



# Shark's Teeth



**Sporadic Ham Radio Club**  
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April 1, 2002

## FCC Removes ALL Testing Requirements for Ham Licenses!!

### President's Letter

**Dan Emblidge, W2HQ**

What a great SUCCESS! We had our first formal meeting and I am very pleased to say that ALL the officers were present. The breakfast at the Olympic went very well. Some good old fashion rag chewing and of course much business at hand being handled.

KA2KQP supplied all officers with

personalized iron on decals and a magnet designed around our Call and the Shark. Very nice job Mike. Thank you

Field day being the main topic. We are going to be running 3D from the home of KA2KQP in Getzville, NY. Committees need to be assembled in order to accommodate the comforts and refreshment needs of the operators. This will ensure an enjoyable field day. So make your requests known to the appropriate chairperson (you.)

Some additional antenna work will be required. I am sure we will all be standing by to help Mike if required.

Digital cameras abound! Mike's new Fuji something or other, and my Canon A whatever, will provide many new and exciting graphical presentations of the many events Sporadically attended by SHRC. The cameras will aid in a much more graphical newsletter, more PICs on the WEB site, etc.... Stay Tuned.

SHRC is alive and well! As the world will find out when we take first place in our category for Field day.

73, W2HQ

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# SHRC Board Meeting

George Braun, KB2ZHX

On Saturday March 23, 2002 the Sporadic Ham Radio Club held an historic meeting, the first official meeting since the clubs inception. In attendance were the officers of the club, W2HQ, KA2KQP, KF2U and KB2ZHX. Scheduled as a breakfast meeting at a popular Mediterranean style restaurant, those in attendance at the scheduled time enjoyed a robust selection of delicacies from the menu.

In a surprise occurrence, KB2ZHX arrived at the end of the meal portion of the gathering, just in time to partake of coffee and official club business. Prior to the start of the meeting a variety of generic topics, ranging from motorcycles and hockey rinks to antennas and satellites were discussed. A fine time was had by all.

Below are the official minutes from that meeting, as recorded by KB2ZHX:

March 23, 2002

8:40 AM (CET)\* President W2HQ Officially Opened the Meeting

ITEM#1: KA2KQP presented all officers with a set of Official K2FA Iron-on Identification Patches (which he sported on a new Grey-colored polo apparently obtained at a bargain price) and an Official K2FA Refrigerator Magnet (I stuck mine on the face of my power supply in the shack!)

RESOLVED: Very cool items, thanks Mike!

ITEM #2: Motion to discuss this

years-upcoming Field Day, scheduled to take place on the LAST FULL WEEKEND OF JUNE 2002. Topic discussed included the appropriate class of operation for these years' event, the proposed location, number and type of antennas as well as the proposed modes of operation.

RESOLVED:  
CLASS: 3D  
MAXIMUM POWER: 100 WATTS  
NUMBER OF RIGS: 3  
LOCATION: GARAGE FACILITY in GETZVILLE, NY (GRID: FN03)  
MODES: CW, PHONE, RTTY, and PSK  
ANTENNA SELECTION: 80M DIPOLE, 40M DIPOLE, 40M VERTICAL, and a possible Long-Wire Loop  
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: DOOR (Table Arrangement), COFFEE MAKER, COFFEE, and DONUTS



L-R KB2ZHX, KA2KQP, KF2U, W2HQ

ITEM #3: Motion to entertain possible improvements to the K2FA Website ([www.k2fa.org](http://www.k2fa.org))

RESOLVED:  
- WEB SITE IS RECEIVING ADEQUATE HITS  
- HOME PAGE IS JUST ABOUT AS BUSY

AS IT SHOULD GET

- POSSIBLE SURPRISE CHANGES IN RECOGNITION OF APRIL FOOLS DAY
- NOTABLE LACK OF A PERSONAL WEB PAGE FOR THE CLUB SECRETARY
- ON-GOING CHANGES UNDER REVIEW

9:20 AM (CET)\* MEETING ADJOURNED BY W2HQ

\*(CET) is a locally accepted Time Standard, commonly known as Co-ordinated Emblidge Time. This standard, though not yet in use worldwide, was chosen as the Official Time Standard of the SHRC. This time standard is derived from the fact that W2HQ sets his various time pieces more often than the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the military's U. S. Naval Observatory (USNO). As a point of reference, CET is roughly equivalent to EST and for most purposes, can be used interchangeably.

