



The WA7VE

VOLUME 13

ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2013

2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

TREASURERS REPORT

STARS YEAR END BUDGET REPORT FOR 2012

Opening Balance: \$1,659.12

Expenses:

Jan	\$227.86
Feb	\$131.12
Mar.	\$115.84
Apr.	\$51.98
May	\$48.80
June	\$1547.95
July	\$1945.75
Aug.	\$235.78
Sept.	
Oct.	\$205.95
Nov.	\$85.56
Dec.	\$50.18

Income:

Jan.	\$207.04
Feb	\$257.11
Mar	\$247.84
Apr	\$92.60
May	\$471.05
June	\$4017.04
July	\$89.68
Aug.	\$145.69
Sept.	
Oct.	\$591.69
Nov.	\$47.44
Dec.	\$77.54

Closing Balance \$3,257.72

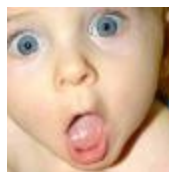
The JAR fund to date (Included in ending balance) \$507.82

Paid members = 62

It was a very good year!

DAZED & CONFUSED

Last year at SeaPac we had a number of out of the area ham operators comment that the Seaside repeater was offline and/or not functioning. They were unable to get the Talk-In operators. We would give it a test and everything seemed fine every single time. Were we dazed and confused, or were they?



Well, WA7FIV Hal Denison figured out the problem. No, it was not the 145.490 repeater. It worked just fine. What Hal found when he picked up a copy of the Oregon Magazine (one of those coastal travel magazines) was that it listed the Seaside repeater at the wrong frequency and with the incorrect PL tone. No wonder some of our visitors could not hit the repeater!

Hal took control of the situation and contacted the editor of the magazine. He volunteered to correct their bad information and is working with the company to verify the accuracy of future magazine information. We should not have that problem again this year. Kudo's to Hal! A big thank you from all of us!

ANTENNA REMOVAL

It is always sad when we lose an area ham. After Ollie Vernor's death WA7FIV Hal Denison, KE7PPD Ken Butterfield and KE7RKG John Patterson gathered at his home on the 19th of January and took down his antenna system for his widow so she could arrange for its disposal. It is an honor to serve the needs of the family of a fellow ham. Thanks guys for a job well done.

KF7IRU WINS BRONZE

Some of you may remember Cache Haggard (KF7IRU). He got his ticket when he was 11 years old. He moved from Seaside to Oklahoma a few months ago.

On February 10th he competed in the Pan Am International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Competition at the Dominguez Hills campus of California State University (near LA). There were male and female competitors there from around the United States as well as Guam, Brazil, Peru, Averbaijan and many other countries.

He won a bronze medal in the Medium Heavyweight class. Needless to say his grandfather (AE7QU) Pat Haggard is mighty proud of him and enjoyed watching the match.

UNLICENSED RADIO STATION IN FLORIDA LOCKS PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS

What appears to have been a relatively high power out of band spurious signal from an unlicensed broadcast transmitter is being blamed for locking hundreds of people out of their cars in Hollywood, Florida. This according to a statement from the city's police department who called it a mystery no one could solve until now.



For months residents were complaining that they could not use their keyless entry systems to unlock or start their cars whenever they parked near the Hollywood Police Department. Once the cars were towed to the dealership the problem disappeared.

After months of searching, the wayward signal causing the problem was traced to the roof of the near-by Regent Bank Building. An undercover detective and FCC agent found the equipment on December 6th concealed under an air conditioning chiller.

Four days after they removed the equipment, a man identifying himself only as "Jay" left a message for a maintenance worker at the bank building. Police say that when the worker returned the call, "Jay" asked if he'd taken his equipment. The worker answered no, but told him that the cops had.

Hollywood Florida detectives are still searching for the man who set up the bootleg station on the roof of the bank building. When it was shut down and seized it was operating around the clock on 104.7 FM broadcasting Caribbean music. If found, the man could be arrested on state felony charges and also face a minimum fine of at least \$10,000 from the Federal Communications Commission. Cars made by Ford, Lexus, Toyota, BMW and Mercedes reportedly were affected.

