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

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

February 1, 2018

- Digital FM Radio
- Space Weather
- The Problem With QRP
- Skyview Members
- Which Digital Mode
- Using WSPR
- First Net News
- Built-In Sound Cards
- And Much More . . . . . .

Sunspots?

I don't need no stinking Sunspots.

I have 40 meters and 80 Meters.

Skyview Happenings

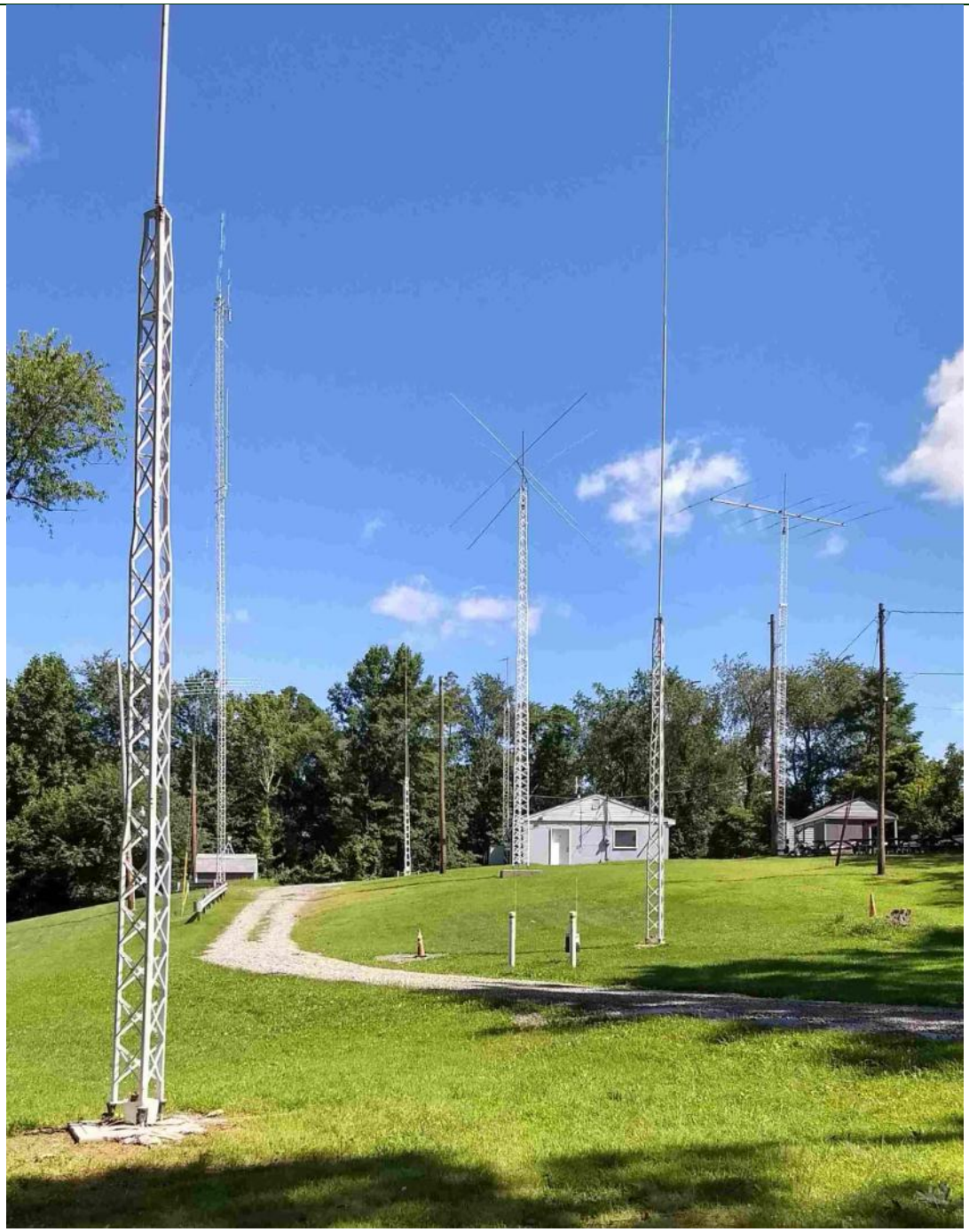
For those of you who like to operate in contests, and those of you who maybe never have but would like to observe and/or participate, Skyview participates in a lot of the major contest events. Many of them are entered as multi-station, multi-operator which allows a lot of people to participate. Listen to the announcements of upcoming events on Thursday evening net on the 164.64 repeater. Or follow the K3MJW Yahoo Group. The Skyview station is not a super-station, but we like to go up against the big boys any-way. Sometimes our little station will outpace the big boys if we move faster.

Major improvements have been made to the repeater shed to weatherproof it and to insure the stability of the structure See the pictures inside of this issue.

This coming Summer's major project will be to get a rotatable 40 meter beam up in the air. So, for those of you who like to get out and get some fresh air, there will be some things to do to get that up into the air. Don't wait to be asked - just show up whenever things are happening up at the joint. Participating in work parties is a real good way to get to know some of the other members better.

Our club has a lot of members now. But there is always room for more. Talk it up on the air, and invite others to come up and visit us on a Tuesday night. More than likely visitors would enjoy a visiting on a social night more than on a business meeting night. But, either will work.

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 into 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

What you mean "Just 24 hours" ?

OH NO, NOT AGAIN :-(

High-speed internet over power lines?

Dec. 13, 2017 By: Yoel Minkoff, Seeking Alpha News Editor

Marking its latest push to offer faster broadband service, AT&T (NYSE:T) has started trials in Georgia and a non-U.S. location to deliver high-speed internet - faster than the 1 gigabit per second - over power lines.

"Potentially, it can be a really big deal," said Roger Entner, an analyst at Recon Analytics. "You need the power company to play ball with you. That's the downside."

ARES/RACES Report

de Rich - WQ3Q

In continuation of my presentation of both CoCoRahs and SKYWARN. This article will cover the SKYWARN STORM SPOTTERS program which is another of the internet and radio-based options for us hams to participate in as well. With a little help from the NWS website here are some details.

What is SKYWARN?

The National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations as a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. Some of the aspects of reporting are closely linked to any report you would make if you participate in the CoCoRaHS program

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

Who can participate?

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter. You need to attend a one-time training session. Some of us here at Skyview have done so and found the time informative and interesting.

SKYWARN Spotter Training is free and typically lasts about 2 hours. You'll learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety.

The next basic training in our area will be on Mar 7, 2018, at 6:30 PM at the Lenape Technical School Library, 2215 Chaplin Ave.,Ford City, PA. Let's get a gang to go and do what we can to help our community.

You need to pre-register by going to the website https://www.weather.gov/pbz/skywarn

What will our volunteer observers be doing?

As trained observers you will provide a report of sightings or measurments at your QTH of things like:

Snow accumulation amounts

Freezing rain observation

Thunder snow

Wind speeds

Rainfall

Funnel clouds or Tornados

Hail

Flooding

You'll learn and understand the terminologies used by the NWS.

Who uses SKYWARN?

the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite, and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. SKYWARN® storm spotters are citizens who form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time--seconds and minutes that can help save lives.

How can you sign up?

You need to pre-register by going to the website https://www.weather.gov/pbz/skywarn

73,

Rich WQ3Q

Skyview VE Sessions

Dateline 16DEC17

After another pleasing VE Session at Skyview, a few new Techs, a new General and an Extra (did all 3 today),

The Skyview Radio Society - VE Team for the 2017 calendar year has helped 30 licensees to become new or upgraded Amateur Radio Operators. Many thanks to all who volunteer, support and elmer in this hobby.

de Bob - AG3U

Something to Look Forward To?

Norway Becomes First Country To Switch Off FM Radio

Posted on SlashDot.com by BeauHD on Friday December 15, 2017 @03:40PM from the first-of-its-kind dept.

