

VCARA

COMMUNICATIONS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

VERMILION COUNTY
W9M J L
AIR RADIO ASSN., INC.
DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association

Dec 2010



**Madison Kiser, daughter of Jim Kiser KB9AZA
Visits with Santa at Temple Plaza**



Join us at
The Old Ryan's Restaurant
Near Walmart
Danville, IL
Dec 13, 2010
7PM
Christmas Party



2010/2011 Officers

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VCARA CONNECTION

The Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association (VCARA), a group of Amateur Radio operators, interested and active in the service of the Amateur Radio service, publish a monthly newsletter, where members and officers can post information of interest to other members.

Our policy is to print and/or post only information that is related to Amateur Radio, and not items of a political or religious nature, unless it has an impact on Amateur Radio, such as antenna ordinances, etc.

If a member wishes to have printed a topic that is not Amateur Radio related, they can submit a copy to the club newsletter editor, any club officer, and the matter will be discussed and decided upon by the Board of Directors.

No PERSONAL attacks will be allowed.

Submissions are due on the last Friday of each month!!

Tuck's Thoughts



Time moves on. The holiday season is upon us. We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and now we are coming down the home stretch for Christmas and New Year's Day.

This year, we are going to have a Santa net on 20 meters. We will be using once again, the special event call sign of K9S. We recently used that call during the Parade of Lights in downtown Danville. Thanks to Dave KB9ZMF for heading up this event.

Our Christmas party this year will be held at Hibachi Bar and Grill. It is located at the old Ryan's Buffet, in the Walmart area. The time is at 7pm, on Dec 13th, and the cost is \$7.99 plus tax. This does not include drinks. My wife and I have eaten there, and we thought it was very good. Plenty to choose from.

Ham of the Year nominations are in. Please go to the Yahoo reflector to cast your vote.

Our January and February meetings will be held at Fire station #3, located at Griffin and English, in the 2nd floor training room.

Remember the various nets that occur on the club repeater each week. Sunday nites, we have the Vermilion County ARES net at 7pm. On Wednesday evenings at 7:30 we have the VCARA net, and on Fridays, we have the Late Night net at 9pm.

Jim, W9JUG is starting an Extra Class study sessions on Thursday evenings. Contact him for more info.

I consider all our ham radio operators a part of a community. There are times, just as a family, that there might be disagreements and yes, even squabbles. It happens, but it should be able to be remedied in an amicable manner. There is an old saying, you can agree to disagree, and still be friends.

In closing, I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Ham Radio.....not just a hobby.....

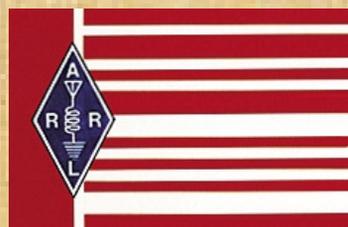
.....But a real service!!



Christmas Party
Monday Dec 13, 2010
7PM
Hibachi Grill and Buffet
 Old Ryan's Buffet Building
 Near Walmart
 Danville, Il



Tuck NF9T, receiving 3rd place award for the club's participation in the Labor Day Parade from the Vermilion County Federation of Labor.



Your help is needed!!

The newsletter received a few contributions this month, and we thank you!! The more articles we receive, the better for the newsletter and for you, the reader!!

I would love to see people who can write an article each month..maybe on constructing small indoor antennas for 2 meters, making your own antennas for not only VHF frequencies, but HF frequencies as well. Maybe step by step directions on installing connectors. Believe it or not, there are probably some newbies who might not know.

Send me articles in Word or text only, or make the pdf files a jpg file.

I can not convert pdf files back to text. Sorry.

Help out your newsletter!!! Deadline is the last Friday of every month!! 73.

Helping Others.....

.....Always Worthwhile.



Radioactive!!
Nets to you.....

Sunday ARES net 7pm 146.820 pl 88.5
 Monday ICARC 8:00 147.030 dup+ pl tone 103.5
 Wed. Night Net 7:30 146.820 pl 88.5
 Fridays: 73's Late Night Net 9:00 pm 146.820 pl 88.5

VCARA QSO Party
Every Saturday Morning!!
9:00 am - 11:00 am

VCARA Club House - Woodbury Hill

A weekly get together for fellowship and to work on various club projects. Continued planning for upgrades to the club house facility. All are welcome, your help is appreciated.

DX is GOOD!

By Don WA9EIC

I don't know if You noticed, but the sunspots have livened up the low bands.

The 10 meter band has been opening up again as it did a decade ago, all over the globe, and on relatively low power and modest antenna.

I frequent mostly 20 and 40 meters. I have NO directional antennas, I use wire antennas, homemade. (cheap hi hi) I do have a small linear amplifier which I will use if the frequency is crowded or signals are weak.

On 40 meters You can work Europe any evening and often hear and sometimes work Eastern Europe and Asian rim countries.

On 20 meters this occurs earlier in the day. Mostly You hear and work stations that are in the "grey line" or near it.

Our grey line opens us up to Europe, South America and sometimes the Indian ocean and South Pacific.

Oh well, I shouldn't have started to tell You where You will hear and work 'cause it'll be most anywhere on the Globe.

Last evening heard Mongolia for the first time in 30 years. Worked Mauricius, Brazil and Raoul Island. Some of the contacts are on SSB and some on CW.

Randy is working plenty of good DX running relatively low power on PSK31 and a wire antenna.

It don't take anything fancy, just an ear to the speaker and a little patience. Happy hunting and Happy Holidays. ...



Santa Net

On Friday evening, Dec 17th, the special event call sign K9S will be activated by the Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association. Start time will be approximately 6pm Central time, on 20 or 40 meters.



Photos on this page were taken at the Parade of Lights on Nov 18, in downtown Danville.