:00 PM. Notice of upcoming meetings will appear on our website at ve3we.org and also on our members' mailing list.

Meeting dates:

October 27

November 10

November 24

December 8 - Elections

December 15.- Christmas party

Elections & Christmas Party

Elections will be held on December 8. All positions on the Board of Directors and Executive are open. If you are interested in standing for election please contact Bernadine.

In previous years we had the Christmas party immediately after the elections. Since this made it difficult for members to invite guests, we have

decided to hold the Christmas party on Monday, December 15.

Introduction to EchoLink

By Ray Chow, VE3ZXC

At our first meeting in September, Bob VE3IEL suggested that the club should start an EchoLink net to replace the Thursday night 10 metre net, which has been pretty quiet lately. This led to a very informative discussion about EchoLink and what it can do. EchoLink is a voice-over-IP (VoIP) application that allows licensed amateur radio stations to communicate via the Internet. This is similar to other VoIP systems like IRLP though there are some differences.

There are several ways to use Internet linking. You can use DTMF codes on your transceiver to activate a linked repeater. You can connect your transceiver to your computer and communicate with any other connected station. You can connect a repeater so that anyone within range of that repeater can connect to any linked station, including other similarly connected repeaters.

On EchoLink, you can also use a microphone and speakers and connect via your computer to any other connected repeater or station. Some computers have built-in microphones and/or speakers, but a headset may provide better sound quality.

The official EchoLink software from <http://echolink.org/> is available for Windows only. It includes a Sysop mode to connect a computer sound card to an FM transceiver using a custom interface board or a generic digital-mode interface such as a RIGBlaster. This mode allows remote control of the PTT function of a transceiver and processing of DTMF commands.

EchoMac (<http://echomac.sourceforge.net/>) is a client for Mac OS X.

For Linux systems there are at least two clients: Qtel, which is part of the SvxLink project (<http://svxlink.sourceforge.net/>), and echoLinux,

which is part of the CQinet project (<http://cqinet.sourceforge.net/>).

The first time you run the software, you have to enter your callsign and a password of your choice. Then, you need to authenticate with the EchoLink server at <http://echolink.org/validation/> to verify that you are the holder of the callsign - this typically takes about a day. You can go back to the validation page to change your password or email address.

When you start the EchoLink software you'll see a list of stations. This list is updated constantly as stations connect and disconnect from EchoLink. To connect to another station you can double-click on the callsign. There is another key to toggle the transmit function, similar to PTT on a transceiver. On Windows this is usually the space bar, and on the Mac it's Cmd-Return. Just like on a repeater, you can hear only one transmission at a time.

By convention, callsigns with the suffix -L are simplex links, while those with the suffix -R are repeaters. Single-user computer-based nodes have no suffix. Each connected station has a unique node number, so mobile users working a repeater can connect to any station by keying in DTMF commands.

If you have sufficient bandwidth, up to 100 stations can connect to your station simultaneously. Although EchoLink officially supports dialup connections, a broadband connection will provide a more satisfactory experience. You can test your audio levels by connecting to the *ECHOTEST* conference server.

If you are using a firewall (and if you're not, why not?) you will need to open a few ports to allow EchoLink to operate properly. If you use a router to share an Internet connection with multiple computers, you will also need to configure the router to allow port forwarding. See http://www.portforward.com/english/applications/port_forwarding/Echolink/Echolinkindex.htm for help setting up specific routers.

Note that you cannot use multiple computers to run EchoLink simultaneously with the same

callsign. You also cannot run EchoLink on multiple computers if they are behind a router that has a shared public address (which is the case for most consumer routers), even if the callsigns are different.

For more information about VoIP as it applies to amateur radio, see the ARRL publication "VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs" by Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD (ISBN: 0-87259-926-4), available from <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9264#top> or at your local library.

Field Day

SARC participated in Field Day on June 28 and 29. Rod VE3SOY was our Field Day Coordinator and had everything well in hand. As in past years, we were at the Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.

This year we had 23 hams, SWLs and visitors on site. Thanks to all who participated.

Rod VE3SOY, Mike H (SWL), Bernadine VE3YDB, Ray VE3ZXC, Earle VE3KCO, Lambert VE3LYP, Bert VE3OBU, Rudie VE3OUA, Peter VE3FJI, Ralph VE3CIW, Nick VE3EBC, Amy B (SWL), Hugh VE3HAG, Bob VE3IEL, Richard VA3RSA, Edgar VE3WTR, Mike VA3MCT, Sarah M3SHC, Tom VE3BTR, Joe VA3JDX, Bernie VE3OTR and harmonic, Mike K VA3MVK.

