

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

Skyview Swap and Shop Sunday August 26, 2018

Well, here it comes — our annual fund raiser. We have maintained the dues at the same level for several years now. The dues are set to an amount which will cover the cost of staying in business : utilities, insurance, taxes, and general maintenance of the club's facilities.

We rely on whatever we clear from doing our annual Swap and Shop for all else: radio repairs, radio upgrades, antenna repairs, antenna upgrades, any improvements to the facilities, etc. So, the Swap and Shop is very important.

Our income from the Swap and Shop comes from the net proceeds from the entrance fee, the vendor fee, the food sales, the main prize raffle, and the Begali Paddle raffle.

We will do the setup on Saturday, August 25th. This includes items like measuring and painting the lines for the vendor spots, painting the lines for the attendee parking area, setting up the tables for the ticket sales and the Skyview item sales, running power here and there, setting up the PA system, rigging the banners, putting up signs, setting up canopies, positioning the picnic tables, etc. And if we are lucky, we will be able to get the large tent again and will be setting that up. The more hands we have, the faster this setup goes.

Bright and early on Sunday morning, there will be vendors that will need to be directed into the marked spots. As attendees arrive, they will need to be parked in an orderly fashion to fit as many as possible into the lot that we are fortunate enough to be able to use. The attendance fee and the vendor space fees will need to be collected. Cooking and serving starts early, starting out with breakfast items and eventually changing over to a lunch menu. Cooking chores include order taking, money collecting, and policing the area.

The main Skyview table is where the main prize raffle tickets and the Begali Paddle raffle tickets are sold. That area can get quite busy at at times. The PA system microphone that is there needs to be utilized frequently to keep the attendees informed and to encourage them to come up and buy the raffle tickets and food. The Skyview item sales area needs sales people.

The Skyview club ambassadors need to circulate around the property all day to make sure that everyone has everything that they need, listen for any gripes, watch a vendor's table so that they can go for food or visit the rest room, chat with attendees and promote the club, etc. This is actually an important job.

Sunday afternoon, the activity which took place on Saturday needs to be reversed.

Sunday requires a fair amount of Skyview people so that everyone doing a job can be relieved. Not every club member who turns out will be utilized 100% of the time. Those not doing one of the tasks become roving the club ambassadors. Skyview members coordinate using 2 meter handi-talkies on a simplex frequency. Listen to that frequency to hear where there is a need.

So, to All Skyview Members: Purchase the admittance tickets that are mailed to you. Come on out on Saturday, or Sunday, or both. Stay as long as you can and help out wherever you can. Buy some main prize raffle tickets. Carry a 2 meter handi-talkie on Sunday and stay tuned in.

August 1, 2018

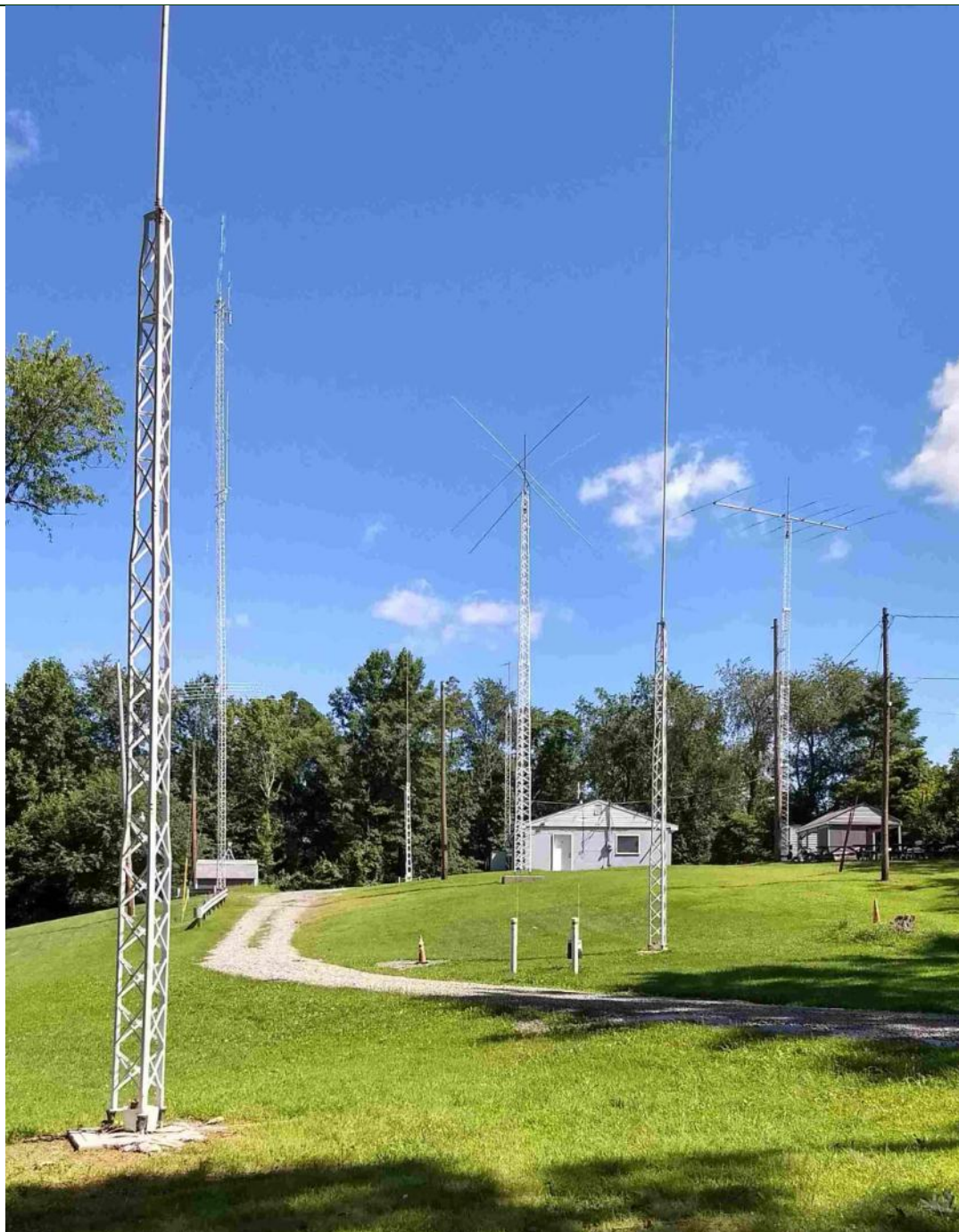
- Swap & Shop
- Hole in the Ionosphere
- Facebook
- VE Testing
-
-
- And More

Sunspots?

