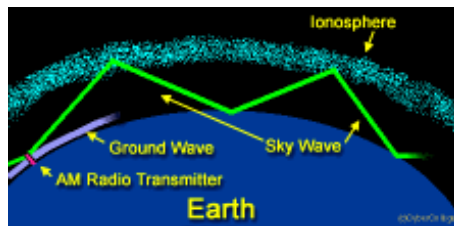


The Hertzian Herald



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N8DXR's Ground Waves



Here we are a little over a week from Dayton and folks are drying out from the April showers that lingered into May. This is a good time to check antenna feedlines and connections to make sure that harsh winter weather and spring deluges have not compromised them. Also, this is a great time to inspect your exterior grounding system for damage or oxidation that could reduce its ability to maintain a common potential in the system.

Between now and the end of June is the busiest time on the year for the MCRCA. First we have Dayton this month then our Hamfest and the ARRL Field Day at the end of June. If you have never been to the Dayton Hamvention, or if you are a veteran attendee, this is the one you should try not to miss. It's a new venue for the event and from what I have read DARA and the group that manages the new site has done a tremendous job in preparing for this year's event. For more information about the Dayton Hamvention you can use this link. <http://hamvention.org/>. When you do get to Dayton make it a point to stop by the Great Lakes HamCon booth 6612 in building six and say hi to the folks there and get the latest information about this great event being held October 7- 8 at the MIS. For more info: <http://glhamcon.org/>

The program for our meeting in June will be about preparations for our annual Hamfest and Field Day. If at all possible please leave time in your summer schedule to assist the club at our Hamfest. It's our one major fund raiser for the entire year and we can always use all the help we can get.

We will have a meeting this month even though it the night before Dayton. The program will be a presentation on Propagation and its many forms.

Hope to see you at our meetings and on the air.

73

John - N8DXR

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

John Copeland N8DXR
jcn8dxr@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Glen Ohlemacher K8GO
goglen@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI
w8pi@arrl.net

DIRECTOR

Rodney Haddix
rodhaddix@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

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MCRCA Minutes:

April 20, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by John Copeland N8DXR

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, or upgrades and one guest, Tom Schultz

PROGRAM: 1940's Hallicrafter's Video via Paul W8PI

BREAK

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Sandy KE8CQW, Wes KC8SKP, and Tom Schultz

50/50: John N8DXR donated his winnings to scholarship

MINUTES: Motion by Wes KC8SKP, supported by Bob AC8DZ, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Paul W8PI, some DX out there but not a lot. The Club's MIQP log has been sent in and John N8DXR sent in his log from home. Nebraska QSO Party this weekend. Florida QSO Party next weekend.

FIELD DAY: Paul W8PI reported that he has MCRCA listed FD sites as being held in Vienna Park. Paul is donating a new G5RV antenna to use at FD, and we will have a GOTA station this year.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Paul has lots of ideas and is working hard to get them organized. FLdigi, Drake radios, WWII and ARRL.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. June 17, 2017.

ARPSC: No report

ARRL: No report

RRRA: Dale WA8EFK, they are finishing up the transition to the new Ida site and will be refurbishing two of the remote sites soon. The annual RRRA meeting will be held Saturday, May 6, 2017 at the Red Cross at 10:00 am.

GLHamCon: Glen K8GO not present, Logo Clothing is available online and soon tickets will be available. <http://glhamcon.org/>

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Cadillac Hamfest May 6, 2017. <http://www.wexaukeearc.org/>

ADJOURNED: 8:45 pm

ATTENDANCE: 12

KA8EBI	Fred	KA8PQH	Neil
KC8SKP	Wes	N8DXR	John
W8PI	Paul	WA8EFK	Dale
AC8DZ	Bob	KE8CQW	Sandy
W8GPR	Gary	KC8JQF	Dean
KC8UU	Mike	Tom Schultz	

Committees

Classes

Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net

Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Historian

Paul W8PI

Public Relations

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

School Liaison

open

Programs

open

Membership

open

Planning

open

Property Custodian

open

Interesting gadgets I wish I had time for

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm on a lot of mailing lists and participate in a bunch of amateur radio forums. As a result, I see a lot of interesting gadgets that guys are buying or are thinking about buying. Here are three of the latest that look interesting to me. I wish I had time (and money) to purchase all of these and try them out.

Android antenna analyzer

On Reddit (https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally_got_my_mini60_ebay_antenna_analyzer_time/), some of the guys have been talking about the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer (<http://www.ebay.com/itm/CW-USB-Interface-Cable-WINKEYER-compatible-3-5mm-plug-/132121085623?hash=item1ec307c6b7:g:up8AAOSw241YeTei>). Its frequency range is 1 - 60MHz, but the cool thing about this device is that you can use it standalone with the built-in LCD display or with some software (http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm) and a tablet with a Bluetooth interface to get fancy frequency vs. SWR plots. See <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/mini60-ant-analyzer.jpg> for a photo of the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer being used with an Android tablet.