Stations and band leaders:

40 m phone (Bernadine), 10 m phone (Hugh), 20 m phone (Bob), 80 m phone (Nick), 6 m phone (Ralph), 20 m PSK31 (Richard), 2 m phone (Rod)

Thanks to all who attended. Good job. Results will appear in QST in December.

HF Band Plan

RAC has issued a new Canadian HF band plan, effective July 22, 2008. The changes were necessary because of changes in band allocations

in the USA, changes in IARU Region 1 allocations and revisions to the IARU Region 2 band plan.

More details are available from the RAC website: http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband_e.php

DX News

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT October 23, 2008
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by DL1MGB, NC1L, OH4MDY, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

TUNISIA, 3V. A group of operators will be QRV as 3V8BB in the CQ WW SSB contest as a Multi/Op entry. They may also be active before and after the contest. QSL via YT1AD.

CYPRUS, 5B. Members of the Nicosia Radio Club will be QRV as C49C in the CQ WW SSB contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via 5B4KH.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. A group of operators will be QRV as 9M4SMO as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via JH1WXT.

CHINA, BY. A group of operators will be QRV as B7P from Foshan as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via BD7IXG. In addition, a group of operators will also be QRV as B1Z as a Multi/Single entry in the contest. QSL via EA7FTR.

MOROCCO, CN. Look for CN2R to be a Single Op/Single Band entry on 160 meters in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via W7EJ.

AZORES, CU. Toni, OH2UA will be QRV as CU2X as a Single Op/All Band entry in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via OH2BH.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Philippe, EY8/F4EGS and Nodir, EY8MM will be QRV in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL EY8/F4EGS via F4EGS and EY8MM via K1BV.

MOLDOVA, ER. UR5FEO will be QRV as ER0FEO in the CQ WW SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL to home call.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Look for a group of hams to be QRV as HB0/HB9AON from areas around Triesenberg until October 31. They will also be active in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via DJ2YE.

GUAM, KH2. A group of operators will be QRV as AH2R as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via JH7QXJ.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. A group of operators are QRV as P29NI until November 3 from Garove and Hermit islands, IOTA OC-181 and OC-041, respectively. There are two QSL routes, depending on island. Activity is on all bands. QSL OC-181 via SM6CVX and OC-041 via G3KHZ.

GREECE, SV. Operators HA6NL, HA5OV, HA6PS, HA7JJS and HA7PL are QRV as J48NL, J48OV, J48PS, J48JJ and J48P, respectively, from Thassos Island, IOTA EU-174, until November 8. They will be QRV as J48RT as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ WW SSB contest and the upcoming HA-QRP Activity week. Activity is on all bands, including some Satellite work as well. QSL to home calls. QSL contest call via HA6NL.

TURKEY, TA. Hart, DL7BC will be QRV as TA2/DL7BC in the CQ WW SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL to home call.

COSTA RICA, TI. A large group of operators will be QRV as TI1R as a Multi/Two entry in the CQ WW SSB contest. They are also active until October 28. QSL via TI2JCY.

INDIA, VU. Sara, VU3RSB will be QRV as AU2RSB from Mumbai in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via W3HMK.

CAMBODIA, XU. Retu, OH4MDY is QRV as XU7MDY until November 8. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW. QSL direct to home call.

LAOS, XW. Larry, XW1A will be a Single Op/All Band entry in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL via E21EIC.

ALBANIA, ZA. Operators Alfredo, IK7JWX, Nicola, I0SNY, Pino, I8YGZ, Leopoldo, I8LWL and Oscar, IK2AQZ are QRV as ZA0/homecalls from Sazan Island, IOTA EU-169, until October 29. Activity is on all bands and modes. This includes an entry in the CQ WW SSB contest. QSL to home calls.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Timor-Leste, 4W6R, 2008 operation; Iran, EP3BN, 2008 operation; Nepal, 9N7BN, 2007 operation; Republic of the Congo, TN5SN, current operation commencing October 2008; and Republic of the Congo, TN5MM, current operation commencing October 2008

Propagation Forecast

From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA October 24, 2008
To all radio amateurs

Visible sunspots continued last week for eight days straight, the longest continuous period of sunspot visibility since the twelve days of March 23 through April 3 2008.

