



# MARC NEWS

March  
2023

Maury Amateur Radio Club Box 1871 Columbia, TN 38402 e-mail w4ggm@qsl.net

## *from the president...*

March certainly came in "roaring like a lion" this year. On March 3rd we saw storms and heavy winds pass through the area with many reports of trees and power lines down. Hopefully everyone was able to stay safe and your antennas came through it all undamaged!

I have a ham related project that was going to require a Raspberry Pi computer. As you may be aware, chip shortages have made the Raspberrys hard to get (and nearly 2x the price when you do find one). I found an alternative mini computer called the Inovato Quadra (<https://www.inovato.com>) that is available and considerably cheaper at \$34.95 each. I have ordered one and I will hopefully have a review in next month's newsletter.

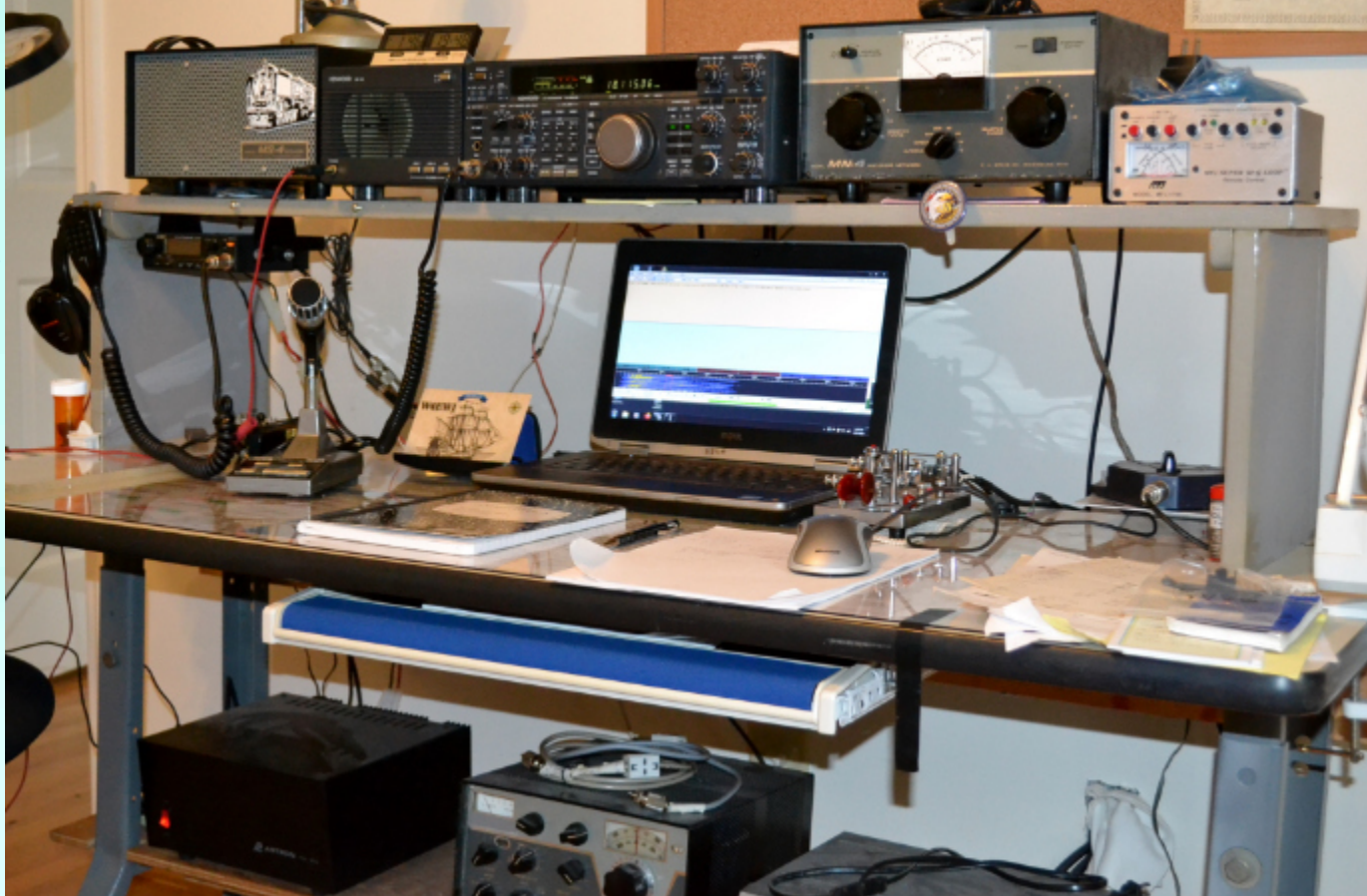
Our February Club Breakfast was held at Katiepie and Sons Restaurant and the food was fantastic! I highly recommend that you go by there and check it out. For the March Club Breakfast we will be going back to Farmer's Family Restaurant (on Trotwood next to Food Lion) on March 25th starting at 8AM. At the February Club Meeting, Bob K4HRK graciously donated one of his breakout boxes to the club to be given away. So the plan is to hold a drawing for it at the March Club Breakfast. You must be present to win!

