

# RANDOM*Oscillations*

*A Monthly Publication for the Members of the Radio Central Amateur Radio Club*



## **Radio Central Well Represented at October 1 SKYWARN Training Class**

Scott Reynolds, KC2JCB, visited Radio Central at the September general meeting to give a presentation, and his effort paid off for the National Weather Service's SKYWARN program as eight Radio Central members - Frank, KB2WQU; Tom, WB2TK; Tom, WB2TOM; Cathy, WB2MOM; Emil, KD1F; Hank, WA2WAG; Neil, KC2KY; and Ted, N2NVZ - successfully completed SKYWARN training on October 1 and officially became SKYWARN spotters. At the training class, we spent time learning how to identify shelf clouds, wall clouds, funnel clouds, main storm towers, rain free cloud bases, and supercells, among other weather systems. More importantly, we were briefed on what kind of weather observations to report and what not to report. There are about 1400 SKYWARN spotters in the tri-state area, about half of whom are licensed hams.

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## **October General Meeting Announcement**

**DX-pedition Videos by James Brooks, 9V1YC**

**South Sandwich and South Georgia 2002 micro-lite DX-peditions**

**Wednesday September 18 at the**

**New Village Rec Center Starting 7:30 PM**

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# The Golden Days of DXing

*Paul Dunphy, VE1DX*

We took a walk down to the village last week and we ran across several of the Local QRPers sitting on a park bench talking about a number of things, but mostly DX. Some of these

*With Deepest Sympathy*

*Our prayers and thoughts are with Fred and Barbara Kruger (K2LDC and WA2VQJ).*

*Fred's mother passed away on September 26.*

**RANDOM***Oscillations is available in color, on-line, via the Internet. Connect to [rcarc.org/randomo.htm](http://rcarc.org/randomo.htm). If you are already receiving the Newsletter via the 'Net and would like to be removed from the mailing list for U.S. mail, contact KC2KY or any Board member. All members will receive April, June, September, and December Newsletters even if they are removed from the mailing list.*

Romeo. The Golden Days of DXing are winding down and will be gone by the end of the year! When us real DXers operated, we all used solid state transmitters, DX spotting repeaters and Packet Clusters. We logged all our contacts with our computers and we worked DX on 30, 17 and 12 metres too! These guys don't even have WARC band antennas and they say they've seen the Golden Days of DXing! How can you say you've done it all when you haven't worked a rare one on 17-metre RTTY that popped up on the Packet cluster?" And he sat down, just as sure that he was right as the other two.

Things were quiet for about 30-seconds as the QRPers looked at us, waiting for a decision. Son of a Gun! Should you think we were going to offer an opinion on this one, think again. For has often been said, once a can of worms has been opened, you'll need a bigger can to get them all back in. Then the silence ended with "What do you think?" and "When were the Golden Days of DXing?" and "Tell us who is right!" So we did the only thing we could do. We hauled the group of them up the hill to see the Old Timer.

He was sitting in front of his rig, tuning 15-metres for the polar opening to Asia. He looked up and motioned for everyone to sit down. After a few minutes he looked over and asked what was new. This brought forward the same arguments as we had heard down in the park, complete with arm waving and pounding of fists as points were made and territories staked out. The Old Timer looked at the QRPers for a moment and then asked, "You all seem convinced that you are right, but what makes you think the Golden Days of DXing are over?"

On this there was agreement. And to get two QRPers to agree on anything was rare . . . to have three agree was never heard of before. "The Internet and the new HF regulations are destroying DX!" they yelled in unison. We were impressed. The Old Timer took a deep breath, glanced at us with that "Why did you bring these QRPers here?" look and replied. "None of you understand the true meaning of DX IS! Didn't Albert always say that all things were relative, although some more so. He spelled it all out in his Special Theory of DX. But none of you can understand it, can you? Did it ever occur to you that the Golden Days of DXing are right now? And that no matter what the Internet, the ARRL, the FCC, the RSGB or any other technical or political group does or says will change this! The Great Days of DXing are here. The signs are everywhere! And the Golden Days of DXing are the Great Days of DXing!"

