Published by the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

TECH CLASS MAY 9&16—DETAILS PAGE 4

Rip's Report

May 2015

Happy Birthday

Wayne-K2WG
Martha-KC2MDY
Mary-KC2SAG

Your dues are important to this club! We support the operation of the repeater at between 700 and 800 dollars per year just in electric bills. We are always upgrading and improving and maintaining the system. Some of this expense is covered by our members. Our insurance is $320 per year. Food alone for Field Day and the picnic is over $300. We purchase some kind of snack for each meeting at probably around an average of $15 per month and about another $100 plus for the goody fest. Other than dues our income is sparse. The only substantial income has been the fall tag sale and the goods to sell are running out. The income from the raffle is not a lot. Our paid roster so far in 2015 is only 26 members paid. About $600 income from dues so far. A rough estimate is about $1600 expense and about $600 income leaving us in the hole for $1000. At the current rate we will be broke in two years! I know that several more members will pay their dues soon, but if you could pay sooner it would make it easier to plan. These figures are obviously a rough estimate but i think you can all see the potential dilemma looming. Please consider helping to maintain your club. Not only dues but your attendance at the meetings and your donations toward the fall tag sale and other needed support.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

RIP VAN WINKLE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC. Est. 1951

GOD BLESS AMERICA

**Please join us on the Tuesday night Roundtable on 147.210 at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome!
Use the EchoLink (K2RVW-R) if need be.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next Meeting
MAY 18
CHURCHTOWN FIREHOUSE
2219 Cty 27
Hudson, NY
All are Welcome

Our May meeting will feature Len, N2LEN, on Echolink

Echolink.. Is software that allows amateur radio stations to communicate with each other over the internet using streaming audio. This program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations or from computer to station greatly enhancing amateur radios communications capabilities. Recently, Applications (apps) have been made to easily use the software on android typed phones and tablets and also iPhone i Pads and iPods. It has also been used successfully as a companion tool, to assist with emergency communications at times of need.

Newsletters back to June 2006 on the web site!

RVWARS WEB PAGE

The Web Page has been updated! We added some info on the main page to try to keep folks aware of events. Comments and suggestions are welcome. We will keep Dave Clappers design at least for now. Let me know what you think.
www.rvwars.com

Join our Yahoo Group at the bottom of our web page. Www.rvwars.com Simply enter your email address.

May Meeting 5/18/2015 CHURCHTOWN

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK CHECK IT OUT

2015 dues are $25.00 per individual $30.00 for family $5.00 for students and active Military are free.

2fun2fun. com

FYI

RVWARS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. As such all monetary donations are tax deductible and donations of equipment are deductible. Please consider donating your idle equipment to the club for our use or for sale at the annual tag sale or auction.

New DTMF codes for the New Vantage Vue Weather Station:

500-Wind Speed & Direction
501-Outside Temperature
502-Indoor Humidity
503-Outdoor Humidity
504-High Wind Speed (since midnight)
505-High Outside Temperature (since midnight)
506-Low Outside Temperature (since midnight)
Hopefully a Rain reading will be added soon. But these are what is available at this point. The system is installed and ready to use. Please feel free to try the codes and see what is going on at the repeater site at Forest Lake. (the outside temperature from the new system is different than that from the controller. They are different sensors.)

TO USE THE BELOW CODES SIMPLY KEY UP AND ENTER THE CODE WITH YOUR KEY PAD

SOME FUN 147.210 REPEATER DTMF CODES

Site Info:		Daily High/Low	
228-Outdoor Temp	>	900	
229-Indoor Temp	>	910	Resets at 1:00 AM Daily
230-DC Volt Bat 1	>	930	
231-AC Volt read	>	920	
232-DC Volt Bat 2	>	940	

****

450-To check your input to the repeater. Key up and type 450, when it says "ready" QUICKLY key up and record your short message , un-key and it will play it back as it heard it.

WEATHER RADIO
310-ON
325-OFF
These codes will work on 449.925 as well as 2 Meters.
I would like to add a basic weather station sometime as well so we could access wind speed etc. up there.
Feel Free to try them!

Upcoming Events

ARES

Our meeting place is being finalized at the County EOC. I have the equipment to make the ARES ID badges and if anyone would like to get that done you can stop at my shack and we will make them. Otherwise we will make them at our first meeting. We have several club members interested in getting involved. Practice traffic nets will be in the near future. We will NOT be getting involved with RACES, at least not right away.

Anyone interested in joining ARES please pay your dues and let me know. wa2uet@taconic.net

Weekly Nets

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:00 p.m.
Informal Roundtable on the 147.210 repeater ALL are welcome.

1st Wednesday of the Month
Columbia Greene-Emergency Net on the N2LEN 147.150 Repeater 7:00 PM

Repeaters

BACK ON THE AIR!!!

147.210/147.810 NO PL tone
449.925/444.925 NO PL tone
224.280/222.680 NO PL tone

Vital Statistics

President — Tom Gutierrez, N2NZD
Vice President — Don Peterson,W1SWM
Secretary — Carl Roby,WB2TCV
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Carl Verderber WA2UJX
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Repeaters — 147.210 224.280 449.925
Club Call — K2RVW
Club Special Event Call—WD2K
Web Page — http://www.rvwars.com
NEWS E-mail — wa2uet@taconic.net
Yahoo Group
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/

John Fritze K2QY gave a very interesting talk on "SOTA for Geezers" at the April club meeting. The SOTA website tells us: **Summits on the Air (SOTA)** is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone - **this is not just for mountaineers**! There are awards for activators (those who ascend to the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, a local hilltop or are even Activators on other summits).

SOTA is now fully operational in many countries across the world. Each country has its own Association which defines the recognized SOTA summits within that Association. Each summit earns the activators and chasers a score which is related to the height of the summit. Certificates are available for various scores, leading to the prestigious "Mountain Goat" and "Shack Sloth" trophies. An Honour Roll for Activators and Chasers is maintained at the SOTA online database. See http://www.sota.org.uk/ for more information.

