



June 2015

Volume IV, Issue II

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

Looking to Join

Skyview Radio Society?

Go to

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 2015:

President:

John Hoffman – K3STL

Vice President:

Dewey Chauvin – W3VYK

Secretary:

Bob Bereit – K3RMB

Treasurer:

Pat Cancro – NK3P

Membership:

Bob Bereit – K3RMB

Radio Officer:

Bob Bastone – WC3O

Kitchen:

Bob Bastone – WC3O

Facilities:

Dave Dailey – N3TIN

Chairman:

Bob Yusko – KB3OMB

Trustees:

Bob Siska – K3OFX

Dave Dailey – N3TIN

John Italiano – WA3KFS

Paul Rykaceski -WA3LCY

Frank Puskar – KB3YJQ

Joe McElhaney – KR3P

Tom Varela – KB3MDL

Jack Buzon – KA3HPM

Rich Ryba – WQ3Q

A Letter from the Editor

Hi Everyone,

Turn on those air conditioners because the summer edition of the Q5er is "hot" off the press!

After a brief hiatus, many of you expressed that you would like for me to continue as the Q5er editor. I gave this some consideration, based mainly on those of you who really enjoy the newsletter and decided to continue being the Q5er editor. I won't have a lot of time in the near future for a lot of extracurricular activities, but will continue with the newsletter as time permits. So get those typing fingers exercised because I will need articles from everyone to keep this going. Here's to the future... God Bless America!

This edition of the Q5er has a variety of topics:

The Skyview Spotlight shines on the Skyview's very own Dave Mueller AA3EE (aka: Dit-Dit)

Rick WQ3Q aka "Quack Quack" wrote an article about Protecting lives and property via Skywarn.

I asked for the Q5er to have a technical article or two and Jody – K3JZD came through for us with an article about Homebrewing and another about his mobile equipment installation adaptation from older to newer cars. Thanks Jody!

Captain Jack shared his memory of working the 13 Colonies from K3LR.

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



Did you know?

Since 2010, You can print a personalized certificate for your callsign in any of the CQ WW contests.

Here's how to do it:

1. For **SSB** and **CW**, go to www.cqww.com
 2. Select the "Results" Tab
 3. Enter your callsign in the search box and select "Go"
 4. Click the "Cert" link, which is to the right of your scores.
 5. Select the size of paper you wish to print.
 6. Preview your certificate and then print it.
-
1. For **RTTY**, go to www.cqwwrtty.com.
 2. Select the "Results" Tab.
 3. Select the "Scores Database" link
 4. Enter your callsign in the search box and then select "Submit"
 5. Click the "Cert" link to the right of your scores.
 6. Select the "Create CQ WW Certificate" link
 7. Preview your certificate and then print it.

The Skyview Spotlight

The Skyview Spotlight for this quarter shines one of Skyview's finest:

Dave Mueller, AA3EE (aka: Dit-Dit)

K3STL: Tell me what got you first involved with Ham Radio and what was your impression of it?

AA3EE: Art, WA3BKD is my uncle. I suppose he hit up all of the family members to see who was interested. I don't really remember how it happened. I got the radio merit badge when I was a Boy Scout, and kept going from there.

K3STL: How old were you when you got licensed? Any previous Callsigns?

AA3EE: Since I was a senior in high school. Let's just say I'm eligible for QCWA. My Novice call was KA3KSD.



K3STL: The Callsign AA3EE is unique, how did you get that callsign?

AA3EE: A long time ago (before the Internet), QST used to publish the current issued call signs. Back then I was an active VE with Steel City ARC (W3KWH). One winter evening we were sitting around doing the post session paperwork and I checked out the current W3 call block. I remarked that AA3EE would be issued soon and what a cool call that would be. Mac, W3MAC (who was KC3RJ at the time, I believe) said that I was eligible for a new call since I had an Extra class license but a 2x3 call. Stew AK3J slid a 610 across the desk to me... I checked about a year's worth of QSTs and figured out how many Extra calls were issued each month. I then did some serious pondering. After all, my current call wasn't all that bad, and my luck with lottery type things has always been dismal. So one day, I dropped the 610 in the mail. A few weeks later, about 2 weeks before Dayton, my new license arrived. I almost didn't want to open it. I think someone at the FCC figured out what was going on and took pity on me! Needless to say, I came home from Dayton with my new call on a hat, shirt pin, jacket, matching socks and a few hundred samples of QSL cards from printers (and a brand new Kenwood TS-50 to celebrate using up a lifetime of good luck in one shot). I stuck with the shop I had used before, The Little Print Shop, in Texas. The card was pretty unique, they