## Editorial

We all knew it was going happen someday. First the lowering of the CW requirement to 5 w.p.m., then the Anthrax scare at the FCC offices. The FCC has finally decided that it would be much easier to just enclose a simple license application form in the package with each amateur capable transceiver, much like they did with the CB radio service. As we went to press there were still some questions left unanswered. Most of these relate to callsign assignments. One unsubstantiated rumor is that everyone will pick their own callsign using the ARRL's Logbook of the World to register their choices. For \$125.00 one will be able to have

access to callsign registrations for one year. There will be no limit to the number of callsign changes allowed. Since all contacts need to be logged using a major credit card with Logbook Of The World, multiple stations can have the same callsign simultaneously. One's credit card number (and credit limit) becomes the key for awards.

Under this system, DX stations can select how much to debit their QSO partner for each contact. This will eliminate the mail theft that occurs with the "Green Stamp" method of QSO verification. IARU rules currently limit the price that a station can charge for a QSO to \$5.00. It is expected that this limit will disappear after a few years and market forces will determine the cost to confirm rare DX contacts. The broker fees that ARRL will charge to implement this service should allow them to stay in business for a few more years.

Those who don't wish to be eligible for awards (or can't afford the fees) will use self-assigned callsigns from the block 11Wxxx to 14Kxxx. Since contacts with these stations are not eligible for financial reimbursement, it is envisioned that no DX stations will answer calls from them.

The latest membership numbers from the league have shown a huge decrease since QST began running articles such as "How To Turn Your New Radio On", "You Talk Into the Black Thing", "Build Your Own RJ-11 Modem Cord" and "The PTT Button Is Your Friend." It seems that the hams brought in under this new licensing procedure feel no need to join any organizations except for "11M DX" and "REACT International."



Mathew Lesko,  
W3IRS

educational program on late night TV and realizing that his "Free Money from the Government" program just might be what is needed.

## From ARRL

### A Message from N2FF About PRB-1 In NY State!!

Our antenna bill is still alive in Albany in 2002. The New York State Legislature never went back into regular session after 9/11 so our bill and many others were never acted upon. Since 9/11 many legislators have become aware of the need for emergency preparedness and also the job many hams performed after the 9/11 attacks on our major city and the Pentagon. The New York State Legislature has now returned to Albany. There is no reason not to expect passage in 2002. Our sponsors tell us they are still very

In a related development, Mathew Lesko has been appointed to ARRL's development department to help the struggling organization regain it's financial independence.

Sagging membership and rising costs for executive perks has forced the league to look for new sources of revenue. The board of Directors issued the invitation to Lesko after watching his

much behind the bills. The Senate bill has even more sponsors than it had had last year. Support is growing. We have already made one lobbying visit to Albany in mid February to speak with key Senate aides about passage this year. We spoke to the key aides of Senators Bruno, Rath, Farley and our sponsor Senator Volker. A similar trip is planned for March to speak to Assembly members.

Both A. 1565 and S. 2893 have been sent back to the originating committee, Local Government, along with all the other bills left over from last year. They are now in the Local Government Committees headed by Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney of Lindenhurst and Senator Mary Lou Rath. Assemblyman Sweeney is the "new" head of the Local Government Committee and I have asked Long Island hams who live in his district to contact him via letter, telephone and e-mail to ask him to move the bill out of his committee ASAP. I expect the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club to be a major player in this effort as most of its members live in the 11th Assembly District he represents or have friends or relatives who do. Please write a letter. Make a phone call. Send an e-mail. You can do all three to make sure Assemblyman Sweeney gets the message. If you do not live in his district let him know about any friends and relatives you have who do live there. Get them to write too even if you have to help them write the letter.

Amateur Radio has a long proud history of public service. We need this antenna law so that we can continue to do our important emergency communications job with no cost to the state. Amateur radio operators provide a free emergency communications network

that is disaster-tested and robust. We are, in many ways, like volunteer firemen but we respond to communications emergencies. A key element of a radio amateur's capability is a small radio tower high enough to ensure effective communication.

Let your legislators know that federal law already requires that reasonable accommodation be made for these amateur radio support structures that serve the public interest; however local towns, municipalities and radio amateurs cannot easily bear the burden of resolving local disputes over what is "reasonable." Twelve states have already enacted legislation to remedy the situation.

Please send a letter or QSL card to Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney, 270-B North Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, NY 11757-3708.

Please telephone 631-957-2087 E-mail [sweeney@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:sweeney@assembly.state.ny.us)

Get your relatives, friends and neighbors to do the same.

Tell your legislators about our long proud history of public service and tell them we need this antenna law so that we can continue to do our important emergency communications job with no cost to the state.

