



QSP



December 2010

QSP On-Line at: <http://www.centalksarc.com/qsppage.htm>

December VE Report

The January Meeting is
Friday, January 28,
2011
@ 7:30 PM, at KWU
Peters Science Hall
Room 211

Host: Ron, WAØPSF
Program: Michelle,
KDØKYD

For the December 8th Session:

We had 2 Candidates this month, Jacob Gayer, KDØNGC, of Hutchinson is a new Technician, and Steven Pope, KDØNGD, of Newton, is a new General (passed both the Technician and General exams). Congratulations to both!

This month's VE's were: Sid, NØOBM, Leon, WAØJFC, Don, KAØEIC, Alvin, WØME, and Ron, WAØPSF.

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Thanks to all the VE's who helped with the Exam Sessions. I appreciate the help, and so do those who take the exams.

Next Exam session is:
Wednesday January 12th, 2011, at 7:00 PM, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Joe Addison Award Winner

The winner of the 2010 Joe Addison, WØPKD award is

Mike Bieberle, KBØLZQ

Mike was presented with the Traveling Trophy at the December meeting at Western Sizzlin Steak House. Mike will retain possession of the Traveling Trophy until it's time to go off to the engraver's for next year's winner.

Congratulations Mike!

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Minutes of the November Meeting

CKARC November 26th meeting minutes

Called to order at 7:31 pm by president Robert, WBØWTM with the Pledge of Allegiance to follow.

There were 17 members and guests present including Virgil, N0XRS who was visiting from Colorado for the Holidays.

No treasurer, EC, or secretary present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in QSP.

Eric, NØYET gave a repeater report. The new antenna for the VHF 147.030 repeater has been installed and working great for the last 2 weeks.

The UHF antenna will be installed soon. Thank You to Justin, NØUJQ, for doing that. The firmware was updated on the repeater controller to prevent duplicate messages and IDs from being announced.

Mark, KBØMQX, gave an activities report. He announced that Michelle, KDØKYD has volunteered to be the new activities director for the coming year. No upcoming activities.

The President thanked Bob and his wife for being hosts this evening.

Mark gave EC report in Sid's absence. We had a nice Parade of Lights with the EOC trailer and "Big Red" being decorated and driven in the parade. Sid drove the vehicle with Mark riding. Mark mentioned the ARES nets and meeting dates coming up.

The Club Christmas Party will be on Friday, December 17th, 6 pm at Western Sizzlin on Crawford Street.

There was no old business or announcements.

New business :

Eric asked that the club accept an Alpha / Delta antenna from Paula Swaringen, KCØABL, as a donation and received permission to send a Thank You note on behalf of the CKARC.

Robert asked about possibly moving election night to the December meeting due to a lack of response and attendance in October. The issue was tabled for another meeting.

Virgil made some nice comments about how similar clubs in Colorado are having the same issues as CKARC with low attendance and needing to pull teeth to get people to volunteer. So CKARC is doing well.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.
Mark had a program about satellites.

Eric, NØYET for Alvin, WØME

Reminders

Open House at “The Hill” - a Salina Tradition Saturday January 1, 2011 10 AM till ?

City of Salina Siren Test Net, January 3rd at 4:30 PM on the NØKSC Repeater (147.270+) **if the Weather cooperates!**

ARES Net **January 4th at 8:00 PM** on the NØKSC Repeater (147.270+)

ARRL-VEC Test Session on Wednesday **January 12th at 7:00 PM.**

Board meeting follows the exam session on **January 12th** at 8:00 PM (or after Testing—which ever is later) in the Saline Co. Sheriff’s Office Classroom.

ARES Meeting is **January 20th at 8:00 PM** in **Emergency Management.**

There is a full **Calendar of Events** on the CKARC Web site <http://www.centalksarc.com>

New Rules Governing Vanity, Club Station Call Signs to Take Effect February 14, 2011

On Wednesday, December 15, new rules affecting vanity and club station call signs within the Amateur Radio Service were published in the *Federal Register*. These new rules will go into effect on February 14, 2011. Thirteen months ago, the FCC announced its intention of modifying Part 97 as it applies to the vanity call sign system and club station call signs, aligning the rules to prior Commission decisions. Last month, the Commission released a *Report and Order (R&O)*, outlining its decision. Along with the changes to the call sign rules, the FCC made “certain minor, non-substantive amendments” to portions of Part 97.

From the ARRL Website

The QSL Postman

By: Earl Schlenk, WØES w0es@arrl.net

Getting that rare QSL into your mailbox takes a dedicated effort by your local bureau.