**I don't need no
stinking Sunspots.
I have 40 meters
and 80 Meters.**

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

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

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

For the latest up-to-date plan, check the Yahoo Reflector: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/K3MJW>
(You must be logged 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

The front page pretty much says it all as far as the Swap & Shop goes. We have been fortunate in that it has been quite well attended the last few years. But it now takes a little more doing to pull it off.

The one place where I personally think that we far short is that we do not have enough roving Club Ambassadors. We are often spread too thin, and everyone is too busy with something else to take the time to go out and mingle with the attendees.

There are quite a few folks on the Skyview Roster that I have never met. The Swap and Shop would be a good opportunity for you to find me and introduce yourself to me. And, while you are there, if you want to lend a hand, let someone at the main table know that you are available. If we cannot find something for you to do, you can really help out by being one of the roving Club Ambassadors.

I hope that you enjoy this issue.

Jody—K3JZD

Ham Radio is a
Contact Sport

Problems that the .070 folks are having:

Mike - WM4B: -- Everything from about 7.071 up is useless due to FT8 QRM.

Brian -N2MLP: – Only thing I see is W9CAR overdriven Olivia signal.

Mike - WM4B: – Oh... it's BAD here. Had several QSO wrecked by the click-and-whistle crowd.

Brian -N2MLP: – click-and-whistle crowd?

Mike - WM4B: – Yeah... click the mouse, the rig whistles for 15 seconds, repeat ad nauseum!

Breaking News !!

(Don't you get tired of hearing that?)

This year's Skyview Swap & Shop will have More Main Prizes

This year some lucky Main Prize Raffle Ticket buyer will take home a new **FT-7900R Dual Band FM Mobile Radio WITH the Separation Kit**. Just need to stick the small control head of this radio onto your dash - great for today's mini cars. And, with 50 Watts on 144 MHz and 40 Watts on 430 MHz, this radio should handle our WPA terrain quite well. This radio has lots of memories and a wide band receiver that will pick up stuff like the weather channel.

This year some lucky Main Prize Raffle Ticket buyer will take home a new **Astron 25 Amp 13.8v Desktop Power Supply**. This compact power supply will handle your VHF or UHF radios with ease. It will handle your 100 watt solid state HF rig just fine. Dual meters let you monitor the voltage and current. Astron is known for their clean and reliable power supplies.

If you have not yet won a **Peat Bros. Weather Station**, you will have another shot at it this year. Why do you need your own Weather Station? Think about it, if you have one of these you will be able to know it is raining without having to look out the window. And you can readily determine when it is too hot or cold to do that outside work so that you can remain at your rig working exotic DX. Your Main Prize Raffle Ticket might just put this great weather station into your car to take home with you.

And, we will be giving someone else a chance to have their own really nice **Digital Station Clock**. This too is a Skyview specialty that is offered as a Main Prize almost every year. This clock is accurate and is easy to read, even at 3AM while you are chasing DX on 75 meters. Those that have won one of these look at it. Good luck—your Main Prize Raffle Ticket might be the one that will allow you to hang this Digital Station Clock on your wall.

I have not seen the entire Main Prize Raffle List yet. But I have a feeling that there will also be some 'No-Strings Attached' **DX Engineering Gift Certificates** on that Main Prize Raffle List. So, be there, and buy plenty of Main Prize Raffle Tickets. (You only get this chance once a year—don't miss it.)

Triple Band Stacking Registers

de Bob - WC3O

Back in the day, when the VFO knob on a radio was really connected to a Variable Frequency Oscillator, if you worked a CW station at the bottom of the band and you wanted to switch to phone you needed to spin spin spin the VFO knob to move all the way up the band. When digital methods of obtaining a frequency were developed you still needed to spin spin spin the VFO knob (Which was now connected to an optical encoder). My old Kenwood TS-440S was this way.

After a while radio designers realized that there was no need to do this. Everything is now digital and you can do what you want! Enter band stacking registers. When I had my Yaesu FT-920 I realized that if I hit the 20 meter button twice I would land up on two different frequencies on 20 meters. Hitting the 20 meter button repeatedly would toggle between those two different 20 meter frequencies. This was called a double band stacking register. I would have one VFO register set in the CW portion of the band and the other in the phone portion. Now going to the other side of the band was just a simple button push away. No more spin spin spin!

After a short time manufactures decided that if two band registers is good, three is even better! If you hit the 20 meter button (or any band for that matter) three times you will see that the radio will be go to three different frequencies on that band. As you repeatedly hit the band button the radio will toggle through VFO registers 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3. So you can have one set to CW, one to digital and one to phone, or however you want. Jumping around the in band is never more than two button pushes away! Up at the clubhouse all our HF radios have triple band stacking registers. Please make use of them.

Often I will belly up to a radio at the club to find all the registers are set to the phone band or to the FT-8 frequency. To get to another portion of the band I need to spin spin spin the VFO and switch modes. The triple band stacking registers make this unnecessary.

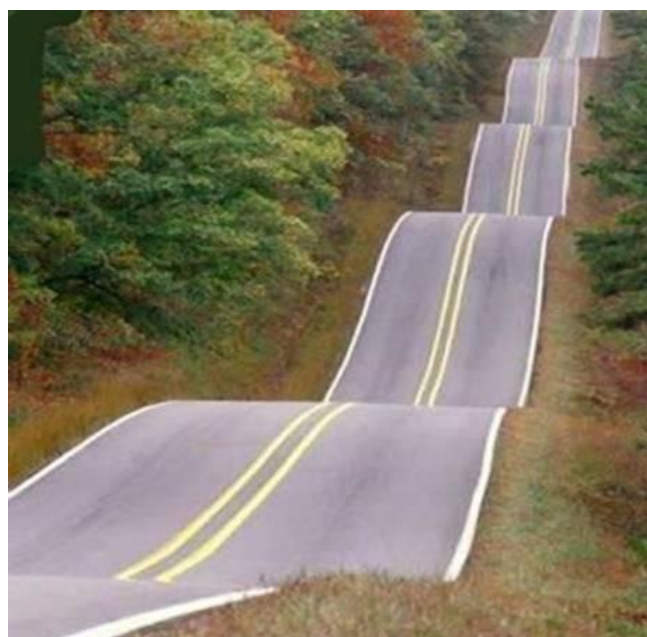
I mean, this is no big deal, but I figured if you are unaware of how these triple band stacking registers work or their purpose, then this article explaining them might be just the thing.

