



SHORT SKIP

Volume 66 Issue 4

April 2018

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REPEATERS

Freq	Location
147.000	Merrillville
147.240	St. John
442.075	Merrillville

All Lake County ARC Repeaters are open to all amateurs. All repeaters must have a PL of 131.8 set in order to access.

FROM THE PARADE STAND

by Tim, N9CA, LCARC President



April's Friday the 13th Club Meeting and Program will be presented by Bill Leaming N4GIX. His topics are Software Defined Radio (SDR), "jumboSPOT (MMVDM)", and other HR cool toys. Bill is always a do not miss great speaker to hear and learn from.

Clandestine Radio Unauthorized Mysteries. The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System (IARUMS) reports that one of China's over-the-horizon radar (OTHR) installations has been causing interference in the Amateur Radio 7 MHz band. AKA a "Woodpecker".

Another intruder includes a "single-letter beacon" transmitting either the letter "K" or the letter "T" on 7039.3 kHz. The source is believed to be in the Russian Pacific, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

The Russian Navy is operating "Cluster Beacons" on 3590 kHz and on 7039 kHz using three letter call signs all beginning with the letter "R".

Russian F1B teleprinter signal (RDL) has appeared on 7193 kHz, with an encrypted frequency-shift-keyed (50-baud) signal, originating in Kaliningrad. Authorities in Western Europe have filed official complaints.

More 40 meter mayhem. On both 7150 and 7175 Radio Ethiopia is jamming Radio Eritrea.

On 7200 The Republic of China has unleashed it's "Fire Drake Jammer" on top of Taiwan's programming.

Unauthorized Broadcaster Radio Hargeisa in Somaliland is heard on 7120 kHz (AM) daily.

At 3560 kHz using USB are Spanish-speaking "fishermen". They're heard daily at 1600 UTC or later.

Technician License Privilege Expansion in the Works ?? The ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital. The 378,000 Technician licensees comprise almost half of the US Amateur Radio population. The hope is reducing HR license dropouts.

Hamvention 2018 is May 18-20 Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio is the largest annual Amateur Radio gathering in the US. This year's event has been sanctioned as the 2018 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. The theme for this year's Hamvention is "Amateur Radio...Serving the Community. Check out the programs at their website. Hey, anyone know a good hotel ? 73, Buzz

Speaking of over the horizon radar interference, I wonder where the BUZZ at the end of the president's article is coming from?? Oh, and as you read this remember this is the April edition of Short Skip! — ed

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2018

- ☛ Meeting called to order at 7:32PM
- ☛ Introductions were made with 23 attending meeting
- ☛ Treasury's report was made. The insurance and taxes were paid. Audit complete with everything OK.
- ☛ Minutes were read from January meeting due to bad weather in February.
- ☛ Minutes were accepted as read.
- ☛ Net report February 1st had 8 check-ins February 15 had 10 check-ins, March 15 is the next net.
- ☛ Mark is doing a program tonight on APRS with Bill doing the next program on Hot Spot on April.
- ☛ Their are 15 in the classes for Amateur Radio License class the Tim is having.
- ☛ Formal meeting closed at 7:40PM
- ☛ Program complete at 8:35PM

AM EASY TO BUILD 2 METER VERTICAL DIPOLE ANTENNA

by Bill, WI9LL

Click the link below for information on how to build a light 2 meter vertical dipole.

http://wi9ll.com/2-meter-vertical-dipole-build/?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter



**Get your HAM
Radio License**

Technician Classes will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Lake County Public Library 1919 W. 81st US Rt. 30 Merrillville Indiana 46410 lower level room "C" Handicapped accessible.

Classes are over eight consecutive Thursday nights beginning Thursday February 22nd through Thursday April 12.

On April 12th, The Technician test will be available for a cost of \$15.00 at 7:00pm sharp.

My contact number is:
219-769-0673.

My email is: tim2020@sbcglobal.net

THE STORY OF RADIO BROADCASTING

A VIDEO

Click on the links below take you to the video on YouTube - ed
[The story of radio broadcasting, 1944 Westinghouse Radio Stations, Inc.](#)

“Westinghouse film about commercial radio in the United States.” A history of commercial radio broadcasting beginning with KDKA radio in 1920, followed by a description of the state of the Old Time Radio art as of 1944.

