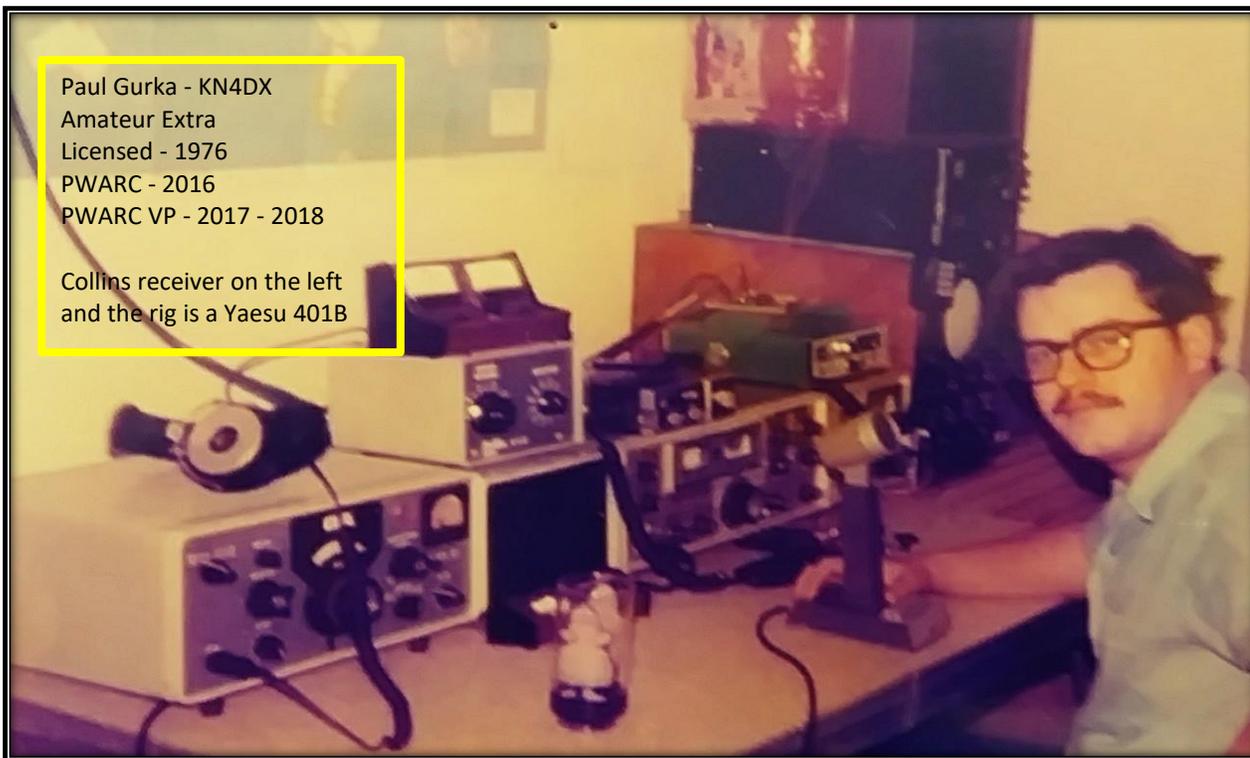


SPARKS

Newsletter Publication of
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club

May 2020



Paul Gurka - KN4DX
Amateur Extra
Licensed - 1976
PWARC - 2016
PWARC VP - 2017 - 2018

Collins receiver on the left
and the rig is a Yaesu 401B

In This Issue

First Cars ... Indy Cars ... Lightning ... QSL Cards

Colors chosen for May SPARKS are yellow, black and white.

Yellow symbolizes to use caution in auto racing, just as we are using caution during the pandemic.

Black and white symbolizes the checked flag as winners in auto racing ...
as we are all winners in PWARC.

YLs and OMs start your reading.

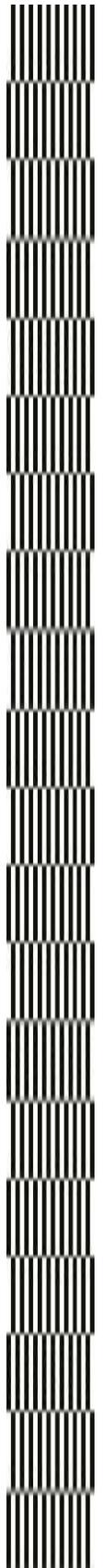


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President's Corner



Its May!