Write a letter.

Make a phone call.

Send an E-mail.

More info at <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/>

## In Brief

A new Wal-Mart superstore is planned for Newington, CT. The ARRL Board of Directors voted unanimously to sell the League's under-utilized property to WalMart Developments, Inc. in return for lifetime oil-changes for League officers and undisclosed cash payments. Phone bulletins will now be available exclusively on channel 19.



Proposed Site of new Wal-Mart store

## Calls You Won't Hear in a Pile-up

Pete Vetter, KF2U

DX Country	Callsign
Asiatic Russia	RG8U
France	TH6DXX
Denmark	OZ0NE
Sweden	SM0KED
Sudan	ST0NED
Romania	YO0HOO
England	G0NAD
Reunion Is	FR0ZEN
Italy	IR0NIC
Liberia	EL0PED
Moldova	ER0DED
England	M0RON

## Ham Radio Miracle

**Ron Canazzi, AA2VM**

**Submitted by George Braun, KB2ZHX**

*Mike,*

*Thought you might like to include this in the next Shark's teeth...*

*Ron and I have spoken on 2 meters many times...*

*Now for the other foot...*

*Ron is totally blind.*

*George*

Hello Ham Friends,

Normally, I don't resort to this type of bragging, but what occurred on 02/27/2002 at 7:01 PM local 00:01 UTC is worth reporting to anyone with even a moderate interest in amateur radio. Something like this has never happened to me before and the ease at which it occurred was truly astounding.

I'll build you up to the climax by describing the background. I am running an Icom 706 MK2G with only 100 Watts into a multi-band dipole at about 25 ft. I had just finished watching the national news and thought to myself 'Gee, I wonder if 10 meters is still open; sometimes I hear Asia there at about this time--though I never make any contacts there.' So I turned on the power supply, turned on the rig and began tuning up in frequency. I had turned the rig off with the frequency set to 28.45 MHz and so it took me only about 30 seconds to a minute to pass over 28.490 MHz. I heard a voice transmission that had a foreign sounding

accent calling QRZ DX. I listened for the callsign and heard BD4XA. Recognizing the prefix immediately as Chinese, I grew moderately excited. I had heard several Chinese callsigns over my fairly short amateur radio career of about 7 and 1/2 years, but I never came close to a contact. There was no other station responding to him, so I not-so-calmly keyed my mic and said "BD4XA, this is Alpha Alpha 2 Victor Mike."

There was an immediate and unmistakable response "Alpha Alpha 2 Victor Mike, this is Bravo Delta 4 X-ray Alpha. Go ahead."

I couldn't believe my ears and half stuttered half shouted my response. He gave me a 5/9 report and we carried on a short QSO about location and weather. I confess, I had to ask him where he was located just to make sure I wasn't dreaming. He politely replied with the phonetic spelling of his location and QSL information.

I am still truly astounded by this event. The band seemed to be on the wane because when I tuned around immediately afterward, there were very few stations that I could receive. The Chinese station however, was peaking at S7 on my meter with very little QSB. The unbelievable aspect of this was that I got him on the first try--the first key-up--DO YOU BELIEVE IT?!

...So judging by this, I guess it truly may be said that ham radio miracles still do happen!

FYI, below is the data concerning this contact taken from the QRZ.com callsign look-up:

Callsign: BD4XA  
 CHINA  
 Name: KEVIN YANG  
 Addr1: P.O.BOX 59  
 Addr2: LIAN YUN GANG,JIANGSU  
 222002,  
 Country: CHINA  
 Previously: BG4XAA  
 Coordinates: 34° 36' 40" N, 119° 10' 26" E  
 Grid: OM94OO  
 Birthday: 10 May 1971  
 Email: bd4xa@hellocq.net  
 Home Page: <http://www.qsl.net/bd4xa>  
 Biography Info:  
 Nice to meet u agn via INTERNET. If u like  
 exchange QSL CARD,Please direct send QSL  
 CARD with SASE(or  
 Greenstamps/Euros/IRCs & ur address label)  
 to me. I  
 will direct backing my QSL CARD to u 100%  
 at once. Only backing via buro if no postage  
 enclosed. Many thank u! CUAGN!  
 BTW: Please print your county name in ur  
 CARD if you are USA station. TKS!

73's  
 From Ron, AA2VM

## Propagation Predictions



**Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP**

You wouldn't believe me this month  
 anyway. Check the propagation page on our  
 web-site for the updated predictions. Now  
 begins the Spring propagation season. 10M  
 starts to pack it in and 15M begins to become  
 the band of choice. Noise will again become  
 an issue on the lower bands. This is also the  
 start of the three "R's" of antenna season.

