

**September 2014****Volume III, Issue IV**

## Q5er - The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

Looking to Join  
Skyview Radio Society?  
Go to  
[www.skyviewradio.net](http://www.skyviewradio.net) to  
learn more about becoming  
a member and also to see all  
the club's activities

The Skyview Radio Society  
weekly net is on Thursday  
nights at 9:00 PM local time  
146.640 Repeater PL 131.8

**Skyview Officers  
for 2014:**

**President:**  
Bob Yusko - KB3OMB

**Vice President:**  
John Hoffman- K3STL

**Secretary:**  
Bob Bereit – K3RMB

**Treasurer:**  
Greg Dober – N3VMF

**Membership:**  
Bob Bereit – K3RMB

**Radio Officer:**  
Bob Bastone – WC3O

**Kitchen:**  
Bob Bastone – WC3O

**Facilities:**  
Dave Dailey – N3TIN

**Chairman:**  
Tony Joint – KB3HGJ

**Trustees:**  
Bob Siska – K3OFX

Pat Cancro – NK3P

Dave Dailey – N3TIN

John Italiano – WA3KFS

Paul Rykaceski -WA3LCY

Frank Puskar – KB3YJQ

Joe McElhaney – KR3P

Tom Varela – KB3MDL

Tom Kerr – AB3GY

Mark Rossi – W3RRK

### A Letter from the Editor

Hi Everyone,

Summer sure went by fast and the Autumn edition of the Q5er is fresh off the press!

This edition of the Q5er has a variety of topics:

The Skyview Spotlight shines on Ken Villone KU2US

K3RMB's 3<sup>rd</sup> series is an interesting article about tape measure Yagi's

WC3O aka "Cooky" tells the secret about how he got his nickname

We received a few captions for the "Caption This" photo

There is a new Volunteer Examiner section

W3TLN shared a story for the "Reflections" section about something "Fowl" he saw at Skyview.

There are also a few new additions to the newsletter that everyone should enjoy.

I'm hoping to receive many articles from the membership and you can write about just about anything. You don't have to write a long article.

Let's have fun with the newsletter, it will be published quarterly and remember... **it's up to YOU to help make it happen.**

73 de John  
K3STL @arrl.net



Pictured is Bob Bastone, WC3O, with the new Skyview Radio Society table cover he designed and had made.

Look for the Skyview table cover at Hamfests and stop by and give it your "sign"



## Did you know?

Skyview Radio Society is on Facebook. Give us a "like"

Facebook is now allowing Hams to add their callsign to their profile. If you want to do it, here's how it's done:

1. Open up "Settings"
2. Under "General Account Settings", on the line that says "Name", click "Edit".
3. Enter your callsign in the space marked "Alternate name".
4. Check the box for "Include this on my timeline".
5. Save these settings by entering your Facebook password in the box marked "Password".
6. Click on the box marked "Save Changes".

Now return to your Main page and your callsign will appear under your name.

## The Skyview Spotlight

The Skyview Spotlight for this quarter shines on the founder of the 13 Colonies Special Event:

**Ken Villone, KU2US**

**K3STL: When did you become a ham? What got you first involved with ham radio?**

KU2US: I was first licensed in 1979. Been licensed for 35 years Advanced class. CB, but more so SWL got me interested.

**K3STL: Is/Was anyone in your family a ham?**

KU2US: My brother is a newly licensed Tech.

**K3STL: What modes do you operate? What is your favorite and why?**

KU2US: My favorite mode is SSB and some straight key slow CW.



**K3STL: What modes do you operate? What is your favorite and why?**

KU2US: My favorite mode is SSB and some straight key slow CW.

**K3STL: What area of Amateur Radio might you want to try that you haven't tried yet?**

KU2US: I would like to try Satellite and RTTY/PSK31.

**K3STL: What do you see for the future of ham radio?**

KU2US: The future of ham radio is loaded with more technological advances, but it is important to keep the traditional aspect of ham radio alive, CW, basic electronics and antenna concepts.

