



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!

September 2014

W9O Anniversary Special Event Station Was a Success

By Tobi Davis K9TCD



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

The club celebrated FRRL's 90th anniversary with a special event station operating as W9O for two weeks beginning at the hamfest. In total 1,414 contacts were made, half in the U.S. and half DX. Thank you to the club members who operated from home: Harry K9DXA, Jack K9JE, Gary K9MMS, Dean KC9EOQ and Dan W9STS. We had Eric KA7YHA, David KD9BRU, Denny W9HI, Tom WB9CHY and others operating and logging during hamfest. Some club members operated at the Batavia farmers market. If I missed any operators, please send me your log so I can respond to QSL requests. Also thanks to everyone who helped set up the stations at hamfest. Thank you to Denny for loaning us his rig and antenna. They worked great! And a special thank you to Kermit W9XA for letting us use his new/old mobile truck with the telescoping mast at hamfest. It garnered the most rubbernecking and conversation during our operating!

A special QSL card was designed for the event and so far we have received almost 50 requests from the U.S. and one from Germany. It is fun to see all the QSL card designs sent to us. Here is what the card looks like:

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Chris KC9BKS created a master log for posting to the website and for me to use as QSL manager to answer all the QSL requests. This was a great help. Thank you, Chris. Plus thanks to him and Neil KB9RFX we kept the website updated with operator information prior to and during the event.

Happy Anniversary FRRL!

I can't imagine what we will do to celebrate 100.

About the FRRL

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, an annual hamfest, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The Fox River Radio League meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Bethany Lutheran Church at 8 S. Lincoln St in Batavia.. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes a business portion, social time and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

Please welcome our new members to the club!

CALL	NAME	LICENSE CLASS
KD9KN	Rick Shaff	Amateur Extra
N9VYD	Ronald Penkala	Technician

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

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Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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Founded 1924

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Annual dues are payable no later than the January Club Meeting each year. New members joining during the year will have their first year's dues prorated to the nearest year quarter.

Regular dues are \$20.00 a year, Senior Citizen dues are \$12.00. Family dues are \$30.00. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

Bill Erikson HF Challenge

By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

HF Challenge Update as of Mid-August

Low sunspot numbers have been mentioned as a possible reason for poorer than expected propagation during the last month. Indeed, The Space Environment Services Center's report of daily solar data showed sunspot numbers ranging from a high of 158 to a low of 55 during the Challenge reporting period ending Aug. 15th. Still, some gains were made by participants in the HF Challenge.

Joe NA9A reported contacts with rare entities Tajikistan, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Laos and Nauru. "Lots of stuff on the bands," Joe said, "even with the current poorer solar numbers."

"Propagation has been horrible," said Larry K9ARZ. "Even the Europeans have had weak signals." Nonetheless, Larry reported QSOs (by sheer luck, he says) including Bahrain, South Sudan, Western Sahara, Kyrgyzstan, Mirny Base Antarctica, Cameroon, Afghanistan, Easter Island, Liberia, New Caledonia, Faroe Islands, India, French Polynesia, New Zealand, and Greenland.

There's no need for despair if you're among those having difficulty making the contacts you're after due to poor propagation. Conditions are constantly in flux, and as the reports from Joe and Larry illustrate, "difficult" is not the same as "impossible." Be patient and persistent in your attempts, and keep on working! They don't call this the HF Challenge for nothing – and you can meet that challenge!

If you need a worksheet for the second half of the year, see Joe at a club meeting, or email challenge [at] frl.org to request one. It's never too late to get in on the fun!

