SKYVIEW
Skyview Radio Society, K3MJW
K3MJW
2335 Turkey Ridge Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

October 1, 2017

Remember When? de John - K3STL

During the morning drive to work every day, I usually listen to a short trivia show on a local radio station and then afterwards scan for good music until arriving to work. On occasion, I turn on the 2 meter/440 rig and listen to Skyview's repeater for activity. One ragchew in particular got me to thinking.

One of the ragchewers was new to the hobby, purchased a new rig, and was asking the others questions about the features of the new rig. Questions such as "What does this button do?" and "What happens if I push that button?" were asked. Hearing this made me think about when I purchased my first HF rig; a Kenwood TS-570.

I brought the TS-570 to Skyview one evening and showed everyone the new (used) purchase. Back then, Skyview didn't have the modest operating station you see today and many members brought their own rigs to operate at the club. The TS-570 came with an operators manual, but reading the manual isn't the same as show and tell, and I found myself asking "What does Beat Cancel mean? What happens if I press the Beat Cancel button? (btw… Beat Cancel is a great button to press when hams are tuning up on frequency!) It was to fun to ask "What does this knob do?" or say "Let's ask our contacts for signal and sound quality reports!" and "Let's hook a code key up to the rig!"

While listening to that ragchew on the Skyview repeater that morning and reminiscing about being a new ham, I started thinking about who else remembers when they were new? I mean *very* new? Green to the hobby when EVERYTHING was overwhelming? *When you were afraid to get on the air in front of everyone.* Remember when you asked the question that just about every new ham asks, "What's the best radio I should buy?" Remember how neat it was to use the formula to determine the length of a ½ wave dipole? (468/f). Well, that is still neat hihi

For those that have been in the hobby much longer than me, remember waiting for the tubes to warm up before you could operate? Remember the novice band being full of operators trying to make cw contacts? Remember being nervous when taking the FCC licensing exam? Remember constructing your own equipment? Remember working all neighbors? Remember the Hams who would phone patch calls for people overseas or on a ship to speak with their loved ones? You may have been one of those hams!

The list of "remember when's" can go on and on and although all of us still have so much to learn about a hobby that keeps developing new modes, operating methods, and new advanced technology, wouldn't it be great to go back when we were brand new to the hobby and experience the excitement of being overwhelmed about everything and excited to make that first contact again? We can still relive that feeling each time we Elmer a Ham who is new to the hobby and asks for help.

- Ham Engineer Reminices
- Collins - New Owner
- Exceptional Service Award
- A little SOTA
- IC-7300 Owners Tidbit
- Ham Tower Ordinance
- FirstNet News
- J-38 Key Refurbishinhg
- And Much More . . . . . .

Sunspots?

I don't need no stinking Sunspots.

I have 40 meters.

Inside this issue:

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

I hope that you enjoy this issue.

Jody—K3JZD

The following three pictures are from Dave - KØJRS. Each is actually a composite of several individual pictures that were stitched together into a wide angle panoramic view. (But the newsletter page is only so wide—you may have to enlarge your PDF copy).

ARES/RACES Report

de Rich - WQ3Q

Weather report for Saturday, October 7, 2017:

The National Weather Service has issued a bulletin advising residents in Western Pennsylvania of a severe weather event… a strong winter storm is entering the area and is expected to deposit 3- 6 feet of snow.. It is anticipated that this will be accompanied by high winds which has a high probability of resulting in loss of electrical power in the entire area… take shelter in place and be prepared.

Obviously, this is not a realistic forecast in October, though with the crazy weather going on in the world it could happen. In this case however this is the scenario that will be used for the Western Pennsylvania SET drill October 7th from 9:00am-1:00pm.

SET stands for *Simulated Emergency Test*. SET drills are national emergency exercises aimed at testing the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other organizations that are called into action in actual emergency situations. Every local ARES team and/or ARRL Section comes up with their own scenarios and work with served agencies and partner organizations during the SET.

We at Skyview are going to participate from the club QTH and encourage all members to witness how we are involved in this drill. Here is a brief overview of the responsibilities and scope of this event simulation:

AMATEUR RADIO:
Amateur radio operators will establish off-the-grid communications between shelters and local Incident Command Centers (ICC.) Local and county Command Centers will forward actual *Formal Message Traffic* in the form of Radiogram or ICS-213 messages from each shelter to the appropriate DEC and the Section Emergency Coordinator. Those Command Centers will be using emergency-powered radio equipment and local frequencies.

LOCAL ARES:
ARES groups will spearhead the amateur radio effort, coordinating with local served agencies and other amateur radio groups, setting up actual, emergency-powered stations at one of more local shelter sites. They will be responsible for sending and receiving *Formal Message Traffic* using voice and/or digital modes and maintaining communications with their local Emergency Coordinator (EC.) Local ECs will establish and maintain communications with the designated District station. District stations will in turn maintain contact with the Section stations.

SERVED AGENCIES:
While all of these will not be participating in every location, the following are agencies that will be involved and include: local Emergency Management Agencies, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA,) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA,) National Weather Service, SKYWARN, RACES, National Traffic System, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT,) Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams (REACT,) Red Cross, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, Fire and Rescues units, hospitals, schools, churches, community centers, travel centers, etc..

This allows us to practice now in case we are needed later. Yes, chances are that we won't have many catastrophic events in our area, but this scenario of a significant snow storm has happened before and could do so again. As hams, we have a responsibility to our community to help as needed using our communication skills and equipment to assist in a major emergency. To do this properly and effectively, we need to be aware of the processes and procedures of helping, so we are not creating confusion or issues that exacerbate the problem. We don't want to just clutter up the airwaves with unnecessary communications.

So, if you have a little time, stop up to the club and peek into the radio room and experience how we as amateur radio operators can be a large part of helping our community in a time of need.

73,

Rich WQ3Q

Taking Towers Down

de Bob - WC3O

ED: The following discusses a valid and proven technique. However, taking Towers down is serious business. Missteps can result in injury or death. Read At Your Own Risk

Tie a tire to a tower: (Say THAT three times fast).

Sometimes you just don't know. It is nice when you are working in a situation that you know all the details. Other times it pays to take measures to ensure the job turns out as you had planned. Such is often the case when removing an old tower. You never really know the true condition of the base in the concrete.

I once removed an old tower that one of the legs broke out of the base before the tower was tilted all the way down to the ground. The perfectly good tower then rapidly fell and was destroyed.

Since that incident I now attach old car tires to the tower along its length. I simply use some rope. This way, if the unexpected does happen the tower simply bounces off of the tires without damage. This trick has saved a number of towers for me over the years. Always use extreme caution and error on the side of safety when removing an old tower. You just never know.

Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

Reminisces of an Engineer – Ham Episode 3

de Joe – N3TTE

Over the years, there were numerous instances where my ham radio background and "ham-genuity" came in handy on the job. I've picked some interesting ones from each company I worked for to describe here

.**Do You Know How to Use an Oscilloscope?**

My third, and final job was with a company that provided equipment and engineering for electrical utility substations.

