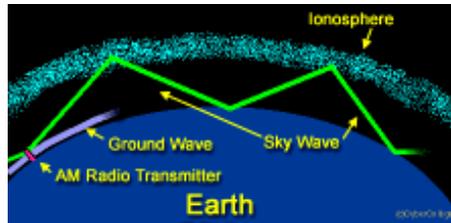


The Hertzian Herald



N8DXR's Ground Waves



It seems that fall is passing by very quickly this year. First it was the chilly temperatures in the morning and now the bright flower gardens around the house have become dull and colorless. The grass has now gone dormant and the trees cannot shed their leaves quickly enough. More often now dark heavy grey days are interspaced by cold clear days, all of which is usually associated with winter weather. And true to form the weather forecasts are trending gloomier.

For some reason this seasonal weather change has been accompanied by several phone calls and emails regarding antenna projects. Whether it's because summer home projects are finished or sidelined till spring or because of the pressure of poor band conditions, new or improved antennas systems seem to be on people's minds. Some questions have been about projects started and not finished during the summer while others were regarding winter antenna projects to be put in service spring of next year.

To paraphrase an old real-estate saying, in amateur radio its antenna, antenna, antenna. A great saying on paper but in reality it is sometimes difficult to apply. There seems to be a never ending variety of antennas with numerous variations. Some of these are often touted as being capable of solving all of the station operator's needs. Opinions about antennas abound but the fact is the decisions regarding a station's antenna(s) are going to depend on the amateur's available space, resources, technical knowledge and ingenuity. All of these variables are important but of all of them, technical knowledge of antennas forms the foundation for decisions based on the others. So where does one start? Of course there is the perennial **ARRL Antenna Book** which has been around since the late thirties and currently in its 23rd addition. This book is both a technical text and project source book among other things. The internet also is a wealth of information and ideas both in text and video format. One very good resource is "**Understanding Antennas For The Non-Technical Ham**" by N4JA. So with an investment of time spent researching and reading one can gain a great deal of the knowledge needed to make better decisions about a new antenna or improving an existing one. Also keep in mind that variables such as space and resources might limit your choice of antennas and that this is where the amateur's ingenuity can make the difference in the performance of any antenna they install.

With a good knowledge base you can select or build an antenna that will work with in the limitations that the variables above set and still allow you to be active on the air. One last thought; "Anything that is said to do everything most likely will do everything modestly".

Hope to see you at our meetings and on the air.

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MCRCA Minutes:

October 19, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by John Copeland N8DXR

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

PROGRAM: None

BREAK

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Sandy KE8CQW, John N8DXR, and Terry N8NYP

50/50: Sandy KE8CQW

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Wes KC8SKP, supported by Dave AC8SI, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Dale WA8EFK reported working an Antarctica station on 15m phone. Paul worked Annabon and some other province near Japan. Coming up - Midway Isl. and Bovet Isl. in 2018.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. December 16, 2017. Cancelled until Red Cross remodel is done.

ARPSC: Dave AC8SI, currently transitioning Lance Charter, KE8BYC, to be the new Monroe County Emergency Manager. Emergency Expo held at the Monroe Mall had a good turnout. S.E.T. went well, tested the equipment at the EOC. Dundee spook patrol will be 5:30 to 7:00 pm meet at Wendy's at 4:30 for information.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, GLHamCon had an attendance of 1100 paid plus workers, and a good time was had by all. Yaesu held a forum on Fusion and asked to come back next year. Hams returning from Puerto Rico had good results and positive feedback.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, reported, "Everything that's working is on the air."

OLD BUSINESS: Dale and Paul sold some equipment that previously belonged to Hazen Herkimer, and donated \$960 to the scholarship fund.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNED: 8:05 pm

ATTENDANCE: 12

AC8SI Dave	KA8EBI Fred
KA8PQH Neil	KC8SKP Wes
KF8LT Jim	N8DXR John
N8KUF Mike	N8NYP Terry
W8PI Paul	WA8EFK Dale
KE8CQW Sandra	W8GPR Gary



Committees

Classes

Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net

Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Historian

Paul W8PI

Public Relations

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

School Liaison

open

Programs

open

Membership

open

Planning

open

Property Custodian

open

Is Your Digital Repeater Ham Friendly?

