

Charles
County
Amateur Radio
Club

Inside this issue:

activities	9
Crossword	10
Advanced Tech	4
Practice questions	8
contests	15
classifieds	25

Smoke Signals



Volume 23
issue 5

May 2020

May meeting will be on Zoom

May 1st @ 1900 Eastern:

If you need the zoom connect information contact

Jeff Humbert KB3SPH

humbert1js@gmail.com

CALENDAR

May

01 meeting (Zoom)

06 Net 2030

13 Net 2030

20 Net 2030

27 Net 2030 & News
articles due

June

03 Net 2030

05 VE session &

Club meeting

10 Net 2030

17 Net 2030

24 Net 2030 &

News articles due

27-28 Field Day

THE PRESIDENT'S WORKBENCH

When the Groundhog saw his shadow in February, he certainly didn't predict us living under Stay at Home Orders. Especially with nothing but reruns on TV. Luckily we're ham radio operators and we have an outlet that other people don't have. We can get on our radios and talk to other people in our community, in our state, in our country, or anywhere else on the planet. Now is a great time to get on the air and do just that. Antenna sales are at an unprecedented increase according to one ham radio retailer. We're not the only one's getting Cabin Fever.

We've been having very suc-

cessful weekly nets on the N3PX repeater. In case you missed it, a couple months ago we switched the weekly net to a new night and new time. They are now held Wednesday nights at 8:30 PM local time. There is a "Question of the Week" on the net. Some weeks the question might be serious, other weeks it is lighthearted, such as the net that fell on April 1 where the question was about the most memorable April Fool's joke or prank you've pulled. Don't miss out on the fun, check into the weekly net.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Please don't feel that is the only time to get on the N3PX repeater. It has a very large coverage area and we are welcome to use it anytime. For those of you with D-STAR radios, the N3PX repeater is a D-STAR repeater. For those who don't have D-STAR radios, if you hear strange sounds coming from the repeater, someone is having a QSO using D-STAR, a digital audio mode. Please wait until the sounds are gone for a minute or two before calling.

While we're all cooped up inside we obviously can't have a regular meeting. Instead, we will hold a virtual meeting using the Zoom teleconferencing system on Friday, May 1 at 7:00 PM. There are details elsewhere in this newsletter about how to get your computer or cell phone set up to join the virtual meeting. If you don't feel like using your computer or cell phone in that way, you can also call in from a regular telephone. Look for those details elsewhere in this newsletter. Jeff and Pam will be hosting the session and will email out the login information (Meeting ID and password) a few days before the virtual meeting.

While stuck at home I've been working on a portable digipeater that we can use for the Oxon Hill Bike Club's Indian Head 100 Bike Ride in September. Bob, KB3KOW, and I have done some preliminary testing of it while taking walks around our neighborhoods with APRS equipped HTs. The unit uses an old 2-meter mobile rig I had laying around, a 5/8-wave ground plane antenna, a 21 foot telescoping mast and a tripod to support it.

If you have the equipment to make a digipeater, now would be a good time to build a portable one as well. We may very well need to have three or four portable digipeaters scattered around the bike course in order to have the most reliable coverage for the SAG wagons, which we have been asked to equip with APRS trackers this year.

I encourage all of you that have built (or purchased) trackers to take this time to refresh your knowledge of setting them up and operating them. We will need several, along with operators, to staff the SAG wagons for the event. Check to make sure your cables are still in good, working condition. If you run into trouble we can get together, when we're cleared to do so, to assist working out any bugs.

I hope to see or hear you at the virtual meeting. Stay safe and well.



by Bob, NW3M

CCARC weekly net

Charles County Amateur Radio Club will start a
147.195 MHz, + 600 offset, PL 156.7 Hz. each
Wednesday 2030 local time

Nets will be roundtable type with a question of the
week for discussion. All amateur radio operators
are welcome; please join in the fun!

If you have a question or topic you'd like to
discuss please let Michelle or Bob know

HAMFESTS

05/24/2020 Howard County Fair Grounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road West Friendship, MD 21794

Website: <http://www.marylandfm.org>

Sponsor: Maryland F.M. Association, Inc

Talk-In: 146.76, 224.76, 444.0 all use CTCSS 107.2

Public Contact: John Elgin , WA3MNN

518 Copley Lane Silver Spring, MD 20904

Phone: 301-641-5313

Email: marylandfm@verizon.net

This is still listed...but you may want to check before driving up there. If I hear of a cancella-
tion will post on the reflector.

Charles County Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting was cancelled for April



Wireless on the Web



Hello again, CCARC, and welcome to the "merry month of May"!

When we had our last "eyeball" meeting, on Friday, March 6th, the question that President Bob (NW3M) posed to the membership was "What is your favorite part of the newsletter?" I was pleasantly surprised (Actually it was more like shock) to have 3 or 4 people in attendance state that this this column was their favorite part of the monthly missive. So as not to disappoint, I will try to get untracked and resume where I left off in March.

I believe that I've stated, on more than one occasion, that I have to be one of the world's worst when it comes to proofreading my own material. I will admit that I like reading my own column, after it has been incorporated in the newsletter, when it appears that there are not any blunders that have escaped my eye. Unfortunately, that was not the case in March. I had written about "Operation Moonbounce" and the role that Stump Neck played in that early attempt at EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) communications at the dawn of the Space Age; however there was a third link that went overlooked by me that was for an entirely different topic.

Construction Projects:

The link that I'd overlooked was one concerning construction of a simple radio. This harkened to an earlier column on construction projects. This may not be particularly timely now as warmer weather is returning and I'm sure many of us will be emerging outdoors, if you haven't already, to do battle with our lawns and gardens. However, if you'd like to return to your roots or perhaps get a youngster in your life interested in the basics of radio and electronics construction, here are a couple of links that I hope may be of interest:

First, here's the link from March that I never elaborated on. It is a book titled "Making A Transistor Radio". The book is British in origin and dates to the early 1960's. There are sub links to each individual chapter.

<https://www.petervis.com/Radios/making-a-transistor-radio-ladybird-book/making-a-transistor-radio-ladybird-book.html>

For those of you with Facebook accounts, there is a page with the same title, "Building Transistor Radios", that is quite active where people from all over the world share some interesting projects and designs, not limited to radios:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/678676552256627/>

Where Have All the Electronics Magazines Gone?

When I was younger, and yes I'm having to come to grips with the fact that I'm now one of the "senior" members of CCARC, I remember going to what were generically called "newsrooms" in the region where I was raised, where there were racks of magazines dedicated to any variety of topics. As you might imagine, I'd first check out the railroad magazines, and then if I had any money left, would gravitate to the science and electronics magazine section. As my late father was in the TV and radio repair business at the time, these magazines also held interest for me. Perhaps some of you will recall some of these titles: "Radio Electronics", "Popular Electronics", "Electronics World" and "Electronics Illustrated". All have sadly disappeared. About the only currently published electronics magazine that I'm aware of is "Nuts and Volts". Frankly I'd never been too enamored with the magazine although I had picked up a few copies in recent years. In my recent trips to BAM (Books-A-Million) in Waldorf it had been noticeably absent from the shelves and I was wondering if they'd ceased publication although their website remained active. Sometime in the last couple of months I found an issue and purchased it. It is dated "2019 Issue-4" so either they have fallen behind in their publishing schedule or BAM's distribution scheme leaves a lot to be desired. Nuts and Volts, subtitled "Everything For Electronics" publishes both in print and puts out an online edition as well. You can find the Nuts and Volts website:

<https://www.nutsvolts.com/>

This bit of electronics magazine nostalgia was spurred by fellow club member and coworker Tom (N2HLJ) who passed along the following link. I'd actually shared it in one of my first columns however it is worth sharing again, and even bookmarking. There is a wealth of radio, television, broadcasting and electronics magazines, all posted online and available for perusal:

<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/>

Incidentally, if any of you are aware of any other radio or electronics that are still available in print form (Aside from CG and QST) please enlighten me.