ILLW 2013 ATTRACTS MORE THAN 110 ENTRIES SO FAR

Jim Linton, VK3PC, reports that the leading countries pre-registered for the next International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend are Germany with 27, followed by the USA and England. In fact a total of 110 pre-registrations have been received from 26 countries even though the next International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend does not take place until the August the 17th and 18th. More about this fun event is on-line at www.illw.net

HOW DO WE ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE INTO HAM RADIO & THE CAREER FIELDS OF SCIENCE, MATH & TECHNOLOGY??

On BBC Radio Wiltshire, radio amateur **Professor Chris Budd G4NGB / G8OPB**, of the University of Bath, in England talked about getting young people into STEM (Science, Technology and Mathematics) subjects.

Listen to the BBC Radio Wiltshire recording at:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/play/video/1350306720>



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO CERT, OR “What Will We Do When the Big One Hits?”



By Lianne Thompson, Clatsop County Volunteer CERT Coordinator

I think of emergency preparedness as a three-legged stool: one leg is ham radio, one leg is the Red Cross, and another leg is CERT. While I have a ham radio license, and I'm a Red Cross volunteer, CERT is my particular focus.

CERT stands for “Community Emergency Response Teams,” and it begins with a standardized training program prepared by collaboration of community first responders and the Federal Government.

CERT training covers topic areas of disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, disaster psychology, terrorism, CERT organization, and light search and rescue.

The CERT training is both technical information and the behavioral practice of applying that information as a team member in the classroom and in a simulation.

People interested in learning more about CERT can take the class and then choose how involved they want to be in their community's CERT team. The training is useful in learning how to take care of you, your family, and then others, in that order.

As a CERT-trained volunteer, you have a wider range of skills and choices in how to use those skills. If you want to be a CERT team member, part of that is being willing to accept the structure and authority involved.

If you simply want to gain information and skills to help yourself and your family, CERT still offers a valuable opportunity to learn and practice.

There's currently South Clatsop County CERT training in progress, alternating between the Cannon Beach and Seaside Fire Stations.

If you're not sure, you're welcome to call 503-436-9013 and get more information.



DEADLINE SET IN WRC-07 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEEDING

The ARRL reports that a commentary deadline of Feb 25th and a reply comment deadline of March 27th have been announced for rule making dealing with ET Docket No. 12-338.

This measure deals with implementation decisions of the 2007 World Radio-communication Conference and to make certain other changes.

While most of the 130 page Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order does not directly affect the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, two sections of the document are of particular interest to the ham radio community.

Specifically, the FCC proposes to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation in the upper half of the 160 meter band at 1900 to 2000 kHz from secondary to primary, while deleting the existing allocation to the Radiolocation Service.

This is possible, because the re-accommodation of radiolocation stations displaced by the expansion of the AM broadcasting band to 1705 kHz has been completed and there are no non-federal radiolocation stations licensed to operate in the 1900 to 2000 kHz band.

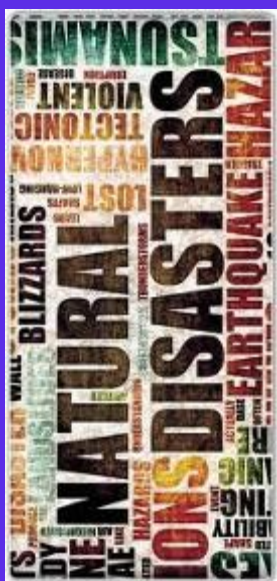
The FCC is also seeking comments on whether, and how, an amateur Low Frequency allocation might be able to co-exist with Power Line Carrier

systems that are used by electric utilities to monitor and control the power grid.

The Commission notes that while Powerline Communication Systems do not have the status of an allocation, they do carry communications important to the reliability and security of electric service to the public. WRC-07 created a new secondary allocation to the amateur service at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz that already has been implemented in a number of other countries.

The complete text of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making can be found in PDF format at: <http://tinyurl.com/wrc-07-fcc>

HAM RADIO ENTERS SECOND CENTURY OF DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS



The theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2013 is Amateur Radio Entering Its Second Century of Disaster Communications.

