

FEEDBACK



FEBRUARY 2000

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2



FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting for the month of February will be held at the Massillon Senior Center in downtown Massillon on February 4th, 2000 at 8:00 PM. This will be the first meeting with our new Officers in charge. Perry W8AU is really not a first time President. He has served in that position at least three times before (that I know of and I think he has lost count himself! Hi Hi).If you don't know what he looks like, please refer to the picture below taken of him at the MARC Awards Banquet last month at Abby Road Restaurant. This will be the first meeting for our new Vice President Don Finley W8DEF, Secretary Linda Finley K8MOO, and Treasurer Ann Ballinger N8GAF. So be sure to attend the meeting and give them a very WARM welcome !

- SHORT SKIP -

Life is full of surprises. So now we'll have 5 w.p.m. EXTRA classes. Somewhere out there will be the very last guy of gal to have to do the 20 w.p.m code test to get their EXTRA. What an honor !

Icom will be sponsoring a major DXepidition to Clipperton and will be running their IC- 756 - PRO transceivers we told you all about several months ago.

Speaking of surprises, MANY , MANY thanks for the MARC "Ham of the Year" award.

" To God be all the glory ! "

73 DE WB8OWM



President Perry W8AU, Presenting the 25 year membership Award to Igor Nikishin WB8KEO. Igor lives in California and was not present to receive his Award.



Past President Don Wade W8DEA presenting the "Ham of the Year" Award to Skip (Short Skip) Westrich, WB8OWM. Congratulations Skip !!!

January 8, 2000 Awards Banquet

The dinner was held at Abby Road at 7:15 with Don W8DEA opening the evening with a round of introductions. The blessing was given by Jim WA8GXM.

There were 63 members and guests present who enjoyed a good evening.

Guest speaker was Joe from The Central Stark Red Cross.

Awards were presented by Don W8DEA... Ham of the Year - Skip WB8OWM, Joe Turkal DX - Byron KF8UN, Technical Merit- Jim WA8GXM & Don W8DEF, Contesting - Gary KC8IHR, Young Ham of the Year - Jason KC8LIN.

Perry W8AU presented awards from the "Old Man" to Kip K8KIP, Don W8DEA, Dennis N8UDL, Linda K8MOO, Don W8DEF & Jason KC8LIN.

Juanita KC8CQC gave certificates for check-ins to the last net of 1999.

The new officers were introduced : Perry Ballinger W8AU, President, MARC
Don Finley W8DEF, Vice President
Anne Ballinger N8GAF, Treasurer
Linda Finley K8MOO Secretary
Jim Farriss WA8GXM, new Trustee

Dale KB8LWP, President of the Canton Club presented the Field Day Trophy the MARC won last June.

Don W8DEA passed the gavel to the new President Perry W8AU.

Door prize drawing was held, and meeting closed at 10:30.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO, Secretary MARC

PRE PREZ PROSE

Happy 2000..... Now that the new year is here aren't you glad they've stopped talking about it?

Seems that the days are just the same as last month....what is it with all these numbers, anyway?

The month of January again brought us our annual Awards Dinner, and this year's affair was one of the best. You will find noteworthy information about the highlights later on in the newsletter, so I won't take up space being redundant.

1999 was a year in which MARC saw increased visibility among the public. Over the years there have been periodic events that have added to the club's progress in serving the public and, in addition, getting public notice for it. In recent times the upgrading of the club's 2 meter repeater from a Central/Western Stark County machine to a high-profile Regional one has helped to unify us and increase our service potential.

In most recent times, the addition of the ECOM trailer and it's subsequent improvements has been a combination PR tool and efficient means of extending our public service reach to places outside our basic core area. The recent addition of Ham TV to the trailer, (a work in progress) promises to add even more functionality, if not dazzle, to our efforts to be a viable tool for any event the future might bring, be it a public event or a disaster of any kind.

This progress will continue as we use our resources to provide even newer communications technology and service to the public and emergency service groups in our area. In a comparison with the just passed Christmas Holiday where giving and receiving are paramount, as MARC's giving (to the community) increases, our "receiving" of public notice and acclaim will increase with it. Let it (and us) continue to grow with each passing week, month, and year.

W8AU



DUES ARE DUE

Yes it doesn't seem like that time has arrived, but it's a new year and the dues for the Massillon Amateur Radio Club are now due. It is a relatively easy problem to remedy. You just have to remember to do it!