SPRING TECHNICIAN CLASS, MAY 9 AND 16
INFORMATION ON PAGE 4

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
Treasurers Report
April 20, 2015

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct		**$1391.44**
Rcpts:	Dues	$225.00
	Raffle	$105.00
	Return def radio	$59.99
	Auction	$78.00
	Total	**$467.99**
Exp:	NYSEG	$52.08
	Raffle Prize	$71.90
	Claverack Park	$150.00
	Subway	$11.98
	Total	**$423.08**
Checking Bal		**$1573.47**
Petty Cash		**$50.00**
Savings Acct Bal		**$1011.51**
Total RVWARS monies		**$2634.98**

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE COURSE

The East Chatham Fire Company, Inc. will be hosting and co-sponsoring an Amateur 'Ham' Radio licensing course with the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society. This course will be held on Saturday, May 9th from 8 AM until 5 PM and on Saturday, May 16th from 8 AM until 5 PM. The FCC licensing exam will be given at 5 PM on the 16th.

There is no fee for the course but a textbook is required and purchase of that textbook is the responsibility of the student. The text book is "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Third Edition, Level 1, Technician". This book is available on-line from many sources but the best avenue for purchase is probably using the ARRL website at www.arrl.org. The cost is approximately $30.00. There will be a fee for taking the FCC exam and at this point in time that fee is $15.00. The ARRL web site is a valuable source of information about all aspects of Amateur 'Ham' Radio.

It is important that each student read Chapters 1 through 5 before attending the May 9th session. There will not be enough time during class sessions to cover everything needed to be successful with the exam. So, each student must be willing to read the material in the textbook. Class time will be spent with demonstrations and 'hands-on' activities to reinforce the material provided in the textbook.

Attached is the schedule for the two day course. You will also need to bring a photo ID with you on May 16th to prove to the exam proctors that 'you are who you claim to be'.

If you have any further questions and/or to register for this class, email me at your convenience:
wayneg1231@fairpoint.net.

73 for now (you will learn what that means during the course)….

Wayne – K2WG

TWO DAY COURSE SCHEDULE

Saturday May 9, 2015: 8 AM to Noon
1. Welcome to Amateur Radio
2. Radio Signals, Waves and Modulation
3. Radio Equipment Basics
4. Math Review
5. Electricity
6. Electronic Components

Saturday May 9, 2015: 1 PM to 5 PM
1. Types of Radios and Radio Circuits
2. Propagation
3. Antennas and Feed Lines
4. Practical Antenna Systems
5. Basic Amateur Radio station

Saturday May 16, 2015: 8 AM to Noon
1. Power Supplies and RF Interference
2. Communicating with Other Hams
3. License Terms and Working with the FCC
4. Bands and Privileges
5. International Rules and Call Signs

Saturday May 16,2015: 1 PM to 5 PM
1. Operating Regulations
2. Electrical Safety
3. Radio Frequency Exposure
4. Mechanical Safety
5. Practice exam[s]
6. VE Session

PLEASE COME TO YOUR CLUB MEETINGS.

WE NEED YOU!

Directions from the north to Churchtown firehouse…

Take exit 12 off of I90 onto route 9 south. Travel 4.6 miles to the traffic circle and take the first right out of the circle (not the mall) onto route 9H. About 11.5 miles you will come to a traffic light intersection of 9H and route 66. Go straight through that light for about 3.6 miles to the next traffic light at 9H and route 23. Again go straight through that light for about 1.1 miles to a left turn off of 9H onto County Route 27. It is marked. Stay on route 27 for about 2.5 miles and the Firehouse is on the right with a sign out front. Park in the lot just before the building.

Firehouse from RVW Bridge and 9G.

From the intersection of 9G and Route 23 take 23 about 2.7 miles to the traffic light at the intersection of Route 9. Go straight through the traffic light and travel about 2.7 miles on route 9 to the next traffic light at the intersection of 9H and 82. Turn left at that light onto Route 9H about 2.8 miles to County 27. Stay on route 27 for about 2.5 miles and the Firehouse is on the right with a sign out front. Park in the lot just before the building.

AMAZON DONATES TO ARRL!

Amazon.com has a program named Smile that donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the registered charity of your choice. There is no cost to you. The ARRL is now registered as a charitable organization for the program.

To participate, go to http://smile.amazon.com. If you don't already have an Amazon account, you'll need to set one up. You'll be asked to sign up for the Smile program which is only a couple of clicks to select a registered organization. Simply select "AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE INC"

Once you've signed up, please do your Amazon shopping by going to http://smile.amazon.com, and 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to the ARRL. Signing up is a one time process.

This is a simple and painless way to contribute to the League. For a FAQ about the program, visit http://smile.amazon.com/about.

73 de Mike N2YBB

ARRL Hudson Division
Director: Mike Lisenco, N2YBB
n2ybb@arrl.org

RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER

The weather is getting nicer. I will post on the Yahoo group when we can go up on the hill and do some house keeping.

We have STILL not tested the Generator setup for the repeater. I just have not gotten much done in some time. I will try to get that done before something major happens.

Stan, WA2UET

RVWARS ON FACEBOOK!

There is now a group on Facebook for the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society. Just search for the above. There are currently 13 members since Tom started the group about a month ago. Please join in!

CURMUDGEON NEEDED!

It's imperative that we find another "Curmudgeon" as soon as possible! I have printed all of WD2K's great Musings that I have.
Someone out there should be able to carry on the tradition.
Please send me your Musings!!!

ARRL has just published another PowerPoint Jeopardy-type game for instructors to use in exam-prep classes for the General-class test. The game was produced by our own W2XM. The new game, and several old ones, can be found at http://www.arrl.org/instruction-exam-practice-and-review.

The Meeting room in the Churchtown Firehouse is HUGE. Bring yourself and lots of other folks.

