

www.marc-radio.org

P.O. BOX 557 EAGLEVILLE, PA 19408

REMARCS

Next Meeting: Jan 17, 2012 at 7:30 PM

Jan/Feb 2012

Public Service Events

Another successful season of MARC's participation in public service events has concluded. Two MARC public service events were held since the last issue of REMARCS. They were The Radnor Run and the Vietnam Veterans Run. As always, the events were organized by our Public Service Chairman, Bob Palin N3JIZ.

Penn Medicine Radnor was the sponsor for the annual "Radnor Run" held Sunday, November 6, 2011. This was one week after the original date of October 30, 2011. The race was postponed due to the record breaking snowstorm on October 29, 2011. Most MARC members who volunteered to cover the race on the original date were able to do so the following week.

Proceeds benefit the American Lung Association in Pennsylvania. The event was a 5-mile run and a 1-mile fun run/walk. Participating for MARC were Karl KC2QDX, Doug NE3U, Steve WA2EAJ, John KB3MPO and Bob N3JIZ.



L-R: Karl KC2QDX, Steve WA2EAJ, Doug NE3U, Bob N3JIZ, and John KB3MPO

The Vietnam Veterans 5K Run was held on Sunday, November 13, 2011. This event took place at the Norristown Farm Park at North Wales and Germantown Pike. Proceeds from the run benefit Vietnam Veterans community projects. Participating for MARC were Steve KD3WK, Bob N3JIZ, Lou WX3I, Sam WA3LGL, and Dieter K3DK.



L-R: Steve KD3WK, Bob N3JIZ, Lou WX3I, Sam WA3LGL, and Dieter K3DK

VOX

MARC welcomes new members Jim Weiler AB3OM, Michael Jacobetz WB2UQV, Robert Esposito Jr., KB3WIR, Karl Best KC2QDX and Robert Donchez WB3HYB.

Congratulations to Secretary John ex-KB3MPO on recently upgrading to Amateur Extra. John is now K3JDR.

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Letter From the MARC President

Dear Fellow MARC Members:

2011 was a great year for our Club. Our membership grew, including some younger members. We held a successful Field Day and Hamfest. During the year we had a number of very interesting technical presentations at our general membership meetings. In addition, we upgraded our repeater system and we've had increased activity on our nets. All of these successes were the result of hard work by the Board and numerous other members. I want to thank all of our members for their support throughout the year and I look forward to an exciting and interesting 2012. We already have some interesting technical presentations lined up and preliminary planning has begun for Field Day and the Hamfest. We will also be getting a new antenna for the 147.06 repeater.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing all of you in 2012.

73/Steve KD3WK

President/Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

2011 MARC Holiday Party

MARC's annual Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at noon at Uno Chicago Grill in Newtown Square, PA (same site as last year). Twenty-two members and friends attended the party and all had a great time.





MARC Info

wb3joe@marc-radio.org http://www.marc-radio.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS -

3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM) Community Meeting Room (in the front) of the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building, 1100 DuPortail Road, Berwyn, PA 19312-1079. Guests Welcome, Smoke Free, Handicappedaccessible.

BOARD MEETINGS -

2nd Tuesdays of even months, 7:00 PM Paoli Hospital, Willistown Meeting Room, Paoli, PA. Members may attend as observers.

WB3JOE REPEATERS (CTCSS or PL = 131.8 hz) - 145.130 - /147.060 + /224.420 - /445.675 - The 2-meter repeaters are linked.

WEBMASTER -

Dennis Silage K3DS

k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

2-METER NETS -

Club Net, Sundays and Wednesdays, 8:30 PM Roundtable Net, Thursdays, 8:30 PM These nets occur on linked 145.13 - / 147.06 + Repeaters

NET MANAGER -

Brenden McNeil W3VD

w3vd@marc-radio.org 302-319-3536

NET CONTROL OPS -

Alan K3WWT, Bob N3JIZ, Steve N1HDP, Miguel KC2HMG, Yak N3MQM, Rob KB3WIR, Brenden W3VD, Mike WB2UQV and Bob WB3T

DUES – Payable at the March Meeting \$15 Full (licensed Amateurs) \$5 Associate (unlicensed persons) Family rate \$5/ham - after first member pays full dues

NEWSLETTER -

The REMARCS editor is Steve WA2EAJ 610-662-2768 wa2eaj@marc-radio.org
Do you have anything for REMARCS? Please let me know.

