

W9JOZ

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2012

President's Corner

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. I am excited about 2012 coming. Soon we will be doing Foxhunts, Special Events and our group outings, who can ask for anything more.

Don't forget the end of January, we will be testing and I know there will be a couple of upgrades and maybe some new hams.

Dues are due too, they're \$12.00 if you don't remember.

The bands have been great, many good DX stations to get if you have patience. This evening I have been sitting by the radio for about 2 ½ hours so far trying to get KC4AAA and no luck yet.

HMMMMMM

Hope no one has cabin fever yet, but I will February 25th at the Laporte Hamfest, then spring isn't far behind.

CU at a meeting

73 Tony W9AL

Meeting is January 19th



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.

What are your New Year's resolutions?

Bring them to the meeting to discuss.

DUES \$12.00

New Year, same amount for dues.

No Increase cost here!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Speaks/ Meeting Reminder
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From The Vice President's P.C.

Well hope all that made it to the Christmas party at the Wooden Nickel had enough to eat and had a good time. The trophies for the fox hunting group were kind of neat. I haven't received a trophy since grade school. On to 2012, what will that bring to the club? Hope it brings good health too all. You are probably reading this right after Christmas, I hope Santa brought all you the goodies that you need for your shack. We got ours a little early and not by choice, a new computer with a lot of new bells and whistles. They say you can teach old dog new tricks and you are right sometimes. Windows 7 is a funny animal, some old things will work and some won't. I have about 90 per cent of the stuff back on the new computer. I hate the new e-mail program, it is not user friendly. I wish I could load the old one and use it. Enough for now Levi sent John nine things for the newsletter, so I figured I would give him some room
Randy

More from Tony, W9AL

Coming up
Jan 19th SCARC Meeting

January Birthdays
John W3ML Jan 15th

Logbook of The World

Have you been afraid of trying to set up LOTW? Here is a link to the page that will solve your problems. It is an easy way to set up LOTW. All you have to do is follow the steps, there are several pages but it is broken down to where even a child can do it. That was their whole point in making the step-by-step format.
<http://www.dxlabsuite.com/dxlabwiki/SettingUpLotW>

A New Section for the Newsletter

Levi's "**Seen and Heard**" will cover areas that he feels most of us would be interested in reading about. If you have something that would fit in this category, please send it to w9joz@w9joz.org

Seen and Heard

Tuesday December 27, 2011

Levi Mayes, WB9CAO, received from Chief Navy Marine Corps MARS a certificate for 35 years participation as a Navy MARS member.

The certificate was signed Dec. 22, 2011 by the Chief.

Levi is currently Assistant to the Indiana Navy MARS State Director, serving as second in command.

He has held several offices with Indiana Navy MARS in his years with the organization prior to the Assistant position.

Editor Note: Congratulations Levi.

From January 2012 SMITHSONIAN magazine:

In 1862, Civil War soldiers reported **glow-in-the-dark** wounds.

In 2001, two Maryland teens proposed a reason.

The men were hypothermic, and their lower temperatures made ideal conditions for a bioluminescent bacterium called *Photorhabdus luminescens*, which inhibits pathogens.

From PAST IMPERFECT, the history blog, at Smithsonian.com/warwounds.

NASA Rover prepares for Winter on Mars

The lone surviving Mars rover is preparing for another winter. Opportunity is in search for a place to hunker down. It has survived four previous Martian winters. The rover landed in January 2004 with an expected mission life of three months. Its sister, Spirit, landed on the opposite side of the planet. Spirit suddenly stopped communicating with Earth last year shortly after getting stuck in fluffy sand.

Opportunity will continue working at the winter site - studying bedrock and soil. It will not venture far in the winter cold. It currently has a little over 21 miles on its odometer, and is showing some wear, including an 'arthritic' shoulder, but is in otherwise good health.

NASA launched its latest spacecraft to Mars last month, a mega-rover named Curiosity that is set to land next summer.

<http://marsrover.nasa.gov>

From : Dan Elliott, Associated Press

New Generation of GPS Satellites

A \$5.5 billion upgrade to the Global Positioning System has moved closer to launch with delivery of a prototype satellite to a Lockheed Martin complex in Colorado for testing.

Block III is a guinea pig for a new generation of GPS satellites expected to make military and civilian receivers more accurate, powerful, and reliable. It is part of an international effort to allow use of U.S., European, Russian, and perhaps other navigation systems.

The Block III satellites will provide higher-powered signals and will be expected to be harder for enemies to jam, and easier for receivers to tune in, especially in urban canyons or under thick tree canopies. Other countries have agreed to make a new, common frequency available to civilians.

The Air Force Space Command oversees the U.S. GPS satellites and ground control systems from its headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. The new Block III satellites are expected to allow users to determine positions to within 3 feet compared with 10 feet with current technology.

This prototype will not go into space. The first flight model is expected to arrive at Waterton Canyon next summer with launch in May 2014. Lockheed Martin is based in Bethesda, MD. They have a \$1.5 billion Air Force contract to build and test the first GPS III prototypes and build the first two satellites for launch. The contract calls for an option for two more. The Pentagon expects to buy and launch a total of 32 Block III satellites.

From Chesterton Tribune - article by Jeff Schultz

A mandate by the Federal Communications Commission that would require all public safety entities to switch their radio systems channels to a 12.5 khz system or equivalent technology by the end of next year (2012) could be the solution to gaps in some county's communication systems.