2015 Dues
Mail to:
Stan Engel, WA2UET
PO Box 153
Ghent, NY 12075
Or bring with you to meeting
Make checks Payable to RVWARS

Join the RVWARS Yahoo Group. Go to the www.rvwars.com web site and scroll to the bottom of the page and simply enter your email address into the box.

Churchtown Firehouse

From the West RVW Bridge or 9G take Rt 23 to the 9H intersection and either go North to School House Rd and to Churchtown Firehouse or go through the light and take Bells Pond Road to the Firehouse. From the North or from Hudson go south on 9H, from the traffic light in Claverack, about 1 mile, to County Route 27 on the left then 2.4 miles to the Firehouse.

Park in the lot to the right of the Firehouse and enter through the Main Entrance. Someone will be listening to the repeater and will help you if need be. "FIREHOUSE" is indicated on the right side of the map.

New and Old HAMS needed!

Columbia County (ARES) "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" and (RACES) "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services" are seeking new members. We currently meet once a month prior to the regular meeting. We do an occasional public service event as ARES members where we utilize our communications skills and equipment to assist with public safety. We assist the County with Civil Emergencies and disaster communications when they request us. No equipment required. No experience required. Total voluntary participation. Your help is appreciated when needed to maintain communications during disaster, emergencies or public service events. If you think you might be interested, please email me or ask at field day or an RVW meeting.

Thank you.
TomG (n2nzd@taconic.net)

We are going to put a HF/VHF station in the firehouse meeting area. Details are just being talked about. If it works out members and guests could do some operating before and after the meeting.

People are like Oreos. The good stuff is on the inside.

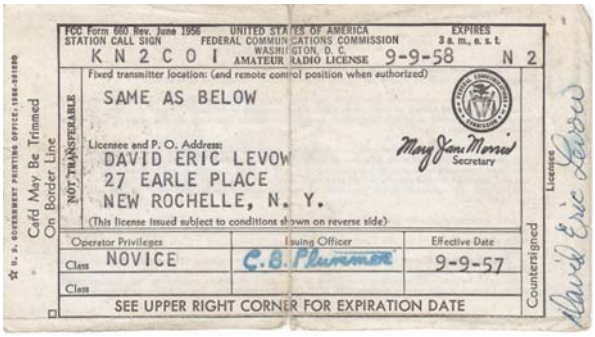
Ham Radio History by David Levow, K2COI

Stan has finally motivated me to write something, but we agreed it would not be under the curmudgeon label.

This is mainly my history with our hobby, which for me began in 10th grade, when a classmate and I decided to study for the novice exam. We rigged up a buzzer with an old telegraph key and began practicing Morse code at 5wpm. For some reason we never listened to W1AW's code transmissions but were content to bang away for each other at that awesome speed.

We both took and passed the exam (KN2COI for me, KN2CPF for him but someone else has that call sign now). I built a Heathkit and dumped a piece of wire out the upstairs window (an early vertical) and was on the air. My very first QSO was a K6 on 40 meters – I could hardly believe I worked California for my first contact.

I joined the Communications Club of New Rochelle, got involved in field days, hidden transmitter hunts and civil defense. I'd lug a around a Gonset (remember those?) with a handful of crystals.


FCC Form 660 Rev. June 1956 — UNITED STATES OF AMERICA — EXPIRES
STATION CALL SIGN — FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION — 3 a.m., e.s.t.
K N 2 C O I — WASHINGTON, D. C. — AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE — 9-9-58 — N 2
Fixed transmitter location: (and remote control position when authorized)
SAME AS BELOW
Licensee and P. O. Address:
DAVID ERIC LEVOW
27 EARLE PLACE
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
(This license issued subject to conditions shown on reverse side)
Mary Jane Morrow, Secretary
NOT TRANSFERABLE
Card May Be Trimmed On Border Line
Operator Privileges — Issuing Officer — Effective Date
Class NOVICE — C.B. Plummer — 9-9-57
Class
SEE UPPER RIGHT CORNER FOR EXPIRATION DATE
Countersigned
Licensee
David Eric Levow


26 The Standard-Star, New Rochelle, N.Y., Wed., June 11, 1958

WINNING TEAM in the June Hidden Transmitter Hunt of the Communications Club of New Rochelle shows the coat-hanger antenna it used to find the hidden unit in 40 minutes. From left are Ira Frankel and Phil Schrag, Pelham, Gordon Stein and David Levow of New Rochelle, acting president.

Hidden Transmitter Found In Communication Club Hunt

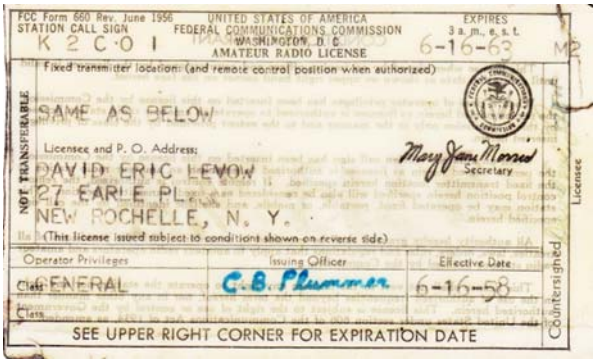
The newly-reorganized Communications Club of New Rochelle staged its second hidden transmitter hunt Monday night. The search began with seven cars, each equipped with mobile radio gear and direction-finding antenna, attempting to locate a similar transmitter hidden in a used car lot. The transmitter was located first by a team consisting of Ira Frankel, Phil Schrag, Gordon Stein and Dave Levow, acting secretary. The team established the general area of transmission with a direction-indicating antenna made from coat hanger wire.

Similar hunts will take place at intervals as part of the errort of CCNR to assist Civil Defense authorities in operation of communication facilities. Other activities include participation in the 24-hour Field Day of the American Radio Relay League, national organization of amateur radio operators.

Meetings are held at Columbus School, Washington avenue, on the first and third Monday evenings of the month at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting will be held June 16. Interested parties are invited.

