

W9JOZ

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January 2019

Happy New Year!

Weekly 2 meter Net

We are having the Saturday Night Net at 8:00 pm on the 145.410 repeater.

Hope you can check in and join us for some good conversation.

We could use some more check-ins on the net.

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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January Events

Birthdays

9th - KD9U, David

15th - W3ML, John

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

News Items Listed

See all the For Sale Items at

www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm

There are a lot of them there.

Tom Troike sent this in:

Here is a link to a pdf of a USMC Antenna Handbook:

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/usmc/mcrp/3-40-3c/mcrp3-40-3c.pdf>

It contains a lot of useful information.

73',

de Tom, W9QN

A little that Tom, W8FIB sent me.

[International Beacon Project Transmission Schedule](#)

International Beacon Project Transmission Schedule

VE3SUN

International Beacon Project Transmission Schedule

Probably won't hear too much at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. But when there is an opening, there is the clue.

Here's an interesting but brief report about Bouvet Is. which came out of the December 2018 meeting of the American Geophysical Union. Thought you might be interested.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46547254>

73,
Len AE9LL

Earlier this year, I published a series on my web site about "Spatial Interference Filtering Techniques". The purpose of this information is to show hams and shortwave listeners some different ways to reduce interference and improve reception.

Spatial Interference Filtering, or beamforming, has traditionally been accomplished with analog components and phased antennas. Today, software defined radios can do beamforming and diversity reception digitally. This is accomplished with a dual-channel coherent SDR. By manipulating the phase and amplitude of IQ data, beamforming is easily achieved with two antennas. It's a great approach for diversity reception and interference cancellation. PowerSDR and Linrad both support these techniques.

Please take a moment to review the Spatial Interference Filtering Techniques articles.

These articles are located at <http://play.fallows.ca/wp/series/spatial-interference-filtering-techniques/>

73 John Fallows VE6EY
Calgary, Alberta

Looking for a new antenna concept. Check this out.

AT LEAST A TREE WILL LOAD LOL <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/742230.pdf>

Why use FT8 mode in DXpeditions?

FT8 is rapidly becoming the digital mode of choice for DXpeditions and here are some reasons why:

- Important for little pistol stations, especially in antenna-challenged HOA or high-noise neighborhoods.
- No other mode has the capability of working five different calls in parallel in the same sub-band with queuing.
- Very high rates possible compared to RTTY, which equals more ATNOs in the log.
- Easier to reach certain parts of the world under poor propagation conditions and weak solar cycles.
- Excellent mode for challenging bands like 6M and 160M.
- Still get credit for a digital QSO toward awards, etc.
- May attract new operators or revitalize older ones.
- Excellent mode for hearing- or speech-impaired hams.
- DQRM not a problem.
- Less stressful for DXpedition operators.
- Has tremendous remote operation possibilities.

(from the Northern California DX Foundation Fall 2018 Newsletter) Submitted by Steve KD9HL

Handy Hint Basic Antenna Trouble Shooting

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Thanks to the guru of the Elecraft world- Don Wilhelm-W3FPR for this handy hint:

Take an antenna analyzer out to the base of the antenna and measure between the radiator and the radial field. That should tell you what the antenna itself reads both for resonance and SWR.

Then put a dummy load on the antenna end of the coax. Most antenna analyzers are capable of measuring the coax loss, so go into the shack at the other end of the coax and measure it.

Those two steps will tell you whether the problem is with the antenna or the feedline.

If you do not have a coax loss function on your antenna analyzer, feed the coax, put a wattmeter in the coax in the shack and observe the power. Without changing anything on the rig, remove the wattmeter and move it to the other end of the feedline. Have someone else do a TUNE on the rig while you observe the power at the other end of the coax - compare the two wattmeter readings.

If nothing is revealed by those tests, look with close scrutiny at any coax connectors or adapters that you did not use for the tests – adapters and connectors are a frequent cause of failure, use only good ones (Amphenol- not cheap Chinese).

◀73's and good DX ▶

6 METER 6 ELEMENT SSB YAGI PLANS FOR 6 METER SIDEBAND FUN

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/6meterssbyagi.html>

Having read this article, it seems to be an easy build and should work great on 6 meters. 6 meters is still open off and on even during this time of the year. On December 29th, FT8 was being used heavily, to include DX.

Make ham radio a habit

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Every week, I get an email newsletter from Penguin Random House called *Signature*. *Signature* includes links to articles about books and writing. Being a writer, I clicked on the link to "5 Good Writing Habits You Need to Learn Now." As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the advice could also apply to amateur radio.

So, with apologies to the author, Lorraine Berry, here are five things you can do to make ham radio a habit:

1. **To get on the air more, or to do more building, set up a time to do it.** If you enjoy getting on the air or homebrewing, but never seem to be able to find the time to do it, you need to put it on your schedule. Set aside the time a couple of days, or a week, or even a month in advance, and you'll be more likely to do it. If you set up a regular time every week, pretty soon it will be a habit.
2. **If ham radio is important to you, create an environment that encourages you to do ham radio.** To make ham radio a habit, you really need a place that's set up to do ham radio. If you have to dig out and set up your equipment every time that you want to get on the air, you're just not going to do it. You need a "shack" that makes it easier for you to engage in the hobby. Richards, K8JHR, gave me some great advice back in 2012 on where and how to set up a shack (<https://www.kb6nu.com/building-a-new-shack/>).
3. **Create temptations that reward you for your new habit of ham radio.** For me, being able to make interesting contacts, or building some new gizmo, is reward enough, but you may want to reward yourself with a beer or some ice cream after an operating session.
4. **Make it easy to do what you like to do.** This is related to #3. Your shack should have everything you need to easily do whatever ham radio activities you enjoy doing. If you enjoy operating, then it should have a nice operating desk. If you enjoy building, then set it up so that all of your tools are readily accessible. The easier it is to do, the more likely it is that you'll do it. If you enjoy operating portable, then build up a kit that has all the stuff you need, and have it ready to go when you're ready to go.
5. **Start with the Two-Minute Rule for new habits and continue from there.** The "two minute rule" (<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/how-stop-procrastinating-and-stick-good-habits->

[using-the-2-minute-rule.html](#)) is a tool to help you overcome procrastination. The idea is to allot just two minutes to a task that you'd like to complete or a skill that you'd like to develop. It's a small commitment, but enough to get you started, and the idea is that once you're started on a particular task or project, continuing work on that task or project becomes a lot easier. Those two minutes could easily become a half hour or an hour once you've gotten the ball rolling.

Armed with this advice, I'm expecting you to be a more active ham in 2019. I'll be listening for you on 40 m.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). His wife sometimes thinks that amateur radio has become too much of a habit for him.

Roy, KC9HUB asked if anyone was interested in a deal on a radio, power supply and speakers. Chris Sanders has a Kenwood TS-440S with the power supply and speakers for only \$250.00. Contact Chris at 577-540-6885.

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS JANUARY 17th.

If you have a presentation for the meeting, please let me know.

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