18th Anniversary of the La Plata Tornado:

For any of you who resided in that area in 2002, the tornado that occurred on Sunday night, April 28th of that year was a defining moment in many of our lives. Everything around La Plata seems to be referred to as either before or after the tornado. The CCARC had been scheduled to provide radio communications for the March of Dimes/March for Babies Walkathon to be held in La Plata that morning however it was cancelled due to inclement weather. The tornado struck around 7 PM that evening. Many CCARC members responded and performed admirably. Among my memories are Lee (N3YWZ) who began conducting a net on the KA3GRW repeater, Michelle (N3YRZ) who was right in the thick of things at the intensive care unit on the 3rd floor of the hospital and had a view of the tornado as it advanced through town, Joe (KB3HNP) who provided running commentary of damage that many buildings had suffered, Tom (W3TOM) and Mike (KA3GRW) who manned the EOC next to the Red Cross communications van that was rendered almost totally useless when the cell phone towers that remained were totally overloaded. For my part, I first responded to the EOC along with Mike and Tom until I was reassigned to the hospital. They were practically begging for help after having lost their telephones and paging services.

I was paired off with a lady named Eileen Stoppa, the head nurse (I believe) at the hospital and spent 6 or 7 hours seeing parts of the hospital I'd never seen before, relaying requests for various items to Michelle on the CCARC "stealth" frequency (146.535 MHz) and then Michelle, who was on the third floor and had a clear shot to the EOC, would in turn relay those requests. (If I've overlooked anyone, my sincere apologies. I spent my night roaming the depths of the hospital and was pretty much oblivious to what was transpiring after being assigned to shadow Ms. Stoppa.)

I was finally turned loose around 2 AM. I will never forget that walk home. There were no lights on anywhere in town and no traffic was moving due to downed power lines and blocked streets. However, the storm had passed and there was a full moon providing illumination. It was eerie and the one thing that stands out in my mind 18 years later. The next day, with very little sleep, many CCARC members returned to the EOC where we were paired off with Red Cross personnel and spent the day doing damage assessment in and around town.

In the event you have never heard it before, I have a link to an audio file, recorded by a ham in Alexandria, I believe, of some of what transpired in the aftermath of the tornado. Thanks to Lee (N3YWZ) for providing the link which he sent to me 3 years ago (April 28, 2017). Unfortunately I'm not computer savvy enough to figure out how to incorporate the link in this column, however if you're interested, email me at aa3rt2@verizon.net and I'll be more than happy to share Lee's email with you.

Electronics Parts Suppliers?

For those of you who are active in construction projects, where do you get your parts (Components, switches, etc?) now that you can no longer go to the local Radio Shack and get what you need? Who have you had good (And bad) experiences with? Who ships quickly and gets your order correct? Email me at aa3rt2@verizon.net with your recommendations. I'd like to compile these for a future column.

Until next month, stay safe, wash your hands and I hope to see you when our monthly meetings resume. 73, Art, AA3RT / WQZD805

Editor's addition:

Here are some links to information on the tornado:

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/9461/tornado-hits-la-plata-maryland>

https://data.imap.maryland.gov/datasets/f4db35fe16ab4d1db2df78e65c314086_0

https://www.weather.gov/lwx/events_20020428

And the CCARC response

<https://www.eham.net/article/3525>

Michelle

Handles

Across

1. New year's eve party
 4. 32-down companion
 10. Yagi, for one
 14. What a keeper may keep
 15. Throat ornaments
 16. 1960s kit maker
 17. Roman WARC band?
 18. Demodulate
 19. Horn sound
 20. Top report, for short
 21. Bigger than mins.
 22. Coke flavor source
 24. Superman player
 26. Alternate G-land prefix
 27. 86, 87 and 89 source
 28. VU place
 31. Pilot's prediction
 33. ___ jacket
 36. Venetian royal
 38. 10m does it, with spots
 42. This puzzle's subtheme
 45. Uruguay prefix
 46. Unpopular spots
 47. Final (amp) resting place?
 48. Elephant grp.
 50. "Oh no!"
 52. Sporadic E band
 55. Zero
 57. ARES's cousin
 61. With anger
 63. Bygone airline
 65. Average name
 66. Audio characteristics
 67. Chicken
 69. PQ leaders
 70. "No ifs, ___ ..."
 71. Epic name for SV folks

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14				15							16			
17				18							19			
20				21				22		23				
24			25				26					27		
			28		29	30			31		32			
33	34	35			36			37		38		39	40	41
42				43					44					
45						46					47			
			48		49		50			51				
52	53	54		55		56				57		58	59	60
61			62					63	64			65		
66					67		68					69		
70					71							72		
73					74							75		

72. Gray
 73. What crank-up sections do
 74. 25-down variety
 75. Gate type

Down

1. Benton Harbor lunchbox
 2. Pet prefix?
 3. Possible Indy prefix
 4. Toledo team member
 5. Say K
 6. Grass shacks
 7. Draft pick
 8. Nutcase
 9. Chemical class
 10. Kind of test
 11. Irish prefix
 12. Inverter label

13. "Of, by and for the radio amateur", e.g.
 23. Allow to be known
 25. Leif Ericson's rig?
 26. Like the Mystery Tour
 29. Drill wielder: Abbr.
 30. Zero place
 32. Cochise's rig?
 33. Eastern contest club
 34. W6 airport
 35. Brouhaha
 37. IT9 erupter
 39. W1 sect.
 40. Batt. term.
 41. ZP dir. from W2
 43. Austrian prefix
 44. Part of H.M.S.
 49. Deep space object

51. Professor's aide
 52. Big rig?
 53. Moldovan prefix
 54. Not 70-across
 56. Spandex brand
 58. Madison Avenue worker
 59. 9Q-land
 60. Benton Harbor lunchbox
 62. Radiosport, for short
 63. Math subj.
 64. "Houston, ___ had a problem"
 68. "?"

Advanced Technical Information Online

By Bob, NW3M

In the March issue of the Smoke Signals I gave you a link to an informative application note on designing good quality sine wave oscillators. Generating such good quality signals begs for all the following stages of your project to provide clean, high quality amplification. To achieve that you need Class A amplifiers. Like sine wave oscillators, Class A amplifiers need very stable power supplies.

If you've ever looked closely at the data sheets for the nearly ubiquitous three terminal voltage regulators, you probably noticed the recommendation to add a 0.1 μ F capacitor from the output terminal to ground for improved transient response. They also recommend adding a 0.22 μ F capacitor from the input terminal to ground if the regulator chip is located far from the main power supply filter. The leads on both capacitors are recommended to be as short as possible and as close to the chip terminals as possible. Those capacitor recommendations also relate to noise reduction on the regulated power supply output.

But suppose you're designing a project that you want to power with a simple power supply that doesn't need a specific target voltage, and don't want to tackle the complexity of a very clean, stable voltage regulator? How do you eliminate the small voltage ripple without using a filter capacitor the size and price of a car battery?

Consider the capacitance multiplier circuit. A simple transistor amplifier circuit will not only amplify signals, but it can also "amplify" a resistance, capacitance or inductance. Imagine using a transistor with an *hfe* (gain) of 1000 to multiply a 1000 μ F capacitor to an equivalent value of a 1 Farad capacitor (yes, 1,000,000 μ F).

The link below is to an article explaining the difference between designing for a voltage regulator versus a capacitance multiplier filter. It also has several examples of capacitance multiplier filter circuits for various applications. The article is part of an entire series of articles on the Elliott Sound Products website dedicated to the design and engineering of professional grade audio circuits.

<https://sound-au.com/project15.htm>

Odd & ends

ARISS change due to COVID-19 Pandemic

04/14/2020

ARISS International President Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, altered activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Citing a primary objective of protecting people, ARISS postponed or cancelled contacts with schools/groups. They will monitor and adjust with guidance of local government officials. In the future, virtual school groups and SSTV may be possibilities.

