



## VE TESTING

Contact: Steve Maresso, KB9OLD at 847/ 477-3518

Testing is conducted quarterly at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday for the months of February, May, August, and November. Walk-ins are welcome until 8:00 PM. No appointment is necessary. Testing requirements:

1. Cost for 2017 is \$15.00 (Cash or check made payable to ARRL). If initial test element is passed, the person testing may continue take the next test element(s) at no extra charge during the given session. Retesting of an element failed during the same testing session will require payment of an additional \$15.00 test fee.

2. Must show original and provide copy of Amateur Radio license and/or CSCE (if upgrading).

3. Must show a valid Government Issued Photo ID (Passport, Driver's License or State ID card) for identification.

4. Social Security or FRN number required.

5. Location: Free Methodist Church, 934 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL 60098

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[When your March QST arrives, check out the Hints and Kinks Column...](#)

The lead hint is a way to use the programming cable for a Kenwood 281 mobile radio to program a Kenwood TH-F6A HT.

The article is by club member KA9CAR. John reports that he has also used this adapter to program other Kenwood HT's and 2 models of Baofeng radios.

This is not his first H&K. Previous articles are:  
August 2001, how to build a sleeve dipole mobile antenna.  
October 1979 How to add the new subband to an Icom 22s so you can work the 145.41 repeater  
And September 1984, How to build a rtty demodulator for use with your FSK capable HF radio.

## MEETING NOTICE

February 7, 2017

Socializing: 6:30 PM  
Meeting: 7:00 PM

Crystal Lake Bank  
5100 Northwest Hwy (Rt. 14)  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

**PROGRAM: HF Propagation**

Presented by Jack Hudson, W9MU

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### Free Microphone:

At the February 7 MCWA meeting we will give away an Electro-Voice 622 noise-canceling low impedance desk microphone. This was donated to the club by Paul, W9DWP. Members in good standing (2017 dues paid!) that are interested in the Mic will be given one ticket to the drawing. Photographs of the Microphone are in the pictures section of the K9RN Yahoo group.

The microphone can be heard on the Wednesday night 6 meter net.

John  
KA9CAR

### Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate

01/24/2017

Just 10 days after being introduced, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, [H.R. 555](#), passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 co-sponsors, but failed to clear the U.S. Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was introduced on January 13 with initial co-sponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce

(ARRL)

## If It Seems Too Good To Be True...IT IS!

Eddy Rojas (WY4J) on January 6, 2017

Just a few tips to avoid getting scammed on the ham swap sites.

My first job out college almost 40 years ago was finding those who wished not to be found because they owed money to the bank I worked for. I was what they called a "skip tracer." I looked for those who had skipped town on their debts. Well, although I have not earned a living skip tracing anyone in the last 35 years. Lessons learned in the late 1970's are just as useful today. Actually, with the onset of technology it's much easier to find someone now that it was in 1978 when you basically had to scam family members, the phone company, other banks and businesses out of information.

With all the price information available on the Internet nobody gives things away anymore.

I see more and more ham complaining that they have been scammed by another ham. Yes, they have been scammed but not by a ham. Not everyone has a built in "honesty gene." Ham to ham scams do happen but is not as prevalent as getting scammed by someone in Eastern Europe or Africa.

For at least a dozen years I have been noticing that 99.9% of the hijacked calls are always those calls where the owner did not list their email address on their QRZ.COM information page. This first began with amateur calls from the UK where some ham would contact you trying to sell you a piece of equipment you had advertised that you wanted to buy. The price was always unbelievable inexpensive but the English and grammar of the message was not. They always requested a Western Union money transfer. Through the years, this scam has morphed from the UK to U.S. calls. But always, those calls with no email address listed on QRZ.COM seemed to be in question. Save yourself the embarrassment and take a couple of minutes and list your email and possibly your call might not be hijacked.

If the call does not have an email address attached to it on QRZ.COM; walk away or better yet, run away from that deal as fast as you can.

I have seen QRZ.COM records hacked where the scammer actually entered a bogus email address but I believe this is very rare. There was also an incident where the boyfriend got access to his ex- girlfriend's QRZ.COM account, changed the email address and began listing ham equipment at garage sale prices. Obviously the prices listed got the attention of many who reported him and his listings were removed. But you would not believe the dozens and dozens of hams who tried to send him money thinking that they had found a patsy.