Within year after I started, the Engineering Manager came to me and asked since I was a ham, "Do you know where I can buy a 60 ft. long piece of 50 ohm coax with BNC connectors this afternoon?" I told him that there weren't any local electronic stores that had that kind of made up cables. (Radio Shack had significantly decreased their parts inventory by then.) But because I intercepted a spool of RG-58 on it's way to the dumpster at my previous employer, I had the parts at home and could fabricate a cable and bring it in on Monday. (It was on a Friday.) About an hour later, he came back and asked me if I knew how to operate an oscilloscope. I told him, "Of course, I even own one." At that point, he asked if I was free on Sunday afternoon to come in and help them try out some new test equipment.

So I made up the required cable and spent an interesting Sunday afternoon and evening in the high voltage lab watching rather large sparks fly, eating pizza, and operating an oscilloscope we borrowed from another division to verify that the new test equipment would detect the EMI/RFI produced by internal arcing in high voltage substation equipment.

The testing was done on a Sunday afternoon because the shop was shut down and there were minimal extraneous sources of EMI/RFI to interfere with the test. When the report on the testing was presented to the division, the Engineering Manager included a photo of me on my knees in front of a shop cart "working" the oscilloscope.

Bravo, Mike, Lima

We got a project upgrading the substation at a nuclear power plant. At an early engineering meeting with the customer, I noticed that the customer engineers were using the standard phonetics (Eg. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie) to identify equipment on the drawings. Later I learned that this was the standard practice at the plant to help prevent communication errors. For instance, when valve 123B is supposed to be closed, you don't want to operator to close valve 123D by mistake; it could ruin your day – and his too. So you say 'valve 123-Bravo' and he repeats 'valve 123-Bravo' and then operates the correct valve.

Anyway, being a good ham operator, I knew, and used standard phonetics repeating callsigns and spelling out words. When I joined in identifying equipment the same way the customer engineers were doing, the other engineers and project manager from my company looked at me like my head just turned purple, and I grew green antennas, and topped with blinking lights!

In order to work on the site for installation and commissioning, everyone had to be thoroughly trained in the proper use of phonetics. And if you used an incorrect word, you were promptly chastised without mercy by the customer's staff. It was kind of fun to watch the proceedings, but I remained tactfully quiet and did not join in the hazing, especially when the offender was one of my colleagues.

Our Maximum Distance Is 100 Ft.

On another project, I got a call from the engineer designing the installation of our equipment in a substation. The problem was that some equipment the customer specified was limited to a 100 ft coax cable and the distance between some transducers and the equipment in the instrument panel was 125 ft. Since I was the Project Engineer, he was asking me what he was to do. So I

called the company that made the equipment and found out that the 100 ft distance was based on RG-58 coax. (Of course they used the cheapest coax with the highest losses!) Knowing about losses in coax from ham radio and where to get specifications on alternative types of coax, I quickly picked a lower loss coax, and sent data sheets with a supporting calculation to the other engineer. I think we ended up using LMR-400. He was very happy with the solution since he did not have to redesign the cable runs to meet the 100 ft requirement.

Conclusion

Becoming a ham certainly provided me with knowledge and know-how that aided me in my engineering career and also benefited the companies I was working for at the time. And the fact that I am an electrical engineer has helped my ham radio hobby. That is, they have certainly complimented each other. I also believe that after I got my ham license, including it on my resume helped me to land jobs at the last two companies I worked at.

I was not shy about advertising that I was a ham after I got the jobs either; a framed copy of my ham license has been proudly displayed in each of my cubicles over the years. Finally the times that my hobby and my profession have intersected created some very interesting situations and memories; more than I've described here.

Joe Birsa – N3TTE

More Ham Radio History

United Technologies to Acquire Rockwell Collins for $30 Billion

Farmington, CT / Cedar Rapids, IA, September 4th — United Technologies Corp and Rockwell Collins Inc. today announced that they have reached a definitive agreement under which United Technologies will acquire Rockwell Collins for $140 per share, in cash and UTC stock.

Rockwell Collins is a leader in aviation and high-integrity solutions for commercial and military customers and is globally recognized for its leading edge avionics, flight controls, aircraft interior and data connectivity solutions.

Rockwell Collins was founded in 1933 by Art Collins WØCXX as Collins Radio Company, a leader in the commercial and amateur radio markets. It was purchased by Rockwell International in 1973, exiting the Amateur markets within several years. It was spun out of Rockwell International as a separate company in 2001.

de Wireless Association of South Hills WASHRAG

http://n3sh.org/

Congratulations Cooky

At the Skyview Swap n Shop, Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager, presented Bob Bastone with **"The Gilbert L. Crossley EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD"**.

Photos by Dennis Woytek - KB3HPC

Show Me Yours and I'll Show You Mine

The Featured Hamshack for this issue belongs to:

No contribution for this issue

Send Your Pictures In !!!

FirstNet News

Verizon to take on AT&T in fight for first responders
Dateline 15AUG17

Verizon is looking to take on AT&T and its $6.5B FirstNet network for first responders, building its own dedicated portions of its wireless network to devote to public safety.

"We're serious about remaining extremely relevant in this space," says Verizon, adding that it controls about two-thirds of the market for public safety -- police, fire, EMS and other first responders.

As with the federal FirstNet, Verizon says that the dedicated lanes would be separate from commercial traffic and would get priority at times of network congestion. That priority access would be free of charge, it said, and the private network core would be ready next year.

AT&T received valuable airwaves in winning the federal bid, but individual states are considering whether to join the network or build their own.

de Seeking Alpha

Ed: *FirstNet is the federally financed, high reliability, nationwide public service voice and data network which will only be available to first responders. Like so many other federal contracts, it may not be going quite as smoothly as hoped. So, they may still need amateur radio communications for a while longer.*

- - - - - Famous Hams - - - - -

None this month

Stay Tuned

Winter Maintenance For Antennas

de Michael Martens / KB9VBR Antennas

ED: Reprinted from: www.jpole-antenna.com

I'm not sure if you can call me a fair weather ham radio operator, but my operating style quite often changes with the seasons. The spring and summer months you'll find me outdoors participating in the many public service activities our local club is active in. But as the season turns cooler, I tend to move my operation indoors and will spend more time on the HF bands. Since I'll go months without getting on HF, seasonal antenna maintenance is very important, especially as the weather turns cold. Especially considering that my wire antennas inhabit a small city lot along with my three big maple trees.

" You should be out twice a year inspecting your antennas, systems, and feedlines to make sure everything is up to spec. "

Early last spring I posted an article on Spring Antenna Maintenance, and the items in that checklist can very easily be performed as part of winter antenna maintenance. In fact You should be out twice a year inspecting your antennas, systems, and feedlines to make sure everything is up to spec. This handy checklist give you the items to watch for as you plan for winter ham radio operation.

Check and prune branches

During the winter trees move their growth underground, putting down roots. But over the summer they are stretching their limbs and an growing new branches. This means they can also be contacting and interfering with your wire antennas. Trees make great antenna supports, but like any growing item, they can cause trouble. Prune out any branches that touch or interfere with your antenna, so that you have a clear path from end to end. Also watch for and inspect bigger limbs that could potentially fall on your antenna to make sure they're healthy.

Inspect support wires and guylines

As I said, trees are growing in the summer, so if you are using a tree as a support structure, make sure that the tree's growth isn't stretching out your antenna wire and support line. I use a door spring on the end of my antenna as a combination shock absorber and tensioner . This allows for tree growth and branches hitting the wire without taking the whole system down.