On April 18th, radio amateurs around the world will celebrate World Amateur Radio Day.

In 1913, the first recorded instance of amateur radio being used to provide communications in a natural disaster took place during severe flooding in the Midwest of the United

States. This in part led to the formation of the International Amateur Radio Union in 1925.

Event planners say that activities surrounding World Amateur Radio Day 2013 can be a great opportunity to spread the word about what amateurs are doing in the field of disaster communications in the 21st Century.

More is on-line at www.iau-r2.org/world-amateur-radio-day-2013.



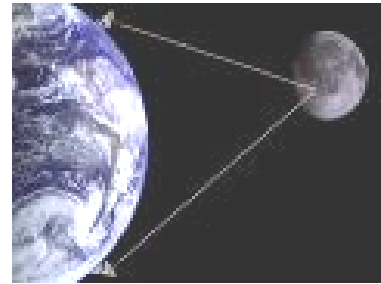
FIRST 24 GHZ EARTH-MOON-EARTH (EME) CONTACT BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN

W5LUA and JA6CZD reported they made the first 24 GHz EME contact between the U.S. and Japan on January 2nd.

Their QSO took place at 1430 UTC when both stations had about an hour of common time where each had 15 to 20 degrees of elevation to the Moon. JA6CZD used a 2.4 meter offset fed dish with a 22 watt transmitter. W5LUA also used a 2.4

meter offset fed dish and a Traveling Wave Tube mounted on the feed support providing 100 watts out.

W5LUA's station was GPS locked and JA6CZD uses a Rubidium standard to control frequency. The mutual Doppler Shift placed both at about 24048.108 MHz based on a center frequency of 24048.100 MHz. This shifted down in frequency as the schedule took place.



FCC PROPOSES 3.5 GHZ CITIZENS BROADBAND SERVICE

First there was the old Class A and Class B Citizens radio of the 1940's. Then came 11 Meter Class D Citizens Radio Service in 1958. Next was the Family Radio Service authorized in the United States since 1996. That was followed in 2000 by MURS or the Multi Use Radio Service. Now in 2013, the FCC is proposing to create a new Citizens Broadband Service and it's like nothing else the regulatory agency has ever attempted before.

On Wednesday Dec. 26th the FCC announced a proposal to make available 100 MHz of shared spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band using small cell and database technologies. The FCC calls the new service in the 3550 to 3650 MHz band the "Citizens Broadband Service" or C-B-S and proposes three tiers of service. These will be known as Incumbent Access; Priority Access and General Authorized Access.

Incumbent Access would consist solely of authorized federal and grandfathered licensed Fixed Satellite Service 3.5 GHz band users. They would be protected from the other tiers by regulation and technical means. This would include the use of exclusion zones where other C-B-S uses would not be permitted.

Priority Access level would be given to small cell use by certain critical quality-of-service dependent users at specific target locations. This might include hospitals, utilities, state and local governments. It might also include users with a distinct need for reliable, prioritized access to broadband spectrum at specific, localized facilities.

Lastly, the General Authorized Access or G-A-A level would allow opportunistic use of the spectrum for a variety of residential, business and enterprise purposes. These users would have to protect Level 1 Incumbent Access and Level 2 Priority Access users through technologies including geo-location. Also as the lowest level users they would not have any expectation of protection from harmful interference to this user base.

The NPRM proposes a "Spectrum Access System" which would govern interactions between all devices in the 3.5 GHz band. It would be modeled after the TV White Space database concept and all devices would be limited to 1 watt Effective Radiated Power as compared to an Isotropic radiator.

If the proposed services name of the Citizens Broadband Service has a 1960's or 1970's ring to it, its not an accident. The FCC is proposing to license users under Section 95 of the Personal Radio Service rules. That's the same section that includes 11 meter Citizen's Band radio.

