SKYVIEW
Skyview Radio Society, K3MJW
K3MJW
2335 Turkey Ridge Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

2020 Pittsburgh Marathon - May 3, 2020

It's that time of year again! Since its return in 2009, the Pittsburgh marathon has grown to include over 35,000 runners. This will be the marathon's 12th consecutive running, and the 31st overall. Amateur Radio has been an important part of the Pittsburgh Marathon since the beginning. Your help is needed again for this year's event

In 2019, 68 amateur radio operators, including many Skyview members, volunteered for this event, making it the largest Public Service event in Southwestern PA.

As in the past, we will be providing support to marathon medical staff. In keeping with the purpose of the Amateur Radio service, our main task is to provide emergency communications between the medical director and the various aid stations and other locations along the course, in the event regular communications channels fail. We also provide increased reliability for the most critical information and provide communications support to various medical officials. In order to accomplish this, we will staff many different positions, including aid stations, mile markers, shadows for medical officials, and others. To fully cover all of these positions, we will need around 100 volunteer amateur radio operators (You and 99 others) !

If you're new to the hobby or have never participated in a public service event, please don't let that stop you from joining us. We have a variety of positions for new and experienced hams alike, and will provide you with the information and support that you need. This is an excellent opportunity to gain the experience needed to help out during an emergency, all while having fun and doing a service to our community.

Volunteering online is quick and easy. Just use the marathon's official volunteer registation system. We are using a first-come, first-served system in which you can select your position when signing up. So, be sure to select the job you want when submitting your registration. If you're not sure where you want to be, that's OK; just select "General Locations", and we'll find a place for you.

Once you are registered, your assignment and detailed instructions will arrive in the mail in mid-April. Note that we will **not** be holding a meeting the day before the race; details on how to obtain your T-shirt and marathon credentials will be contained in your assignment packet.

Volunteer Now - Click HERE

Visit the official marathon web site for more general information about the marathon.

2020 is Skyview's 60th Anniversary !!

April 1, 2020

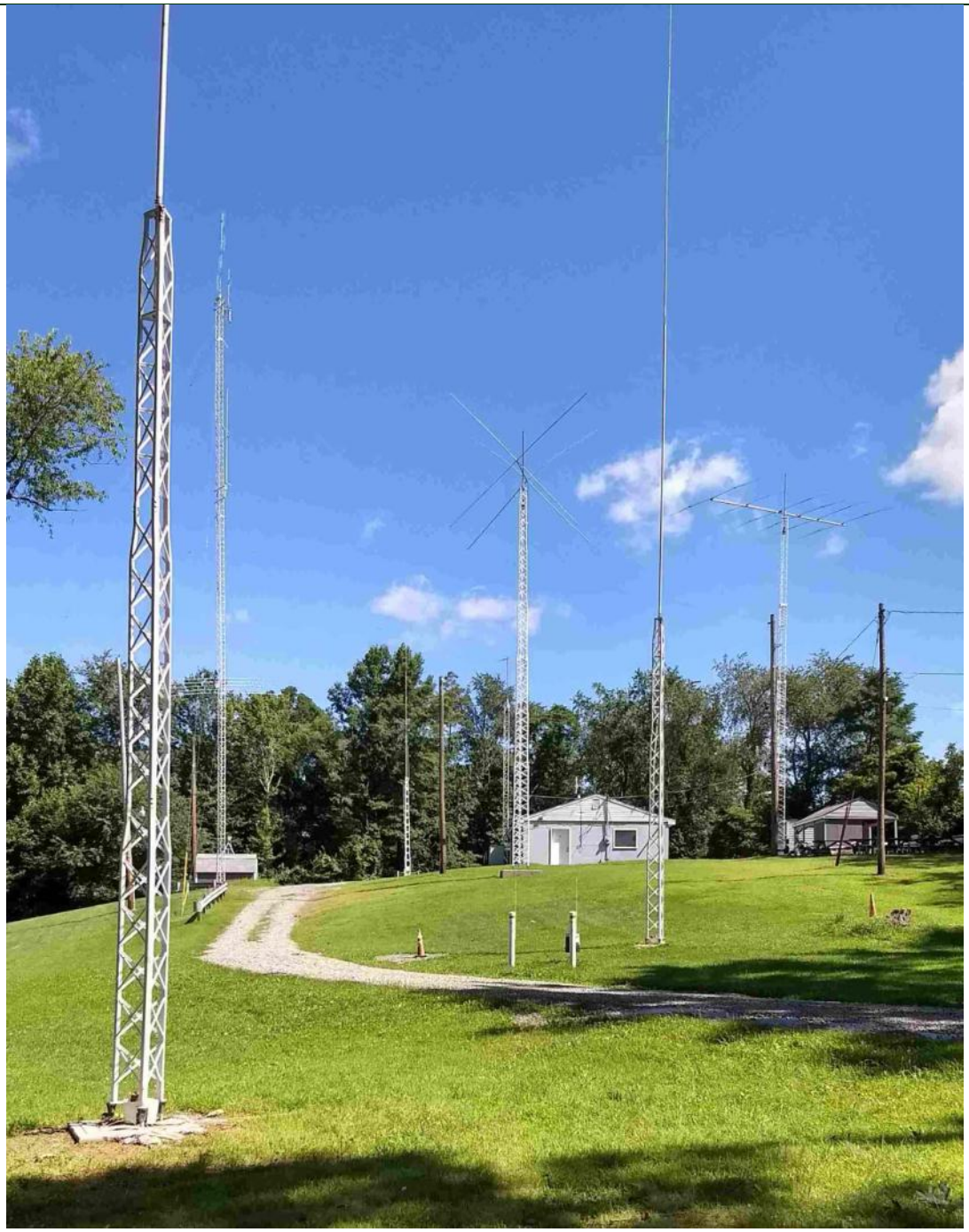
- N3BPB Silent Key
- Ham Estate Sale
- Load Up That Tower
- The Road Less Traveled
- Pgh Marathon Cancelled
- Dayton Cancelled
- Eliminate a Speaker
- Morse Code in about an Hour
- And More . . . . . .

Sunspots?

I don't need no stinking Sunspots.

I have 40 meters and 80 Meters.

Inside this issue:



The Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse is the "Every Tuesday Place" . . .

Something is going on at 'the joint' each and every Tuesday evening, from about 1900 hours to whenever.

See the general schedule of Tuesday events on the Skyview Web Page: http://www.skyviewradio.net

For the latest up-to-date plan, check the Groups.io Reflector at : https://groups.io/g/K3MJW

Directions are on: http://www.skyviewradio.net Guests are always welcome !!

From the Editor

If you have not already heard it, the 2020 Dayton Hamvention has been cancelled.

If you have not already heard it, the 2020 Pittsburgh Marathon has been cancelled.

If you have not already heard it, the 2020 Race For The Cure has been rescheduled for September.

Nothing heard about the Rachael Carson Trail event. I did see that they were out clearing part of the trail. But it is probably in jeporady.

Breezeshooters Hamfest—??? - - - Stay Tuned.

NOTE: As this is being published, the Skyview Clubhouse is adhering to PA State Government requirements and is —>> **CLOSED Until Further Notice**.

