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

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

April 1, 2018

Skyview Happenings

Winter happenings have included some great Tuesday evening gatherings. The bands have not supported working lots of exotic DX, but lots of different subjects have been covered during the various casual discussions. The pros and cons of various radios have been discussed, various antennas have been discussed, computer interfaces and other accessories have been discussed, and some radio and accessory fix ups and tune ups have been tackled.

With SSB being more difficult to work during our sunspot minimum, the interest in the digital modes has increased. I have seen PSK31, Olivia, and Hellschreiber digital modes being used to make QSOs on Tuesday evenings. Certainly a good place to learn about the various digital modes if you have not dipped your toes into that water yet.

As expected, the new antenna switch is making operating the club radios as well as your own radios at the joint much easier. If you want to see how any of your radios work with the club's antennas, there is a an open operating position where you can set your radio up and give it a try. If you have your radio setup for PowerPole connectors, and your radio has a SO-239 connector, it is very simple. If not, it is a bit more complex, but still doable with some adapters.

There has been a bit of RTTY contesting going on, and there have been lots of discussion about doing additional contesting from the joint.

Of course there have been the regular brief business meetings and the regular elmer night presentations. So, lots of opportunity to meet your fellow club members and have some eyeball QSOs.

Now that the snow and ice is history, access to the joint is easier. But now we have some wet Spring weather to deal with . We need to watch that we do not mess up the lightly buried radials for the 80 meter towers or tear up the lawn whenever parking. Spinning the tires in the wet grass is not a good thing to do — so please park carefully.

There has been lots of discussion about getting the tower that we brought home from the North Side up and ready for a 40 meter beam. And there has been lots of discussion about adding onto the meeting room to better serve our capacity crowds. Both of those projects will require a lot of volunteer labor if we are to do them. So, please plan on lending a hand on one, or both, of these projects if you are able to do so. A survey titled "What Would Members Like To Have Done at Skyview" is available on the K3MJW Yahoo reflector—we would like to have input from all members on or before April 2nd.

Our primary club call sign is still K3MJW. However our secondary club call sign is now W3GH. We gave up the WX3SKY Call Sign. See the W3GH QRZ Page for more details.

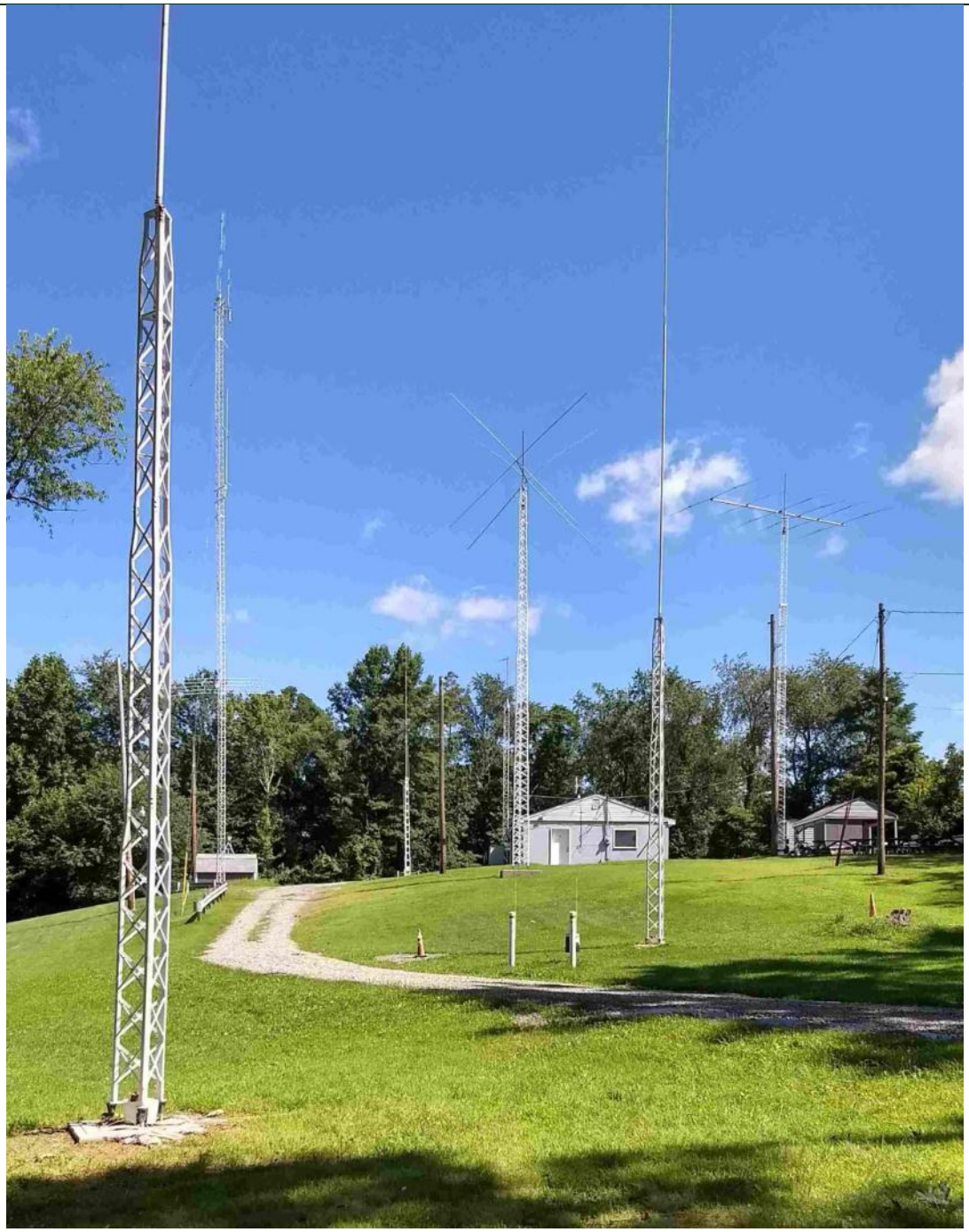
- In-Flight Downlinks
- Year Round UTC-4 ??
- A Bargain KVM
- Skyview Antenna Switch
- Working Grid Squares
- Expanded Tech Privileges??
- And More . . . . . .

Sunspots?

I don't need no stinking Sunspots.

