

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

Wednesday Night 6 Meter Net

Just as a reminder the 6 meter net/forum is held every Wednesday at 7-9:00 pm on 50.180 USB. Early check-ins at 6:45

See you on Frequency.
Pierre K9EYE
Net Control

An amplifier is a reasonable augmentation for a marginal antenna system.
[W0WCA](#) de eham

MEETING NOTICE

September 5, 2017

Socializing: 6:30 PM

Meeting: 7:00 PM

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

PROGRAM: JT-65

By Dave, NT9E with Gary KD9FML

This will be a live remote demonstration

Saturday Breakfast Sept. 2nd, 8:15 AM at Green Street Cafe in McHenry. Meet in rear dining room.

CLUB ELECTIONS

The September meeting is when we elect officers to serve from October 2017 to September 2018. The new officers take office in October.

The Nominating Committee has a slate of officers to propose. We will also take nominations from the members. Please be sure to get the approval of the person you plan to nominate before putting up their name.

Please come to meeting to vote !

John Dewey, KA9CAR

MCWA President 2016-2017

M.C.W.A.

September 2017



SPOTTY DX CONDITIONS IMPROVING

My DX log was rather meager over this past month. Schedule was one issue. But in all honesty, the conditions have been minimal. I worked the Solar Eclipse QSO Party on 20m---just one QSO. I did a lot of listening and the lower HF bands did enhance during the peak here. The same happened in Pennsylvania during a solar eclipse when I was a teenager sitting in front of my NC-44 SW receiver. I did that experiment out of curiosity back then. The band conditions overall were poor during the recent eclipse. This impacted the results.

Before the eclipse, there was a domestic contact with Texas on 15m. At that point SN numbers were hanging at 0. But in recent days at the end of August, the numbers have improved somewhat and it has made a difference. As I write, the SN=22 and the SFI sits at 83 with an A reading of 10 and a K reading of 1. Since this was an improvement I went to the shack and logged a number of DX contacts on 15m and 17m. These bands, along with 20m, sounded quite good. On August 28, I logged YYHBO, KH7XS, KH6CJJ KH6LC and KH6TU easily on 15m. This was during the Hawaiian QSO Party. I also logged EA8CTF Javier on 15m. During this time, I worked S01WS (Western Sahara) on 17m. IZ8GNR was also an easy station to work on 17m. We need these better days from time to time during the solar cycle decline to ward off DX Depression.

For those who like 6m, this summer has been kind. In mid-August there was a very nice opening and I logged some more grids. I have a feeling there will be a couple openings in September, too. Along with the increase of fall contests, look for such operations as E51JHQ, 7Y94I, A25AL (cw mostly), VK9CGT, HD8M, 5T5OK, T88XA, OJO's, 3B8's, and JW's. There will also be the usual assortment of special event stations to log.

A recent edition of QST advised operators to get the low HF band antennas tweaked for DX as the colder months approach. The declining sunshine and the upcoming equinox will play with the decining solar assistance, but each season brings its own fingerprint to our many amateur bands.

Happy Labor Day and labor on those antennas.....Cooler days are coming.....

73 Dave KA9OZP

Affectionately Remembering Rod Newkirk, W9BRD

Every aspiring wannabe DX'er-type Ham from 1948 through to 1978 surely recalls Rod Newkirk (W9BRD) from this regular "How's DX?" column that appeared monthly in QST magazine. Rod had a wit and a way about him that translated into a writing style that made for irresistible "...must-reading" in that span of 30 years...

Who can ever forget his lucid descriptions of the goings-on at the fictional "DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society" that he created...? Rod managed to paint an image within the mind of the reader that needed but very little imagination in order to envision all of the meetings that the "society" regularly held. And yet, as humorous as his descriptions were, there were somehow always nuggets of truth imbedded within those whimsical poems and odes read aloud by subscribers to the assembly that rang quite true in that day's amateur fraternity --- even in that of to-day, the truth be known --- with admonishments directed toward anyone and everyone who might dare to violate established and proven DX norms, protocol, and "mores."

Surely my all-time favorite entries of W9BRD in his "How's DX?" columns were the on-going adventures --- or, perhaps more fittingly, "MIS-adventures! --- of that whimsical character creation of his named "Grommethead Schultz." Poor Grom simply could not win, try as he might, even with his absolute best efforts...many of which were, by the way, really quite original, inspired, and illuminating, if only fictional, as they sprang forth from Rod's ever-fertile imagination. I can envision one "episode" of Schultz's in particular, that struck a responsive chord for both me and a good friend of mine at the time (now a SK, sadly) that left the two of us practically in stitches. Mac and I shared a deep, unbridled passion for ever-more exotic antenna designs and construction --- object: DX'ing (what else mattered, right...).... and the more esoteric the design, why, the better! Well, W9BRD had Grommethead Schultz come up with some sort of unique antenna creation fringing (apparently) on the borders of "The Twilight Zone," which he erected briefly, used for a short while, then quietly abandoned, dismantled, and quickly forgot about...