DEVELOPERS OF CODEC 2 DERIVED FREE DV SAY A RULES CHANGE IS REQUIRED

The Codec2 digital voice project has developed a new program called FreeDV. This is a system to encode digital voice on any two-way radio using only 1.125 KHz of bandwidth. But says Codec 2 researcher Bruce Perens, K6BP, FCC regulations aren't up-to-speed with the challenges of software-defined radio and Open Source architecture:

K6BP: "One of the changes we (need to) make is bandwidth based regulation. Rather than what (the) FCC does today in that it grants permission piecemeal permission to use a different modulation letter (suffix) and if you change the letter you have to go back to FCC for permission."

According to Perens there will be a filing of a 24 page request to the FCC that will propose the regulatory agency make several changes to the Part 97 rules. Among this will be to allow all digital modulation schemes and all published digital codes on the ham radio bands. It will also push for a change to bandwidth-based regulation of the Amateur Service rather than the mode segmented way that the hobby is governed today. And he points to our neighbor to the North and its success with Regulation by Bandwidth:

K6BP: ".Now contrast this to Canada. Canada (regulators) say here's 6 kHz, do what you want with those 6 kHz. Makes more sense today."

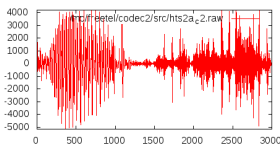
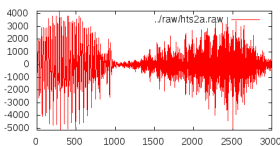
You might remember that it was only a few years ago when the ARRL proposed a similar bandwidth based regulatory change that was widely criticized by many of its members as well as the overall United States ham radio community. At that time the League said that its petition would provide the Amateur Radio Service the flexibility to experiment with new digital transmission methods while permitting present operating modes to continue to be used for as long as there were hams who wish to use them.

Back then the overall ham radio community shouted the idea down. But this is 2013 and technology has reached a point where some change may be desired to accommodate digital telephony on the High Frequency bands as well as on VHF and UHF. It will be interesting to see where this takes ham radio in the months and years ahead.

LED LIGHTS JAM CITY BUS RADIO'S

The Swedish national amateur radio society the S-S-A reports on a case of LED lights in a shop jamming the VHF radio used by buses. The lighting in shop windows at a business called Punkt House jammed the city bus system which uses 167.0375 MHz for communications and dispatch.

The lights causing the problem were LED spotlight lamps. It was found they did not conform to the regulations on Electromagnetic Compatibility and they are now being replaced. The full story in Google English is on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/LED-VHF-Interference>.



SCHEDULING AN ARISS TO STUDENT CONTACT

This is just a reminder that a new process is in place for schools in the United States to schedule a ham radio contact with crew members on the International Space Station. For a U.S. school to have an ARISS contact, it must fill out a proposal, submit it to NASA, and see if it is approved. Once a school gets the go ahead, it will be put on the list and an ARISS mentor will be assigned to assist.

NASA will have two open windows a year for schools to submit a proposal. A school, or whomever is representing the school, must first go to NASA to get the proposal material. To do so, contact Teaching From Space to JSC-TFS-ARISS (at) mail.nasa.gov.

HANDHELD RADIO PROGRAMMING ASSISTANCE

Bring your radio to the March STARS meeting and we will have someone there that can assist you with programming your radio with the local frequencies you need. Don't forget to have the batteries fully charged and bring your manuals, cables, etc. for your radio. The programming will be done after the meeting so hang around and have a good time.

HAPPY 65th TO THE TRANSISTOR

We would like to wish a belated happy birthday to an electronic device whose invention revolutionized telecommunications and made possible the technology that we have today.

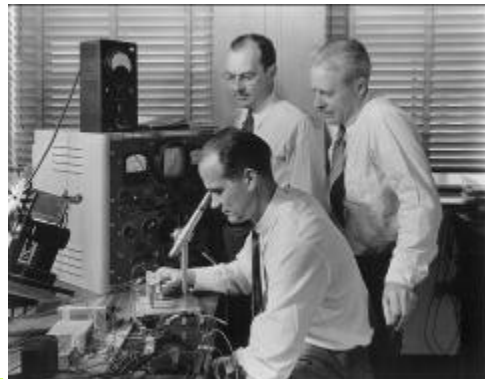
On December 16, 1947, Bell Labs researchers William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain created an amplifier from a germanium crystal that boosted the level of an input signal by 100 times. Various researchers had tried to develop a solid-state alternative to the vacuum tubes during World War II but none had succeeded. The Bell Labs Trio demonstrated it for lab officials a week later on December 23 where Shockley deemed it a magnificent Christmas present.