Upcoming Hamfests:

July 18th 2015

North Hills ARC
Parkwood United
Presbyterian Church
4289 Mount Royal Blvd.
Allison Park, PA 15101
Talk-in 147.090+
Contact: Eric Fowler WV3E
ericfowler@nharc.org
Web site: <http://nharc.org/>

July 19th 2015

Somerset ARC
Somerset County
Technology Center
281 Technology Drive
Somerset, PA
Talk-in: 147.195+ pl 123.0
Also 443.250 pl 123.0
Contact:
<http://www.K3SMT.org>

August 30th 2015

Skyview Radio Society
*The best little hamfest
in the world!*
*ARRL Section
Convention!*
2335 Turkey Ridge Road
New Kensington, PA 15068
Website:
www.skyviewradio.net
Breakfast and lunch served
Talk-in: 146.640- pl 131.8
Contact person:
Pat Cancro NK3P:
jpc2@psu.edu

had a silver silk screen ink on dark stock. My original cards were blue, I think I went to black and later red. I wish they were still around, I really liked the cards. Unfortunately, they had limited options since everything was screen printed. My current card is a block diagram of an old TV transmitter from the company I used to work at, I print them on an ink jet printer on index card stock.

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

AA3EE: There's something besides CW? Oh, 2 meter FM I guess.

K3STL: What is your most favorite memory about a Ham Radio experience?

AA3EE: It's hard to say, there hasn't been any earth shattering experiences but a lot of good ones nonetheless. I remember working the Vatican on 20M right after I upgraded to General, with my old Heathkit SB-104 on the QRP setting, 1W.

K3STL: It appears that the interest in Ham radio is growing. Why do you think that is?

AA3EE: I'm not sure I agree with that statement. Sure, the number of licensees is growing, but how many of them are active? Since the exams have gotten easier, and study guides with all the Q&A are everywhere, it's easy for anyone to push his kids and/or wife through the process. I think it's OK if someone wants to get a license just to talk to other people, but how many of the new hams in the past decade really exemplify the true spirit of the service?

K3STL: Do you volunteer your skills for ham radio events?

AA3EE: Not anymore. I was one of the original net control ops for the first 10 or so Pittsburgh Marathons, and about the same tenure for the Vintage Gran Prix (anyone remember the first few parties at the Schenley Ice Rink?). I was Chief Operator at the Allegheny County EOC for a few years, right after they opened the new center on North Lexington.

K3STL: What do you find to be most challenging about Ham Radio?

AA3EE: Finding the time and energy to get on the air. The only time I really make an effort is the PA QSO party. I kicked butt one year, I think over 600 Q's. It was the first time I used SSB. For the past 3 or 4 years, I've been the only op in Fayette County except for a K8 who goes mobile. I try to get on for the DX CW contest in February.

K3STL: What do you see changing about Ham radio in the next 5 years?

AA3EE: More of the same. People complaining about CW, not CW, easy tests, too much computers, and generally not enough people getting on the air and making contacts.

K3STL: What would a Ham Radio operator be surprised to know about you?

AA3EE: Probably that my call sign isn't a vanity call.

K3STL: Do you have anything to add about Ham Radio?

AA3EE: Nope. Thanks for helping to rekindle the ham fire for me. I was amazed at how much you just enjoy talking on the radio. I have more fun building and tinkering than talking.

Random Happenings at Skyview



Bob WC3O and Paul WA3LCY with Bob's 50/50 winnings



Frank KB3YJQ, Pat NK3P, and John WA3KFS at Field Day



QSL cards received from Skyview's K2M efforts. 59 inches long!



John WA3KFS setting up to copy CW with Mike KC3CBQ



Bob WC3O working CW with Bob W3GH aka The Green Hornet

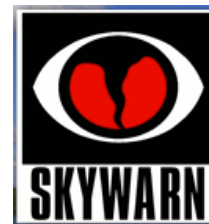


The sky opens for Bob K3OFX in time for his mobile installation



“Protecting lives and property”

Rich Ryba, WQ3Q



On Wednesday May 27th, Cooky, WC3O, Bill, N3WMC, Dave K0JRS and myself WQ3Q attended the SKYWARN® Weather Spotter's training in Ford City. Sponsored by the US Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS,) SKYWARN® program is a volunteer organization with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In the average year, 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes occur across the United States. These events threatened lives and property.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

SKYWARN® storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time—seconds and minutes that can help save lives. This is also why there is an interest in engaging amateur radio operators in the program. I have felt that with the special skills we have there is an obligation to do whatever we feel comfortable doing for the betterment of our communities. That plus I love the whole science of weather.