Isn't it great, warmer weather, propagation is improving, bands are opening up, weeds are starting to grow, lightning is coming with the afternoon storms all kidding aside, I am thrilled that the warmer weather is upon us. With all the virus woes, the cold weather and snow of the last month's weather was not helping my spirits to improve, but this warm weather and sunshine has been great.

I wanted to briefly remind everyone that with the warmer weather the risk of lightning strikes to our antennas increase, we need to remember to protect our investments of our electronics and our homes.

As well as having a dedicated lightning rod and ground system on my tower, I also have lightning arresters on my co-ax cable just prior to it entering my house. Despite having these precautions, I still make a habit of removing the co-ax from my radio after every use and placing the end into a heavy walled ceramic mug. By doing this I hope to minimize or eliminate the damage that a near or direct lightning strike would have on my equipment.

I hope that you all have some way of protecting your equipment. Perhaps we can discuss it one day on the morning connection net.

73
Scott - N0ELF

Board of Directors

President ... Scott Fanning N0ELF
 Vice President ... Dan Wantuck W00JW
 Secretary ... Rita McConnell NE0DB
 Treasurer ... Randy Linnen KE0GMS

Ex-officio ... Roger Ashcraft KE5CCJ
 Director ... Dan Broadbooks NG0T
 Director ... Dan Bassak N3CMG
 Director ... Jim McConnell NE0DA

Members In The News

RAGCHEW

April 4 Ragchew via Repeater 447-450

Dan - N3CMG	JJ - WR5E	David - KB0ZAO
Trina - KE0PIE	Steve - KB0SBN	Roger - KE5CCJ
Randy - KE0GMS	Paul - KN4DX	Scott - N0ELF
Roger - KE0BAP	Stan - N0OYO	Dwight - WB0HBT
Paul - KB0JIT	Rita - NE0DB	Dan - W00JW

April 18 General Meeting via Repeater 447-450 Attendees

Officers/Directors

Scott - N0ELF
 Dan - W00JW
 Rita - NE0DB
 Randy - KE0GMS
 Jim - NE0DA
 Roger - KE5CCJ
 Dan - N3CMG

Members

Frank - KB0FD
 Randy - KE0YEX
 Roger - KE0BAP
 Stan - N0OYO
 Trina - KE0PIE
 Carlyle - N0ARN
 Paul - KN4DX

Members

JJ - W5RE
 Steve - KD0SBN
 Phil - KE0JLD
 David - KD0ZAO
 Larry - K0LAB
 Paul - KB0JIT
 Neal - N1TEW

New Members

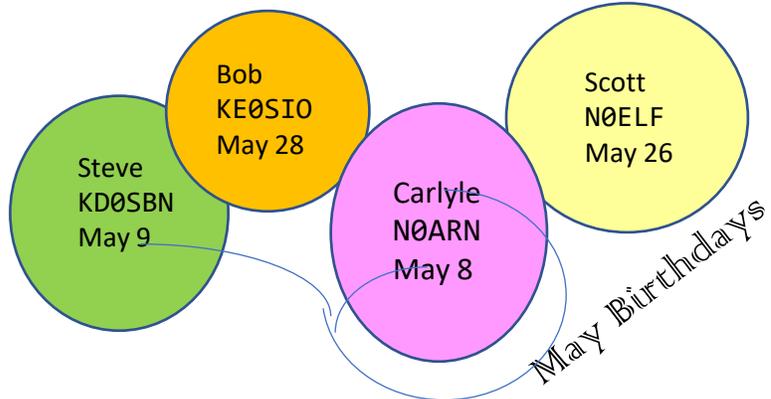
No new or renewing members.

VE Session Report

Cancelled until further notice.



In Memory
 Gene Vaerewyck's
 (K9HBR) wife,
 Janice died April 11,
 2020. Janice held a
 Technician License
 KC0UKU.



ARRL

As of April 30 2020, PWARC membership tally 49 voting members in good standing (dues paid). Of those, 30 members have memberships with ARRL ... equates to 61%.

Thank you, David KB0ZAO for joining ARRL to bring the club's ARRL membership up to 3% above March for a total of 61% in ARRL.

PWARC has Talent

Featured this month are Paul Gurka KN4DX and JJ Lambert WR5E.

First up is Paul KN4DX (his own words)



Howdy!