The IC-7300 has this same feature. With the touch screen the operation it is slightly different. To change bands with it you simply touch the band frequency. If the screen says 14.235, touch the “14” and the band buttons will appear. Touch the “14” button and you will be on another 20 meter register. Repeat this and you’ll be on third 20 meter register. There is also a shortcut. Touch the megahertz to get to the band buttons screen. Now touch and hold the 14 button. Not where you want to be? Touch and hold the 14 again.

So there you have it. Triple band stacking registers. They are there for your convenience. No more spin spin spin! Give it a try. You’ll like it.

de WC3O - Radio Officer

The Bands



IC-7300 Impressions

Jody – K3JZD

I had the opportunity to test drive an Icom IC-7300. Thought I would share my impressions of this radio with you. This not a full review of the radio as I did not fully explore every feature that it has. Since this was just a loaner, I did not fully study the manual either – instead I just jumped right into using it, and used the manual's table of contents and index to find out about what was not obvious.

I am familiar with waterfalls and band scopes. I use a Softrock RXTX software defined radio with HSDR software. While not touch screen based, with it, all radio control is done from the HSDR screen. I have a panadapter interface that works with my IC-756pro3. And I have a PX3 panadapter connected to my KX3 whenever I'm using that radio at home. So, I had some expectations for the IC-7300's screen. What was be brand new to me was the touch screen on the 7300. My only experience with touch screens has been with my cell phones.

The IC-7300 is certainly a very compact radio – it looks tiny compared to the 1975 vintage Kenwood TS-520S that I had on my 'chair bench' to fix some of its dial



lights. But in all fairness, the TS-520S has an internal power supply and is all ready to plug into 120VAC whereas the 7300 needs an external power supply.

I spend some of my free time chasing Summit on the Air (SOTA) activators. Mostly on CW, but I will also work the SSB activators that I am able to hear. The SOTA activators are generally running QRP power and using temporarily deployed wire antennas that are not very high. So it takes a good sensitive low noise receiver to be able to hear many of them. So, my first order of business was to set the 7300's CW filters to quite narrow and to experiment with the 7300's Twin Passband filter. I have an IC-7200 that has the same Twin Passband filter. But the 7200 does not have a graphic representation of where you are with their settings. It is nice to be able to see that graphic representation on the IC-7300 screen.

While many of the setting changes are done from the 7300's multi-level menu, others are done by touching some point on the screen and doing them from a popup window. As a new user, reluctant to look in the manual unless really necessary, it took me some time to figure out what setting was where. But after a while it became pretty clear that the settings that get changed frequently while operating are usually done by touching some point on the screen, and the infrequently changed general settings are usually done from within the multi-level menu. There are also a couple of buttons which will bring up some context sensitive menus. It all made sense to me. Pretty good design.

Since this radio had been previously in use at other locations, the next thing that I did was figure out how to clear all of the auto tuner memories so that it would tune to each my antennas as it found the need. That was easily discovered in the multi-layer menu system and was easily accomplished.

How to change bands was not initially obvious to me. But it turned out to be just by touching the frequency on the display. But, where you touched it mattered. If

you touched it on the MHz end, you get a popup where you can choose another band. If you touch it in the center, that speeds up the tuning knob so you can spin it to quickly go to somewhere else. If you touch the right side of the frequency display, that slows down the tuning. Pretty slick, once you get the hang of doing it. The rate of the tuning will increase incrementally as you rapidly spin the tuning knob. So getting from the CW end of the band to the SSB end of the band is quite fast. There is a dial lock, which is nice because it is quite easy to bump that big tuning knob.

With a waterfall, you often find that if you cannot see a signal's trace on the waterfall, you are not going to hear them. I was pleased to see that it was very easy to change the

SOTA Chasing

So, with that handful of setting changes and that limited amount of knowledge on how to control the radio by touching things on the screen, I was ready to chase some SOTA activators. The first SOTA activator that I went after was Paul who was on the very popular Brasstown Bald Mountain in North GA and was using CW. Whenever he went to 40m, I easily found him. A good solid trace on the waterfall and a good clean 559 tone on the receiver. I pressed the 7300's 'Auto Tune' button and that put me precisely on his frequency. That is a nice feature to have whenever you work CW. The noise level was pretty low on 40m, but when he was transmitting the Digital Signal Processing (DSP) in the 7300's receiver took out all of the noise and provided me with just his nice clean CW note. A second after he quit transmitting, the background noise returned. I was pretty impressed with that.

The next SOTA activator was Paul who was on Health Lookout in the Arkansas Ozark Mountains and was on 20m CW. That was a pretty short range for 20m, but I was able to pull him out of the noise. He was about a 429 with QSB. The very pale trace on the 7300's waterfall pretty much agreed with that I was hearing. Whenever he faded to a barely copyable level, his signal on the waterfall faded out also. So, the 7300's waterfall was giving an honest view. The 7300's DSP struggled with this weak signal, but nonetheless it took out enough of the background noise to allow me to hear him and make the contact. He had no trouble hearing the 7300's 100 watts and gave me a 559 report.

Then I managed to work Dan, a frequent SOTA activator who was on Mount Emma, which is just a bit South of Los Angeles. He was also on 20m CW. The mountain that he was on at was not very high and he was quite weak. Overall, I have had a hard time hearing Dan and the various other California activators. While I appreciate that band conditions certainly play a big part in it, and they will vary from day to day, today I was able to hear Dan on the 7300 at about a 229. Barely visible on the waterfall, but with the Dual Passband filters tightened way up, the 7300



screen layout so that the bandscope and waterfall take up more than 50% of the screen height, and that it was also very easy to adjust the displayed frequency range. If I had to criticize, I would say that the 'soft buttons' that are on the bottom of the screen that allow you to make these adjustments are a bit too large. I would rather see smaller buttons and a little more waterfall history.

