



# The Old Professor

The Providence Radio Association, Inc. December 2023 Volume CIV, Issue IV



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

**W**1OP just worked 9N7AA on 20 CW. Giant signal. Checking our LoTW I find that W1OP already has credit for Nepal on 20m, a QSL from the famous Father Moran, “9N1 Micky Mouse”, on 20 SSB, Jan 1, 1991, one year before he died.



9N1MM Rev. Marshall D. Moran, S.I., Kathmandu, Nepal

When I was a young ham, Fr. Moran was a figure larger than life, standing along with Amateur Radio legends like Katashi Nose KH6IJ, Stew Perry W1BB, Don Miller W9WNV, Gus Browning W4BPD, Danny Weil VP2VB, and the 21-year-old who invented SSTV, Copthorne Macdonald WA2BCW, to name a few. To me, these men were Amateur Radio Royalty.

Entertainment, sports, politics, science, and industry all have their superstars, innovators, and “disrupters”, to overuse this modern term. There are thousands of Halls of Fames, global to local. Amateur Radio is no different. CQ sponsors three Hall of Fames [https://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_awards/cq\\_hall\\_of\\_fame\\_awards/cq\\_hall\\_of\\_fame\\_awards.html](https://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_hall_of_fame_awards/cq_hall_of_fame_awards.html). Our very-own

## INFLUENCERS

DAVE TESSITORE, K1DT

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, is a 1999 inductee into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. Bravo!

Not that any list is 100% inclusive, all are subjective. Don Miller W9WNV may be the most famous DXpeditioner of all time. He sparked a generation of DXers till we found out he may have fibbed and cheated about a few rare DXpeditions <https://dokufunk.org/upload/dunphy.pdf> He’s conspicuously omitted from the CQ HoF. Are we to believe each of the other 345 CQ Hall of Famers led spotless lives? Look at the arguments going on about Christopher Columbus! Hi Hi

The point I make is, we each have those who influenced us, in life and in Ham Radio. My list has many of you on it. But last night I couldn’t stop thinking about Fr. Moran and the others from my formative years that I “knew” through the pages of QST, CQ, 73, and even a few times, over the air.

Of course, the world changes, as do we. Later I would be influenced by Superstar DXers like John ON4UN, Martti OH2BH, James 9V1YC, Vlad UA4WHX, etc. Today it’s more like Champ E21EIC, George AA7JV, Nodir EY8MM, Chack JT1CO, Nigel G3TXF, etc.

I don’t know if many in the hobby today pay attention to any of this or not. Maybe I’m stuck in older simpler times. But to a 13-year-old Novice, these Giants of Ham Radio were a great influence on me, and to this 66-year-old still going at it, they still are.

73 and Good DX,

Tess, K1DT



# WELCOME

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### The Providence Radio Association, Inc.

**The Old Professor** is The Newsletter of The Providence Radio Association, Inc. and is published quarterly.

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#### Johnston, RI Repeaters

222 MHz Analog: 223.980 / 222.380

440 MHz DMR: 447.725 / 442.725 CC2



## FROM THE EDITOR

The DX Code of Conduct <https://dx-code.com/>, the Ten Commandments of working DX, contesting, and maybe, general operating practice. Quite possibly the most important tool in your arsenal of radio operating tools. Follow it and you will be in the good graces of your colleagues. Don't follow it and you will subject yourself to a modern age electronic stoning.

In K1DT's opening message, Dave recalls the many legends of amateur radio, some DXpeditioners, some testers, some for a variety of other reasons. I describe in the September issue "Chasing the Old Dog X-Ray" the battle scars we often achieve chasing DX stations. These battle scars should come about because we fought a good battle, not because we went through like a steam roller. These legends didn't achieve their reputation and achievement by behaving like savage beasts. Many spread goodwill through their positive contributions to the hobby, to their fraternity, to their fellow man.

In this month's Part II of the article, I describe technique. Maybe the most important technique is listening. But, pay careful attention while you are listening. It won't take long to see many of the less than desirable behaviors, some because of poor operating practice, some because of bad behavior, and some very deliberate with the sole intention of causing deliberate trouble for everybody. What would these legends think if they witnessed this behavior?

So, let's all become legendary. During this holiday season, let's try to become legendary. As is often customary as we enter the new year, how about making it your 2024 New Year's resolution to become legendary.

Speaking of legends, check out the great article about kids and jamboree on the air by our esteemed member, Rick Rosen, K1DS. Rick dedicated his career to the betterment of kids.

## LEGENDS

TOM GREENWOOD, W1ER

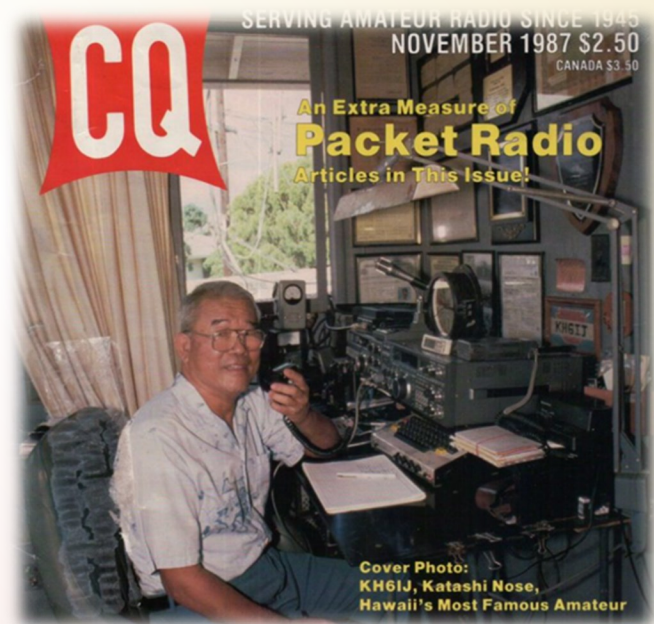
Another legend in my mind contributing another fine article this month on building antennas for POTA activation is Andy Stenberg, AJ1S. Andy is always bringing great ideas to me for future articles.

As you peruse the articles, be on the lookout for the legends. How many can you count?

I wish all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and a Happy New Year.

Enjoy!

73, Tom, W1ER



**Katashi Nose KH6IJ**  
**DXer, Professor, AMSAT Pioneer**





## CLUB NEWS:

**N**ever quiet at the PRA. Let's highlight some of the great activities that have taken place over the last three months.

**O**n Tuesday, September 26, the annual old tradition of the Providence Radio Association, the awards banquet was held at our favorite place to dine, The Atwood Grille.

Congratulations to the following members on your awards and for all the fine services that you have provided to the club and earned you such honors.



**K1TNX: “Mobile Antenna Award”**, Limited Space DXing. Back into Ham Radio for the second time after being sidetracked by life and a professional career, this member found himself in a residential situation with challenging antenna restrictions. Not one to give up easily, he meticulously researched and experimented with several solutions before finally converging on one that met all his requirements. Not only does his innovative solution work for his home station, it's also his mobile solution, and preforms extremely well at both. Whether working RTTY or Digital at home, or SSB at various mobile locations, he has worked a considerable amount of DX and achieved commendable contest scores, challenging those with full sized antenna systems and impressing us all. Always inquisitive, one to never say die, and who successfully overcame great challenges.





## CLUB NEWS:

**KC1NAB: “Volunteer of the Year”**, Always There to Help. Recently joining our ranks, this member has proven himself as a doer. Need a hand? He’s there. Work party? He’s there. An issue discussed on Tuesday? On Wednesday he’s working on it. He presents constructive ideas, and with a calm head and steady hand follows through on his own. Recently accepting responsibility as our House (a.k.a. Building & Grounds) Chairperson and already grabbing the bull by the horns with our new storage container.

**W1ESQ: “Jolt Award”**, Fueling Progress. A chance meeting in an eclectic Downtown restaurant, a schematic drawn on a bar napkin, a rolled-up issue of Monitoring Times, and a copy of “2600” hacker’s quarterly led to an extraordinary member for the PRA, and a lifelong friend to me and my family. The first time this member came to the PRA he walked in with a case of Jolt Cola and has never stopped giving. Known for challenging and pushing the envelope, he is the original outside-the-box thinker, forever on the forefront of innovation and creativity. He most importantly credited with getting the PRA to step out of an antiquated comfort zone by championing diversity and inclusion amongst our ranks and promoting our involvement in emerging technologies and endeavors.