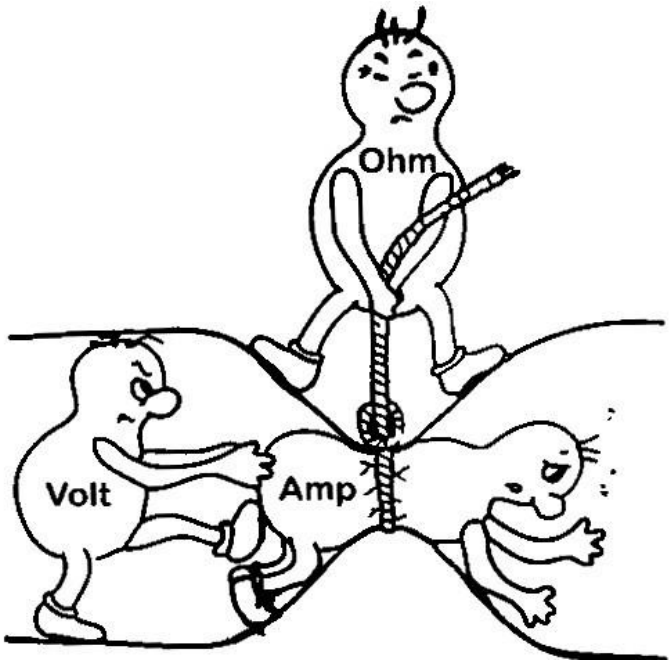
Follow https://groups.io/g/K3MJW for updates.

From the Treasurer

Financially, we are rolling into Spring smoothly.

(I wish I could say that for the rest of the country).

Jody - K3JZD



Ohms Law

Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

Goodbye For Now . . . de SETI@home

SETI@home hibernation

On March 31, the volunteer computing part of SETI@home will stop distributing work and will go into hibernation.

We're doing this for two reasons:

1) Scientifically, we're at the point of diminishing returns; basically, we've analyzed all the data we need for now.

2) It's a lot of work for us to manage the distributed processing of data. We need to focus on completing the back-end analysis of the results we already have, and writing this up in a scientific journal paper.

However, SETI@home is not disappearing. The web site and the message boards will continue to operate. We hope that other UC Berkeley astronomers will find uses for the huge computing capabilities of SETI@home for SETI or related areas like cosmology and pulsar research. If this happens, SETI@home will start distributing work again. We'll keep you posted about this.

If you're currently running SETI@home on your computer, we encourage you to attach to other BOINC-based projects as well. Or use Science United and sign up to do astronomy. You can stay attached to SETI@home, of course, but you won't get any jobs until we find new applications.

We're extremely grateful to all of our volunteers for supporting us in many ways during the past 20 years. Without you there would be no SETI@home. We're excited to finish up our original science project, and we look forward to what comes next.

2 Mar 2020, 21:16:23 UTC

So, Why Does It Take Us Mere Mortals So Long ?? **de hackaday**

Machine Learning System Uses Images To Teach Itself Morse Code

January 27, 2020 by Dan Maloney

Conventional wisdom holds that the best way to learn a new language is immersion: just throw someone into a situation where they have no choice, and they'll learn by context. Militaries use immersion language instruction, as do diplomats and journalists, and apparently computers can now use it to teach themselves Morse code.

The blog entry by the delightfully callsigned [Mauri Niininen (AG1LE)] reads like a scientific paper, with good reason: [Mauri] really seems to know a thing or two about machine learning. His method uses curated training data to build a model, namely Morse snippets and their translations, as is the usual approach with such systems. But things take an unexpected turn right from the start, as [Mauri] uses a Tensorflow handwriting recognition implementation to train his model.

Using a few lines of Python, he converts short, known snippets of Morse to a grayscale image that looks a little like a barcode, with the light areas being the dits and dahs and the dark bars being silence. The first training run only resulted in about 36% accuracy, but a subsequent run with shorter snippets ended up being 99.5% accurate. The model was also able to pull Morse out of a signal with -6 dB signal-to-noise ratio, even though it had been trained with a much cleaner signal.

Other Morse decoders use lookup tables to convert sound to text, but it's important to note that this one doesn't. By comparing patterns to labels in the training data, it inferred what the characters mean, and essentially taught itself Morse code in about an hour. We find that fascinating, and wonder what other applications this would be good for.

Thanks to [Gordon Shephard] for the tip.

Posted in Machine Learning Tagged cnn, CTC, cw, lstm, machine learning, morse, SNR, tensorflow

From https://hackaday.com

Silent Key

Bill Kristoff — N3BPB

Digital Radio Converter

By Woody Brem – K3YV

Digital radio is certainly gaining in popularity. Many hams would like to try digital radio, but there are good reasons that are holding back most hams. The problem is that there is no standard digital format. Rather, there are several formats, and they all want to be the standard. Unfortunately, digital radios are expensive. Worse, you need a separate radio for each of the digital formats. What is a ham to do? No one wants to spend many hundreds of dollars just to try each kind of digital radio.

Enter Corbomite Systems. Few people noticed their small tradeshow booth at the Florida Hamcation this year. Located near the huge and very busy FlexRadio setup, Corbomite Systems was virtually overlooked. This was very unfortunate, because I believe Corbomite is really on to something big. Corbomite, who is well known throughout the commercial world for their digital solutions to otherwise hard-to-solve radio communications problems, has just released a line of digital radio converters. These cost-effective converters will work with any analog radio to convert it to exact sounding digital formats. These converters produce audio that is indistinguishable from that of any digital radio.

Corbomite offers converters for any of the three popular digital formats: D-Star, Fusion-C4FM, and DMR. So far, only three converter models are available. The president and chief technical officer of Corbomite Systems, Dr. Apreal Phoul, said that their line of Digital-Universal-Modular-Backup (D.U.M.B.) converters will be available through all amateur radio outlets when Corbomite gets their production line ramped up to full capacity. Dr. Phoul also said, "We feel that these D.U.M.B. converters will be especially useful for DMR type digital radio systems."

Corbomite converters are easy to install and operate. Simply take the D.U.M.B. converter model that is specific to the type of digital service you want to use and squeeze the ends. Place the converter over the bridge of your nose and release the ends. The one-size-fits-all concept is perfect for all hams, large or small. The converter will gently, yet firmly, hold your nose throughout any normal length QSO. Then all you do is talk normally through your analog radio. Your voice, to the listener on the other end, will sound exactly like you are using a genuine digital radio. No one on the other end will be able to tell the difference if you are using a real digital radio or a D.U.M.B. converter. It will sound exactly the same.

Corbomite is currently developing a D.U.M.B. converter, which will allow one converter unit to function for all digital modes. That will be welcome, since it will eliminate the need to carry a separate converter for each type of digital mode.

The retail price of a D.U.M.B. converter is $9.95, with the DMR model costing one dollar more. The DMR model costs more because of the extra pinching force that is necessary to fully duplicate the DMR experience. Look for Corbomite ads in all amateur radio magazines.

Editor's note: When not using the D.U.M.B. converter, simply squeeze the ends and clamp it to the rubber ducky on your HT – a perfect way to store your converter and have it at hand, ready to use.

Watch the Skyview K3MJW Reflector for full details about this upcoming event.

It is not August yet, but it is good to know this :

13MAR20

Mr. John & Tri-Boro Trailer are taking precautions to Plan, Prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2020.

Employee and Customer Safety

The health, safety and security of our customers and employees are our highest priorities. In response to the coronavirus, we are taking additional measures to make our cleaning and hygiene protocols even more rigorous.

