



XARC 2001



Newsletter of the Xerox Amateur Radio Club

President	Brian Donovan	K2AS
Vice-President	Bill Kurrasch	K2WEK
Secretary	Bob Karz	K2OID
Treasurer	Fred Donahue	W3MUD
Repeater Trustee	John Wright	KE2MK
Station Trustee	Barry Rickett	N2EZS

XARC Repeater

KE2MK
145.29 MHz Output
144.69 MHz Input

XARC Web Page:
<http://www.ggw.org/xarc/>



October 2001

Next club meeting:

Thursday, October 18, bldg 337 6PM

Agenda: WAS QSL Party

Bob Karz indicates that we worked all 50 states during Field Day. He would like to try and QSL all 50 and apply for WAS award. Stop by and help out.

Club Station Committee

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help out. Much work has been done and more is to come. Antennas should be up soon and we can continue to follow up with the activities already begun.

Antenna Update

Barry Rickett is organizing another antenna party. Work has been done on the antennas and they are ready to go back up soon. Stay tuned for updates.

Call for Volunteer

Response from club members indicate that they like to receive a newsletter. I started this up with the intention of having a monthly newsletter, but that quickly became easier said than done. If anyone would like to be our newsletter editor, it would be a big asset to the club. I would be willing to help and contribute regularly, but my work schedule at this time doesn't allow me to keep it up.

2001 Testing Schedule

The exam schedule for 2001 is as follows:

December 5

This year the exam fee is \$10.00
Be sure to have some form of picture ID and if possible, the correct fee. I can't break too many \$20 bills!

All sessions will be
in Bldg 337 and start promptly at 7 PM

73,
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License Classes

Contact Bob Karz if you are interested in taking a class.

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Like DX?

Larry Lavery WW2J

Here is a tip for those interested in HF DX

Did you ever wonder what frequencies and times would be best to snag that DXpedition? Here is a freeware package for your PC that uses the solar flux index (SFI) and K factor to determine the probability of establishing contact between any two points on earth.

Here is an excerpt from the opening screen of the help file:

W6ELProp is a computer program for predicting ionospheric (sky-wave) propagation between any two locations on the earth on frequencies between 3 and 30 MHz. W6ELProp runs under the Microsoft Windows operating system. It is the Windows version of the earlier MINIPROP and MINIPROP PLUS propagation prediction programs that ran under the MS-DOS operating system. These programs employ a unique mode-searching algorithm that takes into account the D, E, and F layers of the ionosphere when computing predicted received signal levels. The algorithm searches through the potential ionospheric modes (combination of E and F hops) and finds the mode yielding the strongest received signal. Signal levels and other useful information for this strongest mode are calculated for up to ten HF frequencies of your choice and for every half hour of the day.

Download the application from
<http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>

You can obtain the current WWV SFI and K numbers from <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/index.html> or <http://qrz.com>

Enter your QTH coordinates.. 43 N, 77 W if you are in Rochester and you are ready to play. The program documentation is embedded in the F1 help files. You are like me you will use F1 a lot to learn the program.

Give it a try and tell us what you think.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

PLACE: XRA BLDG 337 CONFERENCE ROOM

TIME: THURSDAY OCT. 18 AT 6:00PM

Our regular monthly meeting. WAS QSL Party

CQ WW DX CONTEST, PHONE

WHEN: OCT 27-28

<HTTP://CQWW.COM/CQWW/>

NOVEMBER SS CW

WHEN: Nov. 3-5

<HTTP://WWW.ARRL.ORG/CONTESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RULES-NOVSS.HTML>

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

WHEN: Nov. 15 6PM BLDG. 337

NOVEMBER SS PHONE

WHEN: Nov. 17-19

<HTTP://WWW.ARRL.ORG/CONTESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/RULES-NOVSS.HTML>

Shortwave Listening Activity

By: Bill Kurrasch K2WEK

Not since the Gulf War have the Shortwave Bands been so busy with breaking news, commentaries and propaganda caused by the recent terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania. There is something to be heard at almost any hour throughout the day.

