



# H C A R C R A G C H E W



## In This Issue

- Ω [Page 2](#)  
Blog from KB6NU
- Ω [Page 3](#)  
Hamfest Calendar  
DXpedition
- Ω [Page 4](#)  
Notes From The President  
CWirc
- Ω [Page 5](#)  
Coordinator's Corner
- Ω [Page 6](#)  
Titanic Anniversary

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HILLSDALE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Local Repeaters: 147.060 + 100 Hz 444.600 + 114.8 Hz

## ELECTRONICS IN THE NEWS MEDIA



The United Kingdom's postal service just issued a new set of six postage stamps commemorating 100 years since the adoption of S-O-S as the worldwide Morse code distress signal.

Around the turn of the 20th century, a general "all stations" call on the landline telegraph wire in England was "CQ." It preceded time signals and special notices and was eventually adopted by telegraph and cable stations all over the world. In 1904, the Marconi Company suggested the use of "CQD" for a distress signal. Although generally accepted to mean, "Come Quick Danger," that is not the case. It really meant "All stations, Distress."

At the second *Berlin Radiotelegraphic Conference* in 1906, the subject of a distress signal was again addressed. Considerable discussion ensued and finally SOS was adopted. The thinking was that three dots, three dashes and three dots could not be misinterpreted. It was to be sent together as one character.



Although the use of "SOS" was officially ratified in 1908, the use of "CQD" lingered for several more years, especially in Great Britain where it originated. It is well documented that the Titanic on its maiden voyage in 1912 first used "CQD" to call for help. Its first radio officer, Jack Phillips, sent "CQD" six times followed by the Titanic call letters, "MGY." Later, at a radio officer's suggestion, Phillips interspersed his calls with "SOS." The first recorded American use of "SOS" was in August of 1909.

Britain's Royal Mail printed over 30 million of the new 'Mayday - Rescue at Sea' commemorative series stamps. They became available on March 13, 2008.

Source W5YI

Related Story page 6

## No Electronics Magazines? Think Again

Many old-time ham radio operators grew up with magazines such as Popular Electronics, Electronics Illustrated, and Radio-Electronics. Sadly, these magazines are gone now, but there are still electronics magazines out there that can help you keep up with what's going on in electronics. These magazines are written for practicing electronics engineers, so many of the articles will not be relevant to amateur radio or written in such a way to be nearly incomprehensible to electronics hobbyists, but you can't beat the price. They're free!

The magazines I'm referring to are electronics engineering trade magazines. These magazines are sent out free to electronics engineers and others working in the industry, and are supported by the advertisers. You're not an electronics engineer? Don't worry. If you e-mail me, I'll tell you how you can qualify.

Let me give you an example of the good stuff you can find in these trade magazines. In the December 2007 issue of High Frequency Electronics ([www.highfrequencyelectronics.com](http://www.highfrequencyelectronics.com)), there is an article titled, "Quartz Crystal Basics." Written by an engineer for a manufacturer of crystals, crystal oscillators, and crystal filters, this article describes how crystals are made and gives some tips on designing your own crystal oscillators.

Also in this issue is the article, "Power Combiners, Impedance Transformers, and Directional Couplers." This is the first of a series of articles to discuss these circuits. Amateurs frequently use transmission line impedance transformers (think baluns) to match an antenna system to the 50-ohm output of a transceiver.

The new products section includes items on RF parts and test equipment, as well as book reviews. You probably will not be purchasing the new Boonton 9103 7.5 GHz Portable Spectrum Analyzer (\$11,000 and up), but you might be interested in the book RF Circuit Design (\$41 at Amazon).

As you can see, there's plenty of useful and interesting information in these trade magazines. In addition to High Frequency Electronics, you may also want to check out:

- RF Design ([www.rfdesign.com](http://www.rfdesign.com))
- Microwaves and RF ([www.mwrf.com](http://www.mwrf.com))
- EE Times ([www.eetimes.com](http://www.eetimes.com))
- EDN ([www.edn.com](http://www.edn.com))
- Test & Measurement World ([www.tmworl.com](http://www.tmworl.com), I used to write for this magazine)

If you don't care to sign up for the print version of the magazine, you can always visit their websites and sign up for their e-mail newsletters. These newsletters will keep you informed of new articles and product information on the websites. You can then choose which ones you want to read.

When he's not trying to get free subscriptions to electronics magazines, Dan blogs about ham radio ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)), teaches others about ham radio, and is working to set up an amateur radio station at the Hands-On Museum ([www.aahom.org](http://www.aahom.org)) in Ann Arbor, MI. You can e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

<p>April 19th 2008</p> <p>Milford Swap and Shop</p> <p>Milford Amateur Radio Club</p> <p><a href="http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk">http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk</a></p> <p><b>Talk-in:</b> 145.49 (PL 67), 146.52 backup</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Rose Moore, KC8NQJ</p> <p>1383 sylvan Drive</p> <p>Hartland, MI 48353</p> <p>Phone: 810-632-5174</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Highland, MI</p> <p>Milford High School</p> <p>2380 Milford Rd</p>	<p>April 20th 2008</p> <p>North Central Indiana Hamfest</p> <p>Grant County, Miami County, Blackford County &amp; Kokpmo ARC's</p> <p><a href="http://www.ncihamfest.com">http://www.ncihamfest.com</a></p> <p><b>Talk-in:</b> 147.345+</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> C.J. Sponaugle, N9LYY</p> <p>1631 Osage Drive South</p> <p>Kokomo, IN 46902</p> <p>Phone: 765-453-9256</p> <p>Email: n9lyy@arrl.net</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Peru , IN</p> <p>Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds</p> <p>Mexico Rd &amp; CR 200 North</p>	<p>May 3rd 2008</p> <p>Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club</p> <p><a href="http://www.wexaukeearc.org">http://www.wexaukeearc.org</a></p> <p><b>Talk-in:</b> 146.98 (No PL)</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Alton McConnell, NU8L</p> <p>PO Box 163</p> <p>Cadillac, MI 49601</p> <p>Phone: 231-862-3774</p> <p>Email: nu8l@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Cadillac, MI</p> <p>Cadillac Junior High School</p> <p>500 Chestnut Street</p>
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### DXpedition