Having found out that there would be a training session in May, the intrepid crew of hams from Skyview drove off to Ford City and spent the couple of hours of presentation/training put on by Fred McMullen from Pittsburgh. The evening training presentation included identification of cloud formations and their indicators of weather. We also received a handy-dandy Weather Spotter's Field Guide which covered much of the same material but with a bit more depth.

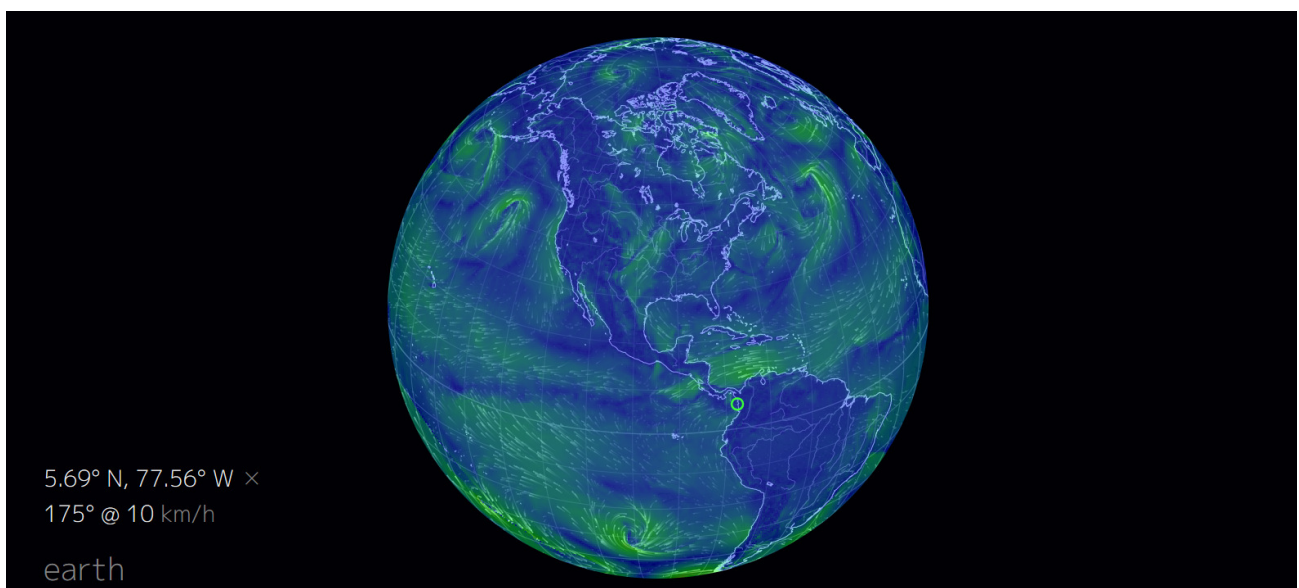
Along with the basic guides and reporting format we also were introduced to the NWS Amateur Radio Frequency (147.09MHz with a backup of 146.88MHz) and many varied web sites that are dedicated to the variety of weather patterns, predictions and indicators. We learned of CoCoRaHS (pronounced cocorahz) I have already started to send in rain information. This last storm was a good one to report on. I registered 5.6 inches for the day... YIKES! That helps the NWS consider forecasting as we act as their “eyes” in our area. It especially will help in predicting the effect on flooding.

The weather web sites are a geek's dream of animated and sometimes real-time representation of current conditions. If you want to have a real engaging web site to view some neat weather patterns, go to:

<http://www.lightningmaps.org/realtime> A real-time map with up to the second lightning strikes:



<http://earth.nullschool.net/> A map for which you choose the type of weather pattern you want to see from the list, then click on “earth” to show it clear screen.



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 28.102 MHz.

