

IN-SERVICE



Winter

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PRESIDENT HAHN RESIGNS

Dear ASCRA friends,

I have decided to step down as ASCRA president and as a board member effective the day the election results are in. I have enjoyed my time sharing in the leadership of ASCRA. There is great potential in our group that is still yet untapped. It is my hope that the future will see a vibrant, active association of members enjoying and participating in meaningful association in the radio community.

It is the responsibility of all members of ASCRA to participate in the life of the association by providing their thoughts and ideas about its mission and goals, to provide leadership and financial resources for projects and activities, and to encourage each other and invite new members into the organization.

When I found out about ASCRA over twenty years ago I was new to amateur radio and was excited to learn that the church I loved had people like me involved together in a new hobby that I have grown to love. For me, the most important aspect of ham radio is the relationships that are created, renewed and grown. That is true of the church as well. This connection - radio and church - means so much to me. I have friends for life that will always bring fond memories.

Other activities and involvements are now pressing on me for more attention. I am a fulltime pastor and am involved in local community groups that are taking precedence in my life at this time. Because of this I don't feel I can give ASCRA the time it deserves and so, with regret, will relinquish my roles to other capable people. I will continue to support ASCRA as time will allow and with my financial contributions - and my thoughts and opinions about what I feel ASCRA should be about. (Sorry everyone, you didn't think you would never hear my two cents worth anymore, did you!?)

Blessings and 73,
Michael Hahn
KGØXU

CHU CANADIAN OFFICIAL TIME STATION CHANGES FREQUENCY

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's shortwave station CHU has moved the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change went into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009.

Doug Shaw
WAØEMX

ANOTHER ELECTRIC EXPERIENCE

Terry's story (IN-SERVICE vol. 106) about almost getting electrocuted reminded me when I had a similar experience.

I was at a Senior High Youth camp at Happy Valley Conference Grounds near Santa Cruz, California, in 1953, (I think). I was demonstrating to campers and staff how to fly a U-Control model airplane. I had been to the camp grounds several times and was very familiar with the surroundings. I started the airplane engine with a battery in a tool box which held the plane there until I could walk to the center of the circle to the controls. I rigged up a release string I could pull which would release the plane so it could take off. Usually, the plane's engine is running too rich for full power until you fly a few laps and then you hear the engine lean-out and get full speed and power. Well, on this occasion, the engine leaned out while I was walking to the center of the circle. I thought I could pull the release string and go into a stunt immediately without the usual warm up laps. I decided to do a wing-over. That's where you pull the up-wire to make the plane fly straight up and over the top and then straight down. The stunt works best when you pull out just inches above the ground. The plane went straight up just fine, except for one thing. Just two weeks before the camp opened, the power company put in a new power line to the campgrounds. The first power pole was across the road and the next one was in with the redwood trees at the edge of the grove. I did not see them. But, no matter how familiar you are with the surroundings, ALWAYS look up first. I didn't.

The power line I flew into was only 1200 volts, but it was enough to knock me out. I turned black according to witnesses, and the whole camp was witnessing. I needed CPR etc., but that wasn't invented yet in 1953. Artificial respiration was the thing to do in those days, but no one did anything. Well, the camp nurse did go and call an ambulance.

While I was out cold, I sensed that someone was pumping my lungs; yet they said no one touched me. I came to about the time the ambulance got there, which was several miles out of Santa Cruz. When I got to the hospital, the doctor treated me for burns to my hands where my control wires got so hot it burned me to the bones. I was wearing gym shoes and I noticed later that it felt like the bottoms of my feet were sunburned. The doctor told me he was the physician that was called to treat another boy who did not live just about a week before from flying a U-Control plane, and that I was very fortunate to be alive. And that is true. I have a personal testimony as to why I did live and who was pumping my lungs. It was Jesus or one of His disciples. My lesson is to always look up, not only for the physical surroundings, but also the spiritual.