For the March Club Meeting, we will be back at La Fuente Restaurant. As usual, we will start eating around 5:30 PM and the meeting will start at 7PM.

Club Dues time is almost upon us. Everyone's annual dues are due at the same time (April 1st). There is a "Join/Pay Dues" link on the front page of the club website where you can pay online, you can mail a check to our PO box, or pay any of the officers directly at any club event. Your dues go directly to supporting the club and covering expenses such as repeater maintenance and repairs, Field Day, and operating costs.

The most important part of any amateur radio club are the Members. YOU are what makes MARC one of the best ham clubs around! THANK YOU for your continued participation and support. This is YOUR club and I always welcome your input.



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# MARCH 2023

Sunday   Monday   Tuesday   Wednesday   Thursday   Friday   Saturday

*Send in your shack  
picture for next month's  
calendar [k4bx@arrl.net](mailto:k4bx@arrl.net)*

			1	2 8PM MARC Club Net	3	4
5 ARES Net 8:30 PM	6 MTEARS Net 8PM	7 Newbie Net 8 PM	8	9 8PM MARC Club Net	10	11
12 ARES Net 8:30 PM	13 MTEARS Net 8PM	14 Club Meeting at LaFuente	15	16 8PM MARC Club Net	17	18
19 ARES Net 8:30 PM	20 MTEARS Net 8PM	21 Newbie Net 8 PM	22	23 8PM MARC Club Net	24	25 Club Breakfast 8AM at Farmers
26 ARES Net 8:30 PM	27 MTEARS Net 8PM	28 Newbie Net 8 PM	29	30 8PM MARC Club Net	31	

# February's Meeting Minutes

Meeting at:

Maury County Office of Emergency Management  
with an

18:00 Presentation by Maury County Office of  
Emergency Management

18:20 Meeting starts

19:33 Pizza & presentations

Meeting called to order at 18:20 by Joe Pres,  
N4JW.

In Attendance: 18 in person & 4 Zoom.

Accept last months minutes as published in newsletter:

Motion to accept: Rick K4PKA

2nd: Everett WA2BHS

passes

Financial Report By Paula KK4WVO

Ending Balance 27 December 2022: \$3,382.26

Additions (27 Dec – 27 Jan 2023) \$ 0.00

Subtractions (27 Dec – 27 Jan 2023) \$ 79.00 (Monthly  
Storage - \$8 Increase)

Ending Balance 27 January 2023: \$3,303.26

This was also in last months minutes. This brings up to  
current. February 27th would normally be presented at the  
March meeting.

New Motions: None

Announcements/News:

> In search of new VE testing facility. If you know of anyplace  
contact Paul WB0CJB.

> Dues are due April 1st.

