

IN-SERVICE



Spring

Volume 104

May 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings ASCRA! With this issue of In-Service you will find information about the board meeting held in Kansas City on Saturday, April 25th. It was an interesting meeting with new names and faces. I would like to share a couple of observations.

For most of my years of service on the board of directors we have never had a meeting like this. Half of the board membership was not present physically, yet we had 100% participation. Six members attended via phone from various locations around the country, including David Gates, N5LCL, from Oklahoma City, who was only home a few days from the hospital after being treated for an accident with a recalcitrant tree! (See picture at bottom of page 3). With the cost of gas and travel increasing, I suspect that this will be a trend of the future more and more. ASCRA will need to adapt to better accommodate this trend.

A second item I want to talk about is a couple of goals the board has decided to work on. At the 2007 board meeting, the executive council (president, secretary, treasurer and executive director) were commissioned to meet and discuss ways in which ASCRA might be revitalized. That's a tall order.

As with many organizations ASCRA is experiencing a downturn in participation, not only in our activities but in financial contributions. There are many causes, most, I suspect, are personal and private. Nevertheless, we are stagnating as an organization and we are concerned about that.

Out of my report to the board of the discussion in the executive council meeting came a lively discussion about what kinds of things we could do to reinvigorate ASCRA. Out of that discussion came two goals. The first goal was to attempt to further develop the website. This will mean finding a permanent home for it, possibly developing other internet strategies and in general, making it a resource for both ASCRA and the amateur radio community.

A second goal, while more local in geography, is no less important. Since the Independence/Kansas City area still holds the largest population of ASCRA members the board feels strongly that it is important to reactivate the local chapter. Having a strong local chapter means having the ability to develop WØSHQ into the resource presence it once was.

While these two primary goals may seem simple enough, they are not the only ways ASCRA can become revitalized. I encourage each member to become active where you live and to get as involved in the wide variety of amateur radio activities as you can. We encourage you to assist by making a financial contribution to ASCRA – even if it is only five or ten dollars. Offer your expertise in helping with the website or with setting up echo link nodes, remote bases or with a class at SPEC. There is much we can do if more of us get involved.

Despite the conditions of our economy today and many other obstacles, there are great possibilities ahead for ASCRA. Share

your ideas with us, offer to take the lead, make a contribution. Let's work together to make ASCRA great!

73,
Michael Hahn, KGØXU

MAILING CHANGES

This issue of IN-SERVICE is coming to you with a regular stamp on it rather than the Iowa bulk mail permit designation that we have been using for the past several years. Collaboration with the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center and the stake organizations that preceded it saved us many dollars of mailing cost on each issue. However, the post office decided that ASCRA is not eligible to use the mission center permit, so they refused to accept the bulk mailing of the February issue. After much communication between the post office, Linda Fisher of the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center, Doug Shaw ASCRA secretary, and Michael Hahn ASCRA president, the February issue finally went out via the mission center's first class mail permit. That increased the mailing cost and the whole process delayed the mailing by about a month.

Purchasing our own mailing permit is prohibitively expensive, so we now have to use regular first class mail for IN-SERVICE. This adds about 25 cents to the cost of mailing each copy. But, since this can be done from the local post office, there is no need to send a box of newsletters to Iowa for mailing. The net result is that our cost for 250 copies of each issue will increase from about \$100 (about \$50 printing + \$50 mailing) to about \$150 (about \$50 printing + \$100 mailing).

ASCRA members can help in either of two ways. If contributions increase by about \$200 per year, that will offset the increased mailing cost. Contributions may be sent to our treasurer:

Chuck Palmer
700 S. Fuller Ave.
Independence, Missouri 64052

The other way to bring this situation into balance is to reduce costs. This could happen by some members choosing to receive electronic copies of IN-SERVICE rather than paper copies. Each copy is posted on our web site and can be downloaded from there, or the editor can send it directly to you by e-mail. Anyone who wishes to change to an electronic version should advise the editor by e-mail: frtroeh@onmbb.com.

One more way to help balance the budget is to sell advertising in our newsletter. ASCRA executive director, Robin Cross, sold ad space to Associated Radio. You will find their ad published for the first time in this issue.

Fred Troeh, NØELM
Editor of IN-SERVICE newsletter

SPECIAL EVENT QSO – Robin Cross

In January I received the special event call sign of WØC for the commemoration of the anniversary of the Founding of the Community of Christ and ASCRA. I had requested the call for the dates of April 5-6-7, 2008. The event announcement was published in both QST and CQ on their respective websites. We were all set.