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	59	11	49	119
Eric K9LGE	25	5	4	34
John AG9D	45	5	20	70
Paul KC9SEB	37	7	26	70
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jack K9JE	47	10	122	179
Dean KC9EOQ	58	7	98	163
Jason KB9MEL	30	2	43	75
Bill NF9D	12	1	13	26
Ron KC9SNI	9	1	16	26
Roger W9YU	58	9	89	156
Dan W9STS	28	1	5	34
Herb W9DTR	47	8	55	110
Dawn KC9LQS	1	0	2	3
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	100	24	387	511
Dick AH6EZ	49	11	69	129
Alan W9AN	44	6	91	141
Jim N9XP	19	0	91	110
Joe NA9A	71	7	290	368
Robert K9EUI	42	2	49	93
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	13	0	2	15
Dick AH6EZ	6	0	1	7
Joe NA9A	7	0	4	11
Herb W9DTR	5		2	7
Dan W9STS	3	0	1	4

President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Though it still feels like summer – and technically is – your Board of Directors is busy planning for autumn and winter. You might be surprised to know what goes into getting us through the dark half of the year!

Most imminent are decisions about what activities we as a group might still enjoy while the weather is still pleasant. We'll talk during our September Membership Meeting about what is possible and how we can make it happen.

At the same time, our 2014 Nominating Committee will begin the selection process so they can present you with a slate of candidates in November, leading up to our December election of next year's board and our annual holiday celebration. And believe it or not, discussions already are happening where Field Day and Hamfest are concerned!

On a personal level, I breathe a sigh of relief when autumn arrives. The crisp air, cool nights, and Mother Nature's color show among the treetops signal a slower pace outwardly, and finally, the time to return to the comforts of home. If you're like me, summer is full of activities that keep me on the go, seeing friends, attending events, and sometimes even camping in the northern woods to refresh and renew ourselves. When vacations, weddings, graduations, and club events start winding down, it's a welcome thing to walk into the shack and pick up where I left off last spring.

So what are your plans for your radio life now that the outside world demands less of your time? If you enjoy radio sport, The CQ Worldwide DX Contest is scheduled for Oct. 25-26 (SSB) and Nov. 29-30 (CW). ARRL Sweepstakes runs Nov. 1-3 (CW) and Nov. 15-17 (Phone). Both contests are favorites of mine. Of course, we also have four more months to work the HF Challenge – and believe me, you can rack up a lot of Qs in four months if you set your mind to it! And don't forget the ARRL Centennial QSO Party going on through the end of the year, as well as the FRRL yearlong QSO party that was created by Kermit W9XA.

Maybe you'd rather use this slower time of year to explore a mode of operation that interests you. I remember one winter, soon after I learned CW, when I worked up the courage to call CQ...in code. An operator from Connecticut answered, a chemistry teacher with an interest in the work being done at Fermilab, and thanks mainly to his unending patience, we had a 15 minutes ragchew...my first time on the band. There are no limits to what you might accomplish in the hobby, with new technology at our fingertips, and members in the club with knowledge about it all.

Whatever you choose to pursue, remember to share it with your fellow club members. Your expertise may lead to a new friendship, a fellow explorer, or even a special interest group within the club. When we open our minds, anything is possible. I wish you the best in your adventures!

De KC9LQS

STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

Q: T1B08 [97.303]

What do the FCC rules mean when an amateur frequency band is said to be available on a secondary basis?

- A. Secondary users of a frequency have equal rights to operate
- B. Amateurs are only allowed to use the frequency at night
- C. Amateurs may not cause harmful interference to primary users
- D. Secondary users are not allowed on amateur bands

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G1B02 [97.203(b)]

With which of the following conditions must beacon stations comply?

- A. A beacon station may not use automatic control
- B. The frequency must be coordinated with the National Beacon Organization
- C. The frequency must be posted on the Internet or published in a national periodical
- D. There must be no more than one beacon signal in the same band from a single location

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: E1A01 [97.301, 97.305]

When using a transceiver that displays the carrier frequency of phone signals, which of the following displayed frequencies represents the highest frequency at which a properly adjusted USB emission will be totally within the band?

