

IN-SERVICE

Winter

Volume 79

February 2002

From the Executive Director

Notice of Biennial General Meeting

The 2001 ASCRA general membership and board of directors meetings will be held at the Gudgell Park church Saturday April 6, 2002. The church is located at 500 E. Gudgell, Independence MO. Go ½ mile south of 23rd street on Noland Road and turn east on Gudgell 3 blocks.

The general membership meeting will be from 10 A.M. till noon (church will be open at 9:00 A.M.) and the board meeting will start at 1:30 P.M.

ASCRA members who would like to take a turn at staffing WØSHQ sometime during conference week please contact Michael Hahn asap. mhahn@cofchrist.org or phone 800-825-2806 x2284

New Operation Guidelines for WØSHQ By Michael Hahn, KGØXU

Shortly after the board of directors meeting in April 2001 a discussion began via the internet concerning updating the guidelines for operating the headquarters radio station, WØSHQ. After input and review from those who participated in the online discussions I have put together a revised operating guide which identifies procedures for accessing, operating and being accountable for using WØSHQ as a guest control operator.

I invite anyone who visits Independence to let me know you are in town and I will be happy to make arrangements for your visiting or operating the station. WØSHQ is a "club" station and as such we encourage its use by members of our association. My office is in the Temple and I can be reached at 833-1000 x2284 or 800-825-2806 x2284 if calling from out of town.

Tom Thatcher, W2TFT, has already operated WØSHQ while visiting the Independence area in July. Following the procedures printed in the right column I was able to give Tom access to the station even though I was out of town for the actual days he was operating. I believe that we will be able to accommodate anyone wishing to visit or operate WØSHQ while they are visiting in Independence.

I view these procedures as a living document that is open to constant review and change as needed in order to be the most efficient. Therefore, I would appreciate any and all response and suggestions.

ACCESS & OPERATION PROCEDURES For WØSHQ

Located in the Auditorium, Room #631
(833-1000 x1319)
Community of Christ
Independence, Missouri

ACCESS:

Access to the Auditorium:

During business hours – Access to the Auditorium is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays).

After hours – The following people are available to gain access to the Auditorium after hours. Contact these people in the order listed if you desire to operate WØSHQ:

Michael Hahn 816-252-4451 (800-825-2806 x2284)
Chuck Palmer – 816-252-4546
Gene Chadwick – 816-373-0299
Dwight Heath – 816-373-3484
Doug Shaw – 816-358-6856
Jeff Winship – 816-690-8497

Alternative access method: a keycard and door keys can be made available for a temporary period of time from the Executive Director for persons who desire delayed access or access for multiple days. These can be returned at a specified later time as determined by the Executive Director and visiting operator.

Access to the radio room - The radio station room was re-keyed in June 2001. Two keys are now necessary. All new keys will be issued by the Executive Director. One key will work the door to the hallway leading to the radio room. A second key will work the radio room lock. Those persons who desire access to the radio room must either have a key or will need someone who has a key to assist them.

Keys - Those wishing to have keys to the radio room will make application to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will issue and track all keys. All keys must be returned upon the request of the Executive Director.

OPERATION:

WØSHQ will always be operated using its own call sign.

Continued on next page

Anyone operating WØSHQ will identify WØSHQ and then themselves using their own callsign and stating that they are acting as control operator.

Proper operating procedures - Good operating procedures apply when acting as control operator of WØSHQ.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Permission - Permission to operate WØSHQ must be granted by the Executive Director or the Station Trustee. Permission is given once verbally or in writing. Once this is done those who have permission must place a copy of their amateur radio license in the radio room. This constitutes all further permission needed unless permission is revoked.

Logging - Upon entering and leaving the WØSHQ radio room, those operating WØSHQ and guests must log in and out in the available logbook. In addition to this all contacts made will be properly logged.

* * * * *

20M Net Preamble

Recently Dave, N5LCL, cared for net control on the Sunday 20M net, 14.287 at 3:30 P.M. central time. Afterward he mentioned this being new and a little difficult for him. He suggested having something published in the In-Service for those members that may suddenly be called upon to be Net Control.

I thought I would share with you what I have preserved with some modifications from the 70s.

The announcement at the beginning of the net is perhaps correctly called a Preamble.

"CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ the ASCRA net"

This is _____, Net Control Station for the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs Net which is affiliated with the Community of Christ whose world headquarters are in Independence, MO. This net meets each Sunday afternoon at (2030 Summer / 2130 Winter) on or about 14.287. This is an open net. Any station is welcome to participate and will have an opportunity to check-in.

Next I ask for check-ins from the zero district, then districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Next I ask for check-ins from the 6, 7, 8, and 9 districts. Next I ask for check-ins from any location.

As comments are made it is a good idea to take notes for those unable to hear the transmitting station. It is best to ask if anyone needs the comments repeated before going ahead and repeating the comments.

Silent Keys

Bill Hewitt KØIPT
Dick Bullard NØDYG
Ed Elmer KA7DJC

**See you at the general
meeting at conference
time?
Saturday April 6
10 A.M.**

I usually thank the contributors for their participation which is essential if the net is to continue.

