



Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

April 1, 2022

Ham Radio
Lets you talk to your neighbors
all around the world



Wirelessly !!

2022 is Skyview's 62nd Anniversary !!

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The Sunspots Are Arriving

Keep Trying those Dead Bands !!

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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

Use the Skyview Facilities At Your Own Risk.

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

Jody - K3JZD

From the Treasurer

We have adequate funding at this time.

Jody - K3JZD

Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

(Minimum QSO : 6'-0")

If you made a tax deductible donation to Skyview in 2021, and want a receipt letter for your tax records, contact me: k3jzd@arrl.net

Skyview Radio Society is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Donations to Skyview are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Here is another issue. Mainly because of the submitted articles and photos.

Not saying it is the last one that I will publish. But it could be Jody - K3JZD

No wise man ever wished to be younger. - Jonathan Swift

January Business Meeting Minutes

de Don - WA3HGW

Skyview Radio Society Monthly Business Meeting – March 1, 2022

Call to Order: 7:30 PM by President Scott Gliebe, AC3GB.

Attending – 23 members: N3MWC, W3BUW, N3TIN, K3JAS, AG3U, KC3PXQ, W3IU, NJ3R, K3STL, WA3HGW, NM3A, K3FAZ, N2MA, AB3GY, AJ3O, AG3I, WA3KFS, K3JZD, AC3GB, KB3EYY, WA3LCY, W3ZVX, WC3O.

Prior Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting were distributed at the meeting for member review. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by N3WMC and seconded by AB3GY. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jody, K3JZD, passed out the financial report as of 28 February 2022, copy attached. Fixed expenses are in good shape, forecasting a surplus at the present rate for expenses. There was additional income from donations, 50/50 drawing, club banquet, etc. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by W3JAS and seconded by NM3A. The motion passed without objection.

Membership Report: Tom, AB3GY, indicated there are no new membership applications outstanding. Membership now stands at 135, including silent keys KA3HPM and KB3KHR. There are 20 inactive members who have not renewed for 2022. A motion to accept the Membership Report as presented was made by AJ3O and seconded by KA3PXQ. The motion passed without objection.

Radio Officer Report: All radios and equipment are working well at this time. The replacement 10 meter vertical is ready to install on the repeater tower. We are awaiting suitable weather for the tall tower work. The donated Elecraft K2 transceiver works well. It will be used to make a "POTA Pack" geared toward getting new operators on the air. We received the parts to repair the AL-1500 amplifier. We just need time to get them installed and tested. The receive loop antenna is back up after being broken, probably by a deer.

Kitchen Report: The kitchen fund balance is \$58. Kitchen supplies are good. Note a new price list is posted on the refrigerator. Bob, WC3O, noticed at his last kitchen buy that food prices are going up. The prices had not been revised for several years, and by now the kitchen was running at a loss.

VE Report: The next VE session is March 19. The February session had two applicants, resulting in a new Technician and an upgrade to General. The May VE exams will be moved to the 2nd Saturday since the Dayton Hamvention is on the 3rd Saturday. Bill, W3BUW, received the list of all new licensees from the last year. He will be sending out a questionnaire to see how many have been active and what we can do to help them.

Newsletter: The Feb issue of the *Q5er* is out. Jody is looking for newsletter submissions by March 15 for the April issue.

Facilities: We are waiting for the weather to break to fix some electrical issues in the attic and to paint trees around the perimeter of the grounds with purple paint to indicate No Hunting and No Trespassing per the new state law. This is in addition to the existing No Hunting and No Trespassing signs posted.

Building Committee: There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 2 with Mike Williams of MW Construction for final pricing and a written contract.

Calendar of Events:

March 5 - Breezeshooters Groundwave Contest, Phone.

March 5 & 6 – ARRL DX Contest, Phone.

April 3 – Two Rivers ARC Hamfest.

April TBD – You'll Shoot Yer Eye Out Kid!

April/March TBD – DX Engineering & K3LR trip. Available dates need to be confirmed with Tim, K3KR.

May 20 to 22 – Dayton Hamvention à The long-awaited return!

August 29 – Skyview Swap-n-Shop.

Old Business: Regarding ARRL Operating Manuals for donating to local libraries, K3FAZ is working with Joe, W3BC, to see if the club can get any discount or promotional cost reduction.

We are still working on setting up CPR classes.

New Business: Nothing pending at this time.

