

CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day!



Tasty QSO's with Andy W2SON's Birthday cake. Happy Belated Birthday, Andy!

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Rain or shine, its 'Game On" for Field Day this weekend so be sure to dress appropriately.

In this issue, we see a real birthday cake, various task leads helping make Field Day a success, and our own Neil AC2O's journey in choosing the right HF rig for him. As always we also keep you posted on upcoming events and local repeater info.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Field Day on Saturday starting at 9AM.



From the President

By Bruce Baccaro, K2ULZ

W2HO

OCARC Field Day 2011

It's here, and other than our annual hamfest, it's the biggest event of the year for the club, and for that matter, for ham radio! Here's where we really shine showing off our ability to provide radio communication whenever and wherever!

Besides that, it's our big fun event running for 24 hours on the air complete with a BBQ which this year is being catered. The club is well known for its fantastic camaraderie and teamwork and this year won't be any different.

Setup begins on Friday, June 24 giving us a chance to get antennas up and checked out instead of the mad rush Saturday morning. Each year, our Field Day activity grows, and I am sure we 'll really see an increase in participation, contacts and fun this year since we are growing so much in membership and enthusiasm.

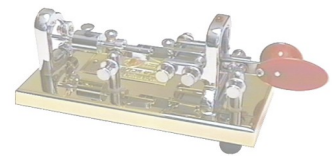
We're even added a VE session at 1 PM on Saturday which just may be that invitation to successful folks to operate as a ham. The GOTA (Get On The Air) station will certainly prove popular as an introduction to operating for a number of our newest members. At least two surprises are planned and there may be a third.

At our meeting last Friday, Tom Ray, W2TRR, and Joe Cupano, NE2Z, presented a fanatastic PowerPoint presentation on Field Day that was of interest to old and new hams in the club. It's one of the most complete Field Day presentations I've seen about Field Day..

Here's to the 2011 Field Day event by OCARC.... let's make it the best in the history of the club!

See you at Cronomer Hill Park...

73, Bruce, K2ULZ



Upcoming Issues

By Joe Cupano NE2Z

We hope everyone has been enjoying the run of Spurious Emissions so far. If you have an article you would like to contribute please do. Your article can be hand written if needed; please contribute. If you have ideas on regular columns or other content we should include, let us know.

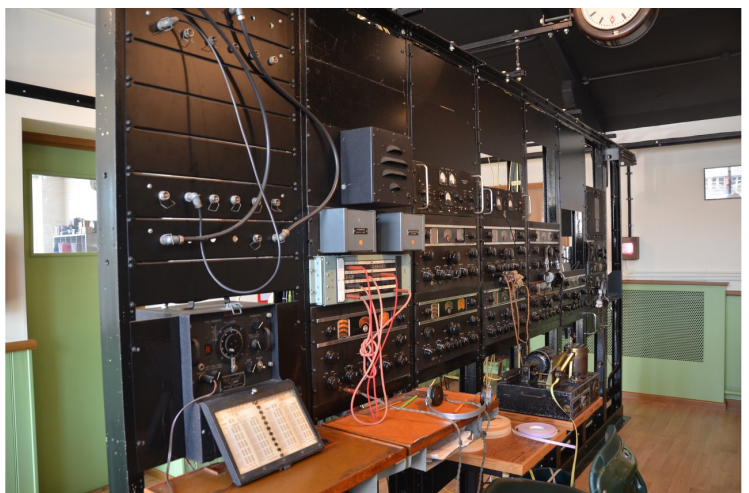
Many hands make light work. That is why we are also looking for volunteers to help edit and publish as well. I've prepared a brief tutorial and uploaded it to the files are of the Yahoo Group.

The newsletter is laid out and printed with Scribus, a free DTP software package that is similar to commercial DTP and is available for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux.

Next release of Spurious Emissions is scheduled for August 19, 2011.

