W9JOZ

Volume 9, Issue 11 November 2019

Next Meeting is November 21st

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

Inside This Issue

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.

July Events

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

Birthdays

21st - Chester, KA9FAW

24th - Tony, W9AL

A Belated Happy Birthday to Jake, WA9ZTP

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

New Items Listed

See all the For Sale Items at
www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm
There are a lot of them there. Updated regularly.

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New Listing of more items from Doc's ham gear she found. See the For Sale Page on the Club website.

Card Checking Tips

DXCC Card Checking is available by appointment and may be available at meetings. E-Mail kd9hl@arrl.net for an appointment or to make other arrangements.

To avoid problems with field checking your application be sure to follow the instructions on the ARRL website.

Note that there are two ways of doing a paper card submission-online and traditional. You can no longer do a hybrid LOTW and paper card submission on a single application. It is absolutely necessary that you follow all the instructions and have all the paperwork properly filled out or we will not be able to check your cards.

If you use the preferred Online Electronic DXCC Application https://p1k.arrl.org/onlinedxcc/ for your paper cards it will be easier and cheaper for you. It will also go a lot faster at HQ when they get your paperwork since you already entered your card data in the ARRL computer system. With the online application you can enter the cards in any order. Just make sure to enter the QSOs on cards with multiple QSOs together to facilitate checking. The reason you don't have to sort by band then mode is because there is minimal data entry work at HQ when they get your field checked application.

You can also use the Traditional Application forms http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-forms/ where you fill in and print the PDF forms for the application and record sheets.

Make sure to follow those instructions. A traditional application will cost you roughly twice as much as the online application to cover data entry costs at HQ. With a traditional application you must sort cards by band then by mode with all the multiple QSO cards being listed last to facilitate data entry at ARRL HQ. If you use the traditional application make sure you include valid credit card info on the bottom of the PDF application form. Cash is not accepted.

Whichever way you do it, follow those instructions and make sure the cards are properly sorted in the same order as your DXCC Record Sheet. Also make certain that all the QSL card information (call, date, band, mode, country) has been entered correctly on the record sheet.

Bring the following:

1· Cards sorted per your Record Sheet·
2. Printed copy of the signed and dated Application Sheet·
3. Printed copy of the DXCC Record Sheet·
4. Stamped business size (No. 10) envelope addressed to DXCC Desk, ARRL HQ, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 so we can mail your application to HQ.
5. It is strongly advised that you make and keep a copy of the paperwork for your records.

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Steve, KD9HL is located in Westville and is the Official ARRL Card Checker for the Northwest Indiana DX Club. Follow the instructions above and you can have him check your cards.

Need to Check Your Coax Out.

Coax checking Good explanation on how to do it.

MFJ-269C Testing coax cable faults and length

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnRYYfgVToE

Handy Hint

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

A Low Band Receive Antenna

(An antenna you may already have!)

If there is one thing true in DX, it is the old adage "If you can't hear them, you can't work them".

Over the years I have dabbled with the low bands such as 80 and 160 meters, but never operated there seriously. The antennas for both receive and transmit (except for a short period using a Butternut vertical that was destroyed in an ice storm) were generally dipoles. One was what I called a "wet noodle" because it wound through trees, along the top of a wooden fence to finally terminate a few inches off the ground. It must have had a crazy pattern!

Often it was a struggle, but perseverance led to successful completion of DXCC on 80 meters. Then a few years ago the ARRL created the DX Challenge Award recognizing the successful contact of each entity on each band. This award created a new incentive to work more DX on the low bands.

One thing that was constant was the high background noise on these bands. For receiving I don't have the real estate for a beverage or the desire to build a monster loop, a KY9A loop or even a Beverage-on Ground" BOG.

To quote W8JI-Charles Rauch, "*Noise limits our ability to hear weak signals on lower bands. The noise on lower bands is often an accumulation of many signal sources that combine to establish our noise floor. …. the noise we hear on our receivers (even at the quietest sites) comes from terrestrial sources. This noise is generally a mixture of local groundwave and ionosphere propagated noise sources, although some of us suffer with dominant noise sources located very close to our antenna systems."*

When A82X-Liberia, popped up on the spots as working North America on 80 meters SSB there was an opportunity to add another one for the Challenge Award.