An anonymous reader quotes a report from The Local Norway:

Norway on Wednesday completed its transition to digital radio, becoming the first country in the world to shut down national broadcasts of its FM radio network despite some grumblings. As scheduled, the country's most northern regions and the Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic switched to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) in the late morning, said Digitalradio Norge (DRN) which groups Norway's public and commercial radio. The transition, which began on January 11th, allows for better sound quality, a greater number of channels and more functions, all at a cost eight times lower than FM radio, according to authorities.

The move has however been met with some criticism linked to technical incidents and claims that there is not sufficient DAB coverage across the country. In addition, radio users have complained about the cost of having to buy new receivers or adapters, usually priced around 100 to 200 euros. Currently, fewer than half of motorists (49 percent) are able to listen to DAB in their cars, according to DRN figures. According to a study cited by local media, the share of Norwegians who listen to the radio on a daily basis has dropped by 10 percent in one year, and public broadcaster NRK has lost 21 percent of its audience.

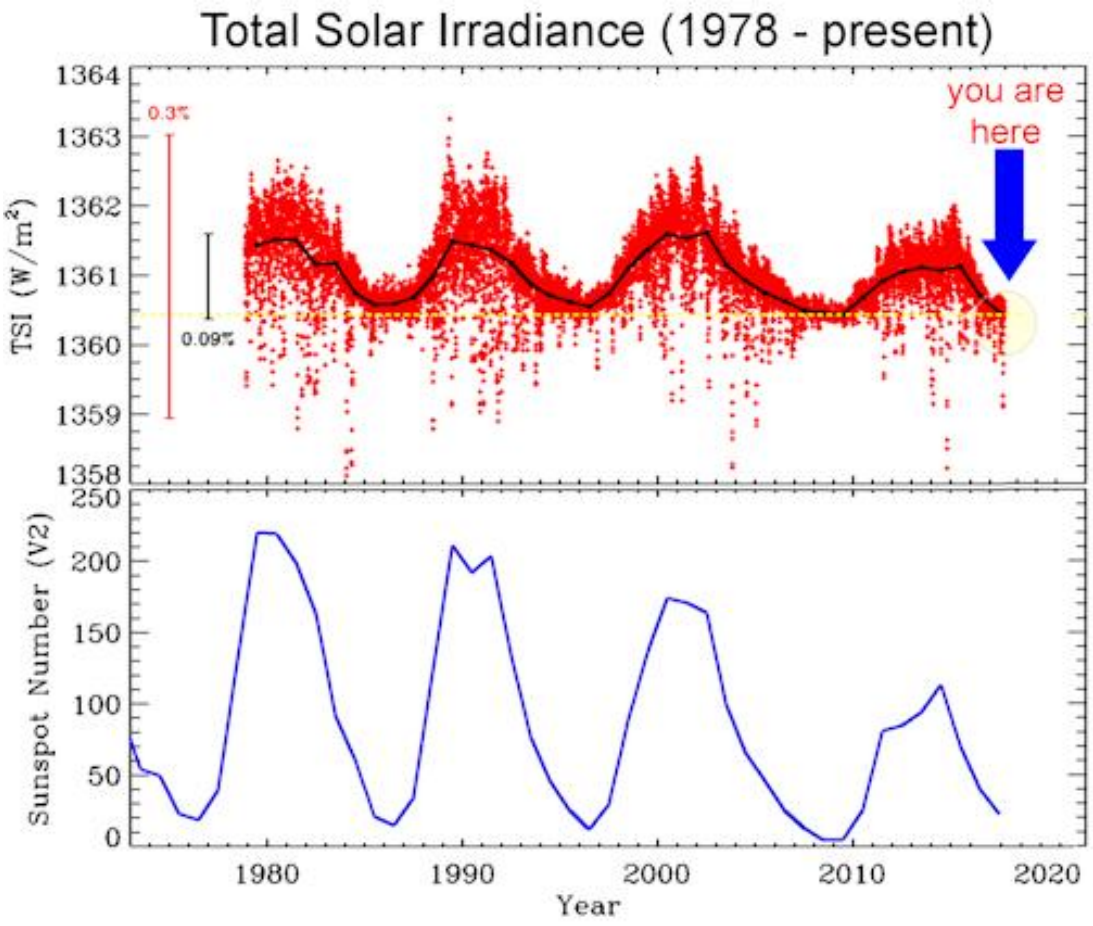
Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

Space Weather News for Dec. 15, 2017

http://spaceweather.com
https://www.facebook.com/spaceweatherdotcom

THE SUN IS DIMMING: Today at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, SpaceX launched a new sensor to the International Space Station named "TSIS-1." Its mission: to measure the dimming of the sun. As the sunspot cycle plunges toward its 11-year minimum, NASA satellites are tracking a slight but significant decline in total solar irradiance (TSI). TSIS-1 will monitor this dimming with better precision than previous satellites as Solar Minimum approaches in the years ahead. Visit today's edition of Spaceweather.com to learn more about TSIS-1 and natural variations in the sun's electromagnetic output.

The rise and fall of the sun's luminosity is a natural part of the solar cycle. A change of 0.1% may not sound like much, but the sun deposits **a lot** of energy on the Earth, approximately 1,361 watts per square meter. Summed over the globe, a 0.1% variation in this quantity exceeds all of our planet's other energy sources (such as natural radioactivity in Earth's core) combined. A 2013 report issued by the National Research Council (NRC), "The Effects of Solar Variability on Earth's Climate," spells out some of the ways the cyclic change in TSI can affect the chemistry of Earth's upper atmosphere and possibly alter regional weather patterns, especially in the Pacific.



NASA's current flagship satellite for measuring TSI, the Solar Radiation and Climate Experiment (SORCE), is now more than six years beyond its prime-mission lifetime. TSIS-1 will take over for SORCE, extending the record of TSI measurements with unprecedented precision. It's five-year mission will overlap a deep Solar Minimum expected in 2019-2020. TSIS-1 will therefore be able to observe the continued decline in the sun's luminosity followed by a rebound as the next solar cycle picks up steam. Installing and checking out TSIS-1 will take some time; the first science data are expected in Feb. 2018. Stay tuned.

Looking For a Winter Project

de Chuck - K3CLT

I was on a net the other day and one of the topics that came up had to do with Electro Magnetic Pulses (EMP). EMP's a come from many different sources but the main one we are concerned with at this time is the one that we may encounter during a Nuclear Attack. What brought up this topic are the actions of North Korea.

So I thought I would do a little research to see what I could learn about how to protect your equipment during an attack if it should one come. The subject is as broad and it is long and there are many different theories on what is the best protection for our electronics.

Trying to keep this simple is probably the best way to approach this. We have to try and determine what services will be operating and what ones won't. I am not sure if any radio communications will be working unless they are protected. Cell phones, the internet, ham radio as we know it, TV, radio stations, who know. This will help us determine what we may want to secure before an attack. It is important to remember that as with all major incidents most of the government services will be limited and very busy. Normal means of communications will probably not working. Hope for the best and plan for the worst.

There are many theories on how to secure and protect your gear. The one that seemed the easiest was to use a metal trash can with a secure lid. Before placing anything in the can it is necessary to line the can with some type of insulator. A simple layer of cardboard around the sides and bottom will do it. You want to protect from the can coming in contact with any of the items you place in it.

You can use any kind of container but remember that it has to be lined with some screening material or be made of metal to block the signals, and must have an isolation material to protect your items from touching the outer shell.

Now what to put in the can:

- A spare cell phone. The 911 function should work if the cell sites are on line.
- A Spare HT or 2. I would suggest not using GMRS frequencies, but maybe some ham frequencies that are not commonly used. Antennas and batteries can be stored outside of the can but need checked on a regular basis.
- A spare dual band radio if you have one.
- A spare scanner
- Spare chargers
- Spare batteries.
- A good thing to have is a Solar battery charger.