**AJ1S: “The Lad” Award**, Antenna Experimentation. Joining the PRA at a young age, becoming a protégé of Zaven, W1IUX (SK), his interest in wireless led to a successful career in satellite data communications. He constructed a remote 10M station 40 years ago, has never stopped building and experimenting with antennas from KHz to GHz, especially HF Discones, HF verticals, vertical arrays, multielement wire arrays, C and Ku band dishes, portable, mobile, and motorcycle mobile stations, vacuum tube amplifiers, digital communication, and modern remote operation. A title he was affectionately referred to by “The Old Man”, the late W1IUX,



**N1DM: “Wizard Award”**, Technical Guidance. Serving as Secretary and Vice President for many terms, for 5 decades presenting numerous classes, educational forums, and technical presentations, both at the PRA and throughout the Amateur community, published papers and articles in QST, QEX, the ARRL Handbook, Antenna Book, and numerous other newsletters and periodicals, noted as an expert of the DDRR antenna, Helical Antenna, Amateur Satellite Communications, and DMR radio, to mention a few, and a treasure of technical knowledge and advice. To a dear friend of over 50 years.



**WA1UWU: “FBOM Award”**, Unwavering Dedication. Serving as President for many terms, including during our 75th anniversary celebration, he has been our calm headed voice of reason and source of wisdom for many years. No matter what issues or unfortunate situa-



## CLUB NEWS:

tion he may face, he's forever cheerful, never complaining, encouraging, and fully supportive of the best interest of the PRA. To our friend who always has a good joke to tell.

### **WA1FOS: "I Got That Award", Most Helpful Member.**

The electric meter was ripped off the building in a storm, no problem, he's got that fixed in a day, including 2 new utility poles. The club generator won't run, no problem, he's got that fixed. Need help moving 2 ton of radio equipment on a moment's notice before the ex-wife throws it in the dumpster, he's right there. Looking for a 20ft length of 4" dia, 1/4 in wall 6061-T6 aluminum tubing, yeah, he's got that. Need a volunteer to dig a trench at 6am on a Sunday in February, yup, he's there. To no finer a gentleman.



**W1GS, "Old Buzzard Award," 67 Years of Contribution.** One of our longest continuous members, he had been President, VP, Secretary, Board Member, Newsletter Editor, and Government Liaison, serving in PRA leadership roles for over 6 decades. Moving to NH in the 70's, he continued to attend most every PRA meeting, commuting back and forth to the Clubhouse every Tuesday night for 40 years. A driving force for Field Day, champion of our DXCC achievements, and a staunch advocate of Morse Code and CW. He has also worked an impressive amount of DX using stealth antennas at his HOA restricted Condo. He is never shy about voicing his sentiments, especially on topics of Field Day, antennas, CW, and Scotch. Without doubt the most respected Old Buzzard this club has known, my Brother from another Mother,

**W1EYH: "Godfather Award", Longest Continuous Member and Original "Fancy Guy".** Last is our Senior Member, a PRA member since 1955. He has held offices of President, VP, and on the Board almost continually since the 60's. From Airplanes to Bentley's, Ballet to Opera, Hi-Fi to Ham, pioneering FM repeaters to chasing DX on FT8, he has always been at the forefront of technology.

The following ARRL Certificates of Merit were handed out by ARRL RI SM Nancy Austin, KC1NEK:

**David Steussie, W3DRE,** For outstanding support of the Activate All RI 2023 POTA event

**Domenic Mallozzi, N1DM,** For exceptional HamXpo 2023 presentation on DMR and assisting countless hams

**David Tessitore, K1DT,** For exceptional Hampo 2023 presentation on Club Revitalization

**The PRA, W1OP,** For Welcome Collaboration during the Activate All RI 2023 POTA event

**The PRA, W1OP,** For outstanding club support of the 2023 HamXpo

**The PRA, W1OP,** For Exceptional Commitment to Volunteers on the Air W1AW/1

On September 30, a dozen PRA members, three from the Brown Univ. Radio Club, and





## CLUB NEWS:

ARRL Section Manager for RI, Nancy, KC1NEK, were treated to a guided

tour of the Providence Emergency Management Agency Headquarters by member Barry W1BSN and PEMA Director Clara Deckerbo. We toured the KK1PMA RACES Station, the PVD EMA Ops Center, and were presented with an overview (see attachment) on how ARES, RACES, and MARS work together under the Auxcomm umbrella, and how Amateur Radio volunteers can fit in to be most effective.



**PRA at Providence EMA Headquarters**

Seven members of the PRA visited the Retro-Computing Society of Rhode Island on October 21st, <https://www.rcsri.org/> located at the Atlantic Mills in Olneyville. Mike Umbricht W9GYR and Dave Fischer lead us on a guided tour of this fantastic collection of vintage computers and peripherals, many operational, from DEC, Data General, IBM, Cray, Honeywell, Xerox, Sun, and several others.

The PRA Foundation presented RCS/RI with a grant to help them continue with their mission.



One has a tendency to outgrow their accommodations in record time. It's as if we are not satisfied until we have accumulated enough stuff to squeeze out any ability to easily and safely move within our surroundings. It was this way with my first apartment, my XYL and I had more belongs moved in before we had ourselves moved in. From there, it just continued to





## CLUB NEWS:



accumulate until it seemed the addition of one last paper clip would cause the walls to burst with a cataclysmic eruption.

Under the direction of our House Chair, Bob KC1NAB, the site was cleared and prepped, a foundation was designed and constructed, the container was purchased, and in torrential rain on the day before Thanksgiving, delivered and installed!

This was possible through a multitude of members pitching in over several work parties. Volunteers included Fred AA1II, Rich K1COI, Jim K1TNX, John KZ1K, Gil N1BBM, Dom N1DM, David W3DRE, Octavio N1RHH, John N1SXB, Barry W1BSN.

We will now be able to clear out the kitchen and meeting room of equipment and sup-

plies, including but not limited to Field Day (AB-577 tower, masts, antennas, cables, generators, mess supplies...), surplus amplifiers, antennas, spare parts, piles of donated equipment, ladders, yard tools, extra tables and chairs, etc.

Thanks to all who helped us meet the challenge of getting this done before the holidays. We did it! <https://nediv.arrl.org/2023/11/24/providence-ra-adds-storage-space/>



**D**id you attend NearFest XXXIV? Thirteen PRA members and friends were in attendance. NearFest is a tradition. It's a great opportunity to score some great finds, unload some old junk, meet old friends, and enjoy the great New Hampshire outdoors. What did you find, who did you meet?

A reminder that your attendance is what keeps this great event going. Start clearing your calendar, NearFest XXXV will be held on Friday April 26th and Saturday the 27th.

Hope to see you there!







## **NearFest XXXIV HONOR ROLL**

N1BAQ, Bob Egan  
K1CW, Mike Gibbemeyer  
N1DM, Domenic Malozzi  
W3DRE, Dave Steussie  
W1ER, Tom Greenwood  
W1EYH, Frank DePetrillo,  
W1GS, John Good

K1GWW, Will Waterman  
KC1NAB, Bob Hart  
W1PRA, Paul DePetrillo  
WQ1Q, Rocco Quattrucci  
AJ1S, Andy Stenberg  
NE1U, Ted Casassa





**F**all is filled with contests and many members of the PRA love to participate. So what did we do?

**ARRL Sweepstakes Phone** — AA1II, K1TNX, KZ1K, N1BAQ, N1DM, N1RHH, W1ESQ, and W3DRE participated from the W1OP club station for an estimated score of 129,762 points. Well Done!!

**CQ Worldwide CW** — Several PRA members participated from their respective home stations. Lead by Richard K1MD who made a spectacular effort, along with Dom N1DM, Tom W1ER, and Dave K1DT, PRA members were making noise on the CW bands. Congrats to all who got on the air!

**ARRL 160 Meter Contest** — Friday and Saturday, N1DM and K1DT operated the ARRL 160 Meter Test; A PRA Tradition for 53 years! In support of the VOTA program, we operated the contest using the callsign W1AW/1, making 470 QSOs, 57 Multipliers, for an Unofficial score of 56,145 under fair conditions.

**ARRL 10 Meter Contest** — The ARRL 10 Meter Contest was held on December 9-10, and while the W1OP Club station was not operational, many PRA members were active from home exploring the 10 Meter band,



**N1BAQ Commanding 14.253 during Sweepstakes**



**N1DM, since 1970, operating on 160m CW**



**NE1Y at his Fort Myers control center operating as W1AW/1 using 3 of W1OP's remote stations simultaneously on 80, 40, and 20m!**

working new states, new countries, and honing their station and operating skills.

**FT Roundup** — Vic, NE1Y operated the club station remotely from his Ft. Myers QTH as W1AW/1 amassing 100 Qs in the FT Round-Up Contest.

**Field Day Standing** — Congratulations to team PRA on taking 3rd place during Field Day in Class 3A with 2,925 contacts, 39 participants, and 12,608 points.