Fireside Net

Friday nights at 9:00 PM
(Local Time) on 28.464MHz



WAN Repeater System

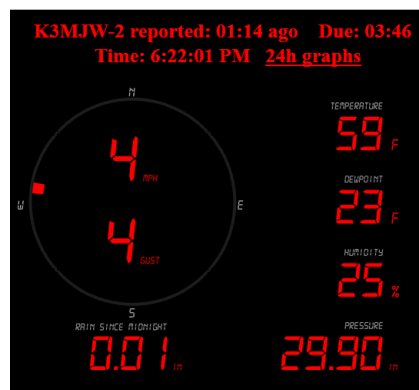
Have you heard about the Wide Area Network Repeater System with coverage from the New York State line down into Maryland (and even farther via Echolink)?

Learn more about the WAN Repeater System at:

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

Skyview Radio Society has its own weather station!

Click the "Skyview Weather Group" tab on Skyview's webpage and see for yourself!





History of a Homebrew Project

By: Jody - K3JZD

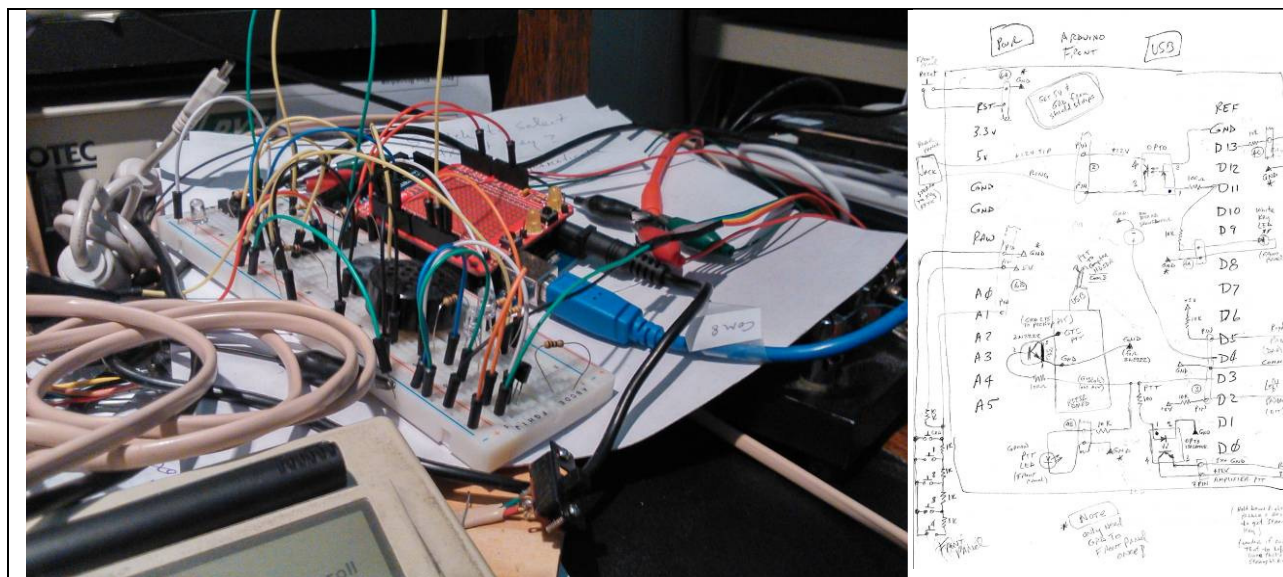
Many Homebrewed Projects come out of necessity. Can't buy exactly what you want, so you build it.

This project started with my desire to start experimenting with a small QRP Software Defined Radio (SDR). Running QRP on SSB did not seem practical. And I have been trying to rebuild my CW expertise. So I concluded that I needed a SDR that I could run CW with.

A lot of reading and asking questions on the various SDR Groups on Yahoo uncovered that fact that when SDRs are running CW, you have to key them by using a Serial/USB Interface to the computer, which in turn keys the radio. This results in your keyer sidetone being ahead of what is transmitted.

After asking why it has to be this way, Warren - 9V1TD/W8TOD, with assistance from Alan - G4ZFQ (both of whom know the Softrock RXTX Transceiver quite well), took up that challenge. Warren found a way to directly key the Transmitter hardware, eliminating that latency. But, it required first manually setting the computer software to 'Transmit' so that the computer would control the Transmit-Receive function in the radio. Warren found a way to automatically do that T-R Switching using a fully configurable, open source, Arduino based, K3NG Keyer to obtain 'Semi Break-In CW'.