I have 40 meters and 80 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 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

If you followed what I had previously posted regarding the proposed Penn Township (Westmoreland County) Amateur Radio Antenna Ordinance, you may be interesting in knowing that it has now been passed and is officially in the books. As expected, the wording of the Ordinance remained the same as the last thing that I had published here.

While some say it is not a bad Antenna Ordinance compared to some others, and we were able to get a few of the restrictive and costly provisions removed from it, I liked it much better before it existed.

I blame all of our antenna tower issues on the cable TV industry. Before cable came onto the scene, many houses had TV antenna towers. They were accepted. Ours only moderately stuck out from the crowd. But there were no complaints, only some astonishment over the size of some of our antennas. Now, with 99.9% of those TV antenna towers gone, we stick out like a sore thumb and we have now become the bad guys who continue to clutter up everyone's the view of the sky.

So, I'd say support the "Cut The Wire" movement to retaliate and punish the cable TV industry. But, since those are the guys who will then be selling us a more expensive Internet Service so we can stream the same TV programming, forget that idea.

I hope that you enjoy this issue.

Jody—K3JZD

Starting to look like my kind of weather

ARES/RACES Report

de Rich - WQ3Q

Here is some good information form the ARRL

73, Jody - K3JZD

NIMS Updated - IS Core Courses to be Revised de ARRL - 21FEB08

NIMS, the National Incident Management System, went through an extensive update this past fall. As a result, the core courses in FEMA's Independent Study (IS) program -- IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 -- along with many other NIMS courses, will be updated this year. As usual, those who take the current versions will be grandfathered; however, if it's been ten years or so since an ARES communicator has taken these courses, it would be a good idea to take the 2018 versions as refreshers. -- *Michael Schulsinger, N8QHV, Springfield, Ohio*

[The Incident Command System is the emergency/disaster response template or model of management adopted by emergency management/public safety in the US. It is critically important that radio amateurs involved in supporting served agencies, and especially ARES members, be well versed in the ICS and its protocols. **Any operator deploying to a disaster area will be left outside looking in, if they have not taken the ICS courses to become familiar with planning and actions in a disaster theater of operations.** While the courses have not yet been updated, the new NIMS 2017 Instructor and Student Learning Materials have been released and are published on the FEMA Independent Study website.

Propriety Needed When Working with Partner Agencies de ARRL - 21FEB08

From the ARRL *Introduction to Emergency Communication* course: *Amateurs as Professionals -- The Served Agency Relationship*. When serving in the EOC, "your job is to meet the communication needs of the served agency. Period. It is not to show off your fancy equipment, nor to impress anyone with your knowledge of radio and electronics. A "know-it-all" or "I will show you how good I am, and how inadequate you are" attitude will end your--and our--relationship with the served agency in a hurry." Too many times I've heard hams stating to the officials, "No.This is how we are going to do it."

We ran an exercise here a while back simulating a failure of the public safety comm system. Hams rode on fire trucks and simulated rescues, relaying the reports and messages of the officers on the truck. Rather than be self sufficient, one of our operators sat down at the dinner table at the fire station (uninvited) and proceeded to help himself to three or four donuts from the firefighters' stash. While the event as a whole was a success, that one operator's actions is what left the largest impression upon the Battalion Chief. He kids me about it any time I see him. -- *Rick Reuther, KC2HFL, Palm Coast, Florida*

K1CE For a Final: End of Year Message de ARRL – 20DEC17

It's been a year of natural disasters across the country on a scale that I cannot recall ever having been more horrific, from tornadoes to West coast wildfires to Atlantic hurricanes and more. As this is written, wildfire is raging across southern California in a month that is usually reserved for mudslide and flooding season. The *Los Angeles Times* reported no major wildfire had ever occurred in the state in December; California's wildfire season is usually summer and early fall. Of the 20 largest California fires since 1932, 14 have burned since 2000. The five largest have all occurred since 2000.

It's also been a hurricane season to remember, with horror: the humanitarian crises of Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands, the flooding that Harvey wrought on southern Texas, and here on the Florida peninsula, the march up land of Hurricane Irma that, according to some reports, spurred the largest evacuation in US history, put large segments of the population into shelters, and locked me into the hospital to work and live for almost 60 hours.

Amateur service licensees worked in partnership with emergency/disaster response agencies, responding at all levels of government, and for the Red Cross and NGOs over the course of the year. ARRL Administrative HQ staff supported the ARRL Field Organization, and HQ's Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, traveled to Puerto Rico with radio and other equipment made possible by donors to Ham Aid, to represent HQ and personally add to the response and recovery effort there. Countless other examples of support abound, and have been documented in *QST* and other outlets.

One asset that seems to me to be underutilized and could evolve to be a force multiplier in community and neighborhood response and safety in disasters is the CERT program. I know I sound like a broken record; I've harped on this subject numerous times. The ARRL supports the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) construct, and has formally supported it since 2003, when the League became an official affiliate program of Citizen Corp, the DHS initiative. The Statement of Affiliation makes ARRL an affiliate under the four charter Citizen Corps programs--Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, *Community Emergency Response Teams* and Medical Reserve Corps.

Help before the Help Arrives

The premise of CERT is undeniable: when a disaster occurs, a neighborhood or entire community could be isolated for days, inaccessible to first responders. Residents are on their own, and must take care of themselves. The CERT program trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as light search and rescue, First Aid, fire management, and radio communications. A team can be trained by local emergency management staff in the classroom, and organized at a local community center or even a neighbor's living room.

Radio amateurs are found in just about every neighborhood, and they make logical key members of CERTs, especially when it comes to establishing communications with the outside world. To start, please check FEMA's CERT web page here.

In-flight Education Downlinks

Kind of thought that the ham radio setups at schools that let kids talk to the space station was unique.

But, then I found this which apparently uses a video link to the Johnson Space Center and then the internet to get to the school's AV System . . . .

In-flight Education Downlinks

With her whole school watching, a student asks a question of the International Space Station crew.

Wouldn't it be great if students could talk with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station about what it is like to live and work in space? Well, they can! Educational organizations located in the United States can host an in-flight education downlink with space station crew members. Students pose questions and watch as astronauts answer the questions and demonstrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts in ways that are impossible on Earth.

Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

Skyview Radio Society Holiday Banquet

de Don -WA3HGW

Festivities began with club president Rich WQ3Q thanking everyone for attending. He said an invocation and a moment of silence in remembrance of our Silent Keys. Rich also thanked "Captain" Jack Buzon KA3HPM for providing a cake for dessert which included a photo of a Collins "S" line radio on top. Check the cake photo and others at the Skyview Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SkyviewRadioSociety/

Next was a recognition of club members with Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding service to the club in 2017. The Honorees were:

- Dewey Chauvin W3VYK – Chairman of the Board
- "Captain" Jack Buzon KA3HPM – Service as President and now Chairman of the Board
- Bob Bereit K3RMB – Secretary and Membership Chair
- Pat Cancro NK3P – Treasurer and Net Manager
- Dave Dailey N3TIN – Facilities Chairman
- Bob "Cookie" Bastone WC3O – Radio Officer and Kitchen Manager
- Bob Worek AG3U – Club VE coordinator
- John Italiano WA3KFS – Swap-n-Shop coordinator
- Jody Nelis K3JZD – Newsletter Editor

Rich introduced Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager. Joe reported that Western PA was a very active section is 2017. He is putting together a Section Yearbook for 2017 outlining all of those events. It will be posted on the WPA web site: wpa-arrl.org. Joe is also looking to fill several open WPA ARRL section appointments. More information will be forthcoming at club meetings and in the *Q5er*.

Joe also reported meeting with Red Cross of Western Pennsylvania and signing a Memoranda of Understanding which formalizes coordination between ham radio and the Red Cross for emergency and public service activities. This will enlarge the ham presence and recognition in WPA and Allegheny County. Joe thanked all of us at Skyview Radio for our participation throughout 2017.

As a wrap-up to the evenings announcements, Rich presented the Skyview Amateur of the Year Award to Bob Worek, AG3U, for outstanding work as the Skyview VE coordinator. Bob was surprised at receiving this award! In his acceptance, he noted he also serves as a Volunteer Examiner for other clubs in addition to Skyview. Bob said that Skyview VEC sessions in 2017 resulted in over 35 new or upgraded licensees. We also note that a number of those new licensees have become Skyview members. Kudos to Bob for a job very well done. As always, Bob is looking for additional volunteer examiners to add to his team.

With the conclusion of the announcements, it was time for dinner. The Delmont Fire Department kitchen put on a very nice buffet. We had chicken, roast beef, green beans, parsley potatoes, rigatoni, salad and more to choose from. All were delicious and there was plenty to go around. And we had lots of cake for dessert.

Dinner was followed by continuing conversations amongst our guests, and of course the door prize drawing. There were enough door prizes for everyone in attendance. Rich and Bill (K3WMC) went crazy buying the door prizes, and no one went away without a smile and some gadget or doo-dad.

This event just gets better and better. Don't miss it next year.

Don Stewart WA3HGW - Secretary

A Very Useful Accessory

de Jody - K3JZD

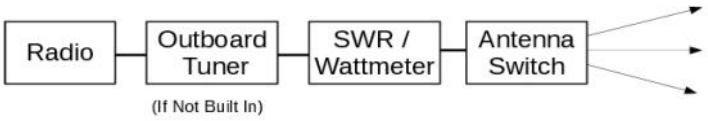
I went for a very long time without having a decent SWR Meter. But, during that time I was using transmitters with built in pi network final circuits that I manually tuned. If the transmitter did not tune up 'as usual', that let me know that something was wrong with the antenna that I had connected.

Whenever I got my first solid state rig with a no-tune broadband amplifier and a SWR foldback circuit, it did not take long to realize that I had to add an outboard transmatch (aka tuner) to make the radio happy whenever I was using anything less than a perfectly matched antenna. Otherwise the SWR foldback circuit would reduce my power output.

And I soon learned that the first manual outboard tuner that I bought, which did not have any meter on, was quite difficult to use. All I had to go on was the power output indication on the radio. All I could do was tune for maximum power out. So, I bought another manual outboard tuner that had a built in SWR meter. Now I could tune for the lowest SWR. The radio was happy, and it was putting out full power.

But, happy radios do not always provide you with a lot of contacts. An outboard tuner will hide the fact that an antenna has a problem. Adjusting the outboard tuner to show a 1:1 SWR does not 'fix' any problem with the antenna. This is true for today's radios with their built in tuners. Even more so. On some, you do not even have to push any 'Tune' button – it does that automatically when required. So, your radio with a built in auto-tuner will always show you a 1:1 SWR on the radio's SWR indicator. You can have a happy radio showing 1:1, and putting out full power, but you are not making contacts.

What you need is a standalone SWR meter as the last active thing that you have in the circuit before the coax going out to your Antenna:



A SWR meter installed like that will report what is actually going on with your selected antenna. If the SWR indication at the radio says 1:1 when the SWR/Wattmeter says 4:1, believe the SWR/Wattmeter. If you are not having much luck in making contacts, the SWR/Wattmeter is telling you why.

Why do you want a SWR/Wattmeter you ask? Well, more information is better. And most of the standalone SWR meters are also Wattmeters anyway. While these Wattmeters are not 100% accurate, they are close enough. If you want to work some digital mode where you only need 20 watts out, then using these SWR/Wattmeters are good enough.

I have also learned that the dual-needle type of SWR/Wattmeters are by far the best. You can simultaneously see the power going out and the power being reflected back. The only downside of that is that unless you are full scale on the Forward Power, the Reflected Power needle is not really telling you your SWR. I will use either http://rfcalculator.mobi/vswr-forward-reverse-power.html on my computer or the free *"Rf Calculator"* app on my cell phone to put in the indicated Forward Watts and the indicated Reflected Watts and let that give me my actual SWR. But once you get to know your antennas, you really just look at the Forward versus Reflected needles to see that they are indicating 'normal' for that antenna.

Now, I know there are a lot of folks who say never do this. But I bought a standalone MFJ-880 SWR/Wattmeter. In fact I have bought three of them by now. None of them have rattled when I got them. I did not have to re-solder anything. All three just worked right out of the box for me. I am happy will all of them (your mileage may vary). Regardless of what brand you prefer, you should have one of these.

Jody - K3JZD

ARRL Requested Tech Expansion

01-MAR18

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Year Round UTC - 4 ??

de https://slashdot.org/

Posted by BeauHD on Thursday March 08, 2018 @08:50PM from the enough-is-enough dept.

