



Q 5~S 9

The Voice of 145.230
442.900

P.O. Box 553, Godfrey, Illinois 62035

VOLUME VI NUMBER VII

JULY 2001

PRESIDENTS LETTER JULY 2001

As June ends and July begins, the LCRC is doing well. The tailgater was a fun event. All who attended thought it turned out great.

We had quite a few local members bring items to sell, plus folks from as far away as Petersburg and Hillsboro attend. The field-day operation went very well, we operated as 2A with a 100 watt station, and qrp stations (cw and ssb). We tried several antennas, including a 140 foot zep, 20 meter hamstick dipole, phased verticals, a 40 meter vertical, and others. Thank to David W9LD for all your hard work to make the field day a great event. We had a wonderful dinner Saturday evening, with a great turnout from the membership. The club assisted on the 24th with the Tour de Cure bike ride for the ADA. John, N9FTA reported that it was very successful event, and the ham operators were very much appreciated by the ADA. Thanks to John for chairing this event. The flyers for the hamfest have been printed, and I will have them at the club meeting. The tickets are being printed, and I hope to have them by meeting night also. October 20th will be here before you know it, so please consider what you can do to help make the hamfest successful. We will need people to handle the tickets, contact vendors, and all the other things it takes to make it work. There was some confusion about when the meeting night was going to be, July 3rd or July 10th. The meeting will be July 3th. Hope to see you all there.
73's—Dennis-WA9RD

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Lewis & Clark Radio Club Inc.

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VEC Testing -- KF9F

Newsletter Editor:

N0MDO--Mike Mizer

Membership Dues/Year:

Regular -- \$12.00
Senior (62 & up) -- \$6.00
Additional Members -- \$6.00
(living in same household)
Under 16 -- FREE

Meetings:

1st Tuesday of each month, at
the Lewis & Clark Community
College, Godfrey, Il., on Route
67 N. of Alton. Meeting is in
the Faculty Dinning Room, of
Caldwell Hall. -- Time 7:30PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

AUGUST MEETING at PRINCIPIA COLLEGE TO VISIT TELESCOPE

by Dave Cornell, W9LD

Reminder, the August 7th, 2001, meeting of LCRC will be at Principia College for the purpose of enjoying the telescope. In case of rain there will be an alternative program on video of solar system exploration. Stay tuned for directions in the next Q5S9; tentatively, we will meet at 7:30pm in the new Science Center, Room 115 (Physics Laboratory.) After the business meeting, we'll walk over to the telescope

SOLAR UPDATE

Propagation prognosticator Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports:

Conditions were good over Field Day weekend, with no big geomagnetic upsets.

> Forty meters was probably the best all-around band for Field Day contacts.

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> Sunspots and solar flux have been high recently, but both currently are

> declining. Average sunspot numbers dropped more than 48 points from last

> week, and average solar flux was off by nearly 17 points. Currently

> geomagnetic conditions are very quiet, and are expected to remain that way over the next week.

Single digit planetary A indices are forecast until after July 4. Solar flux is expected to decline over the next few days, to 130 on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Flux is expected to rise to 160 by July 6 and 190 by July 11.

Sunspot numbers for June 21 through 27 were 212, 203, 228, 212, 220, 177 and 185, with a mean of 205.3. The 10.7-cm flux was 200.3, 203.6, 206.2, 194.8, 182.4, 167.9 and 147.9, with a mean of 186.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 13, 7, 8, 10, 8, 13 and 10 with a mean of 9.9.

FIELD DAY 2001 REPORT SENT to ARRL
by Dave Cornell, W9LD

Several folks mentioned how much fun they had at Field Day this year.

Brad, KB9BPF, came out with an antenna analyzer to play with, and shared its capabilities. Rich, KF9F, set up his phased verticals. John, N9FTA, worked QRP 20PHONE with his hamstick dipole and the 140 foot doublet served well for other QSOs. A newcomer operated the station for several hours. The food was good as always, and many stayed around for a long time to schmooze.