Mr. John currently uses a hospital grade disinfectant to clean and service the interior of our portable restrooms. We also supply hand sanitizer with greater than 60% alcohol or fresh water handwash in all portable toilet units and offer individual freshwater sinks. Mr. John will continue to deliver, clean, and service portable restrooms for our customers as scheduled.

Estate Sale

FROM THE ESTATE OF BOB BENNA, N3LWP

10M RINGO RANGER ANT. $40.00

10 el. VERT / HORIZ 2M ANTENNA $75.00

5 ELE BEAM (6 – 10M? $50.00

EAGLE 1 ANT 80 – 10M $90.00

KENWOOD 2M MOBILE TH-41T $25.00

MFJ 259 ANT, ANALIZER 3ea. $90.00ea

RAMSEY FREQ METER CT-50 $80.00

BEARCAT SCANNER BC-560xlt $30.00

ICOM IC-2000VHF MOBILE $50.00

HENERY 2K4 AMP UNTESTED $350.00

BENCHER SINGLE PADDLE KEY 2ea, $50.00

VIBROPLEX IAMBIC KEY $100.00

YAESU FT-221 ALLMODE 144-148mgh $125,00

TIMEWAVE DSP 599ZX AUDIO DSP FILTER $100.00

ICOM IC-2000 MOBIL $75.00

ICOM IC-471h MOBIL $75.00

ICOM IC-736 RADIO $375.00

DIAMON SX 400 SWR MTR. $50.00

HEATHKIT SA-2060A TUNER $75.00 (2EA.)

LK 500ZB LEGAL LIMIT AMPS. $475.00 / OR B.O.

MURCH ANTENNA TUNER $50.00

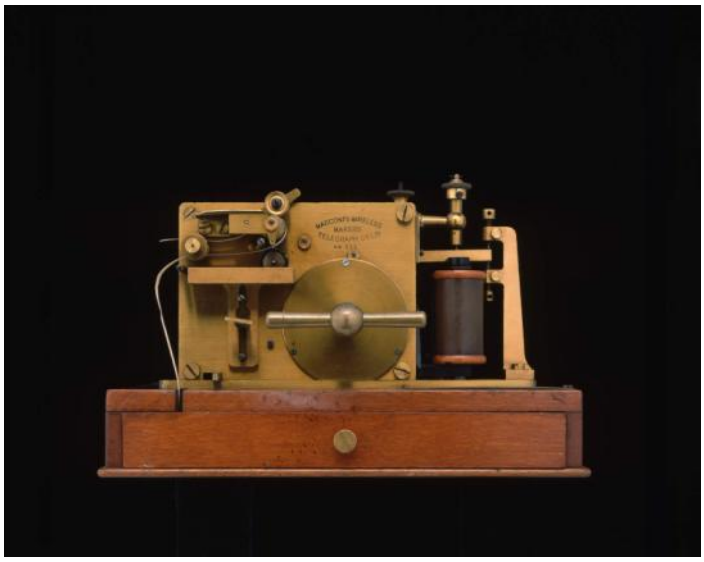
FOR FURTHER INFO, EMAIL CAPTJACK@CONSOLIDATED.NET

OR CALL 724-265-4237 JACK BUZON KA3HPM

End of Telegraph Era in Florida

de Jacksonville WSJT TV Web Page

End of telegraph era brings question: What's a telegraph?



TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The telegraph era in Florida is ending without a flash. Not even a flicker, really.

It's more like a snicker.

The Florida Senate sent Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis a bill Thursday that removes an entire chapter of state law regulating the telegraph industry, including $50 penalties for not promptly delivering messages.

In the days before hashtags, texts and FaceTime chats, telegraphs were a big deal. Western Union completed the first transcontinental telegraph line in 1861, dealing a death blow to the struggling Pony Express, which began operations the year before.

Florida laws regarding telegraphs haven't had any substantial changes since 1913, and there haven't been any court opinions involving the statutes since 1945, according to a legislative staff analysis.

And when Republican Sen. Ben Albritton presented his bill Thursday, his colleagues couldn't resist having a little fun just before he presented his closing arguments for the legislation.

"There are a number of school-age children in the West Gallery, so if Senator Albritton in his close can address what telegraphs are," said Democratic Jason Pizzo.

Democratic Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez quickly piled on.

"There are also middle-aged people in the entire Capitol. Can you also explain to us what a telegraph is?" Rodriguez said.

Stifling his laughter, Albritton carried on.

"I appreciate the opportunity to clarify what telegraphs were. Just Google it," Albritton said. "Next year we're going after carrier pigeons and Morse code."

The bill passed unanimously. If DeSantis signs the bill, the telegraph regulations will be removed from law on July 1.

Until then, telegraph operators can still be held liable for any mental anguish or physical suffering caused by a delayed delivery of a message.

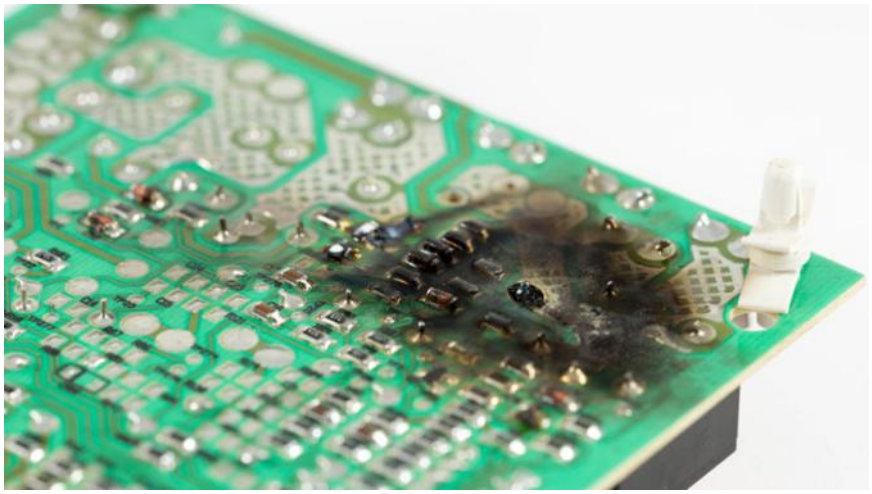
How to Select a Fuse

from RF Café de K3CLT

Picking a fuse for your circuit isn't as easy as it sounds. The right one can protect your users and your circuits.

Paul Rako **Jan 17, 2020**

It's easy to trivialize the need for a fuse and how to select one. We have all been annoyed or exasperated by a blown fuse. Sometimes we wish there was no such component needed for our circuits. With the advent of electrical distribution in the 1800s, fuses became an essential device in preventing fires. Electrical systems need them for the same reason. Electronic systems have the same fire concerns and they need fuses as well *(Fig. 1)*. Fuses will also prevent lethal voltages from shocking users.



