



Shark's Teeth



Sporadic Ham Radio Club
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May, 2002

Spring Is On The Air

President's Letter

Dan Emblidge, W2HQ

May. Hmmm. What does May bring. Ah! Another month closer to Field day! From what I hear things are coming together for Field day. KA2KQP has plans for making a Bazooka antenna, KF2U has a new ICOM radio, I'm ready and willing to lend a hand wherever needed. Its gonna be a lot of fun. Can't wait. I'm sure the food and necessities will come together next month. We do need to be cognizant of it though, so we don't get caught scrambling at the end. So lets start to hear some talk about what we want and will need.

The WEB site is chugging along. At present about 3350 hits. I am sure quite a few are from us, but there has to be many hits from others. Sad to say that there has not been any Guest page entrants though. You have to really look around everywhere to see the changes, but they are there. On the fun stuff link there are KEPS that are updated every week now, scanner frequencies, etc.. Still waiting for input....

On a sad note. It was very sad to hear the passing of Fran Stengel K2GUG. I new Fran at work and always heard so much about him and Ham Radio. He was a very intelligent man. Fran was thought of very highly at work and in the Amateur radio community. He will be sadly missed. 73 OM SK

de W2HQ

K2GUG - SK

Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP

I had never thought that I would have to put one of these kinds of articles in our newsletter. Fran was truly one of the good guys and it was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to know and work with him. The following information is from an e-mail sent by Kevin Ward (N2IE) to the WNY amateur

In this issue...

President's Letter	1
K2GUG - SK	1
Novice Band Refarming	2
Sleep Deprivation at Contest Time	2
Propagation Predictions	3
DX News	3
Contest Calendar	4
Armed Forces Day Anniversary	4
Other Shark's Teeth	4
CQ Field Day CQ Field Day	5
Ways to Annoy Your Contest Partner ...	5
Hamword Puzzle	6

radio clubs:

Fran Stengel K2GUG died suddenly at his home April 27 about 9:30 AM. Fran was one of the founders of BARRA. Although Fran was not otherwise active in BARRA in recent years, he was trustee of the 13/73 repeater, was our treasurer for many years, and took part in many activities, one of his favorites being the boat races. He had a hand in the development of the earliest VHF repeaters and was into meteor scatter and satellite operation from the very beginning.

Some of you will remember the Ham-O-Rama, a terrific hamfest and a joint effort of local clubs. Fran was the Ham-O-Rama treasurer and a BARRA club rep. This hamfest was an important source of revenue for all the clubs involved and something all area hams could point to with pride.

Fran was a sailing enthusiast, a private pilot, and a very capable RF design engineer, among other things. He was a husband, father, and grandfather, and a friend to many of us. He will be missed!

Novice Band Refarming

Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP

The FCC has opened the public comment period for RM-10413. This notice of proposed rule-making has several items in it the most controversial being the elimination of the Novice sub-bands and reallocating the majority of the space to phone. I have submitted a personal comment to the FCC using their new Electronic Comment Filing

System. I would urge all SHRC members to have a look at the ARRL proposal and submit a comment. Comments will be accepted until May 16. You can read my comments on my web page at www.k2fa.org/~ka2kqp.

Here is the ARRL URL to check out:
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/04/17/100/?nc=1>

Sleep Deprivation at Contest Time

(stolen from the YCCC)

At the February 1988 meeting, YCCC member, Thomas Scott Johnson, KA1QXI (now NW1I, who now lives in Concord, MA), a physician at Brigham & Women's Hospital <<http://www.partners.org/bwh/home.html>> specializing in sleep problems, spoke on sleep deprivation strategies - or how to sleep four hours out of 48. This is the first program we can remember where the majority of those present took notes! He began by telling us that most people come to the Hospital's Sleep Clinic complaining that they have trouble sleeping, and it is interesting to speak before a group that wants to learn how to avoid or minimize sleep. After a brief overview of the physiology of sleep (90 minute cycling, REM sleep, and so forth), he gave his recommended schedule. On Friday afternoon, have a reasonably good meal (but no alcohol) and take a three-hour nap, preferably from 4:30 to 7:30 PM EDT (for CQ WW Phone, which starts at 8 pm EDT), or 3:30 to 6:30, if the contest starts at 7 pm EST. When you get up, have some coffee. Eat no large meals during the contest, just snacks with high carbohydrates, low fat, and reasonable

protein. Two hours before your normal waking time, take a 90-minute nap (this allows a full sleep cycle so that you will wake up refreshed), or sleep for 180 minutes. Then have another cup of coffee.