Bell Labs announced the invention of the transistor six months later. The device went on to become one of the signature scientific achievements of the 20th century, ranking up with splitting the atom, manned flight, and the discovery of DNA. One could argue, in fact, that the transistor was the most important breakthrough of the 20th century because subsequent advances in those other fields relied on the computing power made possible through integrated circuits and semiconductors. In essence, information has become a science itself.

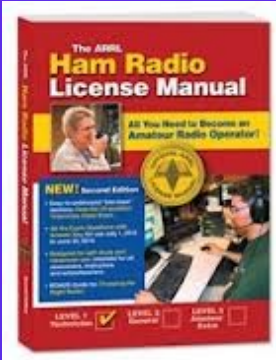
As a result of their achievement Electronics Magazine put a photo the three men on its cover. The three went on to share the Nobel Prize for physics in 1956. John Bardeen became a laureate a second time in 1972 for his work on superconductivity. And very apropos the entire story is on-line at:

<http://tinyurl.com/transistor-comes-alive>

http://youtu.be/6yoJ6qFD_LA



2012 Marks All-Time High for Amateur Radio Licenses



As 2012 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, had a good reason to cheer: The number of radio amateurs in the US reached an all-time high of almost 710,000. “2012 was definitely a banner year for the number of Amateur Radio operators here in the US,” she said. “It is amazing to see these new numbers and to know that Amateur Radio is experiencing such a healthy trend.”

In looking at new and upgraded licenses, as well as licensees per ARRL Division (see the charts below), Somma also crunched the numbers looking for growth within each license class -- and all of Amateur Radio -- over the last 40 years.

“This is an all-time high for

Technician, General and Amateur Extra class licensees,” she said. “When looking at the three current license classes, the number of Technicians, Generals and Amateur Extras peaked in December at 345,369, 163,370 and 130,736, respectively.”

Somma explained that the total number of US amateurs in the FCC database also continues to grow each year: “As of December 31, 2012, the number of licensees reached an all-time high of 709,575; year-end totals were 702,056 for 2011 and 696,041 for 2010.

The number of licensees increased at an average rate of 21 per day, while the number of US licensees has increased by 7 percent since 2008!” More than 3000 new

licenses were issued in 2012 than in 2011, while upgraded license activity remained steady in 2012.

In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate:

December 1971: 285,000
 December 1981: 433,000
 December 1991: 494,000
 December 2001: 683,000
 December 2012: 709,500

Please note: While the number of licensees has grown considerably over the years, we realize that these numbers include some who are no longer active in Amateur Radio. A recent survey of ARRL members, however, indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active.



WA7FIV'S TIP OF THE MONTH

Frequency and Modulation

I have been curious for quite a while about what questions ham radio trainers hear over and over again with each new class. I sat down with WA7FIV (Hal) the other day and he told several of the questions that he and other trainers have heard over the years. I hope to bring the answers to you in a column entitled “Tip of the Month.” I hope you enjoy the column.

One of the difficulties encountered by many who enter the ranks of ham radio is no background in electronics. When you are studying for a test in a compressed time format these concepts can sometimes be difficult to explain succinctly. A common question for Hal has been: What are frequency and modulation?

He provided me with a great, informative explanation.

Unfortunately, I did not have my handy video recorder with me to take down the words of the oracle so I went out to YouTube and searched for a good instructional, yet entertaining, video on the subject.

Boy howdy, did I find a good one! I discovered a neat video from 1947 that explains these subjects. The video is a kick to watch even if you fully understand the subject matter. Check it out at the link below. <http://youtu.be/b4882aJRyLk>

THE FIRST SMARTPHONE IN SPACE

The implications of the tested ability to use a smartphone to manage a satellite has a profound implications for amateur radio and LEO (Low Earth Orbit) satellites.