1. Fuses protect users from shocks and products from catching fire. While this PCB has failed, it didn't start a fire. (Courtesy of flickr, UnknownNet-Photography)

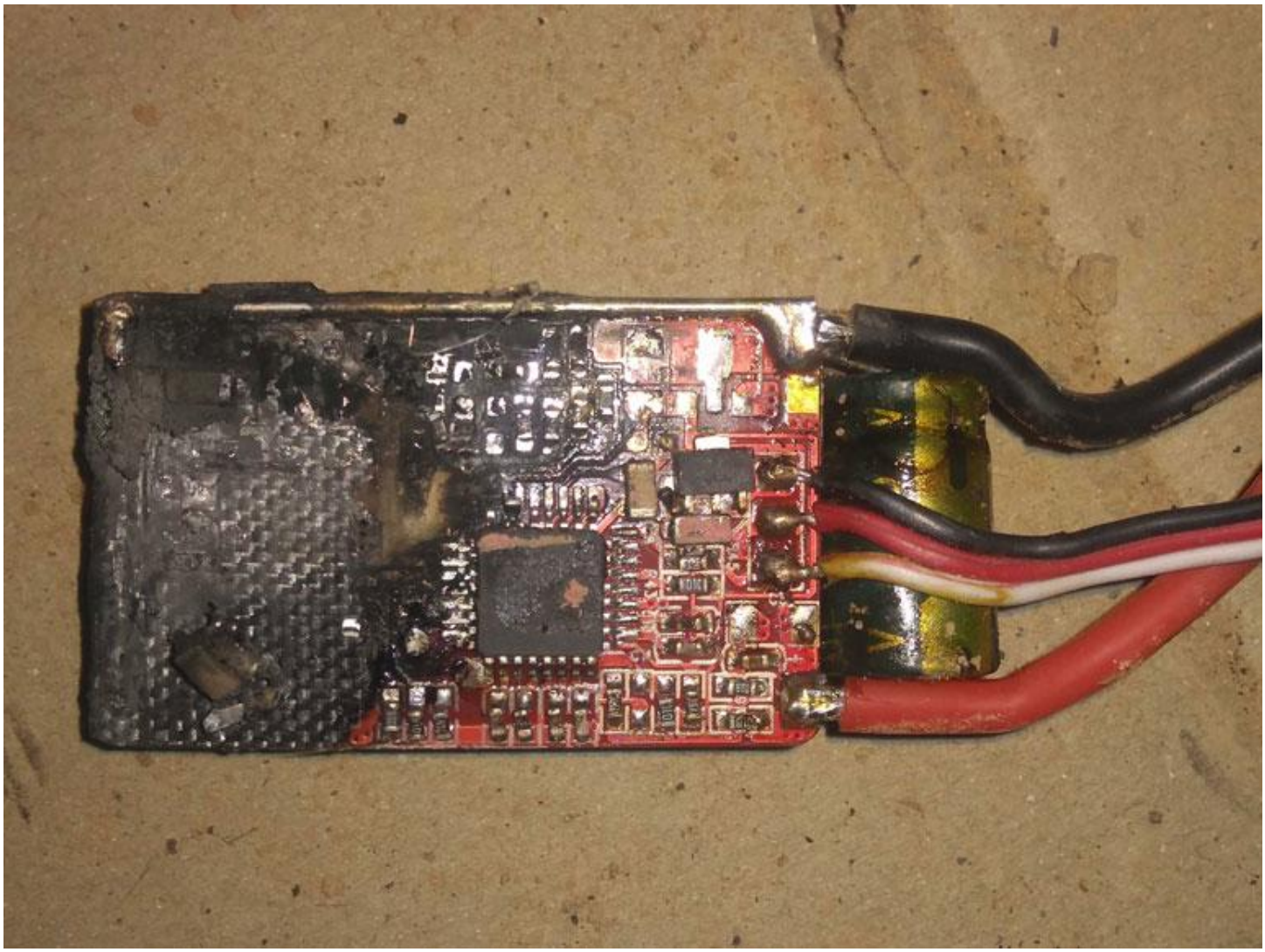
Some anonymous wag came up with the aphorism, "A twenty-dollar transistor will always blow to protect a ten-cent fuse." A fuse isn't intended to protect a transistor. It would be even less suited to protect a laser diode, since those get ruined with a few nanoseconds of overcurrent.

Fuses are ideal to protect wires and printed-circuit-board (PCB) traces from melting and fire. This can happen when shorts develop from abraded wires or magnet wire getting shorted from vibration and constriction due to ac magnetic fields. Another common failure is from electrolytic and tantalum capacitors, which can fail in a short-circuit.

Rather than counting on a fuse to protect your transistors, you can power the circuit you're developing with a laboratory power supply and set the current limit to an ampere or so. You want to set the current less than what would melt a bond wire inside the transistor or IC. Then your misbehaving circuit will just get hot, instead of blowing up. After you get things working, you can then design in a fuse.

The Need for a Fuse

Anything powered by a low-impedance source needs a fuse. This could be a product that plugs in the wall, or is powered by a battery, or one that runs from the alternator in your car. The low-impedance source will provide plenty of current that will melt copper and start a fire *(Fig. 2)*. Underwriters Laboratories was started to help insurance companies reduce their fire insurance risk. A fuse can protect people from a shorted voltage to the case, as well as keep a product from catching fire.



2. This PCB was improperly fused. A fuse should have blown long before this much energy was consumed, starting a serious fire. (Courtesy of Wikimedia)

Pick the Fuse Package

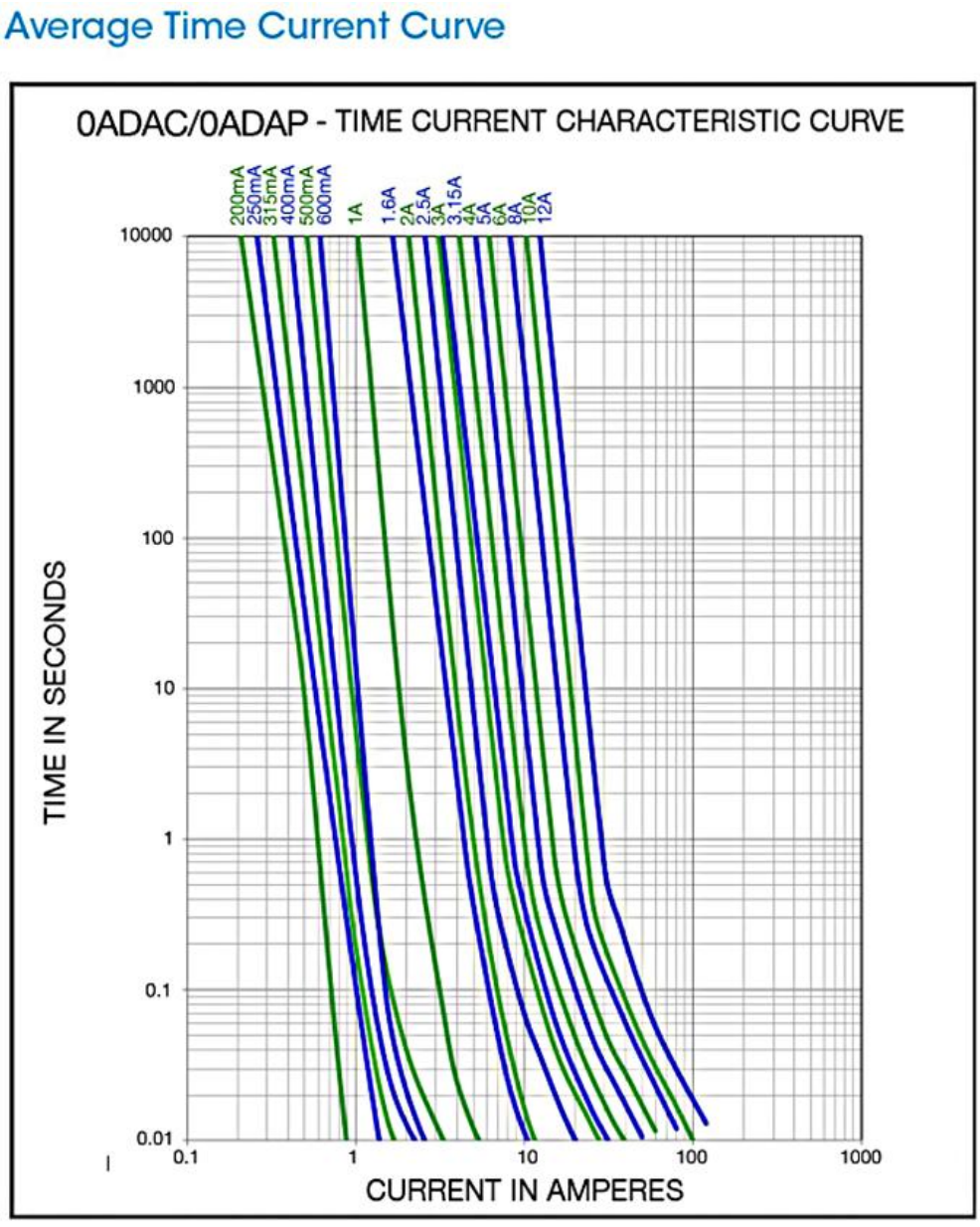
Like most things, your application will determine the kind of fuse you will use. You might need a high-voltage fuse. If your product is primarily sold in the USA, then a conventional 1/4-in. fuse might be appropriate. In Europe, the 5- × 20-mm glass fuse is common. For automotive work, blade fuses are used all over the world. An electrical distributor can steer you to the right type of industrial fuse. If you're protecting traces on a PCB, surface-mount fuses are ideal *(Fig. 3)*.