Some have said that the 7300's screen is a bit too small. I found it to be fine. It has a nice crisp resolution and a very fast refresh rate, which is evident on the band scope and waterfall.

was able to pull his signal out of the noise enough for me to work his QRP signal. He gave the 100w 7300 on my 3 element beam a 339 signal report. So conditions were not real great either way.

I missed a SOTA CW activator who was on Yellow Bald Mountain in Western NC. He was only on 40m very briefly. He had moved to 30 meters by the time that I got an alert on my cell phone. The 7300 auto-tuner was able to tune my 40m dipole well enough to give me 25 watts of RF out on 30 meters. My downstream SWR meter says that I have an actual SWR of 4.5:1 whenever I'm using that antenna on 30m. I was not able to hear that activator on 30m - he was too close for 30m. But I gave the 7300's auto-tuner a good grade for getting some RF out there with that mismatched 40m dipole. Later he then switched to 60 meters. That was another band where I did not expect to be able to hear him. But I connected my 59' sloped End Fed Random Wire, switched to 60 meter CW, and asked the 7300 to tune it. It did good – it gave me 100 watts out on an antenna with an actual SWR of 3.3:1. I thought that was pretty good. But as expected, I could not hear that NC station on 60 meters either. I was hoping that he would go back to 40 meters, but some rain was moving in on him so he shut down and picked up. Missed that one.

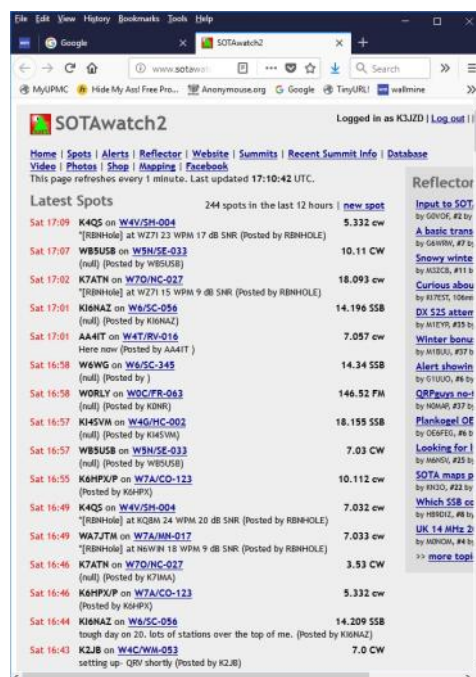
By this time I was easily able to switch bands and quickly re-tune while using my various antennas. Even though it had only been a few hours since I had taken this IC-7300 out of the box and connected it, using it was becoming pretty routine. I give a lot of credit to the 7300's software designers. Since the 7300 is a software defined radio, if enough people comment on features that could make it a little better (like the soft buttons that I would like to see be smaller) then the next download of the 7300's software might incorporate some of the user's wishes. Since I am not really an owner, I do not follow any online IC-7300 forum. But, I'm betting that there are some common wish list items being tracked on those forums. I'm sure that while Icom probably saved some of those good ideas for the new 7610 to be able to sell more radios, some of them may still make it to the 7300.

A little later on, Ron and his XYL Liz, frequent SOTA activators, were on Rocky Knob Mountain in Eastern NC. Ron was on 40 CW and had a nice 559 signal. So, I turned the 7300 power output down to 5% to set the output power to 5 watts (CW QRP). I had to wait in line for a few minutes while some other chasers made their contacts, but I was able to work Ron with my 5 watts with no problem. Ron gave me a 559. Then Liz took over, operating on SSB. She was about a 55. I raised the 7300 power output up to 10% to set the output power to 10 watts (SSB QRP) and gave Liz a call. Liz gave me a 59 report, saying that I was booming in. So, the IC-7300 can be a good QRP transceiver whenever you want it to be. The only problem you will have with turning the power down to use it as a QRP rig would be in contests like the Breezeshooter's Groundwave which say that you have to use a radio that is *'not capable of more than 30 watts output'* to qualify for their low power class (now, who in the heck would ever want to cheat in the Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest anyway??).

Band Hopping

Whenever there are a lot of SOTA activators out in all different parts of the country, they are spread out over all of the various bands. You have to watch the

spots and then pick the activators that are on the bands that you think the propagation will support, select and antenna, and move to their band-frequency to see if you can hear them.



It takes a lot of band hopping to be able to chase the SOTA activators who are down South at the same time that you are chasing the activators who are out West.

In the 'good old days', it would have taken a great deal of effort to do that frequent band hopping with something like that old Kenwood TS-520S. One soon learns to love the 7300's ability to quickly switch bands and automatically re-tune to the current antenna.

In addition to great sensitivity, the IC-7300 has great selectivity. Even without using the filters, adjacent signals that could be seen on the bandscope/waterfall usually did not cause interference or desensing whenever using the CW mode. But I generally kept the filters tight to eliminate background noise. However, on SSB, where folks like to run a bit more power, adjacent signals did splatter a little and frequently pumped the AGC. It took more fiddling with the Dual Passband Filters whenever I was using SSB to work the weak low powered SSB activators. I never had to turn the AGC off, but I came close to doing that a few times.

During the following days, I continued to use the IC-7300 to do a lot more SOTA chasing on 20-30-40 and 60 meters. I was using CW mostly. And mostly using 100 watts, but occasionally dropping down to QRP power levels just for the fun of it. Many of those incoming signals were 219 signals, where the 7300's S-Meter did not even flicker. But I was able to copy them. Occasionally there was someone who would try using 17, 15, 12 or 10 meters. The 7300's autotuner would not tune my 20-15-10 meter beam on 17 or 12 meters – but it produced 20 watts into that 5+ to 1 SWR situation on both of those WARC bands. So even if I was able to hear anyone on 17 or 12 meters, they may not have been able to hear me while I was busy heating up my coax. I had no problem tuning up on 15 meters and 10 meters, but I never heard any of their CW signals there. However the 7300's waterfall showed that there was lots of FT8 activity taking place on 15 meters. Go figure.

Digital Modes

Since I also enjoy working digital modes, I had to try a couple of digital modes with the IC-7300. While the 7300 has an internal sound card (aka modem) and can do digi-

tal modes with just a single USB connection to your computer, my previous ramblings discussed why I did not really like doing it that way that with my similarly equipped IC-7200. So, I used my ZLP external sound card with the 7300. It was a quick setup with the 7300's 'Connectors' menu.