In this video, Professor Sir Martin Sweeting G3YJO talks about **STRaND-1** which is aiming to be the world's first smartphone satellite in space.

STRaND-1 a UK mission, jointly developed by the University of Surrey's Surrey Space Centre (SSC) and Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), to send the world's first smartphone satellite into orbit is due to launch on February 25.

Also appearing in the video are Shaun Kenyon and Dr. Chris Bridges both of whom have given presentations on the STRaND project to the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium held each year in Guildford.

Watch The World's First Smartphone In Space and check out the other links as well.

See STRaND-1 videos and further information at

<http://www.uk.amsat.org/?p=12196>

STRaND on Facebook

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

STRaND Nanosatellite

<http://www.sstl.co.uk/Divisions/Earth-Observation-Science/Science-Missions/STRaND-nanosatellite>

SDR TOUCH SOFTWARE TURNS A TABLET OR ANDROID PHONE INTO AN SDR

Ham Radio Science reports on **SDR Touch** that allows you to use your Android tablet/cell-phone and a cheap RTL2832U as a Software Defined Radio.

You can plug in a \$20 RTL2832U stick into your Android 4.0 devices' USB port and SDR Touch allows you to tune and decode the audio from the RTL2832U stick. This is cool stuff people. A software defined radio for just a few bucks!

Read the Ham Radio Science story at

<http://www.hamradioscience.com/android-meets-the-rtl2832u/>

SDR Touch software may be downloaded here.

<http://forum.xda-developers.com/showpost.php?p=37680134&postcount=51>





Communication Tip of the Month

Increasing Resiliency in the New Year

In recent years, I have started the practice of setting a communication goal for myself at the start of a new year.

Sometimes I identify someone I would like to be on better terms with, other times I focus on a particular skill. Last year I set a goal to become even more resilient around bouncing back from personal conflicts. I wanted to shorten how long I remained irritated after talking things through.

It is normal and quite common to experience a sense of discomfort or feeling more subdued after a conflict has pushed a button or two. I like to think of this lingering effect as a "comet tail". A comet in the night sky with a long tail might be a beautiful sight, but a long conflict "comet tail" is unnecessarily painful — and we can do something about it.

How long do you remain irritated after a conflict moment has passed? Do you need an hour? 24 hours? A few days? We lengthen the comet tail through our ruminations, excessively processing the conflict with others, temporarily withdrawing positive behaviors such as greetings, words of appreciation, smiling... or in our intimate lives offering affectionate touch. None of these behaviors are outside of our own control.

Conversely we can choose to shorten the length of the tail by challenging our brains to think differently, creating a different interaction loop and extending forgiveness. Consider these options if you would like to bounce back more quickly after your conflicts.

Challenge your brain

Sit down and list ten reasons why you like working with this colleague, or living with this person.

Tap into what brings you joy (music, reading, art).

Get your body moving (walk, dance, garden).

Call up a buoyant friend to raise your mood.

Initiate a positive interaction

Invite them to take a walk or share a cup of coffee.

Start up a conversation about something entirely new and different from what you were conflicting about.

Tell them what you appreciate about them.

Extend forgiveness

Apologize.

Find a way to laugh about the conflict.

Tell them what you learned from the conflict that will help you in future interactions.

Normalize communication. That, in itself, is an act of forgiveness.

Article by Patti Lind. www.pattilind.com

INCREASED CHANCE OF SOLAR FLARES

Space Weather reports that big sunspot AR1654 is growing more active. They say it is now crackling with M-class solar flares, such as this one recorded by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory Friday morning at 09:11 UT.

AR1654 is getting bigger as it turns toward Earth. Not only is the chance of flares increasing, but also the chance of an Earth-directed eruption. This could be the sunspot that breaks the recent lengthy spell of calm space weather around our planet.

Watch the video on the Space Weather site at <http://spaceweather.com/>

WHAT WAS THE FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK??

What was the first "Social Network"?