Are the support lines you use UV resistant? Sunlight and friction against the trees can cause rope to weaken and fray. After a few years of this abuse, all it takes is a storm with a few good gusts to take the whole line down. Check your support ropes and make sure they are still up to spec.

Tighten loose bolts and connections

Check your tower bolts and antenna mounts. Wind load vibrations can loosen bolts and connections. The last thing you want to do in the middle of January is to climb a tower to replace a broken mount.

Freezing and Thawing can wreck havoc on connections

Are your antenna connections taped and well sealed? The freezing / thawing / freezing cycle in the winter drive moisture into poorly sealed connections, causing high SWR and premature failure of your feedine. My favorite sealant is Scotch Super 88 electrical tape. This high quality vinyl tape doesn't get brittle in low temperatures and is a lot easier to work with than some of those 'goopy' feedline sealants.

November is a great time to do your inspections, leaves are falling off the trees and you still get a few warm days before things turn really cold. Of course you guys in southern climates have it much easier with your moderate temps, but still take the time to do a biannual antenna inspection.

About Michael Martens

A licensed amateur radio operator since 1999 and earning his Extra Class license in 2002, Michael is the Owner of KB9VBR Antennas and regularly writes his blog on antennas, emergency communication, amateur radio technology, and operating. Read his about page.

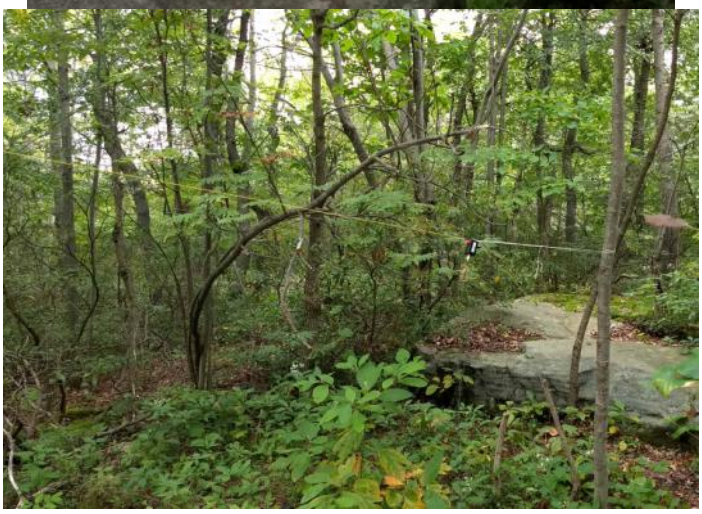
A Summits on the Air Trip

de Jody - K3JZD

I guess it wouldn't be a Skyview Newsletter without a little something about the year-round Summits On The Air (SOTA) outdoor activity.

On a rather cooler than originally forecasted day In late August, I took a motorcycle ride to Mt Davis. Since that is the highest point in Pennsylvania, I carried my trimmed down SOTA Pack and I Activated that Summit.

Just as it was not a great day for riding, it was not a real great day for the HF bands. However, using my 5 watt KX3 with a 59' long End Fed Random Wire tied to the observation tower and a comfy boulder to sit on, I made 22 contacts during the 90 minutes that I was there. Many of the contacts were on 20 meters with Chasers out on the West Coast and in the Mid-West. The only DX contact made during this Activation was EA5FV in Spain.



Something of Interest to IC-7300 Owners

de Jody - K3JZD

The shack at G3CWI

...and how a new product got developed

When I set up SOTABEAMS I needed to raise some capital to get us going. To do that, I sold my car and most of the contents of my radio shack. My transceiver at the time was an FT-1000MP Mk V with lots of optional filters. By way of a replacement I bought an old TS120V at a radio club event but even with the addition of a CW filter, it was not quite what I wanted. The low power, coupled with 1980s performance, was just a bit below par. It also didn't work on 10 metres for some reason (switch contacts suspected).

After a few months I picked up a Yaesu FT-897; it was too cheap to miss. Although I had been a long-time user of the FT-817 and that is similar in many ways to the 897 (which is basically a high power FT-817), I soon grew to loathe the user interface for this radio. Its average RF performance would have been just about acceptable but the user-interface annoyed me every time that I used the radio. Not surprising then that when I needed a transceiver in the lab for testing, the 897 got picked and so once again I was without a radio. To be honest I have never missed the 897.

Not having a fortune to spend, I looked at the FT-450D. They got good reviews "for the money" and it was on special offer at the time so I picked one up. Pretty much everything about the 450D was better than the 897 and it rekindled my interest in operating from home. As a budget transceiver it did have a few obvious shortcomings but for the price I could live with them. I was quite happy for 366 days but on day 366 it failed. The RF board went faulty. Thinking that it was probably 1 day out of warranty I contacted Yaesu UK who said their warranty was two years (three cheers for Yaesu). When I sent it off for repair I was once more without a radio in the shack. I have lots of QRP radio but they are designed for portable use, not use at home so I began looking again.

I had been watching the rise of the Icom IC7300 with interest but I could not understand why I saw so many appear on the second-hand market so I was wary. Despite that, the RSGB had given it a good review in their magazine RadCom and so i decided take a risk and buy one. I was so glad that I did as I liked it from the start. It's not perfect but, for my style of operating, it's close. The only thing that bugged me was the lack of an easy low-power tune for my MFJ-993B auto-antenna tuner. Then I realised that my tuner supported ICOM radios so I wired up a suitable lead. Unfortunately the support was not that great and I often needed to retune.

As we sell a device for several Yaesu radios that implements a low-power tune function, I asked the designer to look into making something similar for ICOM radios. He found two existing product types, both of which had shortcomings. A simple system with a capacitor and a resistor gives a fixed tune time which is not ideal in many cases (tuning high power amplifiers for example) and needs to recharge before it can be reused, while a design with a microcontroller just gives that fixed tune time. His conclusion was that some sort of external low power tune button was likely to be the best solution. With that in mind I got to work designing such a system. I wanted it to feel right as well as work well; it also had to be easy for users to make. So it went through several iterations with different buttons and different PCB layouts before we got the right design. I have been using mine for a while now and it really does make using my IC-7300 so much better. It will work just as well with other ICOM radios.

The SOTABEAMS Click2Tune for ICOM is available as a kit or ready-built.

...and curiously while I have had a few radios, I have never replaced my car, preferring a bicycle instead.

73 Richard G3CWI

http://tinyurl.com/y8u5phwq

2017 Skyview Swap n Shop

The weather cooperated. We had lots of sellers and lots of buyers. Great food. And some lucky prize winners. If you missed it, you missed a good one. Here's a few photos. The high quality pictures here were taken by Dennis Woytek - KB3HPC (those and more of Dennis's pictures are at http://www.skyviewradio.net The rest of the ones here, including the 'you had to be there to fully appreciate it" setup pictures, were taken by Jody - K3JZD. You will find even more pictures at https://www.facebook.com/SkyviewRadioSociety







SKYVIEW
RADIO SOCIETY
K3MJW
WX3SKY


WC3PS

The North American QRP CW Club (NAQCC) operated from the Skyview Radio Room during the Swap n Shop.

Here is the Report that John – K3WWP published in the NAQCC Key Clicks Newsletter http://www.naqcc.info/

Sunday August 27 - The Skyview visit was a blast. It's fun once a year to operate our QRP rigs into their huge antenna farm, although personally once a year is enough for me (K3WWP). It's just too easy making QSOs that way. I enjoy the challenge of doing things with my little "antenna victory garden" instead. I'd probably get quickly bored having a farm like Skyview's.

