

The

Wave Bender



February 2022

Vol. 13.1



2022 Officers

President:

Chris Monske WF8U

Vice President:

Russ Williams NR8W

Secretary:

Amanda Monske KC3GFU

Treasurer:

Bob Kramer KE8HHH

Past President:

Bob Mitzel N8RCM

Trustees:

Rose Marko KD8TII Ed Newsome KE8NSW Bill Egan KD8HCQ



DAYTON HAMVENTION 2022

MAY 20-22

GREENE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS & EXPO
CENTER

Board Meeting:

Sunday February 13th 2:00pm Via Zoom

Member's Meeting:

Tuesday
February 15th @
Davidsons
Restaurant
Canfield, OH
6pm for Dinner
7pm for Meeting
Public Welcome!

In this Issue:

From The President's Desk2
President's Desk Cont'd3
President's Desk Cont'd4
World's Oldest Ham4
Elmer Info5
Upcoming Contests5
Swap N Shop5
A Word Past President6
After The Holidays Party7
ARRL Podcast Schedule7
Licensed Ladies Who8
Technician Question Pool8
Clara Reger8
Net Info9
Birthdays9
Around the World10
Around Cont'd11
Around Cont'd12
Membership Application13
Calendar14

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After an interesting last couple of years, I'm glad to start seeing some normalcy returning with this first edition of The Wave Bender. Amanda KC3GFU has volunteered to take over the editor's place until such time Jane K8JAA may be able to return. There has been much going on locally and I hope to report on those in the next few newsletters, until then I would like to use this issue to thank everyone that has been involved with those projects and events.



We have been able to make some huge steps forward in improving our club for years to come. One of the first things accomplished was gaining our 501c3 status, one piece that will really help in future projects. Prior to being President, gaining this status was always seen as being too difficult and/or expensive, however after digging some and with assistance from Past President Bob N8RCM we discovered it wasn't difficult or expensive to attain. Now with this, our club will be able to accept donations from other organizations and businesses. This help will be more apparent as we continue this year.

Some more administrative tasks we've been able to accomplish was the updating of our club's SOPs. These along with our constitution and bylaws are what we use to organize and operate to serve our members and community. Originally written to get our young group up and running they were due for an upgrade with the change in times and to ensure the longevity of the club. These new additions and updates are all available upon request.

One of the biggest improvements for any radio club is the club's repeater. After the passing of longtime repeater owner and great friend Dave KC8WY(sk), the 145.270 repeater had to be moved. This turned out to be quite a challenge. After being known as one of the highest profile repeaters in the area it was going to be tough to bring it back to its former capabilities. After the move to its new location at my QTH it's been through a few changes. The coverage is only about half of what it used to be, but that is going to be changing here soon. We have had a 90foot self-supporting tower donated to us by one of our very own members, Russ NR8W, so be sure to thank him when you can. Originally the plan was to get the tower built by Fall of 2021, unfortunately I had some medical issues, and the cost of construction material had skyrocketed. Now I am fully recovered, and materials cost has been leveling back out to a manageable price, now we anticipate the new tower to be up late Spring 2022. With the new tower according to RF coverage modeling software the coverage will be even better than before the move from the original RT46 & Kirk Rd. location.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK CONT'D...

Aside from the move there was a lot of work that needed to be done with the hardware of the repeater itself. Much of the wires and cabling needed to operate had to be replaced with new or rebuilt. With my medical problems I had much time home I was able to accomplish much of that. Many of the control cables had to all be rebuilt, so I took it upon myself to disassemble, fix schematics and resolder everything in a way to make it functional. The RF cable, or coax as its better known all had to be replaced. What we received with the repeater was not spec'd out to be used for VHF frequencies, there was too much power loss causing the repeater to not be able to receive or transmit to its full potential. This problem was solved after a conversation with another long-time repeater owner in the area, Jim N8DOD. Jim graciously donated us some very high-quality coax jumpers with very minimal loss to give the repeater the best coverage.

A new rack system was also donated to the club by Patrick N3YQM so that we could clean up and streamline the installation of all the equipment. The new rack surely helped make the rebuilding of the cables much easier and look much better.