- A. The exact upper band edge
- B. 300 Hz below the upper band edge
- C. 1 kHz below the upper band edge
- D. 3 kHz below the upper band edge

Recent ARRL News

The [National Contest Journal's](#) editorial chair has moved west to the Bozeman, Montana home of [Pat Barkey N9RV](#). No stranger to the Top of the Top Ten in NCJ contests, Pat's long and successful history of competitive operating will serve the NCJ readership well. At the same time, we'd also like to acknowledge the yeoman's work done by outgoing editor, Kirk Pickering K4RO. Kirk directed a complete reworking of the NCJ website and overhauled the management of popular NCJ North American QSO Party and Sprint contests - all while getting a quality magazine out on schedule. The support of Bruce WA7BNM during and after the transition in addition to the many other services he provides is also greatly appreciated. The contest community thanks both Pat and Kirk for their efforts and willingness to contribute time and energy on the community's behalf.

New Windows 8.1-based computers may come with their function keys configured to access multimedia functions instead of the expected F1-F12. Several report that the "normal" function key operation is configured to require pressing the FN key. i.e. to call CQ with logging software, you would press FN-F1. This is generally changeable through the BIOS settings that can be accessed during the startup process. (Thanks to Juan TG9AJR, Stan K5GO, and Dink N7WA, among others)

North America Summits on the Air ([SOTA](#)) Activity Weekend 2014 is a casual event in which summiting radio amateurs (called "activators") use tiny battery-powered radios to work home-based operators (called "chasers").



This year's event, September 13-14, is aimed at introducing SOTA to newcomers. There are no rules regarding power levels, modes, or bands.

SOTA operators have climbed mountains as high as 14,000 feet. They run low power, and they don't operate split, so operator courtesy is paramount.

The [SOTAwatch2](#) website offers information regarding what stations are on which mountains. Summits are numbered, and mousing over the number will reveal the name and point value for each summit.

Activity typically concentrates near 7.032, 7.185, 10.110, 14.061, 14.342, 18.095, 18.155, 21.061, 21.350, 24.905, 24.955, 28.061, 28.420, 146.52, and 446.00 MHz. Participants collect points toward SOTA certificates and trophies. -- *Thanks to Elliott Pisor, K6EL*



September Contest Dates

+ G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 5 to 2300Z, Sep 7
+ Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 6
+ All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 6 to 2400Z, Sep 7
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Sep 6 and 0630Z-0659Z, Sep 6 and 0700Z-0729Z, Sep 6 and 0730Z-0800Z, Sep 6
+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 6
+ RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 6 to 1300Z, Sep 7
+ Ohio State Parks on the Air	1600Z-2400Z, Sep 6
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 7
+ DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 7
+ Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
+ RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 10
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 12
+ WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14
+ FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 13
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Sep 13 to 2400Z, Sep 14
+ Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 13 to 0200Z, Sep 14
+ ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, Sep 15
+ North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 14
+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 18
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 19
+ ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 20 to 2400 local, Sep 21
+ Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 20 to 2400Z, Sep 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 22
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28
+ Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 to 0200Z, Sep 28 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 28

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

Sept. 2, 2014 @7:30pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

Membership Meeting

Sept. 9th 2014 @7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

September 16th @ 7:30pm
Messenger Public Library
North Aurora, IL

Technician Pool- C. Amateurs may not cause harmful interference to primary users

General Pool- D. There must be no more than one beacon signal in the same band from a single location

Extra Pool- D. 3 kHz below the upper band edge



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W9CEQ PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510



Meeting Minutes August 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by President Dawn Williams KC9LQS

Question of the Month – Does radio go with you on vacation?

Reports

Approval of Minutes

Mike K9FE motioned to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2014 membership meeting, which was seconded by several members. The motion carried. Debby WX9VOR motioned to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2014 membership meeting and was seconded by Marty N9NTM. This motion also carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dean KC9EOQ reported the current account balances.

Program

Bill AB9TA announced that the topic of this evening's program would be trunked radio systems. Future programs include digital radio systems in September and how to run field day in October. Bill further announced that he continues to seek both program presenters and control operators for the club's Tuesday night net. Members are asked to see Bill to volunteer for either of these roles.