We had four stations set up to operate simultaneously. In past years, it was tricky figuring out their multi antenna, multi filter, etc. operation. However this year Bob WC3O (thanks!) had everything set up for us to just connect our KX3/KX2 rigs to their power pole bus and the four antennas we'd be using. That was a big time saver for sure.

Here's what we used:
40M - a 40M dipole
30M - an 80M dipole
20M - a tri-band beam
17M - a six element beam

All antennas reside on their big hilltop property and are probably in the neighborhood of 60-70 feet high.

There's a picture of their whole antenna farm in my web site diary archives at k3wwp.com. Look at the August 31, 2015 entry. Actually since that picture was taken, they've added a phased vertical array for we believe 80 meters.

As it seems with all our portable events, this one got off to a fast start, and then the activity diminished. I don't know why that is. I may write a separate article with some ideas on it. Anyway we made 45 contacts in 25 SPCs in the approximately 4.5 hours we were active. Mike had the prize contacts working Asiatic Russia and Slovenia on 20M. As somewhat expected, 17M didn't have much to offer in the way of DX at this point in the sunspot cycle and only domestic contacts were made on that band. Another bit of a hindrance was the Kansas QSO Party which spilled into our announced operating spots on 20 and 40. They sure had a lot of activity compared to what I'd heard in previous years.

Our little KX3/KX2 rigs look lost in the sea of big rigs, amplifiers, computers, etc. But they performed well considering conditions. Last August we worked a lot of DX with a similar setup. Those sunspots can

make a difference.

Another thing we really enjoy when visiting Skyview (and the Requin Sub also) is interacting with the visitors (and Skyview members) at the S&S. Most all are very interested in CW (and QRP) and ask some good questions and have some good comments. Unlike some clubs, virtually all the Skyview members respect CW/QRP operation and are very helpful when we visit there each year.

The chapter members who were there included K3WWP KC2EGL WB3FAE AB3RU K3JZD and W3FFZ. Jody K3JZD, a Skyview member, was busy with S&S activities and didn't get a chance to operate. Being a member though, I imagine he's tried his QRP rig with the club antennas before. Drew W3FFZ is still learning the code, so he didn't operate, but he did take our picture

From front to back, the old man K3WWP, Mike KC2EGL, Jon AB3RU, Tom WB3FAE.

How Local Politics Work

de Jody - K3JZD

In March of 2017, the Solicitor from Greensburg that the Penn Township (Westmoreland County) Commissioners has hired provided an Amateur Antenna Ordinance to the Penn Township Planning Committee. The Township Planning Committee voted to give it to the Penn Township Commissioners. The Township Commissioners solicited Public Comments. The Public gave lots of comments to the Township Commissioners, verbally and some in writing. The Township Commissioners gave it back to the Township Planning Committee to consider the comments (that they did not hear). The Public gave some comments to the Township Planning Committee, verbally and in writing. The Township Planning Committee gave it back to the hired Solicitor from Greensburg. The hired Solicitor from Greensburg made a couple of small changes and gave it back to the Township Planning Committee. As he explained his small changes to the Township Planning Committee, he chuckled when he said that some people wanted most of it to be gone. But he said that he felt that these small changes were all that was needed. The Township Planning Committee then voted to gave it back to the Township Commissioners. The hired Solicitor from Greensburg explained his small changes to the Township Commissioners and recommended that they proceed with it. As this is being written in mid September, a little over six months later, they are now proceeding down the path of republishing the slightly revised Ordinance so that the Township Commissioners can vote on it, perhaps in October. Odds are, they will then Pass this Ordinance.

So, all of the local elected and appointed Penn Township representatives have spent six months going through the motions, relying solely on the hired Solicitor from Greensburg to create their policy. Is this a great system, or what? Personally, I feel that I have wasted a great deal of my time on this.

Here , for your reading enjoyment, is the March 1, 2017 Penn Township Amateur Radio Ordinance, marked up to show the changes that were made by the hired Solicitor from Greensburg to create the updated version that will likely be passed by the Penn Township Commissioners in their October or November vote.

SECTION XII. The Penn Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby AMENDED to include a new Section 190-645 entitled and provided for as follows:

§ 190-645 Amateur Radio Antennas

A. Compliance. Amateur Radio Antennas installed, erected, maintained and/or operated within the Township, by a federally-licensed amateur radio operator shall be permitted pursuant to the requirements of this section and 47 CFR § 97.

B. FCC Licensing. Prior to issuance of a permit by the Township to approve the commencement of operations of an amateur station, the amateur operator must present to the Township proof that the amateur operator holds an amateur operator license from the Federal Communications Commission and any other state or federal department or agency that requires permitting.

General Regulations.

Location. Amateur Radio Antennas shall be permitted in all zoning districts.

Accessory Use. The Amateur Radio Antenna use shall be accessory to the primary use of the property.

Numeracy. In any zoning district, no more than two (2) Amateur Radio ~~Antennas~~Towers shall be allowed on a single lot.

Control operator required. When transmitting, any amateur radio station must have a control operator, licensed pursuant to FCC regulations.

Design Regulations.

Height. The total height of any Amateur Radio Antenna shall not exceed sixty five (65) feet, or the minimum height necessary to engage in radio communications under the FCC license. If the proposed facility is greater than sixty-five (65) feet in height, the applicant shall apply for a special exception authorization to the Township Zoning Hearing Board.

Mounting. No roof-mounted Amateur Radio Antenna shall be mounted on the side of a structure that is facing the street.

Lighting. The amateur radio tower and any antenna thereon shall conform with such federal regulations as are promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Aviation Administration or such other federal or state governing body with respect to illumination or other lighting requirements. No lighting is permitted on any amateur radio tower and any

antenna thereon unless required by federal regulations.

Anti-climbing. Every amateur radio tower that is erected at the ground level shall be surrounded by ~~fencing seven (7) feet in height. Additionally, every such amateur radio tower shall be equipped with~~ an approved anti-climbing device. ~~The fencing shall be constructed~~ such as a fence of chain link, solid masonry, solid wooden or picket (with spacing no greater than two (2) inches) and a gate which is equipped with a self-latching, self-locking lock or other alternative as approved upon request by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Yard requirements. Amateur Radio Antennas and Antenna structures must meet, at minimum, the yard requirements of the underlying zoning district as measured from the lot line to the closest point on the base of the antenna or support structure.

E. Location. An Amateur Radio Antenna must be located in the rear yard, except in rural zoning districts when such Antenna is located on a site five (5) acres or larger, when the Antenna may be located anywhere on the buildable area of the lot.

F. Maintenance and inspection of amateur radio tower and antenna. All amateur radio towers and antenna shall be subject to periodic inspections by the Township. The Township may at its discretion inspect all or any amateur radio towers and antennae, but the Township is in no way obligated to inspect all or any of the amateur radio towers and antennae within the Township. All amateur radio towers and antennae shall be structurally sound and maintained in good condition and shall be in compliance with all rules and regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission, as well as all applicable building codes. If the amateur radio tower and/or antenna are not structurally sound or are in poor condition, the amateur radio tower and antenna shall be immediately removed or remedied at the amateur operator's expense. The amateur radio tower and any antenna thereon shall be outfitted with such lightning-preventive, fire-retardant and/or grounding devices as are necessary to avoid damages resulting from lightning strikes, sparks or other fire-causing events.