ARISS on ISS helps astronauts improve their psychological well-being by allowing them to freely talk to students, friends, and ham radio operators on the ground," he said. "We are now at a juncture, with COVID-19, to help do the same for students — in other words, providing a psychological well-being STEM motivation to students, faculty, and the local community through ARISS on-orbit connections — virus free!"

<http://www.arri.org/news/ariss-altering-its-approach-in-light-of-covid-19-pandemic>

SKYWARN during COVID :

While we are not currently expecting severe weather here anytime in the foreseeable future (the next several days), I did want to alert you to a change in our operations that affects SKYWARN operations (mainly for the desk operator).

During this COVID outbreak, as with many organizations, we are severely limiting anyone other than required staff to enter our office. Therefore:

* For most instances when we get into a *Severe Thunderstorm Watch* or *Tornado Watch* in the weeks ahead, we will activate SKYWARN in "report mode". This means the net will still be active, but **desk operations will be run from the desk op's home (or base of operations)**. Severe weather reports that they gather will be relayed to NWS Baltimore/Washington by phone.

* For outbreaks that are expected to be exceptional, we still may call the desk op into our office, while practicing social distancing (as our forecasters on duty are doing now). But I think that would be a rarity.

I wish good health to you all. And as always, thank you for your support of us and your community's weather safety.

Chris Strong, WCM NWS Baltimore/Washington

The next exam session is June 5 (if possible)

Volunteer VE's Note:

Now that the political season is here, I'd like to remind everyone that LARC VEC is not a partisan political organization. We as an organization are neither Republican nor Democrat. We serve all comers, despite any political differences between us. We strive to make everyone welcome at our Volunteer Examiner sessions. In the spirit of making everyone welcome, we do not wear or otherwise display at our VE Sessions any partisan political slogans or other memes, whether in the form of tee shirts, hats, buttons, posters or any other format. We do not display at our sessions any signs or stickers supporting or denigrating any candidate for public office.

We are free, of course, to display insignia relating to amateur radio organizations, such as our sponsoring radio clubs, QCWA, ARRL, FISTS, AMSAT or other radio clubs. The J-38 code key logo of LARC VEC may be freely displayed by our VE Teams.

If your car or other vehicle has political bumper stickers, that is not an issue, because a car parked in a parking lot near the session is not identifiable with the session. The exception would be if your vehicle is connected with the VE Session, such as a VE Session held in your motor home. In those cases, please cover the political stickers until after the session is complete.

This email applies to our volunteers, and is not intended to limit our applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Coordinator or Diane Zimmerman AA3OF Chairman, Laurel Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Will license exams go remote?

In a time of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, amateur radio VEC and teams are working to establish protocols to remotely administer exams. ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, has received suggestions utilizing Zoom video conferencing, fill and sign Adobe PDFs, email which comply with testing standards while maintaining stay at home mandates.

www.arrl.org/news/remotely-administered-amateur-exam-systems-showing-promise

01 to 31	Honoring Doctors, Nurses, EMTS, Police, Firemen, Military personal & health care workers providing medical help in crisis in New York State	K2H
02 to 03	16th Anniversary of the 7.272 Rag Chew Net	K1R
08 to 23	75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY IN EUROPE	W2V
01 to 05	7-Land QSO Party	K7M, K7C, K7F, K7W, W7O,K7E,N7A
16 only	Armed Forces Day @ Cryptologic Museum	N3M
30 only	Audie Murphy Memorial	W2A
22 to 25	Birthplace of Memorial Day	W3M
22 to 26	Burning Flipside, Memorial Day	K5E
16 to 24	EMS Week 2020	W9A
08 to 12	Golden Spike Commeration	W7G
23 to 27	Gulf Coast Hurricanes Special Event	K5H, W5M,W5L,W5T,W4A, W4F
22 to 25	High Desert Roundup	K6A
01 to 04	Indiana QSO Party	W9B
02 to 03	Lahontan Dam 105th Anniversary	K7L
16 to 18	May in the Mountains	W4D
18 to 25	Memorial Day	K1A
08 to 09	Memorial VE Day 1945	K2V
29 to 31	Mike the Headless Chicken Festival	W0M
11 to 22	Mt. St. Helens Memorial Event	W7W
10 to 16	National Police Week	K7P
01 to 15	New England QSO Party	K5O, K1C, N1E
01 to 03	North Port FI Hurricane Expo	N4P
16 to 24	Perrin Field Museum Special Event	W5I
29 to 31	Rapp/Swigert Wedding	N4J
23 to 24	Santa Fe Trail Heritage Days	W2B
116 only	Spring Ham and Bushcraft meetup	W4K
01 to 05	Star Wars	W3S
23 to 25	Strange Antenna Challenge	K0S
09 to 10	US Islands on the Air Activiation of Shaddox Island, Arkansas	K5S
23 to 26	USNS Twin Falls, Memorial Day	W7H
08 to 09	USS Ward Special Event	N0W
04 to 11	Utah Valley Hamfest 2020	K7T
09 only	VE Day celebration	W5W
02 to 09	Waltham (MA) Watch City Steampunk Festival	W1W
04 to 05	Ward Memorial Commemoration	N0W
14 to 19	Whiskey Lover's Amateur Radio Club Annual General Meeting	W8W
16 to 17	WHOA weekend/SCOTA	W1M
18 to 26	William Becknell Heritage Days	W9B, W4B,W0B, W3B, W1B
04 to 06	World Pulmonary Hypertension Day	W2H

Special Event Calls May

Practice questions

Which of the following is a result of the fact that the Amateur Radio Service is secondary in all or portions of some amateur bands (such as portions of the 70 cm band)?

- A. U.S. amateurs may find non-amateur stations in those portions, and must avoid interfering with them
- B. U.S. amateurs must give foreign amateur stations priority in those portions
- C. International communications are not permitted in those portions
- D. Digital transmissions are not permitted in those portions

Which of the following amateur bands is restricted to communication on only specific channels, rather than frequency ranges?

- A. 11 meters
- B. 12 meters
- C. 30 meters
- D. 60 meters

What should you do if a CW station sends "QRS"?

- A. Send slower
- B. Change frequency
- C. Increase your power
- D. Repeat everything twice

Which of the following frequency ranges is most suited for meteor scatter communications?

- A. 1.8 MHz - 1.9 MHz
- B. 10 MHz - 14 MHz
- C. 28 MHz - 148 MHz
- D. 220 MHz - 450 MHz

CCARC Activities

1 May – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM via ZOOM teleconference.

Join the 1 May 2020 Zoom Meeting via desktop/laptop/smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85897846734?pwd=cjRnL3dLMklLa2lvRFRTYkFULzM3dz09>

Dial in via landline/cell phone and follow voice prompts:

301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 858 9784 6734

Password: 189022

5 June - Test Session at 5:30 PM followed by Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

26 - 28 June ARRL Field Day 2020 – (Fourth full weekend in June). Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center (NCEEC), 5300 Turkey Tayac Place, Nanjemoy, MD 20662. Details pending.

3 July – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM. 2M Yagi building

7 August - Test Session at 5:30 PM followed by Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

16 August – 5th Annual Connector Workshop with linked dipole antenna build. 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, QTH of Jeff – KB3SPH and Pam – KB3SWS. More information in the document, 2020-08-16-Connector Workshop.docx, available for download at www.smas.us/ConnectorWorkshop.



Fred Troger K8TKC

SK

Frederick Otto Troger, 88, of Silver Spring, MD formerly from Detroit, MI passed away on January 11, 2020 at his home. He was born on April 14, 1931 in Detroit, MI and was the loving son of the late Erma Van Troostenberghe Troger and Alfred Troger. Fred was the loving husband of Helena Pat Troger whom he married on July 4, 1955 in St. Mary's County, MD. Fred is survived by his children Cathy Carter (Scott) of Burtonsville, MD, Joann Syrokosz (Steve) of St. Mary's, KS, 15 grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister Rosemary Holzhauser.

