

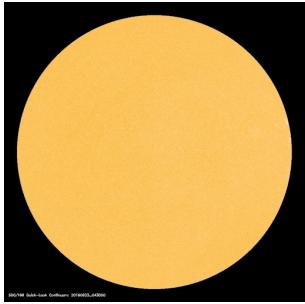


## Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

August 1, 2016

### Sunspots, Where Are You??

June 23, 2016



This image of the sun, taken by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory on June 23rd, shows zero dark cores

For the second time this month, the solar disk is blank--no sunspots. The sunspot number dropped to Zero (0).

What does this mean? The solar cycle is like a pendulum, swinging back and forth between periods of high and low sunspot number every 11 years. Today's blank sun is a sign that the pendulum is swinging toward low sunspot numbers. In other words, Solar Minimum is coming.

Forecasters expect the next Solar Minimum to arrive in 2019-2020. Between now and then, there will be lots of spotless suns. At first, the blank stretches will be measured in days; later in weeks and months. When the sunspot cycle reaches its nadir, a whole year could go by without sunspots.

de [SpaceWeather.com](http://SpaceWeather.com)

### Did You Know This ??



When Steve "Woz" Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple Computer was 10 years old, he received his ham radio operator license and built his own ham radio station.

Steve initially got a Novice call sign WV6VLY. He later got the call WA6BND.

de <http://www.cqdx.ru>

Read more about Steve at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/hpxa87g>

- NEW EDITOR
- NEW LOOK
- READ ABOUT THE 2016 DIGITAL CHALLENGE
- READ ABOUT THE NPOTA LIGHT UP THE TRAIL EVENT
- READ ABOUT THE JOYS OF DOING SOTA ACTIVATIONS
- READ ABOUT AN 80M PHASED ARRAY
- AND MORE .....

### Swap N Shop

August 28th

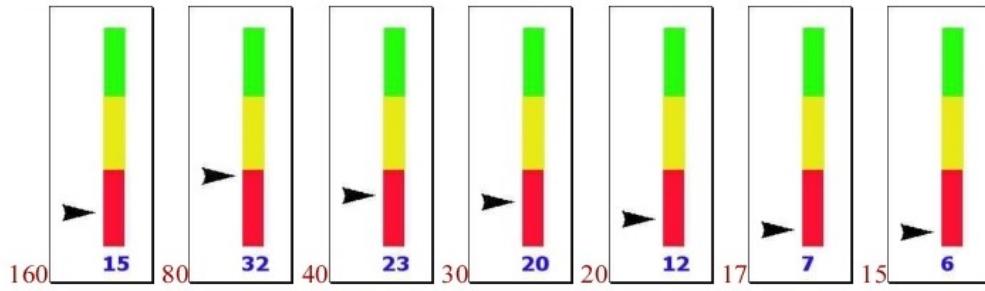
Be There !!

### Band Conditions on June 21 2016

#### CONUS HF BAND CONDX

6/21/16 --- 17:01:30 GMT --- REPORT # 2043

CURRENT PROPAGATION CONDITIONS.: Solar-terrestrial indices for 20 June follow. Solar flux 84 and estimated planetary A-index 4. The estimated planetary K-index at 1500 UTC on 21 June was 1. No space weather storms were observed for the past 24 hours. No space weather storms are predicted for the next 24 hours.



Yes, this information is a little dated, but nonetheless, it shows what we are up against. Read inside about how using Digital Communications Modes can overcome just talking to yourself.

de <http://bandconditions.com>

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## **The Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse is the “Every Tuesday Place” . . .**

Something is going on at ‘the joint’ each and every Tuesday evening, from about 1900 hours to whenever.

See the general schedule of Tuesday events on the Skyview Web Page: <http://www.skyviewradio.net>

For the latest up-to-date plan, check the Yahoo Reflector: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/K3MJW>  
(You must be logged in to your personal Yahoo Account to get into the Skyview Yahoo Reflector )

Directions are on: <http://www.skyviewradio.net>

Guests are always welcome !!

## From the Editor

### Editorial - Why do we need this periodic newsletter?

Once upon a time, beyond on the air conversations, a printed and mailed newsletter was the primary means of communicating club news to the membership.

Today we have many different kinds of more dynamic on-line information sharing resources available. As a result, many clubs have abandoned the club newsletter all together

We at Skyview have not one, but three on-line resources to use to share club news: a web site, a Facebook page, and a Yahoo Groups reflector. And we also have our Thursday night net.

At first glance, words like 'fragmented' and 'overkill' came to mind.

But, after looking at each of these three on-line resources, I decided that each seems to have it's place

-The web page, which is read-only for the general membership, seems to be the go to place for the core boilerplate club info that does not change very often.

-The Facebook page, which is also read-only for the general membership, seems to be the go to place for recent event history with a few accompanying photos.

-The Yahoo Groups Reflector, which is read and write for the entire membership, seems to be the go to place for timely dissemination of current news, notifications of upcoming events, and also sharing of various other items of interest.

So, back to why do we need this periodic newsletter. That was certainly a question that I pondered whenever I was asked to take over editing this newsletter.

While we can all make submissions to the Yahoo Reflector, we do not allow any embedded pictures in those postings. And I have found that the Yahoo reflector does not seem to lend itself very well to lengthy submissions. So, to me, while it is very useful for the timely dissemination of current information, it has its shortcomings.

This electronically distributed periodic newsletter is a read and write resource for the entire membership to contribute to.. While I'm editing it, I am not writing it all.

The intent is to provide a means for any member to share short or lengthy club and personal news and experiences, along with anything else that we happen to come across that anyone feels may be of interest to the membership.

We do not have any size limitation. We can publish lots and lots of words and lots and lots of pictures in each issue. Thus, I feel that it still has some value.

Like all newsletter editors have stated, it is only worth continuing to do if there are enough submissions coming in to make the effort of getting an issue out the door worthwhile.

Everybody has a story to tell - some have more than others - share your stories with all of us.

You can make your submission to this newsletter in an email to me at: [k3jzd@arrl.net](mailto:k3jzd@arrl.net)

See you at the Swap N Shop on August 28th

Jody - K3JZD  
Q5er Editor

There is an amateur radio satellite out there somewhere. My 'Gpredict' real-time satellite tracking and orbit prediction software told me so. And it said that it is coming my way.

Dave, K0JRS was looking for signal acquisition during a recent Tuesday Night session at the joint. It was the first outing for his new 144/440 Mhz satellite antenna. Alas, in spite of all of the helpers who were trying to point the "Dave Rotor", it was not to be — nothing was heard that night .

Be sure to ask Dave how he is coming along with this interesting aspect of our hobby.



Interested? There are many on-line amateur satellite resources available to you. <http://www.amsat.org/> is probably the most comprehensive reference.

According to <http://www.work-sat.com/>, getting started with ham satellites is easier than many think! They say that everything you need to know to be able to access an FM satellite or two, monitor the ISS - and more, using equipment that you probably already own, is on their web site.

Some satellites have been heard on 2 meter FM HTs. Some QSOs through satellites have been made while running mobile. So, it is something you can probably get into without any big outlay of cash.

**OLIVIA ??**

**NO THANKS....**

**I'D RATHER  
CUT MY GRASS.**

**OR CLEAN OUT  
MY GARAGE.**



A popular interface unit that is used to connect your radio to your computer. This one does not rely on the internal sound card in your computer. It has a built in Sound Card.

