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NEWSLETTER FOR

May/June 2016

Repeaters:

146.745 - 146.2
448.775 - 118.8

Meeting Notice:

Regular club meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Tony Canale Training Center, 5033 English Creek Rd, EHT. Meeting time: 7:30pm.

The next meeting is on:
June 9, 2016.

Officers:

President:
Bill McCord, KC2ONQ
609.435.0598
Vice President:
Bill Paulus, Jr. KD2EOY
Treasurer:
Bob Webb, WA2YSA
Secretary:
Michael Greb AC2RK

Board of Directors

Stan Friedman WA3JMV
William Paulus W2MWI
Tim Adams KDEEGR
Bob Nicotera KBERL
Donnamarie Adams KD2ERC

Trustee:

Bill Schwoer, KC2AAY

Service Positions:

VE Coordinator:
Larry Schall, KB2MN
Sunshine:
Bob Webb, WA2YSA
Refreshments:
KC2ONQ
ARLHS Coordinator:
open
Newsletter Editor:
Ben Liberatore, N2WCL
ARRL QSL MGR:
Arnie Oberson, W2OB
Dinner Chair:
Harry Cohen, KD2AYT
Field Day:
Bill Schwoer, KC2AAY
Repeater:
Bill Schwoer, KC2AAY
Web Site Editor:
Larry Schal, KB2MN
Youth Committee:
Hunter Greb KD2JUB

Important Monthly SCARA Events

Monday

AuxComm Practice Net at 7pm,
on the K2BR VHF repeater
SKWARN Practice Net
immediately follows the
AuxComm Net.

Everyone is welcome to check
into either or both nets.

SCARA VHF KISS NET:

Is held every Monday at 8 pm

SCARA HF NET is held on the 3rd
Sunday of every month at 10:00 am
local time on 3.928 MHZ +/- QRM.

Board Meeting is held the last
Thursday of the month, starting at
7:30 pm at the Canale Training
Center and now is available on
ooVoo.

VE Testing Sessions: Are held on
the 1st Thursday of each month with
doors opening at 6:30pm; testing
begins at 7:00 pm. Section on VE
Testing

QSL Cards

See Arnie, W2OB for outing
going DX QSL cards. If you
are a member of SCARA and
the ARRL, you may bring your
outbound QSL cards for ship-
ment. For more information,
click on the "Contents" section
of the club website. The
cards should be presorted as
per in-structions on the web-
site. Arnie will collect the
cards at the general meeting.
This is a cost effective way to
send QSL cards for DX
contacts.

In this issue of the SNL

- President's Note
- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU Columns
- Special Events
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- AuxComm
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due editor's error.
- Items for Sale

SCARA is proud of its ability to offer
VE sessions at regular, specific times,
aimed at helping someone get their
first license or upgrading to a higher
grade license. The process is not as
easy as it might sound. Certain
license upgrades require a different
mixture of Volunteer Examiners
(VEs).

To make the process work, the
session is only help if there are one or
more individuals who
have register to attend the session.
For more information, contact Larry,
KB2MN,(609-287-5340). The Test
location is at the Canale Training
Center. 5033 English Creek Road,
Egg Harbor Township. Doors open at
6:30 pm and the exams start at
7:00pm. **YOU MUST BRING PHOTO
ID (AND YOUR CURRENT LICENSE
IF YOU ARE UPGRADING TO A
HIGHER LICENSE CLASS.**

Try to give Larry as much notice as
you can!

I'm EXTRA Ignorant

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU April Column

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well--operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU May Column

I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio combined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole (buddipole.com) and PackTenna (packtenna.com), and BiEnno Power (biennopower.com) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries,

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, www.sota.org.uk, na.sota.org) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, npota.arrl.org) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio.

When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well--operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com

SPECIAL EVENT

Veteran Park Brick Installation May 14, 2016, 12:00

The following bricks will be installed:

Line 1	Line 2	Line 3
EDWARD R. CLARK W2KP	CTM1 USNR 1968-1990	SCARA - K2BR
HARVEY E. FENTON/ZEKE	US NAVY-USS MERTZ DD691	04/25/1925 - 02/18/2010
CHARLES E. LIPPINCOTT	AIR FORCE	04/05/1924 - 06/15/2002
HONORING AND LOVING	PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	MURRAY FREEDMAN
RUDOLPH JOHN ANTONIO	UNITED STATES NAVY	11/17/43 - 11/16/47
SGT. GEORGE J. ROFF	U.S. AIR FORCE	VIETNAM 1965-1969
JUDITH "JUDY" CAMPBELL	SPEC 4 U.S. ARMY	1964-1966
THOMAS "CORKY" CAMPBELL	SPEC 5 U.S. ARMY	1965-1967
DAVID N. BLYLER, SR.	WORLD WAR II 1ST SGT.	1943-1946
JOSEPH DAVID PUGGI / MIA		A.J. PUGGI
CMSGT DICK NEWELL SR	USAF SPAIN ITALY	VIETNAM 6869 ACMAINT
CAPT. DAWN A. NEWELL	USAF ANG IRAQ 06	AIRCRAFT CREW CHIEF
PVT. ERNEST R. HIGGS	1937-2014	UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
LAWRENCE J. KROPILAK	SMSGT - U.S. AIR FORCE	VIETNAM VETERAN
WILLIAM H. RADCLIFFE	CPL US ARMY KOREAN WAR	05/26/1932 - 09/07/2007
WILLIAM "RICK" RADCLIFFE	BELOVED SON	07/26/1953 - 05/16/2014
WALTER "SONNY" TAYLOR	T/SGT U.S. ARMY	1918 - 2002
TERESA FERRIE	IN LOVING MEMORY	09/10/1928 - 05/18/2015
JOHN FERRIE	82ND AIRBORNE	03/20/28 - 08/15/2010
JOHN R. HAFNER, SR.	BURTIS HAFNER	BERGAMO MOTTACCIA
E. WADE HAMPTON	BRIGADIER GENERAL - USAF	4/25/1913 - 10/03/1963
JAMES B. DICKINSON, JR.	UNITED STATES ARMY	1966-1969
JEWISH WAR VETERANS	POST 39	MARGATE, NJ 08402
ROLLING THUNDER NJ4	POW / MIA	NOT FORGOTTEN
PATRICIA E. HACKETT	WIFE - MOTHER - USAF	09/14/1963 - 07/23/1965

Editor's Note:

To the members of the SCARA club, I offer my apology for not having the news letters out as promptly as I should have. The delay was due to personal matters that have been resolved. I would appreciate your understanding.

Dan Romanchick has been doing great columns. I have included the ones that should have been in earlier newsletters.

A special thanks to Dave, KD2KVZ who is working on getting us a FaceBook page. I am not all that Face book-savy, but I am told it it will look quite nice. I will post the links as they are forwarded to me. (I believe Dave already has but I am rushing to get this out at the last moment!)

A reminder to all club members, this is your club. If anyone would like to submit an article for the newsletter, just email it to me at n2wcl@outlook.com. Letters/Articles will not be edited by me; in the event that one should contain inappropriate material, I would address that with the writer. I will put in anonymous comments with the understanding that I must know who is submitting them.

I would like to keep news letters brief, most people won't want to wade through a long one and the website contains much more information. Consult it regularly.

AuxComm and Repeater Section

Bill, KC2AAY, wants to remind everyone that the hurricane season began on June 1, and we have already had three named storms. AuxComm members should take a look at their go-kits and make them ready, just in case. Remember, though, that personal and family safety come first!

The backup repeater is W2HRW, 146.985 (-) 146.2.

Our UHF repeater is now up. It has been installed at the Canale training center. KC2AAY had wanted to have the VHF and UHF repeaters at separate locations, but this was not possible.

For more information on any of the above, Bill will be available at the Thursday meeting.

Reminder: Field Day is coming up soon. It will be the last weekend of this month. A number of people have offered to help out but there is always room for more. More at the meeting.

Items for Sale:

Wauxon UHF/VHF 5 watt portable KG-UVD1P in perfect condition. Includes radio, antenna and charger.
\$70.00

Harry, KD2AYT
Phone # 609-575-2974

There are a number of special events and regular events that the club participates in that benefit the community, promote the amateur radio hobby, and give SCARA recognition.

Please consult the calendar that is posted on the website for the events. It is updated regularly.