3. You can solder some surface-mount fuses right onto your PCB. This one has small clips that decouple the soldering heat from the fuse and provides for easy fuse replacement. (Courtesy of Littelfuse)

Oftentimes, you simply need to look at similar products to yours and see what kind of fuse they used. As my mentor used to say, "It's not copying; it's making use of the prior art."

Evaluate the Fuse Speed

Once you have established the package of the fuse, perhaps in conjunction with that effort you should decide on the speed of the fuse *(Fig. 4)*. A fast-blow fuse will open quickly, before wires or traces or devices get too hot. Yet a fast-blow may be subject to nuisance failure, due to momentary overload.



4. The time-current curve describes how fast a fuse will blow at any given current. It has a log-log scale. Note that a 1-A fuse will blow after 10,000 seconds with exactly 1 A applied. (Courtesy of Bel Fuse)

Incandescent bulbs, capacitive loads, and both linear and switching power supplies have a large inrush of current when you turn them on. What can be tricky about loads fed by ac wall power is that when you switch them on, the inrush might be less severe if you switched them when the input voltage just happens to be at zero volts. You have to consider the condition when you connect power right at the maximum voltage. That will create a larger, shorter current pulse that may open a fast-blow fuse.

Size the Fuse

I once designed an ultraviolet eraser for UVPROM wafers in a semiconductor machine. I knew that if the fuse tripped, that meant something was seriously broken; there would be no random trips, or so I thought. My mistake was to size the fuse too close to the expected load from the high-voltage linear transformer.

It worked fine in my lab, but when the marketing folks took it to Electronica in Munich, Germany, the machine was powered by 50-cycle ac. That lower frequency meant the transformer had more loss and drew more current. I had left so little margin, the fuse blew, right before the show. Fortunately, I had used 5- × 20-mm European fuses, so I told the show staff to go buy higher-current fuses locally, and take the cover plate off and pop in the fuses.

Unfortunately, despite explaining my mistake, the management insisted that instead of PCB-mounted fuse clips, I put in removable fuse holders on the outside of the box, which made a wiring rats-nest and complicated assembly. This is what happens when the marketing department grabs your prototype off the bench and takes it to a show. Thirty years later, I still resent having to remove the PCB-mount fuse clips.

While working at a semiconductor test company, I was called in to help with the standards for the facilities needed to power the tester. The previous engineer had over-sized the fuses based on the maximum potential current draw of hundreds of power supplies in the unit. I had to drag out the National Electrical Code and the regulations involving branch circuits to prove that the circuit breakers (or a fuse) are sized to the wire feeding the machine—not the never-expected maximum load that would never happen in real life. It saved about $10,000 in installation costs and made the customers quite happy.

Similarly, the home inspector for the house I recently purchased said the main-panel circuit breakers were too large for the 4-ton air conditioner. It's the same issue—if the wires are thick enough for 70 A breakers, then it's fine to use a breaker larger than what the air-conditioning unit needs. The fuses at the connection to the ac unit are sized to protect that load. You can plug a 2-A load into your wall outlet without changing the 20-A breaker in the panel for the lower load. The breaker (or fuse) is protecting the house wiring from catching fire. The 2-A product should have its own circuit protection for fire and shorts.

All this is to say that you should size the fuse based on stopping things catching fire, not a 10% value above the operating current. Measure the operation current at all conditions, and at all temperatures, and unlike me, at 50-cycle input frequency, if needed. Realize that any power system with a dc bus will have a large inrush current when first turned on. The fuse must withstand this, even if some child flips the switch a dozen times in a few seconds.

It's conceivable that your fuse current rating will end up double or even 10 times the operating current. It's your job to eliminate nuisance fuse operation, while making sure any failure or short will blow the fuse before starting a fire. As noted above, you might try a slow-blow fuse to get past some inrush current problem, while still protecting your circuit from fire.

Conclusion

To ensure that your circuit doesn't melt or catch fire, it never hurts to put a fuse in the input. For large electrolytic capacitors, some inexpensive consumer products have undersized PCB traces so that when the capacitor shorts, the PCB trace melts, serving as a fuse. This isn't the best solution, though, since copper has a high temperature coefficient, and the PCB manufacturing process doesn't control the needs of your makeshift copper fuse.

You're better off putting in small surface-mount fuses that have much more predictable operation. That way, when the technician replaces the shorted electrolytic capacitors, he or she can solder in a new fuse. With overnight shipping, the capacitors and fuses could be ordered at dinner time and arrive 10:00 AM the next day. Better yet, there will be no melted PCB traces. If they're repaired with bus wire, then the fusing current will be much too high, and the product might catch fire the next time the electrolytic capacitors short out.

Eliminating a Speaker

de K3JZD

Some time ago I learned that there was an advantage to using a large external speaker with my transceivers. I purchased a high quality Mid-Range Polk speaker to use with my Icom IC-765 Pro III. It was a good investment - it made a difference.

I also keep a Kenwood TS-520S setup for whenever I want a little more transmit power. I have had a separate external speaker connected to that TS-520S. But having those two external speakers stacked up like this been a bit annoying.

I had been planning on eliminating that second speaker by using a rotary switch so I could select which radio is connected to the Polk speaker. But, I wanted to have the unconnected radio terminated with a resistor so it sees a load on the audio circuit just in case I turned it on whenever it was not connected to the speaker. But, I never found a rotary switch that would give me a way to do that. So, that never got done.

Finally I hit on the idea of trying an audio mixer. I would not have both radios on at the same time, so I would not really be doing any 'mixing'. But I figured that would give me a constant load on each radio's external speaker connection.