"In 1976, I was a young airman living in an off base duplex in Shreveport Louisiana. CB was really big and was a great way to spend time and meet local people. During that time, I also acquired an almost new Collins 51S1 general coverage receiver. The receiver provided many hours of enjoyment just scanning the bands.

One evening, I came across a 10 meter net. During the net, they mentioned it was a weekly get-together. Being curious about ham radio, I listened in for the next couple of weeks. One evening Bill, a local CB friend, was visiting at net time. I turned on the receiver so we could both listen in. Bill recognized the net controller and said his name was John Mussey (K5RNM) and that he lived on the other side of town. He said that he would contact John and arrange for us to meet him at his station the next week.

The next week, we visited John's ham shack that was located in a shed behind the house. After the net, he explained what ham radio was and how to get a license. By the end of the visit, I was hooked. A few weeks later John gave me the Novice exam.

At that time, any General class licensee could give a Novice exam. Further upgrades had to be at a FCC office. Within the next few months, I made a couple of trips to the Dallas FCC office and upgraded to an Advanced class. I held an Advanced class for eighteen years before upgrading to Amateur Extra. Over the next couple of years, I spent a lot of off duty time with ham radio. "

Second up is JJ Lambert WR5E (his own words)

JJ Lambert WR5E
Amateur Extra
Licensed 1983
PWARC - 2019



"There has been an active interest in radio since being a little guy listening to shortwave broadcasters on what seemed to be huge console radio in my grandfather's living room in the late 50s and early 60s – shortwave was just magic then, and still is. That interest persists with antennas, propagation, RF, analog and digital electronics, and operating skills and proficiency. That fascination with electronics carried over to my military service, education, and work.

When getting my draft notice in SEP72 having just starting my sophomore year's fall semester, I made the quite profound decision to enlist in the USAF going into Electronic Countermeasures (ECM, aka Electronic Warfare (EW)). I mainly worked in the ECM shop repairing airborne platforms' ECM receivers down to the component level. Right after the USAF, I was back in school along with working as a Tech for GE Medical on the midnight shift. Burnt-out after two years, I withdrew from school starting work for an aerial reconnaissance camera manufacturer.

I was based in the northwest suburbs of Chicago working as an aerial reconnaissance camera manufacturer's OCONUS Field Service Engineer proving on-site support and training for friendly foreign nations' military units along the Pacific Rim and South America. I happened to be in-plant for a period of time in 1980 when an opportunity appeared one day when a few of us wanted to get our ham radio licenses. Orlie, WD9ALK (SK), a ham there at work, started teaching 3 or 4 of us for about 20-30 minutes during lunch each day for a number of weeks going through the code and the theory so that we could get our Novice tickets. Orlie gave us our CW and written Novice exams when ready to test (as testing for Novice was different before the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) started). Each of us received our Novice

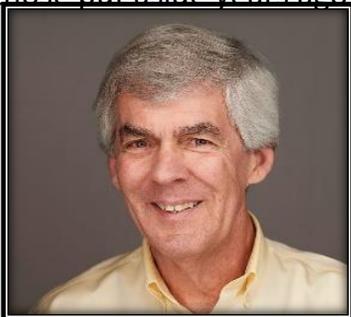
Moving on from northern Illinois after a lot of near “no notice” international travel via finally getting my bachelors in Texas, I took a position in 1983 with another defense contractor designing Special Test Equipment (STE) for airborne EW systems in the Dallas, TX area. I studied and then tested at one of the new VE test sessions with a few of the people that I worked with resulting in getting my Technician license, N5HPF. That soon led to getting my Advanced license retaining the N5HPF call. Then in the Spring of 1986, I was seeing in QST along with projecting that the 5 th call area was going to run out of 2x1 Extra call signs in probably 5 or 6 months (with new Extras then receiving call signs from the Advanced group, the 2x2 calls). Getting an Extra 2x1 call was “the driver” for getting my Extra. I tested on 01SEP86 receiving my current WR5E call from the FCC in the mail on 01OCT86.

I "froze" on first CW contact as a Novice. Alone and quite scared that someone actually answered my probably quite rough CQ, I turned off that first radio, a used Henry Tempo One, and walked away probably with fear. It was not until living and working in Texas, getting my Technician license, and buying the recently introduced Icom IC-735, when making my first CW QSO. I started to enjoy CW, enjoying it enough to get my Extra (still 20WPM then).