**K3STL: Were you in the military?**

KU2US: I am a Vietnam war era veteran 1968-1973. I was a light weapons instructor/Infantry.

**K3STL: What do/did you do for a living?**

KU2US: I am semi retired; I am a Real Estate Appraiser for the Rochester, NY. Federal Courts.



**K3STL: Besides ham radio, what other hobbies do you have?**

#### Upcoming Hamfests:

##### **September 7th 2014**

Butler County Amateur Radio Association  
Location: Unionville Fire Hall on Route 8 north of Butler – Talk-in: 147.360+ 131.8pl – Contact – Rick Melton N3VKM at [N3VKM@arrl.net](mailto:N3VKM@arrl.net) Web site:

<http://www.w3udx.org/>

##### **September 28th 2014**

Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show.  
Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. 164 Eastland Road. Talk-in: 146.730- 110.9pl.  
Contact: Glen Williams, AF8C [af8c@arrl.net](mailto:af8c@arrl.net)  
<http://www.hac.org>

##### **November 2nd 2014**

WACOM hamfest  
Location: Washington County Fairgrounds 2151 North Main St. Washington, PA Talk-in 145.190- Website: [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org) - Breakfast and lunch served – Free coffee - VE session - Contact person: Bud Plants, N3TIR [bud@n3tir.com](mailto:bud@n3tir.com) Talk-in 146.790-

**K3STL: Was the 13 colonies special event your idea? If so, when/how did it start to form?**

KU2US: The 13 Colonies special event was my idea. It started to form in 2008, when I just finished the ARRL sweepstakes. I thought that we did not have many events like this. Our first year was 2009 with over 12,000 contacts. I felt that we need something patriotic to celebrate, it was lacking on the bands. Thus the 13 Colonies was born.

**K3STL: What's it like to run such a popular event?**

KU2US: To run this event and other like it, patience and fortitude are required. Intricate planning of every detail is a must. Organizational skills are put to the test. A love of, and a firm belief in the theme of the event. Most of all, a strong desire to have FUN, and to make it FUN for others.

**K3STL: What's your favorite memory from the 13 colonies special event?**

KU2US: My favorite memory taken from this event is twofold. It is bittersweet. Paul Copeland was one of my state operators. He worked his station during the event right up to the week he passed away. Our 13 Colonies Special event Group operator awards are named in his honor. The second part was when a QRZ.com poll named our event as the top event, in which all others should emulate. This was quite an honor

**K3STL: What are some of the biggest challenges you face while running the 13 colonies special event?**

KU2US: Some of the biggest challenges to date are keeping all of the state groups coordinated, informed and in some instances staffed. Getting out the requested certificates and QSL cards at the end of the event without mistakes is a huge challenge, and estimating supplies and expenses for the next year.

**K3STL: What issues did you have in the early times of the event?**

KU2US: In the early times of the event, the only challenge was staffing the states. Many did not know who we were back then.

**K3STL: Are you surprised that this event has grown to what it is today?**

KU2US: I am not surprised that our event has grown so much, I am OVERWHELMED! The reception from the Ham Radio community is wonderful. It means we are doing something right, providing a fun time for all, and at the same time honoring the birth of our country and its military, active and veterans.

#### How K3STL got his callsign

I started out as KB3LVH (That's Kilo Bravo Three Lookin Very Handsome) and was having problems being understood in contests or working DX. I wanted a 1X2 call, but couldn't find a call I liked. As many of you know I'm a Steelers fan, and, while looking at the available callsigns, K3STL was available. It's the closest thing to an abbreviated "Steelers" I could find and K3STL became my callsign.