A short while later, the cards and letters started to pour in, all with comments like, "...You were so very strong that you interfered with our local Mongolian rag chew net...!" and, "Yours was the only American signal coming through --- yet you were still 5x9-plus...!" Or, at least, it went along something like that --- but I'm sure you get the picture. Mac and I could hardly stop laughing each and every time that we discussed that one, and pictured poor Schultz in our mind's eye at how he became just absolutely beside himself in frustrated, futile efforts to try and recall details of that obviously successful "super aerial." And then there was the time Grom came up with the ultimate "stealth" antenna that was completely unobtrusive to the neighbors living about him: a vertical element that would shoot up through a hole in his attic roof, its swift rises and decays all very masterfully keeping in sync right down to every dot and dash of the character formations in his CW sending! This engineering marvel was the result of Schultz's masterful application of silent-running, highly efficient counter-rotational synchro motors(!) in his cellar shack, that were affixed to the base of the collapsible vertical. Not only did this engineering marvel garner him scads of new DX, it also managed to skewer more than a fair share of flying overhead formations of ducks --- Grommethead's log book was chockfull of choice DX pickings, alright...but so, too, was his oven regularly stocked with a fresh roast duck for his dinner...!

But there were more --- plenty more --- tales like that in those older, small-format issues of QST. Even today they are well worth a read. Yes, the topical DX tips, as such, in Rod's column are long since out of date(!) now, but the stories that he would lead them off with are timeless, and priceless, both.

Next time you happen to be at a Hamfest, and might have the good fortune of stumbling upon a cache of QSTs from that era, do take pause for a moment and look at some of the "How's DX?" entries of W9BRD. I'm sure you will re-ignite a long-dormant affection and appreciation for Rod Newkirk, at the very least, and --- if you were too young to savor his writing first-hand --- you're sure to discover a fellow amateur, now gone from our presence, who is still capable of reaching out and very effectively tickle your funny bone...and all this from a time of at least four decades ago...

In any event, you will not be sorry, I am sure...!

Edward P. Swynar (VE3CUI)
de eham

M.C.W.A.

September 2017

On the previous page there was a sorry about Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (SK). This editor grew up reading Rod's column in QST every month. There were some great stories even though much of How's DX is now irrelevant. It brought to mind many wonderful memories.

Back in the early 60's there were other great articles like "Hashafisti Scratchi" which today would be considered politically incorrect since it was supposedly written by an Oriental ham in dialect. Perhaps people were more thick skinned in those days unlike today where we now have a whole generation of easily offended "snowflakes"

Popular Electronics (now defunct) had a wonderful piece about teens who were electronic whizzes called "Carl & Jerry". Two teenagers who had great adventures and seemed to always have an electronic solution to their problems. Believe this was a monthly column.

Among the ham magazines there was "73 Magazine" published by Wayne Green, W2NSD/1 (SK) in New Hampshire. Wayne was a pioneer in ham radio and often vied for readership with QST & CQ magazines.

Wayne was atuned to emerging technologies like computers and founded a magazine called "Byte" which , unfortunately he lost ownership in when he got a divorce and his ex- got the magazine ... might say she took a byte out of him ! 73 Magazine carried a lot of easy construction projects as well as some tougher ones. One article that got him in trouble was the "Blue Box" article which told how to make a "Blue Box" in order to get free phone calld on land-lines with the technology of the day; that caused quite a stir back then. Phone companies were up in arms over it because they lost revenue (\$\$\$\$\$\$).

Wayne was one of ham radio's "bad boys", but he was more controversial than bad. Met him once at a local hamfest and that was one of the highlights of my ham radio career; Wayne was softspoken an was just another ham in the crowd.

Gone are some of the best days of ham radio and with the proliferation of "digital modes" which are barely more than an exchange of call signs and signal reports, it would seem that many traditions in the hobby are dying .

N9AVY

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STRAY Age is a measurement of CHRONOLOGICAL, not MENTAL, maturity.

[N9LCD](#) de eham



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Saw This On Craig's List ! "HAM Radio Technician License Help (Springfield)

compensation: Negotiable

Hey, I need someone to take this super easy test for me. Its like 20 questions. I can come with you if you want. How much will you charge me? Takes less than 10 minutes.

Please email me with your price.

It is preferred that you already have a liscense.

