

January, 2010

Solid Copy de KC7Z

Newsletter of the North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club

PO BOX 2268 -- Silverdale, WA 98383-2268

Web page: <http://www.nkarc.org>

February 2010

From the Editor's Machine:

Happy to say that the machine is working well after being purged of the old installation of Windows XP with all its additional registry entries accumulated in the last four years. It's amazing how fast it responds now. I read in many self-help books and magazine articles that a periodic clean installation of the systems software is required but did not believe it. I am now a convert.

The e-mails this month came fast and furious. The main topic concerned club member Chris, KF7ATX, who is now on the air with the call sign YI9ATX operating out of Iraq. Chris is deployed to Iraq as part of the US Navy team and has joined a group of Hams stationed there putting a station on the air for DX contacting. An article with excerpts from his e-mails along with his QSL cards contained in this newsletter. The club has volunteered to act as his QSL manager while he is in Iraq.

I want to remind you all that material for this newsletter is always welcome. If you have an idea for an article, send it to me and every consideration will be given to get it published. One member proposed a series of articles on basic electronics for those who need help understanding how electrons work in the equipment being used to carry on a "rag-chew". This is worth considering. How about an interesting contact or an experience while setting up a station or installing the unique antenna? If you stumbled on an interesting web-page while surfing the Internet, let us know. "Keep those cards and letters coming folks."

Bob, N7KTP

=====00000=====

Club Meetings

General Club Meeting

Location: Fire Station #51 – Silverdale

Date: February 20th

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Project Night

Location: Fire Station #51 – Silverdale

Date: Friday February 26th

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Club Breakfast

Location: All Star Lanes – Silverdale

Date: February 27th

Time: 09:00 AM

Board of Directors and Business Meeting

Location: Fire Station #51 – Silverdale

Date: Friday March 12th

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

=====00000=====

2010 Dues Are Due

Time flies. Club Vice-President Al sent an e-mail last week to remind club members it's time to renew club memberships. Put a check for your dues in the mail and address it to the club (Box 2268, Silverdale, WA 98383-2268) or better yet, bring it to the club meeting at Firehouse 51 in Silverdale on Saturday, 20 February. Dues are \$15/year (\$12 for seniors, \$6 for students and \$10 for additional family members). You can download an application for your renewal by going to the webpage at <http://nkarc.org> and clicking on "Join NKARC" followed by "Online".

Your pre-written check will facilitate matters at the meeting and help avoid interrupting the activities. Treasurer Warren will have the club roster handy and we can check you off once paid.

CQ CQ de Iraq

Below, a few comments from Chris, YI9ATX /KB7ATX, an NKARC member currently deployed in Iraq:

-

I have been operating off and on.. kind of whenever I feel like putting the antenna up. Tomorrow is my half day so I'll be on the air from 1030z to 2100z (with breaks!).. Not sure what bands I'll be using.. we can negotiate that.. probably 20 in the daytime then switch to 80.. 40m is too noisy here plagued by am radio stations

Here you go. I have been on the air only a handful of times so far because of traveling for work. But I have made contacts into Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, Romania and some others. I unfortunately was on the receiving end of a pileup my first night on and the poor guys who tried contacting me must have been so frustrated with me. I was overwhelmed! Trying to log all the contacts and listen and pick out callsigns when there's twenty some odd stations shouting out their callsigns plus their accents made it more difficult to understand them. But it was an exciting night nonetheless. Seems like the bands are opening up a bit so hopefully I can try and make a contact into the states.

Chris



KF7ATX / YI9ATX

Christopher G. Lewis, PO2
United States Navy
Baghdad Iraq

Icom IC-7200
Buddipole
Grid: LM23eh
CQZ 21 ITZ 39
Tnx QSL Pse

YI9ATX

QSO with	Day	Month	Year
MHz	RST	Mode	UTC

Tnx to Warren, N7SI, log on to QRZ.com and search for YI9ATX. You'll find a few pictures from Baghdad posted by Chris.

Working DX:

Here are a few comments to Chris about pile-ups:

1. CQ's directed to specific areas, such as ASIA, USA, USA etc
2. For the USA, possibly by call area in rotation
3. Keep in mind propagation openings, for example some may be short to W7
4. Split is a requirement (Listen on one frequency, transmit on another).
5. One technique is to call CQ, then copy a number of stations whose calls were heard, then call them by turn for exchange of reports. Repeat for next set.
6. Keep contacts short. Most DXers only want to be in the log.