Have a great summer

73, Joe, NE2Z



What relevance could this have to the next issue?

Field Day Task Leads

By Tom Ray W2TRR and Joe Cupano NE2Z

W2HO

Thanks again to those who volunteered to be leads on various tasks to help make this year's Field Day a success.

Everyone, please be sure to reach out to the leads and help where you can. Leads, please contact us if you have any questions, clarifications, corrections, list of needed items, etc.

The leads are as follows;

SAFETY & PHOTOGRAPHY

Bruce K2ULZ

Of course everyone is encouraged to take pictures and video. Just be sure to get copies to Bruce.

EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTATION

Neil AC2O, Bill KC2ZFO, Joe W2BCC, Jim K2JIM

FOOD

Inge WA1WTG, Amy KC2WWX, Bonnie WA2LHJ, Bruce K2ULZ, Joe NE2Z

PERSONAL CONVENIENCE

Mark WM2C

Mark has already placed the order for the Port-a-Pottie to arrive Friday.

INSURANCE

Mark WM2C

Already have the insurance and permit.

SOLAR TRAILER

Saul WA2KOT

Confirmed with Saul

POWER DISTRIBUTION

Mickey K2NRS, Bruce K2ULZ, Tom W2TRR

STATION LAYOUT

Tom W2TRR, Joe NE2Z

WIRE ANTENNAS

Neil AC2O

BEAMS AND TOWERS

Tom W2TRR, Mickey K2NRS, Doc KC2SYP, Stan K2STN, Phil KC2DXM

GOTA STATION "CAPTAINS"

Mark WM2C, Stan K2STN

VHF/UHF STATION "CAPTAIN"

Bill KC2ZFO

SATELLITE OPERATIONS

Open

OPERATIONS SCHEDULING

Tom W2TRR, Joe NE2Z

Operator scheduling for all stations EXCEPT GOTA

FD REPORTING & WEB SUBMISSION

Michael WB2KHE

FD ELECTRONIC LOGGING AND NETWORK

Joe NE2Z

FD Software distribution, electronic log consolidation, and on-site network setup,

FD BLANK LOGS, SCRATCH PAPER & PENS

Bruce K2ULZ

VE SESSION

Tom W2TRR

Session to be held on Saturday at 1PM.

BONUS POINTS

The assignments are as follows;

Media Publicity

Tom W2TRR contact WOR.

Steve WB2OEE contact TWC.

Gil KC2NLL

Public Information Table

Bruce K2ULZ

Message Origination to Section

Manager

Bruce K2ULZ

Message Handling

Mark WM2C

W1AW Bulletin

Gordon KB2SSZ

Site Visitation by an Elected Govt Official

Gil KC2NLL

Site Visitation by a Rep of an Agency

Gil KC2NLL

Education Activity

Tom W2TRR, Joe, NE2Z

Tom give Echolink demo

Thank you everyone in advance for your help and support

73, Tom W2TRR and Joe NE2Z

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One Ham's Journey in Choosing an HF Radio

By Neil Shubert AC2O

W2HO

I recently set myself upon a task. I decided to answer a question asked to me by a few new hams:

"What HF rig should I buy?"

I wanted to buy an HF rig but spend between \$750-\$1000 tops. What do I need and what can I do without. At what point will I feel I need to upgrade?

I have been thinking of the criteria to use for the answer based on the radios that I own and why I own them. One more issue popped into mind, as field day approaches, what would I bring and why? I do a ton of research on technical topics as part of my regular job, so I set out in the same manner to read everything that I could to find both strong and weak points on the rigs out there.

At the moment I have a TenTec Jupiter as my main rig at home. In my truck I use a Yaesu 857D for HF mobile and I built an Elecraft K2 which I use for QRP. In my "Go kit", I have an Icom 706 Mk 2G and I also play with an SGC 2020 for QRP as well. This is from where I draw my opinions.

