

W9JOZ

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2018

Next Meeting is January 18, 2018

Fox Hunts
are suspended until spring.

Weekly 2 meter Net

Once again we are having the Saturday Night Net at 8:00 pm on the 145.410 repeater. Hope you can check in and let everyone know what you are up to now that winter is almost here. Or here depending on how you look at it.

Thanks
John W3ML



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.



Are you on the air?

Richard, K9QA is an official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact him at k9qa@arrl.net to have your cards checked.

DX Century Club

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December Events

Birthdays

January 9th - David KD9U

January 15th - John W3ML

I do not have birth dates for WA9YOZ, and KC9LHM

Starke County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net will be on each Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Central time.

DAY OF WEEK: Saturday 8:00 p.m. Central time

HOST: KN9OX Repeater

FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600

PL TONE: 131.8

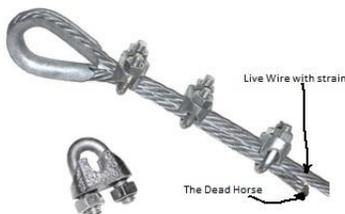
Handy Hint

Never Saddle a Dead Horse

NEVER PLACE A U-BOLT OVER THE LIVE LINE

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

It may seem like a simple thing but there is a correct and an incorrect way to install guy wire clamps. If yours are installed wrong is it an emergency to redo them? Probably not, but at your earliest convenience, it would be advisable to correct them.



The “saddle” is the cast part of the clamp. The dead horse, or wire, is the one that does not have to handle the strain of the tower. The reasons why you don’t saddle the dead horse is if you do, the clamp does not give its rated grip to the live wire (live -the one under strain).

Will it hold for now? Probably, and in normal weather conditions that’s fine. But, with our winter winds and summer’s big thunderstorms, make it correct so the clamp provided its full strength. The other reason is the saddle keeps the live wire intact and the “U” bolt crushes the dead wire into it. The other way, the “U” of the U-bolt crushes the live wire weakening it giving it a stress point that could fail at the crush.

If you see corrosion, rust, on the outside of the guy cable, you can be sure it is **MUCH** worse inside. Plan on changing it, preferably to stainless. There are many rules in properly installing a tower; this one seemed to give the most bang for your buck being the easiest to correct.

Wire Rope Clamps

Wire rope clamps or cable clamps are commonly used with tower guys. There are several different types of clamps and each has their own application. See manufacturers’ literature for specific types and applications. If these clamps are not used properly, they can lead to failure. When using a cable clamp, your load capacity in any form is only 80 to 90 percent of the cable’s current strength. If the cable is new, its strength is easy to calculate, but if the cable is old, rusty or damaged, the lifting capacity, holding capacity etc., is much more difficult to gauge.

Cables

Prior to each use, any cable should be inspected. The inspector should look for cables that have:

- Broken wires/strands
- Rust
- Sand
- Kinks
- Any visible damage to the cable, eyes, etc.
- If the damage covers more than 10 percent of the strands in one wrap or the lay of the cable is broken, it should not be used for any application and should be discarded. See the cable manufacturer’s specific cable inspection instructions. Inspections should only be made by a competent person.

The old saying “you never saddle a dead horse” is true. Never apply a clamp with the saddle on the dead side of the cable. Only the U-bolt should be on the dead side of the cable, where crushing will not affect the breaking strength of the hoist line.



3Y0Z Bouvet Island [Update]



29 December 2017

Press Release # 10

We recently reached yet another milestone in our quest to activate Bouvet Island.

DAP, the Chilean company that owns and operates the M/V Betanzos and the helicopters has satisfied the last contractual requirements, prior to departure. We submitted to them a “fit for purpose” checklist with 120 items as part of our contract. They have satisfied all the checklist items, and we will be transferring almost ½ million US dollars to them in the next few days.

So, we are happy to report that we are on schedule for a January 13, 2018 departure to Bouvet Island, the World’s most isolated island and the number two most wanted DX entity. All team members will meet in Punta Arenas, Chile no later than January 10, 2018. We will attend a one and one-half day marine safety course, purchase last minute supplies and then fly across the Drake Passage to King George Island in the South Shetlands. There, we will board the newly refurbished Chilean vessel M/V Betanzos, and begin our 9 to 11-day voyage to Bouvet. The team feels confident knowing that the ship’s captain and many of the crew have been with the vessel for eight years, and have extensive Southern Ocean experience. The Captain reports he has previously been to Bouvet.

Sea ice has been reported along a direct route to Bouvet, and that may dictate we take a more northerly course, before turning East to approach Bouvet. That may add day or two to our transit time.

Our two helicopters have completed their 100-hour inspections, and are ready for service. There has been a thorough review of landing procedures and shelter and antenna layouts. We have three alternative anchoring systems to secure the shelters and antennas to the ice on the surface of Bouvet.

So, the plan remains unchanged. We will have two stations on every open band whenever humanly possible, gain and directional antennas where possible, high power stations and a propagation-driven operation. The primary modes will be CW, SSB and RTTY. FT8 will be utilized if it is the only productive mode. Anyone preparing to utilize FT8 must read the 3YØZ FT8 protocol on the Band Plan page of the DXpedition website.

Complete information on band plans and frequencies, propagation predictions and QSL procedures are available on the DXpedition website: www.bouvetdx.org. You will find strategically placed “*donate*” buttons if you want to help with our substantial costs. I hope you share in the excitement of this great undertaking. We anxious to get underway!

73,

Bob-K4UEE

Ralph-KØIR

Erling-LA6VM

Editor Note: You might want to try and work them when they begin at the end of the month. Most likely this will be the last trip in our lifetime. Last trip there was 20 years ago, and will probably be another 20 before anyone is allowed to go back.