Florida Lawmakers Approve Year-Round Daylight Saving Time

JustAnotherOldGuy writes: *It seems like we're seeing a sudden outbreak of common sense from one of the most unlikely places. Florida might become the third state -- after Hawaii and Arizona -- to be done with the hassle of changing their clocks twice a year.*

Yesterday, the Senate overwhelmingly passed the Sunshine Protection Act in under one minute, with only two dissenters. The House had already passed it 103-11 last month. Now it has to be signed by Gov. Rick Scott.

If Scott passes it, however, it still has to go through Congress before Florida has Daylight Savings Time all year long.

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?

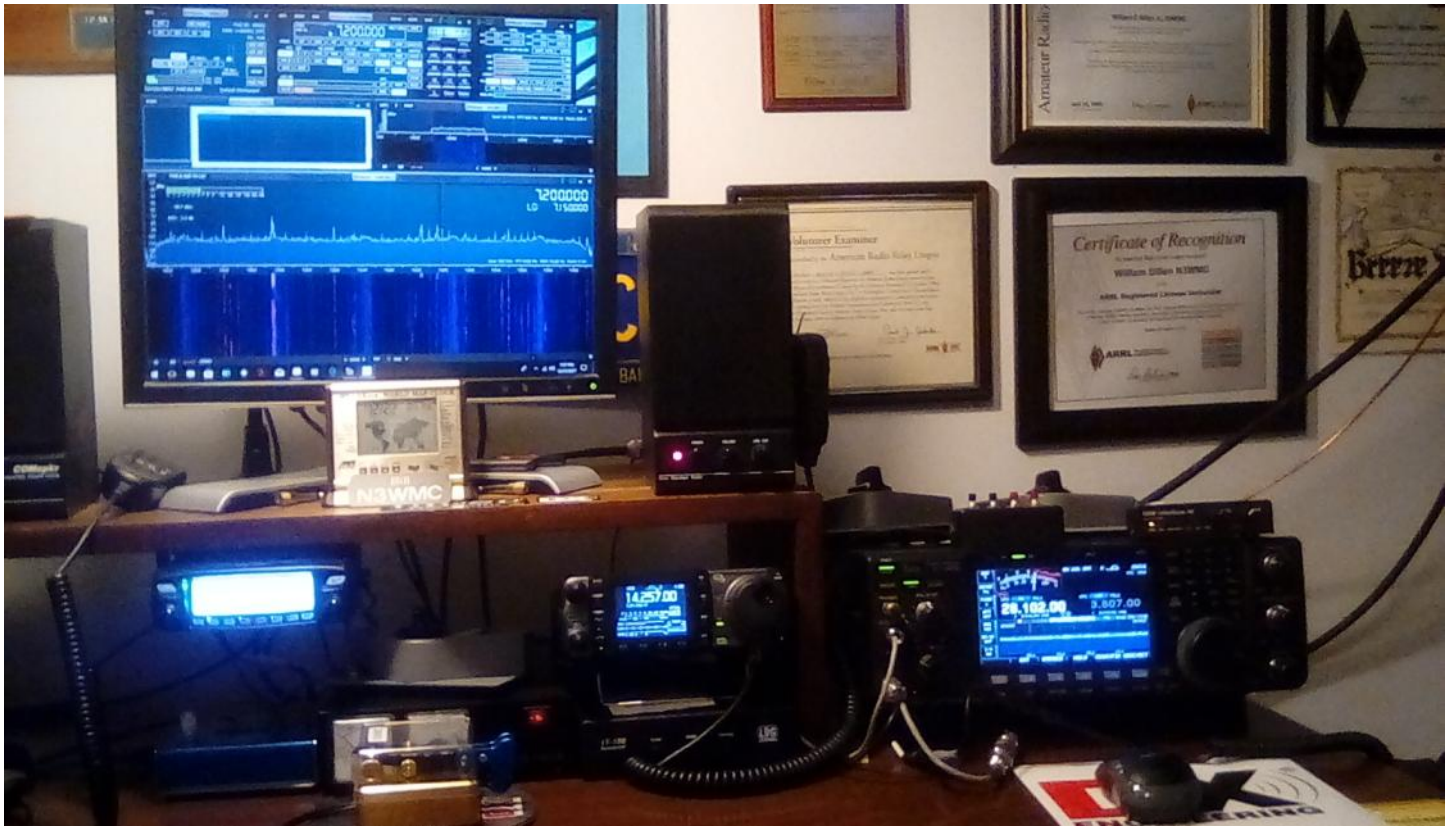
I am always happy to get your pictures: Shacks, radios, mobile setups, antennas, customizations, etc.

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:

Bill - N3WMC



In addition to the small barely noticeable computer display, Bill has an IC 7600 , an IC 7000 (with LDG IT-100 tuner), a Yaesu FTM 100 VHF/UHF Analog/ Fusion radio on his desk. And he has an IC 51A Plus Handheld for analog and D-Star. His CW keys are a Begali Simplex and a Begali Pearl (not shown).

Outside, Bill has a Zero Five Vertical for 40-10 m , a MyAntenna End fed for 80-10 m, and a Comet for VHF/UHF.

Reverse Beacon Network Frequency Reporting

de Jody - K3JZD

ED : *The following is an article that I wrote for posting in the Four States QRP (4SQRP) Club's Bayou Jumper Yahoo Reflector. The 4SQRP 'Bayou Jumper' uses a very simple crystal controlled transmitter. Other Bayou Jumper owners have reported that their crystals are not transmitting on the stated frequency. I wrote this to let them know that I do not think that there is anything wrong with their crystals. Since some of our members are experimenting with using similar simple crystal controlled transmitters, I though this might be of interest here. It might also be of interest to anyone who is using CW with any old boat anchor transmitter.*

The Short Story – The Reverse Beacon Network will always report your frequency as being 800-900Hz lower than your Bayou Jumper transmitter's crystal frequency. Why? Because the Reverse Beacon Network assumes that you are always transmitting 800-900 Hz higher and so it always subtracts that 800-900 Hz. If you want to understand why that is, then you have to read the following Long Story.