G. Yard requirements. Amateur Radio Antennas and Antenna structures must meet, at minimum, the yard requirements of the underlying zoning district as measured from the lot line to the closest point on the base of the antenna or support structure.

H. Setback. An amateur radio tower, and any portion of an antenna thereon, shall not be located closer than fifty (50) feet to any public street, road or right-of-way, as measured from the ultimate right-of-way of such street or road to the closest portion of such amateur radio tower or any antenna thereon. Guy wires and accessory buildings and facilities shall meet the minimum accessory use location and setback requirements prescribed in the Township Zoning Ordinance.

I. Wind. All Amateur Radio Antennas and Antenna support structures shall be designed and installed so as to withstand wind speeds of up to ninety (90) miles per hour.

J. Insurance. The applicant shall present to the Township evidence of liability insurance in at least the minimum amount of $100,000. Such insurance policy shall insure the applicant against any damage caused by an amateur radio tower or antenna owned by the applicant in the Township. Insurance shall be provided to pay for all damages which may be caused either to a person or persons, or to property by reason of the amateur radio tower or any antenna thereon or any acts of the amateur operator, the amateur operator's affiliates, amateur operator's agents, employees or subcontractors in relation to the operation of the amateur radio tower or antenna or the amateur radio station. The applicant may demonstrate compliance with this provision by providing proof to the Township that they have a homeowners insurance policy that would cover these needs

Introducing the Skyview Jack of All Trades!

de Bob - WC3O

ED: The following discusses a valid and proven technique. However, taking Towers down is serious business. Missteps can result in injury or death. Read At Your Own Risk

Sometimes you need a little lift-me-up. Such was the case when Skyview Radio Society was offered a heavy duty self-supporting tower for free. Unfortunately road access to the tower, to get a crane in to the site would be very difficult so we needed to invent a way to gin pole the tower sections down. The tower had "stub and socket" connections that slip together. The two sections we needed to lift off of the stubs were 206 and 286 pounds. We needed a safe and highly controllable means of lifting the tower section off of the three stubs of the tower.

We were able to adapt an old screw type jack from a Mercedes Benz. The jack is very light-weight and can easily slip in between the cross braces of the two tower sections. We welded on a small section of U-channel to keep the base of the jack on the cross brace. The jack is actually used inverted to allow the operator to stay well below the upper section being removed. By slowly rotating the crank handle, lift is very precisely controlled. The jack can be moved from leg to leg as needed.

We added a tie line with a carabiner so that the jack can be let go of and not fall to the ground. I found that this jack (Mercedes P/N 210 583 01 15) is readily available on common auction sites for as little as $15.00. We did cut the stem off of the lifting arm to make the jack slightly smaller. This was done with a disk grinder. The long travel of the screw make the "Jack of All Trades" perfect for a wide range of tower applications.

Naturally, all tower safety rules should be strictly followed.

A DIY Wood CW Key Base - Joe N3TTE

Sometime after I got my Tech license in 1994, I was browsing at FHO and picked up a J-38 telegraph key to look at. When I turned it over, I recognized the Lionel "L" trademark on the bottom (see photo) and at that time, being a collector of all things railroad, at least things I could afford, I purchased it. Now I really wasn't interested in CW back then, but I thought it nice to own a piece of WWII history with a link to toy trains.

Fast forward to 2004. In 2004, I was working on 5 wpm CW to earn my General and my son gave me a code practice oscillator he got in a Christmas "white elephant" gift exchange. (Some person's "junk"; another person's "treasure"!) So I started to use the key and decided to "dress it up a bit" with a nice wood base since I like doing things with wood

Some "home centers" have displays of samples of wood moulding that you can take home (FOR FREE) to use to plan your remodeling project, and some of the baseboard mouldings have nice high (wide) flat areas that are 'just right' for a J-38 key. So I took a nice sample of red oak baseboard moulding home, cut off the fancy part at the top and made a rectangular base for my key. And because I have a router I like to play with, I also made a decorative rounded top to the base.

At that point, I was satisfied and left it unfinished until Aug 2017, when I applied some left over stain and two coats of left over varnish to it.

DIY notes:

1. The home center near the joint on Rt 286 has the display of sample mouldings I am referring to.

2. Note that when you chose the sample piece, all you care about is the flat surface. I'm partial to red oak because it has a nice grain and is a good compromise between being durable and being workable.

3. Finished dimensions for my base are 4.25" x 6"

4. If you don't have a router, but do have a table saw, you can put a bevel on the top of the baseboard. Or you can just leave the top square.

5. You can leave it unfinished like I did at first, stain it, or paint it.

Cleaning Up a J-38 CW Key Joe N3TTE

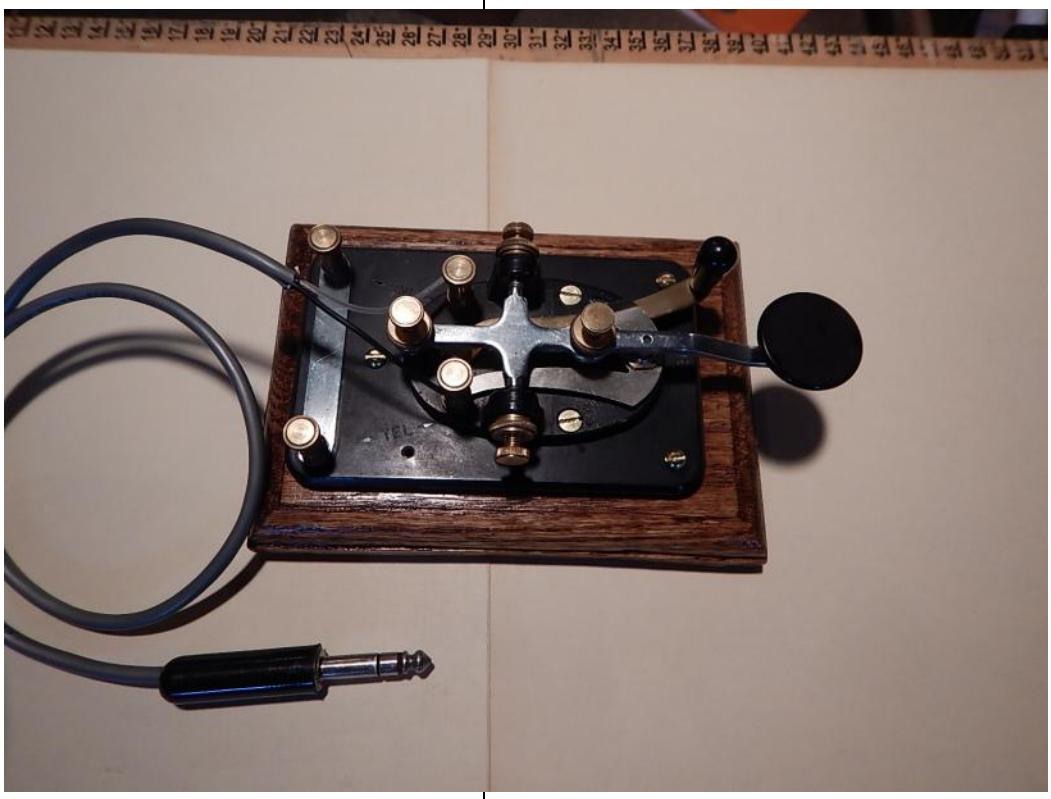
After I sent Jody the article on making a wood base for my J-38 key, he asked my why I didn't clean and polish it.