Rod Schall

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

On 19 January 2009 the Ballot Tabulation Committee met to count the ballots for the ASCRA Board of Directors election to the 2011 directors' class which assumes office at the board meeting scheduled for spring 2009.

All 20 ballots cast were received prior to the published deadline of Saturday, January 3, 2009. Of these, nine ballots were received by postal mail and 11 via E-mail. There were only six nominees for the six positions. No write-in votes were cast. 10 of the 12 (83%) incumbent directors voted. Five incumbent directors are re-elected, as is Bob Farnham, who is rejoining the board after a two year hiatus during his doctoral coursework.

The following directors of the 2011 class were elected:

Barbara Redding, W5HKY, West Palm Beach, FL
Bob Farnham, KGØII, Lamoni, IA
Chuck Palmer, NØONN, Independence, MO (Treasurer)
Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, Raytown, MO (Secretary)
Ernie Miles, WB2UJL, Durham, NC
Robin Cross, WØFEN, Kansas City, MO
(Executive Director)

Continuing on the board is the 2010 directors class:

David Gates, N5LCL, Newcastle, OK
Fred Troeh, NØELM, Maricopa, AZ
Jim Fish, K7NCG, Woodinville, WA
Larry Ragan, NØAIX, Gladstone, MO
Terry Redding, W6LMJ, West Palm Beach, FL
Tom Thatcher, W2TFT, Shawano, WI

One retiring director declined nomination. The committee thanks Michael Hahn KGØXU, retiring President, for his many years of service on the board and in many other capacities as well. We also gratefully thank those who included generous donations totaling \$120 with their ballots.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wells, KDØCJW, Independence, MO
Bill Shaw, KBØCDD, Independence, MO
Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, Raytown, MO, ASCRA Secretary

Doug Shaw
WAØEMX

WØSHQ BACK ON THE AIR

Thanks to Robin Cross and Chuck Palmer, who reinstalled the TH6-DXX yagi antenna, WØSHQ returned to operational status this past September. WØSHQ has been manned several times by Doug Shaw WAØEMX and Robin Cross WØFEN, serving as 20 Meter Net Control Station since being returned to the air. A Hustler mobile antenna with spider tip is awaiting installation for lower power operation on 80 and 40 meters when coax is available to do so. Terry Redding W6LMJ also visited the station with Doug on 19 October during the 20 meter net that day. Any members interested in operating WØSHQ at any time, including scheduled nets, are encouraged to contact Robin or Doug.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

QST ASCRA DE WAØEMX

Here is some good news for Amateur Radio as we enter the new year. Extract from: The ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 2, January 16, 2009

FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008:

New Amateur Totals 2006 through November 2008

Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755
Feb	1605	2435	2998
Mar	2531	3478	2816
Apr	1728	2673	3090
May	2283	2607	2562
Jun	1967	2281	2402
Jul	1401	1786	2077
Aug	1623	2183	2084
Sep	1357	1462	1763
Oct	1781	2109	2303
Nov	1993	2132	2197
Dec	1569	1935	2019
Totals	21,112	26,728	28,066

Somma said that the number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. "When looking at 2006 totals," she said, "we see that upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications. That's an increase of 133 percent."

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said.

Somma further broke down the numbers to show the approximate number of licensees per FCC license class:

Novice:	18,500
Technician:	322,500
General:	145,000
Advanced	62,000
Extra	115,500
Total US Amateurs:	663,500

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately 450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "These are the highest numbers of General and Extra class licensees I have ever seen." As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. "As expected, the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased," she said. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction."

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

KØGQ KANSAS CITY'S BIG VOICE on EchoLink

The Raytown Amateur Radio Club (www.KØGQ.com) recently added EchoLink to their KØGQ 2 meter repeater, expanding its reach across the internet. KØGQ is one of the widest coverage repeaters in the Kansas City area, and EchoLink is attracting Hams from all over the world. Many are already becoming regular visitors from Australia, New Zealand, the UK and elsewhere. Anyone desiring to contact Hams in the Kansas City, Missouri, area is invited to make a connection.