## Skyview Digital Challenge Summary

**Jody-K3JZD**

In January of this year, Dewey-W3VYK suggested doing a 'Digital Challenge' as a way of interesting the membership in the digital communications modes.

Since I had already dabbled with some digital communications, I volunteered to manage the event.

Dewey and I collaborated and created a set of rules. The initial concept was based on using a different digital mode during each of the five months of the event period.

We would reward those who reported making one or more QSOs using the 'mode of the month' during each month of the five month long event period with a Certificate of Accomplishment.

With some of us being competitive, we decided that each participant that chose to do so could report the QRZ.com mileage of their 'Top 10' DX QSOs for each month. The Certificates would then be numbered according to the overall mileage of these Top 10 QSO lists. We allowed doubling the mileage once for each unique country that was worked.

To try to keep this as fair as possible, we had a 'Retired Class' for the folks who could chase DX all day and night and a 'Working Class' for those who could not.

I defined the digital mode for each month. I provided as much guidance as I could to help each of the participants who needed some help in getting their hardware interface between their radio and their computer setup. I also suggested suitable software that they might use and some frequencies where they could look to find the digital mode of the month in use.

All of this definition and support that I did was done using Messages on the club's Yahoo Reflector. So, it is all still out there to use as a reference for anyone who did not participate in this Digital Challenge, but is now interested in trying one of more of the digital modes that we used.

The detailed results from each of our 'Top 10' QSOs have been stored in the 'Files' section of the club's Yahoo Reflector.

There is way too much detailed information to duplicate all of that here. But, here are the overall total mileage scores:

### Retired Class

K3CLT	477,945
K3JZD	421,880
W3VYK	349,623
WA3HGW	337,096
K3RMB	300,549

### Working Class

WD3HAY	267,953
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The Digital Modes that we used were:

February	JT65
March	BPSK31
April	OLIVIA
May	MFSK or RTTY
June	JT9

The Digital Challenge rules limited the Output to a maximum 20 watts for all but RTTY where a maximum of 100 watts was allowed.

The rules allowing doubling the QRZ.com mileages for each unique country that was worked each month. If you assume that Chuck-K3CLT worked enough different countries to be able to double every QSO in all five of his Top 10 lists, then his 50 QSOs (5 months of Top 10s) works out to an average of 4,779 actual miles per QSO. And with the exception of his RTTY contacts, that was all done while using no more than 20 watts!

20 watt QSOs were made to South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Asiatic Russia, and Japan. Many were made on 20 meters, well into the evening and night as well as during the day. Many were made on 40 meters in the late afternoon and evening. Keep in mind that band conditions have not been great.

I think that all participants learned that there is a place for digital modes, and the low end of the sunspot cycle might just be the place. While some digital modes like BPSK31, OLIVIA, RTTY, and MFSK support rag chewing, a lot of folks using them only use macros for quick QSOs. JT65 and JT9, while by far the most popular modes that you will find in use 7x24 do not support rag chewing - they are more like impersonal contest QSOs. But, they are by far the best modes for weak signal days (and we have lot of them ahead of us).

## Reflections on the Skyview Digital Challenge **Don Stewart - WA3HGW**

As a new member of Skyview, I was eager to be a participant in club activities. The first one of them being the Skyview Digital Challenge. I had operated RTTY on 6 meter AFSK back in the 1960s using an old mechanical Model 15 teleprinter, and again a little bit in the 1980s using a Commodore VIC-20 and AEA CP-1 computer interface. A few years ago, I built a homebrew computer interface for my Icom 756 Pro II. It worked well for receiving RTTY and PSK, but I didn't have the urge to try using it on the air. The Digital Challenge gave me that incentive. It really was a challenge to me!

The first mode was JT65. Jody was a big help in getting me started, with an Elmer Night presentation and hand-outs informing where to find the software downloads and other operating information. That was an excellent tool and gave me the confidence to get going. I had a bit of a problem getting the FLDIGI software to interface with my 756 Pro II for automatic frequency readout. Once again, Skyview came to the rescue. I brought up FLDIGI on one of the club's computers, and then took a photo of the radio set up page. That helped me get the correct settings for my Pro II. Then it all worked together well.

I did OK with JT65 and also PSK31. For April, I had a lot of difficulty finding any Olivia stations. In fact, my only contact was with Chuck, K3CLT, for a grand total of 11 miles! But at least I know that I can operate Olivia, even if there are few other operators out there on the mode.

The May RTTY event was easier due to the Aegean RTTY contest. That got me a bunch of European contacts.

June on JT9 was my best month, with lots of Europe plus contacts in New Zealand and Australia upping the mileage total.

I have lots of other projects around the house and other things to keep me busy. Even being in the "retired" category, I didn't have to spend a large number of hours to work these stations. I probably put in no more than 6 to 10 hours in any month on the Digital Challenge.

This was mostly done with 20 watts or less. The power limit on RTTY was 100 watts, but

most of my RTTY contacts were made with 75 watts or less. I was really amazed at being able to copy stations on JT65 that were not audible or visible on the waterfall display. I could work stations that were almost invisible on the display. I found JT65 and JT9 very interesting in their (intended) weak signal performance. However the rigid contact formatting is not good for conversing. It is good for collecting DX contact totals, so it does have its uses.

The PSK modes and RTTY are much more conducive to digital rag chewing, even if most QSOs follow a fairly predictable format. (Also true for Phone and CW QSOs!) At least they don't have to be so formal. For me the jury is out on Olivia, mostly because I found very little activity on that mode, so I didn't have much chance to get familiar with it. I have used PSK31 since the Digital Challenge, most recently to snag two of the 13 Colonies special event stations. I can also see myself using RTTY for contesting in the future.

Once I got set up on JT65 with the help from Jody, getting the other modes going was pretty easy. I liked the WSJT-X software for JT9 better than FLDIGI, but both were pretty easy to set up and use, not to mention *FREE*.

My apprehensions about operating these newer digital modes are gone. The Digital Challenge worked for me, getting my butt in gear and on the air. Thanks to Jody for administering this event. Let's see what he has in mind for next year!



**fldigi software**

**THE DIGITAL  
CHALLENGE  
WORKED FOR ME,  
GETTING MY BUTT  
IN GEAR AND ON  
THE AIR.**

**MY  
APPREHENSIONS  
ABOUT OPERATING  
THESE NEWER  
DIGITAL MODES  
ARE GONE**



'Easy Digi VOX' is an economical eBay audio interface unit that is used to connect your radio to your computer. This one relies on the internal sound card in your computer and the VOX capabilities of your radio.



## Light Up the Trail!

June 4-5 2016

<http://qsl.net/kd8dku/LightUptheTrail.htm>

Earlier in the year, the Lake Effect Amateur Radio Club in Marquette, Michigan, spearheaded by John-KC8ULE, came up with the idea of doing same-day National Parks On the Air (NPOTA) Activations in all seven of the states that the North Country National Scenic Trail passes through. They selected June 4<sup>th</sup>, which was also National Trails Day, and called it the "Light Up the Trail" event. They said that they would provide a nice Certificate to each of the NPOTA Chasers who worked at least one Light Up the Trail Activator in each of the seven states.

We had kicked around the idea of doing a NPOTA activation during several of our Skyview club meetings. But we had not built up much momentum. It took this unique event to get five of us to gear up, get out there, and do it.