What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, I received an email from the ARRL. Attached were minutes of a Special Board Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors (<http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Minutes-of-Special-Board-Meeting-ARRL-Board-of-Directors-1.pdf>) held by teleconference on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. At first, I didn't think much of it, but after reading the minutes, I thought to myself, "What heck are these guys thinking?"

What the minute's document is the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, for "criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct [sic] and drawing the Board's collective decision making into disrepute." I won't quote the whole thing here, but you can find the text on my website at <http://www.kb6nu.com/heck-arrrl-board-thinking/>.

So, what is this ARRL Code of Conduct? Its official name is the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and the board adopted this code at the January 20-21, 2017 board meeting. You can find this code on the ARRL website at [http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL Code of Conduct.pdf](http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf).

To be fair, this document does include some good things, such as acting responsibly when it comes to ARRL financial matters and treating ARRL staff with respect. What seems to be questionable, and the reason for N6AA's censure, however, is Section 8 Support of Board Decisions. I won't quote the entire section here, but basically what it says an ARRL board member must accept and publicly support board decisions, even if they voted it against it. If they express any dissenting opinion about a board decision, they can be censured, as N6AA was in this case.

In effect, this is a gag order on a director if he disagrees with a Board decision. Not only that, this section seems to say that once someone gets elected to the Board, his allegiance to the Board is more important than the views of the amateur radio operators he represents.

One of my Twitter followers put it this way, "Where else can those ostensibly in a position of representation of the organization's members be punished for publicly criticizing the organization's rules? US Congress? Parliament of the UK? No, and no. @arrrl board is looking more like North Korea than a representative body." Seriously, can you imagine if the U.S. Congress had such a policy in place?

What did Norton actually do?

I emailed Norton to find out what he said exactly to bring on this censure. Understandably, he was a little hesitant to speak to me directly. I then asked if I could see the supporting statements.

I then received two emails. The first was from Mark Weiss, K6FG. His email contained the text of an email he sent to the ARRL Board of Directors. A second contained an email sent to the board by Tim Duffy, K3LR, the owner of DX Engineering. Both emails supported N6AA, noting that he stated that he supported the board action and that any opposition came from the audience and not from Norton.

So, I go back to my original question. What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking, first in passing this draconian ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and second in using it to censure a director, who, according to several accounts, didn't commit the infraction in the first place? Are they so insecure in their decision-making that they have to resort to gag orders like this? Don't they see that taking actions like this brings them more "disrepute" than an honest dissenting opinion?

If this situation angers you as much as it does me, I encourage you to contact your director and make your feelings known. One of my blog readers suggests that your message be "short, non-aggressive, and to the point." He suggested the following:

Dear [your director's name here]

I am unhappy with both the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Member of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors (aka the "Code of Conduct") and the N6AA censure.

I want to freely discuss issues with our directors. I want our directors to tell me where they stand, not where the board stands.

I want the directors to be free to express their opinions and to know how they voted.

I want directors to not fear censure.

Therefore, I urge the following immediate actions:

1. Modify the Code of Conduct to allow the above.
2. Revoke the N6AA censure.

73,

[Your name and callsign go here.]

I hate to say this, but this is only the beginning. Some ARRL directors are planning to propose changes to the League's Articles of Association and By-Laws at the board meeting in January 2018. These changes will make the ARRL even less democratic and more authoritarian.

As reported by CQ magazine (<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2017/12/changes-proposed-to-arrrl-governing.html>), if these changes are enacted "the board of directors will be able to revoke League membership 'for cause' and to remove board members by revoking their League membership; lesser disciplinary actions against board members, such as censure, will be allowed without the member receiving advance notice or an opportunity to respond to allegations." Another change will grant voting privileges to the president and three vice-presidents, even though these are appointed positions.

Again, I ask, what the heck is the ARRL board thinking? Do they really think that this is going to make the ARRL a stronger organization and a better advocate for amateur radio? If so, I'd like to hear their reasoning. ARRL membership has been declining for many years (as a percentage of licensed radio amateurs), and these moves are only going to accelerate that decline. I have already heard from many hams that they plan to let their ARRL membership lapse.

Please consider contacting your director today. It may already be too late to save the ARRL.

Noise Cancellers - RFI Survival Guide

Earlier this year, I published a series of articles on my web site called "Noise Cancellers - RFI Survival Guide". The purpose of this information was to help hams and shortwave listeners lower their local HF noise floor and improve reception.

RFI from neighbors is a constant challenge. Properly set up, noise cancellers are amazingly effective in cleaning up or reducing RFI. Success depends on understanding what kind of noise you can fight, how noise cancellers work, and most important, designing and installing noise probe antennas around your location. This five-article series does just that. It also includes a detailed video demonstrating effective noise cancellation.

Please take a moment to review these articles.

The URL is:

<http://play.fallows.ca/wp/series/noise-cancelers-rfi-survival-guide/>

Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

73 John Fallows VE6EY
Calgary, Alberta

I have two different types of roof towers for sale. One is about 3 feet high and the other one is a heavy-duty 5 foot, four legged tower with rotor plate. If interested, please email me. W3ML

We have several **new** pieces of equipment for sale on our For Sale Page <http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm>

Please check it out.

Free: 3 Motorola-type Mobile Radios - one is set up to work cross-band 2-6 others are in the 2 meter or 440 meter band. Will not ship.

Email John at <mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com>.

If you have something for the newsletter, please send it to me before the 20th of the month.

See you at a meeting.

73

John, W3ML