Facebook? Nope.

Twitter? Not even close

AOL chat rooms? You are getting warmer!

If you answered with any of those you are incorrect. The answer is amateur radio (ham radio) The *Daily Ridge* reports that Hams have been socializing globally for the better part of a century, yes, almost 100 years

Read the daily Ridge story at:

<http://dailyridge.com/headlines-now/2013/01/24/amateur-radio-club-picnic-2/>

FREE HAM RADIO SATELLITE EXPLORER APP

Tom Doyle W9KE has made available an amateur radio Satellite Explorer app for Windows 8 devices.

Satellite Explorer is a Windows 8 app that runs on Intel based tablets, laptops and desktops as well as Windows RT tablets like the Microsoft Surface. It is available in the Windows Store - search for 'Satellite Explorer'.

Tom says the app is of course free but if you find it of value please contribute something to your favorite AMSAT project.

Watch Satellite Explorer - Available in the Windows Store - best viewed full screen HD

The App is available at:

<http://apps.microsoft.com/windows/en-US/app/satellite-explorer/4214d956-fa53-4f92-8845-f5ff2c1c73ee>

HAM RADIO AND THE EAGLE CAP EXTREME SLED DOG RACE

Amateur radio will once again be providing communications for the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race through the rugged Wallowa Mountains in **Northeastern Oregon**. This year two systems are to be linked to cover the race area.

The Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race first utilized amateur radio as its primary means of communication around the race course in 2009. The technology provided by the volunteer

radio amateurs gave a big boost to logistical and strategic planning plus an extra measure of safety for volunteers, race officials, spectators, and the sled teams.

This years Eagle Cap Extreme is slated for January 23rd to the 26th and been described as challenging, fun and beautiful by participants and fans alike. If you can't be there in person, be advised that all communications during the event can be heard on the DAWGGONE Echolink conference provided

by the DODROPIN conference server permitting those who want to listen in.

More is on-line at:
www.eaglecapextreme.com/



HAM RADIO 101 - GETTING STARTED

Articles written for Make: Magazine by Diana Eng KC2UHB about getting started in amateur radio are available on the web. Click the links below to read the stories.

Ham Radio 101: Getting Started Without a License

<http://blog.makezine.com/2009/08/30/theres-plenty-of-fun-to/>

Setting up a radio shack

<http://blog.makezine.com/2010/08/01/setting-up-a-radio-shack/>

How-To: Set up an HF portable radio while hiking

<http://blog.makezine.com/2009/09/30/how-to-set-up-an-hf-portable-radio/>

ARRL FILES FOR CHANGES IN THE 472 - 479 KHZ US BAND

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making requesting the establishment of a domestic amateur radio allocation at 472to 479 kHz.

The League's request calls for a power limit of 5 watts effective isotropic radiated

power, with only 1 watt to be permitted in certain specific locations.

The ARRL took this action for the FCC to follow up on the actions of the 2012 World Radio-communication Conference now rather than waiting several years as was

the case with WRC-07.

As regular listeners know, telecommunications administrations around the world have been fairly quick to make this spectrum available to their nations ham radio communities.

AN RFI STORY

RFI (Radio Frequency Interference from Part 15 devices can be a real problem for the HF operator. The author explains how he searched for a source of RFI that plagued him for some time and how he corrected the problem. Living in the city, I have RFI from time to time from neighbors. Most of the time, I find they cooperate with me in getting it stopped. Unfortunately, after trying unsuccessfully for four months to get things solved with a belligerent neighbor on my own I had to turn it over to Laura Smith from ARRL and the FCC. The FCC certainly got things taken care of and the noise is now gone.

The noise was coming from one of the usual culprits - a power adapter. A "Wall Wart" as we like to call them. The author approached the problem in exactly the right way. He used a portable receiver to ascertain that there was an interfering signal that could be tracked. Most portable receivers capable of AM and short-wave reception have directional ferrite bar loop antennas that produce nice sharp nulls in the direction of the noise source.