ARES

Debby WX9VOR reported that Kane County ARES meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 7 PM. She also announced that the DuPage ARES will participate in the Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life on Saturday, August 16.

Old Business

Field Day

Denny W9HI summarized the 2014 Field Day activities conducted at the Elburn Forest Preserve. The complete list of QSO counts and scores by band and mode are included in the August issue of *Arc Over*. Photographs of field day can be found on the FRRL website.

Field Day score summary:

2458 CW points

1304 Phone points

3762 Total points

7524 Claimed Score



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Hamfest Wrap-up

Dawn KC9LQS reported that, although the attendance was down somewhat this year, the Hamfest garnered an approximately \$2200 profit.

W9O Special Event Station

Dawn KC9LQS said that the first batch of QSL card requests for the W9O Special Event station have been received. Tobi K9TCD reported that W9O completed over 1400 QSOs including some DX stations.

Outreach

Dawn KC9LQS reported that the ham radio outreach visit to the Batavia Farmers Market on Saturday, July 26 went well. Kermit W9XA brought his rover vehicle station. Dawn and Jeff N9JZN operated an HF station with an R5 vertical. Dan WA9YKK also participated. Members of the Batavia ESDA expressed interest in obtaining ham radio training for their emergency responders and four other visitors expressed interest in the hobby.

Dawn further announced that the next outreach effort will be in September at the Aurora Farmers Market. She seeks volunteers for this event. Other outreach opportunities include the St. Charles and Geneva markets, which are conducted during weekdays. Volunteers are also needed to coordinate and staff these events.

New Business

House Bill HR 4969

Kermit W9XA discussed important legislation pending in congress: HR 4969 (the Amateur Radio Parity Act). This bipartisan effort would direct the FCC to extend the "reasonable accommodation" provisions for Amateur Radio antennas to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants. If enacted, HR 4969 would extend the reasonable accommodation protections to those amateurs who are living in deed-restricted communities. Known as "CC&Rs" (covenants, conditions and restrictions) are the prohibitions and limitations placed on properties by builders or home-owner associations (HOAs) which prevent licensed Amateurs from erecting even modest antennas.

Dick W9GIG and Kermit ask each club member to contact their member of the US House to state their support for HR 4969 and to ask their Representative to please sign on as a co-sponsor for the bill. Members may either compose their own letters or use the specimen letter found on the ARRL website. To expedite delivery of the letter, once printed and signed, members should follow the instructions on the ARRL website at: <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>

Tech Class

Mike K9FE is coordinating a Technician license class to begin in September. He seeks a volunteer to conduct the September 27 class on "antennas and feed-lines" and a second volunteer instruct the October 11 class on "licensing and miscellaneous" topics.



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Proposed Amendment to FRRL By-Laws

Dawn KC9LQS introduced a proposed amendment to the club by-laws that would increase membership dues. This proposed amendment was approved by the board of directors at its meeting on August 5. This amendment would increase dues by \$5 for all members except seniors and families whose dues would increase by \$3. It is estimated that this increase would gain an additional \$500 for the club. Dawn read the proposed amendment aloud:

“August 12, 2014

To the membership of Fox River Radio League

Following discussion at the Aug. 5th meeting of the board of directors, it was decided that we recommend a small increase of dues to take effect in 2015. The final decision on this matter is up to the membership, in accordance with Article XIV of the club by-laws.

I submit in writing the following proposed amendment to Article XII, Section 1 of the by-laws. This proposed amendment will increase dues by \$5 per year for regular and family members, and by \$3 for senior, senior family, military personnel on active duty and full-time student memberships. I propose that Article XII, Section 1, be amended as follows:

'The membership dues of the Fox River Radio League, Inc. shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per year; except that senior citizens (65 and older), military personnel on active duty, and full-time students not yet having attained their twenty-second birthday, shall pay fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per year. A family membership shall be thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) per year regardless of the number of members. A senior family membership (at least one spouse is 65 or older) shall be twenty (\$20.00) per year.'