The Club is also conducting classes in radio fundamentals and Morse code to enable beginners to qualify for the Federal Communications Commission license. Classes are held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Columbus School.

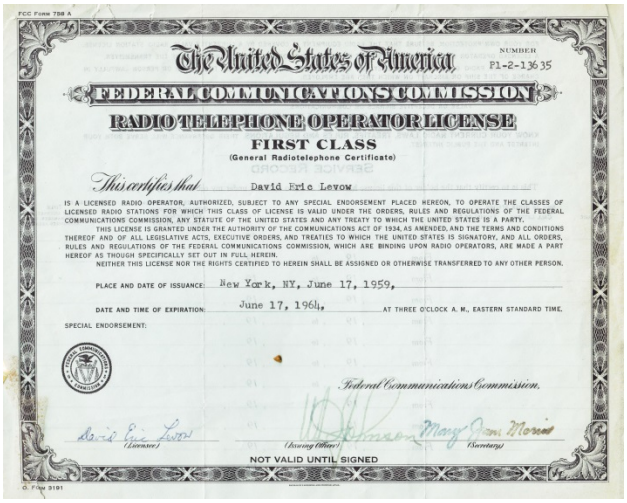
I got my code speed up to where I passed the general.


FCC Form 660 Rev. June 1956 — UNITED STATES OF AMERICA — EXPIRES
STATION CALL SIGN — FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION — 3 a.m., e.s.t.
K 2 C O I — WASHINGTON, D. C. — AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE — 6-16-63
Fixed transmitter location: (and remote control position when authorized)
SAME AS BELOW
Licensee and P. O. Address:
DAVID ERIC LEVOW
27 EARLE PL...
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
(This license issued subject to conditions shown on reverse side)
Mary Jane Morrow, Secretary
NOT TRANSFERABLE
Operator Privileges — Issuing Officer — Effective Date
Class GENERAL — C.B. Plummer — 6-16-58
Class
SEE UPPER RIGHT CORNER FOR EXPIRATION DATE
Countersigned
Licensee

In those days Pan Am would make these QSL cards for hams at no cost.

I continued working mostly CW after I got my general, 10-15-20 meters and was spending lots of time on the air (I was still in high school). Got lots of great DX.

For reasons I can't recall I didn't want to take the time to study for an Advanced or Extra class license, but decided to study for a commercial ticket. I had visions of being a shipboard RT operator, introducing myself to the world as "Sparks." I got my First Class Radio Telephone license when I was 16. I could be the radio operator or engineer at any radio station in the country although I really did it to prove to myself I could rather than as a way of getting a job. (continued next page.)



The United States of America
NUMBER P1-2-13635
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
RADIO TELEPHONE OPERATOR LICENSE
FIRST CLASS
(General Radiotelephone Certificate)

This certifies that David Eric Levow

IS A LICENSED RADIO OPERATOR, AUTHORIZED, SUBJECT TO ANY SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT PLACED HEREON, TO OPERATE THE CLASSES OF LICENSED RADIO STATIONS FOR WHICH THIS CLASS OF LICENSE IS VALID UNDER THE ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, ANY STATUTE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ANY TREATY TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS A PARTY.
THIS LICENSE IS GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED, AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF AND OF ALL LEGISLATIVE ACTS, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND TREATIES TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS SIGNATORY, AND ALL ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, WHICH ARE BINDING UPON RADIO OPERATORS, ARE MADE A PART HEREOF AS THOUGH SPECIFICALLY SET OUT IN FULL HEREIN.
NEITHER THIS LICENSE NOR THE RIGHTS CERTIFIED TO HEREIN SHALL BE ASSIGNED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED TO ANY OTHER PERSON.

PLACE AND DATE OF ISSUANCE: New York, NY, June 17, 1959,
DATE AND TIME OF EXPIRATION: June 17, 1964, AT THREE O'CLOCK A. M., EASTERN STANDARD TIME.
SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT:

Federal Communications Commission.

(Examiner) (Acting Chief) (Secretary)

NOT VALID UNTIL SIGNED

The United States of America
NUMBER T3-2-572
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
RADIO TELEGRAPH THIRD CLASS OPERATOR PERMIT
(Special Radiotelegraph Certificate)

This certifies that David E. Levow

IS A LICENSED RADIO OPERATOR, AUTHORIZED, SUBJECT TO ANY SPECIAL INDORSEMENT PLACED HEREON, TO OPERATE THE CLASSES OF LICENSED RADIO STATIONS FOR WHICH THIS CLASS OF LICENSE IS VALID UNDER THE ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, ANY STATUTE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ANY TREATY TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS A PARTY.
THIS LICENSE IS GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED, AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF AND OF ALL LEGISLATIVE ACTS, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND TREATIES TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS SIGNATORY, AND ALL ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, WHICH ARE BINDING UPON RADIO OPERATORS, ARE MADE A PART HEREOF AS THOUGH SPECIFICALLY SET OUT IN FULL HEREIN.
NEITHER THIS LICENSE NOR THE RIGHTS CERTIFIED TO HEREIN SHALL BE ASSIGNED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED TO ANY OTHER PERSON.

PLACE AND DATE OF ISSUANCE: New York, NY, Feb. 10, 1961,
DATE AND TIME OF EXPIRATION: Feb. 10, 1966, AT THREE O'CLOCK A. M., EASTERN STANDARD TIME.
SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT:

Federal Communications Commission.

(Examiner) (Acting Chief) (Secretary)

NOT VALID UNTIL SIGNED

The final frontier for me was a commercial Radio Telegraph license. The stumbling block would be the code, of course. General was 13 wpm, the commercial license was 18, so I listened to W1AW and got my speed up to the low 20's. That was copying of course – I could send in the high 30's with a bug.

