

Shark's Teeth



Sporadic Ham Radio Club
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September, 2001

Montana DX-Pedition Issue

President's Letter

Dan Emblidge, W2HQ

WOW.... Here it is September already. It has been, and is still a lot of fun watching the Sporadic Ham Radio Club take shape. Especially the WEB Page, or should I say the Members WEB pages. The Home page is still waiting for some attention from me. I am in the process of upgrading my computer. When complete, which will be very soon, we should start seeing some activity on the home page. I am really looking forward to working on this project.

We had our first DX-pedition at the end of August. Pete KF2U was away for business in Billings Montana. With the guidance of Mike KA2KQP (my what a tongue full ☺) who ran all the projections required to make a successful pass on the satellites between Billings and

Buffalo on AO-27 and UO-14. The event turned out to be a great success. I was lucky enough to catch Pete the last day, 27 Aug. 2001 at 1611 UTC on UO-14.

October 20th is bringing upon us JOTA. Jamboree on the Air. Mike will bring us all up to date on this event I am sure. Last year was a very well orchestrated event at Mike's house. His Scout pack had a great time. The demonstrations that Mike had put together kept the attention of all. Even Pete ex.N2AWT now KF2U and myself.

Its's all about fun. We need only to enjoy it.

73 cul de W2HQ

Editorial

Time for another newsletter already? Thanks to everyone who contributed articles.

Call for Articles Answered

There are some first time contributors in this issue. Neil (WB2CIR) commented that our newsletter was interesting but short. Maybe we can get him to contribute something also.

From ARRL

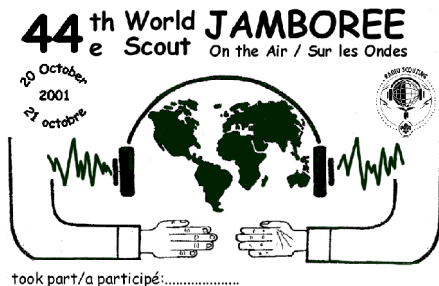
It is official. Pete (KF2U) has joined ARRL. I'm sure we'll soon be able to report on him receiving his DXCC and other ARRL awards. We'll also have someone to complain to when ARRL does something stupid again...

In this issue...

President's Letter	1
Editorial	1
Call for Articles Answered	1
From ARRL	1
JOTA	2
From the Web	2
From the QSL Bureau	2
Our Broom Was Broken?	2
What's That, A Cell Phone?	3
Contest Calendar	3
North American Sprints	3
January 2000 VHF Sweepstakes	3
From Amateur Radio Newsline™#1255 - 8/31/2001	4
For Sale	4

JOTA

Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP



The 44th Jamboree-On-The-Air is October 20-21, 2001. SHRC put on a great program for a group of cub scouts last year.

This year should even be better. Please e-mail me (ka2kqp@k2fa.org) if you are interested in helping out on Saturday from around 8:00 to 2:30. Lunch will be provided.

This year I would like to be able to allow more scouts to participate. The boys who attended last year really enjoyed it. This is a great event for our club to be involved in. This year we will do more demonstrations such as SSTV, PSK-31 and satellite. Each scout should still be able to have an HF voice contact. I REALLY appreciate everyone's help in making this a success. More information will be in the next newsletter.

From the Web



Pete (KF2U) has published his web-site taking advantage of another SHRC membership benefit. Click on various areas on the transceiver to

navigate his site. Visit www.k2fa.org/~kf2u to check it out.

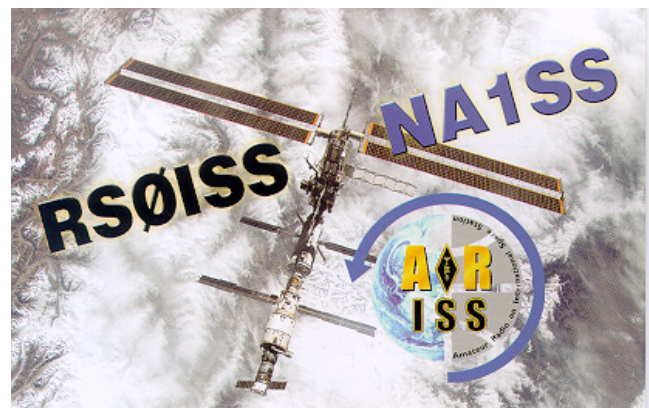
There have been a few minor changes to the SHRC homepage www.k2fa.org. We now have a propagation page which has some real-time information on our good friend the sun. The guest book is working and a few people have signed in.