He tracked the noise to a neighbor's house, politely informed them of the problem, and found the neighbor to be uncooperative. Joe then escalated the issue to the FCC and got results. This short paragraph cannot really convey the time and effort it took to deal with a noisy power adapter. As you might guess, the process is much more deliberate and must unfold in a logical, consistent fashion from start to finish. You must be knowledgeable about noise hunting, patient and persistent. You also need a diplomat's manner when dealing with the owner of the noise source, and finally be willing to call in help from the FCC if needed.

Interference problems are fairly common, but each interference problem is unique. The methodology for solving them does have some common practices.

Patrick Tice, WA0TDA

Do you have an RFI story? If so, please submit it to wa7ve@wa7ve.org.

BOY SCOUTS AND AMATEUR RADIO

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has approved an Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for Scouts uniforms. According to BSA Communication Services Director Jim Wilson, K5ND, the strip recognizes the Scout's availability as an Amateur Radio operator for communication services for events and activities and emergencies. All registered youth members and adult leaders who hold a valid Amateur Radio license of any class are eligible to wear the rating strip.

"Last year, the BSA Awards and Insignia Committee introduced the Morse Code Interpreter Strip upon the recommendation of the BSA's National Radio Scouting Committee," Wilson told the ARRL. "We are always looking for ways to promote Amateur Radio, both within Scouting and to the world. The National Radio Scouting Committee thought this new Amateur Radio rating strip was a wonderful way to do exactly that, as it readily identifies to everyone that the wearer is a licensed radio amateur, prepared to be useful and to help others."

Wilson, who heads up the National Radio Scouting Committee, said that the Amateur Radio Operator rating strip is similar to the Amateur Radio Operator badge offered as a proficiency badge by Scouts Australia, as well as the badge recently introduced by Scouting Netherlands. It follows in the footsteps of the Scout Radioman personal interest badge for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts that was offered by the Boy Scouts of America in the 1940s. The strip is to be worn on the right sleeve.

Where are all the Girl Scouts in amateur radio? What do we, as a club, need to do to bring some girls into the world of Science, Electronics and Mathematics???? Let's talk about it at the next club meeting.

WA7VE

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Treasurer - Kelly Larkins (N7IXI)

Trustee - Hal Denison (WA7FIV)



Our membership meetings are held at 5:00 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the Seaside campus of Clatsop Community College. We will be upstairs. The Board meeting begins at 4:30 PM. All are welcome.

Please visit our website for updates and information.

LEARNING HOW TO SOLDER

My grandson is beginning to take an interest in electronic circuits. As a ham, I should feel uniquely qualified to show him the world of radio and electronics. But I never really learned how to solder. Not well, at least. Sure, I can solder a PL259 onto the end of some coax and it works OK, but the connector usually hides the sloppiness of my handiwork. Don't get me wrong, I'm not scared of a soldering iron — I just am not as practiced with it as some of the QRP kit builders.

I searched online for an interesting kit to build and stumbled upon Elenco's AmeriKit AK-100 Learn to Solder Kit (about \$15). What better opportunity to teach myself how to teach my grandson to solder!

The kit includes a 25-watt soldering iron (Elenco SR-1N), a pair of diagonal cutters (Elenco ST-1), a spool of lead-free solder, and a solder practice kit containing a printed circuit board and various components. Also included is a nice 15-page guide to soldering and very detailed instructions about how to assemble the practice project. (I've yet to be disappointed in anything from Elenco. If you have kids or grandkids and they don't have Elenco's Snap Circuits Jr. Kit, it's the best \$20 gift you can buy them!)

This kit was a huge hit with my son. He had a great time placing each component in its clearly labeled place. After doing a few of the practice exercises, I was amazed at how proficient he became! I learned so many tips from the instruction manual about how to create good solder joints and electrical connections. The manual itself is well worth the price — the soldering iron and practice kit are a great bonus!

The included soldering instruction booklet covers general electronics basics like determining resistor and capacitor values, paying attention to polarity, and safety precautions. It also covers specific soldering (and de-soldering) techniques for different types of work. There is an in-depth look at the different types of solder (when you would or wouldn't use them) and many tips and tricks to making your job look more professional.