KØGQ Repeater:
145.170 MHz (-) PL151.4
EchoLink ID: KØGQ-R
Node# 403841

An EchoLink node remotely connects Hams using EchoLink from their PCs to others using radios through a repeater or other RF unit with a PC interface. Other operators with antenna restrictions use EchoLink to talk from their PC to friends who are using either a radio or PC. As many as 12 simultaneous connections can be made, creating a group of Hams talking together from all over the globe, some on PCs and others using only a handi-talkie or other radio connected via a local EchoLink RF node, such as KØGQ-R.

Operators use DTMF tones (TouchTones) from their radio to connect to other Hams on EchoLink or to another repeater hosting EchoLink. It is easy to take full advantage of all the versatile EchoLink features once one becomes a registered user. See <http://www.echolink.org/> for details. Use 'ASCRA' to search for other nodes associated with ASCRA members.

Note: ASCRA directors Robin Cross WØFEN and Doug Shaw WAØEMX are both active members of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club. Robin is a member of the RARC W5YI VE team and Doug is one of the RARC record setting Field Day operators. Many thanks to Jerry Dwyer, NF9L, jdwyer@ptsnetwork.com, KØGQ-R EchoLink SYSOP.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

CENTERPOINT MEDICAL CENTER CLUB STATION KDØBUA

Wednesday, November 5, marked the first HF operational test of the new Independence, MO, Centerpoint Medical Center Amateur Radio Club station, KDØBUA. Centerpoint Chaplain Doug Shaw (WAØEMX) joined Trauma Program Manager, Carolyn Wells (KDØCJW, RN, MSN, CEN) to make the first contact with the hospital's corporate HQ in Nashville, TN. Matt May (KC4WCG), Operations Manager for Johnson County (KS) Emergency Management also observed the test.

Carolyn and Matt are members of the Metro Emergency Communications Council for Kansas City (www.MECCKC.org), an area Amateur Radio umbrella group which Matt chairs. Carolyn also chairs the Hospital Committee for the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council of the Mid America Regional Council (of KC metro area governments), representing Centerpoint, Independence RACES, and ASCRA.

The first contact on 40 meters occurred around 2130Z/1530CT with excellent results. High static interference from an approaching thunderstorm made 80 meter contact problematic. The Nashville station was heard but not readable. As expected, 20 meter contact at that hour was not possible because the skip distance was too long.

KDØBUA equipment, funded by Homeland Security grant, includes three Yaesu transceivers: FT897D (160-6M) for HF, 8900 Quad Band for VHF/UHF, and 8800 Dual Band VHF/UHF for APRS. The two VHF/UHF antenna supports on roof of the hospital Emergency Department anchor a B&W Folded Dipole oriented North-South for HF operation. A laptop computer is also available to interface with the APRS node.

Carolyn is a relatively new HAM, but she has really gotten into amateur radio. She has been a trauma nurse for 29 years with responsibilities for emergency preparedness. She became involved with amateur radio when the region started a project to install amateur radios in 49 hospitals and other facilities. Carolyn became a Technician in October 2007 and upgraded to General class in June, 2008. She has been helping teach Technician level classes with several of her colleagues around the KC metro region and several of the surrounding rural Missouri counties.

Carolyn also serves as the chief nurse for the Missouri Disaster Medical Team, which also carries amateur radio equipment. Disasters in the last few years have more than proven the invaluable communication resource that amateur radio can provide. FCC Trustee for KDØBUA whose personal operation is limited to VHF/UHF mobile from her car, Carolyn enthusiastically says, "I look forward to many years on the air."

Carolyn's husband, Hugh, manages security at Community of Christ HQ. Her father, Church President Emeritus Wallace B. Smith, has been known to speak over ASCRA's HQ station WØSHQ on occasion. One hopes that Carolyn can interest them both to obtain ham licenses, too.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

20-M AND 40-M NET CHECK-INS

These are the checkins on the 20 M and 40 M nets between Nov 11, 2008 and February 4, 2009.