Burt, W7IIT

If you are trying to work Chris:

1. Listen for his call and mark as the listening frequency
2. If he announces the split difference "up 5" or "down 5", mark the difference from his transmit frequency and set the split as your transmit frequency. If not, tune up and down from his frequency and listen for the pileup.
3. If he is accepting calls from your area, and announces "QRZ", go to your transmit frequency and jump into the pileup (give your call sign using phonetics).
4. Go back to his transmit frequency and listen for your call sign.
5. **PATIENCE and PERSISTENCE is a necessity.** Remember, "YI" is a rare prefix and you will be bucking some big guns world wide.

My dad, W9NXP (SK) told me working DX is like fishing. You look for the area where the fish are; throw your line (call) into the pond (pile up) and hope you make the catch. You can sometimes catch that fish with a worm (100 watts) while others are using fancy lures (1500 watts).

Bob, N7KTP

Repeater News:

January, 2010

Not sure if you know but the DEM (145.43) repeater has been linked to 2 repeaters on Bainbridge Island. I can hit all three and it seems to work great.

The linked repeaters to the DEM are:

70cm - 444.475Mhz Tone 103.5Khz
6M - 53.430Mhz offset -1.7Mhz Tone 100.0Khz

The two Bainbridge Island repeaters are usually linked together but the 2m link to the DEM repeater is usually off. I wanted to have the 2m link on all the time but the BARC decided not to have the link on all the time. I have programmed the repeater controller to turn the 2m link on every Sunday at 7:15 pm for the ACS Net. The link turns off one hour later. The 2m link is turned on for ACS drills and can be turned on during emergencies.

Having these two repeaters linked to the DEM repeater does enhance coverage of the DEM repeater but since they are not linked during the "Off The Wall" Net, you will not be able to use them during the Net. Sorry. Maybe I can get the BARC to change their minds about leaving the 2m link on all the time but that might take a while.

...and just for fun, have a look at this short, fun video about on-line maps.

http://www.ted.com/talks/blaise_aguera.html

73, Dave, WA9PMX

NKARC members and visitors are welcome to attend the NKARC (444.075) repeater meeting. The meeting will be held at the Kingston Fire Station located on Miller Bay Rd. at 7:30 pm local time on Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

Ed, AK7H

=====00000=====

From the VE Team:

March VE Exam Session

Our next VE exam session will be 9:00 a.m., March 6, 2010 at the Poulsbo Library Community Room (lower level). Unfortunately, because of scheduling constraints, this is the same day as the Puyallup Hamfest, so some choices are necessary. Bring a photo ID so we know who is taking the exam, and \$15 cash for the exam fee. If you are upgrading, bring your original license to show and a photo copy that we can send in with your application. If further information is needed, contact Horace Ory K7ORY at (360) 779-2215 or ory001@comcast.net.

Congratulations to a new VE, Al Warner KE7RPR!

Horace Ory, K7ORY

=====00000=====

RACES/ACS Net Sessions:

The Kitsap RACES/ACS net is held on Sunday nights at 7:30 PM on the 145.43 repeater (-600 offset, 179.9 PL tone). Check in and be informed on emergency communications in Kitsap County.

The packet radio net in on 145.63 Mhz at 7:00 PM. Connect to K7EK-5 and type "convers" at the prompt. If you cannot connect to K7EK-5 directly, connect to the ELYSSA node on the same frequency and then connect to K7EK-5.

If you have 10meter capability, check into the HF Net on 28.330 Mhz USB starting at 7:00 PM

There is a 6 meter FM net on 52.35 Mhz starting at 7:00 PM.

Connect to the various modes and verify your connectivity. Be ready and available when the need arises.

=====00000=====

Tns to a generous Ham:

Jim (KE6OJ) won a Yaesu FT-60 HT from the WWRA. He has kindly donated this to the club for club activities and use by members and new hams while they work to get their own.

BIG SUNSPOT:

January, 2010

The sudden emergence of big sunspot 1045 over the weekend (February 6-7) has caused a sharp uptick in solar activity. The active region has produced three M-class and almost a dozen C-class solar flares since it appeared on Saturday. The strongest blast, an M6-class eruption on Feb. 7th, may have hurled a coronal mass ejection toward Earth. High-latitude sky watchers should be alert for auroras in the nights ahead as a result of this activity. Also, ham radio operators are picking up strong solar radio bursts using shortwave receivers. Sample sounds and images may be found at

<http://spaceweather.com>.