With that solved, I then purchased a Softrock RXTX Transceiver and set about collecting the parts needed to build my version of the Arduino based K3NG Keyer. I decided to breadboard what I wanted to end up with first, and generate the Arduino external interface schematic as I went.



Breadboarding the circuit turned out to be a good plan, as it made it easy to evolve when I added some bells and whistles like 'PTT Active' & 'Keyed' LEDs and a second input jack for a straight key. And, I switched to a different Serial to USB converter board (used for the PTT to the computer) along the way, which then required adding a transistor into the circuit to invert the PTT signal.

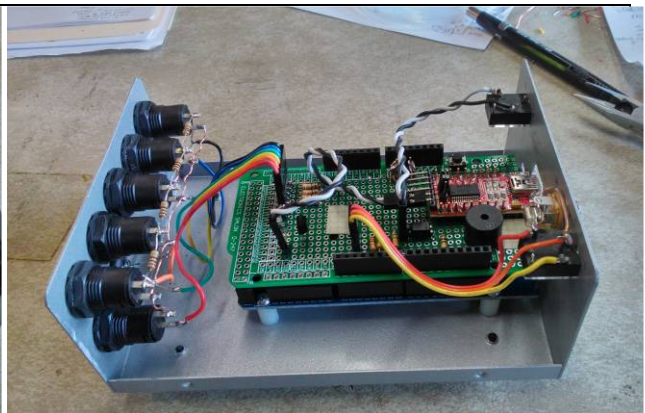
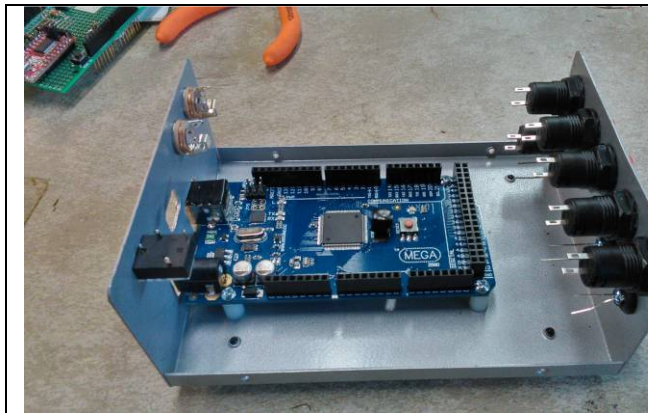
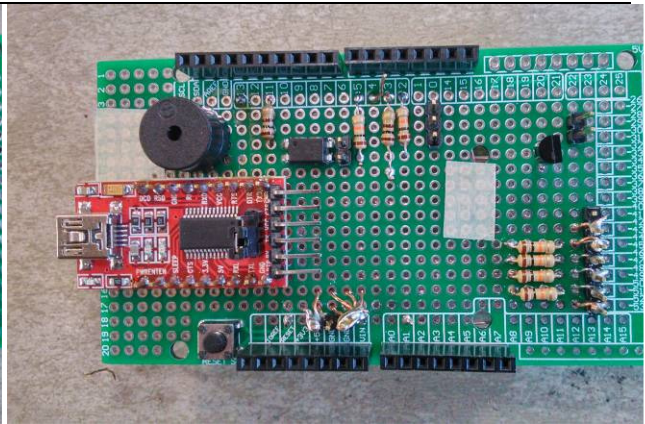
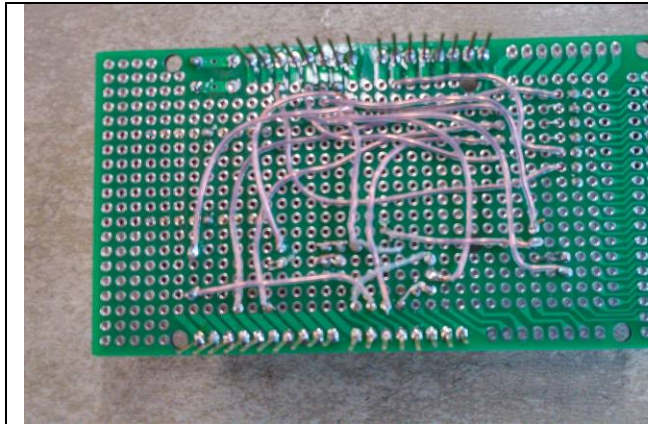
Once I got it all working to my satisfaction, I then tackled the best way to build it. I missed Radio Shack not being around because I could not find any of the small panel-mount momentary push buttons like RS had carried. So I settled for ones that were a little larger. Probably the toughest thing to find was a suitable case. My first case was just a little too small. The second was a little bigger than I needed. I decided to use all plug-in connections between the case components and the Arduino interface board plug-in connections to allow easy removal of the interface board for future modifications. That decision has already paid off because I have just ordered a small linear amplifier to take my signal from about 1 watt up to about 25 watts, and that is going to require adding another PTT interface circuit. So I will be adding another opto-isolator and additional wiring to the Arduino interface board and adding another jack on the rear panel for that new PTT output.