On top of those projects, we still had commitments to our public service functions. Since covid curtailed many events the previous year, 2021 we still had three large events we were able to participate with. The Panerathon which typically takes place in the late summer ended up being midfall. That created a challenge with the other two functions, they were all scheduled within just a few weeks of one another. This close scheduling made planning for these events much more difficult than in previous years, however we were able to pull it off. Even the repeater was capable of providing enough coverage considering it is still in a stage of improvements. We're looking forward to future events being able to greatly improve our service after everything we were forced to learn this year. The Panerathon, Youngstown Peace Race, and the Youngstown Roadrunners all thanked us for the service we were able to provide. On top of these groups being very thankful for what we do, they have been spreading the word about our service, and one group even made a significant donation to the repeater in hopes of making our job even easier for future events.

Back to the business side of things, nothing gets done without financial backing. Something newly created for our club is the creation of a repeater fund. Open to anyone to make donations towards the building, maintenance, and improvements to the club's repeater system. Since its creation we have received many substantial donations from members and even non-members that are eager to help us improve the repeaters.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK CONT'D...

I know it's been asked multiple times about us giving licensing classes again, and I'm here to say we are gaining steam on getting those together. Much of the issue we ran into was having a location to give classes and tests. We had created a Zoom account in hopes of holding meetings and classes that way, however it was decided meetings were the most practical use of Zoom. Classes would have been possible, but the test sessions still required a physical location to hold them. Its challenging to be able to observe people taking a test through a video conference, and to fill out the required paperwork that needs submitted to the FCC. Bob N8RCM and I WF8U will have classes together here real soon, and Darrin N8DMC our club VEC will being organizing the test sessions for the classes. If anyone is interested in taking a test, those are possible anytime. All that is needed to get a test scheduled is to contact Darrin and get together at least three VE's.

All in all, the past two years have been incredibly challenging, but with those challenges came along many great improvements. We learned a lot and are hoping to continue to make improvements upon everything we learned in order to continue into the future.

73 de WF8U Chris

WRARC President



A Barbados ham is among the world's oldest, if not the oldest. Winston A. "Woody" Richardson, 8P6CC (ex-VP6WR), has turned 107 years old, placing him among the world's oldest radio amateurs. Jim Neiger, N6TJ, told <u>The Daily DX</u> that

Richardson hosted his 1980 - 82 operations (as 8P6J) from his home during the CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW). The Woody Richardson Communications Room at the Amateur Radio Society of Barbados is named for him. Richardson <u>visited</u> the Amateur Radio of Barbados headquarters in 2020. – The ARRL Letter & Amateur Radio Relay League

WRARC ELMER INFO								
Steve Fabry KC8SOY	Yaesu FT8900, FT 8800, Mobile	kc8soy@yahoo.com						
Russ Williams NR8W	Antennas, Grounding, AC/DC	rwiliams@neo.rr.com						
Darrin Cannon N8DMC	Yaesu Radio Programming, License Upgrading/Testing	darrincan@gmail.com						
Bill Egan KD8HCQ	Field Day Operating, Wire Antennas, IC-2200, FT-450	popbottle@zoominternet.net						
Bob Kramer KE8HHH	Raspberry Pi	snowyowlooo@gmail.com						
Dave Slagle N8PPP	QRP	daslagle@zoominternet.net						
Chris Monske WF8U	Repeaters, HF Mobile & Portable, Field Radio Programming, Mobile Installs	kd8ely@gmail.com						

FEBRUARY CONTESTS

12-13 CQWW WPX RTTY

14-18 School Club Roundup

19-20 International DX-CW

25-27 CQWW 160M SSB



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A WORD FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT



Here we are again, another year gone by and a new one beginning. I am looking forward to this new year and the challenges and opportunities it gives us individually and as a club. Over the last year we have seen many changes in our club, we achieved our 501c3 status as a tax-exempt organization, we made it through the second year of the covid pandemic, the club intact and doing well. Accomplishing this was not completely problem free and at times was challenging finding ways to accomplish what we were trying to get done and still abiding by the continuous and ever-changing edicts from the current President. All this being said we did achieve some good things through this challenging time.