## ON THE AIR:

## JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

RICK ROSEN, K1DS

I was invited to demonstrate and operate ham radio at the area scout camp for the weekend of JOTA, an annual event for many hams and scouts. Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/> It is held annually the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. This jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio operator's ham shack.

walkie-talkies, linear power supply, and a box full of QSTs and AMSAT newsletters as giveaways.

Arriving at the Tanah Keeta at 8:45AM, I got assistance from adult leadership and I had the antenna and rig on the air by 9:30AM. I was the 5th station on site, on the entrance patio to a cabin with a bathroom, and in the shade all day. AC power was available. Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation is located near Tequesta in Martin County and includes 640 acres along the south edge of Jonathan Dickenson State Park and on the Loxahatchee River – a State of Florida Historic Trail.

I was truly amazed at the participation by the scouts in the amateur radio activity. There were almost 200 scouts camped there for the weekend and the Saturday activity was split into a morning and afternoon session—half of the scouts did radio in the morning and merit badge class in the afternoon while the other half had the reverse schedule. A few young scouts passed by as I started to make some 40M SSB QSOs with northern Florida stations. They easily got into the conversations with the distant hams.

I broke out the Baofeng walkies that were on 146.52 and scouts quickly learned how to operate them, contacting the other scout stations around the camp. By lunchtime I had 18 QSOs in the log with 14 scouts that got on the mike to chat with other stations. Some of the highlights included contacts with other JOTA stations including VE5CHS in Saskatchewan. Scouts asked and answered questions of each



**K1DS and one of his JOTA Teamates**

I made a list of the gear I would bring and made sure that the dipole I cut for an inverted-VEE for 40m and 15m was resonant at the proper frequencies. I set up the 16' military mast with the antenna, keeping the ends about 4' off the ground and trimmed 6" from each end of the wire to get it as close to an SWR of 1:1. I packed my Kenwood TS-2000X, my Yaesu FT-100D as back-up, masts, guys, coax, mikes, code keys,





**The JOTA Team**

TA station N3MCK and they had 13 of their scouts on the mike chatting with half a dozen at our station.

The four other stations at Tanah Keeta were active, some using DMR, local repeaters, FM simplex the internet and EchoLink. There was even a demonstration of SSTV using the Tequesta repeater. I hope that others in the club will make the effort in future years to host scouts at their stations or to respond to those calling, "CQ JOTA," on the third weekend of October.

other over-the-air. We had HP3EFS from Panama join our QSO. As the afternoon progressed, we had contacts with an additional 15 states including several POTA stations who took the time to explain to the scouts what their portable stations were doing. I was impressed with all the hams that we contacted who took the time to speak with each and every scout by name, asking them questions about their rank and progress in the scouts and encouraging them to get their ham licenses. I managed to make 2 CW QSOs to show how code was used, and then one of the scouts used my straight key to practice the code and he had great feel and timing of the characters. Our final QSO of the afternoon was with another JO-

73, Rick K1DS



**Teamwork**





**W**elcome back. Hopefully, your interest was peaked by the last installment of this article and you now have a couple battle wounds and rewards to show for your effort. In this installment, I will talk about some terminology you will encounter and some techniques I use. First, let's discuss terminology. In no particular order:

### **Terminology**

**Split** – Split is the whole concept behind how many DX stations transmit and receive. The DX station splits their operation between separate transmit and receive frequencies. The DX station transmits at one time on the DX TX frequency and then when they are not transmitting, they are listening on the receive frequency or often, the receive window. In telephony terminology, this would be called half duplex.

**Receive Window** – This is the spectrum occupied by the stations calling the DX station. Let's visualize what is happening. The DX station is the most popular guy in the world announcing to the world on his TX frequency, "here I am world. Call me" and call him they do. A bazillion all try to call you, ... all at the same time. Chaos and mayhem at its finest. The stations that are calling the DX station are smart. It doesn't take long to realize that the likelihood of being heard amongst all this noise is slim. Soooo, what if I slide off frequency a bit into some quieter space where the DX station may have a better chance of hearing me? Either by natural evolution or by being instructed by the DX station, the stations spread out. This piece of spectrum being occupied by the calling stations is known as the "Receive Window".

**Up** – Especially for DXpeditions but also encountered when working less common DX entities, you will find the DX station transmitting on

one frequency but they are listening on another, most typically "up" so many kilohertz from their transmit frequency. Typically, "up" is used with CW, the starting point being 1 KHz above the DX transmit frequency and each channel an additional 0.1 KHz up

**Listening Up** – Essentially the same as "up" but more typically used on SSB. The DX station will announce his call followed by "listening up". For SSB, it is typically starting 5 KHz above the DX transmit frequency but on occasion has been seen to be as little as 3 KHz. Channel spacings are typically 1, 3 or 5 KHz apart.

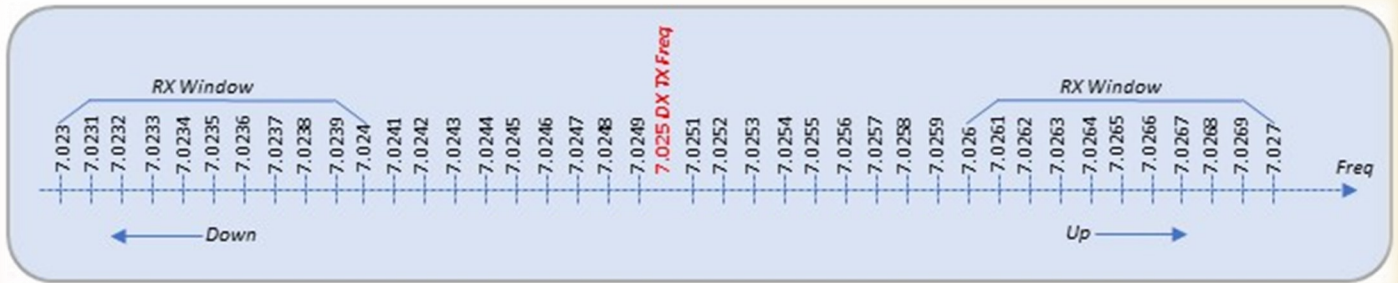
**ATNO** – All Time New One. The first time a DXCC entity is worked, it is known as an ATNO.

**Lid** – A bad or poor operator. As I have tried to make clear several times in this series, contacting the DX station can sometimes be a battle. Sometimes while trying to make contact, some pretty poor operation will be encountered, sometimes unintentional, sometimes intentional. Either way, you don't want to be labelled a "lid".

### **Getting Ready**

Before chasing those DX stations, let's quickly visualize how the DX station is operating with graphs and prepare our station for successful operation. We'll use the 40 meter CW band as an example. It doesn't specifically have to be CW, it could just as easily be SSB, the specific frequencies will be different due to the different sub-bands for SSB and the increased bandwidth of the SSB channel.

The DX station transmits on the DX TX Frequency denoted in bold red, where you are going to listen. When the DX station is listening for stations calling him, he will listen in the Receive Window, where you are going to transmit. The DX station will typically announce he is listening



**Figure 1: Example of DX Station Operating Spectrum**

up. On rare occasions, he may announce that he is listening down, but this is not common. He may also not announce and it will then be up to you to figure it out. If after he makes his transmission, you hear absolute mayhem, then he is most likely operating simplex, but if you hear nothing, then most likely he is operating “split”.

Let’s assume he is operating split. When setting up your transceiver, you will want to make sure that it is setup for “SPLIT” operation with your VFO A set for receive on the DX station’s DX TX Frequency and your VFO B set for transmit operation on a frequency in the Receive Window. This is critically important. If you do not, you will be transmitting on the DX stations transmit frequency and causing QRM. You will never be heard by the DX station but “the police” will come out in full force telling you “up” and “lid” amongst a few other nasty things and causing further QRM and mayhem.

All the mechanics and steps of tuning up the station are beyond the scope of this article. But, in short, I make it a practice to do all my radio,

amplifier, and antenna system adjustments a few KHz below the DX TX frequency. Once I have everything adjusted, I tune the RX VFO (VFO A) to the DX TX frequency and tune the TX VFO (VFO B) typically 1 KHz above that. The last step is then to be sure that “SPLIT” operation has been enabled on the radio. An example of what this looks like on my Yaesu FTDX3000 can be seen in the picture. The function names specific to your radio may differ.



**Figure 2: Yaesu FTDX3000 VFO Setup for Split Operation**

We’re ready to go. Let’s chase some Dog X-Ray.