#### 3B6FQ—Agalega Island, April 14th to the 17th



Rachid, 3B8FQ, has received a license for 3B6, and will activate Agalega Island, single op, for 48-72 hours, 14-17 April. The callsign will be 3B6FQ. This will be a working trip. Time will be shared with maintenance duties on the island, but Rachid will be as active as possible when not on duty. Operations will primarily be on SSB, with some CW, all bands 80-10M.

After two days transportation by boat, operations are expected to begin around 1830utc on 14/4/08. Equipment will be battery powered at 70W, with simple antennas. Suggested frequencies & last minute details will be announced prior to departure.

QSL via K5XK, 3B8FQ/3B6FQ QSL manager. 73,  
Ron Evans, K5XK

**HCARC  
HILLSDALE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**Next Meeting - April 17th —7 P.M.**

**Topic: Charlie Hinkle - Old Radio**

**NOTES FROM  
THE PRESIDENT**

**A L L H A M S W E L C O M E !**

Stay Tuned!

**W E E K L Y 2 M E T E R N E T H E L D E A C H  
M O N D A Y , 7 P . M . O N 1 4 7 . 0 6 0  
H I L L S D A L E R E P E A T E R , 1 0 0 H Z P L**

**2 N D M O N D A Y N E T D E S I G N A T E D  
A S A N E M E R G E N C Y T E S T N E T**

Meeting Every Third Thursday  
Room 130  
Hillsdale High School

**CWirc - Morse Code over the Internet**

Now you can send and receive morse code via the Internet thanks to **CWirc**, an X-Chat plugin for sending and receiving raw morse code over IRC. The website at <http://users.skynet.be/ppc/cwirc/> says:

CWirc is a plugin for the X-Chat IRC client to transmit raw morse code over the internet using IRC servers as reflectors. The transmitted morse code can be received in near real-time by other X-Chat clients with the CWirc plugin.

CWirc tries to emulate a standard amateur radio rig : it sends and receives morse over virtual channels, and it can listen to multiple senders transmitting on the same channel.

Morse code is keyed locally using a straight or iambic key connected to a serial port, or using the mouse buttons, and the sound is played through the soundcard, or through an external sounder.

Note that CWirc doesn't do any morse decoding : it simply transmits and receives morse code timing events. A standard IRC user on the same IRC channel you're transmitting morse on will only see coded lines when morse code is transmitted. Only other CWirc users can receive what you send.

**Source QRZ**

**VE News**

**New Technicians**

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8711 CONCORD RD  
JONESVILLE MI 49250

**KD8IEB**

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READING MI 49274-9682

**KD8IEC**

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12 WHITNEY ESTATES BLVD  
HILLSDALE MI 49242



# Coordinator's Corner



Hello to all ARES/RACES and Skywarn personnel. The first part of the year has been extremely busy for me, but things are beginning to slow down a little. We will be having an ARES meeting Saturday the 26th 10 a.m. @ Kroger's. Kroger's has offered a room for us to use in the past, so we are going to investigate this for future use.

On another note, Skywarn season is upon us. Quite a few members have either attended the Skywarn training in Branch or Hillsdale counties. So get your Skywarn procedures ready as we will go over this on the 2nd Monday net this month. Have your phone-tree posted by your phones also.

D-STAR : The District 1 D-Star project is moving right along. Recently at Emergency services we received a club call to be used on the D-Star repeaters. The way this system works, these callsigns are used to identify the system you are connected with. So, this callsign cannot be used otherwise. The equipment is still at the Livingston County EOC awaiting to be programmed and training to take place by each county EC's. Once this happens then more training will take place for all ARES/RACES members when the equipment arrives and is installed. Hopefully soon!

De KC8RYF

## Titanic Anniversary



**Ham radio operators to commemorate Titanic anniversary** - (News-Leader, Springfield, MO - April 1, 2008) - For the second year, ham radio operators around the world will participate in a special-event transmission to commemorate the 96th anniversary of the sinking of Titanic on April 12, 1912. The special event station will operate from the Titanic Museum in Branson using the special call sign, W0S. The "WS" stands for "White Star" - the name of the company that built the Titanic.

The museum contains a half scale Titanic. The 90-minute journey begins when passengers board the ship through an iceberg at the waters edge. Once inside the real Titanic story unfolds. Upon entry each guest is handed a boarding pass bearing the name of a Titanic passenger, the fate of whom is revealed on the Memorial Wall.

This year a group of 16 to 20 high school students, who recently passed their ham license exams, will travel from northeast Oklahoma to Branson and participate. The special event idea was developed by museum attraction co-owner, Mary Kellogg Joslyn, and Nixa ham radio operators Rich Vogt KB9YZE, Dave Beckler WA0SAP, Al Gallo WOERE and Rod Kittleman K0ADI.

*Source W5YI*