> Four Days In May <http://www.qrparci.org/fdim/>

Motion to adjourn: Rick K4PKA

2nd: Everett WA2BHS

Meeting adjourned at 18:33.

Presentations by Bob K4HRK -Patch Panel

and Everett WA2BHS - Weather Balloons

73, KK4FHS



**MARCH MEETING AT LaFUENTE**  
**MARCH BREAKFAST AT FARMERS**

# ***Upcoming Tennessee Hamfests***

***The MTARS Tullahoma hamfest*** is on March 11 at the First United Methodist Church on West Lauderdale Street in Tullahoma. For more information, please visit <http://qsl.net/mtars>

***The Sevier County Amateur Radio Society Hamfest*** will be on March 18 at the Sevier County Fairgrounds on Old Knoxville Highway in Sevierville. For more information, please visit <https://seviercountyars.com>

***The Greeneville Hamfest***, sponsored by the Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club, will be on April 15 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Greeneville. For more information, please visit <http://greenevillehamfest.com/>

## ***How can I pay my club dues?***



**ONLINE:** You can pay your dues (\$25) online by going to <https://www.hamclubonline.com/>. You will see a link to pay your dues.

**IN PERSON** at any club meeting or gathering.

**BY MAIL:** If you can not attend a meeting to pay yours dues, you can just mail them to the Club P. O. Box

M.A.R.C.  
Box 1871  
Columbia TN 38402

# *Bouvet Island DXpedition Wraps Up*

The 3Y0J activation of Bouvet Island has finished. The team concluded operations at 3:00 UTC on February 14, 2023, with around 19,000 contacts logged.

The team has boarded the S/V Marama and began their journey to Cape Town, South Africa. They expect to arrive by February 23.

Photos uploaded to social media by Steve Haas, N2AJ, the team's Media Officer, show the harsh reality of the operating environment. The crew operated in tents, with radios and equipment stacked on buckets.

Team Co-Leader Kenneth Opskar, LA7GIA, took to Facebook to tell a bit of their story. His post highlights the physical and technical challenges the team faced. "Pileup was difficult as our signals were weak. We had good reception and very often we called 3 to 5 times to log a QSO. Many DXers called but couldn't hear us, "how frustrating," he wrote "We focused on fewer bands to maximize [all time new ones], and looking at the stats, we achieved 19,000 QSOs and 50% unique calls. And many dupes! Many are satisfied, but some are also disappointed by the performance of either the team or the DQRMers."

In response to some posts on social media questioning the methods and tactics the team used, Opskar continued, "As for Bouvet, there is no guarantee at all, whether you use two helicopters or zodiac! [We wanted] to make more contacts, but safety was and will always be more important than trying to push our limits in a risky environment."

The effort was one of the most expensive DXpeditions of all time. The team raised \$715,000 through donations and sponsorships, with each operator contributing a large sum to participate. The original plan was to operate for 22 days on the island. They had set a goal of 200,000 QSOs and hoped to operate up to 12 stations at once, across modes and bands.

As Opskar referenced, getting the equipment onto the island by boat proved to be a logistical challenge. "During the second day we got some supplies in a risky zodiac operation in high swell. We lost several objects in the surf and punctured the zodiac. The conditions on the beach were terrible. Due to the coming storm, we evacuated back to [the] Marama on day 4. Despite this, we decided to scale down [the] DXpedition... We could not fight against Bouvet, but [we] had to adjust to the weather and go ashore when Bouvet allowed us," the post said.

Without the planned kit, the team was largely limited to two radios at once. The only location on the island that was safe to set up camp had a large terrain feature in the direct path toward the east coast of the United States. With antennas limited to wire dipoles, power limited to the transceivers' rated output, and a massive rock in the short path to much of North America, operations were hindered.

Bouvet Island has long been number two on Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted list, right behind North Korea. Previous excursions to the remote island have also faced operational challenges. Antarctic weather, dangerous ice, and rough terrain prevent it from being an easy activation.