The full membership for the club for one year is \$ 10.00. The dues for the XYL is just \$ 5.00. Student's of any other family member that you want to belong is just \$ 2.50 per/year. The dues for the year 2000 must be paid by the meeting night on March 3, 2000.

This year we have a new secretary. Please if you are not going to attend this month's meeting then send your check to:

Anne Ballinger N8GAF
2468 Bellevue Ave SW
Massillon, Ohio 44647

Please do this little thing while you are thinking about it ! Remember " we don't want to loose a single member" !

The Classic Radio Exchange, aka "CX," coming soon to an airwave near you. Just under four weeks from now... so get those old rigs cooking and ready!

And if all you can muster is the latest doorstep solid-state, get on with that - you can still work the rest of us and hear what it is all about...like Marty AA4RM's tank radio (affectionately known as "the buzzsaw"), or one of the oddly colored Globe Scouts.. CU in CX!

2000 Winter Classic (& Homebrew) Radio Exchange

The Classic Radio Exchange ("CX") is a contest celebrating the older commercial and homebrew equipment that was the pride of our ham shacks and our bands just a few short decades ago. Our object is to encourage restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older equipment. A "Classic" radio is at least ten years old (age figured from first year of manufacture), but is NOT REQUIRED to participate in the Classic Exchange.

YOU MAY USE ANYTHING in the contest, although new gear is a distinct scoring liability. You can still work the "great ones" with your new equipment!

The Classic Exchange will run from 2000 UTC February 6 to 0500 UTC February 7, 2000 (3 PM EST to midnight EST Sunday -in case we figured the time wrong again). Exchange your name, RST, QTH (state US, province for Canada; country for DX), receiver and transmitter type (homebrew send final amp tube or transistor), and other interesting conversation.

The same station may be worked with different equipment combinations on each band and on each mode.

CW call "CQ CX;" phone call "CQ Classic Exchange." Non-participants

may be worked for credit.

Suggested frequencies:

CW: 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.135, 28.180

Novice/Tech Plus: 3.695, 7.120, 21.135, 28.180

Phone: 3.880, 7.290, 14.280, 21.380, 28.320

7.045 and 3.545 will probably be the most popular CX frequencies.

Scoring: Multiply total QSO's (all bands) by total number of different receivers plus transmitters (transceivers count as both xmtr and rcvr) plus states/provinces/countries worked on each band and mode. Multiply that total by your CX Multiplier, the total years old of all

receivers and transmitters used, three QSO's minimum per unit. For transceiver, multiply age by two. If equipment is homebrew, count it as a minimum of 25 years old unless actual construction date or date of its construction article (in the case of a "reproduction") is older.

Total QSO's all bands
times

RCVRs + XMTRs + states/provinces/countries
(total each band and mode separately; add totals together)
times

CX Multiplier:

SCORE = QSO's x (Rx + Tx + QTH's) x CX Mult

Certificates and appropriate memorabilia are awarded every now and then for the highest score, the longest DX, exotic equipment, best excuses and other unusual achievements. Send logs, comments, anecdotes, pictures to Allan Stephens, 106 Bobolink Dr., Richmond, KY 40475. Include TWO-stamp SASE for next CX Newsletter and announcement of next CX.

E-mail reports may be sent to modsteph@acs.eku.edu (AI, N5AIT).

SECTION MANAGERS COLUMN

By Joe Phillips, K8QOE
Ohio Section Manager

When this year -2000- was four days old, it already had more amateur radio news than all of 1999. Including not only hams reaffirming our expertise in toilet tissue (some hams will always squeeze the Charmin) but our long suffering volunteer examiners, who got a late Christmas present.

By Wednesday of the New Year, Ohio hams had:

A) Spent New Years Eve right through New Year Day at hospitals, police stations, county emergency operating centers (EOCs) standing ready to serve in the case of disaster from the Millennium Clock change over

B) Spend the time debating restructuring, as announced by the FCC, including what effect restructuring has on the "ruination of Ham Radio."

C) Began to purchase upgrade books and looking for testing schedules to beat the FCC imposed April 15 deadline to upgrade under the old

system.

While some of us were wondering out loud if our licenses were worth more than unused toilet tissue, numerous hams completed a raid on dealers and the ARRL for books to upgrade. Yes, the elimination of all CW tests above 5WPM has angered Advanced and Extra class amateurs. But the hobby has also been energized - at the start of the New Year. The ARRL was wondering if its book supply would last four weeks. Four DAYS later, the League was out of books. So are most dealers.