Fred graduated from St. Ambrose in 1949 and attended the University of Detroit. Fred lived in Detroit until he joined the Navy in 1951. He was stationed at Pax River and had a blind date with Patsy Downs. Patsy's mother said he must be ok since he was Catholic. They married after he was honorably discharged from the Navy. Fred brought Pat to Detroit and then Dearborn where they lived until Fred retired in 1994. Fred initially worked at Continental Aviation which eventually moved to Toledo. The family did not want to move so he started working for Ford as a test engineer and retired in 1994.

Fred and Pat moved to Culpeper, VA for a short time but that was too far away from Pat's family in Southern Maryland and from his daughter Cathy's family in Burtonsville. Fred and Pat bought a house in La Plata and lived there until they moved to Riderwood in 2009. Fred was not crazy about Riderwood at first but knew it would be a good place for them in the future, and it was only a few miles from Burtonsville. Fred and Pat made lots of friends there. Fred played pinochle and pool every week, and joined the ham radio club. Fred's call letters for many years were K8TKC which Pat said stood for K8 Tender Kissing Catholic. Fred had those call letters on his license plate.

Fred and Pat traveled all around the US and to other countries as well. Fred also took a trip with his nephew Phil to Australia. In addition to vacation travels, Fred and Pat took many trips to Kansas to visit Joann and her ever growing family. Joann says she appreciated Fred helping with tuition for her 13 children to attend Catholic school. Joann also fondly remembers the banana seat bike her dad gave her, to which he added a small motor. Most of the neighbors were ok with this "motorcycle" but there were a few who didn't like the noise. Joann also remembers when her dad would take her shopping to buy a present for her mom, and buy her M&Ms which he told her to keep quiet about. That brings us to dad's hobby of riding motorcycles. He got his first one when he was 14, and he had at least one ever since Cathy and Joann can remember. Every couple of years he would buy a larger one. One year he bought a 1949 Harley 3 wheeler and used it to drive all the neighbor kids around, and he drove it on the ice on Lake St. Clair. Fred took the family on weekends to watch "hill climb" motorcycle races. Fred also went on lots of motorcycle trips with his nephew Mike, and Cathy remembers more than one time when her dad had a hard time pulling his boots off a black and blue ankle from leaning too far into a curve. Cathy also remembers when her dad took her to a Tiger game on a motorcycle. It started to rain so they pulled off onto the shoulder of I-94 under a bridge. The bike kind of went sideways and Cathy's pants ripped and her knee was scraped up. They returned home to get the car and for Cathy to change and she was told to get in and out of the house without her mom seeing her knee. Dad was also a lucky rider be-

(Continued from page 14)

cause when he was T-boned by a car one time he did two summersaults and landed on his feet. However, his pristine Honda Silver Wing was totaled. Pat went on regular rides with Fred and he bought them matching helmets for their 25th wedding anniversary. They also loved riding their snowmobiles at their cottage "up North" at Forest Lake. Fred was very handy and had a workshop in the basement where he fixed TVs and some small appliances. He even fixed his own huge flat screen TV last year.

Fred loved music, mostly jazz, and he frequently attended Navy Band concerts. Fred was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, neighbor and friend. He helped family, neighbors and friends, especially while living at Riderwood. After all, he was still driving, even at night! There will be a service at Riderwood later in January or in February so all his friends there can attend.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 16, 2020 from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery Bushwood, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 PM with Father Samuel Plummer officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Scott Carter, Jack Carter, Joe Huseman, and James Downs.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Church of the Resurrection 3315 Green Castle Road Burtonsville, MD 20866, Riderwood Benevolent Care Fund, Philanthropy Department 3110 Gracefield Road Silver Spring, MD 20904 or the American Cancer Society.

Provide comfort for the family by planting a tree in memory of Frederick O. "Fred" Troger, please visit our [Heartfelt Sympathies Store](#).

<https://mgfh.com/book-of-memories/4074264/Troger-Frederick/obituary.php>



AIR POWER ANTENNA SHOOTER BUILT BY KB3UYZ

I became tired of trying to (1) throw a line in the trees, and (2) use the Sling Shot method, (danger to neighbor's and me when the lead weight bounced back.) After doing some research on the internet, and viewing several plans I came upon the air power shooter designed by WC5M. Made minor modifications caused by changes in parts, and my own personal ideas.

To build your own you will need the following parts:

- 1) 24 - 30 inches of 1 ¼" Schedule 40 PVC
- 2) 12 inches of 3" Schedule 40 PVC
- 3) 1 each 3" PVC Schedule 40 end cap
- 4) 1 each 1" Sprinkler Valve (Orbit model 57101P) (bought at Lowes)
- 5) 1 each automotive tire valve model 41600-M (bought at True Value)
- 6) 1 each pressure gauge (McMaster-Carr 38105K51)
- 7) 1 each Radio Shack project box
- 8) 1 each SPST Momentary Pushbutton Switch [275-0612](#) (Radio Shack)
- 9) 2 each 9v Battery Snap Connectors [270-0325](#) (Radio Shack) and 2 each 9v batteries (I use Duracell)
- 10) 1 each 3 x 2 DWV Reducer Coupler PDWVRMK (Ferguson Enterprises)
- 11) 1 each 3 PVC S40 SOC Cap P40SCAPM (Ferguson Enterprises)
- 12) 1 each 2 x 1 PVC S40 FTG X Bush P40SFBKG (Ferguson Enterprises)
- 13) 1 each 1 inch close nipple threaded both ends
- 14) 1 each 1 inch PVC 90 degree elbow (threaded on one end smooth bore on the other)
- 15) 1 each 1 inch PVC 90 degree elbow (smooth bore both ends)
- 16) 1 each 1 inch X 1-1/4 PVC (male threaded to smooth bore on 1-1/4 end)
- 17) PVC primer & cement
- 18) 2 each ¾ inch slip caps (True Value)
- 19) 2 each 3/16 x 1-3/4 eye bolts
- 20) 2 each ¾ inch caps
- 21) Teflon tape
- 22) 6 inches of 1" PVC (for 2 small connectors)
- 23) Fishing reel (mine was one I used over 61 years ago)
- 24) Fishing line
- 25) 2 #28 clamps (to hold fishing reel on)
- 26) 6 inches of ¾ PVC to make shooting weight
- 27) Some type of tire pump



Contests in March

1st	NCCC RTTY Sprint	13th	+ Phone Fray
1st	+ AGCW QRP/QRP Party	13th	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data
1st	+ NCCC Sprint	13th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party
1st	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	13th to 14th	+ CWops Mini-CWT Test
2nd	+ Microwave Spring Sprint	14th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party
2nd	+ RCC Cup	14th	+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series
2nd	+ FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	15th	+ NCCC RTTY Sprint
2nd to 3rd	+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	15th	+ NCCC Sprint
2nd to 3rd	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	15th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party
2nd to 3rd	+ Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest	16th	+ Hamvention QSO Party
2nd to 3rd	+ ARI International DX Contest	16th	+ UN DX Contest
2nd to 3rd	+ Delaware QSO Party	16th to 17th	+ Aegean RTTY Contest
2nd to 3rd	+ Indiana QSO Party	16th to 17th	+ Feld Hell Sprint
2nd to 3rd	+ New England QSO Party	16th to 17th	+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW
4th	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	16th to 17th	+ NZART Sangster Shield Contest
4th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	16th to 18th	+ Portuguese Navy Day Contest
4th to 5th	+ MIE 33 Contest	17th	+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
5th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	18th	+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series
6th	+ Phone Fray	20th	+ Phone Fray
6th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	20th	+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series
6th	+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	20th to 21th	+ CWops Mini-CWT Test
6th to 7th	+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	21st	+ NAQCC CW Sprint
7th	+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	21st	+ QRP Minimal Art Session
7th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	22nd	+ NCCC RTTY Sprint
7th	+ SKCC Sprint Europe	22nd	+ NCCC Sprint
8th	+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	24th	+ Baltic Contest
8th	+ NCCC Sprint	24th to 25th	+ Day of the YLs Contest
8th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	25th	+ QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint
9th	+ FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	25th to 26th	+ QCX Challenge
9th to 10th	+ 50 MHz Spring Sprint	27th	+ Phone Fray
9th to 10th	+ Arkansas QSO Party	27th	+ SKCC Sprint
9th to 10th	+ CQ-M International DX Contest	27th	+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series
9th to 10th	+ SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	27th to 28th	+ CWops Mini-CWT Test
9th to 10th	+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	28th	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW
9th to 10th	+ VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	29th	+ NCCC RTTY Sprint
10th	+ WAB 7 MHz Phone/CW	29th	+ NCCC Sprint
11th	+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	29th to 31st	PODXS 070 Club 3 Day Weekend
11th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	30th	+ Feld Hell Sprint
12th	+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	30th to 31st	+ CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