My reply was "If it's working, don't take it apart!". But then my hammy nature kicked in and I had to take it apart. So I went on the Internet to find some instructions and found a good video on YouTube. I also found an Army Signal Corps film on YouTube that showed how to adjust the J-38, which helped during reassembly.

When I took it apart, I put the parts to be cleaned in a small tray I have, and the parts that did not get cleaned in an empty prescription container. (I always save them!) Then I borrowed KB3LZQ's ultrasonic jewelry cleaner and dumped all the metal parts in it that fit. I let the ultrasonic cleaner run for about 15 minutes, then I started to clean and polish the metal parts with steel wool and Brasso (r).

Two of the four brass flat head screws go on the underside, but I cleaned all four and picked the two best to be visible.

I used steel wool where the parts were really bad and they cleaned up "pretty nice". Then I polished everything with a generous amount of Brasso (r). I used a toothbrush to polish the screw threads and any surface that was not flat.



Reassembly was not difficult, but I had a little trouble with the pins that aligned the terminals for the wires. Most of these were missing, so I used some scrap pieces of electrical wire as replacements. I think if I used some super glue to cement them in place it would have helped. I also had to use a pipe cleaner (remember those!) to clean the Brasso (r) out of the wire terminals.

I also got some #6 x 3/4" brass wood screws to mount the key to the base and I replaced the cable.

The one thing I couldn't do was to refresh the engravings in the base for "LINE" & "TEL"; they were too worn to put some white paint in.

Overall, I think the clean up turned out really nice and I'm glad I took the hour and half or so to clean the key.

BTW Here's a tip from a watchmaker for working with small items – Get an inexpensive cooking apron and fasten the bottom to your workbench. Then when you put it around your neck, you'll have something that will catch small parts when you drop them.

Lightweight Paddles

Jody - K3JZD

I am partial to products made and sold by a Ham. And I am partial to Made in America products. So, whenever I find products that meet both of these criteria, I give them a good hard look.

ElectronicsUSA is owned and operated by Jack Roblin - WA6KYO. I now have three of Jack's MK-33 Single Lever Mini Paddle keys. I bought the first one to use for my normal SOTA Activations. Whenever I decided to prepare a second smaller and lighter SOTA pack to use for the Activations that I can travel to on my motorcycle, I bought two more. (To avoid the risk of forgetting something, I have found that it is best to keep each of my SOTA packs intact for grab and go). The third is currently in use at my Summer place in Conneaut Lake.

This particular model can be used with an electronic keyer, but not in an iambic mode. I use it in as a straight key sideswiper. (I added a small toggle switch to short to two contacts together for when I'm sideswiping - this allows me to use it either direction)

I like that it has a 1/8" stereo jack rather than a cable - this allows me use whatever length of cable suits my needs.

There are other models, including a MK-44 Two Paddle Model for use with iambic keyers. And there are also some models which have built in electronic keyers.

Jack has a number of other products, including some single zone and dual zone 24 hour digital clocks.

Jack provides great support as well, I am pretty aggressive with my sideswiping - I tap the paddle pretty hard whenever I'm rolling along at 15WPM or so. I managed to break the lever on my first and most-used key. Jack gave me a great deal on some replacement levers.

http://electronicsusa.com/

A K3JZD Recommended Supplier

Hurricane Stories

Jody - K3JZD

I don't know about you, but I have casually come across some stories that kind of suggest that what we used to do is just that — what we used to do.

There was a story in the 10SEP17 Post-Gazette about some Pittsburghers who used Twitter and a group chat on an unnamed messaging app to find out the status of their son who lived on the Virgin Islands. So, as bad as things are reported to be there, apparently there is some functioning Internet and cell phone service there.

I found this Hurricane Harvey story on Slashdot:

05SEP17 Holly Hartman, a journalism teacher for 22 years, writes an incredible story:

I downloaded an app Suddenly I was a Rescue Dispatcher.

After watching nonstop coverage of the hurricane and the incredible rescues that were taking place, I got in bed at 10:30 on Tuesday night. I had been glued to the TV for days. I read an article about the Cajun Navy and the thousands of selfless volunteers who have shown up to this city en masse. The article explained they were using a walkie-talkie-type app called Zello to communicate with each other, locate victims, get directions, etc. I downloaded the app, found the Cajun Navy channel and started listening. I was completely enthralled. Voice after voice after voice coming though my phone in the dark, some asking for help, some saying they were on their way. Most of the transmissions I was hearing when I first tuned in were from Houston, but within 30 minutes or so, calls started coming in from Port Arthur and Orange. Harvey had moved east from Houston and was pummeling East Texas. Call after call from citizens saying they were trapped in their houses and needed boat rescue. None of the volunteer rescuers had made it to that area from Houston, but as soon as the calls started coming in, they were moving out, driving as fast as they could into the middle of Harvey.

The Full Story is here: http://tinyurl.com/y8beby7r

Now, I have to confess that I am not monitoring any ham Hurricane Net, and do not know what kind of traffic they may be handling. But, apparently there are lots of other communication channels in operation, using facilities which are still powered and functional.

The view from here (Warning – Long article) de Bob - WC3O

I don't know about you, but I have a hard time imagining electrons flowing through or on the surface of a conductor. I prefer to look at electricity like water. I can see water. Water follows with the same laws of physics electrons do, for the most part, and water allows me to visualize flow and eddies and waves and reflected energy and phase and more. Follow the flow along with Bob.

In my article, Stay Tuned" last month, I talked about ways to look at SWR at your home station, and up at the club where the "antenna system" is more complex and entails "looking" through a radio's internal antenna tuner, the band-pass filter, linear amplifier, the Elecraft watt meter, high power antenna tuner and finally the antenna/feedline.

While we can look at electricity as water, we can also look at it from the "view" of a device. If you are in an office and there is a window looking out into a hallway, your view from there is the hallway. If you are looking though a paper towel tube your view is strictly what you see through the tube. If you are on top of a tall building, you see a great many things. This is an easy concept, yes?

I cannot express strongly enough the importance of WATCHING your operating conditions while on HF. This is not hard to do, but you REALLY need to do it, always! You have many more variables on HF with antenna resonance (or non-resonance) which is much more acute than on VHF or UHF where you set your SWR and forget about it until something goes very wrong. The meters and the blinking lights on the HF station all play an important role and you must always be aware of what they are telling you. This is VERY true when operating a high power linear amplifier. Linear amps are four things. 1- Expensive to buy. 2 – Expensive to operate. 3 – Expensive to repair. 4 - Expensive to ship. Care and feeding of said amp is very important. My intent here is not to scare you away from using the amps, but for you to know what is good and what is bad (and avoid the bad).

You can do stupid things with a HF radio. They are well self-protected. If you have very high SWR the radio will automatically cut output power to protect itself, and the built-in antenna tuner can hide a host of big antenna/feedline problems and you may never even know, if you don't know how to look at it. You need to see it from the radio's "point of view". When you are using an amplifier you NEED to look at the antenna from the amplifier's "point of view"! What is the radio or amp "looking at" when it comes to the antenna, or "LOAD".