Elmer Night: The March Elmer Night will be the presentation which was delayed from February on EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) or "Moonbounce" presented by Wayne, K3WM. Bob, WC3O, offered a slide show of past Dayton Hamventions. This can be a preview for first time attendees and also an incentive to get hams to go for the first time.

Net Report: February net check-ins are 38, 40, 34 and 38 for an average of 37.5.

50/50 Drawing: The total collected was \$37. The winner of \$18.50 was Jody, K3JZD. Jody donated the proceeds to the club treasury.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion to adjourn was made by WA3KFS and seconded by WA3LCY. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Stewart – WA3HGW
Secretary; Skyview Radio Society, Inc.



The A.R.T of a QSO de Curt - WU3U

As part of the recent topic Helping Newbies I've uploaded a document that I started a few years back when I realized that not much was written about actually having a QSO with someone.



Today I found that document and made a few modifications to it and uploaded it to the site for anyone that is interested to read. You can find it here:

[The A.R.T of a QSO by WU3U](#)

While not perfect, I wish I would have had something like this to read prior to getting on the air. Maybe it will help some newbies and I think there are even a few things even some experienced hams can learn from this.

While I'm not an expert myself I'm just sharing some of my experiences along the way and taken notes of some things that I've picked up on after hearing some good and bad operators.

Curt - WU3U

Visit to Wayne McCullough K3WM

December 17 2021

"... To the Moon, Alice, to the Moon..."

When Wayne, W3WM punched a signal at the Moon, it bounced back in 2.5 seconds, Think about it Ralph...



14' DISH FOR ON 1296 & 2304 GHZ DIESEL OIL COOLED

For L band, 600 W with an antenna gain of 30 dbi gives +57 dbW EIRP or 500KW. For S band, 60W and 34 dbi gain for an EIRP of +51 dbW or a little more than 100 KW

Near the conclusion of the 2021 ARRL EME contest, K3WM invited a number of us to visit and witness the result of years of engineering design and construction while he made CW and Q65 (FT8, 15 seconds, Q65 1 minute) QSO's



CLOUDY, BUT THAT'S THE MOON

In October thru December made
13 contacts on 2304
88 contacts on 1296



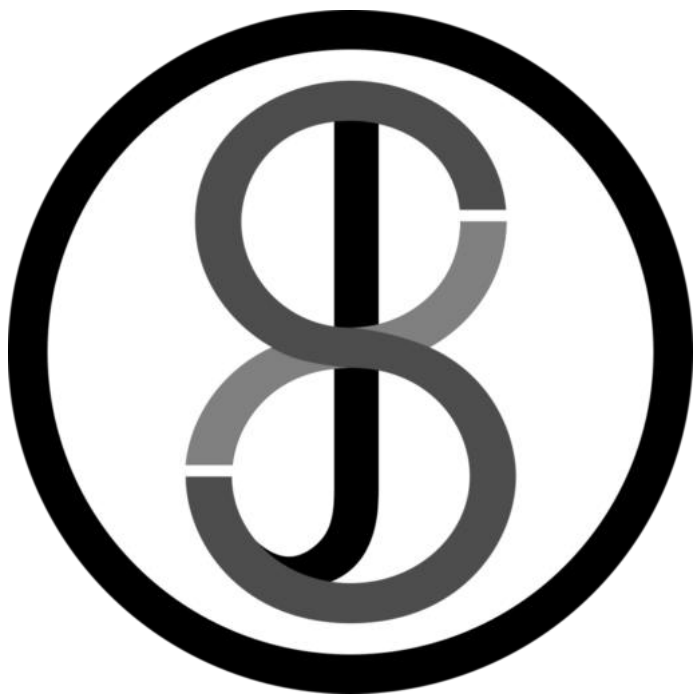
WAYNE WORKED RD4D & LZ1DX



HMM LIQUID COOLED!



Wayne put on a great show, Solving mechanical & electrical challenges, Years of design, in the final hours of the EME contest. Looking around the shack, A feed horn for one of the bands, preamps, exciters, all designed and built over several year. In attendance Jack K3JAS, Steve K3FAZ, Marty AG3I, Cooky, WC3O & AI N2MA



If you have ever tried to send Winlink emails in the field, you know that isn't always the easiest program to use. When it works it is a joy, but when the available gateways are clogged or propagation is down, it can be a real nightmare.