**Technique**

“5NN TU” - Figure 2 shows time versus frequency. Remember, the DX station is transmitting on the DX TX Frequency and is listening somewhere in the Receive Window. The key is to watch what is taking place in the Receive



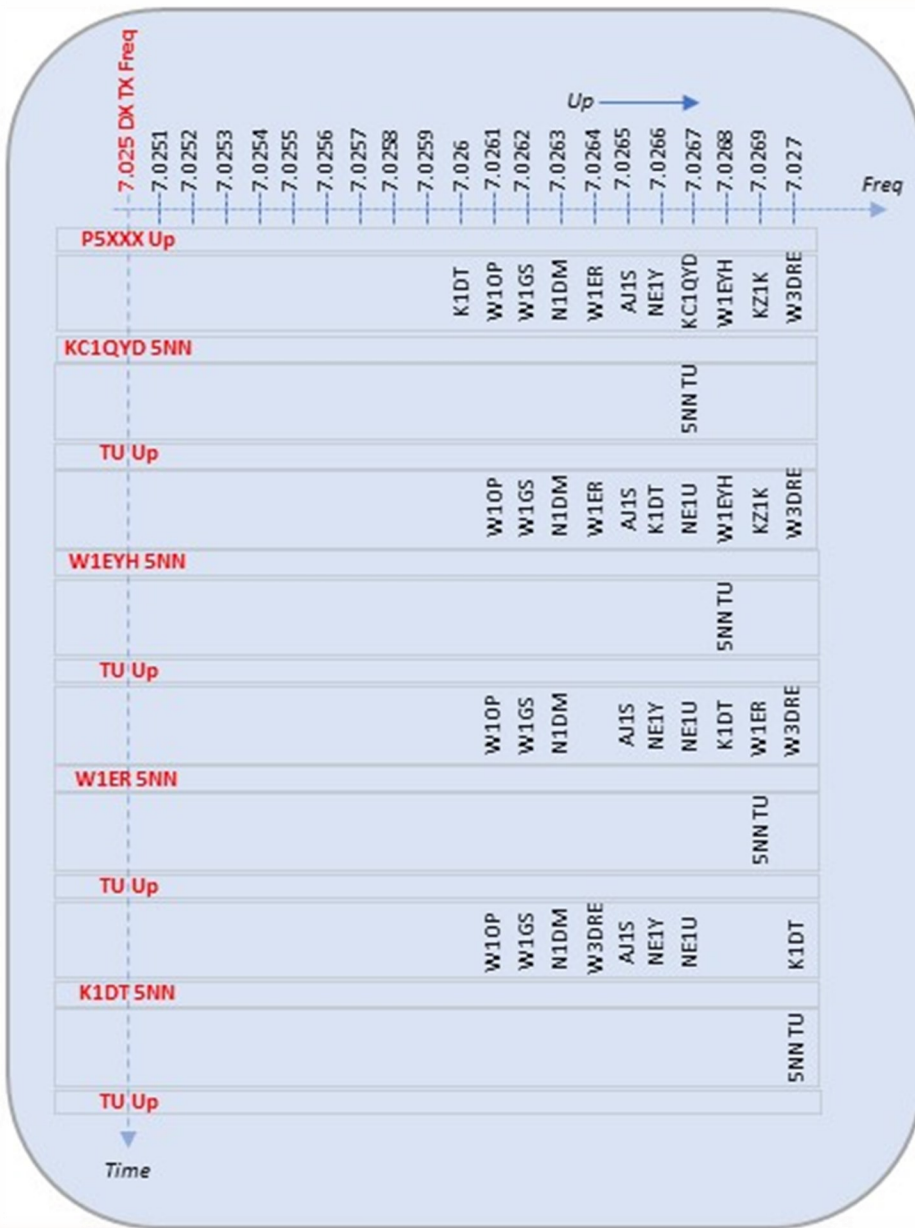


Figure 3: Spectrum Versus Time During Split Operation

Window. Where is the DX station listening? Notice how the calling stations are distributed across the window. Eleven stations across 1 KHz, each station separated by 0.1 KHz. During the first exchange, P5XXX announces he is listening up. When he stops transmitting, the calling stations begin to send their calls.

P5XXX happens to be listening to 7.0267 and hears KC1QYD send his call. P5XXX returns KC1QYD's call along with a signal report of 599 or in cut numbers formant "5NN". P5XXX now waits to hear KC1QYD's acknowledgement in the form of a signal report and a TU for "Thank You" and P5XXX replies also with TU followed by "UP". KC1QYD has just completed a contact with P5XXX and Thomas shakes his head in disbelief because he just worked the Club Log #1 Most Wanted entity, North Korea. Way to go Thomas!

So what happens next? Well, by P5XXX sending "TU UP", he has indicated that he has completed the contact and is ready for the next station. NE1U happens to land on 7.0267 and sends his call but does not get a response, but W1EYH who is sending on 7.0268 does get an acknowledgement and exchanges a successful signal report. The exchanges continue with W1ER making a successful contact on 7.0269 and K1DT making a successful contact on 7.027.

So what is going on? We observed that during this short time frame the DX station is moving up 0.1 KHz with each completed exchange. But he could have been moving down 0.1 KHz and notice that K1DT maybe assumed that so he sent his call on 7.0256. How did W1ER



know where to look and why did K1DT initially get it wrong?

Now, I will admit I am a horrid CW operator. I can't follow a CW QSO beyond about 10 wpm on a good day. But what trainers will impress upon you is less the technique of character recognition and more pattern recognition. While P5XXX was making exchanges with other stations, both K1DT and W1ER listening to the receive window looking for the characteristic pattern of "5NN TU". Once it was found, it was pinpointed where P5XXX was listening. There were two possibilities of what to do next, assume they were going in a particular direction, retune my TX VFO there and make a shot at it, or try moving and seeing if I caught another "5NN TU" from the next exchange which would then establish direction. In this example, K1DT assumed the wrong direction but W1ER determined the correct direction either by luck or by searching for the "5NN TU" from the next exchange. In any case, it can be seen that K1DT quickly determined that he may be following in the wrong direction and corrected resulting in a successful exchange following W1ER's exchange.

There are multiple ways to go about this. In rigs without dual receivers, this can require some quick button pushing. Yaesu radios often have the TX Watch (TXW) button which allows temporarily swapping the roles of the two VFO's enabling you to listen to where you would be transmitting. If your rig

does not have that function, the A/B switch can perform the same role but you must toggle it back and forth. Many of the more advanced rigs such as the IC-7610, FTDX101, and the K4 are equipped with dual receivers allowing you to simultaneously listen to the frequency of both VFO's, one in each ear. The functionality can also be implemented using a wholly separate receiver or SDR in a single operator dual receive (SO2R) operation. In a future article, we'll discuss SO2R systems in more detail.

**"Late Entry"** - This technique works well for simplex but it can also be applied to Split. To make the explanation easier, I will describe it for what is happening for simplex operation.

P5XXX announces his call but he does not indicate where he is listening. The assumption is that he is operating simplex and almost immediately it becomes obvious that everyone else assumed the same and mayhem ensues. In Figure 4 observe that many stations start sending

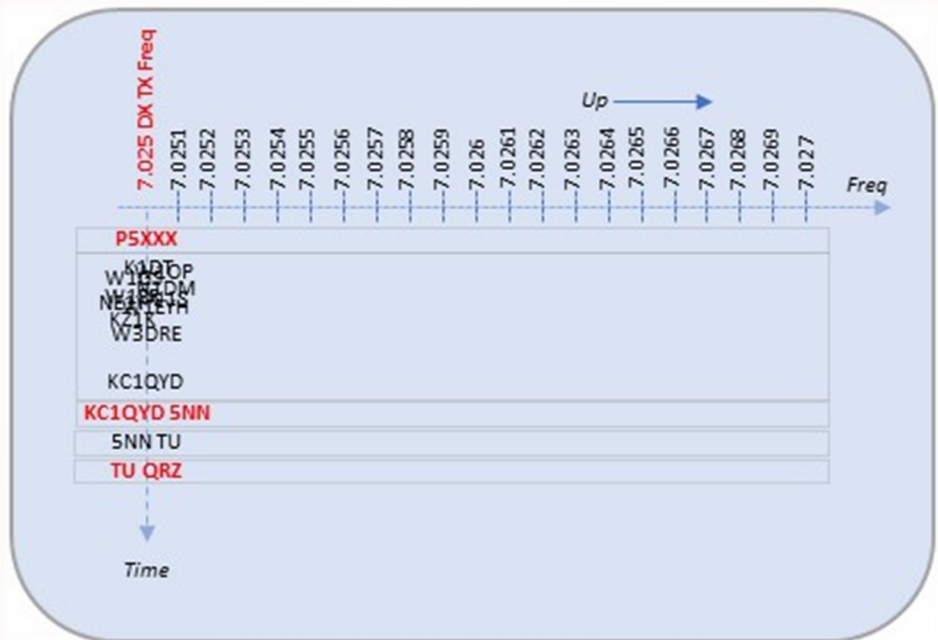


Figure 4: Spectrum Versus Time During Simplex Operation





their calls and for the most part, most of them don't stand out enough for there to be any certainty of any one of the calls. Notice however that KZ1K can be copied with some effort and W3DRE is almost perfect copy. KC1QYD takes advantage of the fact that the mayhem is subsiding, but must play the timing just right. It's trial and error. Call too soon and you may be lost in the noise that still exists from the other calling stations. Call too late and most likely you will find that at the end of your transmission P5XXX is sending a signal report to W3DRE. The one thing that tends to happen assuming that P5XXX is not trying to target stations for other reasons, is that he may likely respond to the last clear call heard. The mayhem subsides, the channel becomes quieter, and KC1QYD stands out loud and clear.

