

# W9JOZ

Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2020

## Next Meeting is January 16th

Greeting fellow amateurs.

This year brings new fun and challenges for all of us.

If you have an idea for a program, let me know and I will try to accommodate it.

I was once president of the Motor Radio club, so this is not the first time as a club president.

We seem to get good turnouts for breakfast on Saturdays. Let's try to do likewise for regular meetings.

Dave  
Kc8obh



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?

Library Door locks at 7:00 p.m. so if you are late, knock loud.

**Don't forget Dues are due for 2020.**

**Still \$12.00**

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## Events

**Fox Hunts are the 2nd Sunday. See webpage for details**

## Birthdays

**9th Dave - KD9U**

**15th John - W3ML**

**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

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## New Items Listed

**See all the For Sale Items at**

**[www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm](http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm)**

**There are a lot of them there. Updated regularly.**



**New Listing of more items from Doc's ham gear she found. See the For Sale Page on the Club website. If you have items to sell email me a list with prices and contact information.**

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# Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" is a quote attributed to Albert Einstein (<https://quotationcelebration.wordpress.com/2017/01/07/everything-should-be-made-as-simple-as-possible-but-not-simpler-albert-einstein/comment-page-1/>). Here's one way to apply this principle in amateur radio, specifically to code practice oscillators.

A week ago, my friend, Paul emailed me:

"I am planning on teaching a two-hour introduction to Morse code to 14 girls ages 8 to 9 *[[Paul's granddaughter is a Girl Scout.]]*. I plan on having the girls build a code practice device. I need your help in selecting a low cost buzzer and battery holder. Please take a look around and see would you can find. I would like to limit the power to one or two AA batteries."

I replied that I'd be happy to help him with the demonstration, and offered the following advice:

"A while back, I built the QRP Guys' K7QO Code Practice Oscillator (<https://qrpguys.com/k7qo-code-practice-oscillator>). It uses a CR2032 coin battery.

"Unfortunately, they don't sell it anymore, but the assembly manual is still online ([https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo\\_assy\\_012616.pdf](https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo_assy_012616.pdf)). The assembly manual doesn't call out specific parts, but here are some Amazon SKUs:

- B00J4BK0NS, Black 3V Electromagnetic Type Piezo Buzzer, 20 pcs/\$6.58
- B06XF3K4NP, Coin Cell Button Battery Holder, 30 pcs/\$9
- B008SNZUYC, 3 Pin PCB Mount Female 3.5mm Stereo Jack, 10 pcs/\$5.40
- B071RMD6FD, 1/8" 3.5mm Stereo Male Connector, 10 pcs/\$7