Pictures: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10167150151855534&set=pcb.4670021919788972>



# **Ham Radio School** <https://www.hamradioschool.com/>

While listening to a QSOtoday podcast while out on my walk this morning I heard mention of *Ham Radio School*. It's another place to study for your Technician or General exam and this one sure sounded great. The two main study guides are from Gordon West and the ARRL and they both have a different approach to passing the test. It's said that Gordon West is more into memorizing answers and the ARRL is more into learning the theory. The *Ham Radio School* method is said to be the best of both worlds.

MY best reason for writing about *Ham Radio School* is that the web site is full of great articles and info. AS for the courses, they are not free but they will let you try 4 lessons to see if it's for you. At the very least, check out the articles page and I'll bet you'll check out some of the subjects.

## ***Upcoming VE Exam sessions***

### ***Murfreesboro***

*03/11/2023*

*Sponsor: Stones River Amt Club*

*Date: Mar 11 2023*

*Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)*

*Contact: David R. Wilson  
(615) 579-3177*

*Email: [david@wwns.com](mailto:david@wwns.com)*

*Location: Rutherford County  
EOC  
1220 W College St  
Murfreesboro TN 37129*

### ***Tullahoma***

*03/11/2023*

*Sponsor: MTARS Hamfest*

*Date: Mar 11 2023*

*Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)*

*Contact: Richard G. Claing  
(860) 205-5906*

*Email: [w1rgc@arrrl.net](mailto:w1rgc@arrrl.net)*

*Location: First United Methodist  
Church  
208 W Lauderdale St  
Tullahoma TN 37388-3366*

# Field Day 2023

There was an announcement at the February meeting about FD and that I was in charge of FD. I want to clear this up.

I stepped down as FD coordinator last year at the end of FD. After heading up FD for over 30+ years with various clubs it was time to pass the position to someone else.

Last fall the paperwork should have been turned in to reserve the pavilion for FD 2023 as the park requires an 8-12 month timeframe. There was talk of wanting to do FD at the EMA. The next FD coordinator should have done this. With only 4 ½ months before FD I don't know if the pavilion would be available.

Whoever wants to take over the FD coordinator position can do so. I know I was supposed to meet with a couple of people about taking over FD. But illness, holidays, and day-to-day obligations I haven't been able to. I can still meet with whoever wants to take over and give them the information on what they need to do in the remaining time. Unless the rules change drastically FD pretty much is the same. This year's FD informational packet should be available from the ARRL next month. You can print off a copy of the 2023 FD rules at <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/Field-Day-Rules.pdf>

In the event that no one picks up the position of FD coordinator this year may I suggest that everyone operate from home using commercial or emergency power. Given the heat, humidity, insects, and uncertainty of good weather operating from home would be beneficial to those who are older or unable to spend the entire weekend in the elements.

Alternately if a few people want to have an impromptu FD with RVs, and set up in a field or park or other site that would be Ok. If you have participated in FD you



pretty much know what to do as far as operating in FD entails. Setting up antennas would be a challenge if there are no trees. Power could be either be gas powered generators or solar panel/battery as we have done in the past few FDs. Things like what the group does for meals, sleep and operating schedules, and who brings what radio and antenna are things that need to be considered. But operating this way is closer to an actual emergency or disaster such as a tornado.

Anyone who has participated in past FDs with the club knows what is involved and what needs to be done. No two FD are alike and each year things do crop up. Murphy always likes to throw a monkey wrench in the mix. In the past 3 years the club has overcome several obstacles, such as interstation QRM, and last year's effort was our best operation by far.

For those of you who are new to ham radio and have not participated in FD get with one of the other club members and operate from their home. Several clubs in the area such as Williamson County and Marshall County have set up FD operations. I'm sure they would be happy to have you join them and participate in FD, both setting up/tearing down as well as operating.