Unfortunately though since 1991, many of the International Broadcasters active at that time have ceased operations or are no longer beaming English language programs toward North America. Even the "olde standby", the BBC stopped beaming to North America this past July. Luckily however, you can still pick up their transmissions, in English, to Central America and the Caribbean. It seems that shortwave listening has lost much of its popularity over the years, in part due to the fact that some stations now stream over the Internet.

In an effort to provide information on what you may be able to hear on the Shortwave Bands during these troubled times the following bullets provide a background on what may be available to the Shortwave Listener. The bands will probably stay fired up for quite a while as activity increases to bring justice to the terrorists and those countries that harbor and provide assistance to them. Some stations that have been inactive or have dropped their English language service may even return to service during these times.

(NOTE: Frequencies underlined are primary frequencies. Try those first. All times cited below are in UTC. Also, we revert to Standard Time on 10/28. Some nations change in early October while others may not change their clocks at all. This will affect when some stations may be heard. Additionally, many stations change their frequencies during the winter and summer months. I will try to update the frequencies they are using as this information becomes apparent. Information presented here is taken from personal loggings, World Radio TV Handbook, Passport to World Radio and other sources. Comments, corrections and additional information invited.)

AFGANISTAN: Finds itself at the base of this mess. With the Taliban government providing a haven for Osama bin Laden, it promises to remain a hot bed of political, military, economic and social activity for the rest of this decade and beyond.

They do have a shortwave station that broadcasts in English on 7200 kHz daily at 1645 - 1700 hrs. However it is beamed to the Middle East and is rarely heard in NA.

Also try the Voice of Shari'a (Shariat) on 7082 to 7089 kHz highly variable with 100 kW, at 1530-1545 hrs UTC in English. This station is widely reported in Europe but because of the time and frequency, it is doubtful that this transmission would be heard in this area. Let us know! Additionally, when military action begins, this will probably be one of the early targets.

BANGLADESH: Radio Bangladesh can be heard in English at 1815 - 1900 hrs on 7185, 9550, 9568 or 15520 kHz. This is a beam to Europe that may be heard in NA.

EGYPT: Radio Cairo is heard daily in NA but as far back as I can remember listening to them (1967), their transmission quality has always been poor. (Try LSB.) They must be using transmitters that were abandoned in the desert in WWII.

Try 9900 kHz at 2300 - 0030 hrs. and 9475 at 0200 - 0330 hrs.

INDIA: All India Radio (AIR) has many transmissions in English but none are currently beamed to NA. Try the European beam at 1745 - 1945 hrs on 7410, 9950 or 11620 kHz. Or 2045 - 2230 hrs on 7410, 9650, 9950, 11620 or 11715 kHz.

IRAN: The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran (VOIRA) also beams to NA daily and can be clearly heard. Try 6065 and 6135 or 9835 kHz at 0030 - 0130 hrs. They seem to be trying to warm up to the US but yet, keeping their distance. Many mixed signals in their commentaries.

IRAQ: Radio Iraq International beams to NA daily and has been clearly heard in the past. Try 11785 kHz at 0300 - 0400 hrs.

There are also many clandestine transmissions emitting from areas occupied by the Kurdish but none are known to originate in English. Most are in Kurd and Farsi.

ISRAEL: KOL Israel broadcasts frequently throughout the day to NA. Try 15640 kHz at 0400 - 0415 hrs; 6220, 7410 or 9435 kHz at 0455 - 0515 hrs; and 11605 or 15630 kHz at 2000 - 2030 hrs.

JORDAN: Radio Jordan has been regularly heard in NA and may be one of the friendliest voices toward the US in the region. Try 17580 kHz at 1100 - 1300 hrs and 11690 kHz at 1300 - 1730 hrs.

KUWAIT: Radio Kuwait used to transmit regularly in English to NA, often with Rock music, prior to the Desert Storm. Since then they occasionally transmit in English on 11990 kHz at 1800 - 2100 hrs.

LIBYA: Libyan Jamahiriya Broadcasting no longer seems to be transmitting in English. They had a big mouth during Desert Storm and prior when Kadafi was stirring things up. They may decide to start up their English service during this crisis. Watch 15415 and 15435 kHz (freq. may be inactive) possibly between 1600 to 0400 hrs. Let me know if you hear anything!