That's the late Christmas present our Volunteer Examiners received. Testing sessions, I predict, will now overflow well past the April 15 deadline. If you are looking for an Ohio testing session, may I suggest you visit <www.wcnet.org/~johnson> and thank Bob Johnson, K3RC, Stony Ridge, for constantly updating this list even when it wasn't this popular.

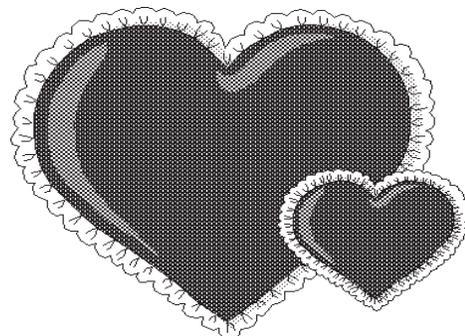
Guess what else helped energize this dormant hobby? Oh yes, it was Y2K. Oh I know Y2K was a big bust for everyone else but our mayors, police chiefs, county commissioners, state emergency officials were all reintroduced to the value of a back up communications system. Our county ARES programs will find getting equipment and meeting space from civil authorities easier for a while.

Even at the state level, 70 minutes before the clock changeover, Ohio Governor Bob Taft was at Ohio Emergency Management Headquarters asking John Chapman, WB8INY, about the ham radio effort. Chapman and seven hams were doing at Ohio EMA what hams were doing all over Ohio - working back up communications systems in anticipation of disaster. That the disaster didn't happen did NOT diminish our role. Now civil authorities, from Governor Taft to Ohio's city mayors, know of our value. And the utilities. And the safety officials. And the hospitals. Good.

One last stab at the "toilet tissue" issue. Complaints about restructuring, however valid, are hardly new. I remember when first getting my ticket in the late 50s. Then supporters of "AM mode" were complaining that "Single Side Band would be the ruination of Ham Radio." Yes, as we write this after four days, this year has 362 days to go (leap year remember). And it's already been historic.

-30-

Hey guys, don't forget Valentine's day Feb 14 !



a monthly plethora of misc info - by terry, n8atz

.... MARC Assist Perry Police with New Years Eve Y2K Watch

Answering the call of preparedness, members of the MARC assisted the Perry Township Police Department New Years Eve in a Y2K readiness exercise. With the potential for communications breakdowns, Police Chief Mark Machan acting on the advise of Perry Detective Tim France, a long time MARC member and Trustee, requested the clubs assistance during New Years Eve night. The clubs ECOMM Trailer was put into service at the township Police Department to act as command post for the event. Staffed by club members, Tim France - WB8HHP and James Farris - WA8GXM, a member of both the Police and Fire Department, the exercise commenced about 9:00 PM. Mobile units were strategically located throughout the township were to serve as reporting stations for area residents should telephone service be disrupted. We also staffed Massillon Community Hospital, to provide a link should any problems occur.

By 9:00 PM we had established 5 reporting stations and the hospital. Jim - WA8GXM was set up as Net Control along with Tim - WB8HHP in ECOMM 1. Staffing the reporting stations were Terry - N8ATZ, Perry - W8AU, Ann - N8GAF, Don - W8DEF, and Dennis - K1FFA. Linda - K8MOO was stationed at Massillon Community Hospital. Should phone service be disrupted, township residents had been instructed to go to the nearest reporting station if any assistance was needed. It was decided to periodically contact each reporting station every 15 minutes for safety and to make sure we were all awake !. We are glad to report no Y2K problems throughout the evening. The ECOMM Trailer was given great reviews by both the Police & Fire Departments, both agreeing that the trailer was a great asset to the community.

As a side exercise, Don and Jim had an opportunity to test out the Trailers ATV system. While not fully installed, we were able to see a solid ATV picture from Don in his mobile keeping a watchful eye on a busy intersection in the township and providing a live lvideo feed back to ECOMM 1. A very impressive demonstration for our township officials.

Most people spent the evening in parties, sitting quietly at home or visiting far away. Our extreme gratitude goes out to those members of the MARC mentioned above who gave up thier one and only Millenium celebration in service to the community !

