



Central States VHF Society

E-Newsletter

Quarter ending Dec 31, 2001

Milwaukee Conference 2002!

Ken Boston, W9GA, the Badger Contesters, and the conference staff invite you to the annual conference in Milwaukee this coming July 26th and 27th. They are working hard on putting together an entertaining conference for you.

If you've never been to conference, it's a worthwhile time for a VHF'er. First, you get the friendship and discussion with VHF'ers from all across the nation. Interesting presentations broaden and deepen your knowledge about VHF topics such as propagation, antennas, operating modes/skills, and new circuits. There is also a morning on the antenna range testing and comparing antennas. Bring along your VHF antennas and see how they do against reference standards. Similarly, we'll have a noise figure table running where you can have your recent pre-amp projects measured and compared.

The conference will be held at the Four Points Sheraton near the Milwaukee Airport. Milwaukee, and all of Wisconsin for that matter, has much to offer in the summertime for vacationing. Our conference site is quite near Lake Michigan so temperatures should be reasonable. Consider making your trip to Milwaukee part of a longer vacation to the upper Midwest. The website and our mailings will have tourism ideas.

Mailings will go out in mid-February to any member in the past three years. In addition, many VHF'ers throughout the upper Midwest will be sent a mailing encouraging their attendance. This first mailing will give you all the detail available at this time in an effort to encourage YOU to attend. The registration mailing will go out in May and it will have the specifics on registration, lodging and travel. Continue to watch <http://www.csvhfs.org/CSVHF02.HTML> for details too.

We are inviting any and all Rovers to bring their entire stations to be part of our "Rover Pen". They will all be available for viewing during the antenna range time.

Call for Papers and Presentations

The Central States VHF Society will be holding it's 36th Annual Conference this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It will be held at the Sheraton Four Points on July 26-28, 2002.

As the Technical Program Chairman this year, I would like to invite interested authors to present a paper for the Conference.

Any topic related to weak-signal VHF operation is welcome, but if you need one, here are some suggestions:

- Practical omni-directional antenna designs (Alford slots, Loops, others)
- 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 it 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
- PCB Construction Techniques
- EME with small dishes

If you are interested in writing and/or presenting a paper for the 2002 Conference, please send me an email at n8kwx@csvhfs.org. Or write to:

Marc Holdwick
PO Box 6051
Buffalo Grove, IL, 60089

Papers are welcome in either paper or electronic format, but will be required by May 5, 2002 to be included in the Proceedings. Please contact me as soon as possible with an abstract or even a general idea. This will help the Conference team with its planning activities. Thanks & 73! Marc – N8KWX

2001 What a UHF Year!

by Ron Ochu, KOØZ

Shortly after returning from the Dallas CSVHF Society conference one of the biggest (at least for me) Midwest tropo openings occurred on August fifth and sixth.

August fifth found me spending the evening and early morning hours working a number of stations on fast

scan amateur television. Most of the activity was on 439.25 MHz with TV talkback on 144.34 MHz. What made this opening so spectacular for me was that from the St. Louis area I was finally able to work the Kansas City area when I put Mike, KD0FW in the logbook. Interestingly enough, just 90 miles to my east, the ops in Mt. Vernon, IL can regularly work KC but St. Louis rarely gets a westward opening. Soon after putting Mike in the logbook, Chicago came through and KB9PWQ was now in my log. What a great night indeed!

However, the very next evening proved to be even better on 432 MHz sideband! The same dome of high pressure allowed me to get new grids all the way from WI to IL. Two nights in a row - it doesn't get much better than that. Or does it?

Along came the night of November 18 and the Leonid meteor shower. Suddenly 144.200 came alive with activity! This was my first time ever to work a meteor shower and I was glued to my rig for the entire evening. Fortunately it was a weekend so I was able to grab some shut-eye after the event. Stations from the entire east coast filled the airwaves!

Somewhere amongst all this VHF/UHF activity there were not one but two auroral openings and in my excitement I actually forgot to log some of the QSOs!

Perhaps with a little luck 2002 will be just as fun. I'm looking forward to Milwaukee!

73 es gud DXing! Ron, KOØZ

CSVHFS Life Membership

Life Memberships are available for \$125.00. Contact w9fz@ix.netcom.com for mailing address and details. You get a nametag, a certificate, and the joy of contributing to the society's longevity, and the freedom from submitting \$5 each year.

Life Members: this coming May, when you get your registration documents, there will be a place to "check" if you are a Life Member and thereby skip the \$5 annual membership fee. Also, concerning nametags, if your Callsign changes, you need a replacement, or you would like a nametag that doesn't have a (charter life member) "number" on it, a new one can be obtained. Just contact W9FZ and work out the details with him. Cost will be about \$15 delivered.

States Above 50 MHz Award Program 2002 In Progress

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.

I have heard from each of last year's two top finishers and both are continuing to use the program as a motivator for their VHF activity. Each reports astounding numbers—and we still have 4.5 months to go! I know the Northern Lights Radio Society is again using the program for increased local activity. Have your local group use the program as well.

See the website at <http://www.csvhfs.org/> for details on this program and its historical records. This program helps encourage or motivate activity on our VHF+ bands by causing you to collect "states" each year. The program runs July 1 to June 30 of each year.

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.