Rather than use something which might distort the audio, I decided to purchase my mixer from Sweetwater Sound (https://www.sweetwater.com). Since they deal with professional musicians, I figured that would get me a better quality product than what I would find on eBay or Amazon. Sweetwater Sound had a nice compact 4-channel mixer that was priced very reasonably so I ordered one from them.

(https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/MX400--behringer-micromix-mx400-line-mixer)

I hooked up two of the mixer Inputs to the external speaker jacks on my Icom IC-765 Pro III and my TS-520S. I left the other two inputs unconnected. I hooked the output to my Polk speaker. Then set each level control to the mid range position and tested it. It worked great with both radios. No audio distortion. No noise whenever I was transmitting, so no RFI problem with it. (can't guarantee that with 1500 watts as I do not have an amplifier).

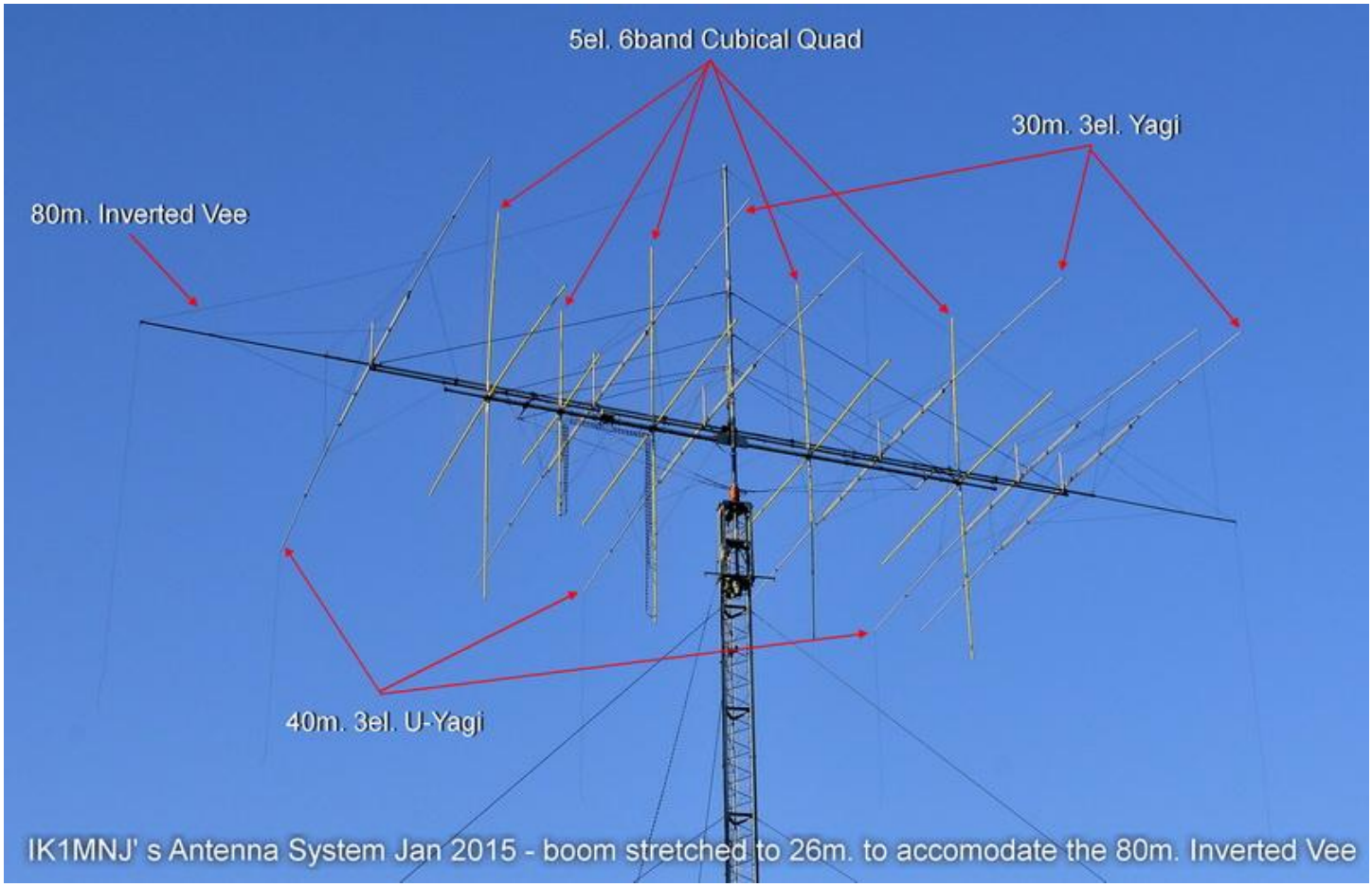
So, mission accomplished.

Two radios. One external speaker. Good audio. No RFI.

Good product.

de Jody – K3JZD

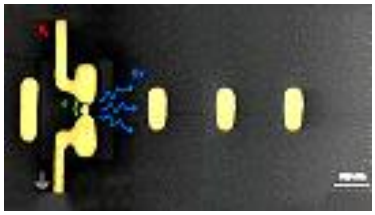
(Still looks a bit cluttered , but nothing I can do about that)



I guess if you are going to put a tower up, you might as well get all you can out of it !!

Under the heading of What is Old is New Again . . . .

Developing Nano Antennas for Data Transfer



"A team of physicists from the University of Würzburg is hard at work developing technology that could one day allow for the creation of **nanoscale antennas** with remarkable data transfer properties. Theoretically, these nanoscale-sized directional antennas would have the power to share data between different core processors at the speed of light. In a paper published in the journal Nature Communications, physicists explained how they were able to generate directed infrared light with the help of an antenna that is both electrically driven and made out of gold. But this was no typical antenna; known as a Yagi-Uda antenna after the researchers who invented it back in the 1920s, this device has a few special features that set it apart..."

From RF Café - tnx Chuck - K3CLT

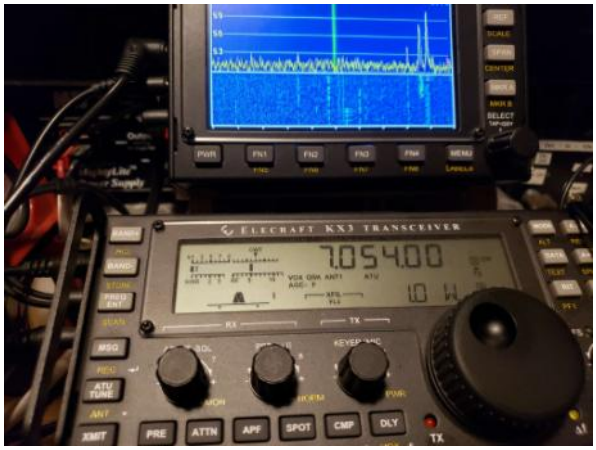

COMING THIS SUMMER...
TO A YARD SALE NEAR YOU.

The Road Less Traveled

de K3JZD

I worked the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon (WES) on February 8-9. You can run whatever power level that you wish to use. The only limitation is that you must use a straight key, a bug, or a cootie.

This month, I chose the road less traveled. I turned the power on my KX3 down to 1.0 watt and ran QRPp. The popular CQ WW RTTY WPX contest that was taking place during that same weekend pretty much limited me to using 40m during the late morning and early afternoon of each day. It is tough to stand your ground with the high powered RTTY stations whenever running QRPp. Kind of what an ant must feel like out in the middle of a busy dance floor.