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Williams KC9LQS

Member, Fox River Radio League”

A printed copy of the above document was given to the Secretary for inclusion in the club's official records. The proposal is tabled for further discussion and will be presented to the membership for a vote at the September meeting. Marty N9NTM noted that two-thirds of the voting members present is required to approve the amendment. Kermit W9XA further noted that dues were last amended to their present amounts in 1994. When adjusted for inflation over this period the dues for regular membership would be equivalent to \$32.17 from its present \$20.

Announcements

FRRL Member Pins – Larry W9OKI has member pins available.

Raffle – Dawn KC9LQS announced that there would be no raffle at this meeting due to exhausted inventory.

Adjournment

Dan WA9YKK motioned to adjourn, several members seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

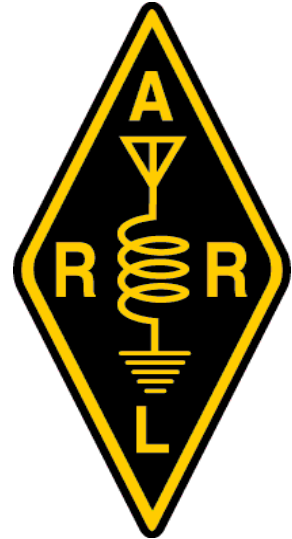
Respectfully submitted,

Ron Jahr KC9SNI

FRRL Secretary

IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frri.org
www.arri.org
www.colpage.org
www.qrz.com
www.eham.net
www.twit.tv/hn
www.dxspots.com



FRRL Repeaters:

W9CEQ—147.210 MHz +600KHz Offset, 103.5 PL

W9CEQ—444.300 MHz +5 MHz Offset, 114.8 PL (IRLP Node # 4850) (Echolink # 230933)

FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters: (Contact Kermit, W9XA for information)

W9CEQ__B D-Star—442.10625 MHz (+ 5.0 MHz offset)

W9CEQ__C D-Star—147.225 MHz (+ 0.6 MHz offset)

Other Local Area Repeaters:

Owned by Kane County OEM:

KC9OEM—145.470 MHz -600 KHz, 103.5 PL

(2 meter is primary Kane Co. SKYWARN/ARES Frequency)

W9DWP—Kane Co. Amateur Public Svc. Repeaters:

(Both repeaters are dual mode APCO-25 NAC-293)

145.270 -600 KHz 107.2 PL

443.025 +5 MHz 114.8 PL

Local 6 meter: Input: 52.210 Output: 53.910 Carrier Access FM (W9XA 6-meter repeater)

W9ZGP—NIARC:

147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 PL

Weekly Nets:

Ten Meter Net: Monday at 8:00pm 28.150 MHz CW

Monday at 8:30pm 28.720 MHz SSB

FRRL 2 Meter Net: Tuesday Evening at 7:30 pm

ARES & Skywarn Net: Wednesday Evening at 6:30 pm on the KC9OEM 2 meter repeater

Illinois DStar Net - Wednesday Eve. at 8:00 pm on the DStar 2 meter repeater

Should QSOs from remote stations be given DXCC credit?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf). Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator's home station location are no more than 200 km apart.

As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html>) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (<http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/>) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WW1X (<http://ww1x.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html>). He called these recommendations "uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby." Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WW1X has a vested interest in this debate. He's the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.Com, a company that charges other hams to use the "super stations" that they've set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these remote stations. All they're saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur's home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I'm sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WW1X that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WW1X prattles on about how "DXCC is not a contest. It's not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It's a personal achievement award, plain and simple." This is just silly. Of course it's a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it's not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where's the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge—and it's not a small sum of money—can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it's a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed. He's not trying to pad his DXCC score. He does this for the pure love of talking to other hams in far-away places.

When the final decision is made, I hope the DX Advisory Committee goes back to first principles as set forth in FCC Part 97.1 and makes their decision on whether or not allowing DXCC credit for remote station QSOs contributes to "the advancement of the radio art" or is an "extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."