General Membership Meetings

January 17, 2012 7:30 PM - "Antennas - What are they?" Jeff Thayer WA3I

Community Meeting Room, Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building (use the front entrance)

February 21, 2012 7:30 PM – "Linear Amplifiers" **Bob** Caverly WB4PWZ

Community Meeting Room, Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building (use the front entrance)

March 20, 2012 7:30 PM – Program TBD Community Meeting Room, Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building (use the front entrance)

April 17, 2012 7:30 PM - Annual "Junque" Auction

MARC usually meets the third Tuesday of the month in the Community Meeting Room (in the front) of the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building, 1100 DuPortail Road, Berwyn, PA 19312-1079. If unavoidable changes in the date or location of the MARC meeting is anticipated, the details will be announced on the Nets and posted on the Calendar.

Beginning at 7:30 PM and following a short round of introductions, announcements, Club reports and business a lively technical program is provided. See the Calendar on the MARC website for details.

The schedule of Club meetings is interrupted in June because of Field Day and in December with a joyous MARC Holiday party. The current schedule of Club meetings and the topic of discussion is announced on the weekly MARC Nets.

MARC – Board Meeting December 10, 2011 – 11 AM



ATTENDEES:

Ned Smith WQ3Z (Non-board, presenter)

It was originally intended that this meeting of the MARC Board would be an opportunity to gather informally immediately prior to the Holiday Party. However, it was subsequently determined that, based on certain issues that were brought to the table, this meeting should be a formal meeting of the

MARC Board of Directors 2011-2012

PRESIDENT

Steven Werner KD3WK

kd3wk@marc-radio.org 610-574-6836

VICE PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

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PUBLIC SERVICE Bob Palin N3JIZ

n3jiz@marc-radio.org 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL SERVICE Dennis Silage K3DS

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MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Allan Glaser AB3FN

ab3fn@marc-radio.org 610-687-0928

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Jim Biddle W3DCL

w3dcl@marc-radio.org 610-353-0880

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Richard Russo KB3VZL

kb3vzl@marc-radio.org 610-539-2999

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2012 -

Doug Wilkens NE3U

ne3u@marc-radio.org 610-692-6819

To 9/30/2013 -

Brenden McNeil W3VD

w3vd@marc-radio.org 302-319-3536

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

- WB3JOE Dennis Silage K3DS

k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

- W3NWA Dieter Hauer K3DK

k3dk@marc-radio.org 610-489-1920

Board. At that point, all Board members present voted to convene as an official Board meeting.

- Ned Smith WQ3Z made a presentation to the Board with regard to his concepts for raising the awareness of the importance of amateur radio through: 1) a proposal to create a new on-air contest that would be sponsored by MARC, and 2) a proposal for a new award to recognize efforts to expand participation in amateur radio. The Board was generally in favor of these two proposals and it was agreed that efforts would be undertaken by Ned and others to refine these proposals.
- Dennis Silage K3DS recommended that MARC consider absorbing the members and assets of the Delaware County Amateur Radio Association (DCARA). It was agreed that Dennis would make a formal presentation to the MARC Board at the February 2012 meeting at which time the Board will vote on this recommendation.
- There was a general discussion regarding Goals for 2012, including
 - Field Day enhanced activity, involvement of Boy Scouts
 - Holding amateur radio classes
- > Upcoming general membership technical presentations
- > January 2012 Chet Thayer, WA3I Antenna theory
- February 2012 Bob Caverly, WB4PWZ Linear Amplifiers

From the Editor's Shack

The November 15, 2011 General Membership Meeting featured the return of a regular program that we haven't seen in awhile. It was Home Brew Night. Members featured things that they have built or modified to enhance their on-air activities. **Steve WA2EAJ** showed us his Saltwater Dummy Load made from an old Sanka coffee jar. He also showed pictures of his modified Octopus Antenna. It is a pair of hamstick dipoles mounted on the same mast at 90 degrees from each other and fed with a single transmission line. Each dipole is for a different band.

Dennis K3DS showed us his AMBE digital voice encoder/decoder.



Jim K3RTU showed off several of his home-brew antenna tuners.



Andrew KA2DDO demonstrated his APRS application that doesn't need Internet connectivity to display maps.



Doug NE3U showed us his home-brewed field strength meter and other accessories.

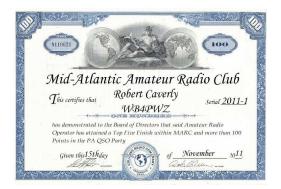


Thanks to all those who presented.