Ever since I learned about the Reverse Beacon Networking Network (RBN), I have found it to be quite useful. Whenever you are calling CQ on CW, but are not getting any answers, you begin to wonder if your transmitter has failed you or if your antenna has fallen down. A quick check of the RBN report that is filtered to just your callsign will tell you where you are being heard and what your signal strength is at those locations. Since most of the RBN Monitoring Stations seem to have superior antenna systems and very sensitive SDR Receivers, if none of them are hearing you then you might as well forget about doing any more calling on that band because no one with a mere mortal station is going to be hearing you.

The RBN Monitoring Stations will report the frequency where they heard each station. This is quite useful when you have your RBN report filtered to just the band that you are on and want to know who else is calling CQ on that band and where all that they are being heard. If RBN Monitoring Stations in your part of the country are hearing them, then that tells you that it is worth going to that frequency to see if you can hear them. However, the frequency that is reported can be misleading in some cases.

The RBN did not come to life until well after personal computers became very common and the Internet became available. At the time that the CW Skimmer software that the RBN Monitoring Stations utilize was written, just about all of us were using ham transceivers. The days where it was common to have a transmitter in one box, have a receiver in another box, and having to tune the receiver frequency while keying the VFO or crystal controlled transmitter to get the receiver 'spotted' on the transmitter frequency were long gone. Transceivers kept your transmitter and receiver in sync for you. The Receiver Incremental Tuning (RIT) feature took care of the problem of different people liking to listen to different CW Pitches.

Whenever ham transceivers were created, the AM Mode was also history – it was all Single Sideband (SSB) by then. The transceivers were designed for SSB, where one sideband of the RF Carrier was suppressed by filtering it out. By convention, they all agreed that all CW mode operation would utilize the Lower Sideband on all bands. The manufacturers then had to deal with the fact that whenever we are listening to a CW signal on our transceivers, we really need to have the receiver section tuned to the Lower Sideband of the sender's RF Carrier rather than to the center of his RF Carrier frequency. So, how did they solve that?

I have to confess that I really did not know, nor care, for a long time. It just worked. I used my transceivers and I was happy. But, whenever I started experimenting with small crystal controlled QRP transmitters, I started to see that the RBN Monitoring Stations were always reporting my transmit frequency at 800-900 Hz 'too low'. This was happening with all of my crystal controlled transmitters, and with all of my crystals. I wondered a bit about this, but since it was consistent I did not dwell on it very long.

Recently I pulled my Kenwood TS-120S transceiver off of the shelf, dusted it off, and put it back to back to work. Previously I had used it for SSB operation. Now I wanted

to use it for CW operation. But I was having a hard time with it. I was not having a lot of success in answering CQs and I had to use a lot of RIT to find stations that were answering my CQs. And, the RBN Monitoring Stations were all reporting my transmit frequency as being at 800Hz Above whatever frequency I was tuned to. On this particular 1979 vintage transceiver, I could see that the digital display was showing me a different frequency whenever I was key down.

A trip into my TS-120S user manual uncovered a discussion about there being a ~800Hz CW Transmit Offset, but it was not real clear about what that was all about nor why it was there. None of my other transceivers showed me a different frequency when transmitting and none of my other transceiver manuals discussed anything like that. This problem that I was having with using this transceiver finally forced me spend more time to get to the bottom of this.

Here is what I learned. Whenever you are in the CW Mode, the transmitters in all of today's transceivers are transmitting the RF Carrier at a frequency that is ~800-900Hz Higher that the frequency that you have your receiver tuned to. For example, if you have your transceiver tuned to 7122.00 Khz, it transmits CW at a RF Carrier frequency that is at ~7122.90 Khz. This puts the Lower Sideband right at where the receiver is tuned to. Each station in the QSO then hears the other guy without doing any tuning. The people who wrote the software for the CW Skimmers utilized by the RBN Monitoring Stations knew all about this CW Transmit Offset. And they knew that since you were tuned to 7122.00KHz, you would be expecting to see them reporting that you were transmitting on that same 7122.00KHz frequency, So, they automatically subtract 800-900Hz from every RF Carrier frequency and thus fib a little to tell you what you want to hear: that you are transmitting on your receive frequency. That is what you want to hear most of the time anyway.

The problem comes in whenever you are using a simple crystal controlled CW transmitter which simply transmits the RF Carrier right on the stated crystal frequency. The CW Skimmer software does not know what transmitter you are using. So it automatically subtracts 800-900Hz from your RF Carrier frequency and it reports that you are transmitting at a frequency that is 800-900Hz Lower than what your crystal says. Thus we have a lot of people concluding that the crystal manufacturers have a serious problem with their quality control and feeling that they need to do something to fix 'the problem' when there is not really any problem at all with their crystals.

My problems with my TS-120S turned out to be an internal alignment problem. My CW Transmit Offset had drifted to +1600Hz rather than being at the +800Hz that it should have been set to. Once I corrected that internal alignment setting, the RBN began to report me as being on my receiver frequency, and not 800Hz higher. I still see the digital display on that 1979 vintage transceiver being completely honest with me by telling me that it is transmitting at a RF Carrier Frequency of 7122.90 even though my receiver is tuned to 7122.00 and the RBN is reporting 7122.00. I now know that whenever I am using my TS-120S that I have to ignore that displayed transmit frequency and go by the displayed receiver frequency whenever I'm going to a particular frequency to meet someone. None of my other transceivers are honest about it, even though they are all quietly doing it. However I did notice that whenever I added a PX3 Panadapter to my KX3 that the PX3 Panadapter is displaying this +800 CW Transmit Offset whenever I key my KX3.

If there is a takeaway from this, it might be that the Reverse Beacon Network was never intended to be used as a means of transmitter frequency testing and should not be considered to be an accurate report of your RF Carrier Frequency. And, unlike in 1979, today's transceiver user manuals seem to tell you only what they think you that you really need to know. And nothing more.

Jody - K3JZD

A Life in Amateur Radio

de Bob - WCC3O

I think it safe to say that hams are a unique breed. Some folk get a ham license and never really go anywhere with it. Others, dive in. It can get into your blood. It can become an obsession. One thing is for sure, we have a great fraternity. Many of the folks you meet in Hamland will leave a lasting impression on you for all the days that you live.

When I first started coming up to Skyview years ago there was this old guy. His name was Bill. He was at the club mainly in the summer and disappeared down to Florida in the Winter. Come Spring, he was back. Later on we talked a bit. It was Bill Bell, W3RSR. I didn't know it at the time but he was one of the founding members of Skyview back in 1959 and 60. It didn't take long before we were besties.

