



The Feedline

February 1999

Vol. 20, No. 2

Calendar of Club Events

MEETINGS

Club meetings are usually at the Red Cross building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Madison. Regular meetings start with business matters at 7:30 PM, followed by the program unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change. Updates are posted on the FLARC2 packet station at 147.555 (1200/9600 Bd) and 446.100 (1200/9600 Bd).

SATURDAY MORNING "ZILCH" LOCATIONS

The eastside Zilch (ham breakfast) is at 8:00 AM at a new location (TBA). The westside Zilch is at 10:30 AM at Fitzgerald's on the Beltline in Middleton. Come join us!

FLARC NETS

Sunday morning on 28.350 MHz at 9:30 AM. Warm up on 3.985 between 9-9:30 AM.

MADISON AREA INFO NET

Thursday evenings on 147.15 at 8 PM. Backup frequency is 146.76. Traffic/check-ins are welcome.

MADISON WEB PAGE

Visit this address: <http://members.aol.com/staskc2ak> and link to the new site. Keep checking the links page for new goodies!

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

2/2/99	Madison DX Club presentation
2/16/99	Video of Father Moran 9NIMM at the Clinton, Iowa, ARC (from 7/11/90)

BUCK NIGHT WINNER

The winner for January 5 was Peg KB9LIE and for January 19, Mike KF9AF. Not present was Steve WD9FLI.

Prez Sez

Hi, Everyone!

Another month has gone by, and we've accomplished another goal. We've recruited, trained, tested, and passed a number of folks who will become fellow amateur radio operators when they receive their tickets from the FCC. I'd like to welcome and congratulate our new friends for a job *very* well done in a *very* short period of time. I'd also like to thank all the instructors and volunteer examiners who devoted their time, efforts, and talent during the weekend "crash" course in ham radio. I hope we can replicate this opportunity for others soon!

The timing of the upcoming Wisconsin QSO party couldn't be better. This will be a terrific opportunity for these new (and more experienced hams, too) to hone their basic operating skills. Given that we have so many new hams, opportunities for continued Elmering and FLARC team building also abound. Let's all work hard so that the QSO party trophy is re-awarded to FLARC. This will also be a great chance to invite the new amateurs among us to participate in this all-out effort and experience the spiritual aspect of the hobby – camaraderie! Why not offer to co-operate with one of the graduates of the recent class during the QSO party? Let any club officer or crash course teacher know that you're willing to spend a few hours as an Elmer during this event. We'll pair you up with someone, and you can have the thrill of giving that person an exciting experience that will last a lifetime.

Recently our activities have focused on offering opportunities for *basic* licensing and/or operating. However, there remain two elements of the amateur radio art we are challenged to address: (1) teaching the code and (2) upgrading. We *must* take on this challenge if new Technician licensees and others

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within our amateur fraternity are to progress both in license class and operating proficiency. This challenge can be met only if we more seasoned veterans are willing to share both our cw skills and technical expertise. How about it? Any of you brasspounders willing to pass on the secrets of good cw? And any of you electronics whizzes willing to spend an evening or two opening other minds to a new world?

73 de *Dave*

PS: The FLARC officers and board members for 1999 are listed on the outside cover. Congratulations!

SKYWARN TRAINING

The spring Skywarn class for amateur radio operators will be held Saturday, February 27, at the Department of Military Affairs at 2400 Wright Street in Madison. Registration starts at 8 AM, and training follows at 9. The location is one block west of Highway 51. Go west on Kinsman Boulevard from Highway 51 for one block and then go right (north) on Wright Street for two blocks. A McDonald's is on the southeast corner of Kinsman and Highway 51. The Department of Military Affairs building is on the southwest corner of Wright and Mitchell streets. Park in the lot on the south side of the building. Talk in on 147.15. Hamshack telephone # 242-3323.

These club members are celebrating birthdays:

N9CK	Steve Franzen	2/4
KB9MRX	Brian Hosking	2/12
WT9E	Tom Kaminski	2/22
N9UDG	George Edgerton	2/25
W9GL	Jim Gordon	2/25

CORRECTION

In the list of county abbreviations for the Wisconsin QSO Party in the January *Feedline*, Green Lake County should be GRL.