.... HAMFEST 2000

Hamfest 2000 plans are underway and the distribution of flyers is about to start. We will be hitting the Tusco Hamfest on January 30 and the Mansfield Hamfest in February. Are any of you planning to go to any hamfests outside the area ? Please consider taking some flyers with you. Just let us know and we will make sure you have some. Extensive advertising has proved to be the key to a successful hamfest and we intent to make this years event our best ever.

.... DAYTON ANYONE ?

Some of us have a crazy idea. We're thinking of taking the ECOMM 1 Trailer to the Dayton Hamvention this May. What a place for exposure ! Not only the largest gathering of ham radio operators in the northern hemisphere but this year the ARRL National Convention is being held in conjunction with Dayton. Lots of details to be considered about this adventure. Where will the trailer be displayed ? Do we have to purchase a flea market space ? Because of the trailers size we would need at least 2 spaces at a cost of \$ 130.00 for the weekend. Would we be able to get a deal on the space since we would not really be selling anything ? I have contacted the Dayton group about this but haven't heard anything back yet. Maybe by the club meeting. What about security ? I'm sure there will be times that no one will be manning the trailer, no one wants to stay with it the whole weekend so what do we do ? If we purchase locks for it we can make it pretty secure and we should have a means to lock it anyway since we do have some equipment in it now. We might even want to sell some items anyway, who knows. What do you think ? It's a great chance to show it off on a national scale. Let us know what you think about this crazy idea !

.... COMPUTER FEST TIME

The Peter Trapp Computer Shows are back in full stream for the new year. Saturday, February 19 at the Tadmor Shrine Temple in Akron. This is off I - 77 to exit 120. This is Arlington road south. Go right on Jarvis then right on Krebs. Admission is \$ 6.00, times are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. You can find full details on their website at www.petertrapp.com.

Thats it for this month, till next time 73's

Terry - N8ATZ

DX NEWS

ZCZC AE04
 QST de W1AW
 DX Bulletin 4 ARLD004
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT January 27, 2000
 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, QRZ DX, The Daily DX, 425 DX News and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

NIGER, 5U. Baldur, DJ6SI, and Franz, DJ9ZB, are QRV as 5U7X and 5U7Z, respectively. Activity can be found on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home calls.

BARBADOS, 8P. Glenn, VA3DX, will participate in the CQ WW 160 Meter DX CW Contest. QSL to home call.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Bert, PA0LPE, is QRV as 8Q7PA using CW and SSB until February 3. QSL to home call.

SOUTH KOREA, HL. 6K2K is the special millennium callsign being used by the Korean Amateur Radio League until December 31, 2000. QSL via HL0HQ.

PANAMA, HP. Cam, HP1AC, is QRV until January 31 as 3E2K. He is active mainly on 40, 20 and 15 meters using CW between 1030 and 1230z. QSL to home call.

DOMINICA, J7. Lars, SM0CCM, is QRV as J73CCM until February 13. He may try some 160 and 6 meter operations. QSL to home call.

NORWAY, LA. Special event callsign LM7SKI will be QRV from January 30 until February 14 during the Ski Flying World Championship being held in Vikersund. Activity is expected on 160 to 2 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB and other digital modes. QSL via LA7M.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Elmer is active as P29DX. QSL via EA4CEN.

ARUBA, P4. Miika, OH2BAD, is active as P40MH until February 6. He concentrates his activity on the newer bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Otto, UA4WAE, and Dima, RW4WM, will participate in the CQ WW 160 Meter DX CW Contest as UA4WAE. QSL via bureau.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Tom, N4XP, is QRV as V73XP until February 9. QSL to home call.

ANGUILLA, VP2E. Bill, W5SJ, is active as VP2EJ until February 2. He plans a serious effort in the CQ WW 160 Meter DX CW Contest. QSL to home call.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1. Adriano, IK2GNW, is QRV as ZK1NCI until February 3. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide 160 Meter DX CW Contest, REF French CW Contest, UBA Phone Contest, YL International CW QSO Party and the Kansas QSO party are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see January QST, page 101 for details.

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PROPAGATION NEWS

ZCZC AP04
 QST de W1AW
 Propagation Forecast Bulletin 4 ARLP004
 From Tad Cook, K7VVV
 Seattle, WA January 28, 2000
 To all radio amateurs

The predicted geomagnetic storm for last weekend turned up a day late and with some lower numbers. Instead of peaking with a planetary A index of 35 on Saturday, the big number was 25 on Sunday. Conditions settled back toward normal on Tuesday and Wednesday, and solar flux as well as sunspot numbers declined as well.