Weak Signal Propagation Reporting – WSPR

"Whisper"

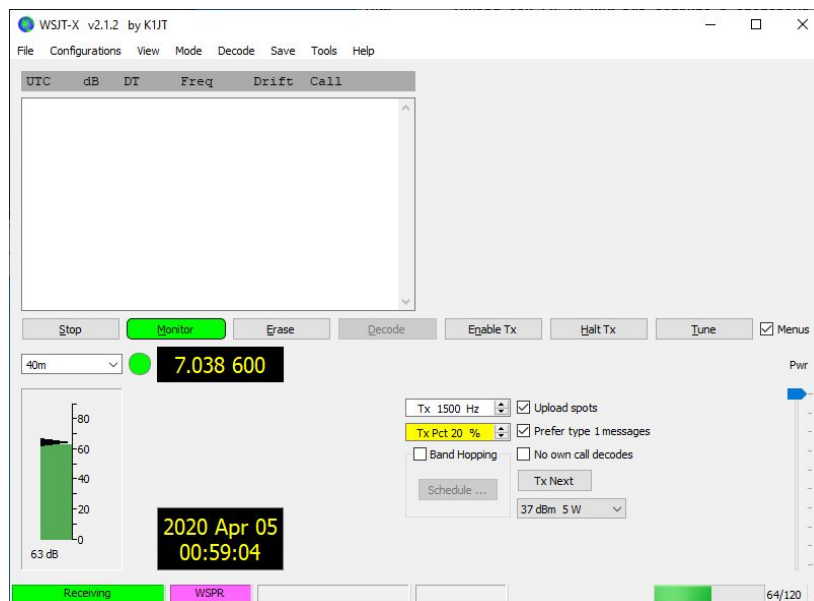


For those of you with HF antennas, have you ever sat down and wondered just how far your signal was getting at a specific time of the day and in which direction was it radiating? If so, and the current 'stay at home' has you bored and looking for something to do, then maybe WSPR (pronounced as Whisper) can fill that void and provide you some useful information for future HF operations.

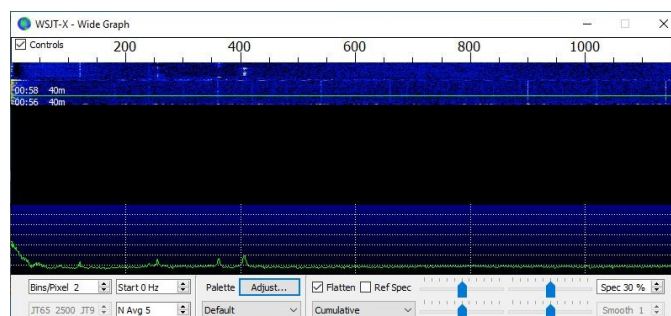
The first step is to head over to the website of Joe Taylor, K1JT. He has written some excellent software that allows for weak signal communications. If you've heard of JT65 and the most recent one on the block of FT8, then that is all Joe's doing. His web site is:

<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjsx.html>

He has one program, called WSJT-X, that covers the various weak signal modes including WSPR. Download the software, install it on a PC of your choice and get it configured to work with your specific radio and soundcard interface. Once that is completed and the program is started, clicking on the 'mode' option allows you to pick WSPR. Here is one of the two basic screens you'll see upon starting:

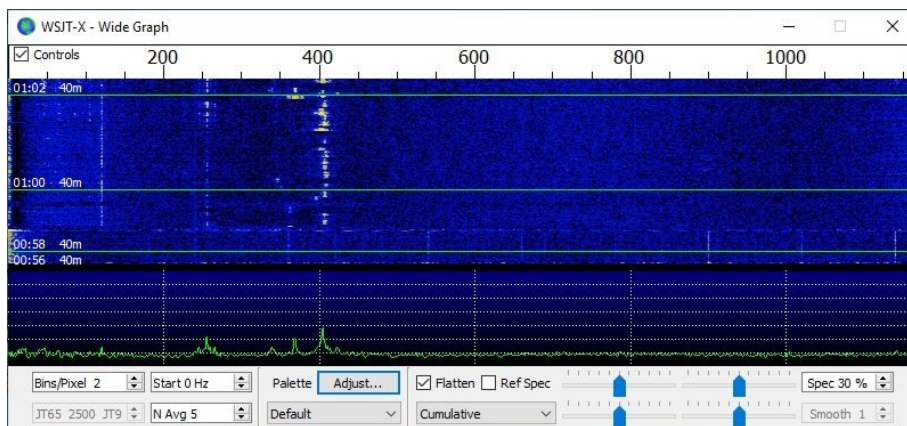


The other screen is a waterfall:



WSPR works in 2 minute increments, which means it will both transmit for two minutes and then listen for two minutes. If other stations are transmitting on the assigned fre-

quency of 7038.6Mhz, then the waterfall may look a bit like this:



The program will now try to decode any received signals:

The screenshot shows the main interface of WSJT-X v2.1.2. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'File', 'Configurations', 'View', 'Mode', 'Decode', 'Save', 'Tools', and 'Help'. Below the menu is a table of decoded signals:

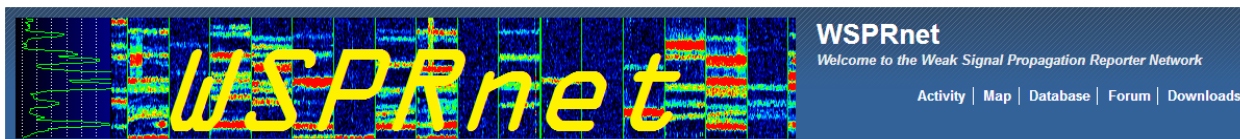
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Drift	Call
0100	-13	-0.1	7.040035	0	WD9EPF
0100	-17	-0.1	7.040037	0	K4APC
0100	-15	0.3	7.040098	0	VE3LJT
0100	-17	-0.2	7.040106	0	N2AJX
0100	-14	0.3	7.040154	0	K9ANF
0100	-12	-0.2	7.040192	0	KN8DMK

Below the table are several control buttons: 'Stop', 'Monitor' (highlighted in green), 'Erase', 'Decode', 'Enable Tx', 'Halt Tx', 'Tune', and 'Menus'. A frequency display shows '7.038 600' in a black box. To the left, there is a waterfall plot with a '64 dB' label. Below the plot, a date and time display shows '2020 Apr 05 01:02:50'. On the right, there are transmission settings: 'Tx 1500 Hz', 'Tx Pct 20 %', 'Band Hopping', 'Schedule ...', 'Upload spots', 'Prefer type 1 messages', 'No own call decodes', 'Tx Next', and '37 dBm 5 W'. At the bottom, there are status indicators for 'Receiving' (green), 'WSPR' (purple), and a progress bar showing '50/120'.

Since I have the "Upload spots" checked, these stations will be reported back into the system for viewing. So, where can you go to actually view the information?