I jumped into the 40 meter FT8 evening fishbowl. That has gotten to be quite a zoo. As the CBers used to say, every body is stepping on everybody. I spent half my time looking for another frequency due to big overpowered signals dumping right in on top of where I was operating. Anyway, in about 2 hours time I made 20 FT8 QSOs. It was a typical 40m evening, with signals coming in from all directions. I set my RF power output to 20 watts and proceeded to work WI, MA, Germany, NC, SC, VE7, Venezuela, Hungary, MO, UT. NE, GA, IL, LA, VE4, WA, and a few more out in the West. From this brief FT8 adventure, I was convinced that the IC-7300 has what it takes for digital modes: easy setup, rock solid VFO, sensitive receiver, and good quality audio. And it ran pretty cool thank to the fan that kicks on every time that I transmitted during this repeating pattern of transmit for 15 seconds and then receive for 15 seconds.

I made a couple of afternoon PSK31 QSOs on 40 meters. Had no trouble getting fldigi setup to use the IC-7300 (still using the ZLP external sound interface). Using 25 watts, I called CQ. I easily worked two stations- MN and NC. I got good signal reports from both of them. Interestingly, both of them were also running 7300s. PSK31 QSOs require longer key down transmissions, but the 7300 remained cool.

Since all digital modes, other than FSK RTTY, are really just audio being sent over SSB, that was enough to convince me that the IC-7300 will work well for any flavor of digital communication.

Event Operation

I guess one also has to use a radio during an event where the bands are more crowded to see how it handles that situation. So I used the IC-7300 during a Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon (WES) event. I used 100 watts and ran a frequency 98% of the time. While the SKCC stations alone did not jam up the bands,

there were also several other CW and RTTY events going on during this weekend which did. I found the bandscope/waterfall to be invaluable in finding a clear frequency to call CQ on. Since I set my filters very tight whenever I'm using CW, the bandscope/waterfall also proved to be valuable in that it let me see replies that I was not hearing because they were off of my frequency just enough to be outside of my bandpass settings (Some folks have a bad habit of not zeroing their RIT and end up responding off frequency). If I did not 'see' those stations, and tune them in using my RIT, I would have missed them. I ended up making 160 QSOs during this event. Most all of them were on 40 meters. I typically received better signal reports than I gave back, so I guess the 7300 puts out a good clean 100 watt carrier. Or the 7300's S-Meter is a little stingy. The 7300 did good job in this CW contest environment.

Impressions Summary

During the next few weeks that I had it, I used the IC-7300 for more of the same. Bottom line: it worked well. I did not find anything to quibble about. The band scope and waterfall worked well whenever I was looking for signals and whenever I was looking for clear spots. The touch screen never gave me any problems. There was no need to reboot it to clean up anything. It left me with a real good impression. While I did not discuss every feature on this radio, it has everything that you would expect: Noise Reduction, Noise Blanking, Dual VFOs, Spit Frequency Operation, Preamps and Attenuation.

Whenever my IC-756proIII gets tired, it is quite likely that an IC-7300 that will get moved into its spot in my shack. The 7300 may not be all of the radio that the Elecraft K3 is, but it is something that I will probably be able to afford whenever that time comes.

Jody - K3JZD

In Other News :

ED: As if we didn't already have enough problems with the sunspot cycle minimum, there is this news from <https://slashdot.org> :

[SpaceX Launch Last Year Punched Huge, Temporary Hole In the Ionosphere \(arstechnica.com\)](#)

Posted by [BeauHD](#) on Friday March 23, 2018
@03:00AM from the rock'em-sock'em-rockets dept

The Falcon 9 rocket that launched last August reportedly [ripped a temporary hole in the ionosphere due to its vertical launch](#), which Ars Technica notes as being rather unusual: Contrary to popular belief, most of the time when a rocket launches, it does not go straight up into outer space. Rather, shortly after launch, most rockets will begin to pitch over into the downrange direction, limiting gravity drag and stress on the vehicle. Often, by 80 or 100km, a rocket is traveling nearly parallel to the Earth's surface before releasing its payload into orbit.

However, in August of last year, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launch from California did not make such a pitch over maneuver. Rather, the Formosat-5 mission launched vertically and stayed that way for most of its ascent into space. The rocket could do this because the Taiwanese payload was light for the Falcon 9 rocket, weighing only 475kg and bound for an orbit 720km above the Earth's surface.

As a result of this launch profile, the rocket maintained a nearly vertical trajectory all the way through much of the Earth's ionosphere, which ranges from about 60km above the planet to 1,000km up. In doing so, the Falcon 9 booster and its second stage created unique, circular shockwaves. The rocket launch also punched a temporary, 900-km-wide hole into the plasma of the ionosphere.

Meet Us Halfway

de John – K3STL

The reason for writing this article is because I have a request for the new (and also those “afraid” to get on the air) hams out there... **To Meet Us Halfway.**

What do I mean by this? Well, this past Field Day really got me to thinking because after seeing about a third of the attendees operating and making many contacts, a third of the attendees spinning the VFO knob back and forth and not making many (or any) contacts, and the final third of the attendees not getting on the air at all. The event seemed similar to a Tuesday “social night” at Skyview.

I volunteer as an instructor for an organization outside of Amateur Radio and at the end of each class, the students take a test. I base our assessment as instructors not on how many passed the test, but how many failed and what areas do us, as a team, need to improve. This same analysis was used after Field Day. Granted, the main clubhouse is the “contest” station for Field Day, but what made a third continue to spin the VFO knob and the other third to not get on the air? At first I thought we didn’t show everyone how to work the radios and logging software, or maybe we didn’t explain QRM and how it will be difficult to hear due to all of the traffic on the air during this event. However, after remembering how multiple people were asked to try on the headset and give it a try, and operating to give the example of what to expect, including calling CQ multiple times before hearing a return contact, only to be given a head shake of a “no” or being told “no” made me realize, that not a single person asked a question about operating or the software... those people didn’t **Meet Us Halfway.**

I remember stating out in this hobby many years ago, with the intention solely of being a Technician and operating 2 meter simplex to talk to fellow hunters within my group. Never would I have thought there would someday be a HF station set up at my house! I would try areas of interest such as working Satellites with a VX-7R and when running into a problem or question, a fellow ham would usually point me in the right direction and working those birds sure was a lot of fun.