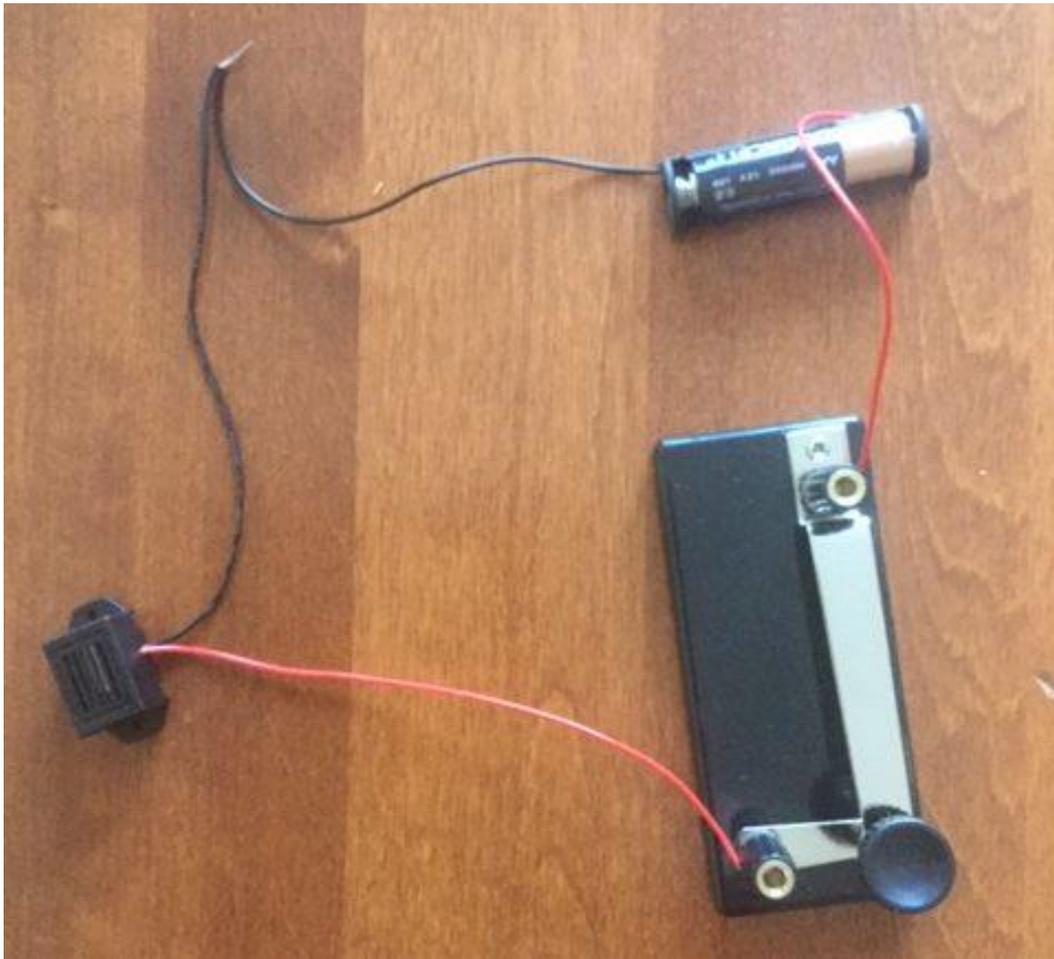
"Batteries are available at the dollar store for about 30 cents each. So, you could do the whole thing for less than \$5 for sure, even with a printed circuit board, which I would suggest that we do. Heck, if you ask nicely, the QRP Guys might even give us the artwork, or even better, have some boards still in stock. Even if they have neither, you should be able to get the boards in plenty of time."

Later that day, Paul replied:

Thanks, Dan, for the information and making yourself available to help. I am just going to use a buzzer, key, and battery. The buzzer has a frequency of 400 Hz.

- <https://www.xump.com/science/Buzzer-Leads15V.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/ContactKeySwitch.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/Single-AA-Battery-Holder.cfm>

And this morning, he sent me this photo, noting, "FYI. Also sounds great."



I think that this is as good an example of "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" as there can be. I've volunteered to help Paul with his class. That will be fun, too.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog ([KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides ([KB6NU.Com/study-guides/](http://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/)), and often appears on the ICQPodcast ([icqpodcast.com](http://icqpodcast.com)). When he's not trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.



**Starke County Radio Club Treasurer, John Poindexter, W3ML, wants to make sure everyone is aware that 2020 dues are now being accepted.**

**Annual dues are still only \$12.00.**

**John will be available to accept dues payments at the January 16 meeting. Dues checks can also be mailed to John Poindexter at 204 South Main Street, Knox, IN 46534. Contact John with any dues questions at <mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com>**

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## **SOLAR CYCLE 24/25 UPDATE**

The NOAA/NASA-co-chaired international Solar Cycle Prediction Panel has released its latest forecast for Solar Cycle 25.

The panel's consensus calls for a peak in July 2025 ( $\pm 8$  months), with a smoothed sunspot number of 115.

The panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be of average intensity and similar to Cycle 24. The panel additionally concurred that the solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 will occur in April 2020 ( $\pm 6$  months).

If the solar minimum prediction is correct, this would make Solar Cycle 24 the seventh longest on record at 11.4 years. In its preliminary forecast released last April, the scientists on the panel forecast that Solar Cycle 25 would likely be weak, much like the current Cycle 24.

