

# MAC Newsletter

ARRL Affiliated Club

June 2002

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 2002, 7:30 P.M.  
Lincolnwood Village Hall  
6900 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

## Program for Next Meeting



**Paul Plasters, K9PEP** (Rockford, IL) of the **Motorcycling Amateur Radio Club** (MARC), **Illinois/Wisconsin** division will talk about two of his favorite things -- motorcycling and ham radio.

Paul has over 750,000 miles under his belt and now that he is retired, knows it won't be long until he hits 1,000,000!

Paul will talk about how you can enjoy these two endeavors at the same time while sharing some of his own adventures.

*continued on page 2*

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Minutes and President's Letter**
- 2 **Calendar, Hamfests, For Sale/Swap**
- 3 **The Story of the Shure 444 Microphone**
- 4 **Feature Article continued**

Visit the MAC web site at:

<http://www.qsl.net/mac>

## President's Letter

**Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT**

We had a good turnout at our last meeting for a very interesting speaker, Ray Cutler W9EHQ. Ray shared some of the great moments he experienced during his 34-years as a broadcast engineer at WMAQ TV Chicago. If you weren't there, you missed a really great presentation culminating in a display of broadcast type vacuum tubes.

I would like to welcome Paul Streeter, KB9ZIO to MAC. Paul lives on the far north side of Chicago. Welcome Paul, hope to see you at our future MAC events.

Ready or not summer is here. As I write this, Dayton is next week. A couple of weeks after Dayton is our Leaning Tower event, and then three weeks after that it will be Field Day. I would like to thank all the members who are active and working to make these two club events happen as well as those who have volunteered equipment. Both events are shaping up nicely and they promise lots of fun and a chance to get out and see how well we can put together an emergency communications station. If you are not participating in these events I hope you can at least stop by and socialize for a while.

The club needs speakers for the months of July onward. We ask members to keep an eye out for potential speakers on ham radio related topics. If you run across a potential speaker, please contact Bill Borgstrom, N9TN.

If you are attending Dayton and want to meet for coffee I will be at the Fists booth at 2:00 on Saturday.

73 for now. -Steve

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Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT - President (847) 825-3619   Bill Borgstrom, N9TN - VP (773) 338-3933   Mike Dinelli, N9BOR - Secretary (847) 676-0749  
Bill Simons, W9BB - Treasurer (847) 674-0694   Army Borenstein, W9FO - Trustee (773) 465-5190

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## Minutes of May 1st

President Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT, called the meeting of Metro Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:43 P.M. There were 29 members and guests present. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as mailed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Bill Simons, W9BB reported an April 12, 2002 statement balance of \$2,518.14. This reconciles with the current book balance of \$2,193.14. Bill noted that the \$325.00 liability insurance premium was paid during this period.

### Announcements and Correspondence

Secretary, Mike Dinelli N9BOR received a letter from Chris Brown who was our April Speaker. Chris thanked us for inviting him and mentioned that he planned on adding a link to MAC as well as an announcement for our Pisan Tower Event from his [Hamalyzer](#) website.

### Committee Reports

**Repeater** – Arny Borenstein, W9FO reported no changes to the repeater.

**Slow Speed Code Net** – Philip Lazar, K9PL reports increased net activity. Last week the net was cancelled due to thunderstorms. The net frequency is 7.138 MHz +/- . The net is held every Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month (MAC meeting), 7 P.M. local, all welcome, QRS to slowest op.

Glenn Opperman, KA9CTW brought in a copy of the Ft. Myers Modulator (newsletter), which had an announcement for MAC's Code Net.

**Ham Class** – Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT reported some attrition in the class. Steve estimates seven students will complete the course and obtain their ham tickets. Three MAC members will assist Dave Newman, NE9H as Volunteer Examiners on May 14.

**Field Day** – Scott Irwin, W8UFO reported progress in planning and acquiring equipment. Scott mentioned that he would be calling FD Captains on the phone for status reports. Steve Wolfcale asked the membership for donations or loan of coax for both FD and the Pisan Tower Event. Several members volunteered to provide coax. The FD planning committee will determine what items will need to be purchased.

