

police and fire stations and other places. This service will continue until their 911 system is restored.

Yes, I suppose one could say we were lucky to be only snow bound, but when such an event occurs, one hardly feels benefitted. Still, all of us survive.

CANADIAN SPECIAL PREFIX

The Canadian amateurs may use a special prefix January 1 thru Feb 27, 2009. This commemorates Galileo's first look through an optical instrument called the telescope. Special Canadian Prefixes are:

VE changes to CG
VA changes to CF
VO changes to CH
VY changes to CI

To learn more about this Special prefix program and related projects, visit:
<<http://www.hamiya2009.info>>.

FCC ASKS HAMS TO ASSIST WITH DIGITAL TV

Amateur Radio Clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the Digital Television Conversion. FCC is leaving it up to the Clubs to decided how so do this.

With this assistance, hams are not to make house calls, sell any equipment or do actual installations. The FCC request is only for the ham to distribute technical information. In other words, the ham can hand out literature and answer questions only.

Interested groups can contact their Section Manager for more information on this program. And don't send your neighbor over to my house for information and guidance. I doubt if I can tell them how to turn on and off their machine. And , I know I can't advise them on the technical sides of things.

I think too, that both QCWA and our Club have decided to delegate the local VOI Club as the source of public help for the above digital TV service. We ain't got enuff qualified engineers among us.

BIRTHDAYS:

1-17-42 W5UYH
1-23-43 W7DVR
1-26-55 KB7SYE
2-5-31 KC8BX



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to each of you. May you have many more

CHEEP TRANSMITTER

Low energy light bulbs cause interference, but this can be put to good use. A website describes how to turn a lite bulb into a transmitter for the 80 meter band.

Michael Rainey, AA1TJA's web describes how to convert a compact florescent lamp (CFL), in this case a TriMax Electronic Florescent Lamp, into a 1.5 watt QRP CW transmitter for 3.5 MHZ.

Look at <<http://mjraineey.googlepages.com/dasderelicht>>. If this won't work for you, go to google and type in AA1TJA.

The AR Newsline also carried a blurb about this wee-wee rig, and then added: "A few words of caution regarding the handling those compact fluorescent lamps or any fluorescent lamps for that matter. The glass section of these lamps contain some pretty toxic chemicals that you will really not want to come in contact with. Also, be very careful to avoid shattering the glass as its very easy to suffer a deep gash form the shards and find yourself in a hospital emergency room as a result."

The schematic, found at AA1TJA Web, shows the bulb(s) as a transistor, and indeed it is.

LEAP SECOND

Who noticed that the year 2008 was a second longer? I didn't. I went to bed early.

One second was inserted just before midnight on the 31st of December. Leap seconds are added either at the end of June or December, and in 2008 it was at December's end. These are necessary because the rotation of Earth continually slows at a slight and variable rate.

It is now too late to monitor the insertion of the leap second. However whenever the next event comes about, all you need to do is tune to WWV; or if you have a Global Positioning System clock, watch it just prior and during zero hour on the day the second is inserted. But don't blink your eyes. If you do, you might miss the leap second event and then have to wait another several years for the next one to come about.

NEWSBRIEFS:

John, W7CNL, has changed his e-mail address. You now can reach him at W7CNL@yahoo.com. John says: "I'll be disconnecting my old AOL dial up system as soon as I get everyone notified and emails of my old AOL mailbox dry up."

Ron, KA7U, from Ontario sent an e-mail: "I was calling CQ this evening on 7030 and NH6I answered my call. We had a very nice QSO and when it was over, I looked him up. His web site [<http://www.fastnethi.com/norm/NH6I.html>] shows a very interesting HAM lifestyle. I just have to share it. My wife would not let me do the stuff he does, but still I can be envious. Hi Hi."

I looked at this Web address. Impossible to believe the extent NH6I has gone to advertise his home-built home. Interesting.

And talking about ham radio sites, look at <<http://www.hamradiotube.com>>. This site contains many amateur radio video clips and shows, covering the past 70 years. Worth visiting.

Al, W7GCL, managed to fall down twice on Sunday Jan 4. The second fall did some damage for which he was transported to St Alphonsus Hospital. The next day, Monday, Jan 5 he talked them into releasing him and he spent the night back home.

The following Sunday, Jan.11 he was sent back to the hospital for a couple of days.

Al still is convalescing, with family watching him constantly. Keep him in your thoughts.

Nothing like getting old - - and I'm afraid yrs trooly, and a few other of our group, are on the same path, dammitt. Stay tuned for reports on Al'.