For this week a solar wind stream is headed our way, and may strike October 28. The NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center places the predicted effect slightly later, with a predicted planetary A index for October 27 through November 1 at 5, 8, 12, 15, 10 and 5. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for October 24, quiet to unsettled October 25, quiet October 26-27, quiet to unsettled October 28, unsettled to active October 29, and unsettled October 30.

Both predictions place the disturbance between this weekend's CQ Worldwide SSB DX Contest (October 25-26) and the ARRL CW Sweepstakes a week later.

Vince Varnas, W7FA of Portland, Oregon reports that on Sunday October 9, at 1930-2100z, 10 meters was open to Latin America. He worked (I

assume on phone) Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Honduras and Costa Rica mostly with S9 signals. This is a bit late in the season for sporadic-E skip, and this was two days after the recent run of sunspots. Vince believes he is too far north for trans-equatorial propagation and that it must have been via the F2 layer.

The day before, Francisco Chubaci, PU2MLC of Sao Paulo, Brazil received a very strong 6 meter signal on October 18 from NP4A in Ponce, Puerto Rico. This was between 2300-0100z, and signals were a very strong 40 dB over S9.

Mack Beal, W1PNR of Jackson, New Hampshire asked about new Cycle 24 sunspots compared to sunspots from old Cycle 23. He heard they change polarity, but wants more detail on how this is determined.

Yes, they do change polarity. We can see this by looking at magnetograms of the Sun. Go to the web site,

http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime/realtime-mdi_mag-1024.html.

This site has an archive of recent images. Below the top section is a "List of Individual Images" for the current month. The leading characters in the filename represent year, month and day, and the last four indicate time in UTC. There is a link at the very bottom called "List of all individual images" which leads to an archive for the whole year.

You can look at images from October 10-17 to see that string of recent sunspots. If you click on the 10-15-2008 0941z file, you can see a big spot in the northern hemisphere with black on the right, white on the left. It is tracking from left to right, and if this were below the equator, it would be an old Cycle 23 spot. But this sunspot is a Cycle 24 sunspot, and note that spots above and below the equator have opposite polarity. So a Cycle 23 sunspot north of the equator would have black on the left and white on the right.

Go back to the list page, and click on the "List of All Individual Images" link on the bottom of the page so we can see spots between March 23 and April 3 mentioned at the top of the bulletin.

Note that these spots are black on the right like the recent spots, but it is difficult to tell which side of the equator they are on, so the cycle status may be indeterminate.

The new cycle is said to begin when there are more new cycle spots than old, but I have no idea over what time frame. If we look at only the spots from last week, since no Cycle 23 spots appear, this must mean that Cycle 24 has started, unless we look over a longer time period and determine that Cycle 23 spots are not in the minority.

Sunspot numbers for October 16 through 22 were 24, 11, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 5. 10.7 cm flux was 71.9, 70, 69.2, 69.6, 69.2, 68.8, and 67.7 with a mean of 69.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 1, 6, 2, 3 and 5 with a mean of 3.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 1, 1, 5, 2, 3 and 5 with a mean of 3.1.

Subprime Humour?

President Bush said clients shouldn't be concerned by all these bank closings. If the bank is closed, you just use the ATM, he said.

George Bush said that he is saddened to hear about the demise of Lehman brothers... His thoughts at this time go out to their mother as losing one son is hard but losing two is a tragedy.

The problem with investment bank balance sheets is that on the left side nothing is right and on the right side nothing is left.

There are 30 billion prime numbers below 700 billion. The rest are all subprime.

How do you define optimism?

A banker who irons 5 shirts on a Sunday.

What do you call 12 investment bankers at the bottom of the ocean?

A good start.

Why are all MBAs going back to school?

To ask for their money back.

For Geography students: What's the capital of Iceland?

Answer: About Three Pounds Fifty...

A trader: "This is worse than a divorce. I've lost half my net worth and I still have a wife."

If you want to gamble, go to Las Vegas. If you want to trade in derivatives, God bless you.

What's the difference between a guy who just lost everything in Vegas and an investment banker?

A tie.

What's the difference between a bond and a bond trader?

A bond matures.

Lehman have changed their recommendation on Lehman from hold to sell.

Forty years ago I sold fifty shares of my company stock and had enough money to purchase a brand-new 1967 Ford pickup. Last week, I checked it out, and if I sold another fifty shares, I'd have enough money to buy a 1967 Ford pickup. So, the market has stabilized.