First let's talk about why high is SWR bad for a linear amplifier? You need to know and understand this. The amps are not nearly as well self-protected as the radios are, and the power output is MUCH Higher. Along with high SWR comes very high voltage along the coax (Feedline), through the antenna tuner and the output of the amplifier. This very high voltage can cause arcing anywhere along the antenna "system" from the output of the linear to the antenna itself. You NEED to know what RF arcing sounds like. It does not sound like a loud electrical arcing noise. It is quiet and sounds more like a steak sizzling. If you hear this quiet arcing stop transmitting NOW and consider what might be going wrong. That arcing quickly causes major damage to the device it is arcing across, read expensive to fix! It also does no favors to the expensive tubes. Write this down: Arcing bad. Be sure to listen when operating high power. A mis-tuned amplifier can also cause arcing. Listen for it. Arcing bad…

In a perfect world all antennas would be resonate and there would be no need for antenna tuners. Major contest station owners work hard to optimize their station so all antennas are resonant where they will be working, with NO need for antenna tuners inline. At the club however, we do not have a situation where we can do this, yet… The higher in frequency you go, the wider the good SWR bandwidth will be. Conversely, the lower in frequency you go you will VERY likely need the aid of the tuner to keep the SWR at an acceptable level, such as below @1.7:1. I'm talking about 40, 80 and 160 meters. The quad (10, 12, 15, 17, 20 meters) is not tuned as well as I would like to see it, so on certain bands you may need the tuner to bring the SWR into range.

OK now we go on to this "point of view" thing: I am going to write the following paragraphs in line with the

components at the club.

Radio, band-pass tuner, amplifier, watt meter, high power tuner, antenna.

The radio's view:

The tuner inside the radio and the high power tuner can both be placed "inline" or "out of line" (Bypass). Read my last article again. The radio's internal SWR meter is accurate. However, it's "view" is simply from the output of the radio BEFORE the internal tuner, or anything past it. If the radio's internal tuner is inline the SWR may look great on the radio's SWR meter, but actually could be VERY bad. Put the radio's internal tuner in bypass to see the SWR, from the radio's point of view. The internal tuner simply makes the radio's view look good, even if it is not so good, or even really bad. If the actual SWR from the radio's view is really bad, you should be asking yourself why. By really bad I mean SWR over 3:1 or 4:1, depending on band or antenna. You should ask yourself questions like: Am I on the wrong antenna for the band I want to op on? Is there an antenna switch not set correctly?

Next in line is the band pass filter. The filter's job is to minimize RF energy on one band from getting into one of the other radios at the club and causing interference on another band. These filters should be turned on, switched inline and set to the corresponding band any time multiple radios are on at the club. The filter is nothing more than a tuner circuit, a coil and capacitor inline. It is a "passive" device. What is the view through these filters? Look at it like the frosted window in your bathroom. You can basically through the window, but with some distortion. These filters do effect what the radio "sees" when they are inline. Let's say you adjust the external tuner with the filter inline (without the amp running) you can see the SWR changing from the radio's point of view. Like your frosted window, it's not a perfect view, but you can see changes. You will also note that these filters eat some of the radio's power. If the radio is putting out 100 watts you may only get 75 watts out of the filter. The rest is lost in heat within the filter. This is unfortunate, but normal. In theory the filters would like to see a good SWR going towards the antenna. However, we often use the radio's internal tuner to make the radio happy (when not using the amp). Again, anything after the internal tuner is STILL bad SWR and thus, creates very high voltages within the filter. This can damage the filter. But to be honest, we do this all the time and haven't damaged a filter. It is however, good to be aware of this issue.

Next in line is the amplifier:

There are two conditions here – 1: When the amp is off or in standby – 2: If the amp is operating. When the amp is off or in standby you are simply looking straight through the amplifier towards the antenna. You can see SWR changes through the amp in this condition. However, when the amp is operational, the radio's SWR meter is NOT looking at the antenna, but is looking into the "Tuned input" circuit of the amp. In other words, the radio is looking at a SWR that has nothing to do with the antenna, you are simply looking into the tuned input circuit of the amp The SWR on the antenna can be VERY bad, but everything looks great to the radio, because it isn't looking at the antenna, it is looking into the amp. This is important to realize and that is why the SWR meter in the radio is useless when the amp is operational.

Next in line is the Elecraft W2 watt meter:

If you are using an amp you need to look at the antenna from the AMP's point of view.

This is where this watt meter shines. I like to call the Elecraft watt meter the "Truth meter". What this meter sees is directly what the amp sees when it comes to power and SWR. It is VERY important that you monitor this meter while operating and the amp is operational. The only things after this meter are the high power tuner and the antenna, including feedline. The meter has two rows of LEDs. One is forward power and the other is calculated SWR. The SWR

LEDs have three colors – Green, yellow and RED. Guess what? **RED is BAD! Red means STOP!** The forward power meter is auto-ranging with 20, 200 and 2000 watt scales. It is important to note what scale the meter is on, there are LEDs along the top that tell you what scale the meter is on. If you are running the amp and it is only putting out 200 watts, something is wrong. STOP and look at your setup. Is there anything not right? When using the amp this meter is very important and must be paid attention to often. On the Green station amp there are also red LEDs. Again, red is bad! Red means STOP! Please pay attention to them, always.

On the other hand:

If you are NOT using the amp and ARE using the internal antenna tuner of the radio, the red SWR LEDs on the Elecraft watt meter can flash. The SWR meter in the radio may show a great SWR, but remember, everything past the internal tuner, towards the antenna is still just as bad as it ever was, thus the truth meter indicates this. Under the listed condition here (using the internal tuner and no amp) it is ok if the red LEDs on the watt meter are flashing, just understand that in reality you really do have a bad SWR but the internal tuner making it all look good to the radio. Again, you may want to be sure you're on the right antenna for the band and all switches are set correctly.

The next thing in line is the high power antenna tuner:

These tuners are rated for 3000 watts. One tuner has forward and reflected power meters. Don't put much trust in them as they are not very accurate. Use the Elecraft watt meter. How to use these manual tuners is a subject for another article. All I can say here is DO NOT hot switch them. In other words, don't adjust the inductor switch with RF power applied. This will damage the inductor switch, big time.

Next in line is the feedline out to the antenna. Every connector, every lighting arrester, every remote antenna switch has some effect on the SWR that you see. Remember the whole ball of wax is a "system" and one thing can affect other things.

Another little hint:

Let's say you want to work 20 meters. You connect to the quad or the tri-band beam. You **should** have a good SWR and no need to use either tuner. The radio is on 20 meters. You are expecting to see the truth meter tell you that you have a respectable SWR when you transmit. So you key up and you have terrible SWR! What the hell man? Be sure the high power tuner is in BY-PASS. Often times the last person that used that station had the high power tuner inline and forgot to put it back into bypass mode. This can throw you for a loop! Again, if something does not seem to be behaving right, stop and look at your setup one step at a time.

Always look at SWR from the point of view of the device – The radio, or the amp if you are using it. So there you have it. Clear as mud? Good. If you would like to become comfortable with all these aspects don't be shy about asking me to go over this with you one on one, preferable without a crowd around. It gets too confusing with a crowd. That's my point of view. Now to quote Bob, KC3JBS: "GET ON THE RADIO!" It's a contact sport folks. Make some contacts damnit!