-- Tidbits --

++ George Fremin III, K5TR brought to my attention an interesting site about the HC8N operation from the Galapagos about a year ago. Pictures, details and even sound files! Point your browser to: <http://www.tcnc.com/hc8n-6m-nov2001/> George also shares a logpage of a great day on 6m. That's something many of you had during the past year. You can look at his log (and maybe drool) at: http://www.kkn.net/~k5tr/blanco/k5tr_6m.html .

++ Robert, WØOLD, has put up a web page all about "my efforts in converting big TVRO dishes to ham radio use. Somewhere along the way it grew and grew and now covers all kinds of hints for amateurs using dish antennas." It's viewable at: <http://www.ultimatecharger.com/dish.html>

++ Al Katz, K2UYH, publishes a newsletter all about EME. He's been publishing his newsletter for 30 years!!! You can get on a distribution by contacting him, but you can view past issues by visiting: <http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html>

++ Bob, VE3BTG, reports: "I have not been on the air as much as I have wanted, but did get a chance to try out my new Yaesu FT817 radio on Dec.27/01. My first contacts with it were on 6m to GI6ATZ where I received a 53, and then shortly after with GI0TC where I received a 55. I did not tell either station how much power I was running til after I received my signal report. Needless to say, both were quite impressed

with the 5 Watts. I have yet to even test this radio for actual output power, but so far I am quite impressed with it; to the extent that I have started a separate logbook just for that radio. The big test will be to see how it performs with the 903MHz and 1296MHz transverters in the January contest. That's it from FN04."

++ Lance, W7GJ, sent along a pointer to his fine site detailing his efforts to put up a 6m EME array. The site is well organized and detailed—you'll get some good ideas there. And his project is amazing! Take a look at: <http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/6mEME.htm>

++ Lloyd, NE8I, reports "NE8I/BCN EN82jm is up and running on 432.310 +/- drift. 10W to a 2 wavelength NBS yagi at 40 feet, aimed at Chicagoland. Eventually, will use a set of stacked big wheels. Subject to changes without notice. Still working on the 10 GHz Beacon. Running in my back yard at this moment. 10.368.275 +/- drift, running F1. Because of the 3ft antenna elevation, it does not get out very far. The 903 beacon is close to operational also." Also, " Just to let anyone interested know, took advantage of the 45+ degree F weather today, and climbed the tower and put up the 10 GHz beacon. This is a temporary site. Same site as the 432 etc beacon. It was very windy. In the spring (guestimate), it will be moving. Plus there will be some other running changes, location, antenna, and power amp. I have been running this beacon in a test mode, on my back porch for the last couple+ months. Seems to be working and holding up fine. Everything is subject to sudden change without any notice.

Frequency: 10.368.275 GHz +/- drift, temp etc Mode: F1 CW offset aprox 10 KHz offset mark/space. Call NE8I/BCN sequence has a long carrier and pause for preamp work, based on my convenience. (WW2R PIC Keyer.) Location: EN82em, eg Birmingham Michigan, SE Michigan. This is a temporary location, it will be changing. Power: 200 mW measured at antenna feed. 1W amp is in the works. Antenna gain rated at +10dB gain. EG current ERP is roughly 2W ERP. (Best guestimate) DB6NT beacon unit. (TKS SSB Electronics USA K3MKZ) Antenna: slotted array at 40 ft. (TKS KMEC WA3ZKR) Site elevation: 740 ft ASL. (Antenna at 780 ft ASL)

Right now, based on initial tests this afternoon, typical dead band conditions, the useable range appears to be about 40 odd miles.

At this time, there are no special QSL's available for SWL reports. However, in the future, this is a possibility. Any comments, SWL reports, observations, propagation notes should be directed to me."

++ Charlie Calhoun, K5TTT, is the Oklahoma Section Manager. He points out that the OK QSO Party is on March 22nd/23rd. There IS a VHF category, so if you need a reason to get on and check the bands, look for

this contest. More details are at: <http://members.home.net/arri-ok/> and then click on the QSO party tab.

++ Joe Lynch, N6CL, is the new editor of CQ-VHF, which is returning to publication. No website yet, but be on the lookout for it. Kent Britain, WA5VJB will likely have a column.

For Sale

2001 CSVHFS Proceedings—get your proceedings directly from the CSVHFS and help us turn an asset into cash. Cover price is \$20, but if you ship \$20 to Treasurer, W9FZ, you get your proceedings and it includes mailing fee to stateside. 11 copies remain—come get them.

Classy CSVHFS Polo shirts. These great shirts are visible on the web at: <http://www.csvhfs.org/CSVHFSRT.HTML> . They are of great material and are at great prices (for CSVHFS members). We've got plenty of all four sizes: XXL, XL, L, and M. Buy these shirts!!! Price is \$15 for XL, L, and M and \$17.50 for XXL. Shipping is \$3.50 for one and \$5.20 for two.

Wally, WØPHD, reports the following items of recently deceased WØEUQ are still available: 6 and 2 meter DEM transverters, and a 1296 loop yagi. Asking \$200 for each of the transverters, or both for \$300 and the loop yagi 1/2 price of new. Plus shipping for all items. Contact WØPHD for these. He also has his own KLM 1296 to 2 transverter that is no longer needed. He believes the 1296 transverter puts out 10 watts no reasonable offer refused it was \$475 new....
w0phd@wiktel.com

SETI League News

The Seti-League's on going EME Beacon project can be followed at: www.setileague.org/eme and their Array2k project can be followed at: www.setileague.org/array2k

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/> .

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