From our club, Jim-KQ3S, Dave-KOJRS, Harry-W3YJ and I (Jody-K3JZD) decided to participate in this event as Light Up the Trail NPOTA Activators. We sought out suitable locations on the North Country National Scenic Trail that were in and around where the Trail passes through the Moraine State Park area

(which is as close as it gets to us). Jim and Harry opted for a 'civilized location' where the Trail was running adjacent to North Shore Drive. Dave and I opted for a 'less civilized location' that was up in the woods, which required a one mile hike in from the Trail Head on Mt. Union Road.

Being close to the road, Jim and Harry elected to use heavier batteries, run more power, use more substantial antennas, have more creature comforts, and use Band Pass Filters so that they could each be on the air simultaneously. Being a mile in from the nearest road, and thus having to carry everything that we needed in, Dave and I elected to use smaller batteries, QRP power, one simple SOTABeams link dipole mounted in an Inverted-V configuration that we would take turns using, and get by with a few less creature comforts.

The Light Up the Trail event was eventually expanded to be on both June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>. But, since June 5<sup>th</sup> was the Breezeshooters Hamfest, we limited our participation to just June 4<sup>th</sup>. As June 4<sup>th</sup> approached, the registered Activator participation was still a little

light in some of the seven states, the band conditions were not looking very favorable, and there was a good probability that several of the states on the Trail were going to experience some pretty harsh weather over the event weekend. So, the organizers wisely published some softer criteria for obtaining one of their 'Light Up the Trail' Certificates.

Whenever June 4<sup>th</sup> arrived, we had cool and threatening weather in our area. And, as predicted, the weather was quite nasty in most of the states to the West of us. And, propagation had not been very good at all during the days leading up to the event due to a solar storm. Nonetheless, we proceeded to Activate our portable stations as planned. We got lucky in that the rain in our area held off until evening, well after we had packed up and were heading for home. (and anyone who was at, or who was planning to go to, the Breezeshooters Hamfest knows how June 5<sup>th</sup> turned out).

It should come as no surprise that Harry, along with Juan from the Pitt Radio club (who used the Skyview WX3SKY call) and Jim did better than Dave and I. Here are our QSO numbers:

- WX3SKY - 64 QSOs (55 SSB and 9 CW)
- KQ3S - 20 QSOs (SSB)
- K3JZD - 11 QSOs (QRP CW)
- KOJRS - 4 QSOs (QRP PSK31)

Overall, the final event tally showed that, in spite of the dismal weather and poor band conditions, there were 38 Light Up the Trail Activations that provided 2,409 North Country Trail NPOTA QSOs during this 2 day period. Some efforts were modest efforts like Dave and I did, as shown in the pictures. At the other end, there were some full fledged Field Day like setups with Linear Amplifiers and Beam Antennas - see those pictures at the end.

Light Up the Trail QSO Totals by State:

MI = 74
MN = 324
ND = 162
NY = 855
OH = 743
PA = 220 (Skyview provided 45% of these PA QSOs)
WI = 31

The sponsors of the Light Up the Trail event parsed through all of these Light Up the Trail Activator Logs and automatically awarded Light Up the Trail Certificates to those Chasers who had earned them. However, whenever the list of Chasers who had qualified for the Light Up the Trail Certificates was



**The location out on the Trail that K3JZD & KOJRS used.. Sure, QRP Signals will get out of there.**



**Jody - K3JZD doing 5 watt CW**

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posted, I found it to be a rather short list, even with the criteria having been lowered due to Activator participation, band conditions, and weather. Here are the few who qualified for a Light Up the Trail Certificate (note the S58AL call in this list):

Call Sign	Name	QSO's	States	Basic	Book End	Sky Hook	Clean Sweep
VE3ZN	Curt Bowles	17	7	x	x	7	x
W2JU	Alec Berman	13	6	x	x	6	
K2DBK	David Kozinn	12	6	x	x	6	
N4MM	John Kanode	11	6	x	x	6	
N1FTP	Harold Woering	11	5	x	x	5	
K0FD	Daniel Nichols	11	4	x			
WA5KBH	George Car II	11	5	x	x	5	
W9AV	Julien Sprott	9	3	x			
NA2NY	John Hart	8	6	x	x	6	
VE3HED	Herman Doornbos	8	5	x	x	5	
K0BBC	Matthew Holden	8	4	x	x		
VE2GT	Pierre Jolin	8	5	x	x	5	
W0KEU	Keith Retzer	8	5	x	x	5	
WT8C	Reno Tonsi	8	5	x	x	5	
S58AL	Albert Javernik	7	5	x	x	5	
VE3XN	Gary Hammond	7	4	x			
W5GAI	Louis Cameron	7	4	x	x		
K1DAT	Kenneth Jones	6	5	x		5	
K4WI	Courtney Judd	6	5	x		5	
KI5MM	Marvin Ward	6	5	x	x	5	
KK4CLY	Garner Fleming	6	4	x	x		
NE6V	Joseph Vega	6	4	x			
VE5XU	Clarence Newstead	6	4	x			
W3OK	Delaware Lehigh ARC	6	4	x			



Example of the Nice Certificates That Were Awarded

The final requirement for obtaining a Basic Certificate was Six or More Contacts in Four or More Different States. The 'Bookend' endorsement was for also working both New York and South Dakota (East and West Ends of the Trail). The 'Skyhook', endorsement was for making contacts in Five or More Different States. The 'Clean Sweep' endorsement was for working all seven states. Only one Clean Sweep endorsement was awarded.

By the way, there were 32 individual Light Up the Trail Activators and six Light Up the Trail Activator Clubs, with each of the clubs having an unknown number of participants. So, at the end of the day, there were far more Light Up the Trail Activators than there were Light Up the Trail Certificate receivers.

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So, from this short list of the Certificates awarded, it appears to me that most of the 2409 Chasers who were logged by the Light Up the Trail Activators were really just interested in getting another NPOTA Chaser credit, and were not looking around for more of us to work to be able to qualify for a 2016 Light Up the Trail Certificate. Thus, the higher powered and much more easily found Activator stations were working these NPOTA Chasers left and right, while the more modest and low powered stations were talking to themselves a lot.

For example, below are pictures of the serious looking KC8AAV Activation from someplace obviously adjacent to the Trail out in Ohio that logged 363 Light up the Trail QSOs. And the final picture shows K8DC, who was out on the Trail in Michigan with something smaller. K3DC logged 12 QSOs:

But, regardless of how heavily equipped or how lightly equipped the various Light Up the Trail Activators were, I believe that all who participated had a good time. And I believe that we all learned something about doing portable operations that will benefit us in the future.

de Jody - K3JZD



**Dave - KOJRS doing 5 watt BPSK31**



**KC8AAV Operation Near the Trail - Looks like they ran around the clock on June 4th and 5th - 363 QSOs**



**K8DC operating out on the Trail - 12 QSOs**

**National Parks  
ON THE AIR  
2016**

**www.arrl.org**

The logo for the ARRL National Parks on the Air 2016. It features the text "National Parks ON THE AIR 2016" in white and yellow, with a yellow banner across the middle. Below the text is a yellow diamond-shaped logo with a stylized antenna and the letters "ARRL".

There is still time for you to do a NPOTA Activation.

There are several National Park locations in WPA.

Even if it is not a big success, setting up a portable operation is good experience.

Go to the ARRL site to read about the rules of engagement  
<http://www.arrl.org/npota-rules>

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NPOTA Activations look a little too easy ?? Then you should consider doing Summit On The Air (SOTA) Activations.



We have our own resident SOTA Guys who share their SOTA adventures with us, and provide us with inspiration.