I like to run a frequency rather than do search and pounce. A pretty arrogant attitude for a 1 watt station, isn't it? Yes, but chasing people with 1 watt generally puts you at the bottom of the list. I used my trusty Begali Blade (Serial Number 129), which allows me to keep on calling CQ for hours and hours with no pain or suffering (memory keyers are not allowed in SKCC events).

Whenever I'm on this road less traveled, I always stop and think about what I am accomplishing with just 1 watt of power. Yes, I will get some 339 signal reports. But I will also get some 599 signal reports (unlike many events, the WES participants generally give pretty honest signal reports). Honest 599's with just 1 watt of power !! Wow . . .

(It did take a large key to push that one watt out)

This miniature #40 incandescent bulb uses 0.94 watt of power. So, I'm making QSOs with about the same power that it takes to illuminate this little flashlight bulb. My signal is making it through a couple of antenna switches, a SWR-Wattmeter, about 75 ft of well aged RG-59/U coax, and then is being radiated by a simple 40m dipole. I worked 24 stations that were in 16 states on 40m. On Sunday morning I briefly went to 20m and I worked two of the SKCC regulars who are located in France. I actually got both of them on my first call (using my tri-band beam on 20m). My 1 watt 20m signal was being heard thousands of miles away. I don't know about you, but I find that to be quite amazing.

The 1st ARRL Train Trip

de Bob - WC3O

We recently completed another successful train trip up to ARRL headquarters and had the privilege of operating as W1AW. We always tout this as a multi-club event. It is. Anyone is welcome to join us. The trip planning was a collaboration between myself and Bill, N3BPB/SK.

This was actually the fourth trip to ARRL that we have done as a group. Our first big trip was in August of 2007. We had a GREAT time.

Everyone one of the four trips was not without its challenges. This last trip was all about dodging the Coronavirus. The first trip was really one to remember.

Memorable Aspects of Our First Trip

We knew we were planning this trip since before Dayton of 2007. I was talking with Piero Begali at his Hamvention booth. I had asked Piero if he had ever donated a key to the ARRL. He said that he had not. I asked him that if he wanted, I would take a key on his behalf and donate it while we were up at ARRL. Piero asked when this trip was planned, and I told him.

Piero spoke in Italian to his daughter Bruna about something (I unfortunately don't know Italian). When they finished talking Piero turned to me and said "We're coming!" Huh? It was better than I could have ever hoped for. Piero and his wife, Graciella would fly in from Italy and come on the trip with us! I couldn't stop smiling. Sure enough they flew in and we took a day to tour Pittsburgh. We had a great time. I took Piero up to see my buddy George, KA3GIR up at the KDKA TV transmitter. Piero, being a real historian was in love. It was a great time.

The day of the train trip had arrived. As luck would have it, there were huge storms passing through the area. There were flash flood warnings all around us. Do you remember the day that the big parabola looking thing got blown off of the top of Science Center? THAT was the day we left! What the flash flood warnings mean to the train is that we go 15 MPH!

Me, being the planner of the trip, knew that we had only a narrow window to switch trains in Philly. What were we going to do if we miss our connecting train. GADS! Bill, N3BPB knew to let the train crew know of our issue, plus we had a couple folks on board that needed assistance to get to the other train. AMTRAK has what they call Red Cap service to assist in these situations.

Once we got out of the flood warning area the AMTRAK crew cranked it up. Rich, K3RWN brought a GPS and noted that in central PA we were traveling at over 100 MPH! We landed up making the Philly train station in the nick of time. The Red Cap folks were there and ready with a wheel chair. We were like OJ Simpson running across the airport, er, train station. We made it! Yeeesh! We boarded our train and all was right with the world.

Or was it?

So there we were tooling right along, traveling up through Connecticut when suddenly the train came to a rather abrupt stop??? N3BPB had his radio on and was listening to train communications when this happened. Bill looked back at me. I could see in his eyes something was very wrong. It turned out some poor person decided to kill himself by jumping in front of the train. His plan worked.

We were stuck there while they re-crewed the train, performed an investigation and cleaned up. The crew was very professional the entire time. They simply said that they "had trouble with a trespasser". After around three hours we were back on our way to Hartford.

We arrived at Hartford Union station at last. It was late. The hotel was a short walk across the street, but the train station was in after-hours mode, so we had to walk all the way around the train station to exit. We made it to the hotel and all was right with the world.

Or was it?

Early the next day we were getting ready to head out and get our rental cars so that we could drive to Newington. Some of our crew came down the elevator. It stuck. This REALLY didn't sit well with some of the folks in that elevator. They finally got the elevator freed and everyone was ok, sort of.

Well, thankfully that was the last bad thing that happened during the trip. We got to ARRL and were treated wonderfully. We got a tour of the facility, Piero donated a Sculpture paddle and best of all, we got to operate as W1AW! It was a blast. We had huge pile-ups. Later in the evening we met up with then ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. Bill took us to a great seafood restaurant where we had a fabulous meal and big fun. It could not have been better.

Thankfully the return trip to Pittsburgh was without incident. We made a trip to the mother ship and survived to tell the tale. Despite all the challenges of this first trip, we had a great time. So much so that we recently went for the fourth time. What will be the story on the fifth trip?

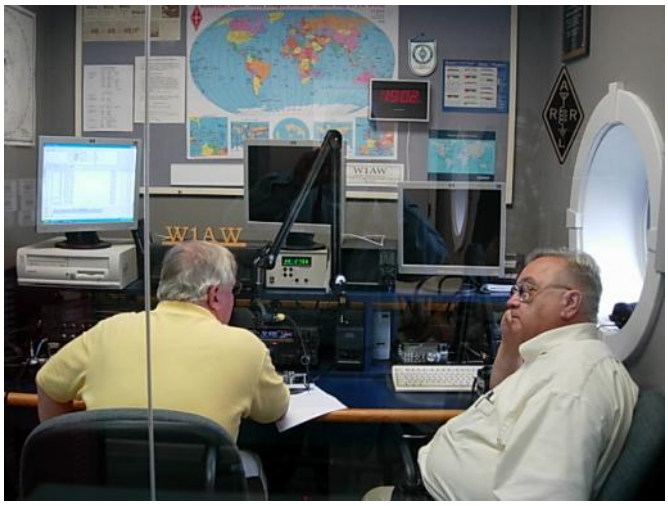
Enjoy the following pictures from our first trip in 2007 and then our fourth trip in 2020.

Best 73

Bob WC3O

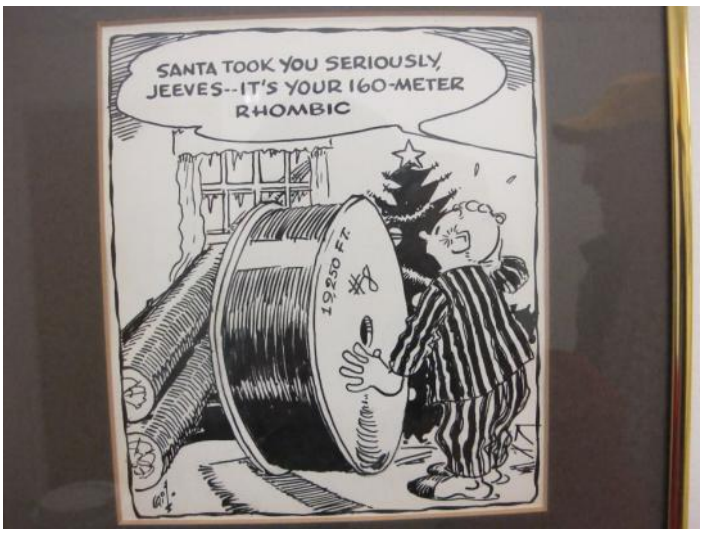
2007 Pictures

2007 Pictures



2020 Pictures

2020 Pictures



See more 2020 Trip Pictures on the Skyview FaceBook Page

Welcome New Members !!