How did you get your callsign? Email [K3STL@arrl.net](mailto:K3STL@arrl.net) with your story and *maybe* it will appear in the next newsletter ☺



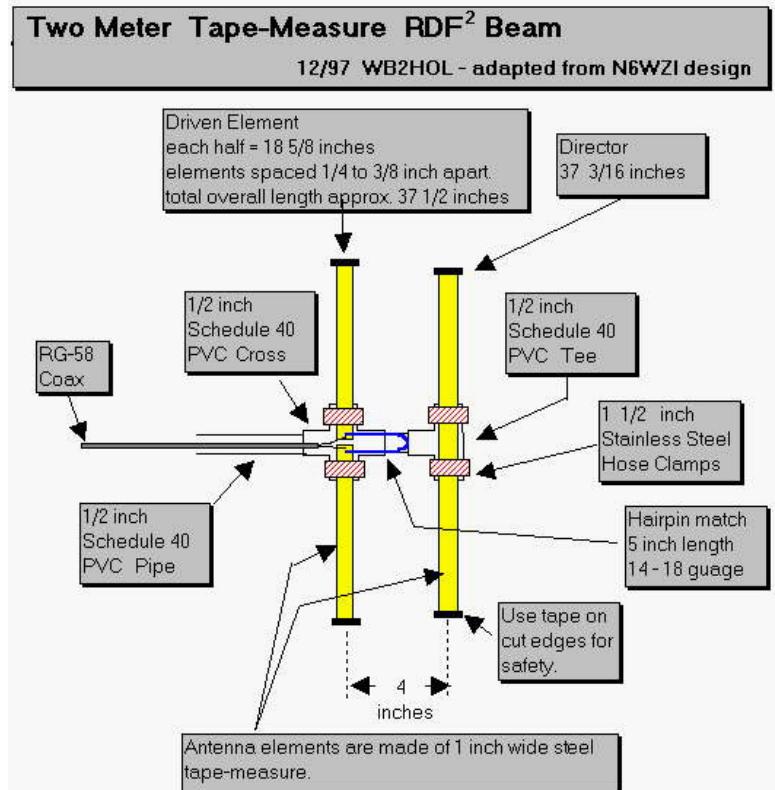
The following article about Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is Part 3 of a 5 part series by Bob Bereit – K3RMB

## A Tape Measure 2m Yagi Antenna For ARDF

Search the internet and you will find a multitude of antenna designs, for use in fox hunting (Amateur Radio Direction Finding). There are loops, 2, 3, and 4 element hand-held Yagi designs, all of which can be used for this purpose. Arrow Antennas (Cheyenne, WY) sells several models specifically for this purpose.

The fox hunting antenna used at the National Scout Jamboree is a simple 2-element Yagi. This antenna is easily constructed out of PVC Pipe, a tape measure, a few hose clamps, a bit of coax and SMA connector. Most of the pieces can be purchased at your neighborhood big-box home store. This antenna is an adaptation of the RDF<sup>2</sup> two element, close spaced Yagi antenna described in the May, 1996 issue of *73 Amateur Radio Today*. This particular variant was developed by Joe Leggio (WB2HOL) and full details on the construction and performance of the antenna can be found at [http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/snif\\_bm.htm](http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/snif_bm.htm).

Almost everything you need to know for building this antenna can be found in this diagram from WB2HOL's web site:





Leggio's write-up talks about using 'replacement' tape measure blades, but I couldn't find that specific component. No big deal, however, as a new 1" wide X 25' tape measure can easily be obtained for less than \$10. In my case, the most expensive component of the project turned out to be the SMA connector, since I chose to buy one with a pigtail coax attached.



Using this antenna, with over 1,000' between the receiver and transmitter, signal strength was full scale no matter the direction the antenna was pointed. That makes it very difficult to home in on the 'fox' in wooded or hilly terrain. Consequently some method of signal attenuation is required, to reduce the received signal level to the point that the S-meter of the receiver can be used to help determine the direction toward the transmitter. We will deal with the issue of attenuation in the next article in this series.