Bill was a great elmer and his knowledge was in depth, on a great many subjects. I would stop down his house now and then and we would go down the basement to his shack and work some DX. His wire antenna was fed with home-made open wire feeder with separators made from cut up plastic coat hangers he bought down at the dollar store, a dozen for a buck.

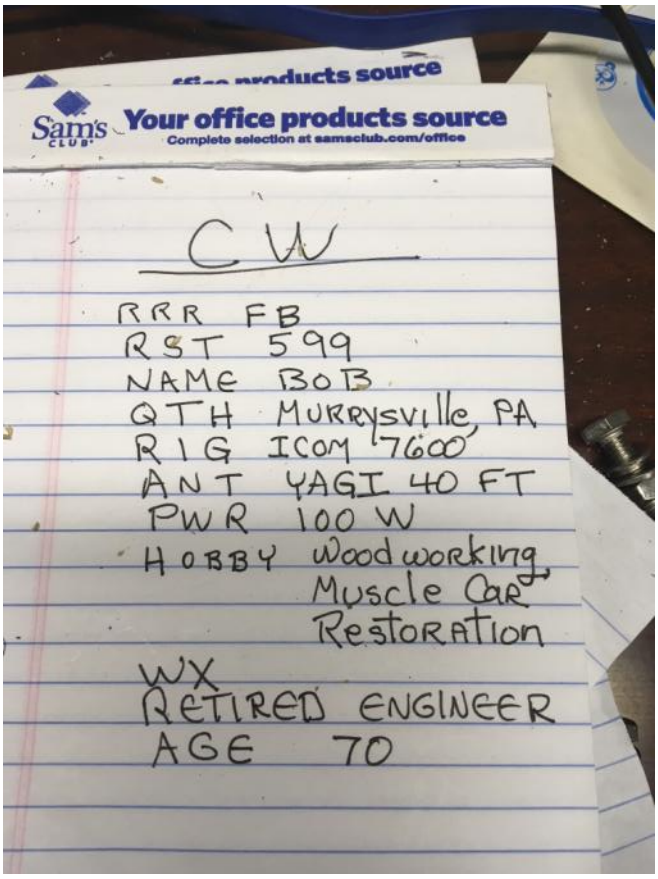
The wire would go through a piece of clear Plexiglas where he had removed a block from his basement wall. The clear plastic panel served two purposes. One, was to give a place for his open wire feeder to go through the wall.

The other purpose… There was an old pin oak tree in his yard. His tower/tri-band yagi was there before the tree grew tall. Betty, his wife, loved that tree and wouldn't let him cut it down. He had to have someone come in and remove only the branches that interfered with his beam. That plastic panel in his wall allowed him to look out while he was turning his beam and see if it was getting caught up in the tree. It was perfect!

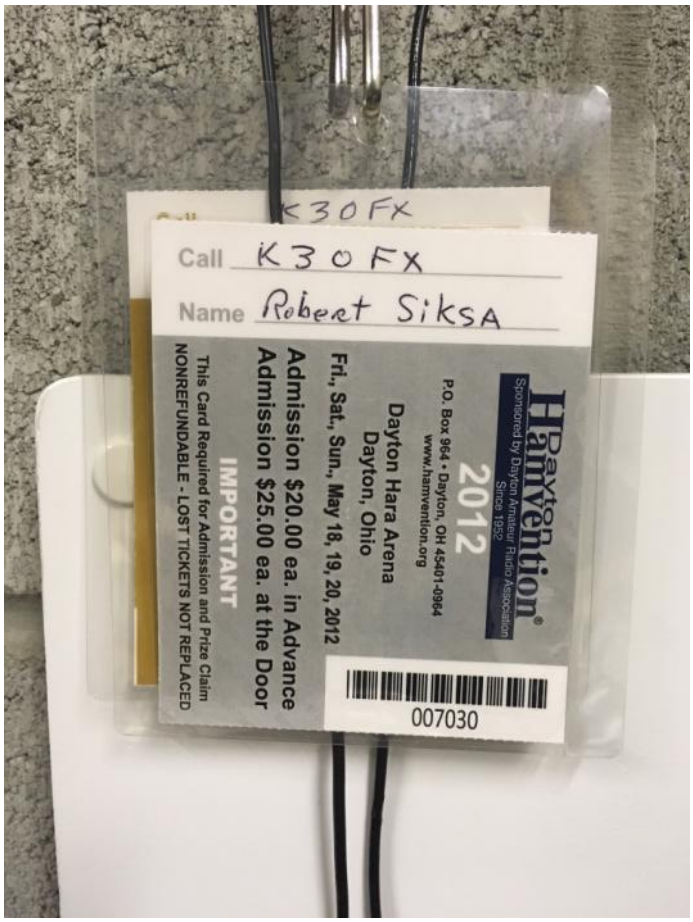
We would sit down there in his shack and work DX using his old Vibroplex that he had modified with a hack saw and drink cheap/warm beer. I loved it. At the time one thing I never envisioned myself doing was dismantling Bill's shack after he left us. Disconnecting the coax cables. Unplugging everything. Separating all the cables. Cutting his open wire feeder from that plastic panel. It wasn't easy.

I've had to do this a few times now. The latest was Bob - K3OFX's shack. Dewey - W3VYK and I went up to Bob's beautiful house. Disconnect the coax. Disconnect and gather up the cables. Look for the manuals. Along the way you see things. Knowing Bob, as many of us did, you see things that really kick you where it hurts. In front of Bob's operating position was a note pad. In his writing he had his callsign, signal report, name, QTH and so-on. Bob was working on re-learning CW. When you are first getting on the air with CW you don't want to have to think, spell and send CW all at the same time. Bob wrote down all the usual info in a typical QSO so he could just read the letters and send them in code. Smart.