Contact me if you want to learn more about the position and what to do for FD. I can be reached at 765-635-8915 or [wb0cjb@hotmail.com](mailto:wb0cjb@hotmail.com) or on the repeater.

73 Paul WB0CJB



## Telewave 500watt 20-1000 MHz Model 44AP

**Wattmeter** for sale or trade. It is in excellent condition with case and documentation. Any one interested can text me @ 615-300-4734. Specs at <https://www.tessco.com/product/wattmeter-w-n-connector-tap-36103>

Keith KQ4FXD Culleoka



## Autek WM1 computing

**SWR/Power meter**. The Autek Research WM1 automatically computes SWR without adjustments or cross needles. It operates from 1 to 30 MHz with 1 to 2000 watts (1-100 watts from 31-54 MHz). The power range may be selected at 20, 200 or 2000 watts. It can be selected to read Peak or Average. The remote head is separated from the meter by a four foot wire. Includes manual and 12 VDC adapter that plugs in the rear.

\$50 OBO K4BX [k4bx@arrl.com](mailto:k4bx@arrl.com)



## 12 V Astron Power supplies

Astron Linear 20 amp surge/ 16 amp continuous power supply \$45.00

Astron Linear 12 amp surge / 9 amp continuous power supply \$35.00

Everett WB2BHS  
[wa2bhs38401@gmail.com](mailto:wa2bhs38401@gmail.com)  
cell 601 214 2975



## Ten Tec Rigs For Sale from Scott N4BBB [n4bbb@outlook.com](mailto:n4bbb@outlook.com)

Century 21 – 70w input, CW only, Analog	\$300
Triton IV Digital (544) w/262g Power Supply w Spkr, Vox	\$400
Corsair Original w/PS + Speaker, external VFO	\$575
ORION II/AT, 963 PS, All Roofing Filters - gorgeous condition	\$1,400

# KA4HBQ (SK) estate sale items: Effective 3-6-2023

Kenwood TS-480 transceiver	\$600
Jetstream JTPS31MB power supply	\$ 90
MFJ 464 Morse code reader	\$225
MFJ 461 pocket CW reader	\$90
MFJ 5166 keyer cable	\$ 15

## Morse code keys:

Vibroplex chrome straight key	\$180
Kent straight key (wood base)	\$110
Kent single paddle keyer	\$110
MFJ 564B iambic paddle	\$100

## Miscellaneous:

Tigertronics Signallink	\$ 90
Audio cables, adapters, coax	make offer
DX 80/40M off center fed antenna	\$25

All transactions are cash only. All equipment is in very good or excellent condition. If you are interested in an item please contact Paul WB0CJB at 765-635-8915 or Ed W4EWJ at 797-2556 and a date and time will be set for pickup.

A special thank you goes out to all of those who helped to take down Frank's antenna. Also thanks to Ed W4EWJ for assisting in inventory of the equipment and storage. Hazel (Frank's XYL) really appreciates everything that the club has done for Frank and our assistance in disposition of his equipment.

73 Paul WB0CJB

## VE Report January 2023

The MARC VE team conducted a test session January 21<sup>st</sup> with 4 people taking their ham test. The VEs present were K4JSS, KG4FNG, K4BX, W4EWJ, and WB0CJB.

The test results were:

## New Technicians:

Keith Herrington	KQ4FXD	Culleoka
Craig Wills	KQ4FWZ	Spring Hill
Wendell "Butch" Geng	KQ4FWR	Columbia

## Congratulations to you all!

The next MARC test session is scheduled for April 29th. The location will be announced at a later date, as well as what you need to bring to take your test.

VE testing will also be held at the Tullahoma hamfest. For more information go to [mtars-ham.org](http://mtars-ham.org) and click on the hamfest flyer.

73 Paul WB0CJB



# Stray Cats

Everett WABHS  
[wa2bhs38401@gmail.com](mailto:wa2bhs38401@gmail.com)



It has been a while since I have contributed anything to the newsletter. We have had a lot going on in our family and extended family. The last few months have seen friends and family sick, the death of a cousin, and another cousin now in hospice, In-laws with major surgeries. My mind has not been on Ham radio.