That test was given downtown NY on Washington Street. The FCC had an office there, so down I went and sat around for a couple hours. They kept calling names to go into the examining room, including many people who arrived after I did. I asked why I was kept waiting – turns out they were all there for their general and I was the only one for the commercial. So they finally took me, I passed and got that license a few days short of my 18th birthday.

Over the years my interest in ham radio has gone up and down, mostly down recently. I keep thinking I'll get back into it but seems like other things always get in the way. I guess you can tell I'm a bit of a pack rat, keeping all this stuff but you never know when Stan might come calling! End...

KD2DNJ on St. Croix

This past January, KD2DNJ spent a couple of weeks on the US Virgin Island of St. Croix, taking along a KX3 low power transceiver and two portable antennas. The KX3 only puts out 10 watts with a 13 volt external battery, 5 watts on internal ones, so having a good antenna is critical. Since the ham gear had to fit into a carry-on along with clothes for two weeks, space was also a concern. Finally, there was the TSA and its battery limitations to consider. The antennas and radials were tuned to 14.3 MHZ and all contacts were SSB.

The antennas selected were a shock corded BuddiPole with parts to make a full 20 meter quarter wavelength vertical 8 feet high and four quarter wave length wire radials to slope down to four feet. No power robbing coils. The second was an all wire quarter wavelength 20 meter vertical with four radials and nylon cord enough to throw it up into a tree and stretch out the radials. A small A123 LiPo battery complying with TSA rules was also carried on in order to get the transceiver up to 10 watts output.

The first attempt was from the top of a 980' mountain we climbed behind the resort. At the peak near the Bodkin windmill's stone remains we found a good tree amid some smaller trees and after several attempts succeeded in throwing a line over a branch 25 feet up. We hung the 16 foot wire vertical antenna from that and stretched four 16 foot radials from the bottom at 8 feet sloping down to approximately four feet depending on the trees and brush we could find to attach an end to. We made several 20 meter contacts in the lower Midwest and South East before it started to rain and we packed up and headed back down. This whole rig, radio, battery and antenna, weighed less than five pounds, so it was not difficult to pack it up the mountain.

The second location was at the end of the beach near the resort on the North side of the island. Given the low power and altitude, we set the antenna up right on the tide line. First a short homemade PVC stake was driven into the sand and the 8 foot Buddipole erected on it with a 16 foot vertical whip on top. Four 16 foot radials were strung to pieces of brush we had cut and dug into the sand so the ends were about four feet high and one was actually over the waves. With the salt water "amplifier" we were quite successful in working 20 meters into the upper Midwest and the Southwest. The low power made it difficult to get other ham's attention, but once we got it we usually received 57 reports.

The last location was on Point Udahl at the East end of the island. We wanted to try this because it is the Eastern most point in the United States. We set up in a small park about 100 yards from the Atlantic. Same antenna as on the beach, but there were three tall aluminum flagpoles nearby that probably distorted the signal. We only made two contacts from Point Udahl, one in Florida and one in Massachusetts. Here we had little going for us, no saltwater "amplifier", no elevation, and only 10 watts. We did have a neighbor though, the enormous gimbal mounted parabolic antenna for the Eastern end of the Very Large Array radio telescope. It was set in a hollow in the hills, probably to try to protect it from hurricanes that periodically devastate the island.

Overall, I would rate a successful experiment and a fun diversion from the usual sight seeing or lying on the beach.

What Would You Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

For the past three or four years, I've been threatening to buy a new radio to replace my ICOM IC-746PRO. The IC-746PRO is a great rig, though, and I've had trouble pulling the trigger on a $3k – $5k or more purchase. The radio that I've had my eye on is the Elecraft K3. Without a doubt the K3 is a better rig than the 746PRO, and it's certainly worth the price that Elecraft is asking. The question I keep asking myself, though, is, "Am I going to have $5,000 more fun with a K3?"

To put it another way, the question is, assuming that I have a $5,000 budget to spend on amateur radio gear over the next year or two or three, what's the best way to spend it? How can I maximize my purchases so that I have the most fun?

At this point, I think that I've decided not to buy that new rig and instead buy equipment that will help me make my own rigs. Some of the items that I have my eye on include:

* Aoyue 968A+ SMD Digital Hot Air Rework Station (I have actually already purchased this unit.)
* Rigol DS1102E 100MHz, Dual Channel, 1 GSa/s Digital Oscilloscope
* Rigol DSA815-TG Spectrum Analyzer
* A more professional workbench to replace the folding table that I'm currently using.
* Peaberry SDR V2 Kit
* More keys! I'd love to get a fancy Begali or N3ZN paddle, and the other day someone told me about the UR5CDX keys, which look like great deals.

Even if I purchased everything on this list, I'll have spent less than $5,000.

One consequence of going this route is that I'll have less time for operating. I'm betting (hoping?) that the extra time spent on tinkering will be just as much fun, or even more fun than I'm having now.

It also means that I'll be going to Dayton with a much different mindset than I have the past couple of years. Instead of spending my time configuring the perfect K3 in my head, I'll be looking for kits and scouring the flea market looking for parts.

I may be overthinking this, but like most amateurs, I have a limited budget to spend on amateur radio. That being the case, making conscious decisions about how to spend that money should help me have more fun with ham radio, and that's the goal, isn't it?

What do you think? Is this the right way to go, or am I going to regret this decision? If you've made a similar decision, I'd love to hear from you.

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When not making crucial decisions about his amateur radio career, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Here is a good visual calculator, for Ohms Law. It may help some understand it better.

https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/ohms-law/ohms-law_en.html

Yaesu MH31 Microphone Dynamic to Electret Conversion

The MH31 dynamic microphone on my FT-817 behaved erratically for a few days and would work normally for a bit if I tapped it. The assumption that a bad cable or perhaps bad internal solder joint was responsible was off the mark as the dynamic element itself failed. Apparently one of the very fine wire leads from the voice coil on the fragile plastic diaphragm opened up.