- Bob Bereit, K3RMB

## Stop up and see us at Skyview Radio Society!

2335 Turkey Ridge Road  
New Kensington, PA 15068

**Business** meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.  
**Weather Group** meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.  
**Social** meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.  
**Elmer Night** on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

### ***If the Phantom of the Opera was a ham, the story may have been told quite differently:***

"Lot 666, then: an amplifier in pieces. Some of you may recall the strange affair of the Phantom of the WPX: a mystery never fully explained. We are told ladies and gentlemen, that this is the very amplifier which figures in the famous contest disaster. Our workshops have restored it and fitted up parts of it with wiring for the new non-discontinued tubes, so that we may get a hint of what it may look like when re-assembled. Perhaps we may frighten away the LIDs of so many years ago with a little filament voltage, gentlemen?"

- WC3O



## Happenings

Monday nights at 8:30 PM (local time), WC3O conducts code practice sessions. Anyone at any proficiency can participate in code practice.



Think you'd like to give Morse Code a shot? Tune in to the Skyview repeater 146.640 pl 131.8 and/or listen for WC3O on 28.102MHz.

### Fireside Net

Friday nights at 10:00 PM (Local Time) on 28.464MHz



### WAN Repeater System

Have you heard about the Wide Area Network Repeater System with coverage from the New York State line down into Maryland (and even farther via Echolink)?

Learn more about the WAN Repeater System at:

<http://www.wanrepeater.net/>

**Skyview Radio Society has its own weather station!**

Check it out at <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=K3MJW-2&last=12>



## Skyview Eats:

People ask me why they call me “Cooky” (and sometimes Cookie)? I tell them it’s because I like to cook! The running joke at Skyview is that everyone’s name is Bob. Some time ago a bunch of us Bobs where having dinner one Tuesday night at Eat N Park before going up the joint. We decided that nicknames were needed so that if someone says “Hey Bob” 12 people don’t go “huh?” And so was born Sparky (KG3F Bob), OTH (AG3O Bob, OTH stands for Over The Hill Bob) and Cooky, that’s me. I know there were others, but I’m trying to remember.

So how did this cooking thing start at Skyview? Good question. One day I noticed that the Skyview clubhouse had a kitchen. Hmm. Like I said, I do like to cook. My crew at home doesn’t necessarily like my cooking. They don’t like exotic things like grilled chicken, beans, eggs, most vegetables any kind of spice, garlic, etc. I figured I would cook up the joint and see how it goes.

Considering the international nature of amateur radio I thought it would be cool to try cooking ethnic foods and give them cutesy hammy names like XE3MJW (Mexican), BD3MJW (Chinese), i3mjw (Italian) and so on. Our Octoberfests were outstanding (DL3MJW). I always wanted to try other things such as Indian, Mediterranean, Spanish, French, Polish and more. Haven’t gotten there, yet.



The Skyview Swap N Shop used to serve the usual fare that you might find at any hamfest. I thought it would be good to try to put together something that would make the Skyview S&S stand out from the crowd. You want people to return to your hamfest and taste can be a VERY powerful memory trigger. Thus was born the Skyview Burger and the Skyview Dipole Hotdog. Things that you can’t get ANYWHERE else. I like to play around with cooking things that are sweet and sour, or hot and cool at the same time. Let the spices work together and you land up with a resultant flavor that neither spice had on its own. There are stories about how I came up with what is in the Skyview Burger or dog, but this article would be too long. I know it worked because as the S&S approaches I hear local folks on the repeaters saying thing like “I have to get out to the Skyview hamfest and get my Skyview Burger”. Let me tell you friends, that gives the cook a good feeling.

The first time I cooked for the S&S I had NO IDEA what I was in for. I never appreciated the job of the short order cook. The short order cook needs to be organized, ergonomic and needs to FLY while cooking. I have no idea how cooks deal with this on a daily basis. MANY thanks to my kitchen crew at the S&S because there is NO WAY I could do it without them. Over the years we have improved greatly the process. It’s not too bad now but by the end I am beat.

We didn’t touch on the Skyview apple pie bakeoff or contest cooking. Maybe next time?

So there you have the short story. Skyview has a kitchen. If you would like to try your hand at cooking your favorite fare please let me know and we’ll make it happen some social night. It’s fun and it’s good for your club. In the meantime make sure to be at the Skyview Swap N Shop.