This was the first ever special event station operation for all the operators. I was shocked at the response. Every time any of the operators (WØFEN-WAØEMX-W6LMJ) transmitted the WØC call sign there was a pile-up. As time progressed each of us got better at handling the response. I am not fast at keyboard entry so it took me a little time to enter each contact while I was operating alone.

I used NIMM logging program for the log. I had configured this so that the frequency and mode followed the IC-740 pro transceiver. The computer provided the time which was converted to UTC/GMT. This made logging much easier and straightforward. When W6LMJ was operating, I suggested that he repeat the call sign and I logged the contacts in Kansas City.

I developed some techniques for narrowing down the pile-ups such as asking for certain districts only. Terry added the use of serial numbers for each contact which has made looking up contacts much easier. The use of the computer log enabled me to upload a copy to eQSL where we have received several confirmations of contact.

WOW! What a response. Would I do it again?? YES!! YES!! Will I be more prepared next year?? YES! We will be looking for many more ASCRA members to make extended contacts.

Robin Cross WØFEN

WØC Special Event – Doug Shaw

Thanks to one and all for joining us on the air during our 2008 ASCRA QSO Party to commemorate the 178th anniversary of the founding of the Community of Christ Church and the 35th anniversary of ASCRA's founding. It was a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones with both ASCRA members and other radio amateurs as well.

I joined Robin at WØFEN Saturday evening (CDT, April 5th) to help operate our WØC Special Event station and to participate in the 2008 ASCRA QSO Party. It had been many years since I was the focus of an on-the-air pile up, not since

operating from Honduras as WAØEMX/HR5 at the La Buena Fe Mission Clinic in December 1978. The closest experience to this special event is operating in one of the national or world wide on-air contests such as ARRL/ARES Field Day, ARRL Sweepstakes, or one of the other radio sport events when one must carefully detect many calling stations from each other.

Robin and I quickly fell into a contact rhythm with me on the microphone and he on the computer keyboard entering each contact's logging information. This allowed us to maximize the number of QSOs (contacts) per hour. It worked much better operating in tandem than trying to tune in calling stations and tune out the interference while also attempting to log contacts accurately. I am impressed that Robin was also able to perform the logging task as Terry made contacts using WØC from eastern Florida. Using tandem logging for our special event was no doubt an ASCRA first! Logging remotely may well be a worldwide first!

We made 33 solid contacts in just one hour 39 minutes on the 40 meter band from 0223 to 0402 UTC, Sunday, April 6th (8:23-10:02 PM, Saturday evening, April 5th). All the contacts were true QSOs with some conversational content, not merely an exchange of location, signal level, type of equipment, etc. This enabled us to invite many new acquaintances to join us on one of our weekly Sunday afternoon nets on 14287 kHz at 1530 CT and 7233 kHz at 1630 CT (2030Z and 2130Z during daylight time, an hour later UTC during standard time). I expect that a number of them have already dropped in to say hello.

Using a Special Event 1x1 call sign was truly an adventure. Everyone who called us was patient and well mannered. Most had learned of our event from the ARRL Special Event web page or from the CQ website, and were eager to locate us for a contact. It was a great experience; one I look forward to again next April. Robin has already obtained use of WØC in 2009 for April 2-8, so we have plenty of time to plan ahead and pick our actual operational dates, which may include some or all of the dates reserved.

In addition to the WØC Special Event station, our ASCRA QSO Party event was also a success, at least as far as WØC was concerned. Our activity may have gained some additional attention because our QSO Party was held the same weekend as the more contest-like Missouri QSO Party. I hope many ASCRA stations were able to contact each other as well as contact WØC, especially on Sunday afternoon on both 20 and 40 meters. We hope to learn just how many ASCRA members participated as we process the requests for the 2008 ASCRA QSO PARTY certificates and QSL cards. So far we have received one good sized bundle of mail from Box 73. More are no doubt awaiting my next trip to the Post Office.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

WØC Special Event – Terry Redding

Participating in the QSO party was like turning the clock back 20 or 30 years. I have experienced pileups in the past. But always from foreign soil, either West Germany or the Republic of Panama. In both places it was fairly common to stay on frequency responding to a pileup. However, I was surprised to see Robin repeatedly in the middle of a pileup with his modest wire antenna from Kansas City, Missouri.