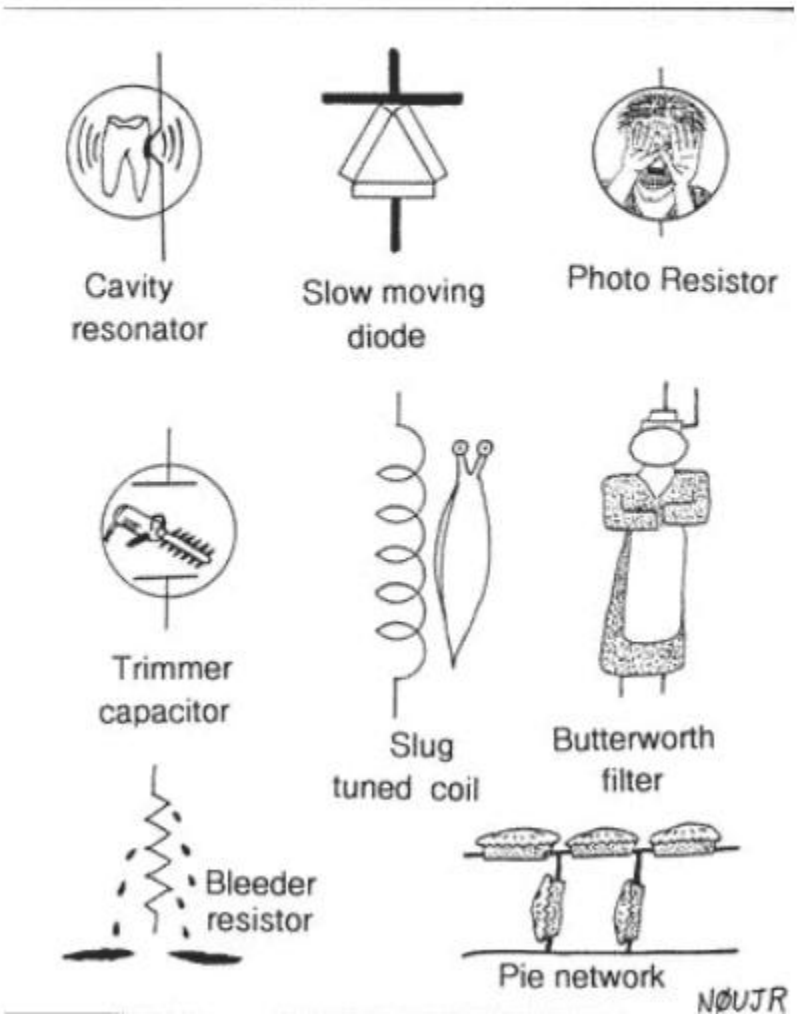
Tuning the listed frequency revealed a signal way down in the "mud". Our A82X was there but barely readable in the noise.

What to do? The first option was to try and work the DX and hope to hear him come back. Kind of iffy considering the background noise. The second option, which worked, was to listen on my small three element 6 meter beam and transmit on the 80 meter dipole. Being non-resonant on 160 meters, the little beam ignored much of the background noise and was directional, allowing the DX to be heard and understood!

If you are having trouble hearing the DX on the low bands, try using your beam as a receive only antenna. Not only does this technique reduce the background noise but being directional allows the signal to be "peaked".

Of course when dealing with something as capricious as noise, individual results may vary.

◄73's and Good DX►



Little Known Electronic Schematic Symbols
(From the Texas DX Society "Bullsheet")

How to get “plugged in” to the amateur radio community

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This morning, I found this email in my inbox:

> Thank you for your website and great content. I passed the Tech and General tests on Saturday, and I will be taking the Extra exam in November. Your “No Nonsense” guides were very helpful.
> I do have a question, though. How do I stay current on what’s happening in the ham world?For example the CQ WW SSB contest was this weekend. How do newbies know this kind of thing? How do we find local or regional hamfests and other events?

This is a great question. Like any special interest, it can seem daunting to get plugged in (pun intended) to the community. Here are a few of my suggestions:

Join the ARRL (http://arrl.org/). The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is really the place to start for information related to amateur radio.*QST*, the ARRL’s monthly magazine, includes news about upcoming contests and ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. It also reviews new amateur radio products and provides a wealth of technical information.

In addition to *QST*, the ARRL publishes many email newsletters that members can subscribe to. For example, *Contest Update is a* biweekly newsletter that not only lists upcoming contests, but also includes tips on operating contests. The *ARES E-Letter* is a monthly public service and emergency communications newsletters. There are also email newsletters for ham radio instructors, those interested in DX, legislative matters, and satellite operation.

Join your local club. While the ARRL will help you keep abreast of amateur radio news and events nationally and internationally, if you want to know what going on in amateur radio in your area, you should join your local club. To find clubs near you, go to http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club.

Visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar (https://www.contestcalendar.com/). This contest calendar has become my go-to resource for any and all contest information. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors. Its features include an 8-Day calendar, a 12-Month calendar, and separate calendars for state QSO parties, CW contests, and QRP contests. You can also get a weekly e-mail of contests taking place in an 8-day period (Monday through Monday), as well as a list of contests scheduled for the next week and a list of log submission information for recent contests.

Ham radio blogs. Blogs are also a good way to keep up with what’s going on in amateur radio. I like to think that I do a good job of covering what’s going on in amateur radio, but, of course, I can’t do it all. That being the case, you might also want read other blogs. Other amateur radio blogs that you might want to check out include:

- The K0NR Radio Site (http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/)
- QRP–When you care to send the very least (https://w2lj.blogspot.com/)
- Everything Ham Radio (https://www.everythinghamradio.com/)

There are a bunch of other good ones out there. Find the ones you like and subscribe to them, so that you get a notification when new items are posted.

Mailing lists. Mailing lists are kind of old school, but if you have a special interest, chances are that there is a mailing list for it. For example, I own an Elecraft KX-3, so I subscribe to the Elecraft KX User Group mailing list (https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/). Many amateur radio mailing lists are migrating to the

Groups.io. To find a list, just click on the “Find or Create a Group” link at the top of the page. I just did a search for “amateur radio” and found 910 different amateur radio mailing lists.

Podcasts and videocasts. Podcasts are also another great way to stay up with amateur radio. I’m partial to the ICQPodcast (http://icqpodcast.com/) because I am on the panel once a month. The podcast not only includes a discussion of what’s new in amateur radio, but also a feature, which digs a little deeper into a particular topic. Other great podcasts are Ham Radio Workbench (https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/), and Linux in the Ham Shack (https://lhspodcast.info/). Internet video shows that are worth checking out are Ham Radio 2.0 (https://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/), Ham Radio Now (https://www.hamradionow.tv/home), and Ham Nation (https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation).

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have an amateur radio information resource that you find particular helpful, please let me know.

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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 often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep up with ham radio, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

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


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AMATEUR RADIO
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