Our extra credit points dominated our entry this year, since we were in it just for the fun of it and not a huge score:

Total phone contacts (10,20,40,80M) = $68 \times 1 = 68$ QSO points

Total CW contacts (20, 40M) = $25 \times 2 = 50$ QSO points

Total QSO points 118

Power multiplier (2)

gives claimed QSO score of 236 points

Bonus points claimed

100% emergency power = 100

Media publicity in Telegraph 100

Set-up in public place (Glazebrook Park) 100

Info Booth 100

Message sent to ARRL Section Manager 100

Natural Power QSOs (Solar power) 100

Site visited by public official (Mayor Mike Champion) 100

Total bonus points 700

David A. Cornell W9LD

SUBMITTED BY W9MXC LARRY

NEW PACKET TNC ON THE WAY TO ISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the ARISS-US team has delivered a new packet module to NASA. "This new packet module is expected to correct several of the problems that have been observed on the current ARISS packet system," he said.

The module is expected to undergo a "bench review or inspection in the near future by one of the US astronauts. It is scheduled to fly to the ISS on shuttle mission STS-105, currently planned for launch in early August.

Bauer says Expedition 3 Crew Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, plans to make the packet module changeout early in his ISS tour of duty. Culbertson will be joined aboard the ISS in mid-August by Russian cosmonauts Mikhail Turin and Vladimir Dezhurov.

Bauer says all pertinent TNC parameters are embedded in the PROM, so the packet module should be fully functional even with a dead battery. It's believed the current TNC lost its backup battery. As a result it displays NOCALL as a call sign. Stations cannot connect but have been able to digipeat through the system, however. The new TNC will display the Russian call sign RS0ISS. The Personal Mailbox System (PMS) uses the call sign RS0ISS-1.

SUBMITTED BY N9WDQ DENNIS AND W9MXC LARRY

ARLB024 Amateur Morse Testing Changes Effective July 1

New Morse code exam standards go into effect July 1 for all Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. The new standards call for Farnsworth character speed in the 13-to-15 WPM range and the end of multiple-choice questions for routine Morse code exams.

In the wake of restructuring and the establishment of 5 WPM as the sole amateur Morse requirement, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators voted last July to set up the revised standards for the administration of Morse code examinations in the US.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, points out the required change to the Farnsworth protocol replaces the 18-WPM character speed ARRL VEC has used since 1989. "Standard 5 WPM messages with 5 WPM characters are available as an accommodation," he said. "Standard (non-Farnsworth) speed messages are available upon special request from the ARRL VEC for ARRL VE teams."

In addition, the Morse exam audio frequency range should be between 700 and 1000 Hz for routine exams. Consistent with the revised standards, Jahnke said, ARRL VEC has set 15-WPM characters as its Farnsworth setting and 750 Hz as its audio-frequency standard.

Code practice transmissions from Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will reflect the new Farnsworth standard. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says transmissions using the new protocol will begin Monday, July 2. Code transmissions at speeds below 18 WPM will drop from 18 WPM to 15 WPM character speed. W1AW Web code practice files, at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>, will mirror the new standards too.

The new Morse examination standards also affect test administration. After July 1, Morse examinees will have to supply fill-in-the-blank answers for the 10-question Element 1 quiz. Multiple-choice type examinations no longer will be acceptable. Under the new testing regime, Morse code examinees must either correctly answer seven of the ten fill-in-the-blanks questions or correctly copy 25 consecutive characters.

Changes are on the horizon for the written examinations as well. Revised Amateur Extra question pool will go into effect July 1, 2002. Reworked Technician and General question pools will become effective on July 1 2003 and 2004 respectively.



**LCRC MEETING
JUNE 5, 2001**

Lewis & Clark College
Godfrey, Il.

SEE YOU THERE



**LEWIS & CLARK RADIO CLUB
INC.**

**P.O. BOX 553 GODFREY, IL. 62035
145.230 & 442.900 Repeaters**