The dynamic element was made by Foster; a replacement was not readily available. An Internet search revealed several modification procedures which replaced the dynamic element with an electret which also resulted in significantly higher output. One description installed two replacement elements, an electret and a Heil HC4 dynamic element, using the old tone switch on the back of the MH31 to switch between the two elements; the Heil HC4 providing a so called 'SSB dream machine' voice quality, with punch and emphasis on the highs.

I had some electret elements in the junk box and chose one by CUI (CMI5247TFK) , with a pretty flat response out to 15KHz. The usual simple modification of a dynamic transducer to an electret element, assuming that dc voltage is supplied to the mike, is to wire a resistor of approximately 4700 ohms between the hot pin of the electret and the wire bringing power to the mike and to take the audio from the junction of the hot pin of the electret and the resistor.

It's possible to choose a resistor value that matches the radio's input impedance but with the just the simple resistor load, impedance and output level can't be independently adjusted, and the general result is substantially higher output than the original microphone, perhaps as high as +20db.

I wanted to preserve both the impedance and the level of the original MH31 as well as make use of the tone selection switch on the rear of the mike. First step was to securely mount the new electret element securely in the mike housing.

Figure 1 below shows the electret element mounted in a disk of plastic foam cut to fit the inset for the original dynamic element.

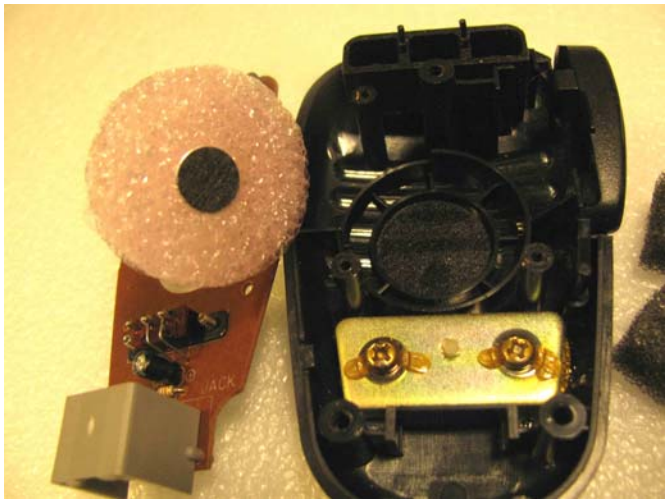
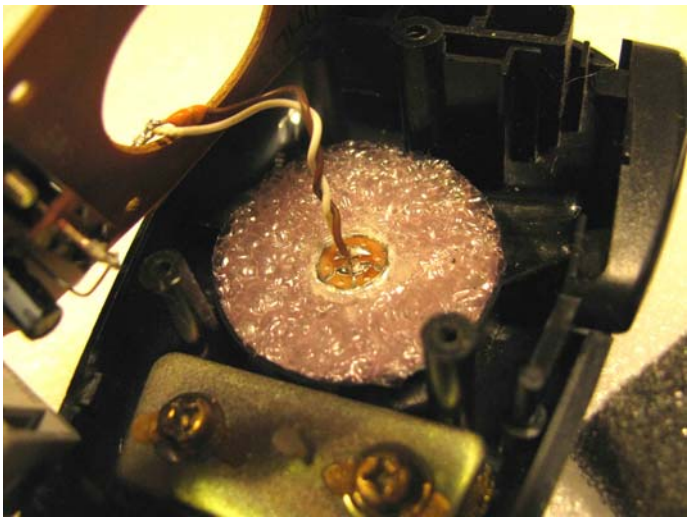
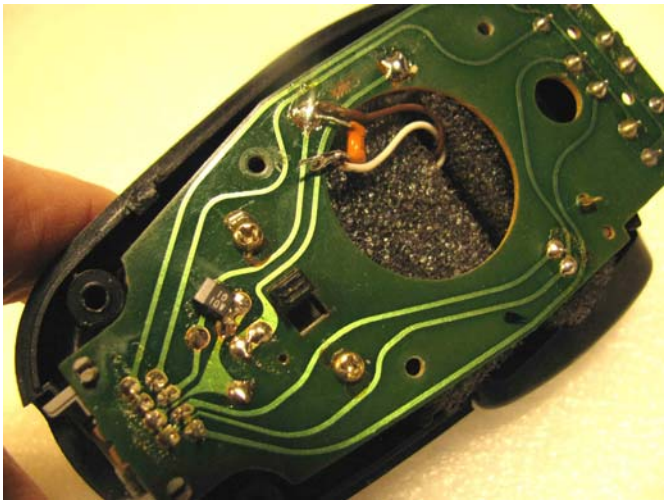


Figure 2, illustrates the foam disk containing the electret pressed into the recess in the front housing which originally received the dynamic element. A little silicone glue fixes the electret firmly in the foam disk. The disk is a friction fit into the front housing recess.

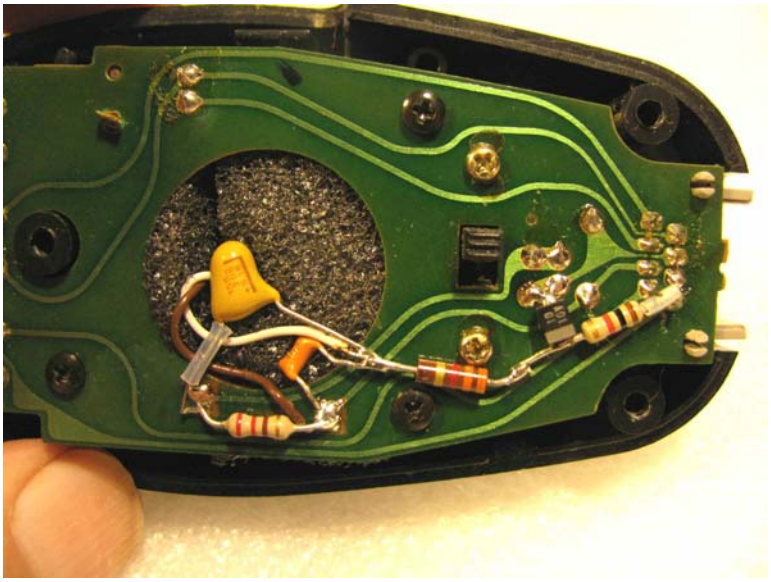


The 8 pin MH31 connector brings 5 volts to the mike housing. To provide some additional filtering for noise possibly riding in on the 5 volt lead, a 10 microfarad chip capacitor and 1K resistor was soldered between ground and the 5 volt pin at the mike connector solder pads. The negative side of the tantalum chip cap is soldered to a ground point near the tone switch as shown in the next picture. A 0.001uf ceramic capacitor between the negative and output (positive) leads of the electret is for RF bypassing. The white lead and the other capacitor lead are twisted together, soldered and left hanging for the moment.