There has not been one Elmer over the years helping me progress within Amateur Radio. It really has been the friends made over the years – them helping me and with me helping them. We learned and helped each other in times of need.

I was also VK8JJ from APR90 to DEC04 when living and working in Alice Springs, Northern Territory (NT), Australia. The experiences during and shortly after the USAF formed the drive for completing my bachelor’s degree. Following graduation, I landed as an EW electronic hardware design engineer on defense contracts evolving to more paper-based activities further into my career as a Senior Systems Engineer.

The career transitioned later to the "dark side" in leadership and management as an Engineering Manager and various Project and Program Manager positions. About half of my career has involved international travel or living and working OCONUS. I now pursue my own projects including some of those put aside years ago since recently retiring."



"I was also VK8JJ from APR90 to DEC04 when living and working in Alice Springs, Northern Territory (NT), Australia."

		OCEANIA CO ZONE 29 ITU ZONE 53 133°52' E, 23°43' S
JEFFREY J. (J.J.) LAMBERT 64 STANDLEY CRESCENT ALICE SPRINGS, NT 0870 AUSTRALIA		
VK8JJ CONFIRMING QSO WITH UTC DATE (D/M/Y) _____ UTC TIME _____		
SIGNAL REPORT (RST) _____ FREQUENCY _____ MHz		
MODE <input type="checkbox"/> CW <input type="checkbox"/> PACKET <input type="checkbox"/> RTTY <input type="checkbox"/> Two-way (DX) QSO <input type="checkbox"/> SSB <input type="checkbox"/> AMTOR <input type="checkbox"/> FM <input type="checkbox"/> SWL response <input type="checkbox"/>		
POWER (Output) _____ Watts		
STATION EQUIPMENT		
RADIO EQUIPMENT <input type="checkbox"/> ICOM IC-735 Transceiver <input type="checkbox"/> ICOM IC-730 Receiver <input type="checkbox"/> QRP Transmitter <input type="checkbox"/> QRP Transceiver <input type="checkbox"/>		ANTENNA <input type="checkbox"/> Circular Quad (2 Element at 13 meters on 10, 15, 17, and 20 m) <input type="checkbox"/> Cushcraft RD (10, 15, 17, & 20 m) <input type="checkbox"/> Burtenshaw HF-2V (40 & 80 m) <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> PSE QSL DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/> PSE QSL VIA BUREAU		<input type="checkbox"/> QSL TNX

ARRL National Contest Journal - Results - January 2020

We didn't place first ... nor did we place last ... but we participated ... that's what matters. Member call signs are in the ARRL NCJ for January 2020

NA QSO Party CW - Multi-Two: NE0DA and W0OJW placing 109th

CQ NA QSO Party - Single Operator - CW - NE0DA with score of 3,780

CQ NA QSO Party - Single Operator - CW - W0OJW with score of 2,176

NA QSO Party - Team Combined Scores - PWARC - W0OJW, N0ELF, NE0DA, NE0DB

NA QSO Party - Single Operator - SSB - NE0DA, NE0DB, W0OJW, N0ELF

**Thanks to Jim NE0DA, Rita NE0DB, Dan W0OJW and Scott N0ELF
for participation in the event and promoting PWARC.**

Springtime in the Rockies



Why is there so much lightning in Colorado?

A typical thunderstorm day for **Colorado** starts out with a sunny morning. Clouds begin to develop on the mountains and foothills to the west.

Lightning is caused as rising air currents in the storms carry water droplets to areas of the clouds below freezing, where some of these droplets freeze.

Lightning has been know to strike as far as 10 miles from the approaching storm.

So just because it is not raining yet, does not mean you are safe from lightning!!

You should always stay alert to changing weather conditions while you are outside and have a good idea where you will go if lighting becomes a threat.

The most important statement for everyone to understand, memorize and act on is:

NO PLACE OUTSIDE IS SAFE FROM LIGHTNING NEAR THUNDERSTORMS!!



Colorado's Lightning Season

Usually March brings the first claps of thunder and the first bolts of lightning. If not in March, definitely in April and May. On average some 20 million bolts of lightning strike the U.S. during a single year. Of these over half strike the ground at more than one point. So we have at a minimum 30 million spots struck by lightning each year! That is a lot of lightning!