Their key to not be fooled out of your hard earned money is:

Research, research, research...

Google the call, Google the name, Google the email, Google the telephone number, Google the XYL, Google the grandmother, Google the dog. Together with the call and name use words like scam, rip off, or problem on your Google search. See how long the seller has been a ham and how many QRZ look ups he/she has. Read his/hers QRZ profile. Leopards don't change their stripes. Once a crook and a deadbeat always a crook and a deadbeat.

Google the item image. You would be surprised how many crooks will steal a picture on the internet and try to pass the image as his/her own. Some will steal the image and the entire ad word for word. I even had a legitimate ham try to use my equipment pictures for his ads because he was too lazy to take his own pictures. This man even got highly insulted when I called him out on it.

You can go to the extreme or just stop when you feel comfortable:

cont'd page 8

# M.C.W.A.

February 2017



## SOME OBSERVATIONS AND HINTS

### FOR THE SLOPING SUN CYCLE

### WINTER DOLDRUMS

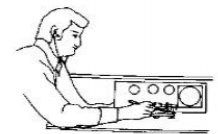
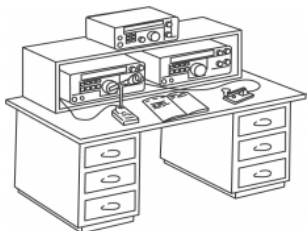
If we could have three DX wishes, the first wish would be better conditions. There are sunspots and a meager SFI, but the A and K indices have been in a yo- yo pattern. This has produced challenging conditions for DX above 14mhz. As we look at the DX spots on sites like [www.dxsummit.fi](http://www.dxsummit.fi), we see some more productive DX spots mostly in the southern hemisphere these days. The advantage there is light. The longer days of their summer have enhanced the weaker conditions. As you know, our days are lengthening and this will help us out a bit. Many of us have limited time during our shortened days and so we need to grab a moment here and there to work the bands from 20m and up. During January I did work ZD8KFC on 15m at 2136utc one afternoon. I heard a QRP operator frantically calling this DX station from the west coast and alerted the island station. The operator out west thanked me and worked ZD8KFC with some degree of difficulty, but it was a successful QSO. If a station on the west coast using 5w could talk with Jim on Ascension Island, a lot more is possible than what we think during these lean times. We just need to take the more limited windows of opportunities when conditions permit.

The editor of this newsletter reports that he made a contact with VQ9HF with 50w using PSK31. The station on the Indian Ocean island was also using modest equipment and power. So you need to be there when the door is open. By the way, CW and digital modes will often pierce through when SSB and AM are lost in the noise. So use what you need to use to log the contacts overseas.

Until our days lengthen, it is also advantageous to make use of the lower HF bands. Things have been hot the lower one goes in frequency. Spots are also being made on the 60m band with 100w and various modes. Once again, the digital modes are doing better.

As TU5MH, HI1UD and PZ5W close down soon, we recognize the efforts they put forth. I did work two of the these DXpeditions. However, February has quite a few announced operations to offer. EP2C will do a three day operation. Longer on air efforts will be offered by such calls as TL8TT, 3B8HE, 6W2SC, ZC4A, 9X2AW, E51AMF, CE0Y, XX9D, 5J0NA, TX5T, VP6EU and T88DT. Even though conditions will not be too inspiring, these operators will do their best to take advantage of openings to various regions of the globe. I hope to log as many of these as possible, as time permits. DX clusters will help a lot. As I have mentioned before a number of times, I prefer [DXSummit.fi](http://DXSummit.fi) In fact, I often check spots before going home for lunch from the cell phone or the office computer. I have worked some neat DX during lunch over the years. Please have fun with the challenges of these difficult times of propagation. There's always a way to work DX. Many are even logging DX these nights on 160m.