  Look at Amazon :

  ECO-WORTHY

  ECO-WORTHY 12 Volts 5 Watts Portable Power Solar Panel Battery Charger Backup for Car Boat Batteries $19.99

A laptop or tablet computer, have all family information and contacts, phone numbers, meds, frequencies for local and state government, and anything else you don't want to forget.

Anything else small that you can thing of that you may need that is vulnerable to EMP.

All of the items that you place in the can need to be protected. I suggest wrapping each item with a layer of bubble wrap then a layer of heavy aluminum foil wrapped completely. A second layer of bubble wrap is needed to protect the item from contacting the side of the container.

This should give you ample protection from EMP damage.

You can do all the other prepper stuff as you seem as necessary. (Spare water and food, First aid kits).

Your vehicles probably won't run and any exposed devices that have chips in them will not function.

We know this all seems to be extreme but with North Korea anything is possible.

Chuck - K3CLT

The Problem With QRP

de Rick - KB2NAT

"ED – If you are not familiar with it, the Elecraft KX3 is a compact and very portable QRP transceiver. Since I now own a KX3, I monitor the Yahoo KX3 Group. I found this submission there. With Rick's permission, I am re-printing it here.

Just some thoughts on QRP – I find that the biggest problem with operating on QRP has not been CB-ers operating over my signal, whiz-bangs playing music and screaming on 7.2 MHz or some guy with 2500 watts and a directional curtain array aimed this way from somewhere that Spanish is spoken. It's not even band conditions or QRM, although QRM in our condo is consistently awful. It always seems to be the often-inadequate antennas I've gotten used to using (and getting away with when I had more power).

This is annoying. I've been required to learn more about antennas, best times to operate, best frequencies and to be more patient. I actually improved my CW skills, although I still favor SSB. It's also required me to learn how to make my own ununs, coils (150 mh, anyone?) and actually use many of the spare antenna parts, hardware and nice-to-have-on-hand items I've found in garage sales that I told myself that I would someday use (but hadn't).

I have walked to places (like our local gazebo in a field) to test antennas. Guys have actually responded to my 15 watts whether it was from a mag loop, simple wire and counterpoise or a vertical with a tuning coil made from a slinky. I talked to a guy somewhere in Colorado from North Carolina and discovered I had only been using 5 watts. I'm sure I couldn't have made that contact if I had known I wasn't putting out a full 15.If a power failure hits, I now can actually use a 22ah deep cycle battery (plus solar panel) to still get on the air.

In a nutshell, I've learned a lot I likely wouldn't have. I also now have a receiver that receives as good as (I think) anything on the market. The KX3 is my only receiver--how unhamlike! I don't have a huge book full of contacts, but I also have a life outside of ham radio. But I'm going to get on 160 meters with a whip and a coil when spring comes.

I think my ham radio life has expanded because of QRP. I don't think QRP is necessarily for everyone (nor, likely, is ham radio), but it seems to both spur growth and the fun factor. I think that there is more to the ham radio process than the number of contacts, watts, transceivers ("Let me tell you how much I've spent...") and learning buzz-words like. "Fine business!" (heck, I don't even know what that means). Perhaps my wife gets tired of hearing that I talked with someone from Germany with 10 watts.

There is also an appreciation for those who answered my questions, dug my CQ's from the muck, and were unknowingly encouraging by their posts. Special thanks to an engineer at Elecraft who spent (some of his spare) time helping to alleviate my concerns about my KX3 learning curve.

I wonder if simple QRP accesses more of the original ham concept than simple behind-the-desk operation and owning your own ham equipment warehouse? I may add some power--I might even go up to 50 watts--but I think QRP has added greatly to my life. It could be an addition to some ham's bucket list that they never even realized was there.

Rick Fineout

KB2NAT

Newsletter Fillers ??

While I will put some stuff in here that I have found in another club's newsletter or on the Internet, I would prefer to put your stuff in here instead.

I am always happy to get articles which discuss you opinion on some new radio, antenna, or other ham gear that you have purchased. I am not looking for QST type technical dissertations - am looking for operating experiences with it. What's great? What's good? What is not so great?

I am always happy to get your pictures: Shacks, radios, mobile setups, antennas, customizations, etc.

Lots of new folks will benefit from you sharing your experiences.

Show Me Yours and I'll Show You Mine

The Featured Hamshack for this issue belongs to: ??

Something different for this issue
A Hamshack from days gone by

Normal . . .

. . . and Clean

Choosing a HF Starter Radio

de Jody - K3JZD

Upon obtaining a General or higher Class License, choosing a HF (High Frequency) Radio is often a daunting task. There are a number of popular brands. Some imported, some made in the USA. Brands are like religions to some folks. Those folks have their favorite brand, and no others can compare. I'm not in that camp – I consider them all. I have one or more Icom radios, Kenwood radios, Yaesu radios, TenTec radios, and Elecraft radios. The only major brand I have never owned is Alinco, and that is for no particular reason other than their not having a radio that was exactly what I was looking for at the time.

If you ask 20 people what radio to get, you will most likely get 20 answers. What follows is just my opinion. And opinions are like _ _ _holes; everybody has one. So, I do not want you other 19 people to challenge my opinions on his subject (unless of course you want to write your own article on this subject and submit it to me for publication – I would welcome that).

It has become more difficult. Years ago, seems most everyone started out with a used 'starter radio'. There were a lot of simple, rugged tube type radios available for sale at most every hamfest. There was not much differentiation between the radios then, and it was pretty hard to break them. So, buying a used radio at a hamfest was actually pretty low risk. You could get on the air and make contacts. You could then hear what various other radios sounded like on the air and get opinions from the various folks that you talked to. Over time, you developed a feel for what your next radio should be.

Today, we have many more brands to choose from, and there are many models within each brand's lineup. There is a tremendous cost spread in today's new radios - from a few hundred dollars to many thousands of dollars. To some degree, the more expensive ones can give you better reception in marginal conditions and can provide you with some audio characteristics which may help you get through in marginal conditions. But, for the most part, going from radios costing hundreds of dollars to radios thousands of dollars provides mostly what I will call 'convenience features'. Most all of the transmitters in today's radios are 100 watts. The radios you get for hundreds of dollars are 100 watts. The radios you get for thousands of dollars are 100 watts. Either allow you to get on the air and make contacts. Seems like as you go up in price you will just get more 'convenience features'.

The range of 'convenience features' available is pretty wide. In my mind the most valuable features are in the area of receiver filtering and noise control. For me, being able to filter out adjacent interference and being able to reduce background noise so that I can copy a weak signals trumps having 1000 memories that I can use to quickly jump to any one of those 1000 frequencies. Built in automatic transmatches (usually called auto-tuners today) are convenient, although there are inexpensive external auto-tuners available. Features like dual VFOs are pretty common now and allow split operation, which is needed to chase DX. But I'm not so sure that the dual receivers and dual transmitters that I see in a lot of the upper end radios are that valuable to anyone but serious contest operators. Receiver displays have come a long way. Now will they tell you more than you need to know. Bandscopes or panadapters with waterfalls are nice whenever you are looking for an open spot on a band. But just tuning around with a knob will get you there also.

Today's feature rich broadband solid state radios are delicate, and all of them have embedded computers in them. I believe that this is why we longer find very many used radios at hamfests. These solid state radios are simply nowhere as rugged as the old tube radios, which makes buying a used one a higher risk deal. In spite of the SWR foldback features which tries to prevent damage to the transmitter when it is not connected to a good antenna, it is still possible to damage the solid state transmitter components. And just about the whole radio is now at risk for static discharge damage. The risk to reward for buying a used one at a hamfest is just not that good. While you are standing there looking at it, you have no way of knowing how many of the 'convenience features' that have con-

tributed to the radio's elevated price still work correctly? While the seller may assure you that there are no problems, the seller may have only used 20% of those features. Another issue on the older solid state radios is obsolete components which can quickly render them to a 'beyond economical repair' status.