I guess first and foremost the biggest change after the Tax-Exempt status finally being a reality, the repeater was moved and after a lot of work we had it working so most of the members could once again reach the repeater and the net was restarted. A lot of time was spent refining the repeater and correcting some issues and finally having it coordinated in the new location, registered in the WRARC name and license. The frequencies are also in the club's name assuring that the CLUB will maintain ownership of the repeater and frequencies from that point forward as long as the club wants them. The coordinators were not as hard to work with as we had always heard and were instrumental in making sure the repeater that was passed on to the club by Liz Beatty following Dave's wishes after he passed were then a reality and it was amazing how many people reached out to us after we had the temporary tower up and operating saying how nice it was to hear the repeater once again operating. I would be remiss at this point if I did not mention the amount of information, technical support, and in some cases material support that we received from the other repeater operators in the area, and just other hams in the area that assisted Chris and I in getting the repeater back on the air. They all have my eternal respect and gratitude for the demonstration they gave of what ham radio is all about.

There were many other challenges through the year, and I will not detail those, because the board found ways to get through them and move forward. Not everything went as scheduled, we had hoped to have the clubs new tower, which was donated to the club by a member, up by the end of fall, but Chris had some medical issues, and it threw us behind schedule and we hope to have it operating by late spring now, that will take care of some of the localized reception problems and make the club repeater more accessible by handhelds once it is up.

We have also made great strides in being flexible in responding to the needs of those groups that we work together with here in the Mahoning Valley with Covid restrictions making it necessary to alter schedules and put events together on a very tight schedule, we covered every event we committed to. At this point I need to thank all those who responded to our request for operators for events, regardless of club affiliation that helped us accomplish our commitments and made Roy's and my job a little easier.

I will close on that point, and just add that we have weathered the rough times and challenges that have been put in our way. We have a good Club with some great Members, I am looking forward to seeing where 2022 takes us. I wish all our members and all those associated with our Club in whatever way a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Bob Mitzel N8RCM - Past President

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS PARTY

Hello, all. We were so fortunate this year to be able to return to our annual after the holidays party on Sat., Jan. 8, 2022. Once again, we had a bona fide social event where we could all talk, visit with, and catch up with our fellow members and guests in a way we haven't been able to do for the past two years. Davidsons put out a good buffet meal with plenty of food. We had our traditional cake to kick off things for 2022 as well. We had 24 attendees, 16 members and 8 guests. I hope we can continue to move forward with in person gatherings as we strive to get past this pandemic and all the ways it has impacted us. I hope more of you can join us next year.



Everyone seemed to have a good time as I looked around and saw laughter, conversation, and good fellowship at each table. As usual, we had our opening with a moment of silence to honor our silent keys and a welcome to all by Chris WF8U, our President. We had a very brief business session and installation of new officers for this term. Congratulations go out to Amanda Monske KC3GFU as Secretary and to Bill Egan KD8HCQ as Trustee. Also, congratulations to reelected officers for this term- Chris Monske WF8U as President and Bob Kramer KE8HHH as Treasurer as they begin their second terms. We are happy to have our continuing officers and elected persons as well- Russ Williams NR8W as Vice President, Rose Marko KD8TII as Trustee and Ed Newsome KE8NSW as Trustee. We would like to thank our outgoing elected persons for their service to the club- Darrin Cannon N8DMC as outgoing Trustee and Mike Cibella KC8UNR as outgoing Secretary.

The party was in lieu of a general meeting this month. Our next general meeting will be on Tues., Feb. 15, 2022, at Davidsons- dinner at 6PM and meeting at 7PM. Thanks to all who came out. We enjoyed seeing you all and missed those of you who were not able to be there. We look forward to seeing you in the future. Stay well and stay warm, everyone.

Maureen KD8NXS

ARRL PODCASTS SCHEDULE

The latest episode of the On the Air podcast (Episode 24) features tips on how to improve the effective range of your handheld transceiver.

