



Linear Lines for June 2009

Welcome to the Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC) newsletter. It is published to serve you! We hope you find it informative, useful, and maybe even a little entertaining. The newsletter is dependant on information submitted by its readers, so please get to work and start sending us information you think others would like to read to smeyer1@sc.rr.com.

Visit the TARC, 2009 Field Day Web Page

AI4SX

A lot of work has been accomplished on updating and modernizing the TARC Club web site. Please give it a visit. Also information on the Field Day setup, picnic and a map to it can be found at: <http://www.tridenthams.org/FieldDay.htm>

Randy, K4QO Presents Program on QRP radio and awards

AI4SX

During the April TARC meeting Randy, K4QO gave a very interesting and informative presentation on some of his QRP accomplishments. He passed around an extremely small "49'r" QRP radio and a micro sized key he built to fit in a needle case. He brought in his 1000 Mile per Watt Certificate and discussed all the fun and excitement that went into winning the award. He also discussed the QSO's per pound award. It is truly amazing how far you can talk on so little power and for just a little bit of money. Other benefits are that the system is it is extremely portable and it doesn't interfere with the neighbors.



Randy ciphering milliwatts into 1000 miles per watt.



Randy's dynamite "49'r" QRP radio

TARC Participates in Summerville Western Shelter Field Exercise

AI4SX

During the last couple of meetings the new “Western Shelters” for emergency operations and medical care were discussed and a slide show about them was presented by Vince. TARC had the chance to check them out and participate in an exercise to determine how best to use them. The entire local emergency community participated and a lot was learned. Three hospital shelters with a capability of 106 beds were set up.

Several TARC members had the opportunity to operate out of an air conditioned 20 foot shipping container called a POD. Vince reported that the POD made an excellent radio shack. He also tried out a new antenna built by Randy. It was an off-center fed dipole fed with coax to a balun at the feed point. It was supported by a 30 foot portable mast and the ends antenna were sloped down to a safe height above the ground. He reported that it worked very well and they contacted Spain and Scotland. For local communications, Darrell set up a two meter quad on a 20 foot PVC mast attached to a rotator at the ground level. Dennis Zabawa was present and contributed to an article in the Summerville Journal Scene.

Thanks Ed for sending me the articles from the Summerville Journal Scene and for taking the pictures used in this article.



The Western Shelters



Darrell and Vince in front of the “Pod”. Notice the antenna setup.



Dorchester County Command Post



A nice operating location when things get tough.

TARC Member Wins Sweepstakes!

You will be interested in knowing that the 2009 sweepstakes giveaway promoted by CQ magazine was won by myself, Bob NG4R. No I did not win the main prize which was a trip to Dayton and lots of money to spend, but I was one of the sixth place winners. I won a CQ duffle bag with my name and call embroidered on it..Hi Hi Thought it may be a nice tidbit to include in next month's newsletter.

73

Bob NG4R

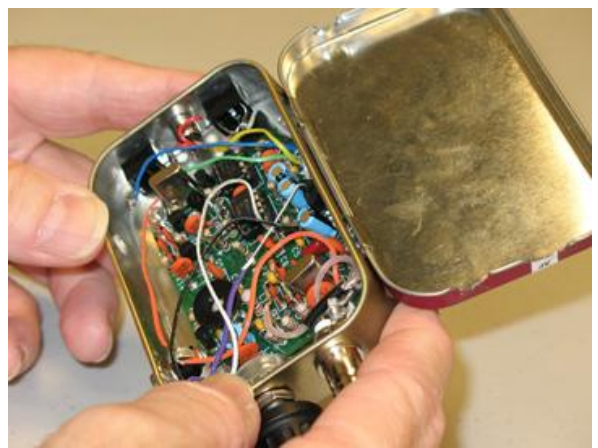
Vince, K4AOC Presents “Rock-Mite Radio” Talk

AI4SX

During the May meeting Vince, K4AOC, brought in a “Rock-Mite” 40 meter transceiver. He built it into an “Altoids tin” and it could transmit on two frequencies 700 hertz apart. It has a built in keyer that can operate at 5 to 40 words a minute. It uses a surface mount integrated circuit and two 8 pin dip packs. It cost him 43 dollars and 50 cents out the door and took him an easy 2 days to build. This sounds like another easy way to get into QRP radio and work on some of the awards and adventure that Randy K4QO told us about during the previous meeting.



Vince and a “Rock-Mite” in a Can



Good things do come in small packages.

Field Day News From Ed

The following article about what it takes to put on a FD is reprinted from the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) June 2009 Newsletter. As background, for FD 2008 PVRC entered as 23A plus a GOTA station with 60 operators plus a lot of support personnel before, during and after FD. PVRC has been teaming up with the Columbia (MD) Amateur Radio Association for many years. In very general terms, CARA is responsible for the computers and networking, the food, and tents. PVRC supplies most of the (contest) operators, radios, antennas and the masts. I don't know what class they will be in this year but look for W3AO on all the bands/modes. While in MD I belonged to both clubs.