### N2GBR and W3CDW SOTA in W4V land

**Richard Jones - N2GBR**

Breaking away from work for two days is always nice so while Winter still had it's icy grip on PA we decided that as soon as Spring arrived we'd take a two day, two night trip to Skyline drive with the target of 60 Activator points!

By late April, recce [Ed: reconnaissance] work indicated that the forest fire that had been raging for a few days had already consumed 9,000+ Acres but was "contained" on the lower section of the drive... Skyline Drive had been closed around Mile 62 and even the Appalachian trail hikers were being rerouted.. Still we had a nice plan.. SH-016, SH-009, SH-007, SH-013, SH-005, SH002, SH-001 and SH-004. [Ed: These are Summit Identifications]

Leaving PA late afternoon on Wednesday night we headed down to Front Royal... Alerts had been set on SOTAWatch and with written "orders" in hand, the plan was to back-country camp Wednesday night and be in good position to get to the first summit maybe a bit early on Thursday morning... Surely a few Chasers get up early each day hungry for points?

That was the plan.

As with all good plans it went out the window almost immediately... upon reaching the Skyline drive gate post we found it unattended... with a hand scribbled "Pay when you leave notice". We decided to try for the visitors center for a back-country pass.. no joy there either. We contemplated a back country camp but decided that as we were on a Federal park the chances of having a overnight vehicle towed therefore destroying our plans were too great.. we retreated to front-royal and grabbed a room at

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the harbor. Chris being an ex-Navy man was all excited.. thinking of boats and all that... : - )

The Weather forecast for Thursday, which had been looking rather good... actually turned rather foul... rain showers some heavy at times with Thunderstorms also.. We made it this far.. we had to get out there.

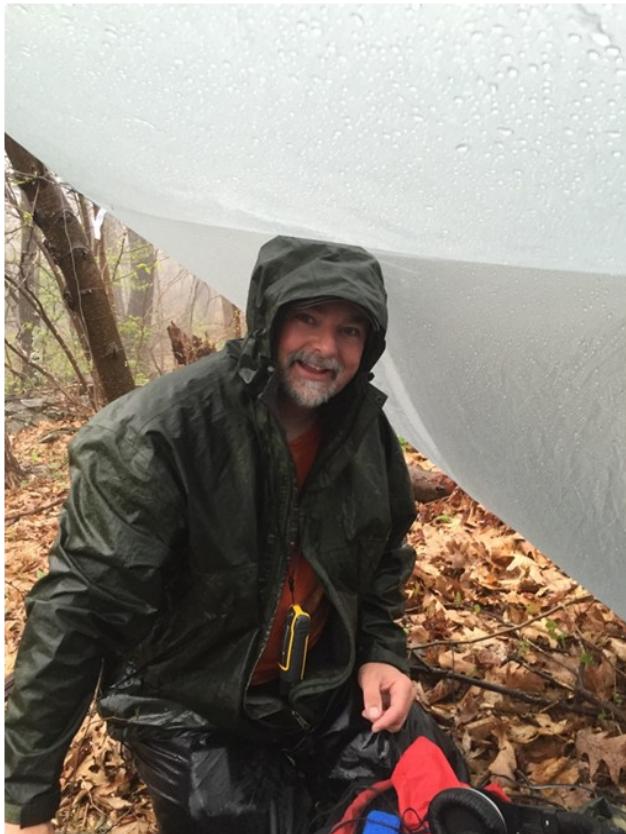
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### **W4V/SH-016 Compton Peak, 885m, 6pts**

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Easy to find parking at mile 10.3. Short'ish walk up a nice trail for about 40-45mins to the summit. Upon reaching the summit it started raining, darn-it I left the golf umbrella in car. We deployed simple tarp shelter and then both rigs.. Chris with the Sotabeams pole and link dipole into an FT817ND and 12V SLAB and me, home-brew link dipole at 7ft into an FT817ND and LiFePO4 pack.

We quickly made our necessary 4 contacts each to activate the peak.. just as well, within a few minutes the rain intensified to "people chucking buckets of water at us" category and then shortly and without any warning Thunder and lightning. This signaled it was time to pack-up and "run-away... run-away" in best Monty Python style!



**N2GBR thanking DuPont for Gore-Tex...**

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### **W4V/SH-009 North Marshall, 1025m, 8pts**

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Driving to mile marker 17.5 we parked up for the next peak, the rain had stopped as quickly as it started and there was a few blue spots amongst the cloud cover..

The walk was again about 30-40mins on a nice trail (AT).. I could get used to this... my last 20 or so activations in W3 land have involved a lot of bush-whacking and tick-checks..

We found the "view point overlooking a cliff" and Chris deployed his radio... we choose a new activation plan this time around... one radio.. first operator gets his four contacts and then we swap operator and stay until the chasers are done. This worked great and was much less confusing for the chasers....



**N2GBR, really I'm not that close to the edge...**



W3CDW "Chris" racking up the QSO's ...

## W4V/SH-007 Hogback Mountain, 1057m, 8points

Parking at Mile 21 in the "hogback Overlook" parking area. Short walk back North on Skyline road to the obvious dirt road, "quite-steep" it is. Follow this for about 600yds to top where there are towers and buildings.

The rain came again and we met with some very friendly Federal park employees, who helped us out with a lighter for the lunch-stove and we provided them marker-high-viz tape for their poles sticking out the back of their truck... that being in the spirit of British-American co-operation.

We set-up on the edge of the open field with the Sotabeams 30ft pole and dipole and easily completed the activation.

MRE's and Pack-it Gourmet were consumed for lunch in the rain and the team was recharged for another peak



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### W4V/SH-005 The Pinnacle 1135, 8points

Mile marker 36. Taking the AT south from Jewel Hollow with again a nice 30min walk to the activation zone. The team declared this was the last one for the day.. one team member didn't have Gore-Tex Pants and had been wet to the core since about 0830hrs.

Activation was completed without incidence and with a good amount of repeat contacts for the day..

Retiring for the day we decided the best option considering it was still raining was to return to the "Harbor" in Front Royal, dry out and get some hot food. The drive out of the park following the speed-limit takes about an Hour and Half (35mph limit), keep in the mind the park speed limit if you're planning a similar trip. For our exit, there was dense fog... 35miles an hour was a magical mystery drive and quite exciting for the driver and passenger!

Day 2, looked pretty miserable as I peered out of the Hotel windows.. low grey cloud and little wind... seemed like we were in for similar weather as the previous day. Our plan for the day was to go to the furthest peak first and make our way North through the day.

This required an almost two hour drive to mile marker 56, Bootens Gap. This was a nice easy start to the day... but it was misty on the road



**Day Two - The View When Heading Into The Park**

### W4/SH-004 Hazeltop, 1160m, 8 points

Still misty in the trees, but with patches of blue sky showing now and again, we started to have some hope for the weather. From the parking lot Hazeltop is about a 45min walk up the hill following the AT footpath, we met a couple of section hikers and gave them the station tour. Chris deployed his kit and we easily made the activation.



### **W4V/SH-001, Hawksbill, 1232m, 10pts**

Finally the day was starting to shape up. By the time we reached milepost 45.6 and parked up we were in the sunshine and boy did it feel good. The access notes mentioned and a less steep trail and that's the one we choose. It was a good choice. The summit provided awesome views with the foggy mist rolling over the ridgelines far below us.

There is an observation deck on this peak and we set-up on the rocky outcrop before the observation deck without trouble or interference to the other hikers there. Note that on a busy weekend day this could be a problem.