- HOBBY
- WOODWORKING
- MUSCLE CAR RESTORATION
- RETIRED ENGINEER



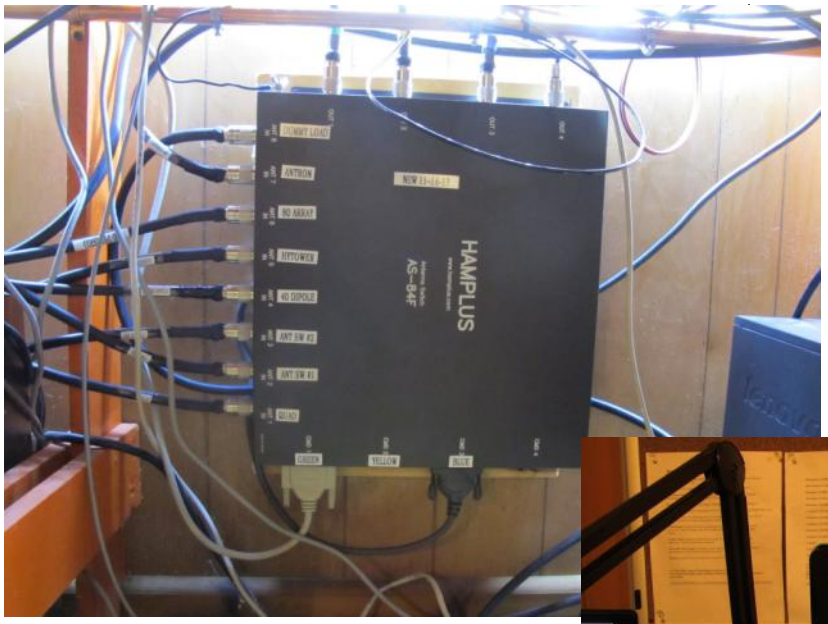
Over on the wall hung his lanyards from the times he got to attend the Dayton Hamvention. The last time he came to Dayton he had to leave early because he was feeling really badly. His health was failing.



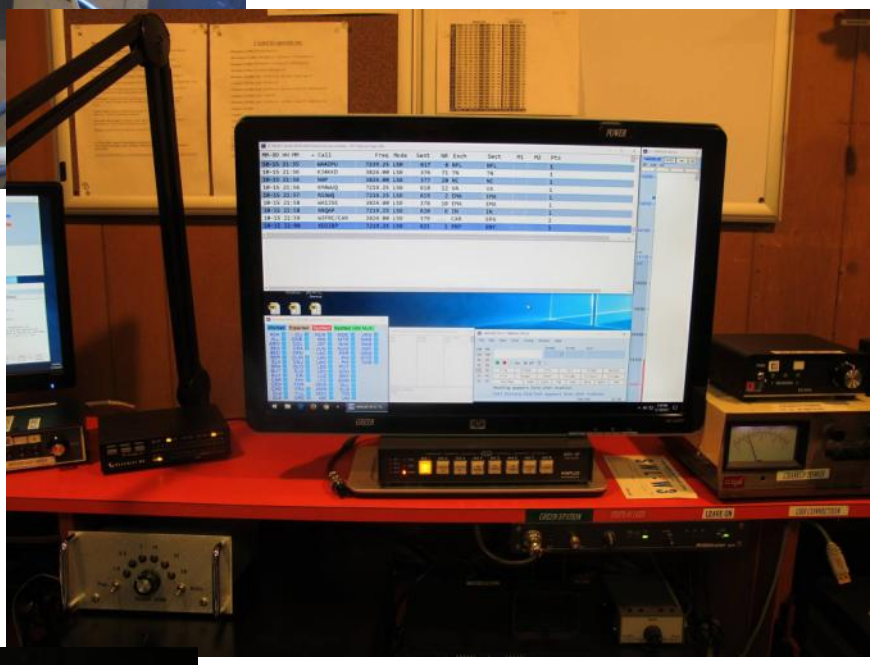
And so it goes. What can be done. Moral of the story? Cherish the times that you get to spend with those people that really stick to your brain. The characters. The personalities. Enjoy the shit out of the hobby. And what a hobby it is. For me, I think I'm going to go enjoy a cheap/warm beer.

de WC3O

Skyview Matrix Antenna Switch



New Switch and one of the four Pushbutton Antenna Selector Control Boxes



Old Antenna Selector

Installation by :

- **Cooky - WC3O**
- **Dave - N3TIN**
- **Joe - N3TTE**
- **and ???**

$15.00/hr Minimum Wage Pushback ??

de https://slashdot.org

Posted by BeauHD on Tuesday March 06, 2018 @05:00AM from the burger-flipping dept

Flippy the Robot Takes Over Burger Duties At California Restaurant

Chain eatery CaliBurger announced today that its location in Pasadena is the first to employ Flippy, a burger-flipping robot developed by Miso Robotics.

The robot is able to take over the cooking duties after a human puts the patties on the grill. KTLA reports: *"The kitchen of the future will always have people in it, but we see that kitchen as having people and robots," said David Zito, co-founder and chief executive officer of Miso Robotics. Flippy uses thermal imaging, 3D and camera vision to sense when to flip -- and when to remove. "It detects the temperature of the patty, the size of the patty and the temperature of the grill surface," explained Zito. The device also learns through artificial intelligence -- basically, the more burgers that Flippy flips, the smarter it gets. Right now, cheese and toppings are added by a co-worker.*

CaliBurger CEO John Miller says the robot can cut down on costs as it will work a position that has a high turnover rate. "It's not a fun job -- it's hot, it's greasy, it's dirty," said Miller about the grill cook position. Less turnover means less time training new grill cooks.

Flippy costs about $60,000 minimum and is expected to be used at other CaliBurger locations soon.

Picture and follow up story:

http://tinyurl.com/ychktznx

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 .

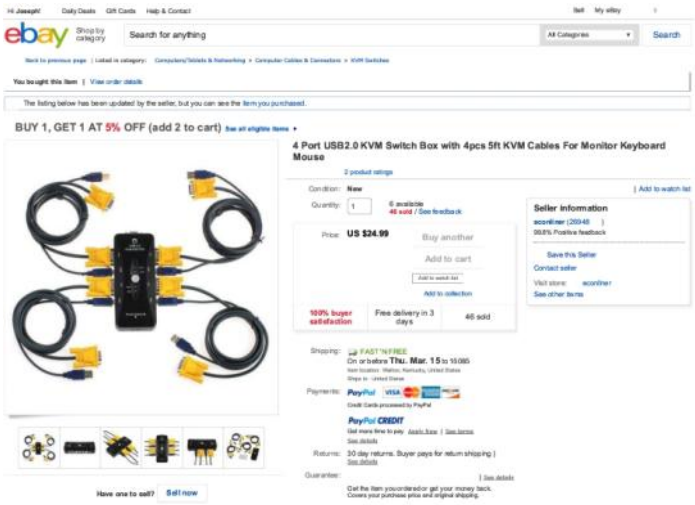
If that does not work for you, or if you want to include pictures, you can advertise here.