Review, Repair and Replace. If any of your  
 antennas are still up after the winter we had  
 then they definitely weren't big enough!  
 Keep an eye out by the side of the road. Lots  
 of TV antennas (for aluminum) with rotators  
 will be showing up in the trash.

## DX News

### From NJDXA website

#### HH, HAITI.

Monday April 8 through April 19

Jan, K4QD, will operate from Haiti as HH4/K4QD  
 during the period of April 8-19th. Operation will be  
 100W on SSB and CW with a beam on 20-10 meters  
 and a 40/80 meter dipole. QSL K4QD via his CBA or  
 via the bureau.

#### 9L, SIERRA LEONE

Tuesday April 9 through April 16

Activity will be on 40-10 meters CW and SSB. QSL  
 via K4ZIN.

#### VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND

Thursday April 11 through April 22

Jack, VK6CTL, is expected to be active as VK9LT  
 between April 11-22nd. Activity will be mostly on SSB  
 on 80-10 meters. QSL via HB9QR: Erwin Fink,  
 Toedistr 7, Ch-8572 Berg, Switzerland.

#### VK9M, MELLISH REEF

Friday April 12 through April 22

The DXpedition is set to take place April 12-22nd.  
 They will have 5 stations operating on all bands 160-6  
 meters (including WARC) on CW, SSB and some  
 RTTY. A station and an operator (VK4APG) will be  
 dedicated on 6 meters. They would like to  
 acknowledge Yaesu, The Chiltern DX Club, 5 Star  
 DXers Association, BT Exact Technologies and  
 PCA.AA in helping activate Mellish Reef. Visit the  
 VK9ML website at: <http://www.qsl.net/vk9ml/2002/>

#### C5, THE GAMBIA

Monday April 15 through April 29

Jan, PA9JJ, announces that he will go on a little  
 DXpedition to The Gambia. He will be there from

April 15-29th. Jan will be asking for the callsign C56JJ upon his arrival in Banjul, but he is not 100% sure if he will get this. He will try to operate on 80/40 meters and the WARC bands mainly on SSB but also the other bands and some CW.  
http://www.qsl.net/pa9jj. QSL via PA 9JJ. Please include a green stamp if QSLing direct.

**FG, GUADELOUPE**

Wednesday April 17 through May 16  
Look for Pierre, F6FXS, to be active as FG/F6FXS for a month starting April 17th to May 16th. Pierre will use an IC-706 and a long wire antenna; his power will be about 30 to 40 watts. Suggested frequencies are: 28030, 21030, 14030 and 7023 +/- QRM and CW only. Suggested operating times are: 1400-1600z on 10 and 15 meters; and possibly from 2100-2200z on 20 and 40 meters. QSL via home callsign direct to CBA or via the French bureau.

**XW, LAOS**

Saturday April 20 through May 10  
Mauro, IN3QBR, is expected to be active as XW3QBR from January 21st through July 31st in Vientiane. Also, Fabrizio, IN3ZNR, is expected to be active as XW3ZNR from April 20th through May 10th in Vientiane.

**KH1, BAKER & HOWLAND ISLAND (Also T2)**

Tuesday April 30 through May 10

**Contest Calendar**

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone	Mar 2 -3
144 MHz Spring Sprint	Apr 1
222 MHz Spring Sprint	Apr 9
JIDX HF CW Contest	Apr 12-14
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	Apr 13-14
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	Apr 13
Yuri Gagarin Int. DX Contest	Apr 13-14
432 MHz Spring Sprint	Apr 17
TARA Spring Wakeup PSK31 Rumble	Apr 20
EU Spring Sprint, CW	Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 20-21
SP DX RTTY Contest	Apr 27-28
QRP to the Field	Apr 27
Florida QSO Party	Apr 27-28

**Other Shark's Teeth**

**Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP**

Our president has taken to showing his pride in SHRC lately. Even though Caren disapproved, he added this snazzy new paint scheme to their car.



We're sure we've never seen anything like it!

**New Rigs**

**Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP**

With the new FCC regulations changing the Amateur Radio Service will come a batch of new radios. Most of the current offerings will be rendered obsolete by the newest PC controlled rigs. For example, why do radios have so many knobs? Most operators turn



Current Ham Rig

each knob to the full clockwise position anyway. Why have a button for speech processing? It should never be turned off!