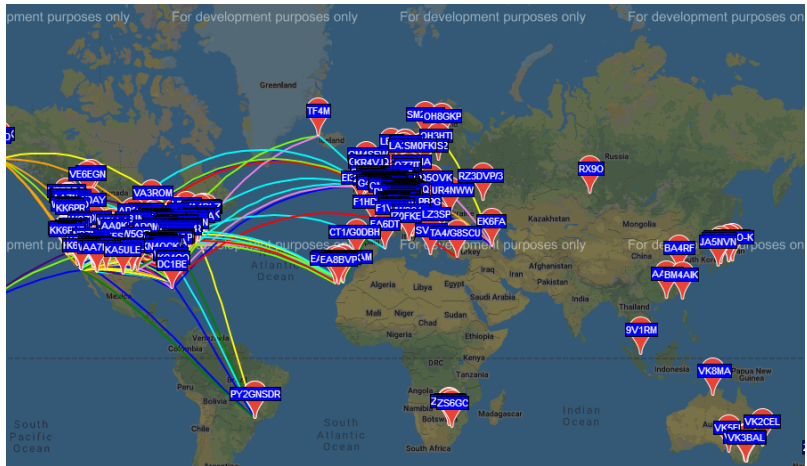
The WSPR website

The main site for WSPR spotting/tracking is located at: <http://wspnet.org/drupal/>



The main page is a blog of comments from various hams and the system administrators and while it is interesting reading, the page that provides the information you are looking for is the 'map' page which can be reached by clicking on the "map" link on the title bar.

The map page opens up and the initial display contains a lot of visual information:



If you now scroll below the map, you'll see some fields where you can provide some specific data:

Band
 ▾
Show only spots on this band.

Use Band Colors
When checked on, path colors are coded according to band

Call

If non-blank, show only those spots involving the specified call

Latitude

Center of map latitude

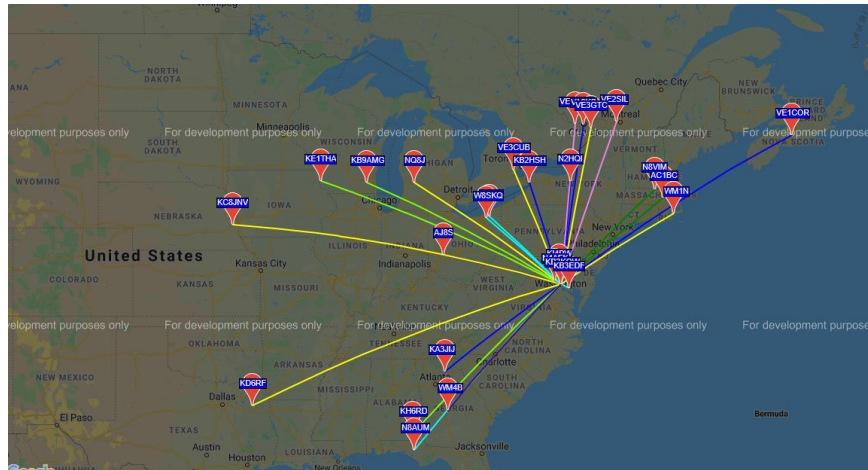
Longitude

Center of map longitude (east positive, west negative)

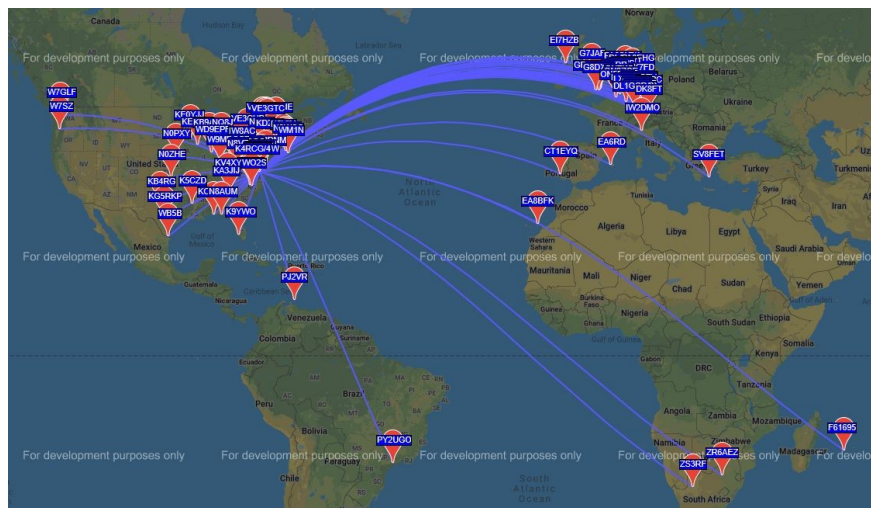
Default Zoom
 ▾
Preferred zoom factor (2 = whole world)

Time period
 ▾
Show spots in this period of time

Since my test was on 40m, I changed the band and entered my call sign. I left everything at their default settings. I had conducted two test on this specific day. One was around 1300 local. My antenna is an invert V 40m cut dipole in my back yard. Setting my transmitter power at 10watts, I ran a two minute transmission cycle and the initial report from the system showed me this:



I then repeated the test at 2000 local, still at 10 watts and the results showed me:



Appears I'll have a better chance of talking to Northern Europe than California (which has proven true when trying to contact a company friend, AF6BY, in San Diego via PSK).

I was running 10 watts which is probably wayyy over what they prefer since the fun is to see how low your power can go and how far you can get.

Hms in Action

Adjutant General's Distinguished Patriot Medal awarded to Winlink developers Steve Waterman, K4CJX & Phil Sherrod, W4PHS.

Winlink is helping disaster readiness and communications interoperability of the emergency responders across the United States and the world."

<http://www.arrl.org/news/winlink-development-team-members-awarded-tennessee-military-department-patriot-medals>

ARES

Coordination is ongoing with the Red Cross about participation in a Drill on 30 May. The drill is in two parts and the parts are simply called Part A and Part B. Our involvement would be initially in Part A which is designed to help build a relationship between local ARES groups and the local Red Cross chapter. Kelly Phipps, RC volunteer with some of the key local RC chapter personnel, well, as 'local' as is possible with the current RC organization within Southern Maryland.

So, what would we do for Part A testing? It would be a deployment to designated shelters with the goal of being able to communicate back to the local RC chapter with the goal of finding out what works and what doesn't when it comes to simple voice communications.

If I use the Indian Head 100 as the example, we know that HQ at the village green can talk to Smallwood Park on simplex, but not to Riverside. In that case a repeater would be needed. The concept here for the drill would be the same thing. The RC HQ would be at a home QTH with ARES members driving to the designated shelters and transmitting from there to see if they could be heard back at the HQ, either via repeater and via Simplex.

With the current issues going on, no one is expected to actually start setting up antennas or trying to enter the shelter location -- all of this would be done from the confines of your vehicle. Of course, doing it this way does inject some potential issues that may, or may not, be seen with a 20 ft mast and j-pole instead of a Mag-Mount.

With all the above being said, if you are able to participate, please let me know. May 30th is currently a Saturday and who knows if we'll still be in the 'Stay at Home' environment. I'm currently not looking at a specific time since it would probably be more beneficial to allow people to get out when they can to conduct the test.

More information to follow Bob KB3KOW Charles County ARES EC

Check out this map for common emergencies in areas across the country

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/common-natural-disasters-across-us.html#all>

EMERGENCY SHELTERS IN CHARLES COUNTY MD

As of 1 October 2019

Shelters Pre-Identified by the Charles County Department of Social Services and reflected in the April 2019 Charles County Sheltering Operational Plan.

NOTE 1: Shelters are numbered below by the priority they will be utilized by the County.

NOTE 2: All the County identified shelters are ADA compliant and none of the shelters are in the floodplain (per M. Lilly, Asst. Dir., Charles County Dept of Emergency Services.)

NOTE 3: LaPlata High School (currently identified in the Red Cross National Shelter System (NSS) as an emergency shelter in Charles County) was removed by Charles County from their pre-identified shelter list.