I'm not saying do not ever buy a used radio. That is still a good way to get started. But keep in mind that all used radios are sold as-is. In spite of that, the seller generally is looking for an amount that is closer to what he paid for it rather than what an old electronic item made from obsolete and unobtainable semiconductors is really worth. So it is a matter of price and trust. For me, a used radio needs to be offered at a pretty good discount to the cost of a new radio to get my attention. I like to buy my used radios from a club member or local ham whom I know and will see again whenever possible. I figure that improves my odds of getting a good one. And, I am a lot more comfortable buying a used radio with fewer features that one with a lot of features.

So, suppose you do not have a friend that you trust or a club member selling an ideal used radio at a great price whenever you are looking and you do no want to take a risk by buying a used radio online. (club members looking to upgrade your radio: Advertise your used radios here !!) That kind of limits you to buying a new radio. Go to the DX Engineering catalog. There are a whole lot of choices. Where do you start? Well, for most of us cost is a major factor. If cost is not a constraint for you, you could jump to the top rung of one of the brands. But, you could end up with a radio that is so feature rich that it is very difficult to figure out and operate. So, maybe starting out with something simpler makes sense.

Rather than try to cover every brand, I'm going to just use Icom radios as an example. In the DX Engineering catalog I see eight Icom HF "Base Transceivers". Going to the DXE web site, I see that four of them are over $2000. For me, that puts them beyond my definition of a 'starter radio'. What is left, in increasing dollar value, are the IC-718, IC-7200, IC-7100, and IC-7300 radios. So, given these four choices, how would I go about deciding on what is the best starter radio? Lets look at each of them. (By the way, each of these radios require that you have a separate 12vdc power supply).

The IC-718 is the most basic and most economical radio in the Icom lineup. Looking at the specs, it is pretty well equipped for a basic radio. I would not hesitate to recommend this model as a starter radio. It has enough 'convenience features', but not so many to be overwhelming.

The IC-7200 is a lot like the IC-718, but adds some additional 'convenience features' (and it costs about 33% more). Probably the biggest improvements are in the enhanced receiver filtering and noise reduction area. These features are quite valuable during the times that the band is weak or very busy. There are also some transmitter enhancements which would benefit both SSB and CW operation. I believe that the 'convenience features' that were added to the IC-7200 are all useful operating features and that makes this a better starter radio than the IC-718. I believe that additional cost would be money well spent.

The IC-7100 adds some features which would make it easier to add digital modes. And it adds VHF and UHF bands. However, I personally do not care for the miniature panel with just a few buttons. With this radio, you would have to go through nested menus for many of the things that are normally available from dedicated buttons and knobs right on the front panel. I also think that this radio is a bit over priced for the feature set provided. And I would prefer to have a separate VHF and/or UHF radio rather than have one box that does it all. I would not recommend this one as a starter radio for these reasons.

The IC-7300 is a 'new style' radio, with a full featured touch screen. It is state of the art. Although there are still a lot of buttons and knobs to work with, a lot of the operating functions require learning the screen menu system. For someone new, some of the 'convenience features' that this radio adds will not be obvious or fully appreciated initially. However, you would grow into them over time. But features like the built-in antenna tuner would be appreciated right away. The receiver is quite sensitive and the filtering and noise reduction are reported to be very good. The IC07300 is not at a premium price, but it is priced at a good step above the

other three looked at here.

So, given these four Icom radios, my recommendation for a new 'starter radio' would be the IC-7200 or the IC-7300. The IC-7300 is about 50% more than the IC-7200. If you were able to rationalize spending that much more, and you were willing to deal with a little more of a learning curve, and you bought the IC-7300, then you would have more features than you really need for a starter radio. But you would grow into it over time. If your budget was more like the cost of the IC-7200 and you bought one of them, then you would get a radio which I believe would have all of the features that you would need in a starter radio.

So, to sum it up, while I am not saying never buy a used radio, I have pointed out some of the things to consider. I kept this look at 'what if you could not find a suitable used radio and had to buy a new radio' simple by focusing on just one brand's offerings rather than trying to include every brand. I tried to keep it more about the rationale than the brand, and I covered some of the general things to consider. The other brands that I did not cover most likely have similar lineups with one or more reasonably featured, reasonably priced radios that are very suitable for use as a 'starter radio'. Shop around, Take advantage of the reviews on eHam.net Also, keep in mind that most of the brands will offer rebates and discounts at various times throughout the year. But find out why if it an extremely large rebate or discount is being offered.

Jody - K3JZD

Anyone else have some advice on choosing a HF starter radio that they would like to publish??

Frailty of Consumer Ego
(or, what rig not to buy)

ED : *After I had written my piece on HF Starter Radio, I found this in the Wireless Association of South Hills WASHRAG. It looked like a suitable second opinion . . .*

Ash Payne KK4YWN

Charlotte, NC, November 30 th, 2017 — You probably bought the wrong rig. You probably know this, but since you'd asked around for advice and followed your gut instinct [to follow the herd], you feel you did the proper research and there is simply no way you could have made a mistake.

Cognitive dissonance being what it is, you later run across an Internet forum thread, post, or blog in which someone claims to have found fault in the same radio you now own. The blasphemy can not be allowed. You entangle the foul poster in a series of poorly-designed logic traps that are meant to help you insulate your ego from the fact that you bought the wrong rig, while giving you the pleasurable experience of righteous indignation. Its always fun to blame someone else and punish them for being conveniently available. Even so, its not in the spirit of Ham Radio. You wont be able demonstrate your apocalyptic skills if nobody wants to hang out with you.

This scenario plays out daily on the Internet. So lets consider a fix:

Assume everyone around you is rig-stupid and make a mental note that anyone offering an unsolicited opinion is probably not even a real human being. They're probably an advertising bot written by Google, meant to net-stalk you and generate unsolicited opinions in an effort to sell you something.

Identify your price. No wiggle-room here. If you have $3 don't even consider a $3.25 rig. Doing this removes the "the wifes gonna pass a stone!" anguish that goes with buying the wrong rig. Set your maximum price and stop thinking about it. Too many variables ALWAYS lead to buying the wrong rig

.Identify your desired usage. If you want everything in one box: congratulations on your colossal mistake. How can I say this? Because I want more radios. You want more radios. Everyone wants more radios. Eliminate the trade-up/trade-out anguish once-and-for all: KNOW that you will be buying more radios. Pick something that works for the things you know you want to do today.

Go outside. Look around. Do you have the space for a 160m doublet? Can you erect a 2m array of 17dbi (or better)? How much is a radial field truly going to cost you? Lets be realistic about antennas: compromise antennas suck. Don't wait until license renewal to finally realize that a good antenna system should always take priority. There is nothing wrong with a nightly sked with Bubby Mcsplatterson over in Pokepossum county, but there is nothing more satisfying that busting *ye olde pileup* and suddenly realizing your amp is still in standby. Antenna first, always.

Forget brand loyalty. We are all appliance operators and as long as we are willing to be loyal to brands we will always be locked into feature-sets that promote continued investment into a single brand. Look at the offerings of the major manufacturers. Notice the trend: Once you drink the koolaide, you must continue to drink the koolaide to unlock new features. Do you like being told what to do? Because this is how you get told what to do: marry a brand and stick with it through sickness and health.

If you've settled on a few radios that suit your budget, download and read the manuals. Whats missing? Make sure the functionality of the radio matches your expectations. The manufacturer may have omitted a feature that is required by some other part of your station. Can you live without some features? You may be able to stretch your budget if you know you're never going to need an internal antenna switch. However, there is no point in stretching your budget to get a radio that does vhf/uhf CW/SSB if you're not in a position to put up a high-gain array. Pocket the difference in price, oh wise consumer.

Skim reviews. Do not take them seriously. Ignore comments like "hands down the best/worst". Ignore comments that mention hardware failures but are extremely vague about the conditions surrounding the failure (these people spill bourbon in their radios and go around to forums/review-sites claiming their radio just burst into flames but the manufacturer won't honor the warranty because they are evil and out to get us all). Treat reviews like logic-traps because that is what they are.