Cooky - Bon Appetit! De WC3O



# Caption This!

Below are the captions submitted for the June 2014 "Caption This" picture:

Look for the next "Caption This" photo in the December Q5er!



"Wait Cap...HOW much beer did you say that holds?"

"Duey, Is this a Yaesu or an Icom?"

This app will make an amateur radio operator out of him."



## Volunteer Examiner Sessions

Skyview Radio Society conducts VE sessions for those who wish to obtain or upgrade an Amateur Radio license.

**NOTE: The Tech test has just been changed as of July 1, 2014. The old study guides may no longer be accurate prep materials.**

### Mark Your Calendars!



Next Skyview VE Session is on Saturday October 25, 2014



Contact Volunteer Examination Coordinator Bob Worek [ag3u@arrl.net](mailto:ag3u@arrl.net) for exam test dates and information, or go to the "VE Session" tab at [www.skyviewradio.net](http://www.skyviewradio.net).

Walk-ins allowed. To be fair to our Volunteer Examiners, if we do not know of any candidates, we may cancel the session, especially during inclement weather conditions.

Congratulations to the following Amateur Radio Operators who passed their exam to obtain and/or upgraded their Amateur Radio License in 2014 at Skyview Radio Society:

AB3UG - David

KC3CEA - Shawn

KC3CEB - Scott

KC3CSH - James

KC3CSI - Joe

KC3DDL - Gilchrist

KCEDDK - Lia

Looking for practice exams? Here's an example of just a few of the many websites out there:

AA9PW:  
<http://aa9pw.com/radio/>

eHam:  
[http://www.eham.net/exams/?eham\\_id=lcncdebhjm80uv3lldhb48kt7](http://www.eham.net/exams/?eham_id=lcncdebhjm80uv3lldhb48kt7)

HamExam.org:  
<http://hamexam.org/>





## Skyview Hamfest

### Some of the sights during the Skyview Hamfest:



#### Congratulations to the Skyview Hamfest Prize Winners:

**PEET Weather Station:** Jerry Hoskowicz

**Begali Key:** Carol Danko – KB3GMN

**DX Engineering Coax Toolkit:** Dave Dailey – N3TIN

**Surge Traps:** Mike Fufari – K3FH

**ARRL Handbook:** Ed Zullo – N3YNC

**J-Pole Antenna:** Mike Fufari – K3FH

**DX Engineering Mug:** Art Mueller – WA3BKD

**\$50 ARRL Gift Certificate:** Jack Buxon – KA3HPM

**\$25 ARRL Gift Certificate:** Dewey Chauvin – W3VYK

**\$25 ARRL Gift Certificate:** Bill Dillen – N3WMC

**\$25 ARRL Gift Certificate:** Nicholas Bobich – WA3NB

**50/50 Raffle:** Theodore Pinsker – WA3BOJ



## Reflections

### A Romantic Encounter at Skyview

By: Tom Nagy – W3TLN

On Thursday, July 10, 2014, I had to drop an item off at Skyview. It was approximately 1PM. My wife had come along for the ride. I turned into the club driveway and started up the hill to the clubhouse. I certainly did not expect to see what I saw next.

Yup, we had stumbled on a couple having a “romantic encounter”. My wife noticed them first. She told me to look to the right along the tree line. And then I saw it! Tom turkey has a girlfriend!

The hen was sitting in a depression in the ground about 20 feet below the garden. She got up and scratched the ground. Then she settled into the depression again. Frisky Tom was 30 feet toward the road but when we departed Tom was standing alongside his girlfriend. It looked like she was sitting on a nest.

I went home and Googled “turkey nest” and found that they do nest on the ground. First romantic encounter at Skyview?? Who knows.

Another thought, Andrew may have to be relocated for a month or two. Maybe he can go on a vacation to Skyview’s off-site field day location.

Editor’s Note: On Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, Mom and Dad turkey were spotted at Skyview walking into the woods with their kids aka poults.