Again we quickly completed the activation and then headed down to the car. We made a quick lunch in the parking lot and then headed off to find our last peak of the trip.



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### **W4V/ SH-002 Stony Man, 1220m, 10points**

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Parking at Mile marker 36 the route to Stony Man is well marked and provides a wonderful glimpse of what is to come as you reach a "shoulder" with a view point on the way up.. At this later hour on Friday afternoon we started to see lots of people taking advantage of the breaking weather. This was probably the longest walk of all the summits. The trail is of course very well marked and clear. Once we made the summit and had shot a few photos we retreated back into the wooded area to deploy the antenna and complete the activation.

The highlight of the activation came on the last QSO.. we heard a station SA?BL? what was that.. "again.. again" SA4BLM, no surely not.. must be VE?? SA4BLM/Lars came back and gave me a 42 signal report to his 57.. Chris was frantically checking QRZ.. "hey that's Sweden, I want Sweden!!" Chris put in a call to him directly and was answered immediately.. Logging Sweden at the end of the trip made it especially memorable for us!

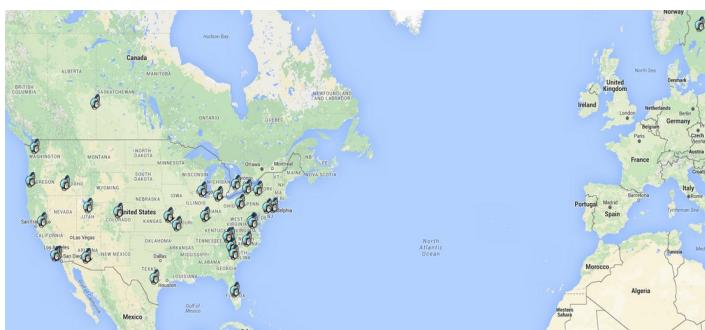




### Final thoughts..

This itinerary was very easily maintained and the pace was good (we weren't rushed). If it's possible to find a non-busy time during the summer months?, it would be possible to add probably one or two more summits into the schedule using the available daytime hours.

Made contacts in 3countries // 23 states // 2 provinces



Having completed what we planned to do we added... 58 points for our efforts. This takes Chris to 116 activator points and Richard to 319. The drive back to Western PA took approx. three and half hours and we were back in Pittsburgh by 11pm.



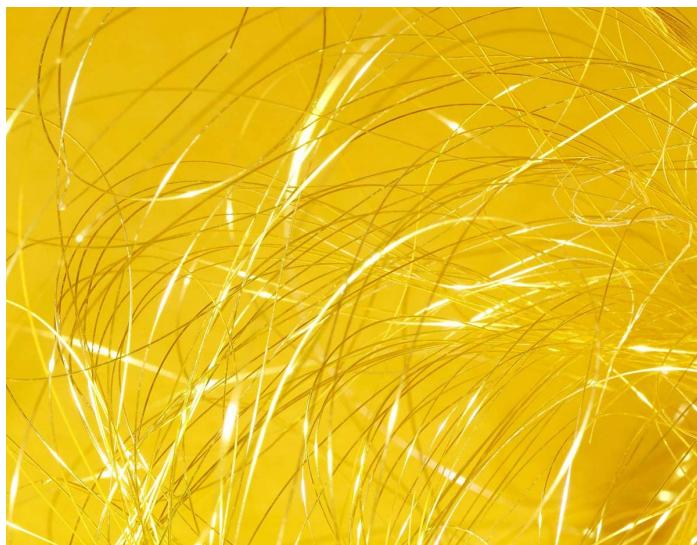
**Hard to leave these other un-activated summits behind ....**

## Worried About Big Brother ??

If you are concerned about all of the email monitoring, cell phone monitoring, cell phone tracking, and the security cameras being all over the place, then you soon may have to be careful about the clothes that you will buy.

Consider the possibilities for putting this technology onto the clothes that you buy off of the rack, without any notice that it is in those clothes. . . . .

## Internet-Connected Fibers – “Cyber Clothes” A Substance of the Future



- ① The fibers contain metals, silicon, and insulators—the basic elements of a computer chip—and can be woven into conventional textiles.
- ② Fabrics made in this fashion will be able to change color, communicate with computer networks, and detect explosives.
- ③ The fibers “see and hear” by converting sound and light into electrical signals that can be understood by a computer.
- ④ Future functional fabrics might be used to warm and cool wearers or monitor their health.
- ⑤ “These fibers are to fabric what the neuron is to the brain, or the transistor is to the computer chip.” —MIT professor Yoel Fink, creator.

de Advanced Functional Fabrics of America and Bloomberg Businessweek

## Welcome New Members !!

Welcome the following Skyview Radio Society Members who have joined us during the first six months of 2016:

• KC3GIL	Rachel Golem	Vandergrift
• KC3GIN	Kaitlyn Gorelli	Vandergrift
• WD3HAY	Bill Hay	Murrysville
• N2GBR	Richard Jones	Murrysville
• KB3SOU	Larry Pavlock	Verona
• WA3HGW	Don Stewart	Pittsburgh 15238
• KC3FEI	Sue Stewart	Pittsburgh 15215
• KC3GZW	George Stewart	Pittsburgh 15215
• W3CDW	Chris Wilson	Oakmont
• K3KDB	Andrew Zobel	Pittsburgh 15235

If you are a reader who is interested in becoming a member, then go to: <http://www.skyviewradio.net/> for information.

If you are a reader who is not yet a ham, and you are interested in becoming a ham, , then go to:  
<http://www.skyviewradio.net/> for information.

## How about this idea for a portable multiband dipole?



Self measuring - deploys and packs up quickly

## Participating in the Skyview Digital Challenge

Bill Hay - WD3HAY

First of all I just became an Amateur Radio participant (licensed) August 15, 2015. The class was given by Skyview radio society. I started with a cheap Baofeng handheld which I still use. The intent was to play around and listen mostly.

Then something changed, I joined the Skyview Yahoo group and started seeing the emails zip by discussing the various events and contests on the HF band. So I decided to get general license to which I received on October 24, 2015. I then slowly started saving up for an all band HF radio.

When I received the Skyview Radio Club announcement for the 2016 Digital Mode Challenge, I accelerated my purchase and bought a Kenwood TS-480SAT just so I could participate. Such began my digital mode experience. As far as being THE Number 1 Digital Master in the Working Class for this event, well all I can say is I was THE only one participating in the Working Class mode - but hey you can't win unless you play! My only goal was to just get a certificate for my wall! For that thank you!