A pileup is literally too many people calling at one time to all be understood. Some pileups last a few minutes. Others can last closer to an hour. But the largest pileups last hours and seem to be almost endless, changing in step with the shifting of the band conditions. Listening to Robin work the pileup I could tell he was getting tired after nearly an hour. When Robin offered to transfer the special event call sign to another to spread the workload, I volunteered.

I worked the stations as quickly as possible, averaging about one a minute. Not really a fast pace for contesting or quick exchanges. But I had a desire to be a bit more friendly, a bit more chatty, to attempt to build friendship and rapport. So, my pace of contacts was a bit slower with those stations with whom I had a chat.

One of the things that made this whole experience more interesting was the fact that many of the stations we worked were looking for us. They were aware of the special event station from magazines, and other sources. They were on the air looking for us.

It was my pleasure to help with the on the air contacts and I look forward to the next time.

Terry Redding W6LMJ

David Gates tractor and tree (See page 1).

SILENT KEY

John D. Enfinger

ENFINGER John David Enfinger- a native of Brewton, AL and a resident of Mobile passed away at his home on Thursday, March 20, 2008. Mr. Enfinger retired from Morrison's Corporation after 37 years of service as an accountant. He was a World War II veteran of the United States Army Air Corps and a member of the Community of Christ Church. Mr. Enfinger enjoyed operating his HAM radio (WA4PFI) and volunteering with the American Red Cross. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Lynn Enfinger. Mr. Enfinger is survived by his wife of 65 years, Beverly Enfinger; children, John D. (Sandra) Enfinger, Jr. of Savannah, GA and Jeanne (Ed) Bourgeois of Citronelle; grandchildren, Stacy (Robert) Deans of Tampa, FL and Jeffrey Enfinger of Savannah; great-grandchildren, Dustin and Mason Deans of Tampa; other relatives and friends. Graveside services and interment were held in Mobile Memorial Gardens on Saturday, March 22, 2008. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Red Cross, 853 Dauphin St., Mobile, AL 36602. Funeral arrangements by Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral home 6040 Three Notch Rd. Mobile, AL.

John was a good friend -- the only Ham operator I know to operate unicycle mobile. I enjoyed many great conversations during QSOs with John since our first acquaintance in the early 1970s. Our family also had the pleasure of staying with John and his lovely wife, Beverly, in their home in Mobile in the early 1980s as they shared some of their favorite places there with us. My family still fondly remembers our tours together with them of the Bellingrath Gardens and both the battleship USS Alabama and submarine USS Drum at Battleship Memorial Park on Mobile Bay.

While I am truly saddened by John's passing, I am grateful that the deterioration of his quality of life is over. John was a true Christian gentleman and will be greatly missed. I am confident that he has returned home to his Lord and ours. I can only wonder what DX (long distance Ham contacts) he is making now from his new QTH (location).

I hope many of our long time ASCRA members who remember John will be able to send Beverly a card of support and reminiscence or sign the online guest book with similar sentiments. Since she has no computer I will monitor the online guest book and send her a print out from time to time, if none of her family already plans to do so. Beverly's mailing address is:

2850 Woodmere Street
Mobile, AL 36609

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX
Secretary, Assn of Saints Church Radio Amateurs

W1AW BULLETINS VIA THE INTERNET

W1AW bulletins are available via email.

ARRL Members can register for the Members Only Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members/> and select the categories of bulletins they wish to receive.

Anyone can subscribe to the **w1aw-list** mailing list to receive *all* W1AW bulletins via email:

Doug Shaw WAØEMX

20-M and 40-M NET CHECK-INS

May 5, 2008

These are the checkins on the 20 M and 40 M nets since February 4, 2008.

Due to propagation problems the net survives by using many stations to assist net control. They have provided these call signs. We try to get it right, but some may have been omitted.

20-M net

NØAIX, Larry Ragan
KDØBKE, Timothy Sell
KDØCPH, Michael Moore
NØELM, Fred Troeh
KAØGFC, Charles Brady
KØJNW, Michael Thayer
KCØMYW, Nick Welder
KFØSJ, John Morgan
KØTCB, Chester Hallberg
KØTGU, Mary Hallberg
KCØWHI, Jim Kernan

KL1AX, Michael Ellsworth

KC2MHY, Kevin Greene
K2OZW, John Wilhelm
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher

VK3AQN, Fred Naylor
VE3SCP, Scott Price

KJ4AUQ, Charles Fowler
WN4DEM, Don Gillette

N5AWH, Albert Howe
N5ECP, Jeff Salmons
W5LN, Carlos Hamm
W5QPT, Ellis Thatcher
WD5T, Thomas Mannino
K5WDW, Warren White
WA6KOO, Patrick Adams
N6TUA, Richard Ney

W7ABF, Dwayne Campbell
K7NCG, Jim Fish
KE7TI, James Jakubin

KD8FMX, David LeVan
W8JMF, John Fisher
N8NKC, Martin Schreur
KC8RMR, Claudius Anderson
N8WJ, Lawrence Rinke

KC9HDC, Aron Benner
W9UJE, Larry Hall
N9WFT, Daniel Rhodes

NØAZZ, Fred Smith
KCØCHR, Robert Jackson
WØDZX, Dave Atkins
WØFEN, Robin Cross
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar
KBØLWE, Jack Wood
KCØQID, Mike Wright
KCØSKR, Delbert Sawyer
KCØTDQ, Jeff Woodard
KØVIE, Chelmer Moore
NØWZH, Steven Hampton

WB2MQM, Henry Boriskin
WA2PJF, Vito Colantuono
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

VA3RZ, Ray Else
VA3STG, Fred Lorch

KG4CNJ, Johnny Hall
KI4VUZ, Richard Mayfield

KB5EAG, Terrence Redding Jr.
N5LN, Oscar Nugent
KE5OOA, Charles Ives
KE5SCC, Tommy Lghtfoot
WD5USA, Michael Minor

W6LMJ, Terry Redding

W7FCB, Rudolph Schroeder
KD7SLY, Floyd Rasmussen

KD8GNP, Leon Taylor
N8LCD, Robert Moy
W8QK, Muril Robinson
KC8VHA, Richard Parker

N9RJX, Daniel Markowitz
N9VLW, Charles Williams
N9WYZ, Darrell Page

40-M net

NØAIX, Larry Ragan
KAØGFC, Charles Brady
WØMHZ, Frank Helsell
KCØQID, Mike Wright
NØWZH, Steven Hampton

KL1AX, Michael Ellsworth

W2TFT, Tom Thatcher
N2ZHD, David Osinski

WA3LPQ, William Curry
KA3NEN, Eugene Pomroy
VA3STG, Fred Lorch

KI4CBZ, David Damron
K4EEX, Gary Leonard
KI4HNG, Don Nash
N4LKW, Zane Cothran
K4WSJ, Robert Husband

KB5EAG, Terry Redding Jr.
W5ITI, Jerry Lukens
K5PJA, Philip Adams
KB5TRA, Eddy Hackney

WA6KOO, Patrick Adams
AE6RH, Raymond Midwin

W7ABF, Dwayne Campbell
K7NCG, Jim Fish

KD8FMX, David LeVan
N8LXU, Stephen Mills
W8QK, Muril Robinson

KB9AVX, Scott Baker
N9PVQ, Todd Ervin

NØFKW, Greg Hilton
KØJNW, Michael Thayer
KCØMYW, Nick Welder
KØTGU, Mary Hallberg

WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

K3LRH, Leonard Hecker
VA3RZ, Raymond Else

KG4CNJ, Johnny Hall
K4HAM, Raymond Nelson
KF4KZO, James Chatman
KP4RS, Jose Rodriguez

N5FKW, James Lotspeich
W5LN, Carlos Hamm
W5QPT, Ellis Thatcher

W6LMJ, Terry Redding

KD7BK, Lowell Stanfill

KD8HIX, Antonio Logarta
N8NKC, Martin Schreur

AC9DC, Michael Liebgott
N9WFT, Daniel Rhodes

ASCRA BOARD MEETING 26 April 2008

At 09:10 CT Saturday, April 26, 2008, the ASCRA Board of Directors met at the Kansas City Emergency Operations Center (KCEOC) for the annual board meeting. All 12 directors attended. Directors attending on site were: Robin Cross, Michael Hahn, Ernie Miles, Chuck Palmer, Larry Ragan, and Doug Shaw. Directors attending via Conference Bridge were: David Gates, Jim Fish, Barbara Redding, Terry Redding, Tom Thatcher, and Fred Troeh. President Michael Hahn led us in a Focus Worship based on AQUA CHURCH by Leonard Sweet as it applies to moving ASCRA forward.

