

The North Shore Radio Club

TRANSMITTER

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Antennas, Antennas, and Yes, More Antennas!

Mike Anderson, WV7T

Don't miss the next club meeting! This will be your last opportunity to see Dr. Michael Anderson, Professor of Antennology, Varmintville University, in his best form! With his motto "If it's metal, it'll radiate", and armed with the best of guesswork, information, and delightful humor, this will surely be the presentation of the year. Many examples of simple, homemade antennas will be on display for real-time examination. There will be time for questions for Prof. Anderson, but it will be your job to figure out the response. So if you miss this one you will be depressed and turn into a recluse for the rest of your life...SO DON'T MISS IT!

President's Notes

Jerry S. Weiss, WB9MRI

I took a moment during Dr. Suzanne L. Epstein's intriguing presentation of "A Chicago World's Fair To Remember" and tried to imagine myself as someone living during the very late 1800's and being involved in the rise of the industrial revolution. I looked at and listened objectively to all the art and technology as Suzanne wove each layer of her story. I don't think I could have predicted the course any of the technologies presented at the World Columbian Exposition of 1893, or developed shortly thereafter over the course of the next few decades. Suzanne's talk and slides demonstrated to me how important the art, culture and packaging play in bringing technology to the people. As we continue our efforts to popularize amateur radio, we need to remember this important lesson.

World's Fairs also try to offer a future full of promise and hope, but as for-

tune tellers, they have spotty records. I was nine years old during the New York World's fair of 1964 and a few memories still stand out. One was the excitement of trying out the video phones and naively thinking we'd have one in our house "real soon". I also recall a Japanese company that had a small (articulated?) space capsule that allowed you to simulate a space launch and try to reach a high altitude on a CRT screen. I think the computer was entirely analog and if I substitute "score" for "altitude" I sometimes wonder if I played one of the first computer space games. I have many space flight games on my home computer now, but nothing like a video phone has crossed the home threshold yet.

I think there's a World's Fair in Spain this year, but it has gone largely unnoticed because it has been replaced by the Internet. All that is hot (and much that's not) can be found here in some form. For those of you that haven't tried the web and for those of you already hooked, here's another inducement. Mark, N9RFX has established himself as an ISP (Internet service provider) in the area with a variety of services called "Family Safe Internet". This business is not connected the North Shore Radio Club, Inc. Mark has offered to donate \$1.00 per month to the club for each club member who signs up for a personal dial-up account paid by credit card and kept in good standing. If you are interested, please contact Mark at (847) 753-6830 or info@family-safe.net for the exact costs and offer details. I think this a good opportunity to surf the web inexpensively and help the club at the same time. I'll use it as a family account separate from my business (ahem) activities.

Jacob, KF9ZF, has been updating the



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Marine Distress and Safety System Operator and Maintainer, and just recently did the same for the U.S. Power Squadron Boat Smart course. This is not a bragging exercise. Getting the licenses was the evidence that I cared enough to learn the material, and not memorize the answers to the questions. What more motivation does it take than wanting to learn something worth knowing?

On May 27, 1998, we held a VE session and gave tests to seven candidates. Three of them upgraded and two others earned element credit for future licenses. Susanne Younce of Island Lake became a new ham with a Technician License. Bill Bowe of Northbrook, IL became a Novice class ham. Bill's son Andy, KB9PJS, passed the 5 wpm code test and upgraded to Tech Plus. Andy is no stranger to our repeater, and should have a wonderful time on 10 meters, as the DX years reopen there. Also, I expect him to be pounding a brass key on the other CW HF bands where he is allowed to operate. Jennifer Chaput of Deerfield, IL, daughter of our packet radio BBS sysop John, KA9REN, earned element credit, as did Joe Smoley of Wilmette, IL. Jennifer will become the seventh (count 'em, 7) ham in her family when she completes the licensing process. Congratulations to all!

Kudos also go to the magnificent VE crew on board that night. Mike Anderson, WV7T, Bob Miller, N9MU, Fred Levinson, KF9YL, Ken Miller, KW9I, Anne Miller, AA9GD, and new additions to our examiner staff Irv Hazard, AA9QD, and Marc Schneider, W4NVY. The very heroic stories of Andy and Bill Bowe passing CW tests together and many other great tales of the testing program would not have been possible without the generous contributions of time and energy of our Volunteer Examiners.

Cellular Phones to Replace Ham Radio on Circus Train

Ed Collins, KC9RL

Wisconsin's famous Circus Train will chug its way from Baraboo to Milwaukee July 27-28, but for the first time in

32 years ham radio won't be on board. The train's sponsor has decided to replace ham radio with cellular telephone service to free up more coach passenger space for dignitaries.

As reported by The ARRL Letter, Circus World Museum, of Baraboo, sponsor of the annual colorful circus wagon train ride and the Great Circus Parade, recently notified Milwaukee ARES members that their services are no longer needed.

This year Wisconsin is celebrating its sesquicentennial (150th) founding of the state and numerous tourism events are planned to celebrate the occasion. Riding the Circus Train has always been popular with celebrities and political dignitaries, but will be even more so this year since the National Governor's Association will be meeting in Milwaukee about the time of the Circus Train and Great Circus Parade on August 2.

Over the years, Wisconsin hams have proved to be excellent good-will ambassadors for their state's tourism efforts, so the Museum's abrupt decision caught the hams by surprise. Operators such as Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, looked forward to operating on the train each summer and rubbing elbows with the VIP's on board. "It was fun and great PR for both ham radio and the Museum," he said.

Hams operating HF and VHF on board the circus train usually averaged about 225 special event contacts, along with routine logistical traffic. When they weren't operating they were answering questions from inquisitive guests. Once the train arrived in Milwaukee, hams would then assist with the logistics of the Great Circus Parade, always a major visitor attraction for the City of Milwaukee.

Wisconsin's rich circus history goes back even before statehood. In 1847 the E.F. Mabie & Co Show moved its winter quarters from New York State to Delavan, Wisc. Others soon followed, including Ringling in 1884. For 34 years Baraboo was home to the Ringling Brothers Circus. The Circus World Museum, owned by the State

License Expirations

Greg Stehling, K4JYV

After a quick search through the FCC database, please be advised that the following hams licenses have expired: KC9RP on 2/2/98 and W8LVN on 5/31/98. Please do what you can to notify these hams as the FCC requires a current license for transmission privileges.