I highly recommend the TenTec and Elecraft equipment, They have the most sensitive receivers and incredible filters. This is why I bought them. I find when operating on the lower bands there are 2 major issues, the first is receiver sensitivity. Some say that if

stations make lots of noise on sideband you really can't hear them, you probably can't work them. not true. Propagation is directional at times and you may be hearing someone weak in Europe but they may be hearing you 10 over.

A sensitive receiver is a must. With a sensitive receiver comes noise, unlike with FM, which is practically silent until the voice breaks the squelch. With the atmosphere, weather and other sidebands, there are many ways to sift through the noise to find the signal that you are looking for. Modern radios have DSP, or digital signal processing,



Elecraft K2

as well as digital notch filters for narrowing the band down to just what you want to hear and noise reduction.

The difference between the older radios and the newer radios is huge. Older radios were limited by what bandpass filters were available as an option and the effectiveness of their notch filters. Night and day, like manual vs. power steering.

Those operators who contest or do a lot of CW really appreciate these rigs with all of their options, bells and whistles. They are expensive though, the TenTec's come assembled starting at about \$1300 and some of the Elecrafts are kits and can cost as much as \$5000 after all the modules are added.

TenTec's are hybrids, part computer and part radio, otherwise known as SDR's or software defined radios.



SGC 2020

Instead of having to go out and purchase \$3000 worth of filters, there are 39 computer generated bandwidth filters accessible by turning a knob. I like this feature alot. They can also decode CW right on the screen or send CW by plugging in a keyboard. I recommend these radios, but would I bring it to Field Day? Rain, bug spray, ketchup? I don't think so.

I started with the Yaesu 857D and I do like it a lot, but the display is too darn small and it relies heavily on buried menus that can be very tedious to find and operate. The S Meter is useless and the audio reports are actually quite good with the stock microphone. I use this in the car because it is very small, and I could care less about the display while driving so I just listen, then answer the call.

The ICOM 706 turned out to be a real gem. Too bad Icom discontinued it for the 7000, but lots of them are still out there new and used. I got mine for \$500, used and a little beat up. The audio is good, the display is large, there are menus to dig through, but it seems a bit more intuitive than the '857. As with the '857, it is also an all band-all mode transceiver.



Yaesu FT-857D



ICOM 706 MKII

Both are small and both are designed to be mobile or base, with the emphasis on mobile. Their size prevents them from having a full faceplate with lots of controls. Based on all this, I was looking for a base station transceiver for the new HF operator, for somewhere between \$700 to \$1000.

If you have less than that, buy used. My first HF base radio was a Yaesu 840. Got it for \$400 from a guy on QRZ. Basic, basic, basic and simple, no frills, compact and the only noise control was a button marked "NR" which was a simple filter that removed some noise outside of the human voice frequency range. It worked, a little.



Yaesu FT-480

Assuming that this new ham already had purchased a VHF/UHF radio, and did not need another, I would look for something that was full featured and really, really, good for about \$1000.

When I say really good, I mean, all the stuff that you really need and total control of it. Ruggedness, easy to use, good audio, great noise filtering and not too big.

I started my research by reading reviews and talking to a lot of hams and dealers for their feedback and narrowed the list down to the Icom 718, Alinco DX SR8, ICOM 7200, Yaesu FT-450, and Kenwood TS-480 SAT. I eliminated the Alinco because it is much like the '857 and '706 as they are mostly basic mobile rigs. The ICOM 718 had a lot of bad reviews



Icom 718

about junky construction and sound quality issues so that one went out as well.

The Kenwood TS-480 SAT is an interesting and beautiful radio. Its display is very large, and is inviting to touch. The controls are large and the buttons are big and the front panel is separate from the radio. The transceiver is actually a box that can be placed anywhere the control wire will reach. Kenwood is famous for their transmit audio, and this one does the job, but that's about where the fun ends, the 480's are expensive, they start at about \$1000 for the barebones radio and then you can add up to \$500 in filters to tailor the signals and noise. Its DSP is somewhat adequate and some report that the receiver is a little deaf. There are mods to improve this and some make a fantastic rig out of it. Its durable, able to withstand mobile use and travel, and would make a great Field Day rig.

