



The Rumble

Next Meeting

Wed. August 7, 2024 6:00PM

*Route 66 OTA, plus
more on antennas*

Meeting Location:

Northern AZ Fire Station #31,
2600 Northern Ave

25th Anniversary of Route 66 On the Air

Event Dates: September 7-15, 2024

see N6KLS write-up on page 2...

Letter from the Pres Aug 2024:

On July 20th I attended the Flagstaff Hamfest sponsored by The Amateur Radio Council of Arizona and the Northern Arizona DX Association. Basic activities included morning seminars, drawings for gifts and prizes, and booth shopping throughout the day. The location was the Sinagua Middle School on Butler Avenue just a few minutes off of I-40 at the Butler Avenue Exit. Concessionaires were inside the school in the cafeteria area, and "Tailgaters" were outside hocking their wares. Food was available and provided by a local Boy Scout Troup as a fundraising project.

Several members of HARC were in attendance and one seminar entitled, "Efficient Antennas for Limited Time and Space" was presented by Tom Schiller, N6BT. Presentations by numerous Hams covered a wide variety of interesting topics. I attended several seminars throughout the morning including one titled, "QRZ-- All You Need To Know". I was surprised to learn that QRZ was developed and continues to be maintained by a small group of ham radio enthusiasts located primarily in Arizona. ARCA meetings were also scheduled throughout the morning hours.

I was also surprised and happy to learn that I was drawn for a \$50 gift certificate donated by ARRL. After ticket purchases, I was ahead by \$39, a rare occurrence for this guy. I did end up in the red column after purchasing a very capable dual-band HT with a spare battery for less than \$180 including taxes. I'll discuss the radio and the company selling it at the next meeting. As usual, it is a challenge to translate the Owner's Manual out of Chinglish into English and string together enough information to allow the unit to be programmed. That accomplished, the radio is easily programmed and works flawlessly.

In short, it was a well-organized and fun meeting. I would attend again.

73

Jerry, WS7T President HARC

CLUB EVENTS

**Aug 17th (Third Saturday) 7:30 AM Truck Stop
Dennys and will remain at the same monthly
date, and time, for the year's balance.**

25th Anniversary of Route 66 On the Air **Event Dates: September 7-15, 2024:**

This year is the 25th Anniversary of the Route 66 OTA event and we are ready to rock on down the road.

We hope to have enough volunteer operators to make contacts exceeding 6000 and break our 2022 record! We will be using the call **W6F** out of YOUR own ham shack! (Yes, all HARC operators use this call.)

My eye is open for CW ops, FT8 guru's, and SSB cracker jacks! So far I have the following volunteers; Jerry our illustrious President, Dave with the fabulous Radio Sport Head sets, Scot, VP extraordinaire, Mr. CW ops, Tom, and Rick, SSB aficionado (me), and Wayne and Glen working digital. Who else can I count on?

We really need all hands on deck. Many hams every day helping to work this event for our community is the only way to reach our goal. This event is our signature event for the Hualapai Amateur Radio Club. Please don't let the members down.

This is such a fun time on the air because you are the hunted! Everyone is calling you. All you have to do is sign up (see Logistics-A below), call W6F, and log the call on N1MM! Big pile ups, but don't be afraid just pick out one you hear and work on down the line! If you are a member and can spot other members on DX Summit that would be a big help too! I can help to train you on techniques too. Please call me at 925 322-0417 with your desired mode and if you need tips.

We will also be operating a roving station, approved through the Citrus Belt who runs the Route 66 event. This rover will operate areas along Route 66 like Oatman, and other areas within 60 miles give or take. If you are interested in roving with us please let me know. We will operate out of our truck and Tom is in the midst of building the set up for it.

Route 66 OTA Logistics:

Aug 2024

RUMBLE

A). Mike has set up a program like last year to note what band, time and mode you will be working. Please go to Ham-QTV.com and register. You will see our Route 66 Kingman event, just click on this link and enter your information under band, time and mode you will be operating.