Thanks“

{Ed, This was in one of the eham forums a while back. This person who it on Craig's List has to be one of the stupidest, laziest forms of life to ever crawl on the face of the earth and probably got through school by cheating. No way should this person ever be allowed into the hobby ! }

ARRL Now on Snapchat

08/22/2017

ARRL is now on the Snapchat social media platform as ARRLHQ. Only used on mobile devices (iOS and Android), Snapchat is a way to share photos, videos, or a combination — called “snaps” — which remain available for viewing for 24 hours.

[Information](#) on how to get started on Snapchat, so you can follow ARRLHQ, is on the Snapchat website, along with [additional details](#).

{Really ??? Thought that was for teens...}

Cosmonauts Manually Deploy Three Nanosatellites with Amateur Radio Payloads

08/18/2017

International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 52 Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, and Flight Engineer Sergey Ryazanskiy manually deployed five nanosatellites during a

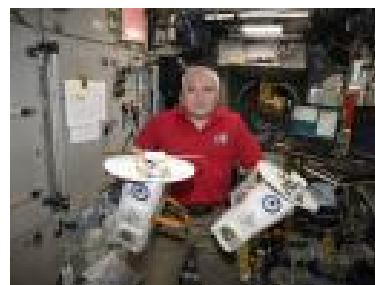
spacewalk on August 17. Three of the satellites carry Amateur Radio payloads. Tanyusha-SWSU 1 and 2 (also known as also known as Radioskaf 6 and 7 — RS6S and RS7S) will transmit either 9.6 kB FSK or FM voice announcements on 437.050 MHz, while Tomsk-TPU-120 (RS4S) will transmit FM voice announcements on 437.025. The satellites were deployed from the Pirs airlock module of the ISS. Both have been reported active.

Tanyusha 1 and 2 will transmit greetings in Russian, English, Spanish, and Chinese.

Tomsk-TPU-120 was developed by students at Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU) to test new space materials technology. It is the first-ever space vehicle with a 3D-printed structure. It was launched to the ISS in March as part of a cargo shipment.

According to Alexey Yakovlev, who heads TPU's Institute of High Technologies, the 3D printed satellite is something of a landmark for additive manufacturing, being the first example of a fully 3D printed satellite.

“Tomsk-TPU-120 is the first such project in the world, in which the entire casing of a satellite is fully 3D printed using dynamic modeling,” Yakovlev [told](#) Sputnik News. “The combination of these technologies can significantly reduce the development time and the number of full-scale tests, find new engineering solutions, and reduce the project's cost.”



Tomsk Polytechnic University celebrated its 120th anniversary in May, and, as part of the celebration, Tomsk-TPU-120 was activated while still aboard the ISS, transmitting greetings recorded by TPU students in 10 languages — Russian, English, German, French, Chinese, Arabic, Tatar, Indian, Kazakh, and Portuguese. The UHF signal from the satellite was relayed on VHF via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Kenwood dualband transceiver on the ISS, which retransmitted the signal on 145.800 MHz FM. — Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News; AMSAT UK

An Easy Build GO BOX Site Antenna

Scott Reaser, K6TAR

I describe a VHF/UHF site antenna that you can build using low cost parts found at hardware and big box home improvement stores. So what is a site antenna? I show a completed example in Figure 1 (Erected Site Antenna). It is made to pack in a GO BOX that supports three phases of emergency communications. These are:

- a) Handheld with a duckie antenna
- b) Temporary mobile operation with a small base mag-mount vertical
- c) Support of semi-fixed positions for data collection and hand off to public service authorities, and to be an intake point for shelter messaging, etc.

The site antenna is my application solution for c). The same mag-mount used for b) is also my vertical element for the site antenna. I provide a “flag” on the support mast as a place to clip on the handheld and its speaker-mic. This ground plane antenna with a little height gives me much better radiation efficiency compared to a handheld duckie. It gets out.

I use ¾ inch Schedule 40 PVC pipe and various fittings to make this antenna. The major parts are the base assembly, mast, and a steel platform for the mag-mount. The parts you will need are:

- (2) 10-foot lengths of ¾ inch Schedule 40 PVC pipe
- (3) slip caps
- (2) tees
- (3) 45 degree elbows
- (3) couplings
- (1) slip plug
- (1) ¼ -20 carriage bolt 1 inch
- (2) ¼ -20 carriage bolt 2 inch
- (3) ¼ -20 wing nuts
- (1) 5 inch joist tie plate, Simpson TP-15

A piece of masonite or thin (¼ inch or so) plywood that is big enough to hang the handheld and speaker mic.

PVC solvent cement. (check that what you have has not dried out).

A length of solid house wire, or whatever you might have, to make the ground plane radials.

