



Central States VHF Society

E-Newsletter

Quarter ending Sept 30, 2001

New Newsletter for the Society

Director Bruce Richardson, W9FZ, is the newsletter-editor of a newsletter targeted for the Board of Directors. The newsletter has traditionally been very simple and promotes discussion on the issues the Board is handling. To increase communication, to maintain openness, and to promote attendance at coming years conferences, W9FZ has volunteered to craft a quarterly newsletter aimed at the Central States VHF Society membership-at-large. It is not meant to compete with any existing VHF newsletters. It will only be distributed electronically--via email and the website--in order to contain costs. The only costs are the time and effort to craft each issue.

Common topics in each newsletter will be status of the upcoming conference, States Above 50 Mhz Award Program status, other award program statuses, and Treasurer's report (when appropriate).

Near the end of each quarter, W9FZ will request inputs for the newsletter using the email addresses that the society's records indicate for the membership. Also, a simple prompt to common vhf reflectors will prompt for inputs. If you have news items that you are willing to share, they will make for a more interesting newsletter. Consider reporting on band openings, contest activity, new equipment additions, or any other thrills you experience in VHF/UHF and above.

As the issues go along, please send suggestions and inputs to w9fz@ix.netcom.com

Dallas 2001 Conference Report

The 2001 Central States VHF Society conference was held July 26-29 at the DFW Marriott South in Fort Worth, Texas. Attendance was about average, with 157 registering. Although many came for the first time or after a long absence from the Dallas-Fort Worth-Austin area, many of our old faithful were unable to attend for one reason or another.

The wrap-up banquet featured Joel Harrison, ARRL First Vice President with a talk entitled "The Power of Cheese", which made the point that amateur radio must face a changing world and adapt. Attendance was 128 hams and 52 family members.

A varied and interesting family program was made available. Unfortunately, only 28 families took part in the family program.

Unique to this conference were handsome, new polo-shirts with our CSVHFS logo available before, during, and after the conference.

One of the highlights of the conference was Kent Britain's Proceedings. The book at 358 pages was easily the largest ever. In addition to this year's contributions, highlights from the 1984, 1985 and 1986 conferences were included. Since those years were not previously published outside the society, the book provides a valuable reference.

Another feature was an exhibit area, which operated continuously throughout the conference, plus the traditional Friday night flea market. Also new this year was a brief, fun, and helpful auction of donated items. The banquet prize table was well stocked and everybody went home with at least one item and, in many cases, two.

Antenna measurement and noise figure data is published on the web page.

One of the remarkable things about the conference was the size of the committee. The following are in large part responsible for the success of the conference:

Kent Britain, WA5VJB, Vice- President / Technical Chair
Wes Atchison, WA5TKU, Finance Chair
Carolyn Miller, KD5FFW, Registration
Carolyn Smith, Family Program Chair
Tommy Henderson, WD5AGO, Noise Figure Msuremnt
Kent Britain, WA5VJB, and Marc Thorson, WB0TEM, Antenna Gain

Special thanks are due to the two Carolyns for their non-stop work in registration and the family program and to the staff at the Marriott who spared no effort to make the event a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilburn Smith
2001 President and Conference Chair

2002 Conference Site is Milwaukee!

The 2002 CSVHFS Conference will be hosted by the "Badger Contesters" and held in Milwaukee, WI on July 26th, 27th, and 28th of 2002. The "Badger Contesters" is a group of like-minded VHF/UHF/SHF weak-signal operators primarily in Wisconsin but also has members from Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. The "BC'ers" have stepped forward to host the conference for a number of reasons: to bring attention to Upper-Midwest VHF+ activity, to show off Wisconsin and its summertime plusses to conference attendees, and to take their turn supporting the Society by hosting a conference.

Although the Wisconsin Dells and Madison were both considered, Milwaukee offered more benefits and won out as our conference site. Milwaukee has the best variety of air-service in the state. As the "City of Festivals", Milwaukee has some major fun activity going on every weekend of the summer. For instance, during our conference, "German-Fest" will be highlighting German heritage in Milwaukee's history.

Also, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Airventure 2002 (Air-show) will be going on before, during, and after our conference. We've got the hotel to extend their room rates to either side of the conference so you could easily stay in Milwaukee and attend the Air Show on a day either before or after our conference.

Wisconsin in the Summertime offers lots more as well. Please consider making a real summer trip of your visit to the conference and enjoy Wisconsin beyond the conference. Future newsletters and the big mailing early in the new year will have lots of tourism suggestions. Also, the www.csvhfs.org website will have additional info on the conference and Wisconsin.

But those are the extra reasons to come to the conference. We're doing our best to solicit interesting program for you that makes it worth your while to come to the conference. Interesting presentations, good swapmeet, and eyeball QSO's with VHF'ers from across the country are the primary reasons to come to Milwaukee!