Somehow contesting became a major interest and during my first ever contest, everything was going great and then suddenly, the power to the radio would go out when pressing the microphone button. I asked a Ham about why they thought the radio was shutting off on me. His reply was what power supply was I using and it was like a light went off in my head... I was using battery power and the battery was dying! It was my first contest and a little overwhelming to operate by myself and actually making DX contacts, so it may have been easy to overlook a dying battery and instead thought the used radio purchased was defective. Perhaps I should have listened to a fellow ham prior to the contest that said to purchase a power supply hihi.

During a RTTY contest, I was contacted about how the contest was going so far and had to reply that there is something up with the software and the program won’t make diddles when trying to get on the air. I didn’t want to bother the Ham during a contest and let it be, but that same Ham knew I was trying to get in the contest and he called to compare settings and got me on the air and contesting again.

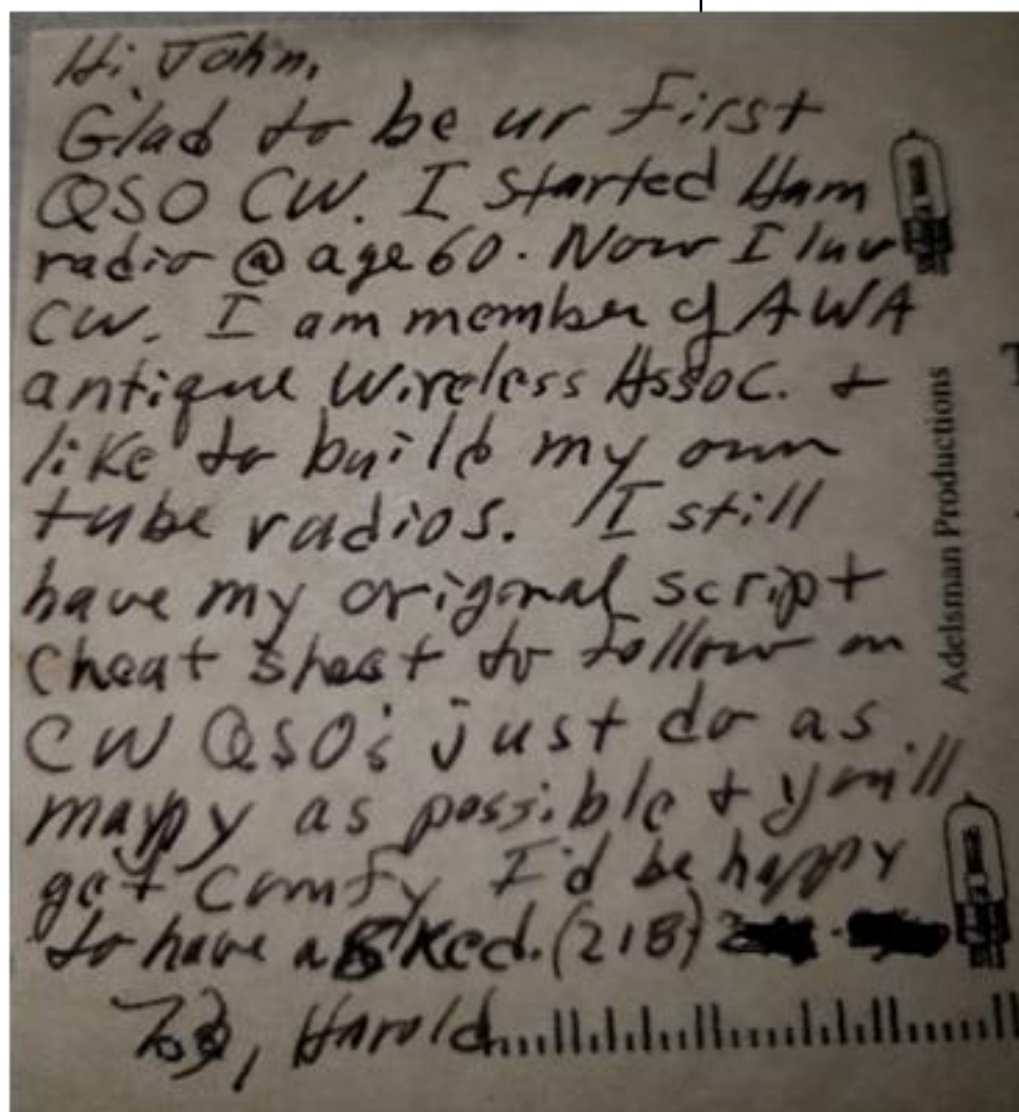
What is the main difference between the Field Day example and the other examples? Well, in each of other examples, I was getting on the air or trying to get on the air and needed a little guidance. I didn’t give a headshake of “no” or even said no... **I Met Them Halfway.**

I have seen Elmer night presentation after Elmer night presentation at Skyview where many people watch the presentation like a half hour television show and forget about it afterwards. It’s doubtful the most of those attending the presentation even experimented with the presentation topic afterwards. You won’t learn if you don’t try.

Of course it is scary getting on the air for the first time. I was nervous the first time ever checking into the Skyview Thursday Night net. What was I afraid of? Making a mistake! I didn’t want to look stupid if a mistake was made.

I was nervous making my first CW contact and was afraid of making a mistake! Getting on the air and trying made all of the difference. Here is the QSL card reply I received from my first ever CW contact. I still read Harold's reply and know the door was open **to Meet Him Halfway**. It was such a proud feeling when first reading that first CW Contact QSL card.:

My point of this article is that if you aren't trying different modes or trying to get on the air (or you spend more time shaking your head "no" than getting on the air), you aren't experiencing the fun in Ham Radio and also experiencing the issues that many of the Elmers previously experienced to help you along the way.



There are so many different modes such as Sideband, CW, and many digital modes. After being in this hobby for many years, two Hams recently perked my interest into the new FT8 digital mode. It was fun to learn a new mode and there were two people **to Meet Me Halfway** if there were any questions. Today I demonstrated FT8 to a Ham who asked about it.