Earlier I said that this could also apply in Split operation. Figure 3 makes one very poor assumption of what is really happening on each of the receive window channels. Notice that on each 0.1 KHz channel there is only one station operating, optimistic at best. Maybe one of those channels is occupied that way but the reality is that more than likely, each of those channels is occupied with stations just like the simplex channel immediately after the DX station stops transmitting. Eventually the occupancy may die down and similarly, if KC1QYD times his transmission correctly on the channel the DX station is listening, he will be the last clear station heard and will get the response.

**“Dominance”** - Not really a technique but something that should be obvious. Figure 5 shows how the receive channel appears to the DX station. Observe that some stations are small (weak) and some are large (strong). Dominance is a measure of the strength of the station above the noise, be it thermal or artificial. The greater the delta, the more dominant you are and the better your signal quality

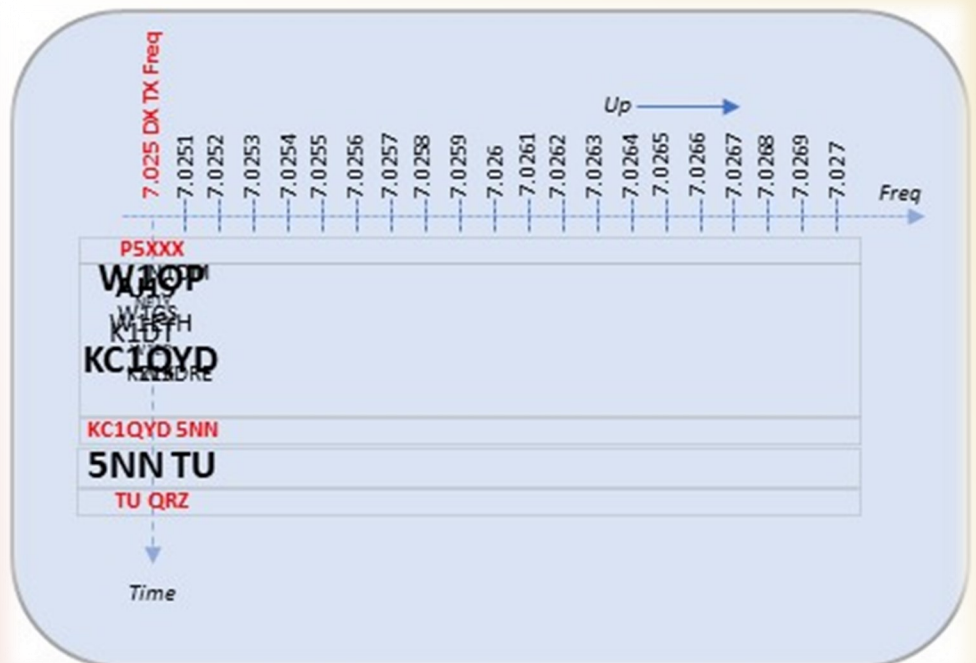


Figure 5: Spectrum Versus Time During Simplex Operation

(signal to noise ratio). A signal with higher signal quality will be a better heard signal.

W1OP is strong but his dominance is degraded by other weaker stations also in there simultaneously and raising the artificial noise floor resulting in poor dominance. Notice that during a brief moment of quiet that NE1Y becomes the sole station. Although a weak station, he becomes dominant however, his dominance may still be poor when measured relative to the thermal noise floor. A little time goes by



and although the artificial noise floor is elevated, we can pick out KC1QYD quite well. For P5XXX, KC1QYD becomes the best heard station and he returns a signal report.

Look back at Figure 4, see that KC1QYD's "late entry" effectively took advantage of the same technique, by waiting until the channel had quieted down, he became dominant. However, to achieve the dominance technique in the midst of a pileup may require having a big gun station consisting of best location, best antenna, maximum power, and best propagation conditions. The first three are pretty much under your control, but propagation is a whole different factor involving a lot of complex variables that can differ from hour to hour, location of the DX station, and solar conditions.

**"Timing"** - Timing, although a technique, is also a mindset. You need to consider what is going at the moment. Despite all your best efforts, can you just not make it? Is it the beginning of the DXpedition?

As soon as that first spot for that DX station appears on the DX spotting websites everyone is going to descend upon the received window. And that window is going to grow. On CW I have seen it grow to 20 KHz wide. Good luck if you think you are going to find that "5NN TU" amongst 200 0.1 KHz channels. But over time, the mayhem will settle down to a more manageable swath of spectrum to search. When it's 200 channels wide, a subset of the timing technique can come into play, "luck", being in the right place at the right time.

Even when the receive window is narrower, it can sometimes be difficult to find where the DX station is listening and even when I have been following them, I still couldn't make the

contact. This is when it becomes necessary to put it all down. If it's a typical or long DXpedition, wait a few days for the mayhem to subside. Your chances of being dominant are much better. Fighting the artificial noise floor for dominance is challenging and dynamic. Sometimes just putting it down for a few minutes is all that is required. On a couple occasions after endless calling, I have returned after taking a break and worked the station on two or three tries.

My best recollection was the FT5ZM DXpedition to Amsterdam and St. Paul Islands in the south Indian Ocean. I called for days to no avail. Nothing was working. Then during SuperBowl XLVIII while everyone was watching the halftime show, refilling their plates, and refreshing their drinks, I went over to the radio and there was FT5ZM. I got tuned up and with one call, worked them, maybe an example of timing working all its magic, the mayhem had settled down, everyone was preoccupied with other things, and luck worked to my advantage, being in the right place at the right time.

**OKAY! Go chase that Dog X-Ray and try some of these techniques.**

**In the final installment, I will discuss some tools to aid you in your quest for world domination. Stay tuned and happy DX'ing!**

### DO YOU LIKE TO CHASE DX?

For several members of the PRA, chasing DX is their passion. If it's your passion too, and you want to keep in contact with us while we chase our pursuits, alert each other of activity, celebrate our achievements, and whine and complain, then send us an email and we'll add your to our email distribution.





Since being introduced to POTA by Dave, W3DRE back in March of 2022, as of this writing, I have achieved the following results:

- Activations - 55
- Parks Hunted – 414
- Park to Park - 331

In total, just over 2200 contacts have been made, mostly on 40m and 20m and activations West to Arizona, North to Upper Peninsula Michigan, South to Arkansas and East to New Brunswick Canada. Elevations from Sea level to 3100 ft. DX worked: Alaska, Greater Europe, South America and Caribbean

**Locations** — One of the BEST parts of operating a portable QRP station, are the locations that can be accessible by hiking. One activation was done with all of the equipment packed in a backpack. Most of the time, the antenna, cables and support lines are carried in an extra bag.

**Equipment** — The equipment used for my POTA operation is a Yaesu FT-818nd with recommended aftermarket options such as voice keyer, audio compression module, protective rails and power connector. We were going on a cross-country trip so the FT818 was selected for size, all-band, all-mode and power consumption.

The saying goes, “Life’s too short for QRP” but is it? You be the judge, QRP 5-6 watt output. Take the Stats above and consider that I usually get 54 - 59 or 559 to 599 reports. Occasionally, 3-3 and in some cases well over S9. In those over S9 cases, there is disbelief that such a signal is coming from a QRP station. One instance, I received a 59+20 report and provided the same, When we exchanged station information, he said “QRP? I’m embarrassed to say that I am running 500 watts into a 3 element beam.” With a comment like that, Is life too

short for QRP?

**Antenna System** — With all of that said, one variable is the antenna system. When putting this system together for the cross-country trip, something came to mind. Why run QRP and use a random wire thrown over a tree branch and match it with a tuner, thus making a weak signal possibly even weaker. Easy but not ideal

Enter in the humble resonant dipole. Resonant or “Cut” dipoles offered at least unity gain, the ability to install as a traditional dipole, sloper or as an inverted “V” no need for a tuner and they pack easily. It can also be used at the home QTH.