A brief overview of Pete's Montana trip is also on our site. Check it out and also read his article in this month's newsletter..

From the QSL Bureau

Still nothing. One would think that after 20 years they would be happy to send me a card or two... At least I've received some of the cards from the Museum Ships Weekend. I still need a few more battleships to complete the collection.

Our NA1SS card from FD has arrived!



The International Space Station is a common project of 16 nations: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States. When fully constructed the Space Station will consist of approximately 70 separate major components and hundreds of minor ones that are due to be launched into space by the year 2004. Some of the major components are:

- Zarya, also called Functional Cargo Block (FCB—acronym from the Russian term)—includes the energy block, contingency fuel storage, propulsion and multiple docking points.
- Zvezda, also called Russian Service Module—provides life support and utilities, thrusters and habitation functions (toilets and hygiene facilities).
- Canadian Mobile Servicing System—includes a 55-foot robot arm with 125-ton payload capability, as well as a mobile transporter, which can be positioned along the truss for robotic assembly and maintenance operations.
- US, European and Japanese Laboratories—together provide 33 International Standard Payload Racks with additional science space available in the two Russian Research Modules.
- The Amateur Radio station is frequently used to allow the ISS crew to talk with school children and fellow amateurs around the world.

From	To	Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz	Mode
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA1SS	K2FA	24	6	01	1707	144	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voice
<input type="checkbox"/> RS0ISS							<input type="checkbox"/> Packet
							<input type="checkbox"/> SSTV
							<input type="checkbox"/> SWL

QSL Card for contact made with ISS during Field Day
Thanks to Pete (KF2U) for making this contact.

Our Broom Was Broken?

The results for the 2000 CW Sweepstakes have been published in QST. We were last in our class and section. This was our first try at Sweepstakes as a club. I know we'll do better this year...

Partial Results:

	Score	QSOs	Mult	Hrs.	
W2RW (+WB2KAO)	60,528	388	78	9	M
K2YF (K2YEH, K2CDJ, op)	42,976	272	79	16	M
W2SEX, (K2YW, K2ZR, WB2AIV, W2TPC, KB2VVD, KC2ALA, KC2FNG, KB2UZM, ops)	24,648	158	78	16	M
K2FA (KA2KQP, N2AWT, W2HQ, ops)	11,024	104	53	9	M

What's That, A Cell Phone?

Pete Vetter, KF2U

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel to Billings, Montana. At the request of KA2KQP, I took along a dual-band HT and a list of AO-27 and UO-14 passes. During my brief stay, I was able to contact the members of the SHRC on a couple of passes.

Now, being a staunch HF CW guy, the thought of working someone across the country with an HT was sort of intriguing to me. I had once owned a satellite station in the early 80's. But that was also mostly CW. Before I left on my trip, I made a couple of contacts on the birds to get the feel for it. To be honest, it was like kissing your sister. But I was happy to give DN55 to anyone who needed it.

When I wasn't working, I toured the Billings area. From my car window, I saw only one tower installation! This explains why Montana is sort of a tough state to get.

The highlight of my trip was driving the BEAR TOOTH PASS highway, also known as US 212. To call this route scenic is like calling Pamela Anderson cute. As I navigated the switchback roads, gaining altitude with every turn, I remembered I had brought the HT with me.

At a rest stop near Cooke City, Wyoming, the elevation was 11,000 feet. This is just outside Yellowstone National Park. Although I left my repeater list at the hotel, I tuned around the 2 meter band, kerchunking repeaters. Needless to say, the list was long and many. I also tried a couple of CQs on 146.52 simplex. Although I didn't get any takers, I did have to explain to an elderly couple that KF2U was a callsign and not a curse word.

Thanks to Dan, W2HQ for the use of the HT. And also to Mike, KA2KQP for the satellite info.

Contest Calendar

September:

8-10	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
9	North American Sprint, CW
16	North American Sprint, Phone
19	End of Summer PSK-31 Sprint
29-30	CQ WW RTTY Contest

North American Sprints

The North American Sprints seem like good contests for SHRC to participate in. These are only 4 hour contests. While the sprints are single operator events, a team of individual stations and operators can pool their scores. If anyone is interested, email ka2kqp@k2fa.org so that the team can be pre-registered.