Welcome the following Skyview Radio Society Members who have joined us since publishing the February 2020 newsletter:

G4NFS - Norm Sharples - Jeanette

Remember that something is going on up at 'the joint' every Tuesday. Sign up for the K3MJW Groups.io Reflector to get the latest news and event announcements by email.

If you are a reader who is interested in becoming a Skyview member, then go to: http://www.skyviewradio.net/ for information.

If you are a reader who is not yet a ham, and you are interested in becoming a ham, , then go to: http://www.skyviewradio.net/ for information.

Skyview Radio Society Roster as of 31MAR20

NM3A	WD3HAY	KC3LRT	K3RMB
WB3ACC	KB3HGJ	AB3LS	W3RRK
AD3AD	WA3HGW	KC3LVC	I2RTF
W3ANX	KA3HPM	KC3LZH	KA3RXY
KB3APD	KB3HXP	N2MA	KQ3S
KC3AY	AG3I	KC3MBM	KD4SBJ
NAØB	KC2I	KC3MIQ	KB3SOU
N3BPB (SK	KC3IIO	K3MJ	K3STL
W3BUW	WA3IKQ	KC3MNN	KB3SVJ
KF3C	W3IU	KC3MNO	N3TIN
KC3CBQ	K3JAS	K3MRN	N3TIR
W3CDW	KC3JBS	N3MRU	W3TLN
K3CLT	KB3JGG	KG4MSB	N3TTE
K3DCG	N3JLR	KS3N	AG3U
KC3DIA	KA3JOU	G4NFS	NS3U
KC4EGG	N3JPB	KB3NSH	N3UIW
KC2EGL	ND9JR	KC3NYN	W3UY
KC3EJC	KC3JSF	AJ3O	K3VRU
AB3ER	KB3JXG	WC3O	W3VYK
KC3EVT	KC3JXO	KC3OCA	N3WAV
KB3EYY	K3JZD	KC3OCB	K3WM
WB3FAE	KC3KEI	KC3OCC	N3WMC
KC3FEI	WA3KFS	K3OGN	W3WTJ
K3FH	KB3KHR	N3OIF	K3WWP
K3FKI	ACØKK	KB3OMB	KZ3Y
KC3FWD	N3KNB	KB3ORO	KG5YFN
N2GBR	W4KV	KR3P	N3YJN
KC3GIL	KC3KXG	NK3P	KB3YJQ
KC3GIN	KC3KXZ	W3PRL	W3YNI
KC3GPM	WA3LCY	AE8Q	W3YNX
K3GT	KC3LHW	NU3Q	WA3YWU
AB3GY	KØLIN	WQ3Q	K3ZAU
KC3GZW	KG4LLQ	NJ3R	
NC3H	KC3LNG	KB3RBV	

Notes: Only Call Signs are being published. Refer to QRZ.COM for more information. (Unable to publish those without Call Signs.)

Kul - Links

Jody - K3JZD

There is lots of stuff out on the Internet… Some of it can brighten your day. Some of it can educate you.

I can't really copy and past it all in here. But, I can point you at some of it . . . . .

Here is my take on How to Build a Digital Mode Radio (DMR) Codeplug from Scratch. Might be interesting to those of you who are just getting into DMRs.

http://tinyurl.com/reybdjp

I have been seeing a lot of stuff about GPS Jamming and GPS Spoofing lately. You may recall that the Navy had some difficulty in the Far East a few years ago. Like many other things that we rely on, the guys who wear black hats will eventually target them. So, it is good to see something like this proactive effort being undertaken.

http://tinyurl.com/rhp5tlz

Like Crossword Puzzles? Want a real challenge? Here is a science and engineering-themed crossword puzzle. You will never find a word taxing your knowledge of a numbnut soap opera star or the name of some obscure village in the Andes mountains.

https://tinyurl.com/wv36awc

I'll consider any Kul - Links that you find.
Email then to me at: K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET
They might just end up in the next issue

Previous Issues

Previous Issues of the Q5er are available at

http://www.nelis.net

Next Newsletter will be June 1, 2020
Closing Date For Submissions : May 15, 2020
K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

Become Well Known Publish in the Q5er

The Q5er goes to other clubs and is available to all on our web site.

Submissions to : K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

>>>>>> WARNING <<<<<<

A new Alarm System has been installed up at the joint. Do Not go in there on your own until you learn how to disarm and rearm it.

**** Skyview VE Testing ****

For EVERYTHING that you need to know, go to:
https://www.facebook.com/SkyviewRadioSocietyHamRadioTesting/

(This will tell you what you need to bring with you)

Skyview Radio Society Contact person: Bob Worek, AG3U
e-mail: ag3u at arrl.net phone: 724-274-8201

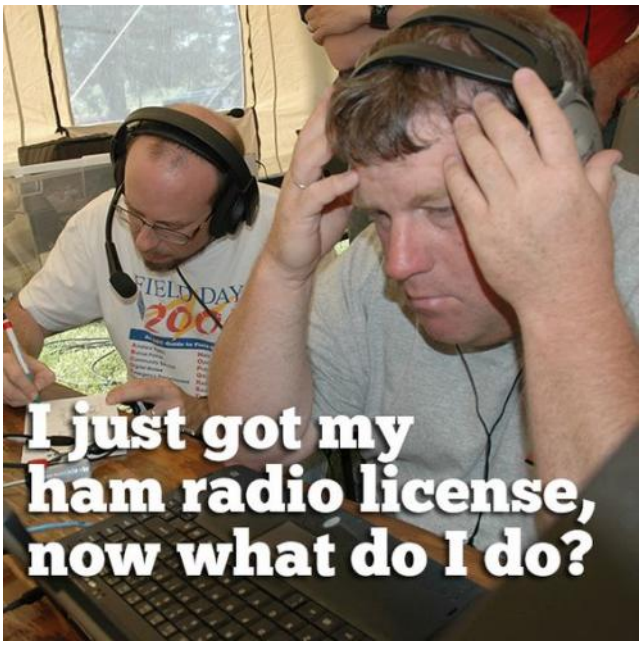
Location: Skyview Radio Society clubhouse. 2335 Turkey Ridge Road. New Kensington, PA 15068.

Directions, and map are on
http://www.Skyviewradio.net

Please schedule in advance. While walk-ins accepted, exam may be cancelled if no candidates are scheduled.

Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

email your comments and article submissions to: **K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET**



That's Easy . . . .

Come up to the Skyview Clubhouse on any Tuesday and ask !!!

All General Information about the Skyview Radio Society is at http://www.skyviewradio.net

Subscribe to K3MJW **groups.io** reflector for All Current News & Activities : https://groups.io/g/K3MJW
If you want to keep up with what is going on NOW, that is the place - have it forward msgs to your email

Is this how your dining room looks ??

Where are the pictures of your shack ??