Enter JS8Call (or what used to be called FT8Call). JS8Call uses the same algorithms as FT8 for weak-signal communications, so propagation challenges are minimized. The great thing about JS8Call for EMCOMM in the field is that you can easily create APRS-IS messages that can be routed through to various communication modalities.

I have successfully (and easily) sent emails, text messages, and eight- and ten-digit grid position reports using three very easy APRS-IS commands in JS8CALL—something FT8 is just not designed to do. Here are the three JS8Call syntaxes for emails, texts, and grid position reports:

Format for SMS Text:

@APRSIS<SP>CMD<SP>:SMSGTE<SP><SP><SP>:@1
#####<SP>Message

Format for Email:

@APRSIS<SP>CMD<SP>:EMAIL-
2<SP><SP>:youremail@giggle.com<SP>: Message

Format for APRS Messages:

@APRSIS<SP>GRID

There is a small program available to format the above messages which you can [download here](#). Thank you to Billy Penley, KN4MKB, of [The Modern Ham](#) for writing this awesome program.

Finally, for you Android users there is a free app that will use your device's GPS to calculate your ten-digit grid zone. It is called HamGPS and can be found on Google's Play Store. Put the grid zone in the set up for JS8Call to give your correct position report.

If you would like to schedule some time with me to practice sending and receiving JS8Call texts, emails, or position reports, please email me at :

K2PMD@arrl.net.

N1MM+ Contest Logging Software

de Cooky – WC3O

The screenshot shows two windows from the N1MM+ software. The top window is a contest log titled '3/16/2022 01:48:32Z ARRL DX CW - ARRL_CW_DX.s3db'. It contains a table with columns for time, call, frequency, sent, received, power, multiplier, and prefix. The bottom window is the '14025.00 CW Manual - VFO A' control panel, showing call 'P5AAA', sent '599', received '599', and power '100'. It includes various function keys (F1-F12) and status information.

MM-DD HH:MM	Call	Freq	Snt	Rcv	Po...	M1	Pfx
02-20 23:44	9A5Y	7007.52	599	599	KW		9A
02-20 23:46	HA8LCA	7010.50	599	599	300		HA
02-20 23:49	IH7Q	7020.84	599	599	KW		I
02-20 23:52	NP2J	7023.42	599	599	KW	✓	KP2
02-20 23:55	9Z4Y	7025.50	599	599	100	✓	9Y
02-20 23:58	EA6FO	7040.63	599	599	KW		EA6
02-20 23:59	IO5O	7041.21	599	599	500		I

Where to begin where to begin?

This article and the articles to follow in future newsletters are about N1MM+ contest logging software.

Logging software: Everyone uses logging software. Well, almost everyone. There are basically two different kinds of logging software. You have your everyday radio operating logging software, then you have contest logging software. They both log contacts – But if you want to operate contests, and be successful you will want good contest logging software. There are many important tools built in that will greatly increase your score. Trust me.

I will talk to you from my point of view. I was first licensed as a Novice back in 1979. I was a ham for many years and I never even remotely thought about contesting. Why? Mainly because I didn't have any contest elmers. I listened on the bands on contest weekends and heard the repetitious calls of CQ and the repetitious exchanges. It all seemed kinda silly and stupid to me. I didn't have anyone to tell me what contesting is really all about.

As it turns out, it has many facets. It wasn't until I started coming up to Skyview that I got to see why this activity was quite fun, interesting and challenging. My contesting elmers at the club where some first-rate operators. This includes George, N3GJ, Doc, K3MD and Rich, K3RWN. I would quietly sit be-

hind them and watch them operate. I would marvel at the efficiency of their operating. Each of them have a different style. I'd take something from each and merge them to make my own style.

One time years ago (I think it was the PA QSO Party) I was running a frequency on phone. One of the critical elements that you monitor is your "rate" (Your QSOs per hour). I was running something like 50 "Qs" an hour. George, N3GJ was watching behind me. George asked if I needed a break and he would side into the chair. I said sure. Geo sat down and I watch the rate meter go from @ 50 to @ 150! Same radio. Same antenna. Same frequency. Clearly I had room for improvement!

I can tell you all that I now know about contesting I learned simply by watching others operate who knew what they were doing. As I stated prior, everyone has their own operating style. I take a little this, I take little that, and make my own style of operating. You do what works for YOU.

