



Amateur Radio Society

July 2003

Website: cvars.org

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN kd7own@arrl.net

Official Record Executive Board Meeting, June 11, 2003

The CVARS Executive Board met on June 11th at Kim Aiken's office at 205 S. Tower. Due to a lack of quorum, no official meeting was held.

Present were: Kim Aiken, KD7PMH, President; Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Vice President; and Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer. Gary Litteer, K7PG was present as a guest.

Treasurer's Report: Steve advised the club has one new member, Tom Herman, N1BEC from Napavine. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

July CVARS Net Control

July 6th: Steve, WB7VAS July 13th: Bill, AC7SR

July 20th: John, KQ7JJ July 27th: Doug, KC7TPK

Why do psychics have to ask your name?

Antenna Tip of the Month By Gary Litteer, K7PG

We all should know this one by now but it is worth repeating.....when erecting any new antenna, spray all tower connections, joints, nuts and bolts with a clear Krylon spray to prevent oxidation. Do it now or fix it later.....and later is never convenient!

Dates To Remember!

June 28,29 – Field Day, Stan Hedwall Park, Chehalis
July 16 – Lewis County ARES meeting, PUD building
July 26th – “Islands On The Air” (IOTA) contest
August 2 – LXpedition II – Libraries of Lewis County
August 9 – Maryland's QSO party
August 30 – Hawaii, New Jersey, South Dakota and Ohio's QSO party.
September 20 – Washington State Salmon Run

Field Day 2003! Field Day 2003! July 28-29th

Dust off that generator. Find your extra coax cable. Dig out those earphones and get ready for another great Field Day!

Gary Litteer, K7PG, is putting together a very special event again this year. Last year he managed to talk, cajole or bribe somebody for that huge crane that served as the best antenna tower in the area. Although the crane will be back this year again, he has another special surprise in store to try. Nope, not gonna tell you, you will have to come to the event and see if he can pull it off! Gary knows his stuff on antennas but it will be a challenge for him to pull this one off.

Set-up for Field Day will begin at 5:00 PM on Friday evening. As many hands as possible makes the work go faster and easier. Toby will have the Civil Air Patrol tents again this year to protect us all from the elements but I'm sure the sun will be out – after all, we're hams – even old Sol has some respect!

As of this writing, Gary still needs to know who will be able to bring radios, coax and power cables. And we need as many area hams as possible to operate. There is even a rumor that there may be a CW station!

So dust off those vocal cords and start practicing: “CQ Field Day, this is WA7UHD”. No excuses this year. Support your club and your hobby. Come on out and spend a few hours on the bands.

Just Where / When Are Those Bands Open?

Our friend Hillar, N6HR, reminds us all that summertime is not always the best time of the year for radio conditions. In general, Asia and the Far East are open from Washington around sunset and Europe and Africa are to be heard our early morning hours. Conditions change. He says to work a “VU” (yup, I had to look it up too, its India, Laccadive Island and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) try around noon our time straight over the pole! VU2PAI is on most every day. Same for “ZL” stations (New Zealand and surrounding areas) use ‘longpath’ over the pole at noon.

10 meters is pretty dead this time of year but 20 meters and 40 are doing well. Try 20 meters around late evening. Those areas South and West of us were coming in strong this week. Remember, work the “Greyline” (sunset / sunrise line) for some unusual and often surprising contacts. Good hunting and 73's

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There Really Are Trees In Spokane!

By Steve Pack, WB7VAS

Note: When the guys were about to head over the pass to Spokane for this year's Search & Rescue Conference, we were razzing them about how much they knew about Spokane. Someone, who shall remain anonymous, said there were not trees – hence the title. BW

I attended the SAR conference for the first time this year. It was in Spokane at Seven Mile Camp, a very nice setting. The weather was cold with just a touch of rain. I went along with Bill, AC7SR and his wife, Donna; Mike, AC7UP and Brian, K7YOH. If you haven't been to one, and you get a chance to go, don't miss it. By the way, next year the 2004 Conference will be in Lewis County so everyone should be able to attend.

There were over 65 classes scheduled over the 3 days, Friday to Sunday. Definitely something for everyone. The general categories were: SAR management, basic SAR, water rescue, using and training canines and goats for SAR and some miscellaneous classes. For example, in just the 3 days I was there, I was able to take: 24 Hour Search Pack and SAR team survival, crime scene management & physical evidence, New Zealand Track and Clue Awareness, Basic Helicopter Safety, Eat and Dress to Respond, Survival training – FAFB Survival School and Pack Goats in SAR.