73, Steve **WA2EAJ** REMARCS Editor

2011 PA QSO Party

The results for the participation by MARC members in the 2011 PA QSO Party on October 8-9, 2011 have been compiled. The top five scores earned the MARC member a certificate that was presented at the November 2011 Club meeting. **Bob WB4PWZ** was the 2011 MARC PA QSO Party top scorer. Congratulations to Bob for a great effort!



Bob WB4PWZ	81 076 points
Ron W3ZV	60 022
Steve WA2EAJ	13 550
Jim K3RTU	8 840
Dennis K3DS	5 900

MARC Sponsored VE Test Sessions



The regularly scheduled VE Test Session was held November 5, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church, 113 East Airy Street in Norristown, PA.

Technician earned	1
General earned	0
Extra earned	2
Passed an element but did not upgrade	0
Did not pass an element	0
Total candidates served	3
Total elements administered	3

Two MARC members took advantage of the free test session. The following VE's took part in the session: Sam KF3G, Josy WQ3E, Doug NE3U, Bob W3ZQN, Ron W3ZV and Dick K3ITH.

Bob W3ZQN coordinated this session.

The next scheduled MARC Sponsored VE Test Session will be on **February 4, 2012** in Norristown.

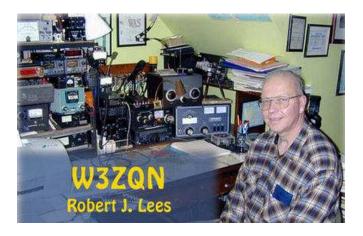
Member Highlight Bob Lees – W3ZQN

In this issue we inaugurate a new regular feature. In each new issue of REMARCS we will highlight a MARC member. For this issue, we highlight **Bob Lees W3ZQN**.

Bob was first licensed in 1954 as a novice as WN3ZQN. "I have enjoyed this great hobby for over 56 years" says Bob. This past year, Bob moved to a retirement community and works 6 meters, 2 meters and 440mHz. He also runs low power to a screwdriver antenna with radials laid out in the attic. When on HF, Bob prefers to work CW. His VHF/UHF activity is usually on FM but once in a while he will get on SSB or even CW. He is active in Montgomery County, PA ARES/RACES and publishes its monthly newsletter.

Bob is in charge of the quarterly MARC VE test sessions and has done so for many years. Bob has also volunteered for several MARC public service events providing needed radio communications. He is also a past president of MARC serving from 1996-1998.

The challenge of QRP operation interests Bob and he has a K-1 QRP rig. Bob has an interest in scanning public service frequencies and owns scanners for that purpose. His car contains an APRS tracker.



MARC Net Update

From Brenden W3VD Net Control Manager

Hello everyone, I hope you are all enjoying the Holiday Season! Since my last letter to the membership in October, we have had a couple changes.

First, we have added three new Net Control Operators. Please welcome **Bob WB3T**, **Mike WB2UQV**, and **Rob KB3WIR**.

Second, with our recent addition of some Net Control

Operators, the Thursday Round Table Chit Chat Net will now be held every week. This will start on Thursday, December 1, 2011.

Third, an e-mail distribution list has been setup for the net control operators and is now functional. If you would like an announcement read on the net, regarding MARC news or general interest to ham radio, please email them to bkm.w3vd@gmail.com.

We explored the idea of moving the net time to 8 PM from 8:30 PM. I received a number of comments; all but one echoed that the 8:30 time slot is more convenient for people with family responsibilities.

At the next general membership meeting, I would like to discuss the ideas I brought up in my last letter regarding starting an HF net and adding a Swap Shop feature to one of the repeater nets. I received a good bit of positive comments towards these ideas and would like to explore them further with the general membership. Please bring your comments and ideas to the next meeting, or send me an email with them.

We currently have the Members and Friends net every Sunday and Wednesday. The Round Table Chit Chat net is now every Thursday. All nets are at 8:30 PM local time on the MARC linked repeater system. Please stop by and check in, we all look forward to hearing you!

73!