CALLSIGN CHANGES

Jim Patterson (ex-KC9GO) has his original call of K9DXL back. He says it stands for DX Listener; his old friends say no, it's really DX Lid.

MEMBER UPDATE

Stas KC2AK is not really hiding from his friends. He just has a new telephone number: 235-1783.

Bravo!

by Don Michalski W9IXG

The first weekend Novice/Technician ham course is now history and a resounding success! Several area clubs worked as a team and presented an intense weekend of instruction to 24 students at Space Place. A mix of various factors pulled this off. The students did the required home study prior to the workshop with the ARRL textbook *Now You're Talking*. At the workshop we hit them with the ARRL videotape series. To help drill in the information, the instructors took minibreaks to review what was presented on the video, answer questions, and provide demonstrations. This proved to be the secret in getting everyone to understand the information, not just memorize it. This effectiveness of this method showed in the test results—they not only passed but did so with honors. Of the 24 who took the exams, 4 passed the element 2 Novice exam, 18 went on to pass the Technician element 3A exam, and one, KB9REO, upgraded to General. Hats off to all the students for their efforts!

Special thanks go to the instructors: Gary KG9FL, Gari NG9V, Tim WO9U, Jim KB9REO, Colin KB0UPK, Dave N9DMS, and Brad WB9WHI.

On Sunday afternoon an army of 10 VEs smoothly administered the exams. We greatly appreciate their hard work!

So how do we top this successful event? We are already planning another one for April. This course may prove to be the wave of the future. Not many folks have the time to spend weeks attending classes. Home study and an intense weekend course appear to be the answer to getting new people into our beloved hobby and, hopefully, as members of FLARC! We hope you can help out on the next one and be an Elmer to these new hams!

P.S. Check out the FLARC web page soon, where we will have pictures on display.



Member of the Month

by Ted Gisske K9IMM

I got started in radio at the age of 8 (in 1955) by building the obligatory crystal radio with a tuning coil wound on an oatmeal box. My father, perhaps sensing a trend, then bought me a Heathkit AM broadcast 5-tube radio kit. After a bit of help from some local ham elmers, I got the radio to play and was rewarded with another kit for a 5-band shortwave receiver.

After a few years, I was licensed as KN9IMM (novice) in 1961. I spent the next six months building a 75-watt crystal-controlled HF novice rig from ARRL handbook plans. I got on the air and a few months later took the bus to Chicago to take the General exam. After about 6 weeks, a K9IMM license arrived in the mail. I built a plate modulator for the novice rig, bought a Johnson VFO, and got on phone. I started on a marathon project (that took about 4 years) to build an SSB transmitter that was roughly equivalent to a Collins 32V2. It had about 35 tubes and was quite state-of-the-art in those days. I learned a lot about electronics debugging that project.

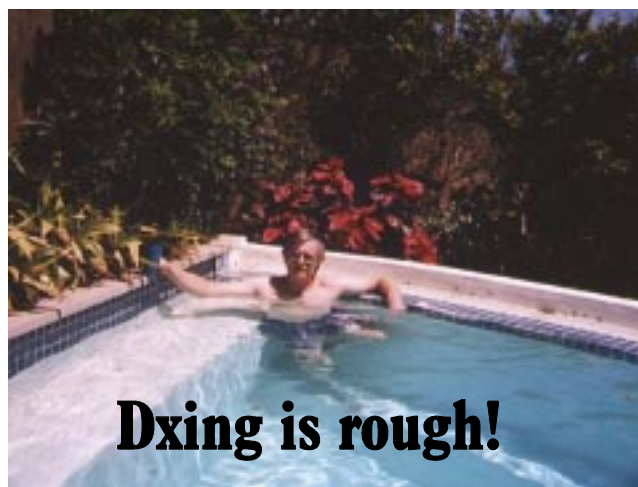
While I was in college, I upgraded to advanced and extra class license grades.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to dip my toe into a lot of areas of ham radio. I got interested in VHF weak signal work early in my ham career when I had the opportunity to participate in some of the very first ham radio moonbounce experiments. Later, I was lucky to find a very nice VHF location and put together a contest-grade (at least before W0UC showed up) station. A number of section and division VHF/UHF contest titles were won by multioperator contest efforts from that location. I also had room for a series (three) of moonbounce antenna arrays for two meters. The last array was eight 27-foot long Yagis spaced at 10' apart on an elevation/azimuth mount.