Ever wonder how those DX cards get to you? I am the “V” sorter for the WØ QSL Bureau and I would like to explain how one sorter does it.

QSL cards from all over the world arrive at the local bureau. Figure 1 shows Steve, WØSJS, with a typical stack of about 18,000 cards that arrive at the bureau. My area bureau (The Mississippi Valley DX and Contest Club) then sorts the cards according to the individual suffix letters in the call. For example, all call signs, KØ, WØ, KCØ, NNØ etc, whose suffix (the first letter after the number) begins with the letter “A,” are presorted by the bureau managers. These are sorted into individual letter groups, to be given to the letter “A” sorters. That’s where guys like me get to work.

The Triage of Sorting

As a letter sorter, I receive a bag with hundreds of cards (see Figure 2) from the local club, which is the WØ bureau. I also receive a data sheet listing new postage purchases by bureau users. It lists the stamps, envelopes and address labels recently purchased from the bureau along with the amount of any monies deposited in the user’s account. I enter this data in an *Excel* spreadsheet.

I then remove cards one by one and compare that particular card to a list of bureau users to determine if they have envelopes and postage on hand. If the station is listed as having postage on hand, their cards go into their specific letter slot according to the second letter in their call. If they are on the list but do not have envelopes or postage left, I hold these cards in their respective slots and contact them by e-mail or post card notifying them that they have cards on file and they need to purchase envelopes and postage if they want these cards to be delivered. If they don’t respond, their cards are held for a year and then they are shredded. If a station is not on the list, I place them in a “dead file” and keep them for a year.

At the WØ bureau we have boxes built by one of the sorters, Mark, AAØYY, that have slots in them to hold the individual cards by the second letter in the call. As an example of this, the call WØVS gets sorted by the letter S and goes in the S slot, WØVZ, would go into the Z slot, etc. Figure 3 shows the sorting box used by this bureau. I am the letter “V” sorter and I have a larger slot for the letter V because 2×1 calls (WXØV, AAØV, etc) go into this slot as well as calls with a V as the second letter. Other than the 2×1 calls signs go into a slot designated for the second letter after the “V.” This is the first sort.

After all cards are placed in their respective slots, I then start with the cards in the A slot. I sort all the cards for the same station, group them together and secure them with a rubber band so they don’t get mixed again with other calls. I double-check the grouped cards to insure I didn’t mix similar call sign cards. It’s easy to make a mistake getting WAØxxx grouped with WBØxxx.

Preparing for Delivery

The envelopes and postage are kept in a manila folder designated by the second letter of the call. The information on a particular station is also kept in an *Excel* database to account for the postage and envelopes used and new postage and envelopes purchased.

Once each station's cards are grouped, they are again checked for mistakes and then the cards are placed in an envelope or envelopes. If a station has acquired many ounces of cards and has funds on hand in the bureau, I will request a priority envelope from the bureau manager, which could hold up to 13 ounces of cards, this will cost the user less money in postage.

The weight and thickness of the standard envelopes are now very limited by the USPS. If you receive multiple envelopes from us it is because we can't send more than about 7 thin cards in the standard size envelope. With the weight and thickness regulations imposed by the USPS as I am writing this in 2009, we can get about 15 thin cards in one envelope for 61 cents (one 44 cent + one 17 cent stamp), which is 2 ounces in weight and under the 1/4 inch thickness limit.

The envelope is weighed and its thickness is measured to see if it is within the USPS limits. If it is over these limits, another envelope is used and the cards are divided between the envelopes. Some cards are thick and are counted as two cards.

Keeping Count

Once the cards are placed in the envelopes and are counted, a "status" or "accounting sheet" is manually filled out and placed in the envelope along with the cards. If you receive many envelopes, only one "status" sheet is included.

The status sheet shows you:

the number of cards sent to you

the funds you have on hand at the bureau

the number of envelopes with postage and the value of that postage you still have available

the amount and value of the extra postage you have in your account

I will write a note on this sheet if there is any information I think you need to know, such as that you need to purchase address labels or a priority envelope.

The *Excel* data sheet is changed to reflect the postage used in this mailing and the number of cards sent to you. Then additional postage is affixed to the envelope, if it is needed. Once this is completed, the envelopes are sealed and delivered to the Post Office. The bureau has a schedule as to when cards are to be mailed out and every effort is made to adhere to this schedule.

Mistakes are inevitable with the volume of cards going through the bureau and your understanding is asked for the occasional error. Every effort is made to correct these errors

as soon as they are brought to our attention. Please keep your account current with the purchase of envelopes, postage and address labels for your particular activity level.