The buyer bought the wrong radio and is never going to let you know they made a mistake. They're smart consumers. They have all the answers.

Don't buy anything you aren't licensed to use. What's the point of handing your money over to someone and getting nothing useful in return? Earn General Class first. Then buy a radio. If something happens before you pass the test your widow and 10 children wont be forced to sell the radio at some absurdly low price so they can buy oatmeal and thin it out with sawdust.

Good luck getting the right rig for *today.*

Post script-

If you run across a thread in which some zedder is poo-pooing the same radio you bought, don't get angry. Show some empathy for the poor slob. He bought the wrong rig and now he's stuck with it. He should be happy he passed General before being struck by lightning because while he's bellyaching, his widow and children aren't eating sawdust.

Meet Our New Skyview Secretary

As your new club Secretary, I thought I'd write my ham radio autobiography as an introduction. My earliest recollection hearing about ham radio was a 1950s TV show called Waterfront. It was about a tugboat captain on the Los Angeles harbor. His son was a police detective, and they were always involved in some kind of intrigue. In one episode, the detective son overheard a distress call on his ham radio set. With that information he and his father were able to both save the people in distress and catch the bad guys.

I really got a start in ham radio the way many of us did in the 50s and 60s. We had an old floor model AM radio which was relegated to the basement when we bought a TV. That old Philco radio covered the AM broadcast band and on up to about 18 megacycles. (We didn't have any of those Megahertz things in those days!) The dial had markings for the various shortwave broadcast bands, police bands and something called Amateur Radio. Of course, I went right to the Police bands looking for the action there. By the then, the police had moved to the commercial FM bands, so there were no cops to hear. I could usually get Radio Moscow, the BBC and Voice of America on the shortwave bands, but that got tiresome. It didn't take long to find the 75 and 40 meter ham bands. There were regular sounding people talking about all kinds of things there.

That Philco prompted me to save up lawn mowing money to get my first real shortwave receiver, a Lafayette HA-230. With a long wire antenna running from my bedroom window to a clothes pole in the back yard, I could pick up lots of stations and on all the ham bands up to 10 meters. The public library had several ham books, including the ARRL Handbook. I was interested in getting a ham license, but didn't know anyone who could help me. Then in late 1964 I found out that the kid who delivered the newspaper to a friend from Boy Scouts was a ham. That was Chuck, WA3CEJ. We soon became best friends. Chuck had what I thought was a dream station; a National NC-155 ham band receiver and a Heathkit DX-100A transmitter.

Chuck helped me learn CW with some Ameco code practice records, and I was studying license manuals. In the summer of 1965 Chuck found a local ham, Huck WA3BIS, who would administer the novice test. When Chuck thought my code was good enough, we went over Huck's house for the code test. Huck said we would do a little practice run first to get used to his sending before taking the test. He sent some code for me to copy. After looking at what I wrote, he congratulated me for passing the 5 WPM code test, and there would be no "official" test. The Novice written exam arrived late August and Huck administered it to me. He looked over the answer sheet and said it looked like I passed. Now came the wait for that license to arrive in the mail. It finally arrived in early October. I was now a ham with the call WN3EPH.

While waiting for my license to arrive, I built up my novice station. It consisted of Chuck's NC-155 receiver on loan and an Eico 720 CW only transmitter. (Chuck had upgraded to a Swan 350 SSB transceiver.)

I put up a 40/15 meter dipole on the roof and got on the air and made a number of contacts. Once I got my license, I joined the GRC (Germantown Radio Club). I was born and raised in Philadelphia, and the GRC was an all teenage radio club in the city. That was a great and life changing experience. The GRC is a story in itself! One thing the GRC had was an equipment loan program. I took advantage of that and borrowed a Heathkit "Twoer", a 2 meter AM transceiver. At that

time, novices had voice privileges on 2 meters. Well, that difficult CW stuff sort of went out the window, because I could talk to all my GRC buddies on 2 meters. I was having lots of fun, and the next summer came and went and I hadn't studied for a license upgrade.

n October 1966, my 1 year non-renewable Novice license expired, and I was off the air! I knuckled down and began studying for a General class license. I regularly listened to W1AW code practice, and studied the General license manual. I had one chance to go to the Philadelphia FCC office during Christmas school break to try to pass the test. Well, I failed the 13 WPM code test, but the examiner said I did well enough to confirm I knew 5 WPM. I proceeded to take the written exam and passed. Several weeks later, my new Technician license arrived with callsign WA3HGW. I was back on the air, at least on 2 meters.

In those early days, I had lots of fun. I migrated to 6 meter AM (no channel 2 TV in Philadelphia). I traded my unused Vibrokeyer to Phil, K3TUF, for a Model 15 Teletype machine and got on 6 meter AFSK RTTY. When 2 meter FM was starting up. I cobbled together an old GE PreProg FM transceiver and an RCA Carfone receiver strip to make a setup which could operate the 146.34/146.76 Philadelphia repeater and also the 146.94 national simplex channel.

A few more years went by, and it was off the air and off to college at Penn State. I actually did have a borrowed Motorola P-33 two meter FM portable for one term at Penn State, but there was little activity there and not a good shot to the repeater from my dorm room. After graduation, along came a job and then marriage and little time for radio. The desire was there, but little money and rental housing pretty much ruled out radio.

After a couple of years to get on my feet financially, I was able to get back on the air. Chuck was now working at Hewlett-Packard, and one of the engineers he worked with had a Heathkit SB-401/SB-303 combination for sale. A simple 40 meter vertical antenna worked for 40 and 15 meters. Now I had a real incentive to upgrade. I went back to W1AW code practice and got my speed up, and studied for the Advanced written test. When I felt I was ready, I went to the FCC office for the exam. This time I passed the 13 WPM code test. That got me a General license. Then I took the Advanced written test and passed, which brought me up to Advanced class.

A few years after that, we moved from Eastern PA to Pittsburgh. I was still using that old vertical antenna, but now was renting a house and could put up some dipoles. After being in Pittsburgh for a few years, we bought our first house. Now I could put up whatever antennas could fit. Nice!

Life has its way of interfering with plans, and about the same time I bought the house, I started a new job in field service. The result was I traveled frequently, and when home didn't have much time to devote to radio. I always had a station on the air, but most of the time my activities were operating a few contests here and there (usually Phone Sweepstakes) and 2 meter FM from the car. I also did public service events, and still help out for the Pittsburgh Marathon and Vintage Grand Prix.

That field service job turned into 38 years at the company in various capacities, all involving travel. As I was approaching retirement, I could see that I would finally have time to bring ham radio forward in my life again.

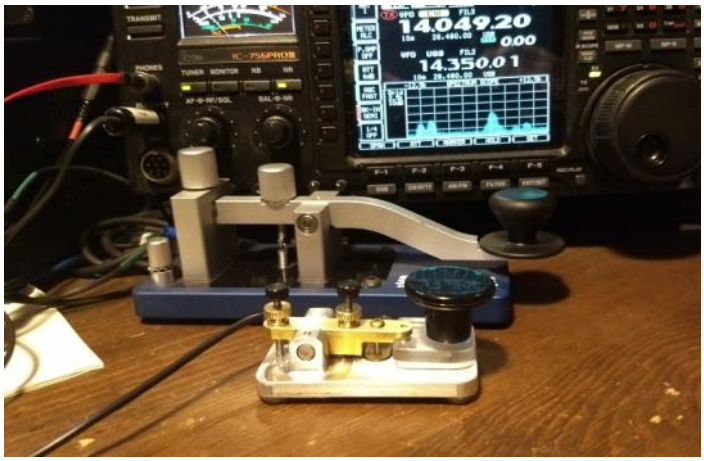
A few years back it became time for a license upgrade to get those Extra class frequencies. I studied a lot and then scheduled my Extra class exam at Skyview. Bob, AG3U and The Captain, KA3HPM were two of the VEs. Happily, I passed.