Respectfully,

Your Radio Officer

Bob, WC3O

Q5er Literary Column

de Joe - K3TTE

"Days of Infamy"
Newt Gingerich
William R Forstchen
Reviewed by Joe Birsa; N3TTE

"Ham Radio – When All Else Fails!"

I found this book when a friend put in on a table at a model railroading 'get together' with a 'free to good home' note on it. Since I like reading about history and it looked interesting, I snapped it up very quickly.

"Days of Infamy" is a sequel to the book "Pearl Harbor: A Novel of December 8th, 1941". These two books are what is called 'alternate history'. Together, they examine what could have happened if Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto took personal charge of the attack on Pearl Harbor instead of remaining behind in Japan. (It doesn't go well for us!) The first book "Pearl Harbor etc" fairly accurately reflects the political, diplomatic, and military buildup to the attack in Japan, at least it agrees with another history book I read. It ends with Yamamoto ordering a third air strike instead of withdrawing like Adm. Nagumo actually did.

"Days of Infamy" starts with Adm. Yamamoto then ordering two Japanese battleships to bombard military installations, including Pearl Harbor, on the island of Oahu in an attempt to draw out the American carriers, which were not in Pearl Harbor at the time of the attacks. The third air strike and subsequent bombardment completely destroy the naval base as well as the other military installations on Oahu as well as the undersea cable installation.

In "Days of Infamy", between the third air strike, and the bombardment, several local hams take their equipment to the radio repair shack in naval base and set up communications. While "Days if Infamy" is not about ham radio, it presents ham radio in a very positive, and accurate light from this point until the end of the novel as a significant plot device. I particularly liked to part where the hams are responding to the call out and converging on the radio store owned by the president of the local ham club. At this time, FDR's famous speech is heard on an 'expensive' shortwave radio (??) mounted in the car of one of the hams. Near the end of the novel, the hams have twenty radios set up in a makeshift command center at the naval base and (obviously) other stations at other destroyed military installations.

In the book, a call sign is given – K2GEC. I looked it up and in 1993 it belonged to a John J Forstchen, who I assume was a relative of the co-author.

I do have one criticism about the ham radio parts of the book – all communication used phone. Prior to the real attack, propagation was miserable. That is why a warning could not be sent in time. (Codebreakers; David Kahn, etc). And I believe in 1941 'phone' was all AM. Maybe they had an opening to the mainland !!??

Overall both books were very 'easy reads' and I recommend them to anyone interested in history or World War II.

73 de N3TTE

Q5er Craft Corner

de Cooky - WC3O

My Wife, Cecilia, KB3VEN made this for me. :

Cell Phones and Ham Radio

"Cell Phones allow you to talk to your friends.

However, Ham Radio allows you to make new friends."

Ashton Feller - KD9HRG - Age 13

(From June 2017 CQ Magazine)

**** Skyview VE Testing ****

For EVERTHING you need to know go to:
https://www.facebook.com/SkyviewRadioSocietyHamRadioTesting/

(This will tell you what you need to bring with you)

Skyview Radio Society Contact person: Bob Worek, AG3U
e-mail: ag3u at arrl.net 724-410-1028

Location: Skyview Radio Society clubhouse. 2335 Turkey Ridge Road. New Kensington,PA 15068.

Directions, and map are on http://www.Skyviewradio.net

Please schedule in advance. While walk-ins accepted, exam may be cancelled if no candidates are scheduled.

>>>>>> WARNING <<<<<<

A new Alarm System has been installed up at the joint. Do Not go in there on your own until you learn how to disarm and rearm it.

Welcome New Members !!

Welcome the following Skyview Radio Society Members who have joined us since publishing the July newsletter:

KG4MSB	David Pike	Lower Burrell
KA3RXY	Charleen Dera	Bell Vernon
KA3JOU	Richard Hartman	Lower Burrell
KC3JSF	Reamon Linnabary	Lower Burrell
KC3AY	Fred Matthews	New Kensington
KC3EJC	Shawn McNelis	Pittsburgh 15237
N3RHT	Don Merz	Pittsburgh 15226
KB3SVJ	John Salsgiver	Ford City
- - -	Frank Santorri	Verona
W3IU	James Shuey	Gibsonia
N3JLR	Richard Spiek	New Kensington

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.

Kul - Links

Jody - K3JZD

There is lots of stuff out on the Internet… Some of it can brighten your day. Some of it can educate you.

I can't really copy and past it all in here. But, I can point you at some of it . . . . .

Here is a handy on-line Grid Locator:

http://qthlocator.free.fr/index.php

Here is a website that lists "20 Awesome Websites That You Don't Think Exist". Some of them are pretty handy.

http://cybergali.com/awesome-websites/

I'll consider any Kul - Links that you find.
Email then to me at: K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET
They might just end up in the next issue

Past Issues

Past Issues of the Q5er are available at

http://www.nelis.net

Next Newsletter will be December 1, 2017
Closing Date For Submissions : Nov 15, 2017
K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

Issue Wrap-up

I'm sure that you skipped over some of the stuff that you were not really interested in. Hopefully there was enough in here to make it worth opening.

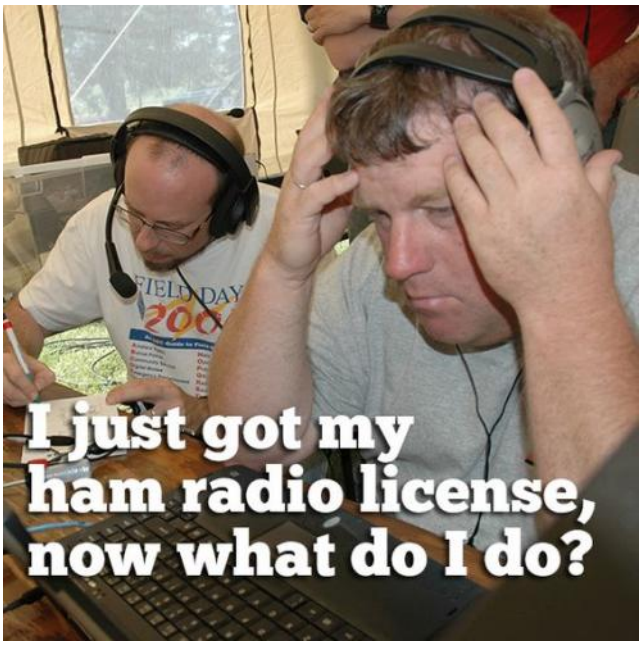
Many more blank spaces here and there in this this month's edition — worse than the last issue. Summer winding down contributed to that as I spent time doing other Summer things instead of polishing this newsletter and getting rid of the extra spaces or adding filler material. And taking off on my motorcycle for a 5 day trip to do some visiting in GA and SC from September 23-27th ate up my recovery time.

As usual, not much real club boilerplate or club news in here. The club web page, the club Face-book page, and the K3MJW Yahoo reflector all have the basic club info and timely club news. This newsletter is really for 'all else'. So, send me your 'all else' stuff.

Jody - K3JZD

Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

email your comments and article submissions to:
K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET



That's Easy . . . .

Come up to the Skyview Clubhouse on any Tuesday and ask !!!

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 ??