Only drink coffee when you awaken from your naps; otherwise you will have trouble falling asleep and will not awaken rested when you do sleep. The first afternoon of the contest, Saturday afternoon, schedule a 30-minute nap for sometime between 3 and 4 PM. Take another 90 or 180 minute nap the second morning. Optionally, take another nap the second afternoon, Sunday afternoon. [Ed. note: However, since you don't care what happens after the contest ends only a few hours later, you may load up on caffeine Sunday afternoon to avoid that Sunday afternoon nap.]

Avoid alcohol during the contest. Avoid heavy physical activity (such as tower or tree climbing) right before the contest since it promotes deep sleep. Keep the shack very brightly lit to keep you alert. When you do nap, do so in a darkened room.

Keep the shack warm, 72 to 74 degrees, since low body temperature encourages sleep.

Propagation Predictions



Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP

Whew! The sun has not been our friend lately. It really hasn't kept us warm enough here in western New York and yet we've been

barraged with all kinds of solar activity. The only result has been incredibly poor conditions on HF. Keep your eyes and ears open on 6 meters. May has been known to provide some exciting sporadic E openings to make up for the fact that the F2 season has probably ended for a while. The updated propagation charts should be up on the website in the next day or so. The predictions will hopefully be useful for the CQ WW WPX contest coming up at the end of the month.

It was surprising to me that there weren't more and better 2 meter aurora openings than there were. I watched the aurora activity monitor hover around the 10 mark which normally indicates good probability of aurora but it never seemed to pan out.

Good luck and Good DX!

DX News

From NJDXA website

KH1, BAKER ISLAND.

Wednesday May 1 through May 10

TN, CONGO. Josep/EA3BT and Nuria/EA3WL are planning another DXpedition; this time to the Congo between May 16-27th. Check out their Web page for more information at: <http://www.qsl.net/ea3bt>

KH0, MARIANA ISLAND.

Thursday May 16 through May 19

Look for JM1YGG to sign KH0/JM1YGG from Saipan, May 16-19th. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL to JM1YGG through the JARL bureau

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA (IOTA Op).

Saturday May 18 through May 24 OC-077, Manua Islands

Dave, AH6HY, will be going to the rare IOTA

OC-077, Manua Islands, from May 18-24th. His activity will be on 10, 15 and 20 meters, SSB only. QSL via the bureau is OK or direct (1 new IRC or 1 green stamp for foreign stations). More info can be found at: <http://www.qsl.net/ah6hy/samoa.html>

Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	May 4 -5
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	May 11-12
FISTS Spring Sprint	May 11
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 11-12
50 MHz Spring Sprint	May 11 -12
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 25- 26

Armed Forces Day Anniversary

Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test May 11, 2002

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 52nd Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated May 18, the Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 11 (local) so as not to conflict with the Dayton Hamvention scheduled for the same weekend (May 17-19).

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur crossband communications test and the message receiving test. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense or the appropriate military radio station for their proven

expertise.

QSL cards will be provided to those making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives copies of the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

For frequency and schedule information: <http://www.asc.army.mil/MARS/afd/militarytoamateur.htm>

Other Shark's Teeth

Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP

While visiting the Dayton Hamvention which is celebrating it's 50th year May 17 - 19, 2002 you can take a drive to the US Air Force Museum and see this example of sharks teeth.

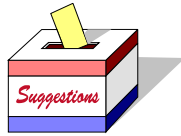


This RF-4C on display was delivered to the USAF on September 9, 1965. It served in Vietnam, Japan, Korea, Europe, Cuba and the Middle East. During Desert Shield/Desert Storm, this aircraft flew a total of 172 missions, more than any other F-4 aircraft. When flown to the USAF Museum in May 1994, it had more than 7,300 hours of flying

time.

**News, Pics, Articles or
Suggestions?**

**Send them to:
news@k2fa.org**



CQ Field Day CQ Field Day

Pete Vetter, KF2U

With Field Day 2002 quickly approaching, a young hams thoughts turn to antennas and operating strategies. I have been a licensed ham for 23+ years now. As a kid, I remember going to the local clubs' FD location and trying to beg my way into a station.

One such venture actually brought KA2KQP and I a couple feet apart, although we were strangers at the time. A particular ham was erecting a foldover tower with some sections removed for optimal antenna height. However, gravity did not agree and we nearly had our arms cut off. Remember Mike?