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Skyview Radio Society, K3MJW

K3MJW

2335 Turkey Ridge Road
New Kensington, PA 15068



(Note that the keyer ended up being bigger than the radio - but it is a size I can comfortably work with)



At the end of the day, I ended up with a fully customizable Memory Keyer to key my RXTX SDR. I can use normal iambic keying with the paddles, or straight-key keying using a paddle as a side-swiper, or use a regular straight key. I have a Semi Break-In operation with the PTT interface to the SDR (and soon to the amplifier). Whenever a new need comes up, I can add it. You can't really buy this anywhere!!

(You should be able to Zoom In with this Word Document to allow seeing more detail in the photos)

Skyview Radio Society is on Facebook!

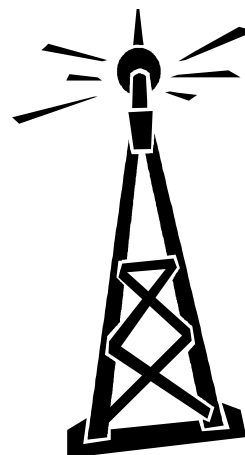
Give us a “Like” to keep up on
the latest club news and events!



Skyview now has its own 440 repeater on the air!

Tune in to 444.525 MHz +5kHz

(PL 131.8)



Did Someone Say DAYTON???



Bob AG3U chatting with Steve KB3EYY at Space 3505



Pat NK3P with Bob K3RMB at the Four Days in May



John K3STL having a post-dinner picture with Piero Begali I2RTF



Pat NK3P, Jim KQ3S, and Bob WC3O at the Four Days in May



There was a sighting of Skyview Founding Member Bob W3GH



Chuck W3YNI takes a break with his son

The 13 Colonies

By: Captain Jack – KA3HPM



Captain Jack – KA3HPM



Brian – KB3ORR

**K3LR MULTI-MULTI CONTEST STATION
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS • RACES •**

HOW DID THE 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT START YOU WONDERED. WELL WONDER NO MORE, FOR I HAVE THE INSIDE SCOOP ON IT. IN THE BEGINNING ON A COLD WINDY WINTER NIGHT WHEN 13 HAMS WERE SITTING AROUND THE TABLE. THE BANDS WERE DOWN AND WITH NOTHING TO DO BUT SIT THERE AND DRINK THERE MUGS OF GRAPE JUICE. WOEE ARE WE THEY MOANED, WE NEED TO MAKE SOME NOISE ON THE BANDS SO WE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO. AFTER SOME MORE GRAPE JUICE, FROM THE VINEYARDS OF QUACK QUACK, A PLAN WAS DEvised. HENCE FORTH, THEY SAID. WE SHALL RETURN TO OUR HOME LANDS AND THE 13 WHEN FORTH TO THERE HOME LANDS TO SPREAD THE WORD THAT A NEW EVENT WOULD BE FORTH COMING. IT WOULD BE CALLED THE 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT, WHERE THE DECIPLES WOULD GO FORTH AND ENCOURAGE THE FORLORNED HAMS AROUND THE WORLD TO FIRE UP THEIR RADIOS, AND FROM THERE ANTENNAS THE WORDS WERE THUS SPOKEN.

CQ CQ LOOKING FOR A K2 STATION. AND SOON THE WAVES WERE FILLED WITH HAMS LOOKING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE CHOSEN 13. SHORTLY THERE AFTER, A FLASH OF LIGHT WAS RECEIVED ON THE COMPUTERS UP AT THE JOINT, AND THE RADIO OFFICER CALLED OUT, GATHER ALL YE AROUND FOR WE HAVE NEED OF SOME NEW PLAQUES TO COVER OUR DISMAL WALLS. THE FAITHFUL WORKED THE RADIOS INTO THE DARK HOURS OF THE NIGHT. DAY AFTER DAY, THE FAITHFUL WERE RACKING UP THE Q'S FASTER THAN DIPPING A PIECE OF BREAD INTO THE SACRED OIL AND HERBS. BUT WHEN THE RADIO OFFICER WENT OUTSIDE TO SEE THE LIGHTNING BOLTS EMANIPATING FROM THE TOWERS AND ANTENNAS ALL SEEMED SMALLER AND SMALLER TO HIM.