Skyview reminded me a lot of the GRC back in my teen years. A great bunch of hams with a clubhouse for all kinds of events, both operating and social. I had to join up with this group, and I'm glad I did.

I look forward to serving as your Secretary for 2018. By the way, Chuck, WA3CEJ, and I are still the best of friends.

Don Stewart - WA3HGW

The Minnow and the Whale de Jody -K3JZD



At least that was the way that way that Don – K3RLL saw it whenever he looked at this picture.

Normally the whale (my SKCC key) is my go-to key. I had just purchased and assembled the minnow (American Morse Equipment KK1-B key), with the idea of using it during my portable park and SOTA operations.

Whenever the November 2017 SKCC WES rolled around, I figured that I would start out with the minnow and use it for a little while. I did not expect to last real long with it. But I needed to get the gap and spring tension set to where I was comfortable with it. Using it during the WES would give me ample opportunity to diddle with those two adjustments between QSOs.

I found the minnow to be a surprising robust key. If I was looking somewhere else, it was easy to forget that it is such a small key. Although compact, it has the good solid feel of a much larger key. I have a heavy fist and I expected to be chasing the minnow all over my desk. But that was not the case. It is well balanced and remains right in place with only the four little stick-on bumper pads that I stuck on the bottom of the base.

I ended up using the minnow throughout the entire November WES. Once I had the minnow dialed in, I was on a roll with it. 131 QSOs. And many, many, many CQs. I never got tired while I was using it, so I never switched over to the whale. I definitely made a good investment whenever I purchased this key.

http://www.americanmorse.com/kk1.htm

Ham Ads Accepted

Have you bought some new equipment and need to sell something to make some room in the shack?

First try the real-time K3MJW Yahoo Reflector .

If that does not work for you, or if you want to include pictures, you can advertise here.

This newsletter goes out to other clubs and is also available to anyone who wants to go to the web site to get it. So, you may reach a larger audience.

Submit to : K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

FirstNet News de SeekingAlpha

All U.S. states will join AT&T's first responder network

Dec. 28, 2017 By: Brandy Betz, SA News Editor

AT&T (NYSE:T) announces that all 50 U.S. states will participate in FirstNet, its broadband network for first responders.

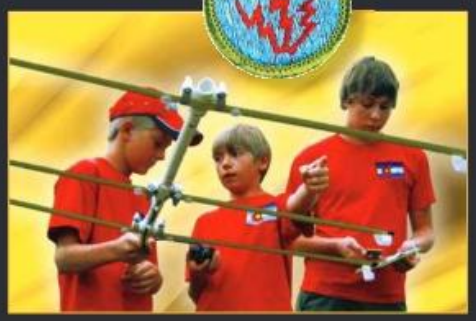
The company is building the network under a government contract totaling $6.5B over five years with success-based payments. AT&T will also receive 20 megahertz of wireless airwaves.

Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands will also join.

ED : *Looks like this is moving right along as far as signing up the states—I have not seen anything recently that talks about any extending of the implementation dates.*

22 THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH AMATEUR RADIO:

TECHNOLOGY THAT'S AS COOL AS YOU WANT TO MAKE IT



EXPAND YOUR WORLD

1. Talk around the world without the Internet or cell phones. Use your own "Internet" when the "other one" is down.
2. Send your voice, text and pictures to unusual places, both near and far.
3. Create your own network of ham radio friends and send instant text messages without cell phones.
4. Meet awesome people from all over the U.S. and around the world, on-the-air and in person at ham radio events.

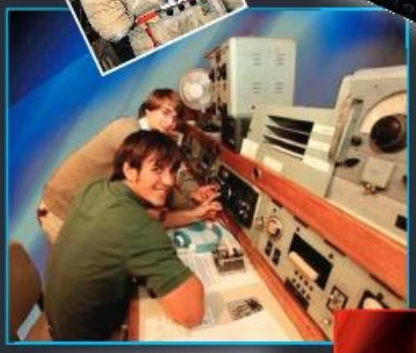
EXPLORE AMATEUR RADIO

5. Talk through satellites or with astronauts on board the International Space Station.
6. Send messages in code—learn Morse code.
7. Be a signal sleuth, "Fox" hunt for hidden radio signals, and with GPS—GeoFox!
8. Investigate the many new combined radio-Internet communication techniques.
9. Try a new sport—Radiosport: Compete-on-the-air for awards and fun!
10. Send a message around the world using less electricity than a nightlight.

PUT RADIO TO WORK

11. Become a weather spotter and help your community prepare for weather events.
12. Use Amateur Radio to control models, robots, or even drones.
13. Support recovery efforts in emergencies.
14. Earn badges and patches through Scouting programs and participate in worldwide radio events.

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO®



(Continued from front)

15. Use your radio for community service! Provide communications for a bike race or a marathon.

16. Track your friends, pets, or wildlife using your ham radio.

17. Take ham radio along when you go hiking or camping. You'll never be out of contact with ham radio!

18. Collect weather and flight data by releasing and tracking a high-altitude balloon.

19. Learn how radio is used to explore space.

GO BEYOND THE MENU: CREATE TECHNOLOGY

20. Do it yourself, build and test your own gear.

21. Experiment with new software applications for radio, or create your own.

22. Learn the radio science that powers cell phones, Bluetooth and all of the hottest wireless technologies.

FIND OUT WHAT OTHER YOUNG HAMS ARE UP TO AT: WWW.ARRL.ORG/YOUTH

There are over 700,000 Amateur Radio (otherwise known as "ham") operators in the United States and 3 million worldwide. To get your Amateur Radio License you'll need to take a 35-question, multiple choice exam. **Anyone—of any age—can be on-the-air as an Amateur Radio operator!**

ADVENTURE IS WAITING...

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Get Your Kids
Interested in
HAM RADIO
and they'll never
have money for
Alcohol or Drugs
grapevineamateurradio.com

Which Digital Mode ?

de Jody - K3JZD

From time to time, someone wanting to get into working the digital modes will ask me what is best digital mode to get started with. There are lots of different digital modes. This page provides a good overview:

http://www.rdrclub.ru/dni-aktivnosti-rtsrk/244-digital-activity-days-rdrc-rules

However, due to the poor band conditions that we are struggling with as we head to the bottom of the Sunspot Cycle, there are only a few of these digital modes that I would recommend trying right now.

While they are not 'conversational', the Weak Signal "JT Modes" work best under poor band conditions. Right now, the most popular 'JT Mode' is the FT8 Mode. The FT8 Mode is attractive because it allows you to make a QSO in a shorter period of time. However, that makes FT8 a bit harder to learn. The JT65 Mode is nowhere as popular as it was a year ago. It takes longer to make a JT65 QSO, but it is easier to learn because the exchanges are not occurring at such a hectic pace. JT65 might be a better mode to use when just starting out because with JT65 you need to select which message to send out when, which will let you learn the messaging pattern. Once you get the hang of how the JT Mode QSO exchanges go, then move to the faster paced FT8. The JT9 Mode is also a slower paced mode. JT9 was gaining in popularity prior to the FT8 Mode showing up. However JT9 is not used very much anymore. But if you call CQ long enough you will scare up some JT9 QSOs. The "JT Modes" all use the free WSJT-X software.

PSK-31 [aka BPSK-31] is the most popular digital mode for conversational QSOs. You can generally scare up some PSK-31 activity on any open band. While PSK-31 is 'conversational', many people just use 'macros' to generate their 'canned exchanges'. However, is you ask a question or two, you can get a lot of people to get onto their keyboard to do some ad-hoc conversation. QSB can interrupt PSK-31 QSOs, so it best to not get too long winded unless signals are really strong both ways. The free fldigi software will do the PSK-31 Mode, as well as many of the other digital modes. There are other software choices like digipan and HRD DM780. Googling on "PSK-31 Software" will lead you to what is available.