October 30, 2017 by Ray Novak

Digital technology continues to flood our repeater frequencies, leaving many questions about standardization. If you are one of those who are holding out, or have been sucked into the bandwagon of the latest craze of the repeater gods, take a few steps back and ask yourself: do we have a ham friendly repeater?

Many of the advances over the last 35 years for amateur repeaters have come from the land mobile or commercial radio world. For instance, the use of tone and tone squelch to allow repeater frequencies to be reused across a geographical area that previously was not possible. This was a great advancement and allowed more people to have their "own" repeater. However, I feel that the latest phase in digital has brought in a dangerous trend that few understand, and as a result, there are several fundamental freedoms that ham radio operators are unknowingly giving up!

What is Ham Radio Freedom?

Part 97 gives U.S. ham radio operators a lot of freedom. We can pretty much talk to whomever we want, on whatever band our license allows, to wherever in the world propagation allows. Our most basic license freedom, the technician license, allows operation on any band six meters and above, with a few HF CW privileges.

Through the years, the way we have communicated with friends has advanced. First we communicated within a few miles via simplex. Then it progressed to repeaters for a wider coverage area. Next RF bridges allowed us to communicate hundreds of miles. Then the internet opened up the world! Using IP links, we could communicate around the globe. The RF became digital, allowing for clearer signals, with a standard audio level, to traverse the globe by directing the signal destination based on how you programmed your radio. Following this, we expanded even further with the ability for our voice communications to find someone based on their callsign. Again, with the most basic amateur radio license you have a sense of being part of a global community.



As history repeats itself, so does the progression of amateur radio communications as land mobile technology crosses over. Since it is used in the commercial world, and we are just a bunch of hams, this must mean the land mobile technologies are better. Or are they? While ham radio is a hobby, and we are a group of experimenters, it is natural to try something new. But do not take somebody's word for it. Investigate what is happening and ask yourself, what am I giving up?

What is in Your Code Plug?

In hamspeak, years ago, we shared a repeater list that everyone would painstakingly program into their radio. With the advent of computers we would email those lists to each other. In more modern radios we email the memory channel program file that we open in our software, make our tweaks, and upload into our radios.

The non-ham friendly repeaters use radio IDs rather than callsigns for radio identification. Additionally, there are features in the code plugs that enable land mobile type functions like Talk Groups, Stun, Kill, Monitor and other functions that make sense for commercial radio use.

Some of the land mobile functions, that are vital in the commercial or public safety world, are used to disable a radio of someone who was either being belligerent on the repeater or issuing false reports. Looking through the eyes of a repeater owner, I could see how these functions could be a helpful and perhaps even a necessary tool. But in the spirit of amateur radio, Part 97 outlines how to handle these situations. While they are not as immediate as we like, they are a lot more amicable. Additionally features like Monitor, which are helpful in a work environment where you have a lone worker situation, really does not have a place in Amateur Radio. I know I would not want a System Operator opening the microphone on my radio without my knowledge.

(Continued next page)

Why Are These Functions Necessary?

I've covered several terms that are vital for a land mobile environment. You should ask yourself, do these functions belong in amateur radio? With a wonderful hobby, that many call the original social media, don't you wonder if these features are being used to exclude you? Or do you wonder if you are still part of a ham friendly technology?

Who Controls the Keys to the Kingdom?

After a digital repeater seminar at a recent hamfest, it was surprising to hear how one local repeater owner, with almost 70 repeaters, had become the traffic cop of his repeater system. He was instructing users on the importance of his repeater system, and how users should be more respectful of his efforts to provide a repeater network in the case of an emergency. As various members and I discussed some of the nuances of the system owner, one of the users talked about how dead the repeater system had become, the question of user exclusion became the topic of discussion.