**Tools needed** (for both projects)

- **Ring Terminal Crimp Tool**
- **Wire Cutter/Stripper**
- **Soldering Iron & Solder**
- **Hack Saw**
- **Metal Cutters**
- **Vise**
- **Drill**
- **Drill Bits – recommend a step drill (pricey but quick and easy)**
- **Phillips and Slotted screwdrivers**
- **5/16 nut driver or socket**
- **Antenna Analyzer**

Indispensable for the field are a Leatherman® MultiTool and a multitbit screwdriver. In many cases when the bits are removed, the socket is a 5/16” socket that fits the hose clamps (see picture)

For the feed point, a piece of plexiglass was cut to allow for a SO-239 connector, stainless steel machine screws (with nuts and wing nuts) for antenna leg connections and para-cord for a tether.



Materials used for the build.

- Plexiglas – Approx. 2” x 6”
- SO-239 Connector – Qty 1
- Stainless Steel 4-40 x 3/4” Pan Head Machine Screws – Qty 4
- Stainless Steel 4-40 Nuts – Qty 4
- Stainless Steel 4-40 Split Washer – Qty 4
- Stainless Steel #8 x 1” Pan Head Machine Screws – Qty 2
- Stainless Steel #8 Nuts – Qty 2
- Stainless Steel #8 Wing Nuts – Qty 2
- Stainless Steel #8 Split Washer – Qty 2
- Stainless Steel #8 Flat Washer – Qty 4
- #8 or #10 x 12 AWG Ring Terminals
- RG58/U or equivalent Coaxial Cable—Qty 50’
- Paracord or Equivalent- Qty As Needed
- Plastic Snap Hook (e.g. Carabiner)—Qty 1
- Electrical or Duct Tape—Qty As needed (The job isn’t really finished without a little duct tape involved)
- A “Chuck-It” tennis ball launcher, 5 oz. weighted tennis ball, 150# test fishing line, plumb line and para-cord round out the extra equipment needed.

**Table 1: Dipole Material List**

A length of paracord and a plastic carabiner was secured to the coaxial cable to provide stress relief on the connector and cable.

Dipoles were cut for 40m - 10m and terminated with ring terminals for the feed-point connection. Because the power level is only 5 watts, just the wire insulation was used on the support end. When making the dipole legs, start a little on the long side, create the loop for the support end then the ring terminal end can be cut to length and terminated with the ring terminal. For higher power levels such as 100 watts will be used, insulators at the support ends of the legs are recommended. When measuring for the length, make sure to support the antenna at a typical operating height with your intended

feedline. The wing nuts at the feed point and the ring terminals make quick and easy to assemble and disassemble the dipole. They also allow for use of balanced wire feed line if so desired.



**Front View of Feed Point with Dipole Leg connected and strain relief**

The lengths of the dipoles for my kit are listed in Table 2. When building your own, you can with cut your lengths a bit longer and then trim to length. Generally, the dipoles for 30m through 12m tend to cover the entire band with an SWR of less than 1.5:1. On 40m, some fine adjustment, will be needed to target your preferred band segment. 10m is covered from CW through the SSB segment with an acceptable match, but another dipole was cut for the 10m FM segment.

Band	Single Leg Length	Total Length
40	31’ - 10.5”	63’ - 9”
30	22’ - 6.5”	45’ - 1”
20	16’ - 2.25”	32’ - 4.5”
17	17’ - 8”	25’ - 4”
15	10’ - 10”	21’ - 8”
12	9’ - 1”	18’ - 2”
10	7’ - 11.5”	15’ - 11”
10 FM	7’ - 8.5”	15’ - 7”

**Table 2: Dipole Length**





**Rear View of Feed Point**

Here's the formula for the dipole length.

**$300/\text{Freq. in MHz} = \text{Wavelength in meters}$**

**$\text{Wavelength} \times .50 = \frac{1}{2} \text{ Wavelength in meters}$**

**$\frac{1}{2} \text{ Wavelength} \times 3.28 = \frac{1}{2} \text{ Wavelength in feet}$**

Up to this point, this method will provide the same results as the formula  $492/\text{frequency}$  for a  $\frac{1}{2}$  wave dipole. Multiply a decimal value of feet by 12 to get inches

**Example:**

**Step 1.  $300/7.150 \text{ MHz} = 41.958 \text{ m}$  (wavelength in meters)**

**Step 2.  $41.958 \text{ m} \times .50 = 20.979 \text{ m}$  ( $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength dipole in meters)**

**Step 3.  $20.979 \text{ m} \times 3.28 = 68.811$  ( $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength dipole in feet)**

**Step 4.  $.811 \times 12 = 9.732''$  or  $9.75''$  (fraction of feet to inches)**

**Result = 68 ft 3.42 inches overall for a 40m dipole at 7.150 MHz**

The individual leg length or  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength is calculated using .25 instead of .50 at step 2 or divide the  $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength result by 2.

We're at a good starting point as you can see the result is longer than the 40m length in the chart above, now trim to length for best SWR. Chances are once you achieve best SWR say for about 7.150, you will probably have a good SWR across the band on 40m. If you have an auto tuner, it will certainly have an easy time to clean up the slightly higher SWR on either end of the band. Coincidentally, this dipole will easily tune

up on 15m as it will operate on the 3rd Harmonic of 7 MHz.

**Ground Plane Vertical – PODDA POLE**

A trip to the Orange Big Box Building Supply store yielded what was to be THE PODDA POLE.

While looking for a painter's pole to scrape and paint our house, I came across a 24 foot telescoping pole. How anyone uses it for painting tasks is questionable but for a vertical antenna.... perfect!

It consists of an eight foot fiberglass handle and two eight foot telescoping aluminum tubes with locking collars. The dipole legs from above are used for the ground radials. Only the two legs are used, creating what is called a skeleton ground plane vertical, which works very well. On occasion for 40m operation, the pole is used to support an inverted V dipole.

To start, the sheet metal is drilled to mount the SO-239 and a  $\frac{1}{4}''$  machine screw.

Optional – drill an additional hole big enough for the coaxial cable strain relief carabiner instead of using a piece of paracord attached to the pole.



**Dipole Leg Assembly Example**





**Dipole Leg Assembly Example**

Additional materials....

- 1.5" stainless steel hose clamps—Qty 4
- Short jumpers consisting of #12 AWG wire
- 10-12 x 1/4" ring terminals —Qty 3
- SO-239 chassis connector—Qty 1
- SS 4-40 machine screws—Qty 4
- Qty 4 – SS 4-40 nuts
- 6" by 2" piece of aluminum sheet metal stock—Qty 1
- 6' x 1/4" aluminum rod—Qty 1
- 1/4" wing nut—Qty 1
- 1/4" hex nut—Qty 1
- 1/4" split ring washer —Qty 1
- #8-32 SS wing nut—Qty 1
- #8-32 SS hex nut—Qty 1
- #8 SS split ring washer—Qty 1
- #8-32 x 3/4" SS Bolt —Qty 1
- 1/2" (or larger) PVC conduit—Qty 4.5 ft
- PVC Female threaded adaptor (to match conduit) —Qty 1
- PVC threaded plug (to match above adaptor) —Qty 1
- PVC Cap (to match conduit)—Qty 1
- #12 wire—Qty as needed
- Piece of Para-cord—Qty as needed
- Duct tape or Cable ties—Qty as needed

**Table 3: Ground Plane Vertical Material List**

Slight cuts approximately 2.5 inches from the connector end are made on either side to allow

for the hose clamp to secure the sheet metal to the pole. File or sand off the sharp corners of the plate. Then the metal plate is bent at right angles approximately from the connector end. The slight bend on the machine screw end is optional but is not really recommended.

If an additional hole was not drilled in the plate for the coax cable strain relief hook, then tape a looped piece of paracord just under the where the bottom of the metal plate will be located as seen in the picture.

Two jumper wires will need to be made; one to connect the SO-239 connector to the bottom metal tube and a second jumper to connect the bottom tube to the top tube. The first cut a piece of #12 wire approximately four and a half inches (4.5") long, strip and terminate one end with a ring terminal. Strip the other end and solder to the SO-239 connector. The second jumper, cut a second section of #12 wire approxi-



**Jumper Wires to Tubes Attachment**



mately four and a half inches (4.5”) long. Strip and terminate with ring terminals on either end. Attach the jumper wires to the tubes using the hose clamps as seen.