January 2000 VHF Sweepstakes

The results for the January 2000 VHF Sweepstakes were recently published in QST. The club didn't mount an effort for this contest but Mike (KA2KQP) gave it a whirl. He didn't break any records. Here are partial results:

Western New York

	Score	QSO	Grids				
AA2WV	28,609	238	67	A	ABCD9EFGI		
N2UIO	12,546	223	41	A	ABCDP		
W2ONP	10,763	144	47	A	ABCD9E		
KA2ENE	9,920	241	32	A	ABD		
WA2ZNC	6,816	151	32	A	ABCDE		
K2UA	4,340	111	28	A	ABCD		
KG2NI	3,570	163	17	A	ABD		
K2CS	3,550	129	25	A	ABD		
W8JW	2,184	128	14	A	ABD		
W2VO	2,016	63	32	A	AB		
W2WGL	1,885	52	29	A	BD		
KB2NFS	1,792	97	14	A	ABCD		
W2EV	1,736	89	14	A	BDIJ		
WB2YJH	1,540	104	14	A	ABD		
N2UM	1,320	112	10	A	ABD		
WY2Z	1,155	76	15	A	ABC		
AB2HG	768	78	8	A	BD		
KA2KQP	595	77	7	A	ABD		
W2TX	352	32	11	A	B		
W2RDX	170	29	5	A	ABD		
K2OS	144	18	8	A	A		
KC2HHB	135	15	9	A	A		
KB2KJV	72	6	6	A	ABCDE		

What is interesting is that I had myself scored as :
KA2KQP 2,380 77 28 A ABD

Probably a problem with the Cabrillo file format from my logging program. There is still something to say about logging with paper! I hope they don't butcher our FD submission like this.

From Amateur Radio Newsline™#1255 - 8/31/2001

VE TESTING: THE ARRL VEC ON THE MFJ CODE READER

The new and very popular MFJ Enterprises Morse Code reader that we described in last weeks newscast was also a topic of conversation at the recent VEC Conference in Gettysburg Pennsylvania. Some are concerned that it could be used to cheat on Morse exams and at least one VEC is not waiting for a test case. Amateur Radio Newsline's David Black, KB4KCH, reports from our South East bureau in Birmingham Alabama:

If one ham radio equipment manufacturer seems to have a sense of humor, the American Radio Relay League does not appear to share it. At issue is an advertisement MFJ Enterprises placed in the League's QST magazine. The ad promotes one of MFJ's hottest selling products--a pocket sized Morse Code reader. You simply place the reader next to a ham rig's speaker...and the reader spells out the code it hears on a 32-character screen.

The ad says quote--please, please don't use it on CW exams -- or at least, don't get caught--end quote. That last part may have just been a joke. But it has triggered a message from League's top Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, to ARRL VE Teams in the field.

Jahnke's message says quote--"Several of you have contacted the ARRL and MFJ regarding your concern over the recent M-F-J Code Reader advertisements in Q-S-T and other media. A statement in the ad text - that while clearly in jest - has peaked concerns by Volunteer Examiners and others in suggesting that if one were to consider cheating by using this new pocket sized device, to "_at least not get caught."

Jahnke's note goes on to say that one of the primary tasks of the League's VE Teams is to insure that no cheating happens during exams...and that if cheating is discovered, it should be dealt with swiftly. As for how a League VE Team should handle the appearance of a code reader at a test session, Jahnke says the device should be treated as if it were a calculator with formulas or answers stored in its memory. Jahnke says to--quote--notify the examinee that using such a device allows an advantage in taking the exam, and that such an advantage is prohibited. Advise the person that the exam is considered failed and direct the person to leave, end quote. The note goes on to direct VE teams to tell the test taker not to bring any such device to future exams.

Finally, Jahnke advises teams to include in public and in-person test sessions a statement about non-permitted use of any code reading devices. Not many applicants are expected to show up for a code test with one of MFJ's portable code readers. But if they do, the League's examiners are sending a message that they're ready to deal with it. From Birmingham Alabama, David Black, KB4KCH, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

The MFJ portable code reader - which is about the size of a pager -- is an amazing device for its size. But its not easy to conceal from an inquiring V-E team. But with the trend toward miniaturization continuing, some fear that a Morse reading wrist watch or ring could be next. (W5YI Report)

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For Sale

Yaesu Tri-Band Handheld	
VX5R 2/440/6 Handheld	\$279.99
ADMS1 Computer Interface cable	\$ 39.99
EDC5B DC Adapter with Filter	\$ 26.99
	\$346.97 Total

\$250.00 or reasonable offer
 de W2HQ 716-553-7009