

VCARA

CONNECTION

Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association



Feb 2011



**Santa presenting Ham of the Year award for 2010 to Dave Cline
KB9ZMF.**



Join us at
Fire Station # 3
1111 N. Griffin
NE Corner Griffin and English
(park in back, entrance off English)
Danville, IL
February 14, 2011
7PM



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



I hope everyone had a great holiday season and the new year is starting off with a bang. I am looking forward to a great new year with the club and it is my sincere hope that we as a club can work together for what is best for the group as a whole.

I have submitted the necessary paperwork for a trustee change for the club repeater, so that should be changed sometime this week.

Our February meeting will be held at Fire station #3, located at Griffin and English, in the 2nd floor training room. I am also thinking we should schedule our March meeting at a venue other than the club house, as the ground could be very soggy. According to the minutes last year, it was held at the Lynch Fire Department. Please let me know your thoughts.

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 a Technician/General class soon. Contact him for more info.

We do have a committee that is going over the constitution and by-laws for possible changes. They will be presented to the club

Spring will be here before we know it.....do I hear a collective sigh of relief, and with that will be time to do some spring cleaning at the club house. We really need to get the stuff out of the entry ways that are no longer used, and move the tables up stairs. I am thinking we need more room for chairs, so more people can actually sit down and not have to stand during a meeting. By moving the tables upstairs, we can use that area for classes and or projects.

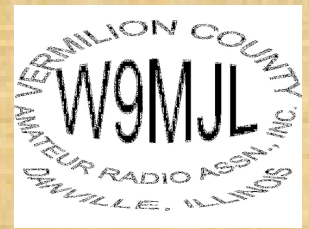
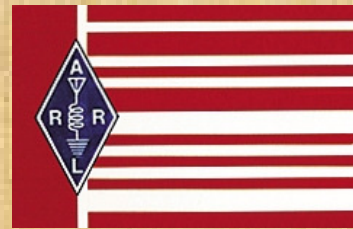
Ham Radio.....not just a hobby.....

.....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.



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
 Or at another designated venue.

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.

Helping Others.....

.....Always Worthwhile.

Logbook of The World Now Supports VUCC

(taken from the ARRL)

ARRL's Logbook of the World ([LoTW](#)) -- an online system for amateurs to confirm two-way contacts that can be used for various ARRL awards -- has been upgraded to support awards based on Maidenhead grid squares, such as [VUCC](#) and the [Fred Fish Memorial Award](#).

To take advantage of the new features, you need to log in to your LoTW account. (Don't have an LoTW account? It's [easy to sign up](#).) VUCC is an open-ended award in that hams can work on throughout their lifetime, just like [DXCC](#). But, like the Worked All States ([WAS](#)) award, the VUCC rules require all the contacts to be made from a defined area. For VHF and UHF QSOs on 1296 MHz and below, this distance must be within 200 km on 1296 MHz and below. For SHF awards, contacts must be made from a single location, defined as within a 300 meter diameter circle. As such, the VUCC support in LoTW allows you to make the rule -- or rules -- necessary to find the QSLs in LoTW that satisfy the VUCC rules.

Getting Started with VUCC on LoTW

When you log in to LoTW, click on the "Awards" tab. Besides finding the buttons for DXCC and WAS, you will also find a VUCC button. If you wish to use LoTW for VUCC, click on "Create New VUCC Award Account." When you do, you'll see a box where you can name your account. You also have the opportunity to make this your default VUCC account. Click "Save account changes."

At this point, you can manually add QSOs by clicking on "Add a QSO Set to this VUCC account." If you click on "Add rule to QSO Set," this will add a rule that will select current and future QSOs to this VUCC LoTW account.

You do not need to create separate accounts for each band which was used from any geographic location; LoTW will manage your band awards in each account for you. For example, your "home" location is grid square FN31, but you also operated portable from EL97. You will have to create two separate VUCC accounts so that the QSOs you made from EL97 are not credited to FN31. For detailed, step-by-step instructions, click [here](#).

Beyond these set-up procedures, the VUCC support functions operate much like the way the WAS support in LoTW works: You are allowed to have multiple VUCCs, as long as they are from areas too far apart to be counted as one area. Most people will likely have one "home" or "primary" VUCC area.

What is Different?

- **No "hybrid" awards:** You can make as many LoTW applications as you want and you can make separate ap-

plications with paper QSLs. We will keep track. It is not necessary to have 100 grids confirmed in order to make an application, but of course, it is necessary to have 100 grids confirmed and applied in order to be awarded a certificate for 6 or 2 meters.

- **Payment rate structure:** Paper applications will cost more than LoTW applications. There are lower prices for ARRL members, but US stations must be ARRL members. There is no "range of prices" for LoTW credits (what you pay to use a QSL inside LoTW). The LoTW per-QSO fee is 16 cents for members and 20 cents for non-members. You will see all the prices when you go to apply for an award.

Credit for adjoining grid squares: It is possible to give credit for up to four different grids using LoTW. This option is available for those who operate from "grid lines" and follow the rules for this set forth in VUCC and the [Fred Fish Award](#) (see VUCC Rules # 4.E).

It is possible to "link" your ARRL-affirmed list of grids -- those grids that have already been accredited to your VUCC award. This means that you have already received a VUCC award and want that data to appear in LoTW. This is very similar to what you can do with DXCC in LoTW. Unfortunately, some of the older VUCC applications exist only on paper and will need to be entered into the system by ARRL staff. If you have not made a VUCC application since 2000, you may be in that group; please have patience as staff will not be able to enter that data for a while.

Additional guidance about VUCC support is currently being prepared and will be announced on the LoTW home screen shortly. Daily automated listings of VUCC standings by band -- similar to the DXCC standings -- will also be online soon.

We invite you to take your time and enjoy the new tools. If you see matched QSOs and they are showing grids that you do not believe are correct, please let us know. We do check submitted grid data for accuracy, but there may be errors. You have final control over which of your confirmations you apply to your VUCC. If you believe someone has submitted QSO data with an incorrect grid square, please let both us and that station know. The originating station can fix his geographic data and resubmit the logs. Please have patience with our rollout of VUCC support. There is no hurry -- it is going to be here for a long time. Questions can always be sent via e-mail to lotw-help@arrl.org.