Pinching Penny (Stamps)

It is time consuming for a sorter to have to notify a station by e-mail or post card that they need something. You may get envelopes with different denominations of postage on them as we try to use any old stamps you may have in your account to save you as much money as we can. The Post Office has changed their postage and imposed envelope restrictions so often, that it is very difficult to keep up with them. The bureau donates many 1 and 2 cent stamps to keep your cost down.

Many stations that have a low volume of cards only have very old postage on hand. This really complicates shipping these cards at minimum cost. You may receive an envelope with two 23 cent stamps on it when the postage is 44 cents as this is the only way to send the cards with the postage you have on hand. **The Post Office won't trade old stamps for new ones or refund the postage to purchase current stamps.** We do not want to waste the old postage denominations in your account, so we send the stamps with the extra postage. Unfortunately, the various denominations are not multiples of each other and the postage is changing so fast, it is not possible to use the old postage economically. The bureau now purchases "Forever" stamps when they are available.

I have sent envelopes with up to 8 stamps of various denominations on them. I bet this drives the post office computers crazy. The envelopes are comical looking with all those stamps but the post office doesn't want to trade old postage and we don't want to waste your postage so we add up the various stamps to meet the post office's newest requirement.

All the sorters donate many hours of their labor and they do this as a service to the amateur community. I hope this article gives you an idea of the effort needed to get your DX cards to you.

Earl J. Schlenk, WØES, an ARRL member, who is a retired railroad electronics technician. He was first licensed at the age of 11 in 1956 with the call sign KNØRIO and upgraded to Extra class in 1963. Earl also holds a First Class Radiotelephone license with a Radar endorsement. He is an avid homebrewer and likes to experiment with antennas. He is interested in CW operating and holds an ARRL 35 WPM code proficiency certificate. He can be reached at 1051 Mersey Bend Dr, Apt D, St Louis, MO 63129-6903.

From the ARRL Website

January 2011 Contest Calendar

From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

AGB New Year Snowball Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1659Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Jan 1 (432)
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 1 to 1500Z, Jan 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 4
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 5
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 7
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 7
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9
WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 8 to 1200Z, Jan 9
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 8 to 2359Z, Jan 9
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 8 to 0600Z, Jan 9
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 8 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 9
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 9
Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 9
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 12
CWops Mini- CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Jan 12 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 12 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 13
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 14
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 14
LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0600Z, Jan 15
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 15 to 1200Z, Jan 16
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Jan 15
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 15 to 0600Z, Jan 16
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 19
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 21
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 21
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 22 to 1200Z, Jan 23
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 22 to 0359Z, Jan 24
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 26
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 28
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 28
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 28 to 2200Z, Jan 30
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 29 to 1800Z, Jan 30
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 29 to 1300Z, Jan 30
SPAR Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 29 to 1700Z, Jan 30

Membership Renewal Form

CKARC, Inc.
P. O. Box 2493 Salina,
Kansas 67402-2493



Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ email: _____

ARRL Member No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Birthday: ____/____ (Month & Day ONLY)

Spouse Name: _____ Call: _____

ARRL Member No.: _____ Birthday: ____/____

May we publish your Phone & Email in the CKARC Rosters? Y N

Roster will **NOT** be published on the Web site

(Please circle Y for Yes or N for No)

QSP is the CKARC Newsletter, do you wish to receive the QSP
via Email or Postal Delivery? Email Postal (Check one or the other)

While ARRL Membership is not a Requirement for membership in the CKARC, Inc. **it is highly recommended.** In order to retain "Special Service Club" status, we must remain a minimum of 51% ARRL Membership.

CKARC Dues : \$15.00/Year Family Member: \$5.00

ARRL Dues : \$39.00/Year

* For additional years, or Family Membership Information,
please contact the Treasurer.

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club
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[Http://www.centralksarc.com](http://www.centralksarc.com)

Your issue of QSP is Here!

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY QSP IS JAN. 20, 2011

CKARC January Birthdays

KBØNOV	Neil	Cox	1/4
WBØWTM	Robert	Paul	1/6
KAØBBX	Darin	Gray	1/6
WAØJFC	Leon	Gray	1/8
F/Member	Phyllis	Shurts	1/12
KØRY	Harvey	Tewes	1/16
NØOBM	Sid	Ashen-Brenner	1/19
KDØVA	Stephen	Haly	1/19
KCØSMG	Robert	Sheehy, Jr.	1/26
NØOY	Pete	Sias	1/27
WAØPSF	Ron	Tremblay	1/30