IN HIS MOMENT OF FEAR AND WEAKNESS, AN ANGEL APPEARED FROM OUT OF THE RF HEAVENS AND SAID TO HIM, GATHER UP YOUR

SKYVIEW

Skyview Radio Society, K3MJW

K3MJW
2335 Turkey Ridge Road
New Kensington, PA 15068



Dewey – W3VYK



Rich – K3RWN

FOLLOWERS AND GO FORTH TO MIDDLESEX, PA. THERE YOU WILL FIND BIGGER AND BETTER TOWERS AND LARGE ANTENNAS AND RADIOS THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY. SO PLANS WERE MADE TO GO FORTH ON SUNDAY, BUT ALAS IN HIS MOMENT OF FEAR HE MEANT TO SAY FRIDAY.

ON THE APPOINTED DAY, HIS FOLLOWERS WERE NOT TO BE FOUND. ONE WAS SHOPPING, ANOTHER CUTTING GRASS. IN A FRANTIC CALL TO ALL HE SAID, I'M ON MY WAY, I'LL LEAVE A TRAIL OF BREAD CRUMBS FOR YOU TO FOLLOW.

AS THE MULTITUDE ASSEMBLED AT THE SHRINE OF K3LR AND WERE SEATED IN THEIR COMFY CHAIRS AND WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACES OVER 2,000 Q'S WERE MADE IN A FEW HOURS. 5 VOICES CRIED OUT CQ K2M. AND FROM AROUND THE WORLD HAMS CRIED OUT TO THE 5 IN GREAT PILE UPS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. OUR HOST, TIM, K3LR SERVED PIZZA AND DRINKS TO ALL. MANY THANKS TO TIM'S HOSPITALITY FOR A GREAT CHANCE TO WORK FROM HIS SUPER STATION. A GREAT EXPERIENCE TO USE SUCH GREAT EQUIPMENT. MANY THANKS TO ALL THE GUYS WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS ANOTHER GREAT EVENT FOR THE SKYVIEW CLUB.

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.

Getting Back To Where I Was

By: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

Whenever I started running mobile rigs in my car (which was around 1961 with a HeathKit Tener hanging under the dash of my '51 Mercury), I wired the Tener to automatically turn on and off with the ignition switch. I did it the traditional way, by scraping some insulation off of the wire under the dashboard that was feeding the regular car radio and connecting my mobile radio's 12vdc power line there. That system worked for me again and again as I changed cars and radios (although getting under the dashboard to find that power connection became more difficult as time went on).

However, when I made the leap from a 1993 Oldsmobile to a 2008 Chevy Impala, I got blindsided. The power connection that I found going to the Impala's car radio always measured 12vdc. Ignition on or Ignition off. After studying the shop manual for a while, I learned that the always-energized car radio gets turned on and off whenever the entertainment computer gives the car radio computer the proper commands over the entertainment network. Shoot!! My 2 meter mobile radio drew more power than the cigarette lighter was rated for, so using that for the power source was out. While I considered adding an under the hood relay that I could switch from some signal that toggled with the ignition switch, I never acted on that and I ended up just using a battery operated 2 meter HT in that car.

Whenever I traded the 2008 Impala for a 2013 Accord, I was determined to resurrect the under the hood relay idea to get back to where I was before being overcome by modern technology. The mobile radio that I have now will do an auto-shutoff, but it still

requires a manual turn on and a manual initiation of the scanning feature. I wanted it to turn on automatically and come up scanning (lazy, huh?). Fortunately, while browsing the Internet, I found the voltage controlled "APO3 Automatic Power Off" at <http://www.aprsworld.com/apo3/> that looked like an easy and ideal solution.

This small black box device automatically passes 12vdc through it whenever the engine is started and the line voltage rises above the static battery voltage and automatically cuts off the 12vdc on the load side a short time after it detects that the voltage has dropped back to the static battery voltage.