At the conclusion of the net, I ask for any further check-ins and then comments from any of those that have checked in.

After all of the comments are completed I usually ask if there are any further comments from those that have checked in. After that is concluded I announce we are going to close the net and wait for a response before continuing.

This is close to what I have been using for the conclusion:

This has been the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs net and I declare this session of the ASCRA net complete at ____ Z. This is _____ serving as net control and I am now clear and QRT.

I think it is a good idea to have something of this nature to work from as I did when Dave Bland, KBØGR, gave it to me, maybe back in the 70s. It is from a page of printed material with the title "Philosophy" at the top.

I hope you will make a copy of this or keep this issue for the time it may be needed.

Another subject.....

Are you going to be able to make the General Membership Meeting the first Saturday of Conference in April? It is time to start thinking about it if you are going to be there.

Want to help keep the In-Service a quality publication? Try your hand at being an author of an article of your choice on something we might be interested in.

(Photo deleted)

Thanks from Bob Farnham KGØII

I, and Lynda and my family, want to thank so many ASCRA members for the tremendous love and support we received following my unplanned brain tumor surgery on November 4. We had people all over the country and perhaps even the world offering prayers and positive support for us. The experience has helped us understand better what is really important; the connections we make with others. Perhaps it is a soul mate, perhaps it is a close circle of family and friends, or perhaps it is the larger circles of the various communities and other groups in which we interact. That is really what it is all about isn't it? Well, I can tell you that the prayers and other intangibles, as well as the more tangible love and support in the form of cards, plants, food items, and visits we received really did help. As part of the process, I experienced a grand mal seizure and there was a time the doctors were not sure I was going to make it. So without all of those prayers on my behalf, I might not be here today to talk about it. I say this in all seriousness and perhaps some time I'll have an opportunity to say more about this.

It appears I will be working through the process of radiation and chemotherapy over the coming weeks and months to eliminate the remaining vestiges of a grade 3 anaplastic astrocytoma. Even this is not a 100 percent guaranteed cure. That is the bad news.

The good news is, that as result of your love and support, with the tremendous love and support from countless others, I am at peace with myself and I am ready to do what it is I need to do. And for that peace, we thank you. With much love,

Bob Farnham KGØII and family
RR 2 Box 23
Lamoni IA 50140

Editor's note Bob had unexpected surgery in November a few days after the IN-SERVICE went in the mail. Because of the timing there was nothing about the surgery in the newsletter. Word did go out over the nets regarding Bob's need for support.

Mark, M5BOP writes about his experience as a DX member of ASCRA.

Welcome to my shack! (see photo) - I'm sitting here on Sunday Jan 27 2002 listening to the tail-end of the ASCRA net - I've put in a few calls on CW in-between overs, but with only a few watts to a makeshift HF antenna I'm unlikely to make the big time! However, the big step forward for me this year is that I'm now officially licensed to radiate a signal on HF - the challenge from this point is just some investment in

(Photo Deleted)

antenna (and QTH) improvements so I can get to talk to you guys...

So what's it like being the sole ASCRA member in the UK (United Kingdom, as we tend to call Great Britain these days - with the slow demise of the commonwealth perhaps we've just stopped being great!! - humour ;-). Well until about a year ago I was only licensed to operate on VHF/UHF (UK class B license) which while great for local and European work didn't allow me to join in with the net. However I'd listen in from time-to-time, and with regular mailings of IN-SERVICE and e-mails from other ASCRA members I stayed in good contact with my radio-operating brothers and sisters. Being a listener wasn't enough for me however, or for many of you in ASCRA who had been persuading me over a period of many months to take my code test! The turning point really came in 2000 when I visited Independence for the first time to attend the International Young Adult Temple Event. While there I had a great time meeting up with Doug and Nancy Shaw, Doug's Father Bill (KBØCDD), Chuck Palmer and Chuck's family. This coupled with some changes to the UK license conditions just after my return meant that I really had no excuse!

The introduction of a new low-power HF license class meant that I now only needed to pass a 5wpm code test on top of the qualifications I already had to get on the air with up to 100W. I studied during the last few months of 2000 and took my test at a "boot-camp" weekend at the end of January 2001. Thanks to God's grace I passed first time, much to my own relief! Another change occurred in September last year when the RSGB+RA (UK equivalent of the US ARRL+FCC) simplified the whole licensing scheme. The CW requirement for the highest qualification (class A) license in the UK was reduced from 12wpm to 5wpm, in preparation for the potential removal of morse following the next WRC in 2003. This made the requirements for the class A license and the class A/B license I held the same, resulting in a very pleasing automatic upgrade to class A. This now leaves me able to operate on all bands (HF, VHF, UHF and above) with a maximum of 400W. This may seem limited to those of you in the U.S. who are running up to 1kW, but 400W is maximum legal power for an amateur station in the British Isles!

I live in Ipswich on the East coast of the UK, which is a pretty good location for DX being only 12 miles from the sea. I've been based here for 10 years now, leaving my home congregation in Sutton-in-Ashfield some 4 years before that when I left for college. I now work for BT, the largest telecom company in the UK, who own and operate the majority of the telephone network here. My job has very little to do with telephony though, as for the last two years I've been very involved in the joint Internet backbone venture between BT and AT&T (a name many of you know - apologies to those in ASCRA who work for Sprint...!).