For the time being, I wish you good DX and 73. Dave KA9OZP



# M.C.W.A.

February 2017

## Feb. Hamfests

Nothing until March

## Feb. Contests

- 3 Vermont QSO Party
- 3- 4 10-10 Int'l Winter QP , SSB
- 4 MN QP
- 4 - 5 BC QP
- 5 NAQP, CW
- 11 - 12 CQ WW, RTTY
- 14 PODXS Valentine Sprint , PSK31
- 18 19 ARRL DX CW
- 24 - 26 CQ 160m , CW
- 25 - 26 SC QP
- 25 - 26 NAQP RTTY
- 26 -27 NC QP

For more contests see: WA7BNM calendar

## Feb. DX

Cent. Af. Rep. TL8TT Til Feb 14

Fernando da Noronha PY0F til Feb 8

Namibia V55V til Feb 18

S. Cook Is. E51ADD til Feb 18

Guantanamo Bay KG4DY til Feb 24

Guantanamo Bay KG4WV/KG4AW til Feb 28

Macau XX9D til Feb 26

Senegal 6W7SS All February

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Librarian .....Jeff Schmidt, KC9WSJ  
VE Commander ..... Steve Maresso, KB9OLD  
Social Media Director .....Dave Whaley, NT9E

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**STRAY** The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when  
he fills out his brag page on QRZ  
[KI7DG](#) via Eham



# M.C.W.A. NEWS

February 2017



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**Do You QSL ???** Was involved in a recent discussion about QSLing which started out with an operator complaining he had worked several Iowa stations while trying for WAS, but to date not a single one has had the courtesy to QSL even though they said they would. Seems like a lot of deadbeat hams out there lately.

In this day with QSLing via LoTW and Eqsl, an electronic QSL is just a few keystrokes away. Yes, it only takes a minute or two and there's no messing with envelopes, postage, etc.

Now someone's request for a QSL may seem inconsequential, but to someone working on WAS, DXCC, counties, etc., it's all important. It's just a nice courteous thing to do.

Perhaps he logged you call wrong (i.e. - "busted call"), but a nice polite note to him might do the trick.

However, if you're one of those "deadbeat QSL guys" it might be time to change your tune. It costs nothing to do most of the electronic QSL services.

Remember: "The final courtesy of a contact is the QSL".

### **New FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Offers Praise for H.R. 555, Other Telecoms Bills**

01/25/2017

Newly designated FCC Chairman Ajit Pai (see below) praised the House action on [H.R. 555](#) and other telecommunications-related legislation that cleared the chamber on Monday.

"I want to commend the U.S. House of Representatives for passing a number of important, bipartisan telecom bills yesterday," Pai said on January 24.

"These bills will help bring greater efficiency to the Commission, provide consumers with greater protections, improve rural call completion, help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety," he continued, adding, "I look forward to working with Congress on these and other important issues as Chairman of the FCC."

President Donald Trump named the 44-year-old telecommunications attorney, — who has served on the Commission since 2012 and is its senior member — to succeed chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on Inauguration Day, January 20. Pai is the FCC's 34th chairman.

Pai will chair his first open meeting of the Commission on Tuesday, January 31.

ARRL

### **CIA Declassified Documents about Amateur Radio Available in Searchable Online Database**

01/25/2017

Central Intelligence Agency ([CIA](#)) reports about Amateur Radio in the former Soviet Union (including the Baltic States) and Warsaw Pact member countries have been declassified to a new searchable [online database](#), the CIA Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room. Documents include translations and assessments of Amateur Radio clubs, including Soviet DOSAAF (Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the Army, Aviation, and Fleet) groups; training; monitoring Sputniks; technology and equipment, and even QSL cards.

All documents have been declassified and occasionally "sanitized" and made available to the public for the first time in this archive. Some of these documents were only available previously in a closed system at the [US National Archives](#). — Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Andy Thomas, G0SFJ

(ARRL)

### **Hams Upset, as New Hotel Owner Wants Repeater Antennas Removed from Roof**

01/18/2017

A controversy has erupted on New York's Long Island, where the owner of the Islandia Marriott — soon to become a casino — wants two Amateur Radio repeaters and antennas removed from the roof of the hotel that's been their home for nearly 30 years. Town of Babylon ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer John Melfi, W2HCB, said removing the repeaters would severely hamper the ability of Long Island radio amateurs to support communication in the event of a disaster or emergency.

The repeaters, which can take advantage of emergency power at the building, serve the towns of Islip, Babylon, Brookhaven, and Smithtown as well as the American Red Cross.