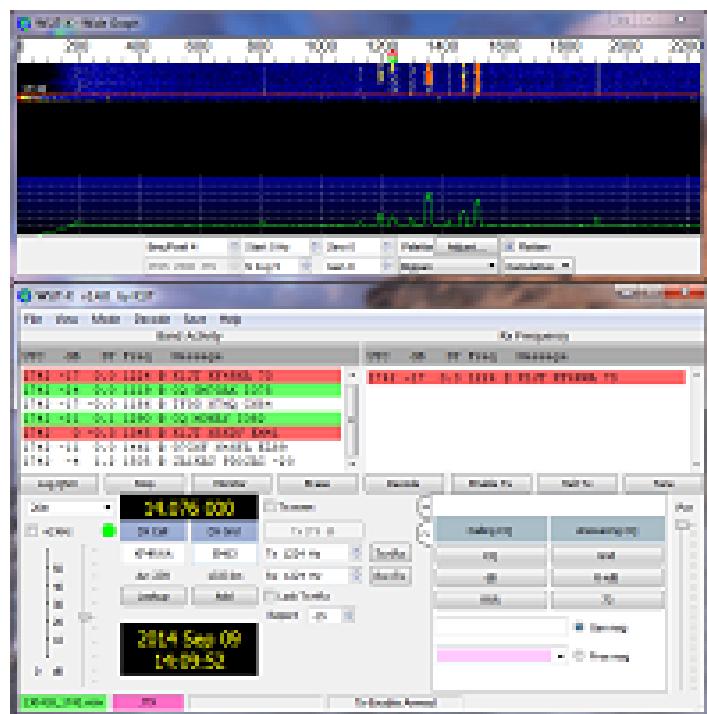
I first started using JT65 by placing my computer microphone close to the radio speaker to at least get my setup working since the first month was the JT65 challenge. I chose the free JT65-HF W6CQZ software and started making my first DX contacts! Exciting times. Eventually switching to the free dual mode software WSJT-X for the JT9 Challenge in June of 2016.

Also by that time I had switched from the microphone, to some homebrew cables directly connecting my HF radio data line. I eventually bought a Signal-Link USB adapter. What an awesome gadget that's all I'll say about that. For all other modes I used, and am still using, the fldigi and Log4OM for logging and spotting DXs. A Lot of thanks goes to Jody K3ZRD for elmering me along during this whole digital process. I also have to add a big thanks to WC3O "Bob" for elmering me along with a sweet multi-band fan dipole antenna that he helped me with and for encouraging me to learn CW! I still owe him 10 bucks BTW.

Of all the modes used for this challenge (JT65, PSK31, Olivia, RTTY/MFSK16, and JT9) I really liked the PSK31 mode and despised the Olivia mode. PSK31 was very active and very easy to make contacts. JT65 and JT9 were very slow but still easy. RTTY was okay but the contacts were hard to find and Olivia felt like molasses running down a tree during winter, but it worked. I plan to use all the modes again with an emphasis on PSK31, but maybe not Olivia if I can help it.

For a new general class operator, if you have any nerves about making your first contacts. Digital is the way to go. It's easy. They can't hear your voice and seemed to be very patient when making the contacts. It was a great experience for me that taught me a lot as a new operator on how to use my radio (TS-480SAT) to which I felt more comfortable when making my first voice contacts.

I am definitely going to be doing this challenge again next time around!



WSJT-X software

## Progress Report on the Two Element 80 Meter Vertical Phased Array **Bob - WC3O**

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Great progress has been made on the 80 meter phased array. I am hoping it will be operational by fall. The two tower bases are in and ready to go. During the Breeze Shooters hamfest we were able to find a ham selling a large quantity of wire that will be perfect for the radial system. The phasing unit and control cable have been purchased from DX Engineering, along with lightning protection. The phase controller has three positions; Towards Europe, towards South America/SW USA (sort of) and omni-directional. (P/N DXE\_DVA 80-P)

All the tower sections are painted and ready to go. The tower sections were from a donation by John (Doc) Thompson, K3MD years ago. We still need to assemble the long stingers that will stick out of the top of each tower. The stingers will be made up of old antenna elements and boom sections. The total tower height is only around 24 feet, but the total antenna height will be approx 67 feet. Gain of the end-fired lobes is approximately 3dB over a single vertical.

The next step will be to run the feedline and control cable down to where the phasing unit will be mounted. Then run the two 75 ohm feedlines from the phasing unit to each of the two antennas. After that, it is time to lay radials. Lots and LOTS of radials. Because the two antenna element cross the driveway we will be skimming the gravel off a section of the driveway to lay out the radials, and cushion the radials with pieces of old carpet so that cars driving over the gravel won't tear up the radial system below.

The far antenna will have radials running into the woods. We will need to clear some of the vegetation so the radials can be set on the ground. Once the radials are stapled on the ground Mother Earth will pull them in and so they can't be seen.

Once all this is done, it will be time to tune each element. Once each element is tuned it will be time to hook her up and see how she performs! Gee I REALLY hope this thing plays well. In theory we should be gang-busters into Europe on 80. I am looking forward to seeing this thing works.

I can't begin to thank enough all the people that have been helping with the substantial amount of work this project brings. I think this project will really put Skyview on the map as a first-rate station with world-wide reach. I am hoping the antenna with really reinforce our low-band scores in the contests that we participate in, as well as increasing our signal substantially for EMCOM work on 80.

Things are really starting to take shape fast now. Soon you will see the two towers vertical and have a good idea on what this project was all about. Again, MANY thanks to all involved.

Vy73

Bob, WC3O

Radio Officer Skyview Radio Society

*[Ed: Page 2 shows the new tower foundations]*

## Phased Array - Huh ??

Jody - K3JZD

I was helping dig holes, setup forms, and push concrete around. All the time I was wondering wazup with this 'phased array'. I've been around a while, and I never had any of them. Maybe because I don't have as much ground as Skyview has. Maybe because I have heard 'one more antenna and you are out of here' too many times. Maybe because I don't know why I would want one. Actually, I think it is all of the above. I can't do anything about the first two, but thought maybe I would ask Google about the third.

Google promptly sent me to Wikipedia, to get an education. The 'Phased Array' Wiki says that "Phased array transmission was originally shown in 1905 by Nobel laureate Karl Ferdinand Braun who demonstrated enhanced transmission of radio waves in one direction.". So, I guess that this is not a brand new just dreamed up scheme.

It further states that "In antenna theory, a 'phased array' is an array of antennas in which the relative phases of the respective signals feeding the antennas are set in such a way that the effective radiation pattern of the array is reinforced in a desired direction and suppressed in undesired directions" Hey, that sounds a lot like what my 3 element beam does - mine squirts [technical term] more of my signal in the direction that it is pointed toward. OK - I guess that a pair of 2 element 80 meter quads at 170 feet on a tower like W3LPL has had (see later article) is not in the Skyview budget - so if this setup can squirt [technical term again] more signal in one direction than the other direction, I guess I'm catching on now.

But, howzitdoit? Back to the Wiki. Hmmmm. I found a whole mess of equations there that make it perfectly clear. Sure they did - Ha! Go look at them yourself: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phased\\_array](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phased_array), look about half way down the page (then give me a 30 second summary).

I read some more of this Wiki, and it kind of got me cross-eyed. Sounds like there are too many ways of skinning this cat. If I had to guess, I would guess that we will be using a time delay system that will shoot [another technical term] the signal to the two towers out of phase. But, I'm sure that is easier guessed than done. I think maybe that is why we are buying this 'magic box' from DX Engineering (see the part number in Bob's article). So, as long as we hook it up however the instructions say to hook it up, and not do anything to let any of the magic smoke out of that magic box, we should be good to say: "Hello Europe, This Is Skyview Calling".

So, if you got this far, then you realize that it is still pretty much a "Huh?"

*Is this what you call a newsletter filler?*

## Kul - Links

Jody - K3JZD

There is lots of stuff out on the Internet... Some of it can brighten your day. Can't really copy and past it all in here. But, I can point you at some of it .....

There is lots of stuff at this site. Some a little bazaar. Here is just one example - I liked the end of the story.

<http://www.dashtoons.com/ThreeAges.html>

I'll consider any Kul - Links that you find.

Email then to me at [k3jzd@arrl.net](mailto:k3jzd@arrl.net)

They might just end up in the next issue



Ham Humor ??