SPACE WEATHER ALERTS: Would you like a call when the next geomagnetic storm erupts? Sign up for Spaceweather:

: <http://spaceweatherphone.com>

New subscribers may sign up for free space weather alerts at :

<http://spaceweather.com/services/>

Warren, N7SI

Monitoring the SFI numbers over the last week showed a significant rise in the numbers over the previous months. Been a long time since we saw these numbers in the 90s for extended periods. Time to start hunting for that DX or fill out the WAS lists.

Bob, N7KTP

=====00000=====

Hamfest Info

For those who do not know about this huge hamfest, the following PDF is provided for your perusal.:

<http://w7sra.com/flyer/Flyer.pdf>

Jim, ke60j

WWDX Club Invitation:

If you are interested in DXing, the WWDX club is an organization where you can get information about the "sport" of DXing and how to participate. They issue a periodic newsletter listing stations operating in those rare prefix locations and about DXpeditions around the world. Hints about DXing are also included.

If you are not a member **JOIN!** Go to their web site for application and the newsletter..

Good DX, the 'spots' are improving!

Warren N7SI

=====00000=====

KCSO C.O.P

Citizens interested in helping the Kitsap County Sheriff by volunteering for the Citizens on Patrol program can learn what the program is about by going to Kitsap County website:

<http://www.kitsapgov.com/sheriff/volunteers/cop.htm>

and then to the link:

<http://cops.homestead.com>.

for some photos of the C.O.P.'s in training and on patrol.

The members wear a police uniform and ride in patrol cars similar to those driven by county deputies. Primary mission is the patrol of disabled parking throughout the county. There are many other duties to perform and a patrol day, usually 6 or 7 hours, is often quite full.

Carl Callender, WN6V

QRZ QRZ....Know any potential members? Invite them to the next meeting. Plenty of coffee and friendly greetings for all.

Change Address or Call Sign?

January, 2010

Please notify the club secretary to update the roster if you changed your address, call sign or e-mail address. Include your phone number so that you can be contacted in case of emergency or for assistance. This will insure that you will get the latest news via the club newsletter. Either notify Norm (N7ORM) at the meeting or drop a card to NKARC at PO Box 2268, Silverdale, WA 98383-2268. You can also send the changes via e-mail to Norm or Bob Tomas at bobtomas@sprintmail.com

=====00000=====

Looking for Elmer:

Did you meet Elmer before you got involved in amateur radio? Or did you meet him after you got your license and he gave you good advice on how to start? Think back of the help he was in learning what those strange term like propagation meant. There is somebody else who now needs help. Why not introduce Elmer to that person? Better yet, you can become Elmer and help that person learn what this great hobby is all about.

=====00000=====

Keep Kitsap Green:

Help the environment by properly disposing of discharged household batteries. This includes alkaline, regular zinc carbide batteries, and batteries with heavy metals such as ni-cads and lithium ion.

The Solid Waste Facility on Hansville Road accepts the batteries as part of the county-wide recycling program. Ron Sefton, N7EM, reports the Poulsbo recycle center also accepts used batteries including lead acid types. The site is located immediately north of the Hwy 305/Viking way intersection. This is to the east of the "Walmart/Hwy 3 interchange". Otherwise, bring them to the meeting for transfer to the disposal site.

Worldradio Magazine

This is a neat publication. It is FREE so click on the URL below and register if you are not already a member.

WorldRadio Online posts a new issue on the twentieth of each month, and each has a column on propagation by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. You can download it at,

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html>

and read Carl's article on "The Impact of Deep Solar Minimum on 160m Propagation." Carl's column begins on page 28 of the current December issue. The January 2010 issue should appear online on December 20.

At least look at this month's issue and decide for yourself..

Warren , N7SI

=====00000=====

Special Event Recommendations:

Club president, Jim(KE6OJ) asked if anybody had any suggestions for a historical event that could be the basis of an Amateur Radio Special Event that could be conducted during the year. The event should be significant enough to be published in QST and merit attention from the national amateur radio community.

With the military presence in the county, someone may be aware of an event that would be considered as the basis for an event. I hear many stories of the clandestine radio operations conducted in the county during World War II.

Time for the history buffs to come out of hiding and share their knowledge. Contact the club officers with your suggestions. As the only stupid question is the one that is not asked, so is it that the only stupid suggestion is the one that is not presented. We're waiting to hear from you.

Bob, N7KTP