The entry of Microsoft into the amateur radio market promises to shake things up. Their X-Box cartridge based transceiver has



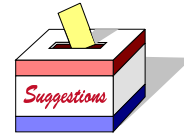
Microsoft Amateur Radio

features aimed squarely at new hams. By sharing the plastic with the popular X-Box game console, manufacturing costs have been kept very low. It is also hoped that by using the gamepad user interface, there should be no reason for a new ham to have to read the manual before getting on the air.

The system comes with the "W6NUT FM Repeater QSO Party" cartridge in the box. One can purchase additional, optional cartridges for each band and mode combination. Citing market research showing low demand, Microsoft states that there will be no HF CW cartridges offered.

By inserting a valid credit card in the cartridge slot, the "Freeband" modification can be done. Unfortunately, our test Visa only has a \$300.00 credit limit and we were able to operate in the 27 MHz band with just 300 watts after the modification.

News, Pics, Articles or Suggestions?

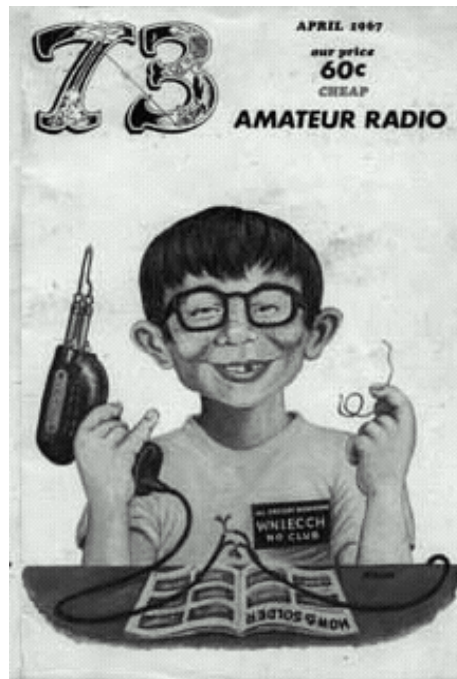


Mail them to: news@k2fa.org

### Did You Know?

Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP

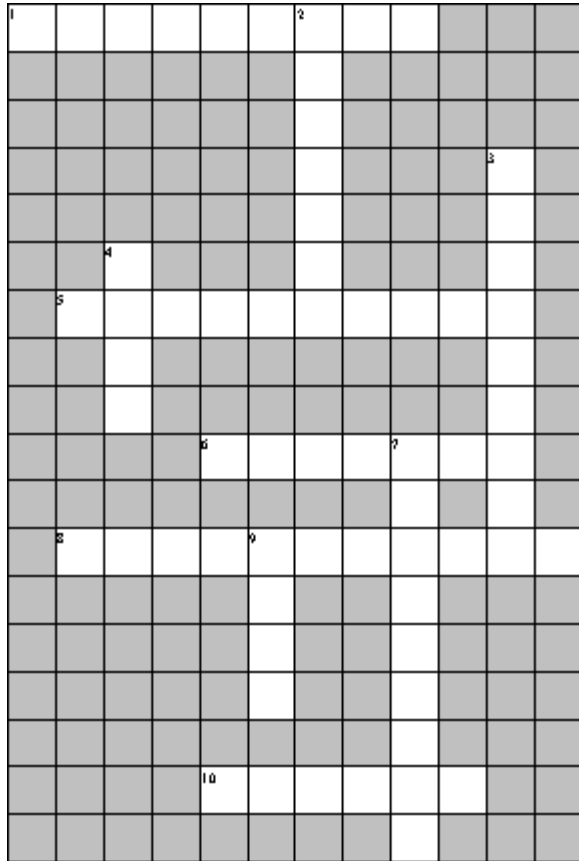
The earliest recorded (at least that I could find in five minutes of searching) amateur radio April Fools day joke was the April 1967 issue of 73 magazine. For you youngsters out there (under the age of 70), this was a spoof of the popular MAD magazine and it's perennial



April 1967 - 73 Magazine

cover-person Alfred E. Neuman. (No that's not me on the cover!)

# Hamword Puzzle



- 3. W2HQ
- 4. APRIL
- 7. KF2U
- 9. DID YOU \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Created with EclipseCrossword — <http://www.eclipsecrossword.com>

### Across

- 1. KB2ZHX
- 5. HAMS HAVE QUADS, CB'ERS  
HAVE \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. KA2KQP
- 8. ALL THE NEWS
- 10. DAN WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE  
THIS SUMMER

### Down

- 2. SPRING IS \_\_\_\_\_ SEASON