Call for Papers and Presentations: 2002

By Marc Holdwick - N8KWX
October 2, 2001
As the 2002 CSVHFS Technical Program Chairman I would like to invite you to the upcoming Central States VHF Society conference. Next year, for the first time, it will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There are many reasons for attending a conference: meeting the people you know from the VHF bands, trading stories, and swapping "treasures" in the

flea market. Testing pre-amps and antennas is also popular, and of course there is the SNOTTS meeting on Friday night. But almost everyone would agree that the Technical Program is the main attraction. While putting on a conference takes a lot of work by a lot of people, the people who "make" a conference are those who publish articles and give those wonderful presentations. It may seem daunting to become an author, but many have done so without even realizing it. Nowadays, almost everyone has a web page. Some are simple and some are pretty sophisticated. Publishing a web page and publishing an article are really not all that different. I would like to ask everyone to consider taking one of your proudest projects or ideas and sharing it with everyone by writing an article and hopefully presenting it. Here is a brief list of suggestions:- Practical omni-directional antenna designs- Basic pre-amp concepts - gain, intercept point, and noise figure (and their interactions)- New devices and how to implement them- Modern meteor scatter techniques and software (especially WSJT)- Good audio - how can it help you catch those distant grids- PSK31 and its applications at VHF and above- Tower and or fixed station ideas- How to actually fit antennas for 10 different bands on the same mast- AO-40 operation for when the bands are "down"- First-time roving tips and techniques. If you would like to consider writing an article for the 2002 Conference, please send me an email at n8kwx@csvhfs.org. Thanks & 73!
Marc - N8KWX

Worked 48 States Terrestrial VHF Award

The Central States VHF Society will soon be offering a special award for working 48 states via terrestrial propagation modes on any band above 50 Mhz. While somewhat easy on 50 Mhz, only a few operators have accomplished this feat on 144 Mhz. The Central States VHF Society wants to recognize these significant accomplishments by sponsoring an award for which an operator can apply. Stand-by for the details and the application procedures. Dave Calvert, KB0PE, has volunteered to be our program administrator.

CSVHFS Life Membership

In 2000, your Board of Directors instituted a membership status called "Life Membership" to fulfill three goals. First, to offer a way for our membership to dispense with annual \$5 membership fees particularly in years when attending the conference is unlikely. Second, to provide a financial cushion for the society. Third, to create a recognition status for those members committing to the Society's longevity.

All three goals have been met. We now have a nice financial cushion. Our "Charter" year has just recently completed. 69 members became "Charter Life

Members". However, if you would like to become a Life Member, that is still possible. You will receive a nametag and a certificate both featuring the Society's logo and "Life Member". The Life Membership fee is set at 25 times annual dues which means \$125.00. Submit name, call, address, grid, email address, and whether ARRL member to Bruce Richardson, W9FZ, 2330 Lexington Ave S. #312, Mendota Hts, MN 55120. If you have questions, email w9fz@ix.netcom.com. For those of you who are Life Members, if you need additional nametags, they are available. Contact W9FZ for costs.

States Above 50 MHz Award Program 2001 Wrap-Up

Thanks to each of you for participating this year! 28 entries!

Participation was up this year because two groups—in Minnesota and Oklahoma—utilized the program as an impetus for increased activity in their local areas. Keep it up! Other areas of the country, consider using this program to spur activity in your areas.

Items of note: K9PW's entry was from one weekend during the June Contest. Same can be said for KF0Q's multi-op entry in EN44, which was from the September contest. Further, KF0Q's single-op (EN43) entry is from two contests and two other portable set-ups at the same spot. N0UK's multi-op entry stems from two VHF contests.

Please recall that this is a "program" for all participants in order to spur increased activity. This program only becomes a contest for our top finishers.

Our 3rd place finisher, Peter Shilton, VE3AX, was not really trying to participate—at least initially. After working 35 states in one night on 6m in late March, he recalled Gary Flynn's previous best total of 154 band-states and that caused him to look at his other bands performance and begin to participate in earnest. He maintained 4 bands until just prior to this past June contest. He added his fifth band, 1296, and during the contest and in the closing days of our program period worked 12 states on that band. Other notable numbers for our 3rd place finisher: 46 on 6m, 43 on 2m, 27 on 222, and 23 on 432.

Our 2nd place finisher, Bob Mathews, K8TQK, had eight strong bands of participation. He well exceeds our previous record of 154 band-states with his 160 entry. Look at his fine numbers on every band he's on. Clearly, Bob displayed some of the same fine operating skills that I mention in the next paragraph.

Bob accomplished this feat with the extra challenge, but by no means limitation, of being sightless. Fine operating Bob!

Our 1st place entry also sets a new record of band-states--161. Mike King, KM0T, utilized this program throughout the year as an impetus for increased activity. Those of you who contest know the principle of "being there". Our winner displayed that this year. In a few cases, that meant following rovers ALL night long. But it also meant using knowledge and awareness of propagation to being on the air and ready for new states. And in Mike's case, it also meant the motivation of getting on new bands and dealing with those initial headaches.

Special mention must be made of Chris Vollero, KB2TGU, who returns as our only participant who has taken part each of the six years of the programs existence.

For the current 2001-2002 program in progress, Canadian provinces do NOT count. Due to inputs received, the program is being modified in the future to allow Canadian Provinces in the 2002-2003 program year. The published rules will be modified by that time to give clear direction. The thinking is that the operators felt the program would be a better stimulator of activity if Provinces were counted. This program is for you—watch for this change for future years. But for the program in progress—still just the 50 states.