The lightning capital of the nation is Florida, but Colorado is not far behind. This is due to our closeness to the mountains to our west. The mountains help to trigger thunderstorms for our area spring through fall. A typical thunderstorm day for Colorado starts out with a sunny morning. Clouds begin to develop on the mountains and foothills to the west. As the clouds grow taller and develop into thunderstorms upper level steering winds push the storms out onto the plains.

Nowhere else in Colorado sees as heavy of a density of lightning strikes than the counties that straddle the Palmer Divide, the east-west ridge south of Denver, where Pikes Peak looms to the west and the plains stretch to the east.

Three lightning-fueling factors come into play: the steep slope of Pikes Peak, which extends as far to the east as any large mountain on the Front Range and can act as a convector for lightning; a storm-friendly dynamic known as the Denver Convergence Vorticity Zone, or the DCVZ, where high pressure winds from the north collide with moist low pressure off the plains; and the higher-elevation Palmer Divide, which juts out onto the plains.

Attribute - NOAA - Pueblo National Weather Service

Education

Is it Mayday or SOS?

SOS is a Morse code distress signal used internationally that was originally established for maritime use. In formal notation SOS is written with an overscore line, to indicate that the Morse code equivalents for the individual letters of "SOS" are transmitted as an unbroken sequence of three dots / three dashes / three dots, with no spaces between the letters.

Mayday is a distress call, it is recognized internationally as a message calling for help in a time of extreme distress. *Mayday* is generally spoken over the radio by people on ships or on airplanes. When Mayday is used in an emergency situation, it is repeated three times as mayday, mayday, mayday.

Is it XYL or YL?

Male amateur radio operators are always called "OM" or old man. "OM" amateur radio operators (assumed) call single female amateur radio operators a YL (Young Lady). A male operator's wife is often called an XYL or "ex-young lady" even if she holds an amateur radio license.

There is an obvious double standard for women. ***Some female amateur radio operators find XYL offensive.*** These female operators prefer that OMs refer to all licensed amateur female operators as YLs. The term XYL is still used frequently on the air however. Perhaps this is because the vast majority of amateur radio operators are men and apathetic about the feelings of female operators.

Is it 33, 73, or 88?

Origin of "33", "73" and "88"

- **33 means:** "Love sealed with friendship between one YL and another YL."
(Adopted by the Young Ladies Radio League in 1939)
- **73 means:** "My love to you." The *National Telegraphic Review and Operators' Guide*, first published "73" in April 1857. "73" is now known as "Best Regards".
- **88 means:** "Love and Kisses." It was the abbreviation used by wire telegraphers similar to Q-signals today.

Morning Connection a/k/a Biscuits & Gravy

As a result of the March 21, 2020 via Repeater 447.450 general membership meeting, it was suggested that club members who wish to keep in touch and say hello, that perhaps a net get-together every other day may a good idea ... around 10:00 am ... very informal and to check if everyone is doing okay or needs anything.
That idea snowballed into an everyday net.

With numerous and varied topics since inception, the ones that stand out most are:
"Cleaning the Garage" & "Working in the Yard"

That qualifies PWARC to have garages and yards featured in *"Better Homes & Gardens"*

What Can Possibly Go Wrong?

Howdy all, from W00JW!

The number of check-ins and variety of conversation items on the *"Morning Connection"* nets are almost things of legend! Our last two general meetings were held via the club's repeater and went without a hitch! And our weekly club nets continued happily.

Here are April's numbers:

4-7: NCS W00JW; Minutes 29; stations 17.
4-14: NCS W00JW; minutes 31; stations 17.
4-21: NCS W00JW; minutes 30; stations 16.
4-28: NCS W00JW; minutes 22; stations 11.