For more details, point your browser [to http://www.arrl.org/news/noaa-nasa-panel-concurs-that-solar-cycle-25-will-peak-in-july-2025](http://www.arrl.org/news/noaa-nasa-panel-concurs-that-solar-cycle-25-will-peak-in-july-2025)

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## **South Orkney Islands DXpedition will Use VP8PJ**

01/03/2020

The Perseverance DX Group's [DXpedition to South Orkney](#), set for February 20 until March 5, will use the call sign VP8PJ. The group initially announced that it would use VP8/VP8DXU.

“Alan Armstrong, VK6CQ, a recent addition to the team, holds the call sign VP8PJ that was issued to him for operation from the British Antarctic Territory,” the DXpedition has announced. “After submission of a copy of Alan's license, ARRL has issued us a new LoTW certificate for the use of this call from South Orkney for the duration of our expedition.”

[Contact](#) the DXpedition via email.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/south-orkney-islands-dxpedition-will-use-vp8pj>

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## Introducing Logbook of the World

Logbook of the World (LoTW) is an online service that enables you to

- electronically submit contacts (QSOs) for confirmation
- view your submitted QSOs and resulting confirmations online
- view your [DXCC](#), [VUCC](#), [WAS](#), [WAZ](#) and [WPX](#) award progress online
- electronically submit confirmations for [credit](#) toward DXCC, VUCC, WAS, WAZ and WPX awards

As stated in LoTW's [Mission and Objectives](#), membership in the ARRL is not a requirement. To use LoTW, [download the free TQSL application](#) and direct it to request participation. You'll be issued a unique [Callsign Certificate](#), and provided with access to an [LoTW Account](#) via the world wide web.

After you're registered, you can submit QSOs to LoTW by either using [TQSL](#) to [digitally sign](#) those QSOs and convey them to LoTW via the internet, or by using [one of the many logging applications](#) that provide this capability.

If the information in a submitted QSO matches the information submitted to LoTW by the your QSO partner, the LoTW Accounts of both you and your QSO partner will show the submitted QSO as [confirmed](#).

A Callsign Certificate authenticates the source of each submitted QSO, and no operator is permitted to see the information submitted by other operators. This combination maintains the integrity of the QSO verification process that has long been the hallmark of ARRL awards.

Via your LoTW Account, you can [submit a confirmed QSO](#) for credit in one or more of the DXCC, VUCC, WAS, WAZ, and WPX award programs.

There is no fee for obtaining a Callsign Certificate, submitting QSOs, or using one's LoTW Account to view submitted QSOs, confirmed QSOs, or award progress. A fee is only charged when submitting confirmed QSOs for [Award Credit](#).

When the processing of a WAZ or WPX application made from LoTW is complete, your LoTW confirmations will be conveyed to the CQ WAZ or CQ WPX Award Manager, respectively. You can then [apply to CQ](#) for awards, plaques, or pins.

If you're not yet using LoTW, here's [how to get started](#).

If you're already using LoTW and need information, check the **Using Logbook of the World** "navigation bar" on the left, consult the searchable list of [Topic Titles](#), or try [Frequently Asked Questions](#). You can also search the contents of this help system using the **Search** facility in the upper-right corner of every page.

More information can be found on <https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/>

*Editor Note: If you operate HF at all, then is a good service to get your QSO's confirmed.*

### ARRL Contest Dates – Years 2020 - 2021

Contest Name	2020 (day of month)	2021 (day of month)
<b>JANUARY</b>		
Straight Key Night	1	1
Kid's Day (Jan and Jun)	4	2
RTTY Roundup	4-5	2-3
January VHF Contest	18-20	16-18
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
School Club Roundup (Winter/Spring Term)	10-14	8-12
DX Contest – CW	15-16	20-21
<b>MARCH</b>		
DX Contest – SSB	7-8	6-7
<b>APRIL</b>		
Rookie Roundup (SSB)	19	11
<b>MAY (no ARRL events)</b>		
<b>JUNE</b>		
June VHF Contest	13-15	12-14
Kid's Day (Jan and Jun)	20	19
Field Day (always 4 <sup>th</sup> full weekend)	27-28	26-27
<b>JULY</b>		
IARU HF World Championship	11-12	10-11
<b>AUGUST</b>		
222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	1-2	7-8
10 GHz & Up – Round 1	15-16	14-15
Rookie Roundup (RTTY)	16	15

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