B). We will be using N1MM as our logging program. It is a free download. You can set it up for the Route 66 event.

C). Please check this page for more information on the operating frequency guidelines:

https://w6jbt.org/?page_id=25

As you are probably aware, Tom has taken down all our towers over at 88 Ranch and they have all been sold with the exception of one which we are installing here at the new QTH. This also has to be completed prior to Route 66, as we need a good antenna system and radio set up. The good news is Derek Blowers who you met at Field Day dug the hole for us in exchange for one of Tom's Bravo antenna's - a win win for us all!

A very busy time for us all here at the new QTH - The Purple Sage Hacienda!

88, N6KLS, Vicki

Route 66 Coordinator for Hualapai Amateur Radio Club

From H.A.R.C. Director and immediate Past President, Rick, K7CNT:

Generator spark plug noise:

This worked for my old 4kw analog (non-inverter) generator that has seen its share of use at Field Day over the years. It always produced spark plug noise that was heard on the HF radios, but not anymore.

I wrapped the entire spark plug cable and spark plug boot with flattened coax shielding and it worked. I ran the generator under my OCF dipole and could not detect any noise from it on any of the bands. It would be nice to do this to the HARC 6.5kw (the big

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red one) generator someday because it produces the same noise.



Six Meter Activity:

Information shared by David W16R

On the 5th of August (quick check of then you are reading this) as the moon sets in the west, there will be a chance to decode a signal bounced off the moon.

If you can decode 6-meter signals bounced off the moon you, have an excellent 6 meter station! Here is a chance to find out if you can do it. Monday August 5, Lance W7GJ will be calling CQ Q65-60A Pileup 50.213 as the moon sets on the west coast. Point your antenna at the moon (WSJT-X>View>Astronomical Data) as the moon sets (I did a chart for DM06 below, yours will vary) and see if you can decode signals. Lance has a powerful station, so it is a good test. You will need the latest version of WSJT-X to do this version 2.7.0.

WSJT-X settings for this event: using the Q65 Pileup mode (only in the new 2.7.0 version) has some additional enhancements over Q65 for the DX station and eliminates the signal report thus

shortening the number of messages required for a QSO. Go to: WSJT-X>File>Settings>Advanced and check boxes Special operating activity and Q65Pileup. Also: WSJT-X>File>Settings>General and check box Decode after EME delay. If your decodes have a DT (decode delay) of about 2.5, it is a moon bounce decode. I will certainly be giving this a try.

D-Star Repeater update:

Nothing new to report on the D-Star system, still waiting for an internet connection (and IP address).

Balloon updates:

WB6RER balloon has probably stopped transmitting, has not been spotted in a couple of months. What a flight thought, a little over a year in the air. Way to go WB6RER-4!

A few years ago:

I purchased an old Hallicrafters S-76 (famous for its oversized S meter) off of E-Bay and restored it. What a fun project, with all old school electronics in this nice receiver.



After the restoration I put the old receiver on the air and paired with another old piece of gear, a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter, It ran 50 watts max output and was XTAL controlled.

I used the standby switch on the receiver to operate an external TX-RX antenna relay. It worked very well and was fun to operate in a totally manual environment. The S-76 has great selectivity for

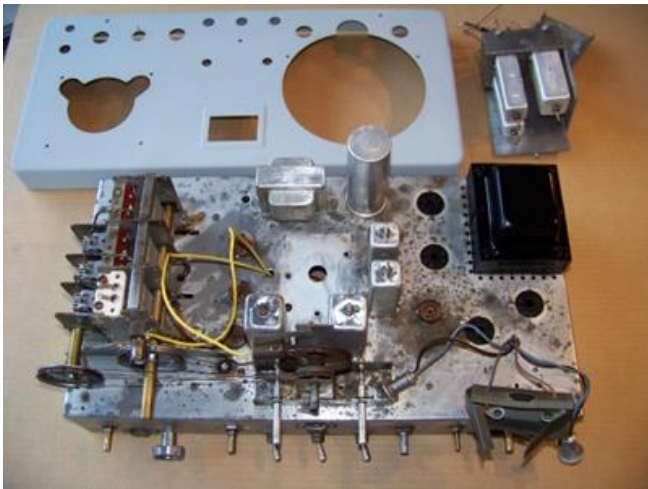
crowded CW and SSB situations and very good sensitivity.