Average solar flux for the reporting week, which runs Thursday through Wednesday, was down over 50 points to 148.6 compared to the previous week. Average sunspot numbers were down over 90 points to 135.6.

For this weekend expect more active geomagnetic conditions, beginning today. Predicted planetary A index for Friday through Sunday is 25, 25 and 18, and the expected solar flux for those days is 130, 130 and 125. Solar flux is expected to continue low through the first of February, then rise above 130 by February 3, above 160 by February 6, above 190 by February 9, and peak near 205 around February 11 or 12.

Following this, solar flux is expected to bottom out again for the short term around 135 from February 23-28. For most of February, expect quiet geomagnetic conditions, except for unsettled conditions around February 1, 7, and 25-27, and active conditions around February 23-24.

KOSR, who lives in the Minneapolis area sent an email this week with some observations on propagation from the 45th parallel. He notices that when the K index goes above 3, he hears next to nothing on HF, except domestic stations to the south working DX. He has also noticed on pictures from space of aurora that there is frequently a finger pointing down over his QTH. The author of this bulletin has also noticed the north-south discrepancy in HF propagation. Seattle is over 2-1/2 degrees north of Minneapolis in terms of latitude, and K7ZR has frequently referred to local hams in a DX bulletin column as "Suffering Sevens."

KOSR writes: "When conditions are unsettled, the bands actually go in the tank during the greyline. It is a good indication that something bad is happening when signals disappear at sunrise/sunset, and then come back a little bit an hour later. This happens much more often than greyline enhancement does, and is apparent on all bands.

If you look at the sunrise/sunset times over a given path, we sometimes see a peak in propagation at the "maximum dark" time, for example the midpoint between our sunset and European dawn. This is frequently the best opening of the night. It isn't unusual to have our best low band opening at 0300z, and hear nothing at European dawn".

Sunspot numbers for January 20 through 26 were 119, 144, 126, 135, 133, 141 and 151 with a mean of 135.6. 10.7 cm flux was 170.7, 159.3, 150.6, 140.5, 140.7, 137.4 and 140.7, with a mean of 148.6, and estimated planetary A indices were 12, 3, 19, 25, 17, 7 and 7, with a mean of 12.9.

Here are some path projections comparing Minneapolis, Minnesota to Houston, Texas for this weekend when the geomagnetic field should have a negative effect on propagation from northern latitudes.

From Minneapolis to Germany, 80 meters 2100-0930z (best 0130-0630z), 40 meters 1900-1130z (best 2330-0700z) 30 meters 1730-0830z (best 2300-0730z), 20 meters 1400-1900z, 17 meters 1600-1700z.

From Houston to Germany, 80 meters 2330-0830z, 40 meters 2200-1030z, 30 meters 2130-1030z, 20 meters 1330-1900z, 17 meters 1400-1830z, 15 meters 1430-1730z, 12 meters 1530-1700z.

From Minneapolis to Asiatic Russia (UA9), 80 meters 2230-1430z, 40 meters 2030-1600z, 30 meters 0230-2330z, 20 meters 1730-1930z and 0500-0600z.

From Houston to Asiatic Russia (UA9), 80 meters 2330-1300z, 40 meters 2230-1400z, 30 meters 2130-0530z and 0730-1500z, 20 meters 1400-1500z and 1800-1900z.

From Minneapolis to Brazil, 80 meters 2330-1000z, 40 meters 2230-1030z, 30 meters 2230-1030z, 20 meters 2030-0130z, 0300-0430z, and 0600-0730z, 17 meters 1330-0030z, 15 meters 1400-2230z, 12 meters 1500-2130z, 10 meters 1530-2100z.

From Houston to Brazil, 80 meters 2330-1030z, 40 meters 2300-1100z, 30 meters 2230-1130z, 20 meters 1930-0800z, 17 meters 1330-0100z, 15 meters 1300-0030z, 12 meters 1330-0000z, 10 meters 1400-2300z.

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EVENING EDUCATION CLASS

Member Bob Ballinger, N8KXO, who is the Electronics Teacher at Perry High School, informs us that the Evening School offerings include a class he will be teaching each Tuesday evening from 7 'til 9 p.m. beginning Tuesday, February 1, titled, "Electricity for Home and Garage."