## Newsletter Articles Wanted

Do you like to write? If you have any interesting stories related to ham radio that you think are worth sharing with your friends at Radio Central, here's your chance to see your name in print. I want to thank George, N2CRR, Steve, N2MDQ, Stan, KB2QFT, and Frank, K2PWG for their recent articles. Input from members like you helps to keep the Newsletter fresh and interesting. Thank you and keep up the good work! Remember that membership involvement is the key to a successful radio club.

I'll see you at the next meeting! 73 de KC2KY.

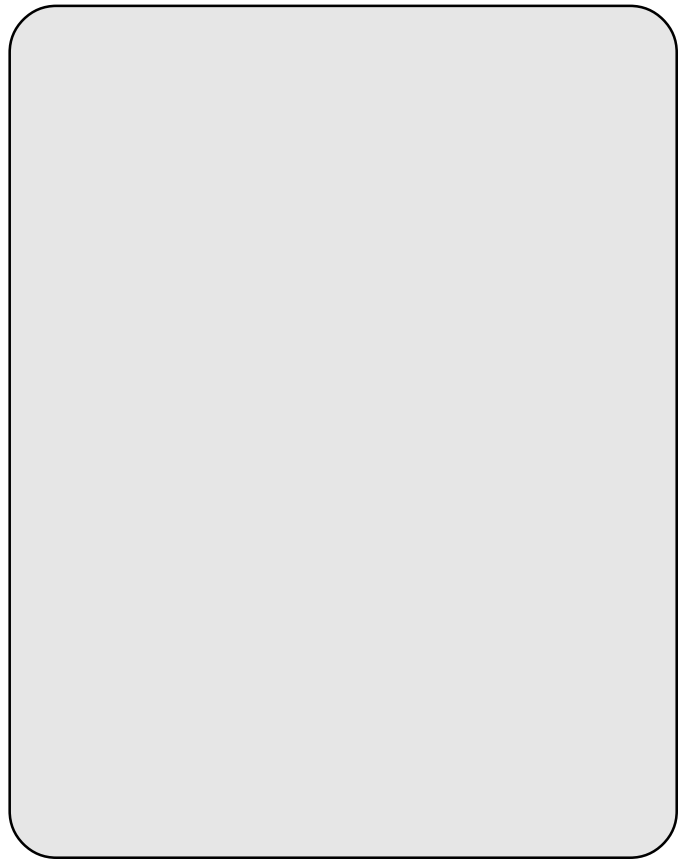
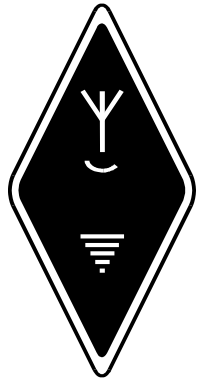
The QRPers glanced back and forth at each other with confused and puzzled looks. Then, they all got up and slowly made their way out the door. We could hear them muttering as they made their way down the hill and it was clear they did not believe or understand what had been said. And we even had lingering doubts. So we asked the Old Timer, "All this talk about the Internet and no-code lowering the standard and destroying DX . . . do you think the QRPers have a point?" The Old Timer looked up from his rig, stared us right in the eye and simply said: "No."

And with that he turned back toward his rig and began tuning 15 again. It was clear this was all he was going to say. So we made our way down the hill and toward the library. For a while we were sure we understood the true meaning of DX IS!, we felt it wouldn't hurt to read Albert's book on the Special Theory of DX once again. These are trying times in this world of DX. When the new HF licensing regulations are announced, like the Hero of Mafeking Lord Baden-Powell so often advised, we wanted to "Be prepared!"

## Tower Sections for Sale

**The club has purchased two compact, lightweight portable towers to replace the Rohn 25 tower sections we now own. As a result, we are looking to sell the Rohn sections to downsize our inventory.**

**Club members who are interested in purchasing tower sections from the club will receive first consideration. If you are interested in purchasing tower sections and / or baseplates from the club, contact Frank, KB2WQU for details.**



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**To:**

Time sensitive material please don't delay!