Public domain film from the Library of Congress Prelinger Archives, slightly cropped to remove uneven edges, with the aspect ratio corrected, and one-pass brightness-contrast-color correction & mild video noise reduction applied.

The soundtrack was also processed with volume normalization, noise reduction, clipping reduction, and/or equalization (the resulting sound, though not perfect, is far less noisy than the original).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/b...>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KDKA_\(AM\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KDKA_(AM))

MORE ABOUT HERB BRIER

After last month's article on Herb Rrier I got the following email from Carl, K9LA. Click on the link at the end of the article for much more information about Herb. — ed

I enjoyed the short article about Herb Brier W9EGQ in the March Short Skip.

I was a Novice in 1961 (WN9AVT) and lived in south Hammond (Riverside Park). One day Pete WN9BAB and I drove over to Herb's house in Gary to visit. We had a good time although he was bed-ridden.

By the way, he was first licensed in 1931. He received W9AD in late 1976.

Visit <http://chapter36.org/members/w9ad-w9egq.html> for many details about herb. Maybe you could add more info about Herb to the newsletter.

What I remember most about Herb was his Novice columns in Popular Electronics (there's a list of topics if you scroll down far enough).

Carl K9LA

APRIL PROGRAM

presented by Bil N4GIX Topic, Hotspots

Vice-President Bill, N4GIX will be giving a presentation on Hotspots.

Check out the LCARC website at www.w9lj.org and the Hoosier DMR Best Practices Guide at <http://tinyurl.com/nbvo7xh>

SIMPLE FIELD STRENGTH METER

The original article appeared in the Communicator - Summer 2011 edition

Anyone use a field strength meter anymore? It's kind-of like a radiometer for RF energy. Remember the radiometer? It's those little black and white squares that spin inside a glass ball when light shines at it; the brighter [or hotter] the light, the faster it spins. Cool "instrument" from the 1870's.

Well a field strength meter is sort of like that, in that in its heyday, it was used by Hams and CB'ers to measure the transmitted signal strength of any antenna - from a distance usually 1, 3, or 30 metres or whatever measured distance you had. As long as the meter was "calibrated", one could set up the antenna, mount a FS meter X number of feet or metres away, pump 1, 5, 10 or 100 watts out of it and measure the "strength" of the RF field at that measured distance. It was simple, you could tune for maximum meter deflection, usually meant your SWR was at its lowest. An OK tool if you didn't have a sophisticated watt meter or new-fangled SWR bridge.

Today, it can be used by the Ham antenna experimenter to measure the gain of the antenna - in RF volts or Db or whatever scale you had labeled on your meter, even S-units. A sensitive FS meter can pick up low power bugs, or any source of RF energy - guess what those ghost hunters use? More useful if you spent big dollars and put a tuned circuit, attenuators or a pre-amp in the circuit, and of course lots of LEDs.

But of course, good RF meters are expensive and somewhat hard to find, not many at the swap meets these days... and they are usually combined with other types of measuring devices, watt or SWR meters, thus more money than the typical cheap Ham wants to dish out.

American standard. The super-sensitive OA91 from down under or Europe/UK - Great for your crystal radio project too.

A 3.3M Ω 1% resistor, 1/8 or 1/4 watt.

A 100 picofarad capacitor

And a hand-made inductor [L1] of 7 turns on a 1/4 inch coil form with a ferrite slug (some experimentation required to cover the North American FM Band) 24 to 28 AWG lacquered wire.