In conclusion, it was a great 3 days and I learned a lot of things that will help, if and when we get the call out. Watch for the dates for the 2004 SAR Conference. You do not want to miss it!

Congratulations Kim Aiken!

Look out! Kim has passed his test (including the dreaded code test) for his Extra Class license! Look for him on the airwaves as **AC7YY**.

SEAPAC HAMFEST

Did Ya get to Seaside for this year's Hamfest by the Pacific? What a great show! The weather, although it rained the night before, turned out to be sunshine and warm temperatures on Saturday. The Seaside Convention Center was a bit crowded but it usually is at SeaPac.

New vendors, used stuff, hats, nametags, and hotdogs. What more could a ham want? In attendance, that I saw, were Jim Pace, K7CEX, Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Terry Neumann, KQ7K and me, Bob, KD7OWN. If you missed this one, the next important hamfest is the CVARS Swap Meet set for Saturday, September 27th at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds! You simply can not miss that one and continue to call yourself a ham.

How do you tell when you've run out of invisible ink?

DX

Summer Surprises By Hillar, N6HR

The serious DXer will have to readjust the ham-shack clock not only to the Daylight Time hours but also to Greyline Hours! If 20 meters produces only noises similar to a snake pit, it may be time to get up early – very early – to work your prescribed dosage of DX and then crawl back between the sheets until the Krispy Kremes are delivered with the Java.

Here in Washington, that means a 4 AM wake-up call! Or 10 PM curtain-call. The latter has been marginal although quite a few over-the-pole countries like UN6P (Kazakhstan), EY8MM (Tajikistan), JT1CO (Mongolia) and such do have workable signals.

But pity the folks further North! I was talking to Seli TF3AO in Iceland the other day and he and his brethren do not have any dusk at all! Continuous daylight! Makes for good camping and partying and fishing but forget 40 meters and down! And then compare this to XO6ET in Chile on the other side of the world who is calling CQ CQ on 160 meters in total darkness!

Thor, 4W3DX is still active almost on a daily basis from the Republic of Timor Leste. He is using a rhombic and has a super signal. Kan, 4W1BK/JA1BK has left for Japan and so has 4W2DN but Peter 4W3CW of the UN Mission is still there and active.

No contests on the DX horizon until July. Mark your calendar for the RAC Canada Day 1 July, the IARU Contest on 12/13 July and the IOTA Contest on 26/27 July. These are all fun contests with lots of stations participating. Look for activity from rare islands in Arctic, US east coast, Catalina (is that rare?), Sable Island and may others.

And if your QTH is here on Whidbey – you won't have to go anywhere at all for the IOTA contest – we are on IOTA North America-065! Get on the air and hand out some Q's.

Kid's Day 2003

Kid's Day 2003 has come and gone on June 21st. Did you do as you were told and find a kid to drag into your ham shack for the day? Well, if you did, don't forget to send your contact numbers into Steve Pack, WB7VAS. Each club member that put a kid on the air will receive a certificate of appreciation and the ham who sponsored the kid(s) who made the most contacts during the event times will have next year's CVARS dues paid for by Steve! Get your info in as soon as possible so Steve can get your certificate out to you.

July's CVARS Program

Kim Aiken, President of CVARS, will present a program on Satellite Communications. 7:30 PM Wednesday, July 2nd.

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We're Thinking Of You....

It was good to hear **Art Williams, N7EIK**, back on the air recently after some time off from surgery. He sounds like he is doing well but needs a little time to get his strength back.

Al Jorgensen, W7ZLR, took a fall a short while ago and has been taking it easy for a few weeks. He plans to attend Field Day for a few hours so say "hi" when you see him there.