Of course, this is made in China, but how can you beat the price? It costs \$112 shipped.

Multi-functional component tester

Here's another marvel of Chinese engineering and manufacture - a smart component tester (http://www.banggood.com/3_5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html) for only \$30, shipped. It identifies and characterizes **NPN and PNP transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes (including Zener diodes), N-channel and P-channel MOSFET, IGBT, JFET, triacs, and batteries.**

This isn't the first smart component tester to hit the market, but the unique thing about this unit is that it has a graphical display that not only identifies the type of component that you've connected to it, but also draws the schematic symbol of the part. You can see a video of this tester in action at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FH6tjzwWg>.

Make your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC

Newark/element 14 will soon start selling a kit of part that will make it easier to turn your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC (https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et_cid=28941683&et_rid=1231362216&cmp=). The kit includes:

- Intelligent and Safe Power Controller
- Interface to connect mSATA SSD (upto 1TB)
- Real Time Clock to keep track of time
- Heat Sink
- Enclosure

They don't list the price just yet, but this might be what I need to actually make use of the Raspberry Pi 3 I bought several months ago.

If you have one of these gadgets, or buy one in the future, please let me know how you like it. I'll put your review up on my blog, so that everyone can benefit from your experience.

QB50 CubeSats to deploy from ISS

The first phase of QB50 CubeSats should be deployed from the International Space Station over three days May 16-18

Built by student groups from 23 countries around the world the QB50 constellation aims to study the lower thermosphere 200-380 km above the Earth.

There are 28 QB50 CubeSats on the ISS awaiting deployment and it is understood that 11 will be deployed in this first phase. The beacons should be activated about 30 minutes after deployment.

NRCSD#11 Deployment times

GMT Date [DOY]	GMT Time	CEST Date	CEST Time	Event	Predicted dV [m/s]	Front (Door)	Mid	Back
135	08:00 thru 12:00	15-may	10:00 thru 14:00	NRCSD Install on JEM A/L Slide Table				
136	08:25	16-may	10:25	First Deployment	1.96	DE02	TR02	US04
136	11:55	16-may	13:55	Second Deployment				
137	01:40	17-may	03:40	Third Deployment	1.98	TW01	FR01	SE01
137	08:13	17-may	10:13	Fourth Deployment				
138	01:00	18-may	03:00	Fifth Deployment	1.95	AZ01	KR01	
138	04:15	18-may	06:15	Sixth Deployment				
138	08:30	18-may	10:30	Seventh Deployment	2.04	GR02	FR05	IL01

Deployment direction for the CubeSats targeted to exactly 45 degrees from the ISS nadir toward the anti-velocity vector in VVLH frame.

The QB50 CubeSats have downlinks between 435.8 and 438 MHz and reports from radio amateurs are most welcome. Beacon data received can be uploaded to a dedicated QB50 webpage at <https://upload.qb50.eu/upload/>

List of QB50 CubeSats with Beacon format and frequency information <https://upload.qb50.eu/listCubeSat/>

QB50 project <https://www.qb50.eu/>
<https://twitter.com/QB50Mission>

On the deployment days radio amateurs and QB50 teams will be on the #CubeSat IRC channel at <http://irc.lc/freenode/cubesat>

On June 19, 2014 two precursor QB50 CubeSats were launched, QB50p1 and QB50p2, which carried amateur radio transponders <https://amsat-uk.org/2014/06/19/successful-launch-of-amateur-radio-satellite-payloads/>

AMSAT-UK <http://amsat-uk.org/>

That's Not Real Ham Radio

Things had been pretty quiet on the ham front lately but then I ran into a string of "That's Not Real Ham Radio" discussions. This happens from time to time...I usually ignore it...but this time I got sucked into the topic.

It started with some HF enthusiasts I know talking about how "digital modes" are just not very satisfying. Their point is that with CW and SSB, there is an audio connection to your ear that makes you an integral part of the radio communication. The extreme-DSP modes such as JT65 insert serious signal processing that essentially removes the human connection. This can quickly lead to the generalization that these digital modes "aren't real ham radio."

I think its fair to say that most hams think of the HF bands as the center of the hobby...getting on the air, bouncing signals off the ionosphere to talk to someone over the horizon. Some hams will go even further and say that CW is the only way to go. Anything less is just phone. FM and repeaters? Forget that stuff...not enough skill required. And certainly, [don't get stuck on 2 meters](#).