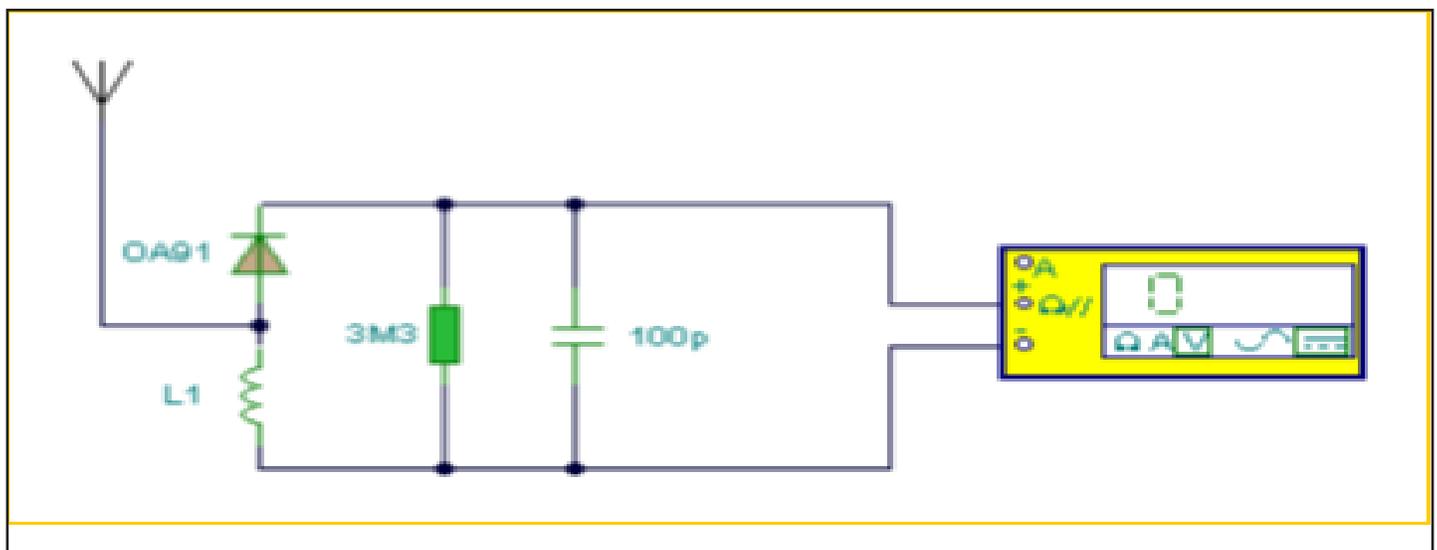
Some miscellaneous parts like an antenna or antenna connection, a tiny box to put it all in, and some jacks that your DVM leads will insert into.

Using a digital multimeter, as opposed to an analogue meter has a few advantages in this circuit.

First, the impedance of a DVM is very high, around 10M Ω per volt on most meters. This will not shunt or load down the tank circuit. Second, compared to an analogue meter, very slight differences in signal strength can be more easily observed. An third, a digital meter will have better linearity responding well to both weak and stronger signals.

All you want to see is the numbers, the higher the number, the more signal strength. Just remember a few basic rules. Keep the distance and power out the same for all your experiments, and turn off all your APRS trackers and digipeaters as they will want to add their 2-cents worth to your measurements.

If you have it in a hand-held configuration, you can "see" lobes, minimum and maximum RF fields as you walk around your test antenna. Oh, and then put a set of crystal ear plugs in place of your



Solution, make your own!! OMG! What a concept! A simple FS meter is the simplest thing to make and is good enough to see if the antenna under test is radiating more power than your old ground plane, old mobile vertical or just radiating at all in a particular direction or in all directions.

Here is what you need:

A digital voltmeter with a dc millivolt scale - every Ham should have a few in their shack.

A Germanium diode, just about any one, as long as it's Germanium, like 1N34, 1N270, 1N914 or 1N100. The best one, a non-North

DVM and you might just hear the nearest AM broadcast station... well, until they all go digital.



Scan this code to go directly to our web page
w9lj.org

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

By April 1, 2014 By Dan KB6NU

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2014 – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. “It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test,” admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC’s director of examinations. “We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can’t.”

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

“This isn’t going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests,” noted Dasher. “We’re going to be sending five-character ran-

dom code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key.”

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. “We discussed it,” said Dasher, “but decided that since most Techs can’t even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment.”

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. “We’re beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something,” she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

CLUB VOTES: BOB SHOULD BUY NEW RADIO

By WBØRUR, on the scene

LOOKOUT PEAK, MINNESOTA — A local amateur radio group has decided “enough is enough” and is taking steps to correct a “real problem.”