This leaves the Yaesu FT-450 and the ICOM 7200. I really like the Yaesu FT-450, its small, has a built in antenna tuner, one of the best displays on the market, possibly better than any other radio they offer and its receiver is very



Alinco DX SR8

sensitive. However, the tuner only matches antennas that are 3:1 to start with. Too narrow in my opinion, an external tuner is always handy to have around any way. This transceiver's DSP filtering could be broader, some users say that the noise filtering could be a lot better. Others complain that the main VFO dial is way too small and some of the buttons are too close together, no worries if you have skinny fingers.

The '450 has a voice recorder to record some QSO's and backlit keys, a very



Kenwood TS-480SAT

nice option for operating at night. Oh, it also has a CW training mode. I am however worried about its performance outdoors since it appears to be meant for the desk. There are many other features that can be read about on Yaesu's website. As a sub \$1000.00 Rig, its well worth the money.

That leaves us with the ICOM 7200, a very interesting transceiver. I find his rig to be a hybrid of a few radio styles. It looks like a military radio, has the weather sealing and ruggedness of a marine radio and the digital sound processing of the most expensive contest radios.

It however does not have some bells and whistles that make the Yaesu FT-450 cute. It does not have backlit keys, the display is small, showing only what is important which frustrates some people. It does not do FM which also frustrates some people, but I



Yaesu FT-450

understand why. ICOM set out to make a radio that does exceptionally well on 6 meters and some of the effects of having FM in an HF radio effect the sensitivity of 6 meters.

It has a USB port on the back making use with digital modes such as PSK-31 a breeze, It interfaces with computers extremely well, and appears to be built with ergonomics in mind with given placement of controls, size and feel. The meter is small but very good and shows either SWR, Power, S units and AGC.

I talked to a lot of seasoned DX'ers and a few hams who go on DXpeditions and they all agreed that the ICOM 7200 would be the radio. When I asked why, the answer was that it contains \$3000 worth of DSP filtering and is very straightforward to use.

One reviewer stated that there wasn't one signal that this radio couldn't pull out of the noise. Apparently this is the junior of the line of big expensive 746's and in some cases it out performs them.

After hearing that, I had to try it, so I called Gene at KJI and had him send me one. I breezed through the manual, it had all the usual HF radio controls, plus a few curious knobs and buttons. I am used to having 1 DSP button on my Yaesu. This rig has 5 ways to access the DSP. WOW! Automatic noise filtering, manual noise filtering, standard noise reduction, wide, medium and narrow buttons and a twin passband dial.

As with the Yaesu, the ICOM will speak the frequency to you with the press of a button, which is nice if its dark, I guess, and both have a numerical keypad right on the front panel. I have used this radio almost non-stop for three days, during the solar storm, the bands were a wreck, it sounded like a jet was parked in my shack and audio reports have been great.

I pulled a bunch of stations out of the noise and it is as sensitive as my TenTec Jupiter, a real surprise. The on board front firing speaker is pretty good, a little tinny as most rigs are, but there is an external jack on the rear for something better. It's price range was somewhere between \$975 and \$1200 from the big stores.

This little tank of a radio is a nice size, plugs directly into the LDG line of auto tuners and receives like the \$5000 level of ICOM's best. It's a keeper, and it will be at Field Day this year. I am not worried about the abuse of camping and all the noisy bands, we will get through the noise and rack up some points! I know there are many opinions, these are only mine, and I hope this answers some questions, it did for me

73, Neil AC2O



AC2O's Choice - ICOM 7200

Advertisement



327 Broadway
 Newburgh Ny 12550
 TEL: (845) 561-8383
 E-Mail:
jimm@mcveyelectronics.com

Coming Events: Summer 2011

W2HO

CLUB SPONSORED

Friday-Sunday, June 24-26, 2011

**Field Day 2011
Cronomer Hill Park
Newburgh, NY**

Friday late afternoon setup of antennas and towers. Exact time TBD and will be announced via Net and Yahoo Group. Saturday morning setup will be announced via Neta and Yahoo Group as well. Contact Tom W2TRR of Joe NE2Z for more details.