MONGOLIA: The Voice of Mongolia does broadcast in English but it is seldom heard in this area. Try 12085 kHz at 1030 - 1100 hrs or 1500 - 1530 hrs. Best bet might be the 2000 - 2030 beam to Europe on 9720 or 12085 kHz. Good luck!

NEPAL: This nation divides India and China on the Northeast border. Try 5005 kHz, Radio Nepal. Heard on Sept 15 0015 hrs s/on with "Yo Radio Nepal Ho" and right into news on peace rally in Katmandu starting at Basantapur, mention of large numbers of people lining up at the U.S. embassy to make their condolences for the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Extremely weak on LSB. Very rarely heard in this area.

Also try 5005, 7165 & 3230 (rare) at 0215 - 0225 hrs and 1415 - 1425 hrs.

NORTH KOREA: The North Koreans have been trying to warm up to the US for the past few years, trying to ease some sanctions. Occasionally their broadcasts take on a slightly less frigid tone, but for the most part, they remain one of the most hard line and blatant propaganda machines on the airwaves. They are usually good for a few laughs. They are hard to take seriously or much of, for that matter.

Try Radio Pyongyang at 0000 - 0100 hrs on 11710, 13760, 15180 kHz. Or 1900 - 2000 hrs on 11710 or 13760 kHz. Also try at 0100 - 0200 hrs. on 11735, 15230 or 17735 kHz; 0200 - 0300 hrs on 11845 or 13650 kHz and 1200 - 1300 hrs on 11335 or 13650 kHz. They will undoubtedly level many verbal blasts at us.

OMAN: Seems to be aligned with Great Britain. Currently is not broadcasting on SW but has used BBC transmitters located in that Sultanate a number of years ago. May become active again.

PAKISTAN: Has found itself unwittingly in the middle of this situation. The only government to recognize the Taliban regime, they are trying to be an intermediary between the U.S. and the Taliban leaders.

Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation transmits English service to Africa daily at 1600 - 1615 hrs on 17725 and 15725 kHz. This transmission is usually heard fairly easily in NA.

RUSSIA: The Voice of Russia (ex Radio Moscow) is heard very well, frequently and widely on the Shortwave Bands.

SAUDI ARABIA: Is not currently broadcasting in English. They briefly have done so during Desert Storm. Will continue to monitor in the event they start English service again. Stay tuned!

SUDAN: Even after bombing their aspirin factory, Sudan surprisingly seems to be supporting the fight against terrorism. They did kick bin Laden out of their country after considerable pressure from the Clinton administration.

Radio Ordurman transmits English programs daily to the African continent and are only rarely heard in NA. Give it a try at 9200 kHz (freq. May be inactive) or 7200 between 1500 and 1900.

SYRIA: Radio Damascus is frequently heard in NA. Sometimes it seems friendly toward the US oftentimes not. Best bet, try 2110 - 2210 hrs. on 12085 kHz.

TAJIKISTAN: This former Soviet Republic is in the uncomfortable position of being a northern border neighbor to Afghanistan. Tajik Radio transmits in English on 7245 kHz at 0345 - 0400 hrs and 1645 - 1700 hrs. It is extremely difficult to hear in NA because it beams to Asia and is usually buried by Amateur Operators on the 40m Band.

TURKEY: Voice of Turkey has always maintained a stable and friendly voice towards the US. They transmit daily in English at 0300 - 0350 hrs on 11655 kHz; 0400 - 0450 on 6010 kHz; 2200 - 2250 on 13460 kHz and 2300 - 2350 on 9655 kHz.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Radio of the United Arab Emirates may be heard in English on 12005, 13675 and 15400 at 0330 - 0350 hrs.

YEMEN: Currently has no external service.

CLANDESTINE: There are many clandestine and pirate stations operating around the world. Operating times and frequencies are always variable and unpredictable at best. At times like this, these stations seem to multiply along with the strange "number stations". Between 4000 - 5000 kHz and 6200 - 7000 kHz seem to be popular frequencies for these operations although they can appear almost anywhere in the spectrum. If you hear an interesting one, let us know.