I asked did he know how many talk groups were programmed into the system? I pointed out that talk groups in the commercial radio world were wonderful for separating various departments on a conventional, one channel repeater. But as we talked, it seemed this land mobile feature set was actually being used to segregate a ham community into various social cliques. As I have traveled and asked some of these questions, more and more hams are commenting on how controlling many of these digital systems are becoming, and many hams do not notice they are not in the "cool kids" clique. Is that in the spirit of Ham Radio?

How Does this Impact Amateur Radio?

As Amateur Radio is a hobby, and spectrum is valuable to commercial entities, using commercial technologies that control, limit, and segregate users into social cliques, what message are we sending to those who want our spectrum?

That's just one more factor among many that you should be considering as you implement land mobile radio protocols in your amateur radio communication. Do not forget to always ask yourself; is it ham friendly?

Ray Novak, N9JA
Senior Sales Manager
Lifetime Amateur Radio Enthusiast

Old QSL Collection

Jean Michel, F6AJA, wants to remind everyone to visit the Les Nouvelles DX (LNDX) Web page to see more than 14200 old QSL cards in several different albums/galleries.

This site contains:

- The ten most wanted DXCC entities (2004 to 2015) with more than 500 QSLs
- At least one card for each 60 deleted DXCC countries (more than 1700+ QSLs)
- Nearest the totality of current prefixes, disappeared now (more than 4800+ QSLs)
- Album for stations from North Africa 1945-1962 (400+ QSLs)
- More than 950 QSLs from the Antarctic bases.
- With 270 QSLs from the TAAF (Terres Australes and Antarctiques Francaises).
- More than 450 QSLs for the rare French Pacific Islands such as FK, FK/C, FO/C, FO/A, FO/M, FO/C and FW
- More than 100 cards from Eparses Islands such as FR/B/E/G/J/T
- The FG, FM, FP, FS, FY stations from 1945 to 1969
- Commemoratives stations for ITU and IARU with more than 500 QSL.
- More than 2100 cards for the old timer with more than 150 countries before 1945.
- Cards from the French Department before 1945.
- At least one card from each of the states in the U.S. before 1945.

The URL address for the Web site is: <http://LesNouvellesDX.free.fr>

Some cards are still needed for the collection, and your participation is welcome. Only a ".jpg" file (both sides of the card) is required.

Please visit the site and give them your comments by sending an E-mail to: LesNouvellesDX@free.fr

Is worldwide DX moving to microwave EME?

Sunday, November 5, 2017

SARL News reports that, contrary to the myth that Microwave equipment is too expensive, a modern trend is developing where DX operation is slowly shifting to the Microwave frequencies where there are already a lot of Microwave activities in the rest of the world.

Here are the main reasons:

In the earlier days analogue EME required 1 kilowatt of power on CW with expensive large dishes on 2,3 GHz and 5,7 GHz as operated by the late Ivo Chladek, ZS6AXT.

HF DX operation depends on conditions in the ionosphere as affected by the Sun and the sunspot number during the Minimum Solar Cycle, whereas EME DX is possible daily as long as two distant stations can see the Moon, except, of course, when the Moon is too close to the Sun.

When the digital era arrived, things started to change on Microwave EME. There was no longer a need for high power or large dishes. For example, Rex Moncur, VK7MO, tested a small portable EME station on 10 GHz JT4, using a 77-cm dish fed with 45 Watts and worked Charlie Suckling, G3WDG, over 17 410 km.

Then he tried a 47-cm dish on 24 GHz and copied W5LUA, but the latter could not detect the QRP 4-Watt signal.

On 5 March 2014, VK7MO established a new World EME record on 24 GHz with G3WDG. VK7MO used a 1,14-metre dish with 10 Watts and G3GWGB also ran 10 Watts into a 3-metre dish. Their equipment was GPS-locked and could cope with a wider liberation spreading on this band. All this will also open a new world for townhouse EME DX operation!