Conditions have been very bad for the last few months and many of you may have tried to check in without success. Keep trying as we are still here. The list of checkins includes those we could hear.

Ernie Miles WB2UJL

20 M net

NØAIX, Larry Reagan
KDØCAO, James Aurandt

NØELM, Fred Troeh
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar
KBØOKI, KC Amatuer Radio Club
ACØNA, Richard Nichols
WØRCH, Richard Simmion
KCØYCS, Brian Harper

N1NRG, Russell Pescatore

KG2DV, James Adams
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

W3BEE, Gerard Dolan
KB3PYA, David Furlong
VE3SCP, Scott Price

W4AKO, Arno Kosko
N4ECO, Robert Archer
K14VDC, William McKinster

KB5EAG, Terry Redding Jr.
K5DLK, Danny Kiper
KD5FQM, James Letterio
KC5MAH, Jesus Dominguez
KD5RWR, Joey Schoefler
KE5WWG, Farrell Busbee

N6GUS, Robert Petterson
K16LDM, Darryl Presley
N6VJD, Cobian Elpidio

N7ETT, Kevin Kent
WA7MTF, Richard Briggs
K7WOF, Kevin Cavanagh
KC8CSH, Gary Kopas
W8PWU, Victor Wanner
KC8VHA, Richard Parker
WE9C, Gene Kemp
K9LQZ, Lowell De Poy
KB9VKU, Joseph Riley

WCØB, William Bedwell
WØDZX, Dave Atkins

WØFEN, Robin Cross
NØJHX, Gary Martin
ACØMK, Edward Davis
KCØPKA, Michael Paselk
KMØS, Mike Thayer
NØWZH, Brian Harper

WB2IVN, Michael Zuckerman

WB3BGK, Timothy Hansen
VA3RZ, Raymond Else

N4BBZ, Charles Davis
N4OLT, Fred Naylor
KB4ZEC, Winston Beverly

KE5CCJ, Roger Ashcraft
N5DWV, Timothy Long
K5HLH, Harry Hall
KE5RAD, Charles Sprick
KE5SU, Darryle Ponder
WF5Y, Gary Stock

KG6KMK, Mark Wells
W6LMJ, Terry Redding

N7IVG, Allen Peterson
K7NCG, Jim Fish
VE7ZDX, Wayne Murray
K8JHR, James Richards
WD8V, Edmund George
KC8ZKT, John Spiris
KB9I, Kenneth Farver
KC9OPI, Samuel Collins
KB9ZIO, Paul Streeter

40 M net

NØAIX, Larry Reagan
WØDZX, Dave Atkins
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar
WØNDC, James Dawdy

KB2IXT, Frederick Thumhart
WA2PJZ, Victor Gallo

K3DOS, David Shapiro
W3QJ, Terry Parry

KJ4AUQ, Charles Fowler
KD4BHG, James Guy
W4GB, James Ferguson

WBØDZU, Glen Bohnke
WØFEN, Robin Cross
KMØS, Mike Thayer

KB2OUT, Anthony Balas
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

N3MK, Donald Snider
VE3SCP, Scott Price

N4BBZ, Charles Davis
W4BXI, John Drum
K4GOP, David Michael

W4IDW, William Bankston
AF4N0, Gregory Hess

N4OLT, Fred Naylor
W4VFX, Jack Howell
K5DLK, Danny Kiper
KD5TLH, Burnie Dunn

N6GP, Franklin Sharit
KE6YNH, Tom Gleeman

WD8NYW, William Cote
K8QA, Michael Oiler
KD8VD, Joe Geoppner

N9APE, Dovid Ofstein
N9WFT, Daniel Rhodes

KG4KOP, Tommy Gheesling
K14PPI, Richard Bowles

K14YAH, Charles Dyer
K14ZHF, Robert Klein
KB5EAG, Terry Redding Jr.
AD5YE, John Backo

W6LMJ, Terry Redding

N8OUO, DCarl Be Vier
KC8UZM, Warren Douglas
KC8VHA, Richard Parker

KC9IGB, Hubert Schoemann

NEW ECHOLINK NODE KØGQ-R IN JACKSON COUNTY (MO)