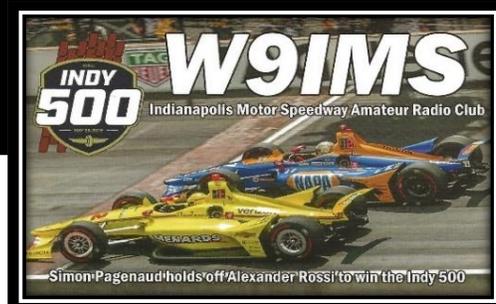
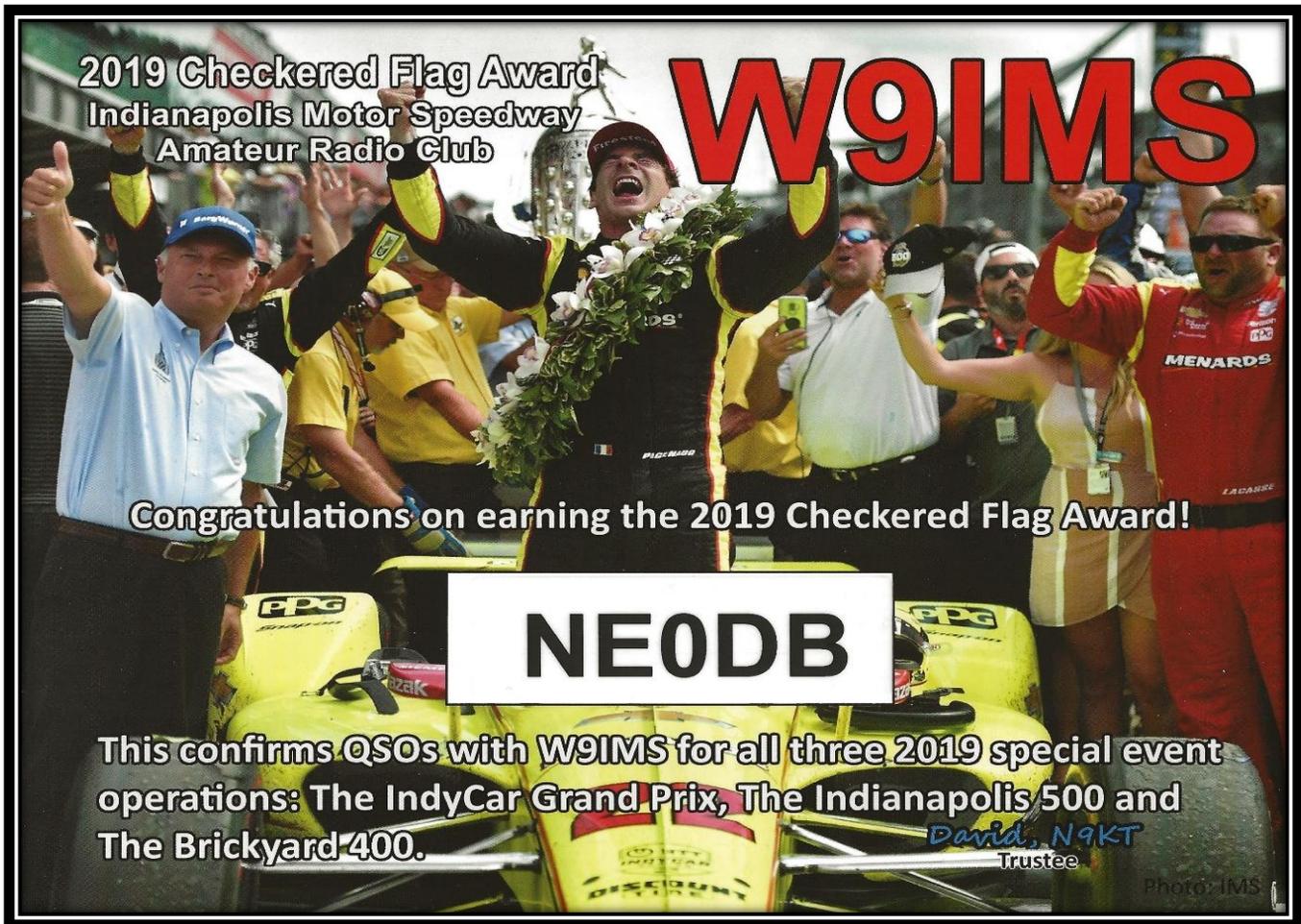
KEEP OF GOOD CHEER; TRYING SAME HERE.

73 W00JW

W9IMS

Cancelled for 2020 ... but sharing QSL cards from 2019

The event billed as the **Greatest Spectacle in Racing** is considered part of the Triple Crown of Motorsport, which comprises three of the most prestigious motorsports events in the world.



The Heartbeat of America, There's a Ford in your Future, and Bit of Brit
Chevy and Ford were the toss-ups for first cars in our "Morning Connection" net held April 6. Can
you match the PWARC member to their first car?