As future activity increases on Microwaves, so the manufacturers will start thinking about producing suitable equipment for the amateur fraternity.

Although this country was trailing far behind on digital microwave operation, Alex Artieda, ZS6EME (HB9DRI), put South Africa back on the Microwave Digital Map. He recently had two-way EME contacts with several DX stations on 10 GHz as well as 5,7 GHz while using 50 Watts into a 1,5-metre dish and last year he covered 2,3 GHz on digital.

Alex also wrote a comprehensive article for DUBUS, the German Amateur Radio VHF/UHF and Microwave Magazine, describing how to obtain 300 Watts from a pair of MRF51P21180R6 LDMOS devices on 13 cm (2,3 GHz).

The South African Radio League <http://www.sarl.org.za/Default.asp>

DXCC Most Wanted (ClubLog)

The 'DXCC Most Wanted' entities list has been updated on ClubLog as of October 1st. The top 10 entities still remain the same and they are:

1. P5 DPRK (North Korea)
2. 3Y/B Bouvet Island --- DXpedition in 2018
3. FT5/W Crozet Island
4. KH1 Baker Howland Islands
5. B57H Scarborough Reef
6. CE0X San Felix Islands
7. BV9P Pratas Island
8. KH3 Johnston Island
9. VKOM Macquarie Island
10. KH7K Kure Island

The complete "DXCC Most Wanted" entities list is available at: <https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

Does this float your boat?

November 10, 2017 by Dan KB6NU

The ARRL has just announce their latest operating event

The ARRL International Grid Chase. According to the announcement:

"A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the ARRL International Grid Chase gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on any band (except 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). [LoTW] registration is free, and it costs nothing to use LoTW. Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, as well as on VHF and UHF, also use them as a scoring factor...."

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your monthly total. Getting started is simple: Turn on the radio and call CQ or "CQ Grid Chase," or listen for others doing the same. Make the contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase Leader Board will reset to zero, although the system retains all monthly data to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact you make in 2018 can count for your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts will also count, as will contacts with special event stations, or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to all radio amateurs.

Complete details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of QST. The digital edition is available on Friday, November 10. For more information, contact the ARRL Contest Branch."

When I asked, "Does this float your boat?" on Twitter, I got a variety of reactions. One guy said, "If it gets more people on the air in various bands it should make the WAS style awards a bit easier to get. More people = more contacts."

Others were less positive. An active satellite operator noted, "Ok. Not excited. No exchange required? No band/mode divisions? Sat/VHF/HF QSOs all counted together?? this could have been very cool, but with these rules, I'm just not seeing the point." Another ham replied, "As usual, our chaser oriented organization gives no credit to the rovers that work hard to put these crazy places on the air." One simply said, "Nyet. No sizzle, no steak."

Perhaps the funniest reaction I saw on Twitter to this announcement was:

And another thing: maidenhead grids are not squares arrl.org/international-...

Bob's right, of course. A grid square measures 1° latitude by 2° longitude. That's approximately 70 × 100 miles in the continental US.

My first reaction to this is that it's "county hunter light." I think that what's going to happen is that there will be a few guys interested in doing this, but it's not going to generate the crazy numbers that NPOTA generated, however. And, I think the lack of incentives to put rare grid squares on the air is a mistake.

So, what do you all think? Does this float your boat or not?



The American Radio Relay League's round-up of the forthcoming week's DX activity on the amateur radio bands

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

LIBYA, 5A. Abubaker, 5A1AL has been active using FT8 on 30 meters. QSL to home call.

UGANDA, 5X. Jonathan, KK7PW is QRV as 5X10 until November 20. Activity is in his spare time on 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters using CW, SSB, WSPR and possibly JT65 and FT8. QSL via EA5GL.