The latest edition of Eclectic Tech (Episode 50) of the *Eclectic Tech* podcast -- the final edition for 2021 -- features a discussion with Nelson Sollenberger, KA₂C, about the filter he designed that allows two nearby stations to operate on the same band during ARRL Field Day and

contests. The episode also offers a brief explanation of the so-called POST beeps that many computers make, and what they mean.

Eclectic Tech
The On the Air and Eclectic Tech podcasts are sponsored by Icom. Both
podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on
Blubrry -- On the Air | Eclectic Tech. - The ARRL Letter & Amateur Radio
Relay League

LICENSED LADIES WHO DON'T OPERATE



Around the house or the watercooler at work I am known as talkative. So why, like many other licensed female ham operators, am I reluctant to get on the air?

I often tune into the local repeaters and lament the lady-less airwaves to my husband, but I never grab the mic and key up either. When I hear a lady check in on the weekly nets, I get super excited, start clapping, and exclaim, "Hey! It's a girl!". It is super rare hear gals rag chewing. In the 6 months since I have been licensed, I must confess, I almost never get on the air and put a call out myself.

Are we just too busy? Is it that we like working the bands and contesting but just don't want to rag chew on the repeater? What makes us get on the air? What would make us talk?

Perhaps it is that birds of a feather really do want to flock together. If we hear other ladies, we would be willing to join in. Since we hear nothing, we say nothing.

I speculate another cause may be radio related. For my part, I have not learned or mastered even the most basic functions on my HT. I can power on and key up and that it is about it. So, if I hit a snag, I must call my in-house Elmer, KE8OKO, to help me operate the equipment. I suspect I may not be the only one in that boat.

I was told by other licensed hams to just cram for the test and pass it; once I was licensed, I could learn all the techy stuff, so I did just that. But without that practice on the air, I never get better, and without getting beyond the novice stage in my radio operation, I never want to get on the air. It is a vicious cycle!

The real question is can we ladies break free and spend more time on the air. What will get us outside our comfort zone? I think the answer is simple. Ladies would get on the air more if we heard ladies on the air more. Then the question becomes who will be first. Perhaps we could coordinate and choose a ladies' night on the local repeater. At least we would know when to listen and when to gamble on keying up and putting out a call. This is KE8SKL...listening.

GLARA REGER is a notable female ham who received her call sign in 1933. Reger had a long career as an operator, and managed disaster communications after WWII. Known for her exceptional Morse Code skills, Reger spent much of her life teaching others how to become operators. She also received the Edison Award for teaching a 14-year-old boy without arms to send Morse Code with his feet.



Reger is also known for her signature salutation, which she created especially for communicating with women, the salutation "33" meant love sealed with friendship. Reger knew that to hear another girl's voice on the other end was rare and special. YL 33 is considered sacred by female hams.

JOIN US FOR THE WRARC FRIDAY NIGHT NET!

9:00pm Every Friday W8WRC -145.270 PL 110.9

WRARC Simplex Frequency 146.565

MVARA NET

Mondays @ 9:00pm - W8QLY Repeater -146.745 (PL 110.9)

MAHONING COUNTY ARES NETS

2nd Sunday 2:00pm W8QLY Repeater -146.745 (PL 110.9)
4th Sunday 2:00pm W8QLY Repeater 146.745 (PL 110.9)
ARES Thanks MVARA for the use of their Repeater

W8SGT is facilitating The Ohio HF Net every Tuesday @ 7:00pm

The net is run from the State of Ohio EOC on the Ohio ARES Admin Frequency 3875 kHz LSB moves to 7240 Khz after 20 min

ALL are welcome to check in.

The Ohio ARES/OES Digital Emergency Net is held every Tuesday @ 8:00pm

Held on 3585 kHz USB

Please note all digital communications are Upper Side Band

http://ohden.org

Net Manager Gary NJ8BB



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ed Newsome

Darrin Cannon



Want to see your content featured in the newsletter? This is YOUR newsletter, and we are always looking for article submissions!

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Youth on the Air Camp to Return in June

After a successful pilot camp program in 2021, the next Youth on the Air for the Americas camp has been set for June 12 - 17, 2022. The camp will return to the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio.