"People don't understand what these [repeaters] mean to the community," Melfi told ARRL. An ARRL Hudson Division Assistant Director, Melfi is also the president of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club ([GSBARC](#)), and club members pressed the two repeaters into service a year ago after a major snowstorm shut down Greater New York City. The club said removing them will be a "devastating blow" to Amateur Radio emergency communications. The WR2UHF repeater is part of the Internet Radio Linking Project ([IRLP](#)), Melfi said, while WD2NY is a D-STAR machine. Owned by Preston Waterman, W2PW, both are affiliated with GSBARC. Melfi said that Waterman had an agreement in place with Marriott to use the site.

The hotel's new owner, Delaware North, has expressed concerns about safety and security at the casino and said it wants the equipment off the hotel roof sooner rather than later. It's also offered to help with the relocation.

Melfi said it would be "almost impossible" to find another, comparable location, and that, in any event, relocating the repeaters would prove costly and difficult. The equipment is expected to be moved in February, but the club has begun an [online petition drive](#) that has already collected some 350 signatures.

Melfi told ARRL that he's hoping that the GSBARC and Delaware North will be able to reach a formal memorandum of understanding that spells out access guidelines, so the repeaters and antenna can remain in place atop the soon-to-be casino. He said local hams would even be willing to obtain criminal background checks, if that would help to salve Delaware North's concerns.

-----> next column

-----> cont'd



# M.C.W.A.

February 2017

## Why Is CW So Intimidating ?

“ I've made a couple (literally) cw contacts and I'm sitting here listening to hundreds of stations tapping out letters and I just cannot bring myself to hit the key. I'm copying most stations okay and have a whole page and a half of calls I've copied on paper. I want to do this but just have a hard time forcing myself to do it. I guess its a fright of doing something wrong. HELP!! ” Asks KE0CRP

Answer de K8AXW:

CRP: Actually, your 'problem' is more common than you think. We had a local old timer (both in age and time holding a ticket) who used to monitor our local repeater and had a HF transceiver and never once keyed the mic or hit the key in years.

The 'problem' is commonly called “mic fright.” Rather it's a mic or key, the problem and results are the same. The reluctance or even inability to key the rig and make a call.

It's always easy to say, “just push the button or the key and have at it.” It seldom works that way.

My suggestion is to find someone in a local club or find in any way you can a local ham to discuss this problem and get him or her to provide you with some on the air experience.

Quite often one's first contact seldom goes the way you want it to and then there is the tendency to start beating yourself up over the way you “messed up.” If this happens, you simply have to live through it.

My first contact was a total and I mean TOTAL disaster. I watched another ham make his first contact with an audience and he made a total ass of himself. But nobody held it against him...just laughed some, but he survived it.

The main thing is to PLAN.....have a scenario or cheat sheet in front of you to refer to if your brain simply locks up.

This is all part of the excitement and fun of ham radio. Don't let timidness deprive you from enjoying the most incredible hobby in the world. Find a solution that works for you.

Another Answer de K1HMX:

I went through it over the past year. You think the OM on the other end is in a hurry and you do not want to make him wait so the pressure is on. With pressure comes stress, and with stress comes errors. Someone will respond to my post saying other Hams are willing to slow down and be patient. Sure, just like the guy on your bumper flashing his lights when you are looking for a turn in a unfamiliar town. I had a few work with me but I had many more that went right back to calling CQ or QRZ.

Here are 4 suggestion that helped me.

1. Stay in what was the novice part of the band and work other beginners. Especially ones calling CQ.
2. Contests really helped me. State QSO parties, Field Day, CW rookie roundup are good. You get a lot of contacts per hour and the format is short and doesn't change. Take Field Day: It's is your call sign, if he heard you it's your category, and state (for me it was 7A NH) his call de your call, and TU. It's the same thing over and over. It is a confidence builder once it starts to become smooth and easy and it good training for beginning a regular QSO.
3. Call CQ in the slow part of the band. People seem to take what they get when they answer a CQ and are more patient.
4. Many starting out can send faster than they can copy and want to sound proficient by sending faster. I did. I learned to slow down, a lot. I could copy 15 wpm when just listening, and would send 15 wpm, and get 15 back....

### Hams Upset As New Hotel Owner - cont'd

In a statement, Delaware North [told](#) Long Island News 12, “We are not aware of any agreement that the previous hotel owner had in place to allow the antenna to be housed on the property and we will no longer permit the use of the equipment or access to the roof. The area needs to be secure due to safety and security concerns, so we have taken steps to limit access. We asked the leader of the Amateur Radio group who approached us to find another location for the antenna, and we offered our assistance in moving the equipment.”