The 2002 Program is in progress. Please continue to take the program as a challenge to your day-to-day operating and encourage your friends to participate. Remember, all your contacts from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002 count for this award. It's not too tough to go back into your logs and see what you've worked.

Rules and forms are available on web-page www.csvhfs.org or by email from w9fz@csvhfs.org or by snail mail from Bruce Richardson W9FZ, 2330 Lexington Ave. S. #312, Mendota Hts, MN 55120. This year's results and the all-time records are on the web-page at <http://www.csvhfs.org/CSTEST0.HTML>.

Thanks for participating and go to it again!

Name	Call	Location	Yr.	SCORE	50	144	222	432	902	1296	2304	3456	5760	10	24	>24
Mike King	KM0T	Iowa	01	161	50	34	20	16	11	13	8	6		3		
Bob Mathews	K8TQK	Ohio	01	160	45	33	25	23	10	13	8	3				
Peter Shilton	VE3AX	Ontario	01	151	46	43	27	23		12						
Larry Lambert	N0LL	Kansas	01	109	48	27	15	12		7						
Chuck Munce	K0SQ	Minnesota	01	99	47	23	11	12		6						
Jon Platt	W0ZQ	Minnesota	01	98	42	20	11	10	6	6	2			1		
Gary Mohrlant	W0GHZ	Minnesota	01	94	38	17	8	11	5	7	5	1	1	1		
Arliss Thompson	W7XU	South Dakota	01	92	50	23	10	8		1						
Chris Cox (multi)	N0UK	Minnesota	01	89	41	17	8	11	4	3	3			1		1
Pete Walter	K9PW	Illinois	01	88	36	13	8	9	4	5	4	3	3	3		
John Fridenstine	W8PAT	Ohio	01	74	30	20	11	10		3						
Ed Fitch	W0OHU	Minnesota	01	67	27	23		16		1						
Charlie Betz	N0AKC	Wisconsin	01	66	35	15	5	5	3	3						
Dale Rohwer	W0DMR	Minnesota	01	65	48	12	2	3								
Matt Burt (EN43)	KF0Q	Minnesota	01	63	32	6	6	6	5	5	3					
Chris Cox	N0UK	Minnesota	01	63	15	29	11	3	2	2				1		
Russell Beech	VE3OIL	Ontario	01	54	33	15	3	2		1						
Mark Shields	WB0OAJ	North Dakota	01	47	30	16		1								
John Lee	K6YK	California	01	41	35	3	1	2								
Chris Vollero	KB2TGU	New Jersey	01	41	41											
John Hill	K0PW	Minnesota	01	41	41											
Don Ross	NL7CO	Oklahoma	01	39	26	11		2								
Jim Fisk	KC0HEW	Minnesota	01	38	33	3		2								
Brian Derx	N5BA	Texas	01	37	21	13	1	2								
Brian Wade	KC0HTB	Minnesota	01	33	29	1	1	1		1						
Matt Burt (EN44) Multi	KF0Q	Minnesota	01	32	6	6	6	5	3	3	3					
Michael Wood	W07GI	Oklahoma	01	31	30	1										
Lenny Klosinski	K0SHF	Minnesota	01	30	21	4	1	1		1	1			1		

SETI League News

(1) EME: After a two-month outage for upgrading, The SETI League's 1296.000 MHz EME beacon, operating as W2ETI, is about to go back on the air, at the 100-watt level. This precisely calibrated reference will be active any time the moon is above the horizon at FN20. Special QSLs are available for reception reports. For details, see <http://www.setileague.org/eme/setimoon.htm>

(2) ETCC: The Extra-Terrestrial Century Club award is open to radio amateurs and amateur radio astronomers documenting detection of five signals from beyond Earth (satellites, meteor-scatter, aurora, EME, the Sun, the Moon, other natural radio sources -- and maybe, some day, ET!!). Endorsements are available for additional detections, up to a maximum of 100. For details, see <http://www.setileague.org/awards/etcc.htm>.

(3) SETICon02: The SETI League's second annual Technical Symposium has been scheduled for the weekend of 26 - 28 April 2002, at The College of New Jersey near Trenton, NJ. Papers on a variety of VHF, UHF and microwave topics are anticipated. There will also be an awards banquet, door prizes, hospitality suites, exhibits,

Conference Proceedings, and more. For further information, see <http://www.setileague.org/seticon/meet2002.htm>.

Other paper/presentation topics your newsletter editor would love to see at a conference:

- What is IP3 and why are high IP3 devices good (with practical circuits)
- Practical cut & paste of Alford slots (using W1GHZ article info)
- Practical cut & paste of VHF/UHF omni antennas
- New devices of note and practical circuits
- Evolution of HSMS with WSJT
- VHF/UHF/SHF PCB fabrication--layout/artwork software and process
- Hardline Connector mounting and sealing techniques
- Power combining techniques for transistors and power modules (6-2304)
- Small EME array construction guidance including computer control

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