73, Ed K3IXD

FIELD DAY LOGISTICS

From Rol, K3RA

Last year, Zack Goldstein, WA2DRY, a new ham, asked me about the W3AO Field Day effort, and when I told him our results, he remarked that this appeared to be a huge logistics effort. I thought others might be interested in my response to him:

As you observe, the main problem is logistics. First you need a place with a clear 1000 ft north/ south straight line along which you can erect towers--preferably a high location in a nearby area that is open to the public. Then you need a dozen or so easily erectable 50-foot towers to hold beams and wire antennas. Oh yes, antennas: it would be nice to have 2 2-element 40 meter yagis, 3 3-el 20 meters yagis, 3 3-el 15 meter yagis, 2 3-el 10 meter yagis, and a tribander (for GOTA). You also need at least 3 dipoles for 80m, 3 dipoles 40 meters, and 1 for 160 meters. All these antennas need to be for FD only, since you don't want to have to take them down from someone's station and return them afterwards. To connect to these antennas you need a person with approximately 1 mile of 50 ohm coax already cut and connected into appropriate lengths. Then you need a vhf/uhf/microwave station with all the antennas, tower, rotators, rigs, etc. (a contest rover or two would serve this purpose nicely). An easily erectable tent big enough for all the stations is needed, as well as a source of a 8 or 10 large tables with chairs for the gear and operators. And you need dependable power: a 45 KVA diesel generator on a trailer would be nice. Dependable power distribution cables with circuit breakers are a must. You need the donation of a dozen fairly good

computers with networking cards--preferably all identical and with contesting software installed. For the digital modes, line up the loan of two or three laptops with digital software, radio interfaces, and suitable HF radios. All of this gear is useless without transportation to get it to the site: in addition to a few pickups and vans, you need someone with a large flatbed trailer who is willing to transport the "big stuff" to and from the FD location, and who has a safe place to store it until next year! Ahead of time, someone needs to write and distribute the advanced press release. State and local officials need to be "schmoozed" ahead of time to get them to attend. Now, get someone to plan, purchase supplies for, and cook meals for 25-30 people on Friday night, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast and dinner. It is handy to have a food tent to house the feeding activity. Then sign up an experienced and safety-conscious person to plan for and mark the location of all the antennas and tents, line up and supervise tower and antenna erection crews starting at 2 pm on Friday, and arrange for and supervise take down on Sunday. Nothing is more important than reliable logging---so line up a "guru" to install and setup all the software and to checkout the network of computers well before FD weekend. Then this person needs to put all this in place on Saturday morning and check it out. Others need to volunteer to provide handouts and staffing for the visitors' booth, and a volunteer or two would come in handy with skill and ability to do an APRS demo, an SSTV demo, an internet/ ham demo, and to generate and handle the FD traffic. A capable CW operator needs to agree to copy the W1AW FD message during the FD weekend. And you need operators, of course. Start with a dozen or so top notch HF contest operators willing to be band captains for each band/mode and to bring their radios, computer keying, voice keying, etc. You also need a world class contester who is willing to be the GOTA coach and who is good with kids and new hams. Don't forget to line up Techs and generally inactive ops, as well as non-hams and kids to operate GOTA. A team is needed with gear and experience to make the satellite QSO's. You will also need a small team of experienced and skilled VHF/UHF contest operators. Several digital contest ops will also come in handy. Another half-dozen skilled back-up and fill-in ops to support the band captains is essential. After Field Day, someone needs to volunteer to merge all the computer log data and to provide it to a person who will formally submit the score. It is nice to have people to collect the photos and stories, to post something on the FD Soapbox on ARRL.ORG, and to write articles for the club newsletters/websites. Finally you need a couple of people to plan and supervise all these activities. NOTHING TO IT!

Guess the Ham Terms

AI4SX

If any of the following guessing games sound familiar let me know the source. If you have a good one, send it in. I would like to publish all the guesses either right or wrong. I think the answers would be entertaining.

Last month's hints were:

It's great for propagation or sight seeing!

Answer, Grayline

An energy drink could give you some but real hams prefer a transmitting system. Answer, PEP

My favorite dog or a contester who won't stay in one place.

Answer, Rover

This month's hints are:

A device used to electrically lengthen an antenna. Abe Lincoln wore one.

You can order one at Krispy Kreme or the inductor store, but, they have different mixes.

Felix with four twisted pairs.

Please send me your Net and VHF/UHF News!

If it is not listed here you didn't submit it!

TARC Net: Net control is Bobby, W4KSD. Please give it a try! The **Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC)**, 2M, Tuesday Evening Net is held at 20:00 local time, on the **147.345(+)** PL123.0, **146.715(+)** PL123.0, **442.150()** PL123.0 and the **147.270(+)** PL123.0 repeaters. This info was stolen from the TARC web-page.

VHF Digital Net: Net control is Skip (KH6TY).

Drop in and visit the net (2100 Sunday, 2000 Wednesday, 145.000.) No repeater or SSB radio is required! Just run DominoEx8 on your FM rig! If you need any help running DominoEx8 email Skip or contact Bob (AI4SX).

See you all soon and thanks to all that submitted material for this newsletter!

73, Bob, AI4SX