Brenden McNeil, W3VD MARC Member at Large MARC Net Control Manager

Two MARC Members to Participate in Exotic DXpedition

"Derived from the words "DX" and "expedition", the term **DXpedition** typically refers to a trip made by experienced ham operator(s) to a "DX" country for the purpose of providing other hams an opportunity to make a contact (QSO) into that country." (Courtesy of Steve N7TX)

AI Maslin N3EA and Steve Ikler WA2EAJ are currently making arrangements for a DXpedition to that rarest of DX entities,The Bahamas C6A. Ok, so maybe it isn't the rarest or exotic but it is still a DX entity sought by many hams for DXCC, IOTA or other awards. Al and Steve are snowbirds and spend their winters in south Florida near West Palm Beach. That location is a mere 93 miles from Freeport, Grand Bahama Island. Back in 2010, Al and Steve attended a seminar at a local south Florida hamfest presented by Kevin Bunin K4PG about contesting from the Bahamas. Kevin and his colleague Bob Patten N4BP regularly travel to the Bahamas to participate in ham radio contests as C6APG and C6AKQ respectively and usually do very well. Kevin's seminar made it sound like traveling to and operating from the

Bahamas was exciting and relatively easy and inexpensive. Well, Al and Steve were hooked.

In early 2011 they started to think seriously about making their own ham radio trip. There are at least two condos in the Bahamas that cater to traveling hams and already have ham radio antennas and some equipment set up. Transportation to the Bahamas can be made by boat or plane. Since DXpeditioners must travel with some radio equipment, travel by boat is preferred so as to avoid the TSA scrutiny at the airport. Boats must still check in with Customs and Immigration at both ends but it is not as difficult as the airports. There is a new high speed ferry traveling to the Bahamas almost daily from Ft. Lauderdale.

The Bahamas are not members of any organizations that automatically offer reciprocal licensing to US licensed amateurs. However, US amateurs may apply for a Bahamian 'reciprocal' license by completing an application from the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA). The application, a copy of a valid US passport, a copy of the operator's US amateur radio license and the payment of a \$35 fee is all that is required. The resulting Bahamian license is only valid for the duration of the operator's stay in the Bahamas and is not renewable. For subsequent trips, operators must re-apply for another license but the URCA tries to grant the same callsign as before.

Both Al and Steve have applied for their Bahamian licenses but it usually takes about two months or more for processing so their license requests have not been processed yet. They expect to receive their own C6Axx callsign so they will not need to use something like C6/WA2EAJ.

Al and Steve are not big contesters and contesting from the Bahamas is not their intention. The operation will be "vacation" or "holiday" style meaning that they will operate when they feel like it and certainly not around the clock. They plan to be in the Bahamas midweek in early March 2012. Al plans to concentrate on CW while Steve plans to concentrate on SSB and digital modes. The bands of operating are not known yet but there are wire antennas at their QTH for 160, 80, 40 and 20 meters.

Al and Steve have talked about setting up schedules to work other MARC members on separate frequencies from the normal pileups but details have not been worked out yet. If you are interested in scheduling a contact with this Bahamas DXpedition contact Steve at wa2eaj@arrl.net. Details may be available for publication in the next issue of REMARCS and may be posted to the MARC Yahoo page.

Can I Have "Amateur Radio" for \$800, Alex?

From the ARRL 12/21/2011

If you were watching the popular television game show **Jeopardy!** -- where contestants have to answer in the form of a question -- on **December 15**, you might have noticed there was a question featuring Amateur Radio. In the first round, returning champ Boomie Aglietti was playing the category

"Pastimes" when he encountered this "answer" worth \$800: "The FCC assigns call signs, like N8DNR, to use in this hobby." Aglietti answered correctly with "ham radio."

N8DNR is the call sign of Debbie Dorfman of West Bloomfield, Michigan. Debbie is the mother of **Stephen Dorfman**, **N6DIW (SK)**. Stephen was a writer for *Jeopardy!* from 1984 until he passed away in 2004 at age 48 due to complications from cancer. According to the *New York Times*, Dorfman was *Jeopardy!*'s longest serving and most prolific writer, with more than 50,000 clues to his credit. As part of a team of writers, he won six Daytime Emmy Awards for special-class writing, given for shows that do not fit into traditional categories. On the *Jeopardy!* episode that aired **January 3, 2008**, another Dorfman call sign was featured -- this one of Stephen's father Neil -- also for \$800, in the category "If You're...": "...using a call sign like K8RX, you're engaged in this hobby." -- *Thanks to Ed Parish, K1EP, for bringing this to our attention*

Ham Radio in Hollywood: Comedian Tim Allen Stars as Radio Amateur on New TV Show

From the ARRL 12/12/2011

Tim Allen -- star of *Home Improvement*, *Toy Story*, *The Santa Clause* and *Galaxy Quest*, just to name a few -- stars in *Last Man Standing*, an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KAOXTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of *Last Man Standing* -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."