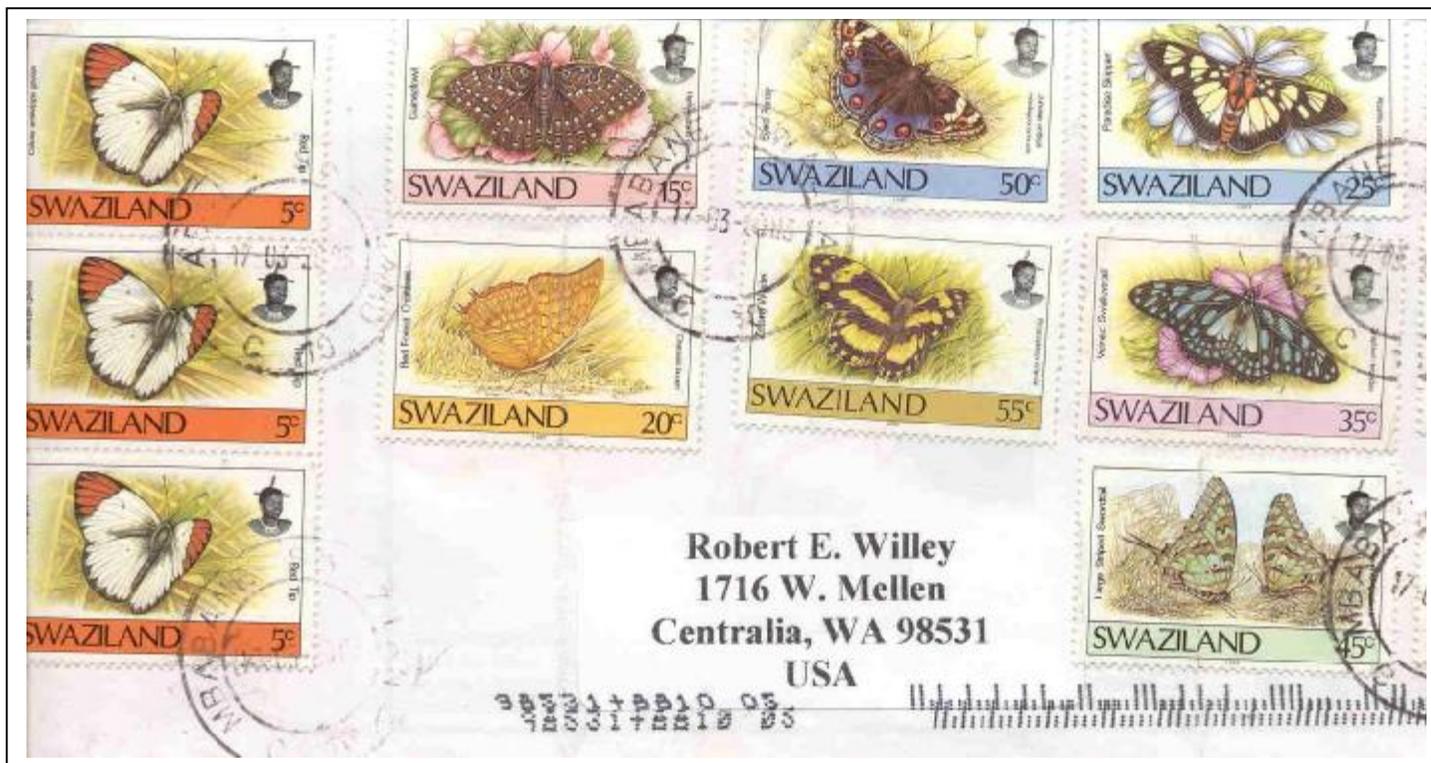
A QSL envelope from Africa below

Better Reception For 2 Meters

By Gary Litteer, K7PG

If you are getting poor reception when using your 2 meter HT try simply moving left or right about a foot. Remember the radio wave length for a 2 meter HT is...well...2 meters so a slight movement might make a big difference.

On a handheld transmitter, your body becomes part of the ground plane. Some signal goes up, some down, some out to the sides. If reception is poor, set the HT on the top of a car. The car becomes a metal ground plane and does a much better job than your body will be able to do.



August's CVARS Program

Don't forget! Toby Vice, KD7JPK, is the CVARS program for August. Toby knows everything there is to know about batteries and more but he would really like to have some questions from you on subject matter so he doesn't bore you. Lets make this easier on Toby and send along a few questions for him to answer. Toby can be reached at his email address of:

Kd7jpk@msn.com

Olympia Amateur Radio Club

The Olympia Amateur Radio Club (OARS) has been kind enough to send us their newsletter each month. We have sent them ours. A couple months back, several of our members made a field trip to the Olympia club meeting for a great presentation. OARS holds their regular monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7PM at the Thurston County Courthouse. They love having guests and put on a good meeting.

LXpedition II, Saturday, August 2nd

Did you enjoy last year's LXpedition where Terry, KQ7K and Bob, KD7OWN transmitted on the BawFaw repeater from all eleven law enforcement locations in Lewis County? Did ya get the QSL or the certificate? Well, if not, here is another chance. LXpedition II is on the schedule for Saturday, August 2nd. Steve Pack, WB7VAS and Bob Willey, KD7OWN have put together another opportunity for fun on 2 meters. We'll be transmitting from all six libraries in Lewis County beginning at 10AM. We'll be on the air at the top of the hour, each hour, until 3PM from a different library. Those who contact us will receive a beautiful and interesting QSL card. For those dedicated enough to contact us from each of the six locations throughout the day, you will receive a nice certificate, suitable for framing, as well. We're going to have some fun and hope you'll join us. Hey, it's the only DXpedition we can afford!