RTTY is another interesting digital mode. There are RTTY contests where the RTTY signals will fill up the bands. RTTY can be used for conversational QSOs. However, it can be hard to find someone to chat with on RTTY - calling CQ on RTTY looking for conversational QSOs does not result in very many replies. Googling on "RTTY Software" will lead you to what is available to use for RTTY.

All of the other digital modes that are listed on the rdrclub web site are less popular. Many of them are variations of the PSK-31 Mode, designed to be a 'better PSK-31" There are different 'flavors' of many of these digital modes. Some of them use a slower transmission speed or more bandwidth than PSK-31. Some of them do error checking and resend missed characters, making them better for use during poor band conditions. However, one can call CQ for quite some time using many of these other digital modes and never get any response. Google on the particular digital mode name for more information about the mode and it's 'flavors'. One good way to get a feel for the popularity of each of the various digital modes is to look at what is in use with https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html. Whenever it first comes up, you may be overwhelmed by what you see. But, most of that is FT8 communications. Change the filtering to show just one mode at a time.

You can work DX as well as US stations with the digital modes. All it takes is 20-30 watts. It takes a little effort to get your software all setup and working with your radio. But there is a lot of guidance available in the 'help' documentation for the digital mode software. And there is a lot of help available on-line for your particular radio and your software. Just ask Google to find it for you. Once you get everything playing well together, it is fun to explore this aspect of our hobby.

Jody - K3JZD

The Repeater Shed Has a New Look

The “Before” suffered from water egress . Water was getting inside as well as eating away at the bottom of the wood siding.

Plus, Pat had to hold it up from time to time.

Thanks to the efforts of
Dave Dailey - N3TIN,
Dewey Chauvin - W3VYK,
Tom Nagy - W3TLN,
Rich Ryba - WQ3Q,
John Salsgiver - KB3SVJ,
Pat Cancro - NK3P;
who donated labor and/or materials, we now have a protective curb with aluminum flashing, a new solid door, and new vinyl siding.

Bring on the Winter weather !!!

Using WSPR

de Chuck - K3CLT

I was reading the December issue of Q5er and saw the article on the new digital mode FT-8. I too have been bit by this bug. I have made many contacts all over the world using this new mode. It is amazing how fast it has caught on around the world. You will have no problem making contact no matter what the band conditions are. I find 160 and 80 to be fun to operate in the early morning hours.

But, there is another feature of the WSJT-X software that I find interesting. It is the WSPR mode that is included with this software. This is something to use when you are away from the radio and want to test the band conditions or see just how good your station is performing.

It's really simple to use, just select the WSPR mode and you will see the screen make a slight change. Now down on the lower left is a dropdown menu that lets you select the band you want to use. If you have everything configured correctly your radio should switch to the band you selected and the frequency that is commonly used on that band.

Down in the center lower part of the software is where you can select the power out you can select. I have to adjust the power on my radio and I do this using the TX knob on my Signalink sound card.

Depending on how the bands sound I select a very low power setting of 500mw – 1 watt. I set it all up and enable the transmit button on the software. It will start transmitting at the proper interval for 2 minutes. You let it run for awhile to see how you are doing.

Go to http://wsprnet.org/drupal/ and login. You will see your call sign appear in the list on the left side of the page. At the top of the page you will see some selections on the right side. Click on MAP and you will see a map of the world and lines going everywhere. Down on the lower right you will see a dropdown menu to select the band you are using.

Wait a few minutes for your station to transmit and then some of the other stations to transmit then go look at the map and see if your station call sign shows up on the map. You may have to click on the UPDATE button on the lower left for it to get a current report. If you see your call sign after a few minutes just click on it to see the report. It will tell you what stations you heard and what stations heard you. If it is working then just let it run for an hour or so and come back and look at the results.

You can go back to the top of the map page and select Activity and look down through the different bands to see if your call sign shows up. See how low you can set your power and still be heard.

Is a good way to check band conditions and your station performance.

Chuck Tobias - K3CLT

Radios With Built-in Sound Modems

de Jody - K3JZD

I recently purchased an Icom IC-7200. One of the features of this radio is a built-in Sound Modem. I can connect a USB cable between it and my computer and I am all ready to use digital modes. No separate Digital Interface device is required. A single USB interface handles everything.

Since all I had to do was load some Icom driver software onto my computer and come up with a suitable USB cable, I tried using this IC-7200 USB interface to do some FT8 Digital Mode. After I configured my WSJT-X software for the radio's CAT control and the radio's built-in sound modem, I was receiving and decoding incoming FT8 data right away. After some experimentation, I got the transmit PTT working. But I was not transmitting any data. After doing some Googling, I learned that I had to change some of the settings in the radio (and then remember to put them back to the way that they were whenever I was finished). Once I did that, and lowered my RF power output down to 20 watts using the radio's menu, I was then transmitting data.

What I will say right up front is that yes, not having to buy a separate digital interface will save you some money. But, you will not have a real good experience whenever you are using the digital modes. You will not be as successful as you could be, and thus you may conclude that working the digital modes are not any fun.

How Digital Modes Work

With the exception of the RTTY FSK mode, all digital modes are simply sending and receiving audio tones using your radio's USB mode. The digital mode software in your computer creates the encoded audio tones whenever you are transmitting and that software receives and decodes the incoming audio tones whenever you are listening. The frequency, spacing, and duration of those audio tones differ from one digital mode to the next. That, and the software algorithms, is what makes each digital mode unique. The audio interface between your computer and the RF sections of your radio is via a two-way sound modem (aka computer sound card).

To be successful with digital modes, several things need to be just right. Your transmitter's RF output needs to be set to a reasonable level. This is generally between 5 and 25 watts. Too low and you do not get heard and decoded. To high and you may overwhelm the guy at the other end and you do not get decoded or you get ignored. (Also, your transmitter is designed for intermittent SSB or CW operation. Since the digital modes keep the carrier on all of time whenever you are transmitting, the heat generated from running digital modes at high power can damage your transmitter). Unlike when you are using USB voice mode, you should not see any movement on your transmitter's ALC meter whenever you are using digital modes.

Since the digital modes are manipulating a lot of audio tones in a very short period of time, the quality of the sound modems and interconnecting cabling is important. Any unexpected noise in the transmitted or received tones can cause a failure to decode. The level of the audio tones very important. If the level of the audio tone level going into your transmitter is too high, that can overload the decoding software at the other end and you will not be decoded. If the level of the audio tone level going into your receiver is too low, that can fail to hit the threshold in the decoding software at the other end and you will not be decoded. The level of the audio tone going into your transmitter affects your RF power output. Lots of things interact when using the digital modes. Controlling everything is the secret to success.

Setting Your Transmitter RF Power Level

I found that correctly setting my RF power output is a bit difficult to do with this IC-7200 USB interface. I set my RF power output to 20 watts using a menu selection in the radio. But my SWR/watt meter said I was only putting out 10 watts. And my radio's ALC meter showed some movement (the ALC meter should not move at all when doing digital modes). So, I used the settings in the radio to increase the RF power output and then used the sound card settings in my computer to lower my 'speaker level' while watching the radio's ALC meter to

make sure there was no movement while I watched my SWR/watt meter as I worked towards getting 20 watts of RF output. That ended up being an iterative process.

Whenever I did all of that RF output power adjusting, I was transmitting in the center of the 2KHz FT8 tuning range. Guess what? Even though the FT8 tuning range is only 2KHz wide, your RF power output drops off as you go down towards the low end of that 2KHz range and it increases as you go towards the high end of that 2KHz range. So, my 20 watts changed to less than 10 watts on the low end and went as high as 40 watts at the high end. You spend a lot of time moving all around within in that 2KHz range when you are using FT8, so you really do not want to be going into your radio and into your computer to be balancing the RF power output all over again every time that you make a move.