**Radiator Extension** — When fully extended, the tubes are slightly short for 20m operation. To make up the difference, a 1/4 inch aluminum rod was used attached to the end of the top section. Approximately one inch of the rod was threaded using a 1/4-20 die. The top of the tube has a fitting for attaching painting implements. This fitting was drilled and tapped for 1/4-20 threading to accept the threaded rod. A stainless steel 1/4-20 nut or wing nut and lock washer is used to secure the rod to the tube assembly. The lock or split ring washer is needed to keep the rod from backing out when the pole moved around during deployment. Be careful not to hit objects with the rod as it is rather fragile and can bend easily in the threaded hole. During the tuning process, the tubing sections will be fully extended with the rod attached and the rod will be trimmed for 14 MHz. When not in use, the extension rod will be stored in the conduit attached to the fiberglass handle.



**View of Radiator Extension Attachment**

**Guy** — Four guy lines are made from approximately twenty feet (20’) of paracord each. Carabiners and plastic tent stakes complete each guy line assembly.

Two guy assemblies or extra lines can be used at

the end of the radials and the other two can be attached to support the pole.



**Important Note: Keep the radials elevated approximately 3 feet above ground. If the ends of the radials are grounded, it will significantly affect the tuning.**

**Tuning** — The legs made for the dipoles are used as the radials for the vertical. Each set was used for the respective band when tuning the pole. Band labelling and position markings are made using a Sharpie Marker on the tubing. Here are lengths that were found to work with this pole as measured from the top of the lower black collar. The measured VSWR was generally 1.2: 1 or less across the bands due to the tubing Length to Diameter ratio. One exception was about 1.4:1 at 29.7 MHz when tuned for the lower end of 10m

**10m = 93.5”**

**12m = 111.5”**

**15m = 133.25”**

**17m = 159”**

**20m = 211.5”**

**Conclusion** — The Dipoles and the PODDA Pole assemblies provide a very flexible yet effective antenna system for portable operation. Although both have only been used at the 5 watt





**THE PODDA POLE  
CONT'D**



**PODDA Pole Feed Point Assembly**

level, 100 watts has yet to be tested. If 100 watts is used, insulators on the ends of the dipoles might be required due to high voltage potential. The pole can be also be used as a mast. It has

been used as a support for the dipoles and 2m ground plane vertical. When collapsed, it fits well into small vehicles, SUVs and carries well when hiking. During your hike, be prepared, it certainly gets attention. One guy was amazed that a ham radio operator was actually hiking to set up and operate a station at a 3100' summit and not overweight, hanging out in his basement smoking a cigar.

Old power tool bags, that were not being used, found a new purpose for carrying the dipoles, coax, guy assemblies, additional paracord, batteries and additional items.

Hopefully, this concept will spark some interest or other ideas to help get you on the air.

73

Andy – AJ1S



**PODDA Pole supporting the 40m Inverted V on the beach at Pretty Marsh – Acadia National Park K-0001 (US-ME)**



**Stew Perry, W1BB, 160 Meter DX Pioneer**





## ON THE AIR:

## PARKS ON THE AIR ACTIVATIONS

Dave Steussie; W3DRE, Andy Stenberg; AJ1S, Vic Farmer; NE1Y; Jim Meltzer, K1TNX; and Bob Hart; KC1NAB with the assistance of many other club members continue to put Parks On The Air. Recent activations include:



Date	Park	Station(s)
9/2/2023	<b>K-6982 Big River Wildlife</b>	K1TNX
9/8/2023	<b>K-5484 George Washington Memorial Forest (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
9/9/2023	<b>K-2671 Idiom Point State Park (US-NH)</b>	AJ1S
9/9/2023	<b>K-6981 Great Swamp Wildlife</b>	K1TNX
9/9/2023	<b>K-2874 Fort Adams State Park (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
9/11/2023	<b>K-7971 Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
9/14/2023	<b>K-2876 Goddard Memorial</b>	K1TNX
9/19/2023	<b>K-6979 Arcadia Management</b>	K1TNX
9/19/2023	<b>K-2873 Fishermen's Memorial State Park (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
9/20/2023	<b>K-0515 Ninegret Nat'l Wildlife</b>	K1TNX
9/21/2023	<b>K-7714 Buck Hill Wildlife</b>	K1TNX
9/26/2023	<b>K-6992 JL Curran State Park</b>	K1TNX
9/27/2023	<b>K-2876 Goddard Memorial</b>	K1TNX
9/30/2023	<b>K-8448 Mt. Agamenticus Wildlife Management Area (US-ME)</b>	KC1NAB
10/2/2023	<b>K-2872 Colt State Park</b>	K1TNX
10/3/2023	<b>K-6988 Grills State Preserve</b>	K1TNX
10/5/2023	<b>K-2876 Goddard Memorial</b>	K1TNX
10/6/2023	<b>K-7721 Salty Brine State Beach (US-RI)</b>	KC1NAB
10/11/2023	<b>K-0516 Sachuest Point Wildlife</b>	K1TNX
10/12/2023	<b>K-2879 Rocky Point State Park</b>	K1TNX
10/14/2023	<b>K-2870 Brenton Point State Park</b>	K1TNX
10/22/2023	<b>K-7721 Salty Brine State Beach</b>	K1TNX
10/25/2023	<b>K-2879 Rocky Point State Park</b>	K1TNX
10/29/2023	<b>K-0243 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
10/31/2023	<b>K-6980 Beach Pond Wildlife Area</b>	K1TNX
11/2/2023	<b>K-6981 Great Swamp Wildlife Area</b>	K1TNX
11/4/2023	<b>K-2880 Snake Den State Park</b>	K1TNX
11/4/2023	<b>K-0243 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
11/5/2023	<b>K-6985 Round Top Wildlife Area</b>	K1TNX
11/6/2023	<b>K-0515 Ninegret Nat'l Wildlife</b>	K1TNX
11/8/2023	<b>K-7723 John H Chaffee Rome Point State Nature Preserve (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/8/2023	<b>K-7721 Salty Brine State Beach (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/8/2023	<b>K-7720 Roger W Wheeler State Beach (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/8/2023	<b>K-2873 Fishermen's Memorial State Park (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/8/2023	<b>K-7722 Scarborough North State Beach (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/11/2023	<b>K-0243 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (US-FL)</b>	W1OP



## ON THE AIR:

## PARKS ON THE AIR ACTIVATIONS CONT'D

Date	Park	Station(s)
11/12/2023	<b>K-0243 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
11/13/2023	<b>K-2875 Fort Wetherill State Park (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/16/2023	<b>K-2666 Mount Sunapee State Park (US-NH)</b>	AJ1S
11/19/2023	<b>K-3617 Estero Bay Preserve State Park (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
11/20/2023	<b>K-10545 Hillsdale Preserve management Area (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/23/2023	<b>K-3617 Estero Bay Preserve State Park (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
11/24/2023	<b>K-3617 Estero Bay Preserve State Park (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
11/25/2023	<b>K-2879 Rocky Point State Park (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/25/2023	<b>K-0243 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
11/26/2023	<b>K-10452 Camp Cronin State Recreation Area (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
11/26/2023	<b>K-0243 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (US-FL)</b>	W1OP
11/27/2023	<b>K-10452 Camp Cronin State Recreation Area (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
12/2/2023	<b>K-5484 George Washington Memorial Forest (US-RI)</b>	K1TNX
12/4/2023	<b>K-10547 Silver Spring State recreation Area (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
12/5/2023	<b>K-10548 Barber Pond State recreation Area (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
12/8/2023	<b>K-10546 Eight Rod Farm Wildlife Management Area (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
12/8/2023	<b>K-10543 Patriots Park State Historic Site (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
12/8/2023	<b>K-10541 Gull Cove State recreation Area (US-RI)</b>	W3DRE
12/23/2023	<b>K-0243 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (US-FL)</b>	W1OP



**NE1Y Operating from Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge K-0243 (US-FL)**

*Want to learn more?*  
<https://parksontheair.com/>



**AJ1S' PODDA Pole configured as a 20m Ground Plane Vertical Aroostook State Park K-2380 (US-ME)**





## HAPPENINGS:

**C**ongratulations to the following new PRA members and returning members:



**KC1NTI**  
**Greg Gruenenfelder**  
**September 12**



**AA1II**  
**Fred Poci**  
**September 12**



**N1RHH**  
**Octavio Vieira**  
**September 12**



**N1XQ**  
**Gregory Blasbalg**  
**December 12**

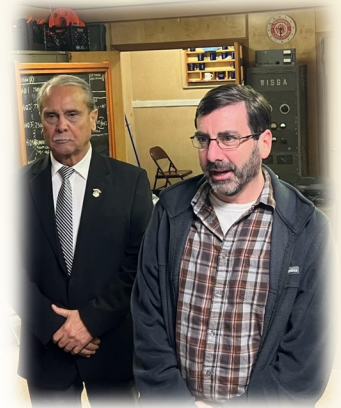


**K1COI**  
**Richard Mancini**  
**August 15**

**Welcome to the club and remember “once a member, always a member”.**

**C**ongratulations to John Brewer, N1sXB in his new role as the Rhode Island Affiliated Club Coordinator. Please provide John with all your support.