During their monthly meeting last Sunday night at Golden Corral, members of the Twin Peaks Amateur Radio Club (TPARC) voted unanimously to send a strongly worded message to long-time ham radio operator Bob Schemp: “You should buy a new radio.”

“This is all news to me,” says the ham. But then again, the radio doesn’t receive very well, either.”

“In July, Bob watched a Discovery Channel show about surviving an EMF blast. Since then, he’s sold all his radio gear and only uses a VHF hand-held,” says Buff Orpington, president of TPARC. “But his signal is so weak you only hear every 5th syllable on the local repeater.”

Orpington says Bob takes the radio in the car, on daily walks with the dog, and on weekend fishing trips to the lake.

“In the past, we had such great QSOs. Now it’s as if I’m talking

to myself! Members tell Bob on the repeater that he’s ‘not hitting the machine’ or he is ‘picket-fencing’...but there’s been no improvement. None at all. It’s a real issue,” said Orpington.

Members say while planning the club’s annual picnic on the weekly VHF net, the group heard Bob agree to bring a charcoal grill. But in fact, Bob was only asking for directions to a nearby military surplus store to purchase additional MREs and kerosene.

Notified of the club’s vote by telephone, Schemp told Ham Hijinks he is unaware of members telling him about a signal issue.

“This is all news to me,” says the ham. “But then again, the radio doesn’t receive very well, either.”

Bob adds that he’ll invest in a new mobile radio as soon as he finishes the Faraday cage in his master bedroom.

HamHijinks.com

As far as we know this would never happen on one of our repeaters — or on DMR — e d



“This is all news to me,” says the ham. But then again, the radio doesn’t receive very well, either.”

FOR SALE: COPPER ENERGY RESTORING RESONANT OUTLET TESTER

John Miktuk



Metaphysically Copper is known to stimulate the flow of energy and enhance psychic abilities. Known as an energy conductor copper can move energy, amplify thoughts, assist in opening the flow of blocked energy (chi) in the body, assist in channeling and communicating with higher dimensional beings. Copper has the ability to ground and transfer a wide array of vibrational frequencies from the spiritual to the physical. Copper is known to support healing by keeping the pathways for healing open. The many benefits to wearing copper make it a wonderful alternative to sterling silver. Copper has actually been used for medical purposes for thousands of years, and is still found useful medicinally today, both internally and externally. Copper can be used to treat wounds, skin diseases, and other internal diseases. Copper is said to improve blood circulation, increase energy and assist the body in detoxifying. Copper is a mineral that assists in improving mental agility.

Shocking results or your money back! Sale ends April 2 — ed

FCC APPROVES SAME SEX CONNECTIONS

By WBØRUR, on the scene



now be used for a direct connection to another quarter inch phono plug. This is truly a landmark day!"

Today's announcement has left technical specialists scratching their collective heads over the decision.

"I'm all for parity among cables and connections," says Dr. Phillip Von Beckentoffer, the creator of the small NGF style connector which no one uses and doesn't even know exists.

"But this creates more issues than answers. Exactly HOW do I get the two male connectors to stay together? I can't get it to work. I experimented with this type of thing in college."

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a move being touted by proponents as "ground breaking" and by critics as "the end of the world," the Federal Communications Commission has announced approval of same sex cable connections.

Cable rights activists vowed to get the measure approved through congressional legislative channels should the FCC not take prompt action.

FCC Commissioner Roberto De Stankhousen announced today's decision as members of the press and the cable connection rights group "Friends and Users of Cable Compatibility" gathered in the Rayburn Office building lobby.

"No longer will it be necessary to connect a PL-259 with an SO-239. An RCA male no longer need feel incompatible when partnered with another RCA male. A quarter inch phono plug may

Outraged cabling technicians are vowing to appeal the FCC decision. Thomas "Red" Scrollinger – an experienced cable tech – questions the decision from his office in downtown Petaluma, California.

"There's no way to mate them together. Further, how robust is the FCC's decision? How encompassing is this decision? Can I use an RCA male with a BNC male? How about a PL-259? It's wide open for interpretation. Frankly, I don't like all the gray area."

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The FCC ruling goes into effect 90 days afterwards.

www.hamhijinks.com

