



The Rumble

Next Meeting

Wed. November 6, 2024 6:00PM

Election of Officers and more

NOTE → Saturday Nov 6, 1pm BBQ

N6BT/N6KLS QTH

2873 Rawhide Dr

HARC Meeting Location:

Northern AZ Fire Station #31,

2600 Northern Ave

Another letter from the Prez, WS7T—

Last Saturday I attended our Club Breakfast at the airport café. We had a nice group of guys & gals attending. As I recall, there were 12 members present. Our Vice President, Scott Henry, KK7KBQ, along with several other members of HARC, are members of a local GMRS (General Mobil Radio Service) group who just happened to be having their club brunch at Calico's at 10 AM. After our meeting, he invited me to join him and their group for "breakfast desert", otherwise known as a piece of pie. The group nicely filled up the large front room at Calico's with fifteen plus members. Some of them are GMRS operators only while others are both ARS and GMRS operators like Scott, Adam, Tom and myself and several other members of HARC. It was a real eye opener for me. These guys are serious UHF operators. They currently have a repeater on Hualapai Mountain that rivals anything our local amateur radio clubs have to offer. As I have monitored their GMRS repeater, I find they have as much or more everyday traffic as our repeater.

At the last meeting in October, there was a brief discussion regarding whether we would like to include GMRS licensees in our club. Actually, with regard to our Bylaws, they are already eligible to be members of our club, the only restriction being, they cannot hold a club office just as any aspiring, unlicensed, ARS operator cannot hold a club office. I should probably check with our resident Bylaws expert Mike Risser, KG6ECW, to verify but I believe

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that is the case. I have given this some thought which I will share with you for whatever it might be worth. There is virtually no reason to exclude GMRS operators from our club (other than hubris) while there are a great many reasons to include them. Someone noted that GMRS is the gateway to involvement in the ARS. At some point they will naturally get the bug to gain access to more repeaters (VHF and UHF) as well as the ability to talk around the world (HF). It is a natural progression. GMRS is an inexpensive and unintimidating way to get involved in amateur radio. Inexpensive radios are readily available and no test is required. The last I checked, obtaining a license requires an application and a check for \$35. That's it! At the next meeting I will entertain a motion to allow GMRS members, with or without a ham radio license to join our club.

Club Fall BBQ

Saturday, Nov 9th at 1PM

2873 Rawhide Dr (off of Eastern/Louise)

Last Name A-L: please bring drinks

M-V please bring a side dish

RSVP to Vicki by Nov 6th text 925-789-0799

At our meeting on November 6th, we will be nominating and electing club officers for the coming year. If our club has benefitted you, it might be time for you to consider giving the club something back. In my medical career, somewhere in the distant past, I learned that a taking-only relationship is called a parasitic relationship while a mutually beneficial relationship is called a symbiotic relationship. Election time calls for less parasitism and more symbiosis. Mike Risser has been our secretary for several years and would really like a break. He would like a replacement OR he would like one or more people to take over one of the several jobs he also shoulders along with being the club

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Secretary. Personally, I would like to become the "Immediate Past President" though I am willing to hang in there for another year if that is what the members desire. Scott our Vice President might like to run the show for a year and you could become the Vice President. There are a lot of permutations to consider, so please do. Alan Webster has agreed to stay on for another year as Treasurer. It takes some effort to get set up and he explained to me that it is an easy job once you are set up. He has done an Excellent job and I mean excellent with a Capital "E".

That all said, I will see you all at the November meeting. Remember, our monthly meeting in December will be replaced by our Christmas Party at the Dambar on December 4th at 6:00 PM.

73, Hasta la vista, baby --Jerry, WS7T

From the Secretary

Looks good, Jerry. I have decided though that I'll stay on as Secretary if the club will have me.

73 de KG6ECW

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

I hope everyone had a great October and enjoyed lots of hamming. In the last 30 days I completed a Tom Schiller N6BT design 40-meter mono band vertical antenna. The vertical element is 29' and has 2 resonators at 11' each. It was mounted to my portable drive-over mast holder, but I sat concrete weights on it and one diagonal brace to the ground. It withstood the big wind gusts we just had without bending or falling over. I used it during the CQ WW SSB contest, but as it worked out, the hours I was able to operate were more suited for 20, 15 and 10 meters. Saturday night I did work 26 stations on 40m with the vertical and only 6 of those were US stations, the rest were other countries. So, for what little I used it, it was a big improvement over my OCF dipole on 40m for DX, which is no slouch of an antenna, but does lack low angle radiation for working DX stations.