The pipe is an interference fit into the couplings, etc. Nominal pipe outside diameter is 1.05 inches, and the fitting inside diameter is 1.04 inches. The solvent cement softens the pipe for a few seconds allowing you to push the pieces together. You must act quickly to get the alignment you want.

I use alternating solvent-joined and dry slip-together joints to make the site antenna. To make the dry slip joints you need to dress down the insertion part of the pipe by about 5 thousands. Figure 2 (Pipe Diameter Reduction) shows the size step. You work the size down until the pipe lightly slips into the fitting. Not exactly orthodox, but I used very light pressure on the side of a grinding wheel to shave down the parts in short order. Please do use eye protection with power tools

I make the site antenna leg tripod base from tees and 45-degree elbows. A completed base is shown in Figure 3 (Completed Base Unit). The topmost 45 elbow shown is lined-up with the free port of adjacent tee. The next tee is at right angles to the first one. Short lengths of pipe join these parts. All the joints are made with PVC cement.

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The remaining two 45 elbows mount two of the support legs. These legs are equal length at 3 feet. Cap feet are glued on one end, and the other end is dressed down. You now slightly start the 45 elbows on to the base assembly and slip in the two legs. Rotate the elbows so that the legs are about 45 degrees from vertical. One mast element with a glued-on coupling on one end and dressed down on the other can be made up and slipped into the free tee port. Make this part about 33 inches long (more on this later). Now make minor adjustments to your initial elbow insertion position to make the mast vertical in a lateral sense. Mark your settings as Shown in Figure 3 (Completed Base Unit). The elbows can now be mounted with PVC glue using these marking guides.

The remaining leg is about 29 inches long. It is shorter because it only angles downward-outward instead of also splaying out horizontally. You can size about the length you need with a yard stick, and then make a part a bit longer. A final length adjustment on the dressed-down end completes trimming the mast to vertical.

I construct two more mast sections to make up the full set of PVC parts. The set is shown in Figure 4 (Site Mast Parts). One part is 33 inches long. I make two of the mast lengths shorter so that the end pieces are not stacked when the disassembled mast is stowed in the GO BOX mast-parts foam cutout. I also mount a handheld rest, or "flag" on one of these pieces. The positioning works well for either operating standing, or from working a table-chair emergency data station setup. You have a convenient place to park the speaker-mic. I mount the flag on one of these mast sections with the pair of 2-inch $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 carriage bolts. I use this structurally overkill size so that you can find dropped parts, and also be able to assemble the antenna with little or no light. I show the installation in Figure 5 (Handheld Mounting Flag). The mast is drilled $\frac{1}{4}$ inch for the carriage bolts. I find a small pilot drilling helps get the bigger hole started through the center of the pipe.

I made things light topside by going with three radials and a small lightweight pad for the mag-mount. I make this pad from half of a Simpson TP-15 tie plate. Three radials mount to a common $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 x 1 inch carriage bolt and wing nut. A Lasco-brand slip plug mates into the top coupling. It has the required flat top for the tie plate part. The radials, the cap and the half of a TP-15 plate use one $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 x inch carriage bolt. This puts the radials at the center of the mast and the mag-mount a bit off to one side.

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The Lasco plug also first requires the same diameter reduction as you have done with the PVC pipe free ends. I drilled the cap $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and used a long carriage bolt, washer and nut to make a mandrel to hang onto the part as shown in Figure 6 (Plug Work Mandrel). You need the hole anyway.

I have made the radials 21 inches long. I put loops on both ends. I tin the connection end. I found the best match on 2 meters with the radials horizontal when I used a mono-band mag-mount. Interestingly, I found a 30 degree droop worked best with a duo-band mag-mount on 2 meters. I tried single length, 21 inch, radials on 70cm as well as radials with 21 inch and 7 inch segments. I do not find any difference. The 21 inch radials are operating as $\frac{3}{4}$ wave length elements on 70cm, and they do well. I get under 1:1.2 SWR with the radials set with 30 degrees droop (not critical).

The mag-mount antennas with RG-174U feed line are marketed stateside with a range of coax connector styles. You can also find like items on E-bay under the manufacture's Nagoya brand at an attractive price.

I have packed all these antenna parts, handheld, speaker-mic, batteries, charger, and mobile power cord into a GO BOX that looks on the pricey side, but is actually \$40 on E-bay. I believe the intended case use is for rifles, but it makes a great GO BOX (See Figure 7, GO BOX) that packs well, and is easy to carry.



STRAY You really know you are into Amateur Radio when there is stored Antenna(s) in your Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, and Your Balcony has stealth Antennas behind a roll-down Sun Shade !

[AA7LX](#) de eham

STRAY JT65 & JT8 = seeing how many QSO's your computer can make & it does not even have a license.

[W4KVV](#) de eham