So, build or buy? I found it to be reasonably priced, and would probably spend nearly that much to build one using parts that would survive the extremes of the automobile environment. So I bought. It works as advertised - it got me back to where I was with the simpler cars - back to having the radio automatically turn on and start to scan once I start the engine. And turns it back off once I walk away from the car.



(THIS NOT A PAID ADVERTISEMENT)

Reflections

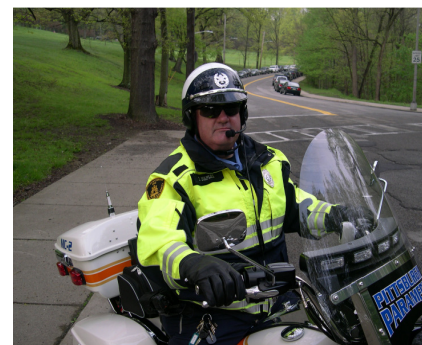
A Day in the Life of an Amateur Radio Volunteer

By: John Hoffman – K3STL

I think the year was 2005 and I'm unsure what sparked the interest, but it was the beginning of my volunteering as an amateur radio operator for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. This is the event happening on Mother's Day every year in Pittsburgh which has a 5K Run/Walk and 1 mile fun run. Because the event is so large, Amateur Radio is called upon to provide communication assistance.

On the amateur radio side of things, there is a Net Control who coordinates all amateur radio traffic. Several other amateurs are posted at fixed radio positions along the courses, are shadows for Race for the Cure directors and assistants, and some are rovers that walk throughout the course and report back to Net Control any important information. Examples of messages reported to Net Control are if there is a runner or walker down, if we see a suspicious package, if supplies are needed, any messages that need relayed, and other things.

This year Bob NU3Q was again Net Control for Race for the Cure. Bob was assisted by Joe N3TTE and both did a great job as Net Control. A lot of traffic was passed and there didn't appear to be any delays or operating issues. I was at my usual Radio 5 fixed position again this year. This has been my spot for the past few years and it became a favorite for me. I got to know how things flow with regards to runners and walkers, where the barricades are set-up and when to set up the barricades. Then there's the medic named Dave who I became friends with. We actually look forward to seeing each other every year. I can only imagine some of the tragedy Dave has seen during his career and he still shows up to work everyday saving lives.



Medic Dave at Race for the Cure



Two Poodles showing their support for Breast Cancer awareness.

I, personally, have not experienced a serious situation at Race for the Cure. Most everything I see every year is sentimental. There are runners and walkers that do so for a loved one, or in memory of a loved one. Some people are survivors who attend in celebration of beating breast cancer. These dedicated people are easy to identify by the color of their shirt. Those running for someone receive white shirts, survivors wear pink, volunteers yellow, and so on. Some people dress up in outfits for the event. There are also a lot of people who register their pets for the event and some dog's have their hair dyed pink! Sometimes in the crowd of walkers is a drummer who keeps the beat alive with a bass-like marching rhythm. Of course, you have to be there to experience it.



Another amazing sight to see is when the first runner passes by. Generally the first runner has a decent lead on the pack, then the rest start passing by. Shortly after the runners pass my radio position, the walkers start showing up. I honestly never saw so many people on the street for as far as the eye can see. The line of people walking is phenomenal. This is when the true “vibe” of the event kicks in and the reason to volunteer for the event is rewarding. The road is packed with people walking for over an hour. Dave the Medic and I keep a watchful eye for anyone needing help. I always get a kick out of the people who stop while walking to offer thanks to Dave for helping during the event. He and I even talked about how good it must feel to be appreciated, being he sees so much at his job during a standard work week.



When things start to slow down the sweep bus is sent out to follow the course and pick up anyone who needs a ride back to the finish line. Usually when the sweep bus passes my radio position, Net Control will relieve me of my radio position. The street barricades are moved off the road to where the police tell us, and then I shake Dave the medic’s hand and wish him and his family a safe and happy Mother’s Day and hope to see each other next year.

If you get a chance, try to give Bob NU3Q some help next year and see first-hand how great of an event this is. People of all ages volunteer and we even had a youngster named Gabriel who really impressed everyone with his talent of being an outstanding amateur radio volunteer.

Next year may be different for me. See, there was a year I was unable to volunteer for Race for the Cure and ironically that is the year my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. After an over 7 year battle, she appears to be diagnosed as cancer-free. So next year, I may not be at the Radio 5 position and instead may be like the guy pictured to the right wearing one of those white shirts and running for Mom ☺