Another memory is of working the 80 CW station in a guys' conversion van. Well, I wasn't allowed to touch the rig. But the older ham did allow me to dupe for him. Everything was fine, until we discovered the kerosene heater burning in the enclosed van was not a good idea.

My elmer, Bill W2EZY(sk), told me of a FD experience he had. It was his post to monitor the AC generator frequency. Through the day, he had a couple too many 807s. He was awakened in his lawnchair, generator still humming, by an angry mob. He spent the next 2 weeks rewinding transformer primaries in

the receivers he blew up.

The advent of PC's has changed the face of the contest. The newspaper-sized dupe sheets and paper logs have been replaced with NT Servers and 10BaseT cables. Call me nostalgic, but I miss those manual means.

So go out to your local clubs FD site. Or work the contest yourself. It's a lot of fun and a great way to learn something new. See you in the contest.....

Ways to Annoy Your Contest Partner

(stolen from the YCCC)

Reverse the markings on the coax connectors. When your partner notices that you are using the dipole on 15, explain how a 40 meter dipole sometimes works better than a tribander. Be very sympathetic when your partner uses the "tribander" on 20 and can't work anyone.

Eat garlic before operating SSB with the boom mic.

Grease down your hair, especially near your ears where the headphones sit.

Ask to trade chairs at least once an hour.

Bring a TV into the shack and watch Saturday morning cartoons. Ask your partner to try 15 and see if it gets rid of the TVI.

Pretend you don't know the code and you are just a "codeless tech".

Whenever your partner starts a new CQ,

jump out of your chair as if someone was calling him.

Act real tense whenever your partner logs a QSO - as if he got the call wrong, but you are afraid to mention it.

Put some food in the bottom of the trash can. When you get hungry, root around in the trash and pull something out and eat it.

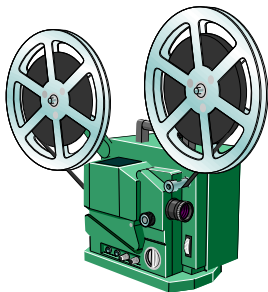
Bring six packs of Jolt cola along. Drink one every 30 minutes. Stack them on top of the radio and number them.

Twitch a lot. Kick the table often.

Listen to the run radio when your partner is running stations and write down imaginary callsigns on a piece of paper. Shake your head when he calls them and they don't come back.

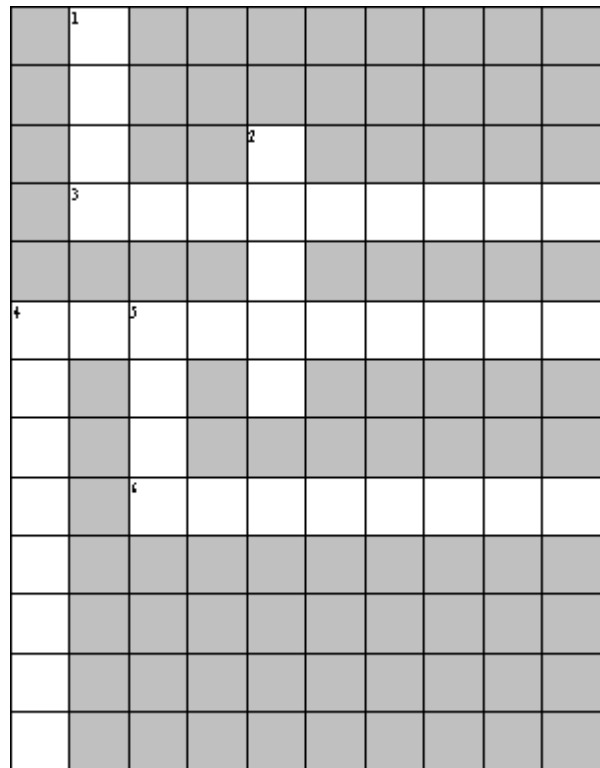
Bring a gallon jug and put it next to you under the operating table. Add lemon-aide to it during the contest when nobody is looking. Never be seen going to the bathroom

Perform a ritual before starting the contest which includes an animal sacrifice.



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Contact
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rates and info.

Hamword Puzzle



Created with EclipseCrossword -

Across

- 3. What a ham farmer does when he plants his rows crooked.
- 4. DAYTON HAMFEST
- 6. E

Down

- 1. HAM SLANG "807"
- 2. KH1 ISLAND
- 4. BUFFALO HAMFEST
- 5. MILITARY PLANET