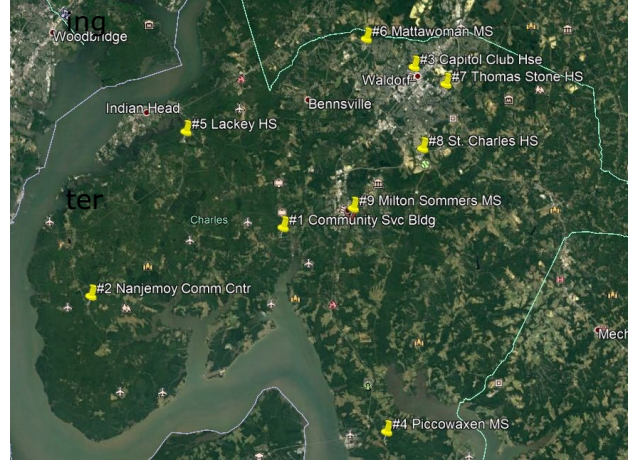
<p>1 Community Services Build- 8190 Port Tobacco Rd Port Tobacco, MD 20677</p>	<p>6 Mattawoman Middle School 10145 Berry Rd Waldorf, MD 20603</p>
--	--

<p>2 Nanjemoy Community Cen- 4375 Port Tobacco Rd Nanjemoy, MD 20662</p>	<p>7 Thomas Stone High School 3785 Leonardtown Rd Waldorf. MD 20601</p>
--	---

<p>3 Capitol Club House 3033 Waldorf Market Pl Waldorf, MD 20603</p>	<p>8 St Charles High School 5305 Piney Church Rd Waldorf, MD 20602</p>
--	--

<p>4 Piccowaxen Middle School 12834 Rock Point Rd Newburg, MD 20664</p>	<p>9 Milton Sommers Middle School 300 Willow Ln La Plata, MD 20646</p>
---	--

5 Lackey High School
3000 Chicamuxen Rd
Indian Head, MD 20640



Other Shelters NOT managed by Charles County Dept. of Social Services

NOTE 1: There is one ARC managed shelter currently identified in the Red Cross NSS. 9/19, Roberta (Bobbie) Perry (Red Cross Volunteer with Southern Maryland Chapter) spoke with Merton Myers (301-843-0817) of Metropolitan UMC and he confirmed that the Church (listed below) should continue to be listed as an ARC Shelter. The Church's POC listed in the NSS will need to be revised.

Metropolitan United Methodist Church 3385 Metropolitan Church Road Indian Head, MD 20640

POC Aaron Kane, Church Trustee, 301-375-9088 ADA Compliant: yes, Flood Plain: no (per Merton Myers)

On our April 1st net, we talked about April fool's pranks here's the contest one:

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE: This year's rules have been adjusted to accommodate the coronavirus situation.

II. Contest. Period.

0000 - 2359Z April 1, 2020 (those over 60 years of age - oh, wait...that's almost all of us - may start one hour earlier to prevent exposure to virus-carrying young lids). You may take an off-time to watch the daily coronavirus briefing but only if Doctors Fauci and/or Birx are speaking. Off-times to wash your hands must be at least 20 seconds long.

You may also take time off to operate the CWT-mini-contests since the Pd'A falls on a Wednesday this year. They're only an hour long and they are on CW, which is a Good Thing. Bonus points if you work K1DG in lieu of sending a card.

III. BANDS/MODES:

All bands, all modes. FT8 and FT4 losing their appeal? How about FT2? Or go the other way, maybe all the way to FT101! NC0B says it has a pretty good receiver (the new "D" version, not the old "E" and "EE" versions from the 70s).

In keeping with social distancing guidelines, all stations must be spaced at least 6 kHz apart (600 Hz on CW) and no more than 10 stations may answer a CQing station. If someone tries to take over your frequency, send his call to Pd'A HQ. We will take care of the problem. We know a guy.

IV. ENTRY CATEGORIES:

A. Traditional is based on the legacy operating modes and > sub-categories of single-op, multi-single, multi-2, and multi-multi, using human operators operating conventional radios on the amateur bands, and stations consisting of equipment and antennas located within a 500-meter (1640.42 feet) radius.

Single-op stations must enter as SO2R, and must use exactly two radios. The counting of the radios shall be two, and two shall be the counting of the radios. Three radios shalt thou not use. Four is right out. OK...mutants like KL9A and N6MJ can use 4...two on CW and two on SSB, Now there's a challenge. Use one callsign at one station for the period of the contest. Period.

Operators at multi-op stations must wear masks and full PPE, sit least 6 feet apart and not share microphones, headsets, keyboards, paddles or anything else unless they are remote, in which case they must also wear masks and PPE and provide real-time video streaming to prove compliance (BUT NO SHOWING FREQUENCY!!!).

B. Epic Overlay You may enter this new category if you believe that your operation will be truly astounding, a game-changer, head-turner, new paradigm, or potentially a NEW WORLD RECORD.

C. Classy Overlay> Operators entering this category must be polite at all times. Say please if you need a repeat on an exchange, for example, and thank-you for every QSO. And give up your frequency if someone asks nicely. You may also say "please copy", but never ever say it in a real contest. Ever.

Classy operators are expected to be well-groomed and properly attired (jacket and tie for gentlemen, knee-length dresses and tasteful jewelry for the ladies). Correct posture and etiquette are essential.

D. Part-time We understand that sheltering-in-place requires that you get caught up on all those little projects around the house you've been putting off for like, forever. This may limit your operating time. No problem. You may submit a projected score by dividing your score by the number of hours operated, then multiplying by 24. Oh, wait. That means if you operate zero hours, your score is infinite. Hmmm. Maybe this is not such a good idea. It's just the hydroxychloroquine talking.

E. Anything goes Use multiple operators at multiple locations using multiple stations. Live-stream, call CQ on Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitch, Skype, Zoom, QSOGet, or any other social media channel (we made up "QSOGet", so don't go looking for it - but if you create such a thing, contact us for name-licensing terms).

V. EXCHANGE: Signal reports must be 59 or 599 and serial number (which must be 42, since that is the answer to life, the universe, and everything). On FT4/8, a QSO is complete if you call the other station, even if he does not answer. After all, you already know his grid square and you sent yours, so that ought to be enough. If he didn't copy it, it's his problem, right? (That grinding sound you hear is W0YK gnashing his teeth.)

VI. MULTIPLIERS: You may choose what to count as multipliers...countries, counties, zones, planets, states of matter, prefixes, suffixes, we don't care. Total multipliers should not exceed the number of QSOs - it messes with the log-checking software. Make the job hard for the log checkers and we take no responsibility for the consequences. Could get ugly. They know a guy. If you test positive for coronavirus exposure, please self-quarantine for 14 days so you don't become a virus multiplier.

VII. POINTS: There is no point. Only a counterpoint. Or is it a counterpoise? And if so is it folded? My head hurts...or is it Hertz? But no fever or dry cough so I guess we're good.

VIII. SCORING: All stations: the final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the multipliers times the Pd'A Correction factor (0 for all stations, 42 for K1DG).

IX. AWARDS, TROPHIES, AND PLAQUES: The overall winner in each category will get an 8-pack of Charmin toilet paper (nothing but the best!), one N95 face mask, and a bottle of hand sanitizer.

X. TEN: Not this year. Sorry.

XI. LOG INSTRUCTIONS: We insist that logs be submitted electronically somewhere. Postings to > CQ-Contest, 3830, or any other reflector count as log submissions. Post your score somewhere, we'll find it. Really. We have nothing better to do than chase your important log now that we are in self-quarantine. And make sure you scan your log for viruses when you upload it. If you have to send a paper log, please sanitize the log first.

XII. DISQUALIFICATION: Failure to observe the guidelines on social distancing, self-quarantine, and avoiding large groups will be grounds for disqualification. Same for hoarding toilet paper and hand-sanitizer. Actions and decisions of the Poisson d'Avril Contest Committee are arbitrary and unlikely. And we know a guy.

XIII. DEADLINE: The Committee's favorite Dead line is "Too much of everything is just enough", from the song "I Need a Miracle". And if you've spent the time to read this far, it's a miracle. All joking aside – this coronavirus thing is serious. Take care of yourselves so we can work each other many more times. Stay home, wash your hands, and thank the medical professionals, grocery-store workers, package deliverers, and other essential personnel keeping things going while putting themselves at risk. 73 and stay safe, Doug K1DG p.s. A tip of the Pd'A Beret to N0AX for a few rule suggestions. The roll of two-ply is on the way.

And one of the logs

Call: FA/M0HAMS Operator(s): W5WZ KW5MOM KF5GDJ KF5GDK KF5KAJ KF5MTH
Station: W5WZ

Class: Anything Goes HP QTH: LA Operating Time (hrs): 3:21 Radios: SO2R Remote Operation

Summary:

Total: QSOs = 412020 Mults = 99999 Total Score = 0 Club: Louisiana Contest Club

Comments:

First time ever to get all 6 members of my family to operate together in the anything goes category. I did all my operating telepathically during my 1-hour commute home from the hospital, which is now known as the Hot Zone. My wife Sharon KW5MOM banged out CW at 45 wpm with a wooden spoon while stirring spaghetti sauce. Our son Delton KF5GDJ used a bass trombone slide to adjust the tuning of all the antenna. Oldest daughter Jordan KF5GDJ experimented with a new halo antenna design, oscillating it at variable frequency around her hips - think hula hoop! Middle daughter Laurel KF5KAJ operated remotely from Provo Utah without even knowing it - I placed her photo in the Yakencom home mobile talky thing and it just worked. Youngest daughter KF5MTH had the best time, operating skateboard mobile with an iPhone adapter via Bluetooth to the EleFlexMFJAlpha model W1SHU-Had-1 View Master band scope repeating voicekeyer.

The use of the RF signal jamming device that was given to me as a non-participation award in the 1997 running of the Poisson d'Avril Contest was the biggest contributor to our QSO rate of 122,991 QSOs per hour, a significant drop since the 2019 PdA contest - our log got rejected by the contest robot with a single error - BSxInfinity

See you all next year! When this stay at home order lifts, the first thing I'm going to do is buy some taller boots.

Volunteer Monitor Program is Working

Volunteer Monitor Program has gone from its “soft rollout” to looking for operating discrepancies, and examples of good operating. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, was brought aboard to get the program running. ARRL will eventually take over the VMC function.

Hollingsworth is using a system called *VMTRAC* — developed by a VM — to measure the work of VMs and determine instances that qualify for good operator or discrepancy notices, referral to the FCC, or follow-up with FCC requests to the VM program. 165 active VMs logged upward of 2,300 hours of monitoring on HF, and nearly 2,000 hours on VHF-UHF and other frequencies.

6 instances of operating out of privilege or with an expired license have been detected by 2 VMs constantly monitoring FT8 watering holes with programs that alerted.

Five of the 30 open cases are good operator cases. None have been referred to the FCC. Letters, telephone calls, or emails to the subjects of discrepancy reports where they could be identified, have either stopped or were explained. If this continues to work, it will minimize FCC referral and make those we do refer more worthy of FCC resources and more severe action. We will only call the FCC on very worst cases, but understand that FCC action will be expedited.

One case “being groomed for FCC referral,” he said, involves long-standing interference to a repeater in the Philadelphia area by someone using an unauthorized call sign. Hollingsworth said he worked with net control operators of nets on 75 and 40 meters that had been suffering serious interference, and so far, the solutions are working. One is still under investigation to determine who is causing the problem.”

<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-volunteer-monitor-program-is-up-and-running>

ARRL Field Day – one of the biggest events on the Amateur Radio calendar; is, at its core, a local event to showcase the skills, science and technologies that make radio communication such a wonderful hobby and a valuable public service. 2020 promises to be unique with the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. We recommend that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day be in regular contact with their local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities- gathering at their traditional FD site may not be feasible or safe.

Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation, use the unique circumstances presented this year, as an opportunity for your club and you to try something new. With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Paul Bourque N1SFE said. Field Day is not about doing things the same way year after year - use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with our current circumstances. Consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign. Maybe set up in the yard, using emergency power. We will be including club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club’s members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member’s results is certainly a way to highlight your club’s activity.

Perhaps an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members. Set up a remote-controlled station at the usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their own homes. ARRL invites you to post ways you are adapting operations on the ARRL Field Day Facebook page. Share your plans, tips and tricks to a successful Field Day. When posting content from Field Day, use hashtag #ARRLFD on all social media to receive 100 bonus points!<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

ANSWERS

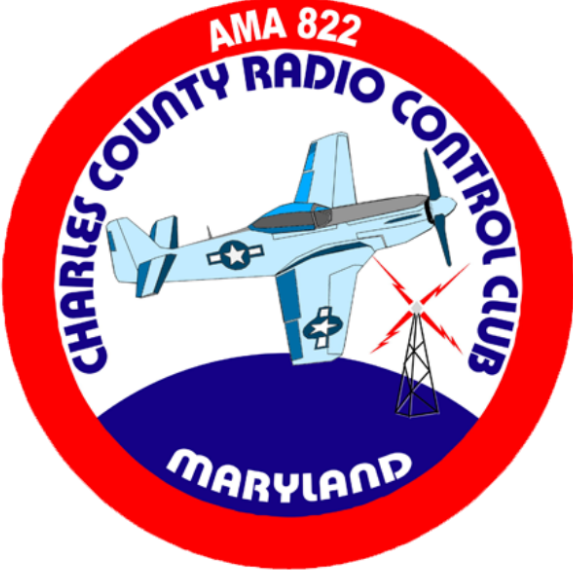
S	K	N		M	O	H	A	W	K		B	E	A	M
I	N	N		U	V	U	L	A	E		E	I	C	O
X	I	I		D	E	T	E	C	T		T	O	O	T
E	N	N		H	R	S		K	O	L	A	N	U	T
R	E	E	V	E			M	O	N	E		E	T	O
				I	N	D	I	A		E	T	A		
F	L	A	K		D	O	G	E		O	P	E	N	S
R	A	D	I	O	S	W	I	T	H	N	A	M	E	S
C	X	O	N	E		A	C	N	E		C	A	G	E
				G	O	P		A	A	R	G	H		
T	E	N		N	U	L	L			R	E	A	C	T
I	R	A	T	E	L	Y		T	W	A		D	O	W
T	O	N	E		S	C	A	R	E	D		M	N	O
A	N	D	S		A	R	G	I	V	E		A	G	E
N	E	S	T		R	A	N	G	E	R		N	O	R

Answers to practice questions

1 A 2 D 3 A 4 C

WANT ADS, FOR SALE, &
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lee, N3YWZ, has 19+ years' worth of QSTs (9/1999 to 12/2018) in three boxes available if there is a desire on anyone's part to have them. There are also three AutoCall publications; Nov 01, May 04 and Nov 04. He prefers that all go. Contact Lee if you are interested: derbyalpaca@gmail.com



Interested in joining the fascinating hobby of RC airplanes?

The Charles County Radio Control Club is ready to help you get started.

Visit us on the web: charlescountyrcc.com



**Southern Maryland
Astronomical Society**

Explore the night sky with us at our observatory, or use your own telescope.

New to astronomy? We'll help you learn.

For information, visit us at <http://smas.us>

K3SMD



Charles County Amateur Radio Club

Service Club

We're on the web

<http://k3smd.net>

Meetings, nets, & contacts

First Friday- Monthly meeting @ 7 PM/1900 Charles County Rescue Squad 2 Calvert Street, LaPlata, MD

Net-Wednesdays 8:30 PM local: 147.195 MHz, + 600 offset, PL 156.7 Hz.

PO BOX 169, La Plata, MD 20646

President: Bob Curran NW3M flyingham@verizon.net

Vice-president: Bob Davidson rdavidson@aceweb.com

Secretary: Charles Hallock AA3WS selbynet@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Pam Humbert KB3SWS humbertpj@gmail.com

Activities: Jeff Humbert KB3SPH humbert1js@gmail.com

Newsletter Michelle Sack N3YRZ msack@verizon.net

VE Coordinator Bob Curran NW3M

Leave laughing



"Fred understands what they're saying since he converted to single sideband"

May 1955 Radio Television News, Walter Ashe SSB Exciter Ad

From Bob NW3M