I got involved with MARA in the early 1970s and built their second-generation repeater. That experience made me a confirmed advocate of FM simplex operation. In 1989 the Madison DX club started showing up at my QTH for the fall CQWW phone DX contest. I am still not a member of their club but did (with NS9L) host the contest until this year. I enjoy DXing but despise QSLing, so I have no wallpaper from those (or any other) efforts.

I have had the opportunity to launch a few mini-Dxpeditions and offshore contest efforts. I have been to Puerto Rico (KP4/K9IMM) for an 80-meter, single-

band ARRL DX CW contest and won North America (second in the world). I also went to VP5JM's Providenciales (in the Turks and Caicos) "hamlet" and won North America (again second in the world) (as VP5B) on 40-meter CW in the same contest. I have also been to St. Lucia (J6/K9IMM) and recently Cooper Island (near Tortola, in the BVI) as VP2V/K9IMM. I got a very different perspective being on the other end of the pile-up.



K9IMM on a grueling DXpedition to St. Lucia

My present interests are DXing, HF antennas, and microwaves. I am on all bands from 160 meters through 1296 MHz, with the exception of 902 MHz. I am collecting parts for X-Band (10 GHz) equipment but am not on the air yet. I have been experimenting with 40-, 80-, and 160-meter antennas for the last several years.

Ham radio has been good to me, as it formed the foundation for a career and gave me the opportunity to meet many fine people. Ham radio connections have also started me in other interests, such as flying and homebrewing.

YOUR HAM PET: CARE AND FEEDING

(tnx to the F. Herkimer Amateur Radio Club)

Pet hams are so intelligent they often seem human, but they can be difficult to raise. Only someone with great patience should attempt it. In case you do, here is a guide to the basics.

Living Area A pet ham needs a private nest area,
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an entire room where it will not be disturbed. Your pet ham will spend many happy hours alone there with its treasures: boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, and so on that it will bring home whenever it ventures out. You will want to encourage your pet ham to confine its activity to this room to prevent the entire house from being subjected to noise, clutter, and the boring of holes in the walls.

Expenses Keeping a pet ham is expensive, but, unlike most common pets, a pet ham can be trained to work outside the home for a few hours each day. It may even bring in enough money to offset its expenses.

Feeding A well-behaved pet ham will eat with the family occasionally, but it will feel more comfortable and secure taking its meals in the nest room. You must be sure your pet ham is well supplied with food and drink during the long periods it spends alone in there, even if it does not beg or whine.

Obedience Training A pet ham can be trained to perform simple tricks, the easiest and most common being “sit” and “speak.” Do not be alarmed if it practices them for hours at a time in the nest room.

Health Problems The pet ham typically suffers lower back pain and minor throat irritations from too much sitting and speaking, but health maintenance costs tend to be minimal.

Travel Your ham pet will gladly travel with your family by car or even by air if allowed to bring along certain familiar items from the nest room. Most pet hams enjoy trips to places where they can meet pet hams from other families.

Breeding If you plan to breed your pet ham, you should do so as soon as possible after you get it. As a pet ham matures, it becomes increasingly reluctant to engage in activities not associated with its nest room collection.

As Time Goes By

by Carol Hoke NS9L

1947 The August FLARC picnic at Blue Mounds park started around 9 AM. Anout 20 members showed up with “xyls, yls, and friends,” who carried the refreshments to the picnic area after UFX’s car—with all the provisions—stalled at the bottom of the hill. The day was one of the hottest of the season, but a strong breeze on



top of the hill made it necessary to anchor the plates to the tables with food, which soon disappeared. After a little relaxation including a swim for some, the door prizes were drawn and given out as follows: A 2-meter transmitter, donated by Al Satterfield, was won by W9WON, Bob Peterson. The ladies’ door prize—a luncheon tablecloth—was won by Mrs. Vern Martin, xyl of W9MNZ. Joe Jackson, W9IDQ, won an antenna relay. W9NAK distributed Hallicrafters caps to all. W9HCR and W9WON conducted a series of contests and races for the young harmonics, who also received prizes. Seven of the group remained at the park for another picnic supper, having plenty of leftovers. The grounds were cleared around 7 PM.