In a previous post, I argued we should not [confuse religion with modulation](#). I do occasionally make snarky comments about the continued use of AM (AKA Ancient Modulation), but I've tried to tone that down in recent years.

What About DMR?

Just last week, I was [playing around with a DMR hotspot](#) on the Brandmeister network. It really struck me that people on the system were having a blast talking to each other across North America and around the world. But then that nagging little voice in the back of my head said "hey, wait a minute...this is not real DX...the RF signal might only be traveling 20 feet or so from an HT to a hotspot.

This caused me to put out a plea for insight on twitter:

I received a lot of good replies with the answers tending to clump into these three categories:

- I don't know ("That's Not Real Ham Radio")
- It's fun, new technology
- It's a digital network that brings ham radio operators together



BobW @KONR · Mar 12

Serious question: what is the attraction of a ham radio contact using RF to go 25 feet to a hotspot then around the world via TCP/IP?

15 3 8

My interest seems to fall into the second category: *this is fun, new technology*. Which does make me wonder how long this new technology will remain interesting to me. Well, that is difficult to predict but I'll invoke the principle of *try not to overthink it*. The idea that DMR is a *digital network that brings ham radio operators together* makes some sense. In the past, I have argued that [amateur radio is not for talking](#). In other words, if you just want to talk someone, there are much more convenient ways of doing that. Still, there is something attractive about this ham-radio-only digital network.

It really is important to not overthink this kind of stuff. Ham radio is supposed to be fun, so if you are having fun, you are probably doing it right. If you are not having fun, then you might want to examine what you are doing. See my post on the [Universal Purpose of Amateur Radio](#).

Sometimes hams can get a little spun up about those other guys that don't appreciate our way of doing ham radio. What the heck is wrong with them anyway? I've always been inspired by the [Noise Blankers Mission Statement](#):

*Do radio stuff.
Have fun doing it.
Show people just how fun it is.*

If your preferred form of ham radio is so superior, it ought to be easy to show other hams how cool it is. If not, then maybe you aren't doing it right. Conversely, as long as other hams are having fun and operating legally, don't knock what they are doing. In fact, encourage them. We need more people having fun with ham radio, even if it's not your favorite kind of fun.

That's my opinion. What do you think? 73, Bob KONR

Hamming It Up on the Trail: The Story of Alabama's Ham Radio Hikers

by Joe Cuhaj Birmingham, AL Huntsville, AL April 21, 2017

Most people head to the outdoors to be immersed in nature and escape crowds and our electronic world. Others escape to the outdoors to be immersed in nature—but with a twist.

Welcome to the world of Hiker Hams: amateur radio operators, better known as "hams", who hit the trail and bring along not only their hiking gear but their radio equipment as well. They hike to their favorite lake or rock outcropping, even hike the entire Appalachian Trail, and talk to the world. And several of them do it right here in Alabama.

The Call of the Wild

An obvious question, however, is why hike with your radio gear? According to Sean Kutzo (KX9X), media and public relations director for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), and an avid hiker, the answer is fairly simple.

He explains that ambient noise is increasing, especially in urban areas, making it more difficult to find an operating location free from the interference generated from electronics like TVs and fluorescent lights. The static these noise sources generate make it more difficult to hear the signals present on the bands.

"By taking your radio with you to the outdoors, you can free yourself from these sources of man-made interference," Kutzo said. "Many times I've taken my equipment to a trail site to operate for a few hours and thought I had connected my antenna improperly [because I heard nothing at all]. We have subconsciously become so accustomed to the noise on the ham bands that when we don't hear it, we think there's a technical problem."



He added that the wilderness setting is another bonus. "Of course, that doesn't address the sheer beauty of the scenery when transmitting from a portable location on a mountain or on a trail. It certainly beats operating from a room in your house!"

CQ, CQ, Hello CQ...

So how many hams are hitting the trail each year? According to ARRL, there are no hard numbers; they can only estimate it at "tens of thousands".

An example of how popular the hobby is with hikers came in 2016 when the National Park Service was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Kutzo was inspired with an idea after watching the Ken Burns' documentary, *National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Coincidentally, ARRL had just celebrated its own centennial. Within an hour after watching the documentary, he came up with a year-long event called *National Parks on the Air*.

"The event was designed so that radio amateurs [would take their] portable gear to 469 National Parks across the country [and transmit "CQ", a ham abbreviation inviting someone to respond]," he said. "Home-based stations would then try to get in contact with as many of the units as possible."

The event was a huge success, with more than 1.1 million radio contacts with the hams that were on the trails and rocky peaks of our National Parks being reported.

Additionally, ham radio operators are now thru-hikers of the Appalachian Trail, logging contacts all along the path from Maine to Georgia. Websites are springing up helping prepare and guide these Hiker Hams along the 2,100-mile route, even going as far as setting up message and safety communications for thru-hikers.