Following an opening prayer, Secretary Doug Shaw summarized the minutes from the board meeting of 24 March 2007 which had been previously distributed by Email. He noted in particular the generous donations in kind from Milo Barnhard KC5AZ. The minutes were approved as read. The Secretary's 30 point annual report to the board was also approved as presented, as was the Board of Directors Election Committee report which had been published in the February 2008 issue of *IN SERVICE*.

Treasurer Chuck Palmer's annual report was also approved as presented. In summary, Donation Income was \$760 and Total Expenses were ~\$576 leaving a NET of ~\$183; so we are operating in the black, although barely. Complete Cash Flow and Fund Balances Reports can be posted on the Website.

Executive Director Robin Cross reported (1) Sale of ½ page ad to Associated Radio on a trial basis, (2) WØSHQ yagi antenna is rebuilt but awaits installation, (3) ASCRA Special Event Station WØC and ASCRA QSO Party (details elsewhere in this issue), (4) 40 Meter Net focus on engaging new members, (5) Sold 2 tube testers at 2007 Ararat Shrine Hamfest for \$125, (6) KC5AZ donated many items to ASCRA in 2007.

The board re-elected by acclamation the following incumbent officers: President Michael Hahn KGØXU; Secretary Doug Shaw WAØEMX; Treasurer Chuck Palmer NØONN. President Hahn reappointed Robin Cross WØFEN as Executive Director. Robin then asked Larry Ragan NØAIX to assume the role of Awards Manager. Larry accepted. Doug Shaw volunteered to assist as needed.

The Board then discussed various website issues. Ernie Miles reported that former Web Master Bob Farnham KGØII had transferred control of the ASCRA website, www.ascra.org, to him. It is now being hosted on Terry Redding's www.oltraining.com server. Fred Troeh manages the ASCRA Membership Roster spreadsheet which is used to maintain the online Roster on the website. The update procedure was affirmed to send updates to Fred who will formally inform Ernie of any changes required to the website. Larry Ragan moved and Chuck Palmer seconded to create a new ASCRA Email distribution or List Server process and allow the Graceland hosted ASCRA lists to expire which has been pending for some time. The motion carried 11 to 1. Doug Shaw indicated that he is researching other list services and will report on options later this year when a final choice will be made.

Per the Bylaws President Hahn called on the ExecDir to submit a Capital Equipment Request for the next two years. ExecDir Cross responded that he has no request at present but he intends to sell those assets not usable by ASCRA and make other assets available for loan or sale to ASCRA members, particularly those in need to get on the air. Without objection the President directed the ExecDir to manage the disposition of the assets in question by any appropriate means.

Those salable items not deemed of sufficient value to be retained will be offered first to members with specific deadlines for indicating interest before offering such items to the broader Amateur Radio

Community. Michael Hahn then presented an Executive Council report as directed at the previous Board meeting. It will no doubt be reiterated in the President's column of this or subsequent issues of *In Service*.

Ernie Miles voiced a need for an article to raise awareness about ASCRA in the Herald as it has been some time since one has been published. Doug Shaw announced plans to issue a news release about this Board Meeting, Election Results, and ASCRA net schedules. A longer article is also planned which will relate some ASCRA history and emphasize: Emergency Preparedness, WØSHQ Hurricane Katrina report, ASCRA support of SATERN, RED CROSS, FEMA operations, Carolyn Wells' (KDØCJW) role as Emergency Coordinator for Centerpoint Medical Center, etc. (Herald editor has just agreed to accept both a news release and a 2 page article for future issues.)

Doug Shaw moved and Larry Ragan seconded a motion to approve the 2008-2009 budget. Increased *In Service* newsletter costs are the major annual expense, especially now that we must use First Class mail. After an adjusting motion carried, the budget was approved unanimously.

<u>2008-09 BUDGET</u>	
<i>In Service</i>	660.00
New Mbr Dvlpmt	100.00
P.O. Box	40.00
Copies	20.00
License Fees	20.00
<u>Misc.</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Total	860.00

The Board then considered a motion, moved by Doug Shaw and seconded by Barbara Redding, to amend the bylaws as proposed by the First Presidency of the Community of Christ Church with which ASCRA is affiliated. After discussion the motion carried unanimously. The updated Bylaws will be posted to the ASCRA website later this summer.

Following a closing prayer by Ernie Miles, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM. The Board then toured the KCEOC, a very comprehensive facility.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX, ASCRA Secretary

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If you have any changes for the database (upgrades, new post office or e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.), please send them to ftroeh@onmbb.com (note new e-mail address; the iastate address no longer works) or mail them to:

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