This class will run for eight weeks and cover Electrical Basics and what one would need to know in order to repair or install fixtures in their homes or handle wiring problems in their vehicles. Wiring color codes and diagrams, Multimeter operation and usage, Automotive electrical hints and other related information will be covered.

To inquire, call Bob at 832-8792 or the Perry High School Adult Education office at 477-8121 for enrollment details. Cost is \$45.00

**TAKE A
LOOK
AT THIS...**

For Sale: Icom 28 A two meter mobile radio. Very good shape, works super! This is an older unit, built like a tank so therefore it has no "bells & whistles". Just a basic two meter transceiver. The radio has touch - tone for phone patches, etc..

Please contact Jim KC8AXR AT 875-2297 AFTER 5.00 P.M, or on 147.18 mornings, 6:30 A.M. weekdays. Asking only \$ 75.00. This is a steal!!!

(Ed note: I can personally vouch for this radio, I used to own it !)

Restucturing Is It A Good Thing?

I have read articles on restructuring on line From AA7BQ at QRZ.com as well as the Feb.2000 issue of ARRL. Page 68 by Rick Linquist,N1RL. Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ notes there was a surge in overall ham population when the no-code technician license came about in the early 90's . A online poll was taken and results showed this was a temporary trend that didnt last very long. When the novelty wore off many of the younger people figured out quickly that without the code the older hams had no respect for them and the two groups certainly for the most part did not mix. Reality set in after the no-code license novelty wore down in a few years and the newest technology coming along after many years were now on the market at affordable prices. The high tech teenager today hasat his fingertips , the interenet (home or school),pager, and cellphones instant communications so why have a two-way radio or even an HF rig when they can just get on the computer and jump on the web to anywhere in the world.

Now my view or responce would be several items.

- 1 . HF means you can talk to someone anywhere in the world without long distance telephone charges.
2. You here the actual voice of the person your talking to and possibly learn a little about the culture of that country.
- 3 What a great way to learn geography about countries of the world first hand .
4. Where else can you make personal friendships in far away and exciting places and also get a personal card to show for the contact?
5. Thru some VHF repeaters you can link to HF bands with out the HF rig. If used according to the FCC rules.

Wireless Radio Communications was the interenet of its day. Going back about 50 years or more , the ham radio operator was the "HIGH TECH" person who was considered the " geeks & freaks " of their day. They were not the "coolest " dudes to be hanging out with.

What the cool dudes didnt realize was that the geeks already had their own interenet in the way of packet radio. Until a few years ago when the cost of computers came a reasonable price for everyone and after almost 30 years the internet as we know it today then took off . Many college ham radio stations had their own packet network. In our area Akron U. was one of them and still on the air at 145.050 fm with callsign WB8BII.. Today DX'ers use packet with networks called clusters, many linked together with information on where to locate dx stations by frequency ,band, and time spotted and by whom. Oh , yes if you know the web site you can get this information with some time delay on the interenet and of course pay the service charges for the use of the site.

Well this is the start of my thoughts on this topic.

I will continue this in another issue of the news- letter when our editor can find room.

**Until next time! Don Wade, W8DEA
ARRL P.I.O.**

Microwav Warning

The following information came from a member of staff and is worthy of note -

Subject: Microwaving Water to Heat it Up

I feel that the following is information that any one who uses a microwave oven to heat water should be made aware of. About five days ago my 26-year old son decided to have a cup of instant coffee. He took a cup of water and put it in the microwave to heat it up (something that he had done numerous times before). I am not sure how long he set the timer for but he told me he wanted to bring the water to a boil. When the timer shut the oven off, he removed the cup from the oven. As he looked into the cup he noted that the water was not boiling but instantly the water in the cup "blew up" into his face.

The cup remained intact until he threw it out of his hand but all the water had exploded out into his face due to the buildup of energy. His whole face is blistered and he has 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face which may leave scarring. He also may have lost partial sight in his left eye.

At the hospital, the doctor who was attending to him stated that this a fairly common occurrence and water (alone) should never be heated in a microwave oven. If water is heated in this manner, something should be placed in the cup to diffuse the energy such as a wooden stir stick, tea bag, etc. It is however a much safer choice to boil the water in a tea kettle.

Please pass this information on to friends and family.

Submitted by Dennis N8UDL.

PRESIDENT'S DAY FEB 21