Monies are being made available to upgrade systems and provide additional tower locations to fill gaps in the coverage areas. With new towers, counties could go to a simulcast system with calls going out to many towers all at once.

Those who do not make the migration to the new frequencies will have a more difficult time of making radio contacts due to the narrowing of the frequencies. Services will be affected where departments do not make the switch.

NO LANDING DATE YET FOR AIR FORCE MYSTERY CRAFT

Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. (AP)

A secretive unmanned space plane is staying in orbit a little longer.

The experimental Air Force craft has been circling Earth for about nine months. The X-37 orbital test vehicle was due to land in California the week of December 5 thru 9. The Air Force said the mission will be extended. A landing has not been set.

The plane resembles a mini space shuttle and is the second to fly in space. The first one landed itself last December at Vandenberg Air Force base in California after more than seven months in orbit.

The Air Force has said the second mission was to further test the craft, but the ultimate purpose has largely remained a mystery.

NASA spacecraft at solar system's edge

Los Angeles (AP) - More than three decades after launching, NASA's workhorse spacecraft is inching closer to leaving the solar system behind. Currently 11 billion miles away from our sun, Voyager 1 has been exploring the fringes of the solar system since 2004. Scientists said the spacecraft has entered a new region in the solar system that they have dubbed the "stagnation Zone".

Voyager still has a little way to go before it completely exits the solar system and becomes the first man-made probe to cross into interstellar space, or the vast space between stars. The spacecraft has enough battery power to last until 2020, but scientists think it will reach interstellar space before that - in a matter of several months to years.

Chief scientist Ed Stone of the NASA JPL said the timing is unclear because no spacecraft has ever ventured this far. "The journey continues," Stone told a meeting of the American geophysical Union in San Francisco. For the past year, Voyager 1 used its instruments to explore the new region. It appeared to be the cosmic doldrums where solar winds streaming out from the sun at 1 million mph have dramatically eased and high energy particles from outside are seeping in - a sign that Voyager 1 is at the doorstep of interstellar space.

Scientists expect to see several telltale signs when Voyager 1 finally crosses the boundary including a change in magnetic field direction and the type of wind. Interstellar wind is slower, colder, and denser than solar wind. Voyager 1 and its twin, Voyager 2, were launched in 1977 to tour the outer planets including Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. After their main mission ended, both headed toward interstellar space in opposite directions. Voyager 2 is travelling slower than Voyager 1 and is currently 9 billion miles away from our sun.

<http://voyager.jbl.nasa.gov>

How's that for DX? How about battery life? And, how about reliability - no radio blackouts.....

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management reminds the public about the last new rule that went into effect for dormant outdoor hydronic heaters (OHH).

Since Nov. 30, 2011, OHH units not qualified to meet the EPA Phase 2 emission standards are required to have smokestacks five feet above the peak of any occupied building.

OHH units, also known as outdoor wood boilers or outdoor wood furnaces, provide both heat and hot water.

That is all of the Seen and Heard for this month. I would like to thank Levi for submitting these and starting a new section in the newsletter. Now that you have seen and heard what it is about, maybe you can submit some items as well.

FREE Balun/Unun Rebate Form

Purchase any new LDG tuner between Sept 1, 2011 and April 15, 2012 and receive a FREE balun/unun from LDG Electronics. Simply fill out this form and mail to LDG along with a copy of your dated sales receipt and LDG will send you a FREE RBA-1:1, RBA-4:1 or RU-4:1. All forms must be received before April 30, 2012. Limit one free balun/unun per household.

Not transferable. Valid worldwide.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____ Call sign: _____

E-mail address: _____

Balun Choice: [] RBA-1:1 [] RBA-4:1 [] RU-4:1

Mail rebate form and copy of your tuner sales receipt to:

LDG Electronics

1445 Parran Road
St. Leonard MD 20685

Submitted by Tony, W9AL

Be Smart!

Disasters are chaotic, confusing and stressful...bringing out the worst and the best of us...sometimes at the same time. If we have taken time to prepare in advance (including food and water), then be aware you may become a target of those who are unprepared.

1. PRACTICE INCIDENT PRIORITIES

Priority #1: Safety. Never jeopardize the safety of yourself or other incident participants, or the general public. **EVERYONE GOES HOME!**

Priority #2: Monitor. Always monitor the frequency you are assigned. If you can't contact the NCS, you can't ask for help.

Priority #3: Confirm. Always obtain "confirmed acknowledgement" from your net control station before changing any aspect of your assignment.

2. BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Always be aware of where you are. If you turn from a well-lighted area to one in darkness, contact net control and advise of your location and situation. Better to be safe than sorry

3. LOCK YOUR VEHICLE

While this may seem like common sense, arriving an emergency situation can sometime be distracting, especially if someone is waiting for you and urging you to "hurry up" to the area (away from your vehicle).

4. PROVIDE 'EYES AND EARS' PROTECION TO FIRST RESPONDERS

In some areas, first responders may need to park their vehicles and go inside a building or go over to a vehicle. If you are working with an agency or department, just advising the NCS you are "in the area" and watching from a distance can be helpful and an additional layer of safety to first responders. If operating at night, however, be careful where you park and who is standing close to or gathering by your vehicle.

5. KEEP YOUR LOGS UPDATED

Forms should be kept updated. Don't try to remember important details in your head...write them down. Your log will never forget, and you don't have to worry about remembering.

Until next month,

73

John, W3ML