So get on the air, make mistakes, make your first CW contact, enjoy the QSL replies, ask questions, and enjoy this wonderful hobby. That way, you, too, can experience what many of us enjoy in this hobby and when you have a question, there will be guidance to point you in the right direction. You will never experience this if you don't try, so it's up to you.... **To Meet Us Halfway**.

John (aka Tall Guy) - K3STL

Really Great Odds

de Jody - K3JZD

Did the earlier story about the Icom IC-7300 make you say “Why don’t I have one of these?”

Well, now you can take a chance on winning your very own IC-7300 in a Raffle with ‘Really Great Odds’.

(Really Great Odds being something that is a whole lot better than the odds of your winning the Powerball)

How does odds of 1 in 300 sound? Buy 2 tickets and your odds will jump to 1 in 150. Buy 3 tickets and your odds will be 1 in 100. You get the idea. Make room for the radio !!

No, Skyview is not running this IC-7300 Raffle. The North Hills Amateur Radio Club (NHARC) is doing it.

And, as of 29JUL18, believe it or not, there are still some of these raffle tickets available.

Perhaps some folks from the NHARC will be at the Skyview Swap & Shop on August 26th, and if they are still available, they might even have some of these raffle tickets with them.

Or, if you want to make sure that you get some of these raffle tickets, you can do it now by mail. Head to on over to <http://nharc.org/raffle/index.html> for details.



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

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 your 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.

Space Weather News for July 17, 2018

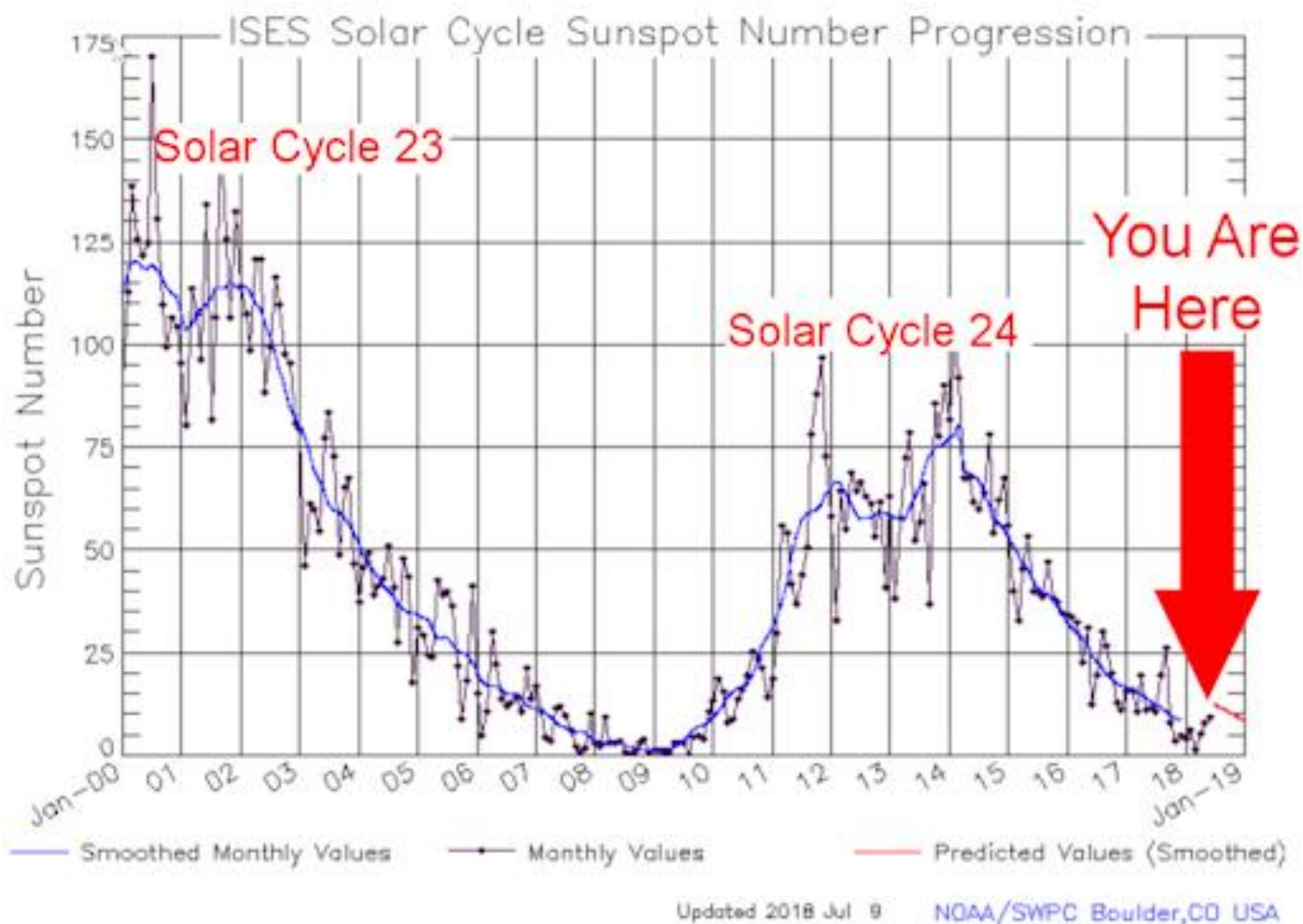
<http://spaceweather.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/spaceweatherdotcom>

THREE WEEKS WITHOUT SUNSPOTS: The sun has been blank for 21 straight days--a remarkable 3 weeks without sunspots. This is an almost decade-class event. The last time the sun lost its spots for 21 consecutive days was in the year 2009 coming on the heels of an historic solar minimum. With the current stretch of blank suns, solar minimum conditions have definitely returned. Visit today's edition of [Spaceweather.com](http://spaceweather.com) to learn more about solar minimum and find out what it means to us on Earth.