(Probably not, but funny if you think about it)



## Back to Basics

John (Tall Guy) - K3STL

After a meeting at one of the other organizations that I am involved with, I was walking out to the parking lot with one of the Directors. As we reached his car, I noticed that he had an antenna on it. I couldn't help but ask "Is that a Chicken Band antenna on there?" He said "Chicken Band?" - - "No, it's a CB antenna". Then he proceeds to mention that while he enjoys talking on CB, he really wants to get a license to be able to talk on HAM radio.

Of course I then mentioned that I am a HAM, which keeps the conversation going. He opened the trunk of his vehicle and showed me the dipole antenna that he uses whenever he is parked and is chatting on his CB. Then he says that he wants to get the HAM license that lets you talk everywhere. . . . and that's when the "Back to Basics" thought popped into my mind.

Actually, "Back to Basics" is a term that is sometimes used in manufacturing whenever someone has a safety incident and safety rules need to be re-reviewed with them. However, this "Back to Basics" thought was all about my going back to the basics of my start in Ham Radio and reliving good memories.

I started off explaining the Technician operating privileges to him. He was quite impressed with the idea of Echolink. So, I opened the Echolink app on my cell phone and said "Where in the world do ya wanna go?" We went to a node in China briefly. Naturally that peaked his interest. Then I showed him my mobile rig. He was rather impressed with an antenna that automatically goes up and down at the push of a button.

"Ever hear of a net on Ham Radio?" I asked. That turned into a discussion about all of the different kinds of nets. It was neat explaining to him how there is a Red Cross and Hurricane net on HF and how it's nothing like you would hear (or see) on TV. Talking about how some local HAMs deployed to Louisiana to assist with communications during Hurricane Katrina proved interesting. Remembering that it was after 9PM on a Thursday night, I say "watch this" and sure enough the Skyview net is alive and kickin.

The conversation then changed back to what license he would he need to be able to talk anywhere. I explain the difference between VHF, UHF, and HF, and how each different license class gives different operating frequency privileges.

After hearing about this, he asked who all do I talk to. I explained that I may be talking to places as close as Canada or as far away as Japan and Hong Kong. It was around this time I got asked the million dollar questions "What do I need to get started and what radio and antenna should I buy?"

I started to chuckle and said how I remembered asking those exact same questions whenever I was just starting out in HAM Radio. We then talked about different antenna types and types of radios, and even modes of operation.

During my ride home from there, I thought to myself how our interests are usually all about the latest and greatest radio, or some new antenna. It was nice for a change to talk about things that I had dealt with whenever I was first starting out. . . . . . back to basics.

## When You Are Short On Trees

Whenever you are short on trees, but want to put up a wire antenna, there are ways to do it.

If you have a tower, that can sometimes hold one end of a wire antenna. But, there is still the other end to deal with. And, what if using your tower orients the wire antenna so that it radiates in a less than ideal direction? (in Western PA, the idea orientation for a horizontal dipole is with the wire running from NW to SE so that it generally radiates NE toward Europe.

Here is a wire antenna support designed



by WV7U that uses common readily available pipe. It does not look too objectionable (and if it were to be painted black, it might be even less objectionable)

See all of the details at:  
<http://www.wv7u.com/mast/mast.html>

Tnx WV7U for posting this

Jody - K3JZD

## 287 Wire Antennas For Ham Radio

Speaking of wire antennas, here is a resource that discusses 287 different wire antennas. 257! I wonder how long it would take to try each of them .....

Had to use tinyurl for this one - too long to fit in the column:

<http://tinyurl.com/7bs9jp7>

Tnx YO3DAC / VA3IUL for posting these

Jody - K3JZD

And, if you want your wire antennas to stay up there all year long, then heed KB9VBR's advice about proper knot tying. Follow the link to get his whole story on knots.

Had to use tinyurl again - too long to fit in the column:



[www.jpole-antenna.com](http://tinyurl.com/zhxrcy8)

<http://tinyurl.com/zhxrcy8>

Tnx KB9VBR for posting this

Jody - K3JZD

## 2 Meter Antenna

Here's a very simple 2 Meter antenna that you could build to extend the range of your HT.

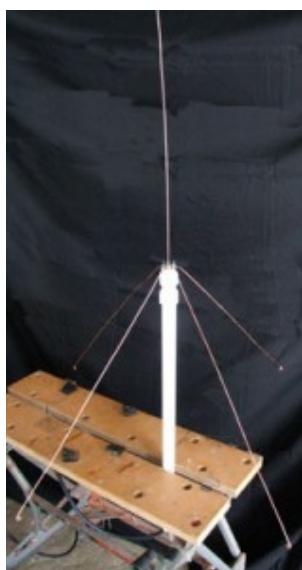
Probably would be less conspicuous when mounted on your house than a J-Pole would be.

Check it out here:

<http://tinyurl.com/gu64qs5>

Tnx WB8ERJ for posting this

Jody - K3JZD



## Magnetic Loop Antennas



I find these antennas to be pretty of intriguing. Why use 130 feet of wire to get onto 80 meters when all you need is a small loop like this. Especially of you are like me and do not have that 130 feet to begin with. Well, the devil is in the details.

Smaller antennas have a very small bandwidth where the SWR is low enough to allow them to be usable. With Magnetic Loop Antennas, it seems to be next to nothing. They need to be retuned as soon as you change your frequency just a little bit.

The best answer for 'how to do that constant re-tuning' seems to be by using a remote control unit. Some vendors have packaged up commercial products to do that. But, the do-it-yourselfers are also providing some ideas. Here is the evolution of an interesting looking approach that HB9MTN has shared :

[http://www.qsl.net/hb9mtn/hb9mtn\\_magnet\\_80.html](http://www.qsl.net/hb9mtn/hb9mtn_magnet_80.html)

Tnx HB9MTN for posting this

Jody - K3JZD

## Newsletter Content

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### Carrying On Traditions

#### **You Loved Them? You Hated Them?**

**Either way, you probably read them.**

I'm talking about "The Skyview Spotlight" member interviews that John - K3STL (aka Tall Guy) did in past newsletters.

I for one, liked them. The interviews gave me a little insight into the members who agreed to be interviewed.

So, I would like to continue them, starting with the next issue. Figuring out the Publisher software and getting a formatting pattern established precluded my thinking about doing that for this issue.

I would like to carry on using Tall Guy's approach. That being by emailing the interview question set to those who volunteer, and letting them type in their answers and then email it back to me. Tall Guy allowed skipping any of his questions, and he also allowed making up your own questions to answer. The whole approach was simple and pressure free.

Note that I said 'to those who volunteer'. I do not like to volunteer people. I do not like to twist arms. So, to the many of you who have not yet been interviewed, and would like to have a go at it, send me an email saying that. I will email you the question set. Upon getting it back, I will publish your interview in a future issue.

#### **You show me yours, and I'll show you mine !!**

Hold on, I'm talking about hamshacks here.....

..... What were you thinking?

I have already shown you mine. Now it is your turn.

I would like to continue to publish the "Ham Shack Au Natural" photos. It was based on a simple concept: Walk in and take a few pictures on any given day. Make it candid, just as if I showed up unannounced with my camera and started taking pictures without giving you any time to clean it up or arrange things into perfect order. We just want to see it in its natural state.

Just like with the interviews, I do not want to volunteer anyone nor twist any arms. So, take some pictures of your shack and send them to me. I will publish them in a future issue.