**S**ometimes you catch something unexpected. Now we want to assure you that the Providence Radio Association does not ordinarily operate this way. As is customary for new members, an oath is taken as part of their induction. In this photo, new member Greg Blasbalg, N1XQ stands next to PRA Sgt-at-Arms Paul DePetrillo, W1PRA who apparently is “acting Attorney” Paul Depetrillo. Greg appears to be copping a plea to the judge for some unknown offense. Don’t worry Greg, sentencing will be light.



**D**ues for 2024 will be due soon. Keep your eyes open on email with an announcement from our club president, Dave Tesitore, K1DT, with next year’s dues rates and instructions on how to renew.

**A**nnual elections for club officers will be held on January 9, 2024. Remember, in order to vote you must be an active member in good standing with your 2024 dues fully paid.

**T**his just in from N1DM. The Sunday evening PRA Net on DMR NEDECN NETAC1 had 52 sessions this year with 490 check-ins (9.4 per session).

Our **Happenings** section is the place to list member accomplishments and other short notices pertaining to club members and other items of member interest.

If you think there is an item of interest or event that should be listed in our **Happenings**, please let our Club President know and we will do our best to get it included.



## CALENDAR:

## WINTER 2024

<b>2024 Annual Meeting</b> 1 Ludlow St and ZOOM	<b>9-Jan</b>	7:30pm. 105th Annual Meeting
<b>POTA Activation</b> K-7508 Pulaski Park, West Glocester, RI	<b>20-Jan</b>	9am -Noon. Operation as part of POTA "Support Your Parks" weekend
<b>January VHF Contest</b> 1 Ludlow St	<b>20, 21 Jan</b>	2pm Sat- 11pm Sun. Operate 6M, 2M, and 70CM from Club Station <a href="https://www.arrl.org/january-vhf">https://www.arrl.org/january-vhf</a>
<b>CQWW 160 CW</b> 1 Ludlow St	<b>26-28 Jan</b>	Dark Hours Only, 5pm Fri – 5pm Sun. W1OP Multiop Effort <a href="https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm">https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm</a>
<b>Winter Field Day</b> 1 Ludlow St	<b>27-28 Jan</b>	2pm Sat-2pm Sun. Operate SSB from Club and Digital via remote. <a href="https://winterfieldday.org/">https://winterfieldday.org/</a>
<b>Marlborough Flea Market</b> Charles W. Whitcomb School, 25 Union St. Marl-	<b>17-Feb</b>	9am-1pm. Sponsored by Algonquin ARC, One of the best in New England! Lunch follows at Kennedy's Restaurant, 247 Maple St, Marlborough, MA 01752 <a href="https://www.qsl.net/n1em/">https://www.qsl.net/n1em/</a>

Our **Calendar** section is the place to list events either sponsored by the PRA or of general interest to the PRA membership and including its participation.

Events take place year round, be it contests, conventions, flea markets, or just casual get togethers.

If you think there is an event that should be listed in our **Calendar**, please let our Club President know as soon as possible and we will do our best to get it included.

Also, don't forget we meet weekly every Tuesday evening on the web. Members should watch your email for meeting announcements.

### PRA NET ON DMR

Don't forget that the PRA conducts a weekly net on DMR every Sunday night at 2000 EST/EDT, hosted by the New England Digital Emergency Communications Network (NEDECN) on talk group NETAC1.  
**All are welcomed to attend.**





## IN CLOSING:

2023 was a fantastic year for the PRA.

First and foremost, the foundation of our organization is its membership. And in that regard, the PRA gained 23 wonderful new members this year! Each new member comes with excitement for the hobby, fresh ideas, and the satisfaction of knowing that the PRA will be in capable hands for many years to come.

Next, we are lucky that our forefathers recognized the need of a physical meeting place and station. Using profits from hosting two ARRL New England Conventions at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in 1956 and 1958, they were able to construct our present Neutaconkanut Hill clubhouse. (A few of our present members worked on the construction!) The clubhouse opened its doors in 1957 and has served us well. But like any structure, after 66 years it was in dire need of some upgrades! We insulated and re-sided the shabby exterior, replaced our archaic and costly oil furnace with a state of the art “mini-split” AC and Heat-pump system, gutted and completely remodeled the bathroom from floor to ceiling, installed a 20ft storage container in the side yard, and lastly remodeled the kitchen. All this work was accomplished by membership donations and sweat equity. Our forefathers would be proud!

And what’s a radio Club without a station? With our entire antenna system being rebuilt in September 2022, we concentrated on the station. We have three IC-7300s running fully remote, contest grade stations for CW and SSB, a GOTA station, VHF stations for 6, 2 and 432, OSCAR capability, DMR emergency network repeater, and, on the air 45 years, our flagship 223.98 FM

## 2023 RECAP

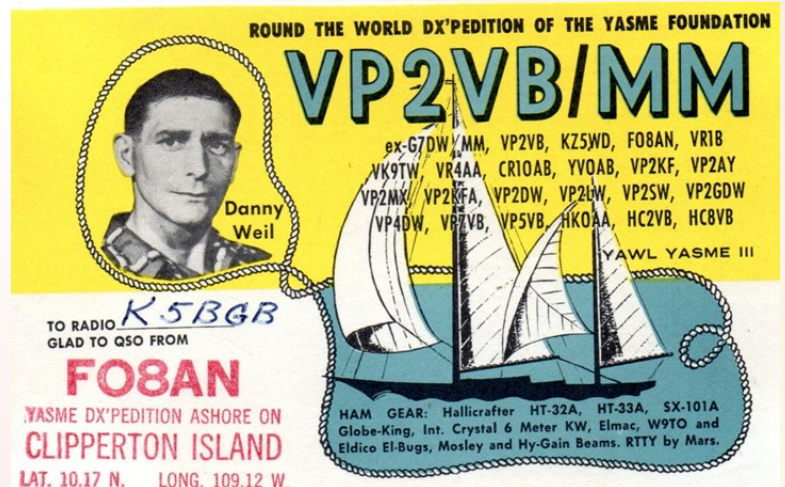
repeater!

To cap off our achievements, Field Day this year was one of our Best, earning the #3 spot in the Country in Class 3A! More impressive than our fabulous score was participation by 42 Members and the greatest youth participation of record!

I’m pleased to report that the PRA is as vibrant as when a group of eight enthusiastic young Radio Amateurs met in Elmwood and founded this club 105 years ago. And with all due respect to them, maybe even more so!

73 and Happy New Year,

Tess



Danny Weil, VP2VB, Dxpditioner and Adventurer

## 73 AND SEE YOU IN MARCH

Many thanks to all who contributed for this issue.  
It could not be done without you.

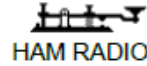
This is Your Newsletter !!

Forward your items of interest, short articles, and photos to [W1ER@ARRL.NET](mailto:W1ER@ARRL.NET)

We will make every effort to include your submission.



# Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Marlborough, MA



AMATEUR  
RADIO

# FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 17, 2024



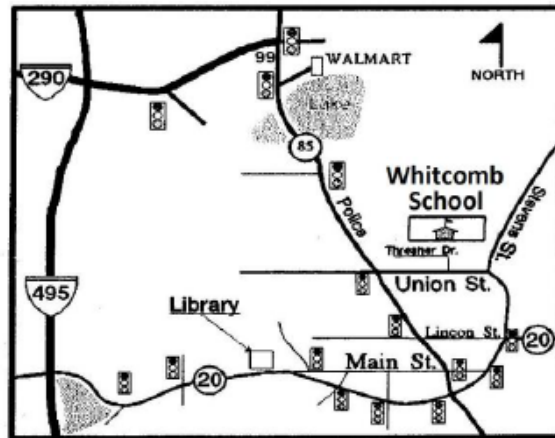
**Marlborough 1Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School**  
(formerly Intermediate/Middle School)  
25 Union St. or  
off Bolton St. (Rt. 85)  
Marlborough, Massachusetts

**6 ft. Tables** (round and rectangular)  
Tables are \$15.00 each if purchased by February 9, 2024 (\$20.00 each accepted at the door if space is available)  
Tables include vendor admission for one person.

**Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
**General Admission: \$5.00**  
**VEC Exams: 9:00 AM**

**SETUP TIME: 6:30 AM**  
For more information email:  
fleamarket@n1em.org

Talk In: N1EM/R 446.675 - (pl 88.5)  
Updates will be on our web at:  
<http://n1em.org>



**Send This Form** For Table Reservations with Check Payable to:

AARC, PO Box 258, Marlborough, MA 01752 (\$15.00 each table due by February 9)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Tables: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

Email: \_\_\_\_\_