



Not receiving all the HCARC bulletins?

I have been getting some reject messages to club bulletins during the month of December. It looks like the majority of the messages were addressed to an address at ARRL. So if you feel you feel like your missing out on some of the club information you might consider changing the email address for the club information ham-call@arrl.net to one like your-real-address@your-server.com instead of having them forwarded through the ARRL server. This way the ARRL spam filter won't reject the messages. To change your email address send a message to w0lpd@ktc.com with "change email address" as the subject line. Remember all Club bulletins have HCARC as the subject line. I have started just sending the link to the STATIC rather than the newsletter to club members. This way if you don't want it, just ignore the message. It will have HCARC as the subject line not STATIC as in the past.

Ye old ed... w0lpd@ktc.com

Changes to the VE testing procedures

This next year we are going to change the way the VE team does it's testing. Rather than a quarterly exam, just let me know when you will be ready and we will see if we can put together a team to test you. This can be at the Red Cross building, or anywhere else you would like. I.E. we will even test in the privacy of your own home, if necessary, due to handicaps and etc. If you want to be tested other than the Red Cross, t will be up to you to secure the location. This should accommodate most study groups, and classes being offered throughout the year.

Ye old VE coordinator... w0lpd@ktc.com

HCARC MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2007

The Hill Country Amateur Radio Club met December 6, 2007 at 1900 hours at the Hill Country Chapter Red Cross Building in Kerrville. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ron Drumheller, K3NXF. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those attending introduced themselves. There were 27 members and visitors present.

The November meeting minutes were approved as printed in the December Static.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer, Jim Wasson, W5MKM, and is attached. Deposits were \$152, withdrawals were \$82.87 with an ending balance of \$1453.21 of which \$978.14 is in the Charles Phares Memorial repeater fund and \$475.07 is in the General fund.

Under old business it was brought before the membership that Ruthie Guida, N5RJM, had volunteered to be Secretary. It was moved and seconded that she serves as Secretary. She will assume office in January as Harvey Vordenbaum, K5HV, will become Treasurer.

Members were reminded to complete their membership applications and pay their dues in a timely manner.

The budget for 2008 was brought before the membership. It was accepted as presented, and is attached.

ARRL membership was discussed. Members were encouraged to join in a manner to benefit the club financially. Continuing under old business, Curtis Eastwood, AD5UZ, Public relation coordinator, gave a report concerning the Press Luncheon last month. Ron stated the website had been updated with pictures and information related to the Press Luncheon.

Members were reminded of the Club Christmas Party to be held Saturday December 8 at River Front Mobile Home Park Club Room at noon. Side dishes and desserts are to be shared. The meat and drinks will be provided. There will be door prizes for everyone. Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange wee instructed to bring a \$5.00 gift.

Members were reminded of Saturday Breakfasts at Santo Coyote's.

Those who ordered name tags were to see Ruby Jones, KB0YIM, to pay and receive their name tags.

Under new business, the Vice President announced the January program as NOAA's Bill Runyan presenting the COCO Ras rain reporting system. The February meeting program will be by Bill Tynan, W3XO, who will demonstrate his new SDR radio. The March program will be presented by

Don Josephs, K5DEJ, on the Army Mars program. The April meeting may be information concerning radio programs using the LINUX operating system. Bill Tynan suggested showing a video about the Search for Amelia Earhart which involved some ham radio participation.

Members were invited to the Red Cross Open House on December 13 from 4 to 6 PM.

Everyone was encouraged to participate in the 50-50 activity. The break was enjoyed with sweet treats being provided by Diana, K5DBN, and Ruby.

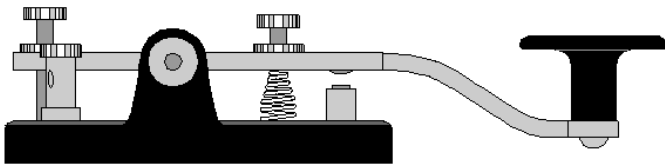
The 50-50 was won by Ruby who gave \$1 back to the Club, and will spend the winnings on a turkey for the Saturday Christmas Party.

After the break Club members shared their desires for future programs. Items listed were antennas, Neil Kern, W9CNC, John, K5XA, about 160 m. antennas.