SIERRA LEONE, 9L. Mark, KW4XJ is QRV as 9L/KW4XJ from Freetown. He is waiting for his permanent 9L call sign. His length of stay is unknown. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

BURUNDI, 9U. Members of the Mediterraneo DX Club are QRV as 9U4M until November 17. Activity is with five stations on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via IK2VUC.

NAURU, C2. Kuni, JA8VE, Mat, JA1JQY and Kaoru, JA3MCA are QRV as C21VE, C21JY and C21MA, respectively, until November 14. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home calls.

QATAR, A7. Justin, NE5JK is living and working in Doha and QRV as A71/NE5JK until he receives his A75 call. He's currently running QRP power on the HF bands. QSL via operator's instructions.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Mike, DF8AN is QRV as DU7/DF8AN from Negros Island, IOTA OC-129, until November 16. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, RTTY, PSK and FT8. QSL to home call.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be QRV as EA8/IZ2DPX from Lanzarote, IOTA AF-004, from November 13 to 20. Activity is on the HF bands using only SSB. QSL via IK2DUW.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA, HK0. Members of the Yaguarete DXers Group will be QRV as 5K0T from San Andres Island, IOTA NA-033, from November 12 to 25. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LU1FM.

HONDURAS, HR. Dennis, W1UE, Paul, K1XM and Charlotte, KQ1F will be QRV as HR9/home calls from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, beginning November 12. They will be active as HQ9X in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via KQ1F.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. A group of operators will be QRV as J5T from Bubaque Island, IOTA AF-020, from November 13 to 26. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with three stations active. QSL via I2YSB.

SVALBARD, JW. Rene, DL2JRM is QRV as JW/DL2JRM from Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, until November 13. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Scott, NE9U will be QRV as NE9U/KP2 from November 11 to December 5. Activity will be on the HF bands. He will be active as NP2X in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW and ARRL 160-Meter contests. QSL via NE9U and NP2X via K5WW.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Operators Olli, DH8BQA, Paul, DL5CW and Tom, DL5LYM are QRV as PJ4/home calls until November 29. They will be active as PJ4Y in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL to home calls, and PJ4Y for this contest via DL5CW.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Gary, G0FWX is QRV as V47FWX from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, until November 15. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands. QSL via M0URX.

MICRONESIA, V6. Shu, JA1FMN will be QRV as V63PSK from Moen Island, IOTA OC-011, from November 14 to 18. Activity will be on 20 to 10 meters using PSK, JT9, JT65 and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

MELLISH REEF, VK9M. A group of operators are QRV as VK9MA until November 16. Activity is with five stations on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8. QSL via N7QT.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. Members of the Bo-Karoo Amateur Radio Club are QRV during November with special event call sign ZS40VDK to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the commissioning of the Van-derkloof Dam. QSL via the operators' instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

The Worked All Europe DX RTTY Contest, 10-10 International Fall Digital Contest, Japan International DX Phone Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, OK/OM DX CW Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, CQ-WE Contest, North American SSB Sprint Contest and the 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Data Series is scheduled for November 13.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for November 15.

Please see November QST, page 93, and the [ARRL](#) and [WA7BNM](#) contest web sites for details

Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

Monroe County Radio Communications Association Amateur Radio examinations are held the 3rd Saturday of every even numbered month at:

American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48161

Walk-ins are always welcome.

2017 Schedule:

February 18 April 15
June 17 August 19
October 21 December 16

TESTING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:00 AM

Applicants are expected to have all forms filled out and be ready to take tests at that time. Coffee and doughnuts are available at 8:30 AM. For more information or to make reservations, call Paul Trouten - W8PI at 734-854-2224

Join us at the next meeting

November 16th at 7:30 pm
American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48162

Local Net

ARPSC Net - Every Monday evening on '72-Monroe (146.72 Mhz) starting at 8:00pm.

ARPSC Meeting first Thursday of every month at the EMD office on Raisinville Rd.. 7:00 PM