And once a year Hams get together at different locations across the country to celebrate the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps by having a weekend on-air "gab fest" at former CCC camps. The CCC used amateur radio as they built the nation's state and national parks. A group always meets on Alabama's Pinhoti Trail each year to join in.



The American Radio Relay League's round-up of the forthcoming week's DX activity on the amateur radio bands

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by AD8J, WB6Z, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

ALGERIA, 7X. Members of the World Djelfa Radio Club will be QRV with special call sign 7Y9TWD from May 15 to 18 to celebrate World Telecommunication Day. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via 7X2DD.

MALTA, 9H. Mek, SQ3RX will be QRV as 9H3SQ from Gozo, IOTA EU-023, from May 15 to 24. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

CHINA, BY. Operators BD4TS, BH4TVU and BU4SCC are QRV as home calls/5 from Dongfu Island, IOTA AS-137, until May 15. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Harald, DF2WO is QRV as D44TWO from Praia, Santiago Island, IOTA AF-005, until June 2. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to M00XO.

PHILIPPINES, DU. SP5APW is QRV as DU9/SP5APW Siargao Island, IOTA OC-235, until May 16. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

PALESTINE, E4. Janusz, SP9FIH plans to be QRV as E44WE from May 16 to 30. Activity will be on 17, 10 and 6 meters. QSL to home call.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Tim, LW9EOC is QRV as HC8/LW9EOC until May 29. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with a focus on 30, 17 and 12 meters. QSL to home call.

HONDURAS, HR. John, AD8J will be QRV as AD8J/HR9 from Dunbar Rock Island, IOTA NA-057, from May 13 to 27. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands with an effort on 160 and 80 meters using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL to home call.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J1ITU is QRV until May 31 to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the ITU and Information Society Day. This activity counts for Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, as well as Kasumigaura City. QSL via bureau.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 from May 15 to July 15. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via JA8CJY.

MONGOLIA, JT. Roman, RN5M is QRV as JT5MA from Zuunburen until the end of May. Activity has been on 20 meters using SSB between 1600 and 1730z. QSL to home call.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0. Operators 7X2RO, 7X2UV, 7X5FG, 7X2DF and 7X2OR are QRV as S07X from Bir Lehlou until May 15. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

BANGLADESH, S2. Jun, OE1ZKC will be QRV as S21ZBD from Dhaka from May 14 to 17 while on work assignment. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters in his spare time. QSL to home call.

POLAND, SP. Special event station HF79TG is QRV until May 23 to celebrate the pilot Tadeusz Gora and his historic gliding flight with the Shark in 1938. QSL via SP5PPK.

PALAU, T8. Operators Akira, JH0CKF, Kay, JJ0RIK and Kunio, JA8VE are QRV as T88MZ, T8KA and T8VE, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until May 19. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home calls.

TURKEY, TA. Ben, DL7UCX is QRV as TA0/DL7UCX from Saraylar on Marmara Island, IOTA AS-201, until May 14. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

GABON, TR. Roland, F8EN will be QRV as TR8CR from May 18 to June 3. Activity will be on 30 and 20 meters using only CW. QSL via F6AJA.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Krish, VU2VKU and Pai, VU2PAI will be QRV as VU7KP from Bangaram Island, IOTA AS-011, from May 15 to 19. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via W4VKU.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Chris, ZL2DX and Catherine, ZL2QT are QRV as ZL7DX and ZL7QT, respectively, for the next three years. QSL direct to home calls.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Jakarta 40-Meter SSB DX Contest, Portuguese Navy Day Contest, VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, CQ-M International DX Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, HPC World Wide DX Contest, MARAC County Hunters

Contest, Arkansas QSO Party, FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint, 50 MHz Spring Sprint and the WAB 7 MHz Phone will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for May 15.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 17.

Please see May QST, page 87, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web

Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

Monroe County Radio Communications Association Amateur Radio examinations are held the 3rd Saturday of every even numbered month at:

American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48161

Walk-ins are always welcome.

2017 Schedule:

February 18	April 15
June 17	August 19
October 21	December 16

TESTING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:00 AM

Applicants are expected to have all forms filled out and be ready to take tests at that time. Coffee and doughnuts are available at 8:30 AM. For more information or to make reservations, call Paul Trouten - W8PI at 734-854-2224

Join us at the next meeting

May 18th at 7:30 pm
American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48162

Local Net

ARPSC Net - Every Monday evening on '72-Monroe
(146.72 Mhz) starting at 8:00pm.

ARPSC Meeting first Thursday of every month at the
EMD office on Raisinville Rd.. 7:00 PM