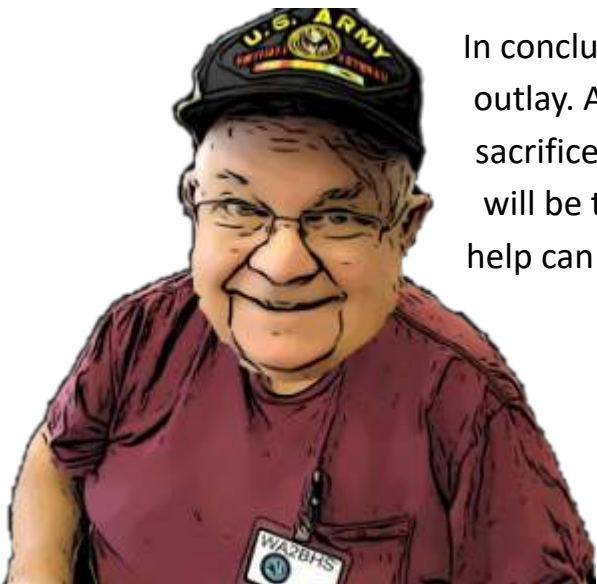
I have been playing with my new toy. It is a Ten-Tec Omni-D. When this model was new I could not afford it. I had an opportunity to purchase one from a local ham. It has a few quirks but still puts out 80 to 90 watts. It is a few 100hz off in frequency. But I can tune it to best voice clarity and have had minimal “your off frequency reports”. I can live with it and that is why they added “RIT” to transceivers. It has a tiny bit of drift but settles down after 15 minutes of warm up.

I have used it on nets and casual QSO's with very good signal and audio reports. CW has been fun. No reports of key clicks or chirping.

If you are a new ham, on a budget, or on a very meager retirement income like me, unable to purchase the newest and best HF transceiver a used one is a good option. I got my Omni-D with power supply for 200 dollars. Now if you decide to take this path I offer you these suggestions.

1. Buy from a local ham.
2. Ask them to put it on the air for you.
3. Have your ELMER go with you to see it.
4. Buy from a local Ham radio estate and again have your Elmer help.
5. If you buy from the internet, be careful. You will be ultimately responsible.

In conclusion you may be able to get on the air without a large outlay. An older radio can be just as fun as a new one but with the sacrifice of all the bells and whistles. Remember that other hams will be there to help you. Find a Ham radio club and join it. Much help can be found there.



*73 Everett WA2BHS*

# General Class Element 3 Question Pool Effective July 1

The NCVEC Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the latest errata for the 2023 – 2027 General Element 3 question pool, which goes into effect on July 1, 2023. Nine questions were modified (G1B01, G1C01, G1C02, G5C02, G7C10, G9B05, G9C09, G9D09, and G9D10) and two questions (G9C06 and G9D13) were withdrawn from use.

The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. These changes are reflected in the new General Pool download file dated February 1, 2023. <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>

## How to print a copy of your FCC License by Jim, KV4SJ

To access an official copy of your license:

1. Go to:

<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>

2. Log in with your FRN and password. (Also has links to find or get your FRN.)

3. Click on “Download Electronic Authorizations” in the links on the left hand side.

4. Select your call sign in the box labeled “My Authorizations” and click on the Add button to copy it into the “Authorizations to Download” box.

5. Click on the Download button to download an official copy of your license in PDF format. This is the official version you need for your wallet card and to display in your station. The reference copy does not satisfy the legal requirements.

## Comment from WA2BHS

On 3 March 2023 we had a high wind event in Columbia and on my way home from Food lion, I noticed that a power pole had broken at its base and was hanging at a 45 degree angle. I pulled over and called W4WRR to report it to him and he relayed the info to the county EOC. Within three hours a CPWS crew was out replacing the pole. This is a good example of how valuable Ham Radio is in a weather situation. This also shows the value of operators like W4WRR acting as net control of the weather net.