[ Ed. Perhaps what is needed is thousands of hams dressed as HT's marching on the hotel ?]

## Why CW So Intimidating ? - cont'd

4. Many starting out can send faster than they can copy and want to sound proficient by sending faster. I did. I learned to slow down, a lot. I could copy 15 wpm when just listening, and would send 15 wpm, and get 15 back....

There is a lot of bad code, especially character and word spacing issues. Reduce your relaxed copy a bit for stress, and then a bit for the other OMs bad code. Between bad code and stress my ability to copy was closer to 10, so I set the keyer for eight. After a number of QSOs and the stress fading a bit, I started turning up the speed. I also developed some regular contacts that tolerated my mistakes well allowing me to relax and send a bit faster.

Air time is the best teacher.

Another answer de W4KYR:

We (local hams within 10 miles) used to meet on 10 meters at night (when the band was closed) and have some code practice with some other hams who were trying to get above the 5 wpm. If we screwed up and boy did we, it was only amongst ourselves on a band that was dead. We were all in the same boat. But it finally helped to get our confidence up to go "live" to 40 meters and have 'real' contacts.

[ Ed. There was an MCWA group who used to meet on 15 meters at night when band was dead just for CW practice. We used to tell jokes which made it fun. Over the next couple months our code speed went from 5 wpm to an astounding 22 wpm. Learning is less painless when you make it fun ! ]



No mic fright here !

## Second Annual Midwinter 630-Meter Activity Night Set for February 4-5

01/23/2017

[UPDATED to correct event times and dates 2017-01-30 @ 1350 UTC] US and Canadian radio amateurs and Part 5 Experimental stations will take part in the second annual Midwinter 630-Meter Activity Night, which will get under way on February 5 at 0000 UTC (Saturday, February 4, in US time zones) and continue through 2359 UTC. Radio amateurs in the US will be able to make cross-band contacts with Canadian participants.

"This event is being undertaken because of the continuing, worldwide interest in 630 meter activities," said ARRL 630 Meter Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, in announcing the event. He said US radio amateurs are looking forward to gaining access to the new 472-479 kHz band, while Canadians are eager to learn more about the present level of amateur activity on their newest ham band.

"This activity night will give interested radio amateurs in both countries, an opportunity to see firsthand what is happening, and cross-band activity with Canadian amateurs will offer a chance for US hams to take part in the activity," Raab said.

The event is open to both radio amateurs and listeners. Raab said it will provide an opportunity for participants to test their MF receive capabilities. Operation will be in various modes.

These Canadian stations have indicated that they will be on the for the event on CW, transmitting on 630 meters and listening (QSX) on US Amateur Radio bands.

Station: CF7MM (Mark) CN89 Coquitlam, British Columbia

Time: February 5, 0200-0700 UTC Transmit frequency: 475.0 kHz

Receive (QSX) frequency: 1,801 kHz, 3,501 kHz, 3,528, and 7,028 kHz

Station: VE7BDQ (John) CN89 Delta, British Columbia

Time: February 5, 0300-0700 UTC

Transmit frequency: 474.0 kHz

Receive (QSX) frequency: 1,833 kHz, 3,533 kHz

-----> cont'd page 9

# M.C.W.A.

February 2017

## If It Seems to Good ... cont'd



- Google search the seller's full name, ham call, telephone number (if you have one).
- Do a property search by going to their county property appraiser and entering their home address. This is public information so you should be able to find it. If they rent, no such luck.
- Google map their listed or given address to make sure is not an open field in the middle of nowhere.
- Google their call and full name and include the words; problems, complaints, scam in the search.
- Always get a phone number and call them. Although this is not definitive proof of identity at least you will have a number and a way to trace it back to a specific location. You should initiate the call and don't allow the seller to call you as he/she might be using a pay phone.
- Make sure their phone and internet IP address matches their FCC listed address. You can do this online but most of the swap sites already have this feature available.
- Buying from a non-ham selling ham gear should always be done very carefully as we are always proud of our call so I would be a bit hesitant as to why a person is selling ham equipment but is not a ham or does not want to disclose their call.