A good separate digital interface adapter has two knobs on it – one to set the level of the transmit audio going to your radio and one to set the level of the receive audio going to your computer. Whenever you are using a digital interface adapter like that, you leave your transmitter set to full RF output power. Then you watch your SWR/watt meter as you adjust the level of the transmit audio going into your transmitter to whatever it takes to get your 20 watts of transmit power. The advantage of controlling your power level this way is that it is unlikely that you will ever have any movement on your ALC meter. You need to glance at it from time to time, but do not to keep a continuous eye on it. You keep your digital interface adapter in a convenient location and you simply tweak the knob as required to maintain your 20watts of RF output whenever you move up and down within the 2KHz range. Simple and fast. No parameters in your radio need to be changed and then restored later.

Setting Receiver Audio Level Going to Your Computer

Whenever using the IC-7200 USB interface, the level of the receiver audio going to your computer must be set by going into your computer sound card settings and adjusting the 'microphone level'. If it is set too low, you will not decode all of the incoming signals. If it is set too high, you will not decode all of the incoming signals. However, once you get it set to where it is working well, I found that this level does not seem to be as sensitive as to where you are in the 2KHz range as the transmit audio is. However, I have found that it does need to be changed whenever changing bands and whenever changing digital modes. And each of the various digital mode software programs seem to have their own idea of what incoming audio level is right. So it is not really a 'set it and forget it'.

As you probably figured, with the good separate digital interface adapter that has two knobs on it, you just need to tweak a knob there to alter the level of the receive audio that is going to your computer. Simple and fast. No settings in your computer need to be changed when you change bands, modes, or digital mode programs.

Summary

So, if you want to have a lot of success and make lots of contacts whenever you are using the digital modes, I would suggest that you forget about using any built-in sound modems that are in your radio and purchase a good separate digital interface adapter like I described --> one that has the two audio level setting knobs on it. No one wants to spend more money than necessary on accessories, but in this case I think that purchasing a good separate digital interface adapter will make your working with the digital modes more successful, and thus more enjoyable.

I have been using ZLP Electronics adapters since I started doing the digital modes. I have been quite satisfied with them. I have a ZLP Digimaster Pro 3 and a ZLP Digimaster DataLink. Both get the job done quite well. I have never used any other brand, so I cannot compare the ZLP Electronics brand with anything else quality wise, or price wise.

http://www.g4zlp.co.uk/unified/DATA_DigiMaster.htm

Jody - K3JZD

Anyone else have some hints, opinions and/or recommendations? I'll save space in the next issue for you.

I saved this space for

YOU

But, I did not get anything from YOU

But, I will hold it open for

YOU

to use in the next issue

Submissions to : K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

Skyview Radio Society Roster as of 31JAN18

NM3 A	WA3 HGW	N3 MLQ	K3 RWN
KC3 AY	KA3 HPM	K3 MRN	KA3 RXY
NA0 B	KC3 HRO	N3 MRU	KQ3 S
N3 BPB	KB3 HXP	KC3 MSB	KD4 SBJ
W3 BUW	KC3 IIO	KB3 NSH	KB3 SOU
KC3 CBQ	KC3 JBS	AJ3 O	K3 STL
W3 CDW	N3 JLR	WC3 O	KB3 SVJ
K3 CLT	KA3 JOU	WO3 O	K3 TAJ
KC3 CSH	N3 JPB	*K3 OFX (SK)*	N3 TIN
KC3 CSI	ND3 JR	K3 OGN	W3 TLN
KC3 DIA	KC3 JSF	KB3 OMB	N3 TTE
KC3 EJC	KB3 JXG	KB3 ORO	AG3 U
AB3 ER	KC3 JXO	KR3 P	W3 UI
KC3 EVT	K3 JZD	NK3 P	K3 VRU
KB3 EYY	K3 KDB	W3 PRL	W3 VYK
KC3 FEI	KC3 KEI	AE8 Q	N3 WAV
K3 FH	WA3 KFS	NU3 Q	N3 WKP
K3 FKI	KB3 KHR	WQ3 Q	N3 WMC
KC3 FWD	AC0 KK	NJ3 R	W3 WTJ
N2 GBR	W4 KV	KB3 RBV	W3 YJ
AB3 GY	WA3 LCY	N3 RHT	KB3 YJQ
KC3 GZW	AB3 LS	K3 RMB	N3 YNC
WD3 HAY	N2 MA	W3 RRK	W3 YNI
KB3 HGJ	K3 MJ	I2 RTF	K3 ZAU

Notes: Only Call Signs are being published. Refer to QRZ.COM for more information. (Unable to publish those without Call Signs.)

Texting is 25 years old ***de Slashdot.com***

the first text message was sent on Dec. 3, 1992, by British engineer Neil Papworth to Richard Jarvis, an executive at British telecom Vodafone. Typed out on a PC, it was sent to Jarvis's Orbitel 901, a mobile phone that would take up most of your laptop backpack. Although Papworth is credited with sending the first text message, he's not the so-called father of SMS. That honor falls on Matti Makkonen, who initially suggested the idea back in 1984 at a telecommunications conference. But texting didn't take off over night. First it had to be incorporated into the then-budding GSM standard. Today, about 97 percent of smartphone owners use text messaging, according to Pew Research, and along the way, a new set of sub-languages based on abbreviations and keyboard-based imagery has evolved.

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 EVERYTHING that 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 December newsletter:

None This Period

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.

Silent Key

Bob Siksa - K3OFX
Murrysville, PA

RIP OM

Become Well Known Publish in the Q5er

The Q5er goes to other clubs and is available to all on our web site.

Submissions to : K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

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 . . . . .

If you read the story about the eagles being trained to bring down drones that was published in the last issue, you might enjoy reading about this one that looks to be eagle-proof:

http://tinyurl.com/ybxc8sue

Here is an Arduino based CW Decoder which requires very few parts — might be a good Winter project.

http://skovholm.com/cwdecoder

Here is a film that I would title as "Distracted Driving 101" I jumped through it— it made me nervous - Not something I would want to use to suggest that hams should be exempt from laws against using handheld electronic devices while driving a motorized vehicle.

http://tinyurl.com/y7scx5zy

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

Previous Issues

Previous Issues of the Q5er are available at

http://www.nelis.net

Next Newsletter will be April 1, 2018
Closing Date For Submissions : Mar 15, 2018
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.

Here you read a lot about what I and some others are interested in and doing in this hobby. How about writing something about what you are interested in and you are doing.

As usual, not much real club boilerplate or club news in here. The club web page, the club Facebook 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.

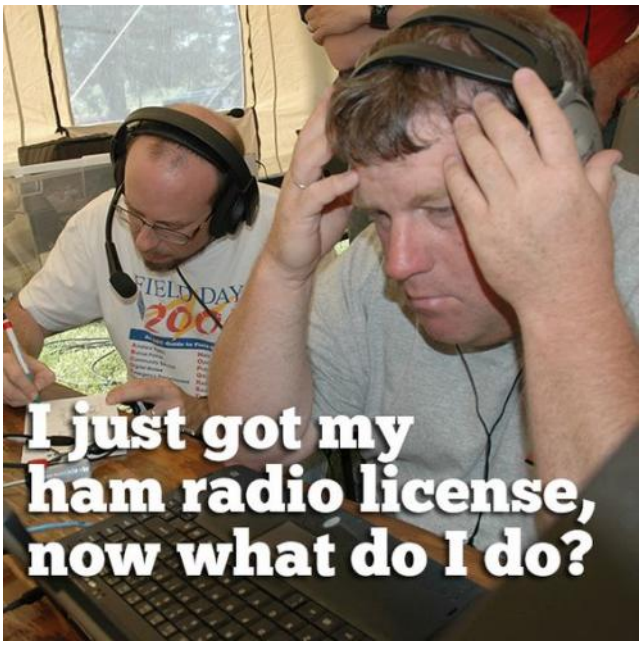
Jody - K3JZD

Two fish swim into a concrete wall.

One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'

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, that is the place - have it forward msgs to your email

Is this how your dining room looks ??

Where are the pictures of your shack ??