73 Ev WA2BHS



# Ramblings for the editor...

## ***Do ya believe everything you read or hear?***

My favorite QST column was the *Doctor is In* which has been replaced by *ASK Dave* on page 53. A person asked if he could work DX with a 20 watt Xiegu G90 and a G5RV JR antenna. I think Dave misunderstood his question. He was asking if he could work DX with what he had... . Instead I think Dave was telling him a better rig, more power and a tower and yagi was the way to go. I think the answer should have been YES, you can work DX with 20 watts and a wire antenna and many do. Sure, it will take more patience especially when trying to work a station that has a pileup calling him. I sure hope the guy didn't give up ham radio after reading Dave's answer. Maybe he couldn't afford an IC-7300 or TS-590 and a 50 foot tower and Yagi.

OK... I'm old and getting cranky! But look at your QST (if you get it) and check out his answer. Then, after you think I'm wrong go a few more pages to the article on page 57 and see what this guy works with a 3 foot loop antenna and 15 watts on his apartment balcony. Someone need to tell this guy he can't work DX with low power and without a tower and a big beam!

Jerry Brown N4EO told me once that you could hear stations on a yagi that you won't hear on a wire antenna. Yes, I don't believe everything I hear, ha ha. A few years back I was playing in a RTTY contest and ran across Jim Hall AD4EB on 20 meters. I listened to him for a while and he was working European stations one after another and never asking for a repeat. He lives just a few miles from me and I could not hear a single one of the stations he was working. I was stupid not believing Jerry.

I do work those stations that Jim AD4EB was working but I have to wait for better propagation to just hear them. Working DX has a lot to do with the DX station... as an example I looked up 9A1A since I work it in every contest. It is a super contesting station and if you look at their antennas, you will realize why they can hear you. If they were running 100 watts and a wire antenna like I am, I'm sure they wouldn't be in my log 64 times. Ya gotta love these super stations!

I can't remember what I had for lunch yesterday or what the Wordle word was this morning, but I remember years ago before computers working a Russian in all the contests. I can't remember the callsign but I remember once he was kinda weak and I thought he'd never answer me. I gave him a call anyway and was shocked when he came right back to

me, thinking he was running who knows how much power and was weak... he'll never hear me. Makes me wonder what his antenna setup was. Maybe it was the KGB Club Station, ha ha.

## ***Bouvet Island Dxpedition...***

It's a bummer that after over half a millions dollars to put off the operation it didn't work out. I haven't read the story yet but I'm guessing it was the extreme weather that caused their early departure. From what I've read, they did manage to get 2 stations on the air. I was waiting for them to get setup on FT8 but I guess that never happened. I think it was there 2<sup>nd</sup> ady there that someone posted they were on 10 meter FT8 and I checked the frequency. The waterfall was solid with who know how many people calling they over and over without even hearing them. It was shamefull to say the least. Even seen people calling CQ as well as calling on the bottom of the waterfall were Bouvet would be transmitting. What a mess...

## ***Parks on the Air***

I'm still plugging away hunting for the POTA guys. I've worked 200 parks so far on CW and FT8. I just can't get over how busy these guys are. Sometimes on CW I try working one for half an hour and the number of guys calling at the same time is amazing.

## ***Coming next month***

I know what I'll be writing about next month. I have an Apple computer coming and that going to be quite a change from running Windows. I plan to use the MAC Mini for everything but will have a Windows box standing by for my favorite ham software I use for logging and contesting.

I'll probably be pulling out what little hair I have left, ha ha ha. But it'd always fun to have a new toy to play with. Besides... who said you can't teach an old dog (75) new tricks?

73 and how about writing what you've been up to for next month?? Bill K4BX  
[k4bx@arrl.net](mailto:k4bx@arrl.net)