It was quite a job redoing the radio's enclosure, which had to be sand blasted to remove a lot of rust. It was pretty bad, but now has a hammered gray paint job and new lettering decals.

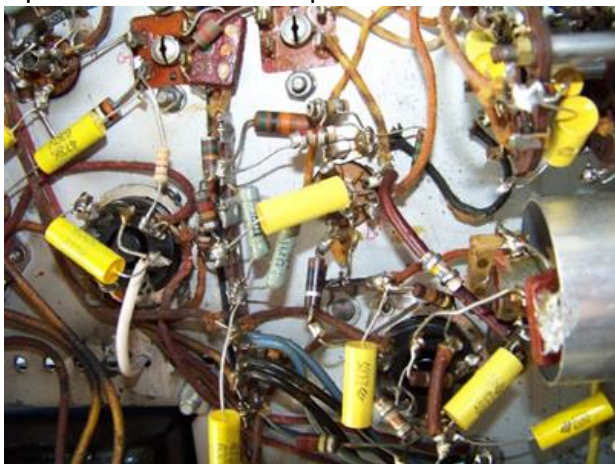


2 Meter Mobile Antennas:

I finally did the modification Tom, N6BT suggested for VHF mobile antennas to the 5/8 wavelength mag mount antenna on the truck.



I replaced many capacitors, resistors and all the tubes. You can see the wax coming out of the old capacitors in one of the pictures!



I live at a really bad RF QTH in downtown Kingman and I thought I would do this modification to see if it made any difference.

WOW - it worked really well. It improved my reception and transmission efficiency. I would say that now I have pretty much full WB6RER repeater coverage downtown now for a mobile radio, a big improvement in antenna efficiency, not gain, just getting the most out of a given antenna.

I ran copper braid over stainless steel in this simple experiment. Tom's real-world testing on this topic shows almost 2 db improvement over stainless steel antennas and now I have seen it in action. Wow, what a difference.

May God bless you

Thank you, Rick/K7CNT 73

Chs-rick@live.com

From the Secretary

Space reserved for Mike!

73 de KG6ECW

OPERATING

(use ctrl-click to follow the links)

Maryland-DC QSO Party 1400Z, Aug 10 to 0400Z, Aug 11

https://www.w3vpr.org/Maryland-DC_QSO_Party

Kentucky State Parks on the Air 1400Z-2200Z, Aug 10

<https://k4msu.com/kypota/>

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Aug 17 to 0559Z, Aug 18

<https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

Hawaii QSO Party 0400Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 26

<http://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/>

U.S. Islands QSO Party 1200Z, Aug 24 to 0300Z, Aug 25

<http://usislands.org/qso-party-rules/>

World Wide Digi DX Contest 1200Z, Aug 24 to 1200Z, Aug 25

<https://ww-digi.com/>

Kansas QSO Party 1400Z, Aug 24 to 0200Z, Aug 25 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 25

<https://ksqsoparty.org/rules/KSQPRules2023.pdf?1>

Ohio QSO Party 1600Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 25

<http://www.ohqp.org/index.php/rules/>

Colorado QSO Party 1300Z, Aug 31 to 0400Z, Sep 1

<http://ppraa.org/coqp>

Tennessee QSO Party 1700Z, Sep 1 to 0300Z, Sep 2

<https://tnqp.org/rules/>

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