Friday, July 1, 2011

**Town of Newburgh Community Day
Algonquin Park
Newburgh, NY**

The club will have a 10 X 20 foot area reserved on the baseball diamond. Setup will be at 1PM, take down at 10:30PM. Contact Gil Piaquadio KC2NLL for more details.

Sunday, August 7, 2011

**Lighthouse Day and Club Picnic
Constitution Island
West Point, NY**

Details to be announced.

CONTESTS

July 9-10, 2011

IARU HF Championships

To contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.
<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

August 6-17, 2011

August UHF Championships

To work as many amateur stations in as many 2 degrees by 1 degrees grid squares as possible using authorized amateur frequencies above 222 MHz and all authorized modes of emission.
<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

HAMFESTS

Sunday, July 10, 2011

Sussex County ARC Hamfest
Sussex County Fairgrounds
Sussex, NJ 07461
<http://www.scarcnj.org/html/hamfest.html>

Saturday, August 13, 2011

Hamfest & Pancake Breakfast
Boy Scout Troop 139 / Venturing Crew 7373
Conlon Hall
19 North William Street
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Sunday, August 14, 2011

Tri-State ARA
Matamoras Airport Park - South Pavillion
9th Street Extension
Matamoras, PA 18336
<http://www.k3tsa.com>

Saturday, August 20, 2011

Ramapo Mountain ARC
Camp Veritans
225 Pompton Road
Haledon, NJ 07508
<http://www.qsl.net/rmarc>



Who will you contact?

Club & Local Info

W2HO



OCARC HF NET

WHEN: Every Sunday at 1200 Local
WHERE: 3920 KHz LSB

This is a directed net. The Net Control Station will use the club call sign of W2HO.

Before the end of each net, a station should be chosen by the Net Control Station to be the NCS for the following week.

A report should be put on the reflector soon after the Net is complete. The report should contain the call sign of the person who was Net Control, the date of the Net, list the check in stations, list any announcements made, state if traffic was passed, and then list topics discussed by participating stations.

LOCAL REPEATERS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Repeater</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>Input</u>	<u>Tone</u>
Harriman	N2JTI	147.105	+	114.8**
Middletown	WA2VDX	146.76	-	100
Mt Beacon	KC2DAA	146.97	-	100
Newburgh	N2HEP	146.43	147.435	71.9*
Middletown	WA2VDX	449.525	-	123
Mt Beacon n	WA2GZW	449.575	-	100
Newburgh	N2HEP	449.475	-	71.9

* Primary Repeater for OCARC 2M Net

** Alternate Repeater for OCARC 2M Net

OCARC 2 METER NET

WHEN: Every Wednesday at 8PM local time.

WHERE: Primary Repeater: Newburgh N2HEP 146.430/147.435 PL 71.9

Alternate Repeater: Harriman N2JTI 147.105 MHz +600 PL 114.8 Hz.

The backup repeater will only be used if the primary has failed. If this is known ahead of time, it will be announced on the club reflector.

This is a directed net. The Net Control Station will use the club call sign of W2HO.

Before the end of each net, a station should be chosen by the Net Control Station to be the NCS for the following week.

A report should be put on the reflector soon after the Net is complete. The report should contain the call sign of the person who was Net Control, the date of the Net, list the check in stations, list any announcements made, state if traffic was passed, and then list topics discussed by participating stations.

Orange County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 624 Cornwall, NY 12518
www.ocarc-ny.org