At the August 25 meeting, Bill Aspinwall was accepted for membership, and W0JOG was introduced as a visitor. W9RUX reported on PA0ZJ’s receipt of equipment donated by FLARC, and the PA’s letter of appreciation was read to all. The members then considered reservations for the Ground Hog party at Watertown on Sept. 14.

The September 22 meeting was called to order in Studio A at Radio Hall of WHA. W9HHR announced that W9RNX would demonstrate and discuss the tri-tett oscillator on October 7. W9UFX and W9RBI reported on the October 11–12 emergency tests that would be conducted in cooperation with Red Cross. Three members volunteered to set up a field station for this event, with preference to be given to 75-80-10 meter bands. Jack Stuhl presented the program—a discussion and demonstration of tape recording machines. WHA’s plans for FM were announced, and members were treated to a tour through the FM transmitter works.

The Feedline is the monthly publication of the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club (FLARC) and is published to inform members of club meetings and other events as well as local and worldwide news affecting amateur radio. Articles in the *Feedline* may be reprinted without permission, but please give the author and the source credit.

Deadline The 20th of every month

Where to send it If you have an article you would like to publish in the *Feedline*, send it to:

Peg Haese KB9LIE
2637 Ninth Avenue
Monroe WI 53566
(608) 325-6452

BUY — SELL — TRADE

ATTENTION FLARC MEMBERS: If you have amateur radio or computer items that you would like to BUY, SELL, or TRADE, you can do it in the *Feedline*. There is no charge for non-commercial advertising.

FOR SALE: Icom W2 Handi-Talkie. Two batteries, one new; Icom Fast Desk Charger; speaker/mic and cigarette lighter power cord. \$250.00 Gari NG9V @ 608-221-2022.

Your listing would look nice here!

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ARRL/VEC EXAMS

Exams are held in Madison on the second Saturday of the month. Location is the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Operations building at 1610 Moorland Rd. (the white building with the big tower). Exit the South Beltline Highway at South Towne Dr. Go south 3/4 mile and enter the gate to the right. Bring two forms of identification.

Exams Start at 8:00 A.M. Sharp!

WALK-INS WELCOME
UNTIL 9:00 A.M.

CWRA SWAPNET

146.88 Baraboo Repeater

10:00 AM Sunday mornings
(unless there is a hamfest in the area)

Queries and announcements
are also welcome.

**Ham- and computer-related items
only, please!**

HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!

MADISON SWAPFEST

1999 DATE IS APRIL 11

MIDDLETON
CONFERENCE CENTER

MARA InfoLine: (608) 245-8890

SPONSORED BY MARA W9HSY

FLARC Supplies

RG-213 is 42 cents a foot; teflon PL-259 connectors are \$1.25.
Contact Peg KB9LIE days at (608) 266-2233.

FLARC Nametags – \$7.50

New ham? New member? New call?
Contact Marylynn K9SAM to order
your personal
FLARC nametag!

(608) 241-3391 Daytime

START PLANNING NOW FOR...

FIELD DAY '99

June 26-27

AND THE

ANNUAL "FOX HUNT"

AUGUST 17, 1999

7:00 PM



Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club

FLARC Membership

Please start/renew my FLARC membership. Enclosed is my check/money order payable to the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club.

Check one: New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Check one: Regular \$20 ☐ Student (under 18) \$10 ☐ Senior (65+) \$17 ☐

Additional Family Members \$14 each (one newsletter per family) ☐

Name _____

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ARRL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail address (optional) _____

Return this form and your check to **Marylynn Franzen K9SAM, FLARC Treasurer, 2652 East Washington Avenue, Madison WI 53704.**

Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club

c/o Peg Haese KB9LIE, Editor
2637 Ninth Avenue
Monroe WI 53566-3536

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