To make Mike a ham, Amodeo needed Mike to have a call sign. So he contacted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, to help him out. "In film and TV, we create fictitious telephone numbers, addresses and brands," Amodeo explained. "We do this mostly to avoid being sued by real brands and to avoid complications with advertisers. As a producer and a ham, I was torn between wanting the show to be accurate and needing to keep my studios out of trouble. An accurate and positive portrayal of ham radio on TV would be a good thing." Many TV shows and movies use telephone numbers with a 555 exchange (such as 555-1212), as that exchange is not valid.

Together with Pitts, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado, they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. "We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid," Amodeo said. "The call sign is a 2×3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim's character from his former show, *Home Improvement*: 'ex-Tim Taylor."

Amodeo told the ARRL that both his studio (Fox) and ABC were "delighted to have a useable call sign. In the past, TV shows just made up some crazy call or used someone else's without permission. And because we've had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show, a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam." Amodeo applied to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner so he could help administer the exams. On October 6, Amodeo and two other ARRL VEs administered the Technician exam to seven prospective hams. All seven passed, with two making perfect scores.

Since Mike Baxter is a ham, he needed a shack. So Amodeo and the set designers installed an Amateur Radio station in the corner of Mike's set office. Allen, as Baxter, uses an ICOM IC-9100 HF/6 meter/2 meter transceiver and an IC-92AD handheld transceiver, both provided to the show courtesy of ICOM America. Amodeo told the ARRL that he has plans to add vintage equipment to the shack in the future. "The radio equipment was originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items," Amodeo told the ARRL. "But since eight of the show's staff members are radio amateurs, it didn't take long before we made the radio equipment 'practical,' which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we're not shooting." He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are shooting scenes in the office.

Pitts and ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, have been working with Amodeo to make sure that Amateur Radio is correctly portrayed in the show. Keane also provided ARRL and Amateur Radio-related materials that are used on the set, such as issues of *QST*, *NCJ* and *QEX*, as well as a call sign map, a *2012 ARRL Handbook*, a 2012 ARRL calendar and various ARRL stickers (look for one on the HF rig). "We also sent fake versions of DXCC, Worked All States and Worked All Continents certificates, as well as a Morse Code Proficiency Certificate," Keane explained. "Each certificate bears the name Mike Baxter and has KA0XTT as the call sign. All the certificates have issue dates of December 25, playing upon Tim Allen's role in *The Santa Clause* movie series."

Amodeo told the ARRL that he also installed a Comet CHV-5X HF dipole and GP-1 antenna for 2 meters and 70 cm (courtesy of NCG/Comet) "up high, about 50 feet, inside the sound stage. The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times."

Last Man Standing also stars Nancy Travis (*Three Men and a Baby*) as Mike's wife and Hector Elizondo (*Pretty Woman*,

The Princess Diaries, Monk) as Mike's boss. Amodeo also produced the critically acclaimed **Sports Night** and **Arrested Development**.

Hamfests and Contests

The following hamfests and contests will be held in the next two months.

Hamfests

WinterFest

Date: January 15, 2012

Location: Paxtang Firehouse (Rear), 3423 Derry St,

Harrisburg, PA

Website: http://www.w3uu.org

Sponsor: Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club (HRAC)

Opens: 8am to 12

Cost: \$3 (No extra charge for up to the first ½ table space)

Other: DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL Card checking

Gloucester City Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Date: February 19, 2012

Location: Pinegrove Fire Association Hall, corner of Jersey

Avenue and 9th Street, Gloucester City, NJ

Website: http://nj2gc.org

Sponsor: Gloucester City Amateur Radio Club (NJ2GC)

Opens: 8 am to 3 pm; Vendors 7 am

Cost: \$5, tables free; off-street parking available

Contests

PODXS 070 Club PSKFest 0000Z-2400Z, Jan 7, 2012 Find Rules at:

http://www.podxs070.com/pskfest

ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 7 to 2400Z, Jan 8 Find Rules at:

http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 14 to 0600Z, Jan 15 Find Rules at:

http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 21 to 0600Z, Jan 22 Find Rules at:

http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

EPC WW DX Contest 1200Z, Feb 4 to 1200Z, Feb 5 Find Rules at:

http://www.epcwwdx.srars.org/index.php?option=com_content &view=article&id=44:epc-ww-dx-contest-rules-

2010&catid=34:contest-rules&Itemid=59

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12

Find Rules at:

http://www.cqwpxrtty.com/rules.htm

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 18 to 2400Z, Feb 19 Find Rules at: http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4 Find Rules at: http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx