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WAVELENGTH

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SCARBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

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SARC Nets:

Sunday: 28.730 MHz.
CW 10:00 AM
SSB 10:30 AM

Tuesday: 147.060 MHz.

Thursday: 28.730 MHz.
SSB 07:00 PM

**Everyone is invited to check in on
CW before the nets start.**

We want to emphasize that 28.730
MHz. is our calling frequency. Please
monitor and/or call your friends.
You will find SARC members there
almost every evening at 19:00 hrs.
Join us and have some fun.

LEARN

PARTICIPATE

ENJOY

A better way to connect your rotor

A couple of years ago when I had my HyGain HAM-IV rotor down for repair and maintenance I got an idea how to fix the miserable cable connection that HyGain managed to design.

Many hams have problems with the open screw terminals at the bottom of the rotor. The screws will start rusting after a few years of sun, rain and snow causing bad connections and problems running the rotor.

According to Murphy most of your antenna and rotor problems will show up when the weather is cold and lousy. It's no fun to climb a tower when the wind is howling and it's minus 10!!

If you're hanging on to an icy or slippery tower trying to loosen 8 screws you're up for a dangerous challenge. That's probably why you wait till spring to do the job and leave the antenna stuck in the direction over the North Pole.

After waiting several months for better weather I finally had the rotor down in the workshop. I disassembled the rotor according to the instructions in the manual being careful not to lose any of the 49 steel balls in the bearing.

All parts were cleaned and lubricated where needed with lithium grease which can handle a wide temperature range. The rotor was then assembled and all the 49 balls in the bearing found their place again in the rotor.

The rotor was tested on the bench and worked great. Now, the only thing left was to clean the rusty screws on the screw terminal strip. I half heartedly tried to clean the screws and at the same time tried to figure out a better way to connect the cable to the rotor.

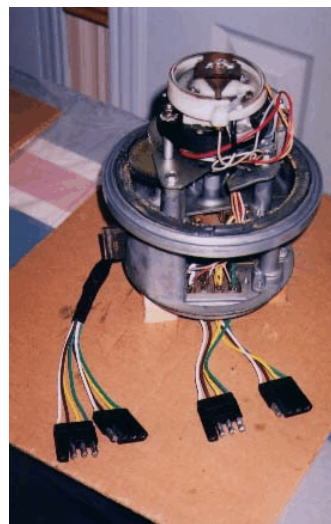
To get some ideas I went to the nearest Canadian Tire store and found a connector used for connecting the trailer lights to the car. It was a 4-pin plug that was "rain proof" and at the right price - \$4.00 I believe it was. The package contained a male and female 4-pin connector so I bought two packages.

In order to avoid future problems I removed all the screws in the terminal strip. I then fed the wires from the connectors through the holes and soldered all the wires directly to the lugs at the back of the terminal strip. To get some strain relief you can tie a knot on each wire after feeding them through the holes. Simple and effective!

I used one male and one female connector on the rotor and the same on the cable. No confusion! You can see how the connectors are attached in the picture. That's it!

Now I have a connector providing a better connection that can take some bad weather and is easy to disconnect in case Murphy shows up again. I did this modification four years ago and it's still working great. Good luck modifying your rotor!

Bert Almemo, VE3OBU/SM7BUR



Bletchley Park (WWII Code Centre) Colossus code breaking event

To celebrate the completion of the Colossus Mk2 there will be an event on 15/16 November in which a series of messages will be enciphered on a WWII Lorenz cipher machine and transmitted using 'six tone' RTTY from the Heinz Nixdorf Computer Museum in Paderborn, Germany.

The challenge is for anyone to break the cipher settings and decipher these messages before the Rebuild of WWII Colossus Mk2 in Bletchley Park does it.

The local amateur Club station - which is based at Bletchley Park has already been involved in making test transmissions with the Heinz Nixdorf Computer Museum.

For more information see:
www.codesandciphers.org.uk/cevent.htm

73

Andrew G8GNI/M5AEX

{ via Mike Terry, DX Listening Digest and LISTENING IN - October 2007

Richard Garriott, KE5QNX, son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, will be launching into space and living aboard the International Space Station in October 2008 as a client of Space Adventures. Owen Garriott operated the world's first Amateur Radio Station from space, W5LFL, as part of the Spacelab mission on the space shuttle Columbia (STS-9) in 1983; he is on the Astronaut Advisory Board of Space Adventures. Space Adventures is a company that allows private citizens the chance for space travel on Russian Soyuz spacecraft at an estimated cost of \$30-55 million per person. Richard, who is Space Adventures vice chairman, has applied for his grandfather's call sign, W5KWQ. He

plans on making Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contacts when he is in space.

Richard will be the sixth private citizen to venture into space.

(Tmx tp ARRL newsletter)

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 42 ARLP042
From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA October 12, 2007
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP042
ARLP042 Propagation de K7RA

The average sunspot number for the past week is about half what it was the week before, but this doesn't mean much, since only two days of the last seven had any sunspots. In fact, on only 7 out of the last 29 days did the sun show any spots.

Geomagnetic indices (the A and K index) have been very quiet lately. The US Air Force predicts the planetary A index to stay around five, which is very quiet, for October 12-16. October 26 is the next time they predict active conditions, with a planetary A index of 25. Since October 6 the planetary A index has been below five.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions for today, October 12, quiet conditions on October 13-16, and unsettled conditions October 17-18. I suspect we won't see sunspots any time soon, although this can change. It seems we are still in the bottom of the cycle.

The two days we saw a sunspot last week were Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7, with sunspot numbers of 15 and 13. Bill Paul, KD6JUI of San Mateo, California was operating

portable with a G5RV and 100 watts for the California QSO party, and had a several hour opening on 15 meters on Saturday. He didn't say where to, but I assume 15 opened toward the East Coast and Midwest. Not a peep out of 10 meters, and 15 was more productive for Bill than any other band.

Upcoming Events

October 22 - Regular meeting - discussion about Club contesting - 2 M net - proposals for By-law changes.

November 12 - Regular meeting - proposals for By-law changes and chalk talk by Tony VE3QF.

November 26 - Demonstration of Computer logging by Stan VE3TW.

December 10 - Election night and Christmas party.

Board meetings will be held November 5 and December 3. All members welcome.

Regular meetings and board meetings will be held at Mid-Scarborough Community Centre 19:30 hrs.

Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance.

Benjamin Franklin

The ancient Greek word for carrot, philon, comes from the Greek word for love, as this root was considered an aphrodisiac. (Let's hope it still is!)

FLEAMARKETS AND CONTESTS

York Region Hamfest

Sponsored by the York Region ARC

Date: Saturday, October 27.

Place: Markham, Ontario.

Directions: Markham Fairgrounds, McCowan Road at Elgin Mills Road. E.

Time: Vendors 6:30 am: Public 9 am.

Cost: \$6 per person.

The one Hamfest you don't want to miss!!

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2007 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

2200Z November 30 (Friday evening) -
1600Z December 2 (Sunday afternoon)

An all CW contest.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0

2007 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

0000Z December 8 - 2359Z December 9

Phone and/or CW

0-0-0-0-0-0-0

2007 CQ WW DX Contest

Phone: October 27 - 28

CW: November 24 - 25

Starting: 0000Z Saturday

Ends: 2359Z Sunday

The following taken from “**Ten-Ten International News**” It does not seem to be specific to the U.S. only. My understanding is that **Industry Canada** has confiscated modified equipment for use on the 10 M band from trucks in Western Canada and the companies and or truckers subsequently fined.

Fighting the 10 meter freeband invasion

And finally this week, if you are wondering what all those conversations without call signs are on 28.085 MHz, well it appears to be a small invasion of unlicensed truckers and so called Freeband operators of our 10 meter band. We have more in this report: Originally confined to portions of the mid-West, the pirate trucker and Freeband epidemic appears to be spreading nationwide. This as more and more of these illegal operators are making their unauthorized home on 28.085 Megahertz and several other 10 meter frequencies.

And what is the Amateur Radio community doing about this invasion? On the surface at least, very little. With the upper High frequency bands not offering very much DX these days, the majority of hams are sticking to 20, 40 and 80 meters with few stations heard in the 15, 12 and 10 meter spectrum. So the truckers and Freebanders see this is fair game for their unlawful operations and are busy establishing squatters rights in these bands.

What about the FCC? Well its doing what it can. There have been several well publicized violation notices sent to trucking firms. They request owners to instruct their drivers to curtail any operations for which they are not licensed and threatening punitive action such as fines. But that’s about it. With the FCC enforcement folks stretched thin and Freeband operations being among the lowest of priorities on the enforcement agenda, there is no reason to believe that there is going to be any sort of massive sweep by the Federal

government to clear these pirate operators out of the ham radio bands.

In the end, it will be the ham radio community that will have to defend these frequencies. And it does that by using them. If hams load up 10 meters or any band with legitimate Amateur Radio operations, there will be no place for the illegals to play and they will go elsewhere.

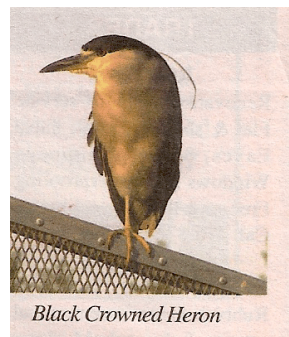
In the case of 28.085, there have been suggestions that this frequency become a national CW or RTTY Calling Channel. That’s a pretty good approach. Another is for every ham with the capability of operating 10 meters to start holding QSO’s on that frequency. As any Morse enthusiast will tel you, CW can get through even when faced with all sorts of QRM including pirate operators using voice.

The bottom line , if licensed radio amateurs fill up 10 meters even for local chats, the truckers and Freebanders will soon be looking elsewhere for a new home.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Evi Simons, in New York.

(Reprinted with permission)

Bluffers Park, Scarborough



Black Crowned Heron

Three species of heron were seen at Bluffers park this September. The Great Blue Heron was often seen at dusk flying over the park, and Black-crowned Night Herons were regular sightings. The

Green Heron frequented the docks and boat rails.

It is a great place for nature lovers and all of Scarborough should be proud to have a park like that in their community.

There is a large assortment of wild life and it is common to see mammals at the park. Deer, rabbits, fox and even coyotes have been seen there. Recently a beaver has been making regular forays into the park, causing havoc with trees.

You do not have to travel far to enjoy nature at its best.

From: The doctor is in. (QST)

Q. Richard, K5RB, asks: They are putting in fiber optic cable in our neighborhood. I wonder if fiber optics has any applications to Amateur Radio?

A. With appropriate analog to digital conversion and encoding, fiber optics can be adapted to carry almost any kind of information for distances from a few hundreds of yards (multimode fiber) to tens of miles (single mode fiber) without the need for repeaters. The main benefits of using fiber in Amateur Radio systems that occur to me are:

- They are not susceptible to picking up and carrying RF (unless you make the mistake of getting one with metal structural strands).
- They will not couple nuclear electromagnetic pulse or lightning into systems.
- They won't close ground loops.
- They won't act as antennas for the harmonics of the digital pulses they carry.
- They have the ability to carry much greater information content than any other medium except free space.

- The cables (but perhaps not the terminal equipment) are comparably priced to copper.

There are a few disadvantages:

- They can't carry power along with signal.
- A certain level of training is required to install connectors, especially on single mode fiber.

To my knowledge, fiber is not yet in common use in amateur stations, except for some advanced computer networking applications, but I wouldn't be surprised to see a fiber connected remote front-panel some day soon.

(That's what the doctor says)

DX-ing

Here are a few DX-peditions and/or individuals you may be interested in.

FO/C - Clipperton Island

FO0, Clipperton Island will be on the air in early March. www.clipperton2008.org

V8 - Brunei

Ronald, PA3EWP; Flo, F5CWU and Tom GM4FDM will mount an expedition to Brunei Darussalam November 4 - 18. www.pa7fm.nl

VK9L - Lord Howe Island

Tomas, VK2CCC (LY1F), will be QRV as VK9CLH from Lord Howe Island November 20 - 27, including the CQ World Wide CW DX Contest focusing on the low bands CW. www.qrz.lt/ly1df