Love is grand but divorce is several hundred grand!

Dit – Dit – Dit – Dah - Dah

Islands On The Air, July 26th

So what is this "Islands On The Air" or IOTA? Is it worth my time? You bet it is! Its DXing, its QSL collecting, Its even a geography lesson in a day! And, its downright fun.

Created in 1964, IOTA is an amateur radio activity program designed to encourage contacts with island stations worldwide. The oceans ' islands have been grouped into some 1200 IOTA groups with , for reasons of geography, various numbers of qualifying islands in each. The objective, for the island chaser, is to make radio contact with at least one island in as many of these groups as possible. 18 separate certificates are currently available for island chasers graded in difficulty as well as two prestigious awards for high achievement.

To count, islands must follow a few simple rules. They must not lie in rivers, inland lakes or seas, or largely enclosed bays. They must be a minimum distance from the mainland and they must be either one kilometer in length or shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map. They are grouped whenever possible as they are far too numerous to be allowed to count separately.

There are plenty of web sites available on "Islands On The Air" and there is a great book out there as well called the IOTA directory. The directory lists island groups by continent – Africa (AF), Antarctica (AN), Asia (AS), Europe (EU), North America (NA), Oceania (OC) and South America (SA). Each group is then given an number as well. For example the Washington State North Group is NA-065.

During the annual contest, this year on July 26th, many rare and difficult to contact places in the world should be on the air giving out their IOTA numbers. In addition, most of these places have beautiful QSL cards to send you. So mark your calendars and get ready to contact some "Islands On The Air". Any reason to be on the air is a good reason and collecting IOTA QSL cards is a very good reason.

International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend

If you've tried the Islands On The Air and want something a little different, Give the annual International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend. This year it will be held on **August 16-17th** which coincides on Sunday with the International Lighthouse Day.

This event is not a contest. Each station decides how they will operate their station. Operators are encouraged to enjoy themselves and have fun. As many lighthouses are closed to the public and therefore hard to get an amateur station set up in them, participants may set up at the light or other building next to the light. The station must be at or adjacent to the lighthouse.

This event is fun. And, as Hillar mentioned earlier, the QSL cards from most lighthouses are spectacular. When I checked the list of available lighthouses on the web, there were around 130 in the world including those from Israel, Lithuania and Australia. There are over 20 in the United States alone for you to contact! There are some great certificates and several lighthouse organizations you can join as well. What a great idea for an LXpedition! Know of any lighthouses in Lewis County?

Late Entry – Late Entry – Late Entry

Bill Harwell, AC7SR, is working on a potluck dinner for Field Day. It is planned for Saturday at 5 PM at the Field Day site at Stan Hedwall Park in Chehalis.

You are encouraged to bring a main dish, a salad or a dessert. Call or email Bill if you need information or suggestions.

Be sure to bring your own silverware (or plastic) and your own plate (or paper). Beverages will be provided.

Eat, Play Radio and spend time with friends on Field Day in the summer! It just don't get any better than that.

99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

Check This OUT!

Naturist Amateur Radio Club, NU5DE will hold their annual "Nude Awareness Celebration" special event on July 7-13th in Austin, Texas. (page 95, July QST) . This should be an interesting QSL card!

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

What's In Your Go-Bag?

By Bob Willey, KD7OWN

Think a go-bag full of survival gear is only for Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) people? Better think again. A well known geological survey group says the Pacific Northwest is 300 years overdue for a major earthquake. They also say that with todays mobile world, there is a very good chance of being stranded by a large earthquake while you are on the freeway. When overpasses and bridges collapse, you're going to be stuck on the freeway with perhaps miles to get home. Got food? Water? Heat? I carry a go-bag in each vehicle. Here are some of the items I keep on hand:

Portable radio	batteries	flashlight
Matches	first aid kit	pen/paper
Identification	a little money	gloves
Hat / coat	blanket	water
Power bars / snacks	knife / shovel	whistle
Asprin / medicines	chem. hand warmer	map
Telephone numbers	toilet paper	tape

Remember...help may be hours or days away. Be prepared.

Page four, fingers sore so there is no more!