### And Some New Ideas

Unlike the old days where the newsletter was printed and mailed out, and had to be limited to 5-6 pages to make it affordable, today's electronic distribution does not have that limitation. We can publish all of your articles, short or lengthy, with as many pictures, diagrams, etc. as you wish to include. No limits. I believe that the editor's role is to correct any major spelling or grammatical errors, not to rewrite what has been submitted. If I think that something that has been submitted is not real clear to me, I will ask the author about it, and not just edit it on my own. So, your words will remain your words.

While there are lots of places to find on-line equipment reviews, I would like to see some reviews from our members in our newsletter. Like is the IC-7300 really panning out to be all that we had hoped that it would be? And, how well did the Hamstick dipole on the homebrewed PVC support that some of us saw a few weeks ago really work during the portable operation? We all have accessories for our stuff - what are some of the useful ones that you have? What kind of antennas have worked for you? What kind have not? How about limited space antennas?

If you have found a web site out there that you think is interesting, tell me about it and why - I can publish a short blurb about it and a link to that web site. I'll add a few each issue.

How did you manage to fit a mobile radio into your new car? Show us pictures. Where did you get your power from? This seems to get more and more challenging, so help others out on this one.

As many of you know, I like to build things that are related to the hobby - kits and some from scratch - tell us about something that you have built. You get the idea. Brag about your toys and accomplishments (and be sure to also mention the stuff that did not work out so well so we can all learn from your experience).

Tell us about your first hand experiences at participating in public service activities - maybe that will drum up some more interest in them. Are there some contests that you would not miss no matter what? Which ones and why?

Etc, Etc, Etc . . .

Everyone has a story to tell. Some have many stories to tell. This should be the go-to place for you to get your story published.

Please send your newsletter contributions to:  
[k3jzd@arrl.net](mailto:k3jzd@arrl.net)

## W3LPL Contest Station Damaged

Newington, CT, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 — A confirmed Fujita scale EF-0 tornado touched down for up to 20 minutes in Howard County, MD, on June 21<sup>st</sup>, the first full day of summer, taking down a tall AB-105 tower at the contest superstation of Frank Donovan W3LPL.

The tornado was just part of a spate of strong storms to hit the region, dumping heavy rain that caused flooding, and high winds that toppled trees and utility poles. Donovan's station is one of the premier multi-multi contest sites in the US. He told ARRL that his location was "Ground Zero" for the twister.

"The storm was extreme," Donovan said in a post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) reflector. "I've never experienced anything like it before. Essentially all of the trees in the front of the house and along the driveway are gone. Several power poles on Hobbs Road snapped. The 200 foot tower adjacent to the house collapsed, everything on it was destroyed."

News media accounts said the tornado, which hit at approximately 1:30 PM in western Howard County, had top winds of 80 MPH — at the high end of the EF-0 range. The tornado was some 1500 feet across and traveled nearly 13 miles, according to the National Weather Service. No injuries were reported. Power was out to thousands in the area for several days afterwards.

The NWS said that properties in the vicinity of the tornado's touchdown "sustained tree damage with multiple trees snapped, uprooted, and topped in multiple directions." Along its path, the twister "caused nearly continuous tree damage, with large trees and tree branches snapped, uprooted, and topped in multiple directions. The trees downed many power lines and blocked multiple roads. Some trees and large branches fell on homes and garages," the NWS said.

The felled tower at W3LPL supported a 6 element 10 meter Yagi on a 48 foot boom at 200 feet, three stacked 9 element G0KSC 6 meter LFA Yagis on 52 foot booms at 48, 76, and 104 feet **and a pair of 2 element 80 meter quads at 170 feet.**

— American Radio Relay League <http://www.arrl.org>

de WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS WASHRrag  
[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)

## Need a Simple Keyboard ?

Too many keys on your keyboard. Hard to find the one you want? Hitting the wrong keys? You might want to try this simpler "Binary Keyboard".



Just two keys and an [Enter] key. Not all that hard to use - To type an ASCII letter, number, or punctuation, you just enter a combination of eight [0]s and [1]s for that character and then press [Enter].

Hey, I'm not making this up—check it out for yourself:  
<https://github.com/duckythescientist/BinaryKeyboard>

## Or, Maybe a Swear Word Box ?

Suppose you are working on something (like a car), and things are not going quite right for you, and you are at a loss for words. You just can press the button on this device and it will generate a random X-Rated four letter swear word which you may use to voice your feelings.

<http://howiem.com/wordpress/index.php/2016/07/18/reverse-swear-box/>



(Example is G-Rated for General Audiences)

Technology, eh.



## 2016 SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY SWAP N SHOP!

SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 2016

LOCATED AT OUR CLUB GROUNDS NEAR NEW KENSINGTON PA

Aprox 13 miles northeast of Pittsburgh

2335 Turkey Ridge Road  
New Kensington, PA 15068

Talk-in 146.640-131.8pl

Admission \$5.00 – Table space is \$5.00 (Bring your own table)

---

Great prizes

Door prizes

Begali CW key raffle (Palladium/gold Graciella Jr)

Breakfast and lunch served

Get your Skyview Burger and your Skyview Dipole Hotdog!

Contact: John Italiano WA3KFS - 724-339-3821

[www.skyviewradio.net](http://www.skyviewradio.net)

Location is near the intersection of Rt. 366 and Rt. 380

GPS Coordinates : N 40 31 03, W 79 40 37

**From Apollo / Leechburg:** Take Rt. 66 S to Rt. 380. Take 380 W to Rt. 366. Take Rt. 366 W (toward New Kensington) to the end of the 4 lane. Go  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile past the end of the 4 lane. Turn right on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.

**From New Kensington:** Take Rt. 366 E. Go about 5 miles from the Parnassas area. Look for the Hannan Building on the left. Go about 100 yards past the Hannan Building (If you get to the 4 lane, you went too far). Turn left on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.

**From Monroeville / Parkway:** Take Rt. 286 E to Rt. 380 E. Take Rt. 380 E to Rt. 366. Take Rt. 366 W (toward New Kensington) to the end of the 4 lane. Go  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile past the end of the 4 lane. Turn right on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.

**From Greensburg:** Take Rt. 66 N to Rt. 366. Take Rt. 366 W (toward New Kensington). Cross over Route 380 and then go to the end of the 4 lane. Go  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile past the end of the 4 lane. Turn right on Whitten Hollow Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Turkey Ridge Road. Go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to top of hill. Skyview is on the left.



Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

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email your comments and article submissions to:  
[k3jzd@arrl.net](mailto:k3jzd@arrl.net)

### 2016 Skyview Swap N Shop Forums

- All about the SOTA (Summits On The Air) program with Richard, N2GBR
- Digital modes and weak signal in poor band conditions with Jody, K3JZD
- Members of the NAQCC (North America QRP CW Club) will be operating QRP from the Skyview radio room and answering your questions about operating QRP.

(Schedule will be posted at the ticket table)

All will take place inside of the Main Building.

We are confident that it will be a nice warm and sunny day this year. So, taking in one, or all, of these inside the air conditioned building could just be a really great idea.

All General Information about the Skyview Radio Society is at <http://www.skyviewradio.net>

See Yahoo Reflector for All Current News & Activities : <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/K3MJW>  
(You must be logged in with your free personal Yahoo Login ID to get into the Skyview Yahoo Reflector )  
If you want to keep up with what is going on NOW, this is the place - have it forward msgs to your email



Is this how your dining room looks ??

Where are the pictures of your shack ??