The OCF was used on 20,15 and 10 meters during this contest. Total contacts were 291, with 65

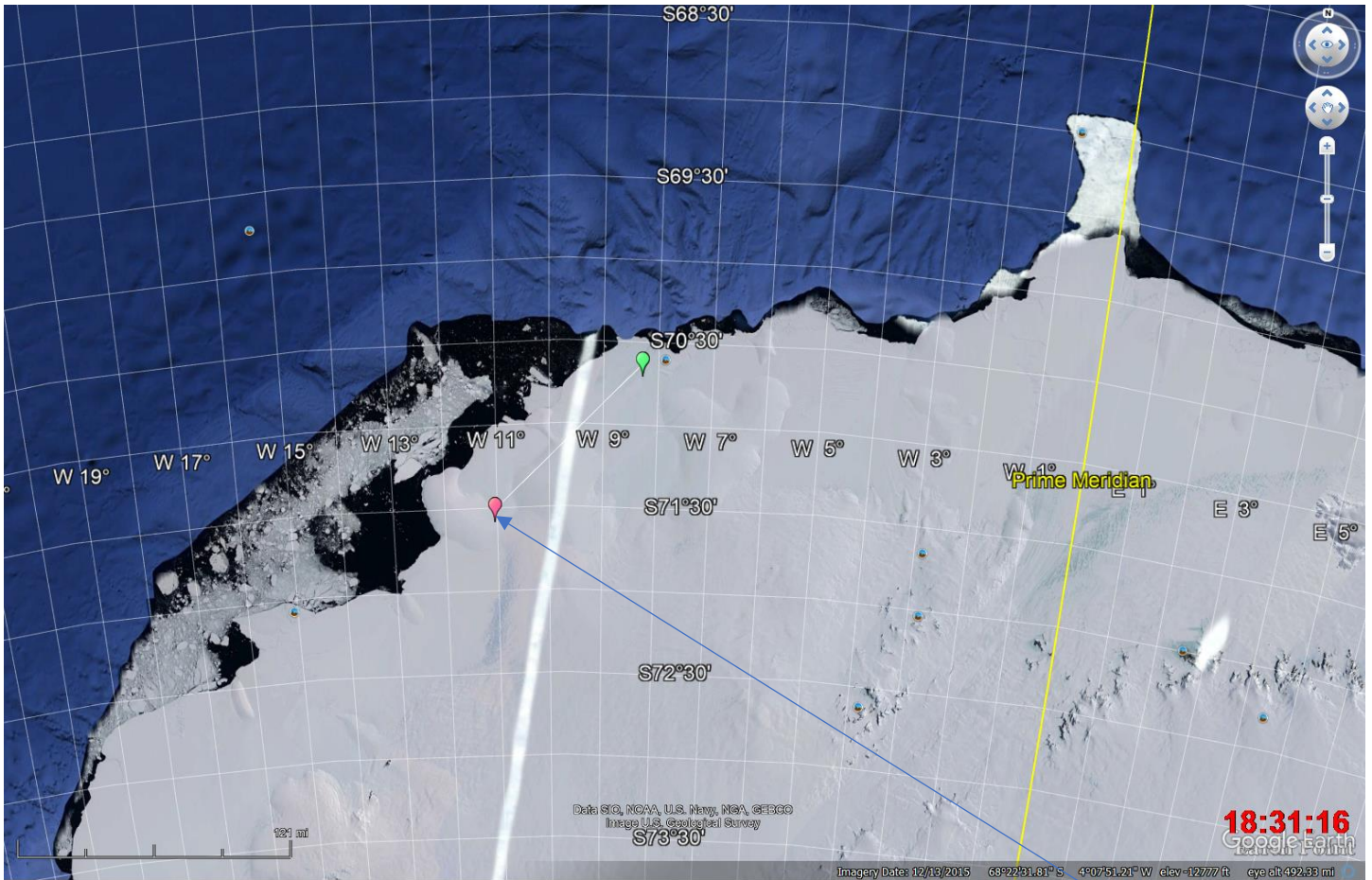
countries worked, but sadly only 1 new country came out of that mix. I used my old SB-200 amplifier running about 450 watts to make my time spent on the air more productive. Horsepower makes a big difference overall. It was a lot of fun and can't wait for the CQ WW CW contest in November and I might operate from Vicki and Toms QTH, situations at home permitting.