Lastly, does the sale make sense? Is he/she a novice or tech with no look ups selling a ton of HF equipment at garage sale prices? Close the deal on the phone not via email. Not the safest but PayPal is better than personal checks, cashier's checks or money orders. Western Union money transfers are a "BIG" no. Although nothing is 100% safe, I usually walk away if the seller will not accept PayPal which adds another ledger of inconvenience to a scammer or thief.

Finally, use lots of common sense and go with your gut feeling.



Just my two cents worth....73 de WY4J  
[de eham]



# M.C.W.A.

## February 2017

### 630 meter Beacons - cont'd

Station: CG7CNF (Toby) CN89 Burnaby, British Columbia  
Time: February 5, 0200-0800 UTC  
Transmit frequency: 476.5 kHz  
Receive (QSX) frequency: 1,827 kHz, 3,527 kHz, 7,027 kHz

Station: VE7SL (Steve) CN88 Mayne Island, British Columbia  
Time: February 5, 0200-0700 UTC  
Transmit frequency: 473.0 kHz  
Receive (QSX) frequency: 3,526 kHz, 7,115 kHz

Station: VO1NA (Joe) GN37 Torbay, Newfoundland  
Time: February 4, 2130 UTC, until February 5, 0130 UTC;  
After 0130 UTC, 5WPM CW beacon until 1000 UTC  
Transmit frequency: 477.7 kHz  
Receive (QSX) frequency: 3,525.5 kHz

Station: VE3OT (Mitch) EN92 London, Ontario  
Time: February 5, 0000-0500 UTC  
Transmit frequency: 477.0 kHz  
Receive (QSX) frequency: 3,610 kHz, 7,105 kHz

A number of US FCC Part 5 Experimental stations will also operate throughout 630 meters on CW, PSK31, JT9, and QRSS modes. Some stations will operate WSPR and QRSS CW beacons. FCC Part 97 rules stipulate that US Amateur Radio stations may not contact Experimental stations, however.

"The success of this event largely depends upon the participation of as many amateurs as possible," Raab said.

Submit reception reports via the [ARRL 630-Meter Experiment website](http://www.arrl.org/630-meter-experiment). (ARRL)

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**Interesting Reading Dept ....** for those who have been privy to it a few meetings

<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,11158.0.html>



### The Danish Special Event Station OZ90EDR

« on: January 03, 2017, 04:30:27 AM » [Quote](#)  
Experimenterende Danske Radioamatører (EDR for short) was founded 15th August 1927.

On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of EDR, Danish radio amateurs will be active from Greenland and southern Denmark with the special event calls signs, OZ9ØEDR, OX9ØEDR and 5P9ØEDR.

Even though the **official start is in February** the activity has already started. So if you hear one of the call signs it is not a pirate.

For more info:

<http://oz90edr.oz5bir.dk/>

### How Long Does Coax Last ?

I finally tracked down an intermittent problem with my 15 + year old ground mounted Hustler 6BTV vertical antenna. I was having to retune the antenna by adjusting tube lengths and traps every 6 months or so. The problem turned out to be the 5 foot piece of Wireman R8-X coax I used as a Pig-tail between the antenna and my main run of RG-213 coax. To be fair, the coax was 15+ years old and was laying on the ground. The cable was flexed every time the antenna was tilted down. Plus, I imagine I stepped on it a few times. I only have a 100 watt rig, so I never cooked the cable. The cable does sit in a puddle whenever it rains hard.

Anyway, I decided to do an Autopsy on the cable. I slit the outer cover the length of the cable and peeled it off. The Coax Braid was still nice and shiny. I then slide the Coax Braid off of the center foam insulator. The foam insulator (I.e around the center wire) had cracks in it every inch or two. Some sections of the foam insulator were off white, other sections were darker. I believe the darker sections were wet. The stranded center conductor had some black oxide on the surface of the wires, but the core of each strand was still good. I used a VTVM (volt meter) to measure the resistance between the center conductor and the braid of a piece of cable that was still intact. The meter read about 10K of resistance. It should read infinite resistance.

I have a 100 foot run of this cable of the same vintage on my Fan Dipole. I'll probably replace it with RG-213 this summer. I just thought I would pass this on. Some things don't last forever.

So, how long does your cable last?

Ken, KB3MDT