The truth meter is the rate meter in your "contest logging software". There is actually MUCH more to being a good contester than simply your Q rate capability. Much more. I can only imagine George sitting behind me watching my 50 Qs per hour rate thinking – Come on come on! He never said a word. Every contester started out at the bottom of the heap. Even George.

It was Rich, K3RWN that got Skyview involved with RTTY contesting. Again, in the beginning, I thought it was a really dumb idea. I was wrong. At the time I was thinking of using N3FJP logging software at the club. It is good solid logging software. Scott, N3FJP provides for many of the popular contests in the contest versions of his software.

Rich insisted that we use a contest logging software called WriteLog. I never heard of it. I thought, what's the difference – It's just logging software? I quickly found out the difference. I have great re-

spect for Scott, N3FJP and his software. I have used it for years and still use it as my everyday logging software. It's great. But, in my opinion, it doesn't hold a candle to good contest logging software. Sorry OM Scott. I do love your software, however.

When it comes to good contest logging software you basically have three choices.

N1MM <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/> (THE most popular)

WriteLog <https://writelog.com/>

WinTest <http://www.win-test.com/>

Everyone has their favorite and for good reasons, for them. Sometimes it is just what you grew up with. You pay a small amount for WriteLog and WinTest. The cost is VERY reasonable. All three are great contest logging software packages.

Rich, K3RWN and Mike, K3FH prefer WriteLog. Tim, K3LR swears by WinTest. Me? I like them all but prefer N1MM. NOT because it's FREE. Because I find it most intuitive to use. I have found N1MM to be very stable. The last thing you want is software problems in the middle of a contest!

The reason I decided to change the Skyview standard from WriteLog to N1MM was because (at the time) I was having a persistent problem with WriteLog being unstable. Often we would need to reboot in the middle of a contest. Other times it would intermittently loose communications with the radio.

That was long ago and I'm sure WriteLog is stable now. At the time it was really frustrating me. I decided to switch to N1MM and I've never looked back. N1MM is written and maintained not by a single person, but a TEAM of very high-power software developers. It is constantly being tweaked and improved. New and important features are being written and added all of the time. I really don't know how the developers do it, but my hat is

off to them. Amazing. Also, the fact that it FREE allows YOU to experiment with N1MM at no risk whatsoever.

Contest logging software looks and operates differently than everyday logging software. There are numerous “windows” that you can have open, or keep closed. What windows you want open or left closed depends on the particular contest and your preferences.

The logging software can occupy part of one screen or consume three large screens. I’ll explain more in future articles. I’ll start out next time talking about the basic logging window in N1MM. It’s small but very powerful. This is where you’ll set up your personal data, radio communications, log management, digital interfacing and more.

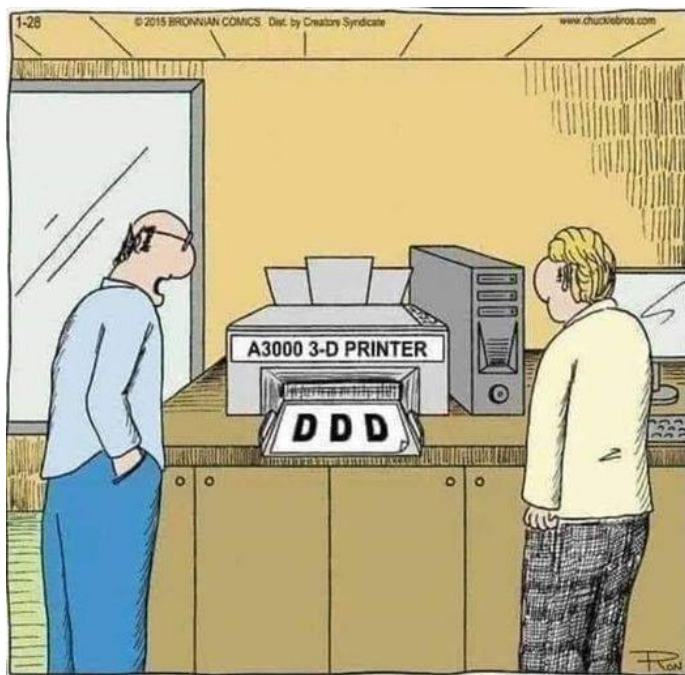
So the stage is set. Stay tuned my friend. Whether you fancy yourself a contester, thinking about getting into contesting or have absolutely no interest in contesting, there will be something for you.