HF Antennas:

As you know I use a Off Center Feed dipole for my main HF antenna which covers 40 through 6 meters and works very well but takes up a lot of real estate, its been in the air for about 3 years now and has been maintenance free the entire time. As I progress with the N6BT vertical design projects, I hope to replace the OCF with a new vertical with no wire radials on the ground or anywhere. His design uses a horizontal resonator element at the base of the vertical as I'm sure most of you have seen by now, which results in a very small footprint. So, no radial wires to deal with, no ground rod is needed at the antenna. Just maximizing efficiency.

This design is a huge improvement in efficiency (more RF energy radiated from the antenna elements) compared to all your garden variety vertical antennas that are on the market. You realize that most all the antennas you purchase are designed to make the radio happy and produce some radiated RF energy. They work to some degree, most just look cool and make the radio happy. Selling points advertised by the manufacturers, being easy to assemble and have a low SWR.

We have learned over this past year that a low SWR does NOT mean the antenna is radiating 100% of the RF energy produced by the radio. Low SWR is not everything, but is a vital part of the challenge. Low SWR is a very big selling point by most manufacturers, because it sells antennas. Input impedance at the antennas feed point is the other half of the challenge. A lot of verticals on the market have direct 50-ohm feed, when it should be way less than 50-ohms. They get to 50-ohms (and a great SWR) via loss in the design and components. When



the feed point impedance is less than 50-ohms (like on a good vertical), an impedance transformer (i.e. hair pin or coil) that will step up the feed point impedance to ≈ 50 ohms needs to be installed, so maximum RF energy will be presented to the antenna elements (on both TX and RX). I am happy to say Tom N6BT has brought me out of the dark ages with his research and designs, Thank you Tom Schiller.

WB6RER Balloon update:

The WB6RER balloon was spotted down around the Antarctic and 5 days later it was actually over the Antarctic continent. Spotting is very, very seldom and the spots are very weak signals. The DPOGVN station was the only station down there to spot it. DPØGVN is a club station located at the German Antarctic Research Station "Neumayer III" in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica. I sent them an email thanking them for spotting our balloon.

The balloon spent a couple of days north of the Artic circle early on and is now down to the other end of
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the earth. We have no idea how many orbits it has made because of the poor spotting situation, but WOW what a trip it has had. The pink blob in the picture is the balloon.

Bob Goulden, KJ7VBX and I are hopefully going to launch a couple more balloons.

May God bless you

Thank you, Rick/K7CNT 73

Chs-rick@live.com

OPERATING

(use ctl-click to follow the links)

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4

<https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital 0001Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10

<http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18

<https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party 1300-1500Z, Nov 17 (40m) and 1500-1700Z, Nov 17 (80m)

<http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html>

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24

<https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 4

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8

<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 14 to 2400Z, Dec 15

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW 1800Z-2359Z, Dec 22

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 28 to 1500Z, Dec 29

<https://www.kkn.net/stew/>

RAEM Contest 0000Z-1159Z, Dec 29

<https://raem.srr.ru/rules/>

Other News:

* Icom Issues Statement on Radios After Explosions

I expect you heard the news last month about the exploding pagers and radios in Lebanon, and may have heard some

reports say that some of the radios were made by Icom.

From the Amateur Radio Newline Report for Friday September 20th, 2024:

As Newline went to production, Icom Japan issued a statement regarding its IC-V82 handheld radio, a discontinued

model that some reports say may have been counterfeited in connection with deadly explosions in Lebanon. The company

statement did not directly address those explosions by name but said that the radios and batteries, which were

manufactured and exported between 2004 and 2014, went to markets that included the Middle East between 2004 and

2014.

Ray Novak, N9JA, senior sales manager for Icom America's amateur radio division, expressed certainty that the radios

in question were counterfeit. Attending a Rhode Island trade show, he told the Associated Press: [quote] "I can guarantee

you they were not our products."

Acknowledging the relative ease with which unauthorized radios can be duplicated, Icom's website also includes

detailed information showing how consumers are able to determine whether or not their radio is a counterfeit.

For a link to that part of the company website, see (https://www.icomjapan.com/explore/genuine_info/).

* The First Transistor Radio

Another interesting story from the IEEE Spectrum magazine is "The Incredible Story Behind the First Transistor Radio".

How Texas Instruments developed and sent to market the Regency TR-1 only six months after the CEO gave the

directive. There's even a short, 3-1/2 minute video showing how the radio was assembled. Read all about it at

(<https://spectrum.ieee.org/transistor-radio-invented>).

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Question & Answer:

What is the function of a power supply bleeder resistor?

It discharges the filter capacitors when power is removed

[General Class question pool (2023-2027) no. G7A01 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release>)]

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