The additional components, a tantalum coupling capacitor and three ¼ watt resistors are then added as shown in the next figure.

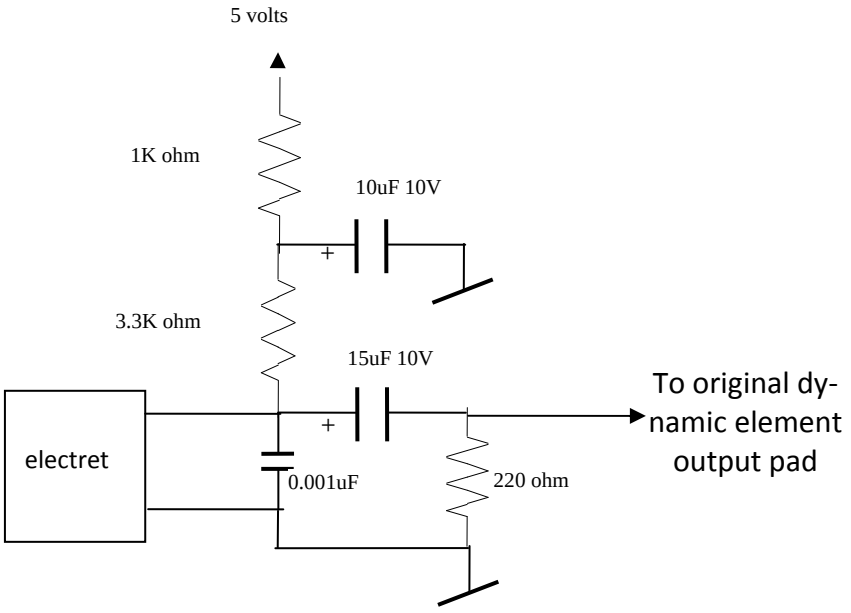
One end of the 1K resistor is soldered to the 5V pad at the mike connector and protected with a short piece of plastic tubing. The other lead of the 1K resistor is long enough to permit soldering the positive tab of the 10uF capacitor with enough of a stub to solder to the 3.3K resistor as an 'air' lead, not connected to any PC board trace.



The other 3.3K resistor lead is trimmed to join the previously prepared white output lead of the electret and 0.001uF bypass cap. A 220 ohm resistor bridges the original termination pads of the dynamic element in the lower part of the photo while a 15uF tantalum couples the output of the electret at the junction of the while lead and 3.3K resistor, to the 220 ohm resistor, which is soldered to the original output trace of the mike.

The output impedance matches the original element and preserves the rolloff change of the tone switch with about 6db increase in output level. The increase in output level is relatively small and within what one would expect between different mikes for, in this case, an FT-817.

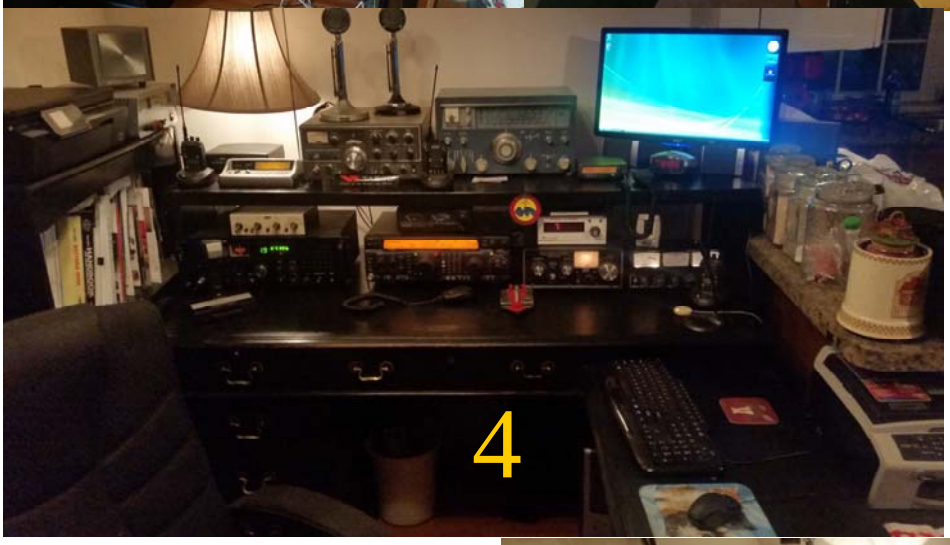
The complete circuit is shown below:

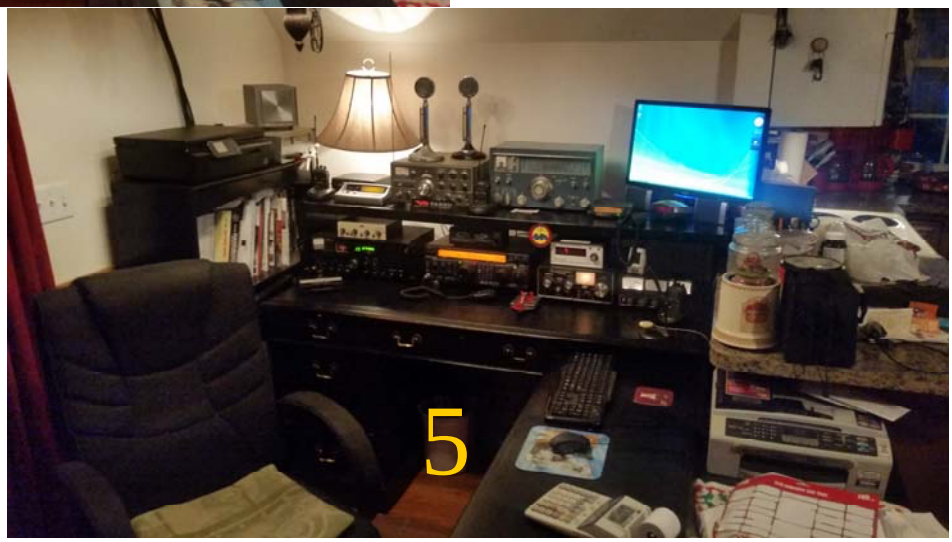


Jules, K2KGJ

TODD'S SHACK REBUILD!

Today was a day of shack clean up so here's what I did to spruce things up. I added a shelf to the desk and rearranged my desk this year with the new purchase of a Yaesu Ft 920 (2015) and my national 270 (2013) and my other radios I had from 2010 Kenwood ts520s, Kenwood tm733, galaxy saturn I had before I was a ham. The added shelf was just what I needed for my collection to date. I'm sure ill be adding more stuff in the future.
Todd
De kc2ykm
Pic 1 the mess I had
Pic 2 the new wood all painted and drying for the shelf
Pic 3 the new shelf installed
Pic 4 & 5 the completed project





Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS)

ARISS lets students worldwide experience the excitement of talking directly with crew members of the International Space Station, inspiring them to pursue interests in careers in science, technology, engineering and math, and engaging them with radio science technology through amateur radio.

- A telebridge contact with students at **East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Youth In Aviation Program (ECCTAI YIAP)** and **Oxon Hill High School, Oxon Hill, Maryland, USA**, via K6DUE was made with astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, IZØUDF, on **Fri 2015-04-24** 16:41:27 UTC 64 deg.

- Samantha was heard for about 2 minutes from this area during that QSO on 145.800 using a 4-element 2 meter beam on a tripod pointed southeast (127°) and at an elevation of 50°.

Samantha Cristoforetti, IZØUDF, (born April 26, 1977 in Milan, Italy) is an engineer, the third woman astronaut in the European Space Agency, and *the first Italian woman astronaut*. She is one of the Expedition 42 crew members and is scheduled to be part of Expedition 43 aboard the International Space Station. She is presently the only ham aboard the ISS.

The International Space Station is a unique place – a convergence of science, technology and human innovation that demonstrates new technologies and makes research breakthroughs not possible on Earth.

It is a microgravity laboratory in which an international crew of six people live and work while traveling at a speed of 5 miles per second, orbiting Earth every 90 minutes. It is presently traveling at 17,162 miles per hour at 248 miles above the earth. (Go to http://www.isstracker.com/ to see it's present location.)

The space station has been continuously occupied since November 2000. In that time, more than 200 people from 15 countries have visited.

Crew members spend about 35 hours each week conducting research in many disciplines to advance scientific knowledge in Earth, space, physical, and biological sciences for the benefit of people living on our home planet.

(Information taken from ariss.org/ and IZ0UDF on qrz.com.)

Don, W1SWM

Henry 2KD2 upgraded to 2KD3. Very low hours 3-5000Z's, up-to-date grid bias circuit. Pi-L network, New power supply components. Fully functional. requires 230VAC (no more); will show how to build bucking transformer. Modified top cover to fit new tubes. Full power out 80 thru10 M. Asking $590.00 Contact Carl WA2UJX at cjv@1791.com

For Sale

2012 Keystone Retreat 39 FDEN

New lower price $30,500

Call (518)784-3864

Ask for Mike or Patti or leave message

I have a Item here I would like to put in the News Letter For Sale I is a AOR TDF-370 DSP Multi Media Terminal NEW in Box. Everything is there plus I burned a CD for the unit. There is a link below of a description on what the thing does plus you can go right to a PDF file for the owners manual and a picture of the unit. Thanks !!!!!

I am ASKING $225.00
Mike , N2JVE
http://www.usascan.com/files/tdf370.html

FOR SALE

For the news letter

Anyone interested it this package.

MFJ 962 tuner
Ten-Tek HF rig
Forty foot crank up tower
CDR rotor & cable
Coax cable
Tri Beam Ant

You have to take it down
Price total-----$550.00

Wa2uyy
Ron Coons Sr.
518-945-3731

FOR SALE

I am selling my Ameritron AL-572 Amplifier.

I prefer to sell it locally and Not have to ship it. Wired for normal 117v house current.

I bought it New, and do not smoke.

$1250. No Trades.

Email is valid on my QRZ page

73 K2HAT Lee Hatfield Jr

East Greenbush

W2EGB

Amateur Radio Association

Proudly Presents Its

TWELTH ANNUAL HAMFEST

Saturday, May 9th, 2015

Rain or Shine!

At the
East Greenbush Fire Company
68 Phillips Road, East Greenbush, N.Y.
Vendor Set-up: 6:00 a.m.
General Public: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
General Admission: $6
Vendors:
Pavilion: $6 per table (Tables provided)
Tailgating: $6 per 8 foot space
Hot Food All Day!
Breakfast: Sandwiches ,Doughnuts
Lunch: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chili
Hot and Cold Drinks
Door Prizes*
Drawings starting at 10:00 a.m.
Grand Prize: 2M Mobile Radio
Grand Prize Drawing at 1:00 p.m.

*MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN
• Much, much more •

For further information visit our website: www.w2egb.org

For additional information or reservations contact:
Tom, KC2FCP (kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com)