While enroute home, Wednesday evening, November 5th, 2008, using only my 2 meter handie talkie I tuned to my local Raytown ARC repeater. There I heard a very familiar Australian accent in conversation with Jerry Dwyer NF9L. They graciously allowed me to join their QSO (contact) and make acquaintance with Bob McKie VK2MRJ who lives in Worrigeer, New South Wales, about 100 miles SSW of Sydney. Bob used his PC to access an Echolink server which routed him over the Internet to the KØGQ-R Echolink Node software running on a PC at Jerry's location here in Raytown, Missouri. Bob's audio is then gated through a 2 meter FM transceiver radio frequency link to the RARC repeater, KØGQ, on 145.17 MHz [input -0.6 MHz] to the HTs used by Jerry and me.

Subsequent conversation revealed that Bob knows long time ASCRA member near Melbourne, Victoria, Warren Moulton VK3LX with whom he apparently speaks quite often on 40 meters S B. I'm sure we'll chat again now that Bob is meeting Jerry on KØGQ-R node fairly regularly.

The KØGQ-R node has only been active for about two weeks as I write. Jerry is still debugging the intended 24x7 operation and has graciously offered to help boost me along my own learning curve as he enables more of the Echolink bells and whistles. KØGQ repeater has one of the best locations in the entire Kansas City metro giving it a coverage area second to none from its position atop the new water tower in Raytown, not far from the highest point in Jackson County, just a couple of miles SSW of my own location. Until WØSHQ-R has activated, look for the Central USA Mission Center on KØGQ-R. Learn more about Echolink at <http://www.echolink.org/>. A Google Search will provide many other websites containing Echolink support information.

While some might argue that using Echolink is not Amateur Radio, I must respectfully disagree. It is merely another means to remotely link to an Amateur Radio station or repeater, something we "Hams" have been doing one way or another for many years. This software and other remote base connectivity software will allow many Hams, who cannot raise their own antennas, to operate via the Internet in support of disaster relief communications just as others can do from fully equipped Amateur Radio stations.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

ASCRA SPECIAL EVENT STATION WØC & QSO PARTY April 3-5, 2009

The Second Annual ASCRA Special Event Station WØC and QSO Party commemorating the organization of the Church in 1830 and of ASCRA in 1973 will be held April 3-5, 2009. Operating times: 1859 CDT (2359 UTC) Friday, April 3, to 1859 CDT (2359 UTC) Sunday, April 5. Suggested operating frequencies: 14.287 MHz, 7.233 MHz, 3.985 MHz, and the center of any other bands or sub-bands (+/- QRM).

This QSO Party is not intended to be a contest but an opportunity for ASCRA member stations to converse beyond signal report exchanges and to make new friends of other hams for ASCRA and the Church. However, participants may wish to log sequential contact numbers as they make contact with each other.

When operated from Church HQ, WØC may monitor Independence WØSHQ repeater (146.73 MHz) for local contacts. Standard sized WØC Special Event Station QSL cards may be requested by sending the requesting station's QSL card with a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to: **ASCRA Special Event Station WØC, P.O. Box 73, Independence, MO 64051**. Donations to defray printing costs gladly accepted. Last year's WØC QSL Certificate can be seen at right. A new one will be designed for this year's event.

The WØC Special Event call sign is assigned to us for the period April 2-8. While the dates of our main event will be held as noted above, stations wishing to operate the WØC call sign in time slots on any of these dates may apply to Executive Director Robin Cross. Multiple stations may operate WØC from multiple locations simultaneously. A spread sheet will help us avoid multiple stations operating from the same city or same band at the same time. Final time slot assignments will be made preferentially using WØC at WØSHQ whenever it can be manned locally to maximize access to the HQ station on the air by other members.

Direct any questions to Executive Director Robin Cross w0fen@arrl.net or Secretary Doug Shaw wa0emx@arrl.net.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

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