Neal N1TEW - Paul KB0JIT - Carlyle N0ARN - Paul KN4DX - Frank KB0FD -
Randy KE0GMS - Rita NE0DB - Don AD0DC - JJ W5RE - Dan W00JW



Tonka



1964 1/2 Mustang



1961 Ford Comet



1972 Chevy Chevelle



1976 Buick Opel



circa 1948 Comet



1947 Chevy 4-Door



1953 Ford Victoria



1952 Chevy Coupe



1957 Chevy



1958 MG

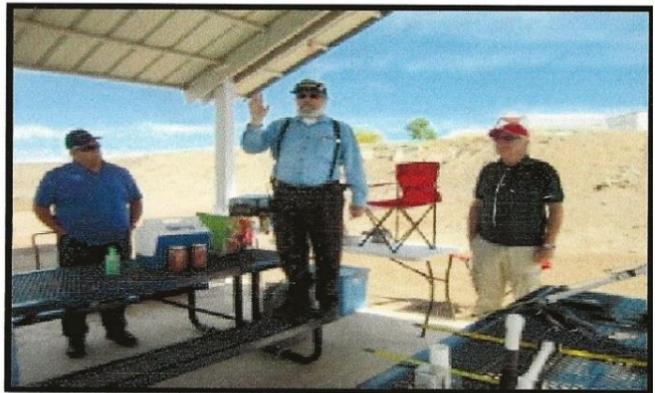
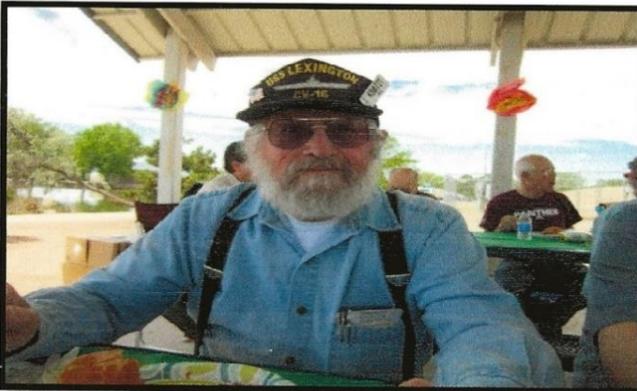
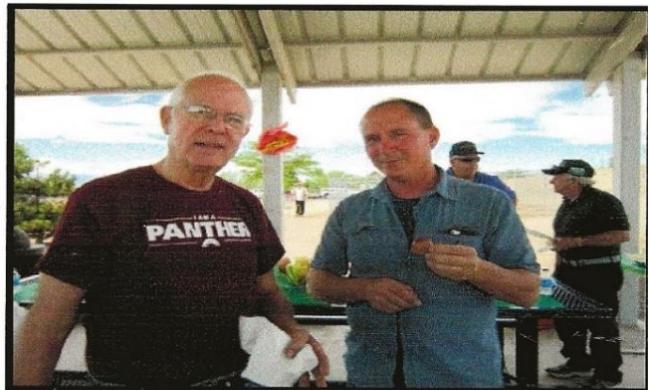
Take a Trip down Memory Lane

Fox Hunt - May 13, 2017 ... Fox Hunt Teams

N1TEW & KE0AHM (9:42) N3CMG & XYL Trina (11:05) NE0DA & KB0FD (11:15)
KDOICM & XYL Linda (11:15) KDORRH & W00JW (11:35) KEOGMS



Perfect weather and perfect food. N3CMG brought home-made smoked sausages and kraut. Needless to say, the Nathan's hot dogs were spared their fate from the hot coals. Although the propane grill failed to ignite ... a quick trip to Wally World for a charcoal grill saved the day ... "hams" know how to solve problems. Plus, donations of \$41 were received.



Club Events

Cancelled until further notice

May Contests & Special Events

see ARRL for upcoming events

Field Day - Attribute ARRL



ARRL Suggests Taking a Creative Approach to Field Day 2020 - 04/22/2020

This year, ARRL [Field Day](#) promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation.

Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social-distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional Field Day site may not be feasible or safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign.

ARRL will include club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member's results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity.

Myriad opportunities are possible in this year's Field Day setting. These are just a couple.

Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year.

Set up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entries in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie.

One club is planning to conduct its Field Day as a 4A club group, with participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the required 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while GOTA operators participate via remote link.

Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at its usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their homes. The club is developing a schedule that outlines when each member of the club will be at the helm via the remote link.

Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation.

(See ARRL Approach to Field Day 2020 - April 22, 2020)