**Pisan Tower Event** – Mike Dinelli, N9BOR reported that he, Arny Borenstein and Steve Wolfcale met with the Village of Niles' facilities director. Two HF vertical antennas will be installed on the Leaning Tower for the event. Mike called upon the membership to help install the antennas on the afternoon of May 31. Rob Kramer, NV8V suggested we coordinate a schedule and

frequencies with the Pisa ARC, perhaps on 15-meters. A press clip from the Lerner Life newspapers was passed around to members present. MAC will operate as **K9Y** and the PISA ARC will use **IZ5AXT/TWR**.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – Dave Sher, W9LYA suggested the membership be polled to indicate other amateur related affiliations. Some discussion resulted where President Steve Wolfcale was not sure what we would do with the information. The topic was tabled for a later date.

Jim Coursey has a new callsign – WV2JC

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

## Raffle

Several items were raffled to members including three mouse pads (donated by Gary Schneier, KA9OBZ), an MFJ coffee mug (donated by MFJ Enterprises) a Suse Linux Operating System (donated by Joe Gannon, KC9AKX), and a 1998 ARRL Handbook (donated by Tom Zimmerman, W9TTY).

## Program

Murray "Ray" Cutler, W9EHQ presented a terrific program about his 34+ years as a broadcast engineer for WMAQ-TV. The presentation included numerous video clips from that time period. Thanks to Scott, W8UFO for providing us with a VGA projector.

## Calendar

<a href="#"><u>Pisan Tower Event</u></a>	<b>June 1 - 2</b>
<a href="#"><u>MAC Meeting</u></a>	<b>June 5</b>
Flag Day	June 14
<a href="#"><u>Kid's Day</u></a>	June 15
Father's Day	June 16
<a href="#"><u>Field Day</u></a>	<b>June 22 - 23</b>

## Hamfests, etc.

**June 2, 2002 - Princeton Hamfest & Computer Show** Bureau Cty Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL; \$5 advance/\$7 at gate; raffle. Info: (815) 433-2117 or [kb9vzh\\_gov@yahoo.com](mailto:kb9vzh_gov@yahoo.com)

## For Sale/Swap

**WANTED: 70' Crank-Up Tower** (erected or on the ground), also wanted - **Clegg 99er**. Contact: Tom Berry, W5LTR (773) 262-5360

## Developing Products from a Personal Passion

### *The Story of the Shure 444 Microphone*

At Shure, many innovative products began as personal passions. One example was the development of the Shure 444 Desktop Microphone in the 1960s, specially designed for use by amateur radio operators, or "hams" as they are often called.



Shure 444D

As a boy, Sidney N. Shure was an amateur radio operator, and this interest led him into the radio parts business. Although he eventually gave up the hobby, he never lost interest in it.

*"One day Mr. Shure asked me why we weren't selling more microphones to ham radio operators," commented Bill Simons, then Plant Manager and one of the Company's most accomplished hams. "I told him it was because we didn't have a product that they liked. So he asked me to head up a group that would fix that."*

Mr. Simons had a lot of experience with ham radio equipment. He had designed and built his own equipment, was Secretary of the Society of Radio Operators, and was one of the founders of the Shure Ham Radio Club. But he was not an engineer and wondered if he could develop a microphone.

*"It was a tremendous challenge, but it helped that Mr. Shure had confidence in what we could do," Mr. Simons said. "I started working with the Shure Engineering Department and, also, asked a friend who was the Chief Audio Engineer at NBC to assist on the project."*