Sunspot counts have plummeted to their lowest levels in almost 10 years:



Yes, this page is blank.
An expected submission never
showed up :-(

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 31JUL18

NM3A	KB3HGJ	KC3LHW	W3RRK
KC3AY	WA3HGW	AB3LS	I2RTF
NA0B	KA3HPM	N2MA	K3RWN
N3BPB	KC3HRO	K3MJ	KA3RXY
W3BUW	KB3HXP	K3MRN	KQ3S
KC3CBQ	KC3IIO	N3MRU	KD4SBJ
K3CLT	W3IU	KG4MSB	KB3SEU
KC3DIA	KC3JBS	KB3NSH	KB3SOU
KC3EJC	N3JLR	AJ3O	K3STL
AB3ER	KA3JOU	AK3O	KB3SVJ
KC3EVT	N3JPB	WC3O	N3TIN
KB3EYY	ND3JR	K3OFX(sk)	W3TLN
KC3FEI	KC3JSF	K3OGN	N3TTE
K3FH	KB3JXG	KB3OMB	AG3U
K3FKI	KC3JXO	KR3P	K3VRU
KC3FWD	K3JZD	NK3P	W3VYK
N2GBR	KC3KEI	W3PRL	N3WAV
KC3GIL	WA3KFS	AE8Q	K3WKP
KC3GIN	KB3KHR	WQ3Q	N3WMC
AB3GY	AC0KK	NJ3R	W3WTJ
KC3GZW	N3KNB	KB3RBV	KB3YJQ
NC3H	W4KV	N3RHT	W3YNI
WD3HAY	WA3LCY	K3RMB	

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



Culture

de Jody - K3JZD

I just read an interesting article in *Autoweek* magazine written by Bradley Brownell. The article presented his impressions from attending the fifth annual 'Luft' event, which is a gathering of air-cooled Porsches out on the West Coast. Luft is all about the appreciation for the old air-cooled Porsche models - no newer models with water-cooled engines are admitted to this show.

Bradley said: "It's a particular atmosphere, with exciting cars and plenty to look at, but it's never really been about that. The cars are the vessel by which the culture grows. The automotive enthusiast community as a whole - and certainly this event in particular - exists as a sort of social construct. We buy into a specific culture, learn its secret handshake, and congregate among other members of our chosen sect. In that sense, cars act as means to social ends."

I got stuck on that thought for a bit. If Bradley was writing for QST or CQ, he could have just as well been describing ham radio enthusiasts at a hamfest or at club meeting. Our culture revolves around a fascination for wireless communications. Not any means of wireless communication, just unlimited free worldwide wireless communications. I saw a similarity between their appreciation of dated air-cooled Porsches and our appreciation of a dated means of communication. For us, it is unlimited free worldwide wireless communications that acts as means to social ends.

I got to thinking about our recent discussions about keeping our hobby alive by trying to pull younger people into our culture. Not having been there, I wondered what the average age of the owners of the 350 air-cooled Porsches in that show was. I also wondered what the average age of the thousands of people who bought the spectator tickets was. I wondered how the younger spectators who were there got drawn into this world of Porsche fanaticism, and wondered if they would be lining up to buy these older air-cooled Porsche from the current owner's estates to keep that culture alive. Or would it be just other old timers doing the buying whenever one becomes available.

Getting away from this very specialized Porsche show, old car shows are very visible. There are lots of them held at shopping centers, churches, and other community events. This too is a culture, albeit a more broad one. It is easy for the public to freely walk around and enjoy the old vehicles at a car cruise. I attend some of these local car cruises from time to time. I will see some young people eyeing up cars that were made well before they were born. But, unless they already have an appreciation for a particular generation of old cars instilled in them, and know what they are looking at, they are just curious seekers. I rarely see any of these young people going closer to look under the hood or looking underneath the car like the old timers who are already indoctrinated into this culture will do.

Back to us. And our culture. And the future of our hobby. We do not have very many visible outings to attract the public. And even when we do, we do not have that much displayed that makes much sense to someone who does not know what they are looking at. Us sitting there huddled over a couple of radios is a pale comparison to a shopping center full of shiny highly polished cars. So, it is really hard for us to draw a crowd, especially if we are operating silently using headphones. How can we bait the hook if we are out there setup in some busy park, maybe one like Northmoreland that has a lot of young people there playing soccer. If we are using loudspeakers not headphones, and we do manage to attract some curious young eyeballs, how do we handle it? What is our elevator pitch? (an elevator pitch is what can you say that will have an impact on a person before the elevator door opens and that person gets away).

Well, if you were hoping that I was going to supply that elevator pitch, sorry. I do not have one to give you. What would you suggest? What would make our culture sound interesting and give someone the incentive to do some research on their own to learn more about it. Lets face it, all we can do is bait the hook. I guess that we could send them away with a handout that has

some good internet links that would take them to some really good and interesting YouTube videos. We would include some really good ham radio video links like <https://electronics.howstuffworks.com/ham-radio.htm> which gives a good 'human readable' overview. We can probably find some more that are geared to enticing like that one does.

If we were successful in getting nibbles on our baited hook, and the interesting YouTube videos and articles that we pointed them were enough to set the hook resulting in them doing some more digging on their own, then they could take advantage of the club contact phone number that is on our handout and make the phone call. In my opinion, we would not really want to invite them to come see us on a Tuesday night because we would probably overwhelm them and possibly scare them off. I think that a one-on-one with the club contact, who would maintain a balance between 'how to get started', 'how we can help', and a sample of 'what can be done down the road', would be a better approach.

So, what do you think? Just like you can lead a horse to water but cannot make him drink, we cannot force our culture onto anyone. All we can do is make our culture look like some kind of Kool-Aid that they really want to taste. What will that take? What should our elevator pitch be?

Jody - K3JZD

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

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 April newsletter:

N3KNB - Steve Voss - Apollo

NC3H - Loran Shive - Monroeville

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](mailto:K3JZD@ARRL.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

Ed: I added this one as an 'are you kidding me?' link, not as something that I have bought into - While I never say never, I found this to be more entertaining than anything else:

Bringing a [brand new form of electricity to your home](#), one that is power line free!

How about this → an Magic 8-Ball on a business card. There are lots of ways of having fun with electronics. Building things for the fun of it rather than for a practical purpose can teach you a lot. <http://missingspace.eu/business-card>

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 October 1, 2018
Closing Date For Submissions : Sept 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 includes some nice member submittals. More member submittals would make it a fatter issue. And I could then put some of my ramblings on the shelf. Do not be afraid to provide me with anything that you think may be of interest to our readers. Most of us have experiences and opinions that are worth sharing. I am always interested in reading about various other hobbies that I have never considered.

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

Skyview Swap & Shop is at
40 31' 03" N / 79 40' 37" W

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

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society



Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

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Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles from this issue, provided the original author and "***The Skyview Q5er***" are credited.

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 ??