My station set-up is an Icom IC-746 transceiver for HF and 144MHz work, along with a Standard 5900 mobile for FM on

VHF/UHF and a Yaesu VX-5R tri-band handy for local work/repeaters. Antennas consist of a (not very) long wire for HF, a 10-element rotatable 144MHz beam and a dual-band vertical for VHF/UHF. I also have a keen interest in fast-scan amateur TV on microwave, but more of that in another article perhaps!

Building an effective HF antenna system that will allow me to join the ASCRA net is the current project, although this is not an easy task in my location. I purchased a Cushcraft MA5B HF mini-beam when these were on special at a ham outlet, but despite all my efforts I have discovered that there is no practical way I can erect this antenna at my current QTH due to space limitations (my yard is 16ft wide and around 40ft long with immediate neighbours on each side!). This is very disappointing, especially as this antenna is one of the smallest multi-band HF beams on the market and should give the directionality I need to break through the European QRM on 20m!

Without a change in QTH, which is planned but awaiting finance(!), a vertical seems to be the only real option - this won't give the directivity but would at least get me up and running until a larger QTH with the MA5B installed becomes reality! I'm evaluating a couple of Cushcraft models at the moment and will let you know when I get on! For now my best bet is to use the ham shack at my workplace - not many UK employers would have a radio shack on-site, but I'm fortunate to have access to a tower-mounted 3-element multi-band HF beam and an FT-1000MP to drive it. There's also an HF linear, but I'd need some local help in getting that up and running (looks lethal!). Gaining access to my work QTH at 21:30 on a Sunday evening can be a little challenging from a security perspective, but now I'm suitably licensed I'll try and make it up there once in a while to try and say hi on air!

In closing, I'd just like to say thanks to all the ASCRA members who have supported me over the last four and one-half years and I hope to make more direct on-air contact with many of you soon!

73 - God's blessings be with you,

Mark, M5BOP <M.Riley@BTintemet.com>

For the next Issue we have a letter to Doug Shaw from Warren Moulton VK3LX in Australia. Ed

ASCRA Secretary offers certificate

Who will be the first ASCRA station to QSO with the International Space Station? As ASCRA Secretary, I will personally sponsor a special certificate for anyone who accomplishes and confirms this feat by sending me a xerox copy of both sides of your confirming QSL card. Good Luck, all!

73 DE DOUG WA0EMX

11312 55 Terr. Raytown MO 64133-2965

20 Meter Net

14.287 MHz

1530 Central Time Sunday

Net Control Ernie Miles WB2UJL

This is most of names and call signs checked into the 20M net since 10/4/01. Sorry if I left out anyone.

Ernie

WDØARL, Ed Gordon	W5BCZ, Jewell !!ikes
NØBGG, Larry Oiler	N5ECP, Jeff Salmons
KØBKZ, Gene Chadwick	N5LCL, David Gates
WØDZX, Dave Atkins	KI5PW, Mark Roberts
NØELM, Fred Troeh	W5RDM, Bob Mathis
WIØF, Gary Tickemyer	N5RXF, Mayo Dacci
WAØFGW, Randy Bronson	K5RY, Tom Alexander
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrara	KA5UQS, John Holbrook
KGØII, Bob Farnham	K5WPN, Wade Norris
WAØPTG, Melvin Francis	W6LMJ, Terry Redding
WØSHQ, Chuck Palmer	W6RWH, Hale Collins
WØSHQ, John Beyler	W6SFG, Bruce Braun
NØWZH, Steve Hampton	W7FDL, Floyd Lehman
KGØXU, Michael Hahn	WB7PPP, George Kendall
WØYO, Larry Oiler	K7RTH, Bill Herberg
WAØZWZ, Gary Moore	W7SNR, Bob Hughes
N1HV, Andy La Deay	N8LCD, Robert Moy Jr.
KD1R, Ralph Stetson	W8QA, Mike Oiler
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher	W8QK, Muirl Robinson
VK3AQN, Fred Naylor	AB9AH, John Oldenburg
W3HEN, John Seither	K9FID, John Wiley
K3IFR, Harry Matney	KB9JLC, Ken Collard
KD4GUN, Kirsten Glowaski	N9KKY, David Brink
KG4JGR, George Varner	K9PSD, Robert Weiser
K4JLL, John Lambert	KB9SOE, Scott Taylor
KE4QCI, George Roa	WB9UCP, Frank Brinson
N4WTW, Mike Glowaski	K9YV, Steve Fagan
KN4XX, John Kiracofe Jr.	

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ASCRA SETI SCOREBOARD

as of 1/25/02

Call/name	Data units
1) wb6otg	1879
2) Hale Collins	1341
3) kg0ii	833
4) Rod Schall	632
5) phonehome - n0oxk	303
6) Ralph T Stets on III	282
7) joe AD6VD	280
8) W6LMJ	276
9) ka0vtb	247
10) Ernie	49
11) K0BKZ	21