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

Product Review

Most of you are probably adding additional monitors to your computer rather than using a single keyboard, monitor, and mouse with multiple computers. However, I found a need to replace my old KVM Switch that was not up to handling today's higher monitor resolutions. I bought this KVM Switch at what seemed like a too good to be true price simple because it was not that big of a gamble. I was quite surprised. It does not require power from a wall wart, it does excellent job with mouse emulation, and it handles my 1920x1080 monitor resolution fine. I do not have any issues with it. Jody—K3JZD



An Autonomous Drone For Working Grid Squares de Hackaday

By Jenny List - March 9, 2018 - https://hackaday.com

Amateur radio is an extremely broad church when it comes to the numerous different activities that it covers. Most of the stories featuring radio amateurs that we cover here have involved home-made radios, but that represents a surprisingly small subset of licence holders.

One activity that captivates many operators is grid square collecting. The map is divided into grid squares, can you make contact with all of them? Land-based squares in Europe and North America are easy, those in some more sparsely populated regions a little less so, and some squares out in the ocean are nigh-on impossible. As an attempt to solve this problem, the Jupiter Research Foundation Amateur Radio Club have put an HF transceiver and associated electronics in a WaveGlider autonomous seagoing vehicle. The idea is that it will traverse the ocean, and you can work it, thus getting the contact you require to add those rarest of grid squares to your list.

The transceiver in question is a commercial portable one, an Elecraft KX3, and the brain of the payload is a Raspberry PI. It's operating the FT8 mode, and will respond to a call on 14074 kHz in an automated fashion (Or it would, were its status page not telling us that it is offline due to power issues). It's currently somewhere in the Pacific ocean, having been at sea now for a couple of months.

We spotted this through a spirited online discussion as to whether working an automated station is really a proper contact at all, with one amateur commenting that it might be a way for him to keep on going post mortem. But the ethics of the contact aside, it's an extremely interesting project and one we hope eventually will come back online.

Thanks Sotabeams, via [AE5X].

ED: Anyone working the Grad Squares ???

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 31MAR18

NM3A	WA3HGW	K3MJ	KA3RXY
KC3AY	KA3HPM	K3MRN	KQ3S
NAØB	KC3HRO	N3MRU	KD4SBJ
N3BPB	KB3HXP	KG4MSB	KB3SOU
W3BUW	KC3IIO	KB3NSH	K3STL
KC3CBQ	W3IU	AJ3O	KB3SVJ
K3CLT	KC3JBS	AK3O	N3TIN
KC3DIA	N3JLR	WC3O	W3TLN
KC3EJC	KA3JOU	K3OFX(sk)	N3TTE
AB3ER	N3JPB	K3OGN	AG3U
KC3EVT	ND3JR	KB3OMB	K3VRU
KB3EYY	KC3JSF	KR3P	W3VYK
KC3FEI	KB3JXG	NK3P	N3WAV
K3FH	KC3JXO	W3PRL	K3WKP
K3FKI	K3JZD	AE8Q	N3WMC
KC3FWD	KC3KEI	WQ3Q	W3WTJ
N2GBR	WA3KFS	NJ3R	KB3YJQ
KC3GIL	KB3KHR	KB3RBV	W3YNI
KC3GIN	ACØKK	N3RHT	
AB3GY	W4KV	K3RMB	
KC3GZW	WA3LCY	W3RRK	
WD3HAY	AB3LS	I2RTF	
KB3HGJ	N2MA	K3RWN	

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

SK

Bob Siksa - K3OFX - Jan 2018

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,

>>>>>> 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:

KC3GIL - Rachel Golem - Vandergrift

KC3GIN - Kaitlyn Gorelli - Vandergrift

AK3O - Jay Brassell - Wexford

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.

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 . . . . .

Voltage Drop in 12vdc supply circuits is not something that we always consider. Not a big deal with receivers, but can impact transmitter performance. IN addition to poor connections, cable size is important. Here are two links which will help you choose the right cable size:

http://www.southwire.com/support/voltage-drop-calculator.htm

http://www.westmountainradio.com/find_cable_size.php

Want to know what is currently happening on the various bands? I have found this actual spot based data to be much more useful that the good-fair-poor stuff that is on QRZ.com

http://tinyurl.com/y7drkwxk

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.

This issue is a bit thinner than the last few issues have been . But, I have used everything that I have received. And as usual, I added some of my stuff.

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

Jody - K3JZD

SK

Art Gibson — N3MLQ

March 2018

(Member thru 2017)

Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

This newsletter may be freely forwarded.

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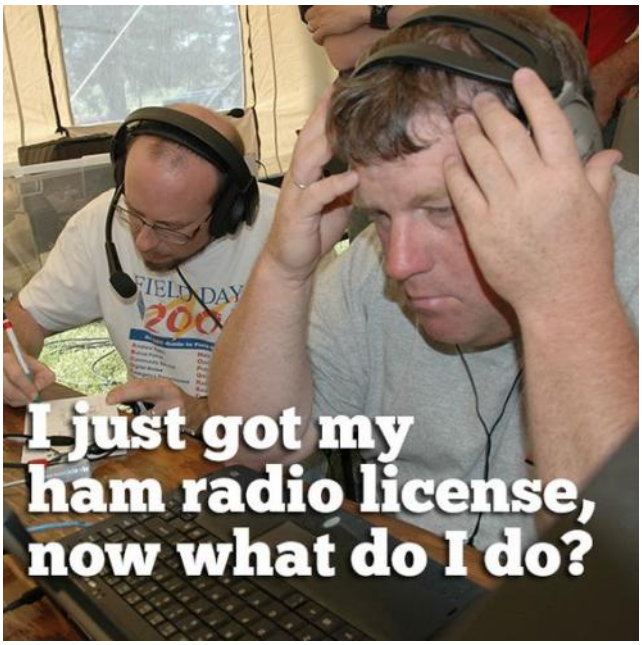
email your comments and article submissions to: **K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET**



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 ??