CU on the radio

599 WPA

TU WC30

Cooky - WC30
Skyview Radio Officer



“I hate to be the one to tell you this, Jerry, but I think you’ve been ripped off.”



Welcome New Members !!

Welcome the following Skyview Radio Society Members who have joined us since publishing the February 2022 newsletter:

— None —

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 31 MAR 22

NM3A	K3HSE	G4 NFS	KC3 STS
N3AFS	KB3HXP	KB3NSH	KC3 STV
KB3APD	AC3HZ	AJ3O	KB3 SVJ
NA0B	AG3I	WC3 O	KC3 TEX
WI8B	AC3IE	KC3OCA	WV8 TG
N3BAH	KC3IIO	KC3OCB	N3 TIN
W3BUW	W3IU	KC3OCC	W3 TLN
KF3C	K3JAS	K3 OGN	N3 TTE
KC3CBQ	KG4JBB	N3 OIF	AG3 U
K2CI	N3JLR	KB3OMB	NS3 U
K3CLT	KA3JOU	KB3ORO	N3 UIW
K3DCG	ND9JR	NK3P	W3 UY
KC2EGL	K3JZD	K3 PC	KX3 V
KC3EJC	KC3KEI	KC3PEM	K3 VRU
AB3ER	WA3KFS	KC3PIM	N3 VXT
N3ERW	KB3KHR [SK]	K2 PMD	W3 VYK
K3ES	AC0KK	KE3PO	N3 WAV
KB3EYY	K3KR	KC3PSQ	K3 WM
AC3EZ	W4KV	KC3PXQ	N3 WMC
WB3FAE	KC3KXZ	NU3Q	K3 WWP
K3FAZ	WE3L	WQ3 Q	N3 XF
KC3FEI	WA3LCY	KC3QAA	KB3 YJQ
K3FH	KC3LHW	KC3QIR	W3 YNI
K3FKI	W3LID	KC3QWF	W3 YNX
KC3FWD	WB3LJQ	NJ3R	K3 ZAU
AC3GB	KB3LND	K3 RAW	W3 ZVX
N2GBR	K3LR	K3 RMB	
AC3GE	KC3LRT	KC3RPP	
KC3GPM	AB3LS	W3 RRK	
K3GT	KC3LZH	I2 RTF	
AB3GY	N2MA	KD3RVR	
KC3GZW	KC3MBM	KQ3S	
NC3H	N3MHZ	K3 SBE	
NY9H	KC3MIQ	KC3SDJ	
WB3HFP	K3MJ	KC3SKX	
WA3HGW	K3MRN	KC3SNZ	
KB3HPC	N3MRU	KB3SOU	
KA3HPM [SK]	KS3N	K3 STL	

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

This Box is Empty



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

Right after the last newsletter came out in late January, there was a lot of chatter on the reflector about various electronic keys and paddles. Here is a link that N3MA submitted that probably covers everything that there is to know !!

http://cq-cq.eu/DJ5IL_rt007.pdf

Here's a link that Chuck - K3CLT submitted. It points to a RF Café page which is calling attention to a 1953 QST article called :

Let's Keep It Simple - Adjusting the Novice Antenna

There is some good practical stuff to be found in some of the older QST issues.

<https://tinyurl.com/2nz6w6nv>

Here is some good info and a free program to allow you to easily document your station's RF Safety

<http://n6nb.com/rfsafety.htm>

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, 2022**

Closing Date For Submissions : **May 15, 2022**

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** <<<<<<

An 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 Testing Dates, See :

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Time: Usually 8:15 AM

Location: Skyview Clubhouse Meeting Room
2335 Turkey Ridge Rd
New Kensington PA 15068-1936

Contact: William C. Dillen
(724) 882-9612

Email: bdillen@comcast.net

Please E-Mail or call to register!!!

While walk-ins are accepted, the exam session may be cancelled if no candidates are scheduled.



Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

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Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles from this issue, provided the original author and "*The Skyview Q5er*" are credited.

email your comments and article submissions to: [K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET](mailto:K3JZD@ARRL.NET)



I just got my ham radio license, now what do I do?

That's Easy

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

And See : <https://tinyurl.com/y79tqsr8>

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

Subscribe to K3MJW [groups.io](https://groups.io/g/K3MJW) 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 ??

Send in pictures of your Ham Shack