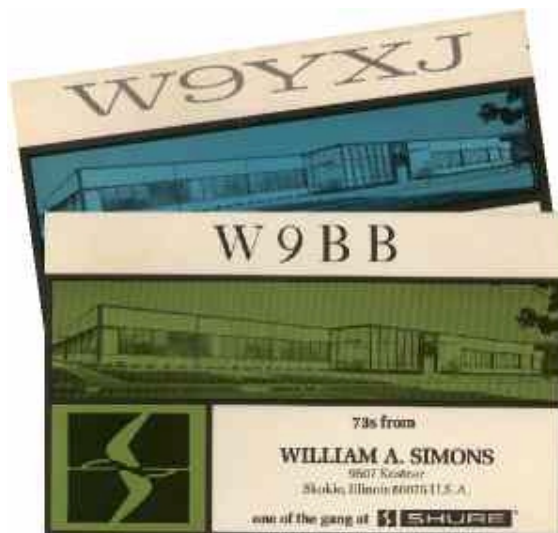
*"The most popular ham microphones at the time didn't have the ideal frequency response; so we started with a microphone cartridge we were using in another product and made some refinements that made it work better in ham applications."*

By conducting tests with fellow hams around the world, using different microphones and getting reactions on how the units performed, Mr. Simons assisted in coming up with a product that was right on target.

Based on feedback from users, the 444 was designed with a new feature that was gaining popularity, a telescoping neck on the desktop design that could be

easily adjusted. With the redesigned unit in tow, Mr. Simons went to local ham conventions and meetings to present the new Shure microphone and take orders.

*"The response to the microphone was outstanding. It took over the market, and Shure became the most popular ham microphone around. Mr. Shure was very pleased with what we were able to do," Mr. Simons recalled.*



Bill Simons retired in 1991 as Director of International Purchasing. While he had many accomplishments in his 31-year career with the Company, he may be best known as the man who put the Shure name in front of ham radio operators around the world.

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## Bill's Recollections

By Bill Simons, W9BB (formerly W9YXJ)



Here are a couple of on-the-air experiences I enjoyed while developing the Shure 440 ham microphone, the forerunner of the legendary Model 444.

I built a microphone switching box that permitted me to plug in two microphones and instantly switch back and forth between the two. After locating a friendly ham on the air, I would ask him to listen to the two different microphones and tell me which one he preferred.

On 12 May, 1960, I contacted Butch, KØDWC, aeronautical mobile. I said, "Butch, you have a very

strong signal -- you must be over my house." Butch answered that he was over South Bend, Indiana at 30,000 feet. I asked, "Butch, how do you get a private aircraft up to 30,000 feet?" His reply? "This is not a private aircraft, it's a Boeing StratoCruiser."

"How do you get permission to operate Ham radio onboard a commercial airliner?" Butch explained it was not a commercial airliner, it belonged to the U.S. Air Force and had six transmitters onboard. He tunes one of them to the ham bands and chats with hams as he flies around.

"Butch, don't you get in trouble for doing that?" "Well, no one ever said anything to me about it." Later, after we exchanged QSL cards, I was caught short when I saw his photo depicted on it, and the three stars on the shoulder of his uniform. Butch was Lt. General Francis H. Griswold, then Vice Commander of the Strategic Air Command. Later, Butch was awarded a fourth star and appointed Commander of the War College.

My second tale relates to K7LJA -- Little Johnny Appleseed. While tuning the band I heard this station. Each time they initiated a QSO, the operator would relate the story of Little Johnny Appleseed. The station

was the Mummy Mountain Radio Club and they had a fabulous setup. It included a "flagpole up 125 feet high and fourteen inches in diameter at the base." The entire tower rotated as a unit with all the antennas on it and weighed a total of 9,000 pounds.

The club was owned by a group of very wealthy hams including Thorne Donnelly, then publisher of the telephone directories. The person I was in QSO with was Herman, W7TPG.

I went through the A/B test with Herman. This was in 1961 and the 440 SL was already on the market. Herman told me he really liked the sound of the 440 SL and explained they had three stations operating at the club. Furthermore, he wanted to buy three of these microphones, one for each station.

I told him we could not sell microphones to individuals. He would have to order them from a Shure Dealer. Herman responded, "I am a Shure Dealer. I own Southwest Radio Supply." I told Herman to just place an order with our sales department. The following day I talked with Shure's Sales Manager and was told that yes, they did receive Herman's order for three 440 microphones.

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See the MAC "[Members Only](#)" website for supplemental images relating to this article.

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## Metro Amateur Radio Club

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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

"Donuts. Is there anything they can't do?"

Homer Simpson