The application period will open online February 11. Eligible participants are amateur radio

operators between ages 15 and 25. A total of 30 campers will be accepted. Some of the 30 spots will be reserved for campers who reside outside of the US but do reside in the Americas. Priority will be given to first-time attendees. Returning attendees will serve as camp leaders.

"We know that changes in the COVID-19 pandemic status between now and June will have an impact on hosting the camp," said Youth on the Air camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG. "Should we not be able to host the camp or need to reschedule, we will let everyone know with as much notice as possible.



Beginning in 2022, the camp will alternate as much as possible each year between June and July. Rapp says the camp planning working group acknowledges that avoiding all scheduling conflicts is not possible, but hopes that alternating months will provide some diversity with school schedules, extracurricular activities, and major ham radio events.

Beginning in 2023, the location of the camp will rotate to various locations within the Americas. A system will be announced in which IARU member-societies and clubs will bid to serve as host of the region-wide camp.

For details about the camp and/or to sign up for updates by email, visit the <u>YouthOnTheAir</u> camp website. <u>Contact</u> Rapp for more information.

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Sunspot activity was quite a bit lower this week, but new sunspot groups emerged on December 31, January 1, January 4, and January 5. Average daily sunspot number dropped from 110.1 to 36.4, while average daily solar flux went from 124 to 91.4. Geomagnetic activity was still fairly quiet, even with a number of flares and CMEs,

with average daily planetary A index changing from 6.4 to 7.7, and average middle latitude A index from 4.4 to 6.

Predicted solar flux over the next month shows 10.7-centimeter flux values peaking at 120 on January 16 - 24 and again at 120 in mid - February. The daily predicted values are 84 and 88 on January 6 - 7; 92 on January 8 - 12; 115 on January 13 - 15; 120 on January 16 - 24; 110 on January 25; 100 on January 26 - 27; 95 and 90 on January 28 - 29; 88 on January 30 - 31; 85 on February 1 - 5; 90, 95, and 100 on February 6 - 8, and 115 on February 9 - 11.



Predicted planetary A index is 5 on January 6 - 8; 12, 14, and 8 on January 9 - 11; 5 on January 12 - 14; 8 and 12 on January 15 - 16; back to 8 on January 17 - 18; 5 on January 19 - 22; 10 on January 23; 8 on January 24 - 26; 5 and 10 on January 27 - 28; 8 on January 29 - 30; 5 on January 31 - February 6; 10 on February 7 - 8, and 5 on February 9 - 10.

Sunspot numbers for December 30 - January 5 were 77, 53, 52, 25, 12, 12, and 24, with a mean of 36.4. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 102.4, 101.5, 93.9, 89, 84, 85.5, and 83.7, with a mean of 91.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 4, 11, 10, 12, 6, and 3, with a mean of 7.7. Middle latitude A index was 7, 2, 9, 7, 9, 5, and 3, with a mean of 6.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, <u>visit</u> the ARRL Technical Information Service, <u>read</u> "What the Numbers Mean...," and <u>check out</u> the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

A propagation bulletin <u>archive</u> is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the <u>VOACAP Online for Ham Radio</u> website. Share your reports and observations.

Growing Number of Operators Completing WAS on 222 MHz

Until very recently, it had been some 35 years since the most recent Worked All States (WAS) was awarded on 1.25 meters. Former ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in Arkansas; Marshall Williams, K5QE, in Texas, and John Swiniarski, K1OR, in New Hampshire stand at the vanguard of a new generation of VHF enthusiasts aiming at earning the Worked All States (WAS) Award on 222 MHz (1.25 meters). Harrison was issued WAS #11 on 1.25 meters on December 27, 2021, while Williams was issued WAS #12 on January 11, 2022, and Swiniarski was issued WAS #13 on January 12.

"Since the 1980s, a combination of the old guard and a new group have been pursuing this quest," ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart

Jahnke, W9JJ, said. Harrison worked Tom Worthington, NH6Y, in Hawaii, for his 50th state, while Williams followed close behind, working James Colson, K7KQA, operating EME portable from Oregon, for his 50th state.

Jahnke said the honor of being the very first 1.25-meter WAS recipient went to Terry Van Benschoten, WoVB, in 1983, earning what was then "220 MHz WAS." Nine others joined the ranks between then and 1987.

"In recent years, several stations have been working hard toward joining the ranks of WAS holders on this ITU Region 2-only band," Jahnke said. Other stations that have recently worked 50 states and waiting on the last confirmations include K1WHS and WA4NJP. N9HF and NoAKC are nipping at their heels. No activity on 1.25 meters was available in some of the last few needed states, and portable operations by KA6U, KB7Q, K7KQA, and N7GP made contacts possible.



W5ZN's 220 MHz array. [Joel Harrison, W5ZN, photo]

"Congratulations to [the recent award recipients], and to all those VHF+ state chasers -- and to the many activators of rare 222 MHz states -- on their achievements in this continuing quest for 222 MHz Worked All States," Jahnke said.

In 1988, when the FCC reallocated the lower portion (220 - 222 MHz) of the 1.25-meter band to the federal government and Land Mobile Service, amateur activity on the band stalled, while adjustments were made to equipment and band plans. During the past several years, so-called "weak-signal" activity, especially EME, has increased on the band with a renewed interest from existing and new band users.

Amateurs interested in staying abreast of 222 MHz activity can follow the fun on the 222 MHz Activity Reflector. Harrison, Charlie Betz, NoAKC, and Al Ward, W5LUA, have written an article, "The Quest for 222 MHz WAS," which contains tables, maps, and details on the propagation, locations, and equipment that made their operations possible. Ward was among the initial 10 WAS recipients for 1.25 meters. Plans call for the paper to be presented and published by the Central States VHF Society Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin, July 29 - 30 and at other conferences. Harrison said, the paper also has "lots of history in it about the 1.25-meter band, the original 10, and the group now in the hunt along with ongoing 'roving' efforts of KB7Q and KA6U."

"Did you know? Because radio waves travel at 186,000 miles per second and sound waves at 700 miles per hour, a broadcast voice can be heard sooner 13,000 miles away than it can be heard at the back of the room."

WESTERN RESERVE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION MAIL To: WESTERN RESERVE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB P.O. Box 4271, AUSTINTOWN, OHIO 44515 PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY Today's Date___/ [] New Membership [] Membership Renewal ______ _____Birth Date: m___/d___ M [__] F [__] Class:_____ Expires:__/__/ Member # Address: State: ZIP: Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ Work: () ARRL Member:Y N Date Expires E-Mail Address: ---How Did You Hear About Us? Recomended by: Birth Date: / M [] F [] Applicant Name 2: ___ Class: Expires: / / Member # Cell: (____) _____ Work: () Home Phone: ARRL Member:Y N Date Expires E-Mail Address: Publish phone numbers in membership roster? Email? [-------J What are your interests? Bands Worked? ---Years? Years? Years? Years? Years? RACES () ARES (___) CPR (SkyWarn () EMA (___) A \$5.00 initiation fee will be assessed in the first year of membership for all new members. Membership year is Jan 1 Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31 for the following year. Dues are as follows: Example - Regular Member Pays on Jan I \$20 for entire year. If paid on July or after, \$10 for remaining portion of the year. Volunteer donations to repeater fund & add donations to membership dues total. Initiation Fee \$5.00 (Payable first year) Full Membership (\$20.00 full year, \$10.00 half year) Additional Family Members, same address (\$5.00 ea). Associate Membership (\$20.00 full year, \$10.00 half year) Senior Membership 65+ (\$16.00 full year, \$8.00 half year) Total Enclosed. ______ Please do not write below this line. Date Voted____/___/20___ Approved by: _______ Date: ____/___/20__ Database updated________120

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	Groundhog Day	3	WRARC NET 9:00p 145.270	5
6	7	8	9	10	WRARC NET 9:00pm 145.270	12
Board Meeting 2:00pm	14 Valentine's Day	General Meeting 7:00p	16	17	18 WRARC NET 9:00pm 145.270	19
20 Article Deadline	President's Day	22	23	24	25 WRARC NET 9:00pm 145.270	26
27	28					