Diana had made Field Day patches for those participants. Discussion followed about member's radio problems and experiences.

The meeting adjourned approximately at 2035 hours.

Respectively submitted, H. Vordenbaum, K5HV



Joseph Gellings, WB9WOL (SK)

Oversaw First Underwater Transatlantic Telephone Cable: Joseph Gellings, WB9WOL, a longtime electrical engineer for Bell Laboratories who helped develop microwave communications and lay the first transatlantic telephone cable to Europe, passed away November 29 due to heart complications; he was 89. According to relatives, Gellings acquired a ham radio in his early teens. "His parents needed to coerce him into going to bed, because he'd stay up all night communicating with people from around the world," daughter Ginny Cooney recalled. It was his passion for ham radio that later sparked an interest in electronics, she said. Gellings attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He later received a master's degree in electrical engineering from The Ohio State University in Columbus. In 1944, Gellings began working for Bell Labs in Summit, New Jersey, where he initially helped develop microwave communication systems for use during World War II. "That technology aided both land-to-land and air-to-land communications within the military," said his son, Joe, also an electrical engineer. In 1955, Gellings was assigned by Bell Labs to oversee the laying of the first underwater transatlantic telephone cable, from Newfoundland to Scotland. That cable, nearly 3 inches wide at various points with about seven layers of insulation, was in use for 22 years, before being retired in 1978, Cooney said. In 1966,

Gellings moved with his family to Oswego, Illinois after being transferred by Bell Labs to its Naperville offices. There, he participated in the development of solid-state digital switching for telephone calls, before retiring in 1976. Gellings is survived by two children, Joseph of Shawano, Wisconsin and Ginny Cooney of Wheaton, Illinois; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Trans-Atlantic Cable Ship Long Lines. The 11300-ton Long Lines, built for AT&T in 1963 at a cost of \$19 million, was then the world's largest and most advanced cable ship

Robert Easton was the transmission engineer on the cable ship and tells the following story.

Hoping to catch her husband before his departure, the Philadelphia housewife dialed the number hurriedly. "Is this Joe's Barber Shop?" she asked the voice at the other end. The unexpected response was, "Lady, this is the Cable Ship LONG LINES, 300 miles off the coast of England." "Oh, for Pete's sake, a wrong number is bad enough, but with my luck I end up with a drunk or a nut," she announced disgustedly as she hung up to try again.

The author, who was the other participant in this little drama that took place a number of years ago, sometimes still wonders if she would have felt less piqued if she had realized that her call had really gone 3500 miles - under 3 miles of water, and had then traveled in innumerable circles of less than 55 feet in diameter for another 300 miles to arrive and brighten the day for one weary, slightly seasick, engineer. For she had stumbled into the middle of the installation of a new submarine cable across the Atlantic. During such an installation, the cable is laid powered to permit continuous measurements which verify that the equipment being consigned to the depths is working properly-and to provide data on which to base equalization of the transmission path. Furthermore, to make any required technical information or expertise available to those on ship-board, a few order wire channels are equipped and, for the duration of the lay, connected to the domestic dial network with an assigned number at an exchange in the vicinity of the cable terminal.

Approximately 100 years prior to the wayward call to Joe's Barber Shop, the first successful trans-Atlantic telegraph cable was installed by a ship called "The Great

Eastern” with Lord Kelvin on board as transmission engineer

Reflecting on last year

Ye old ed, w0lpd@kfc.com

Wow, 2007 has come and gone. Our yearly Christmas party is over. Celebrating the birth of our Savior has come and gone for some to be put away for another year. That is really sad, we should be celebrating Jesus on a daily basis. I get so angry when folks say God has no place in the public. I read the first amendment.....

Amendment One

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

It seems to some this means “I” have the right to stand in the court house and proclaim there is no God, but you have no right to say there is. They interpret the phrase “or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” to only apply to citizens when they are in a Church building, not in a public place. I guess we as Christians have elected enough pagans to congress and to the courts to squelch our free speech.

One of the most treasured memories of this last year was being able to play Santa for about 250 kids at one of the local schools. Asking each one if they have been good, and what they wanted for Christmas, I was touched and almost couldn’t contain my tears when one little girl said the only thing she wanted for Christmas was to go live with grandma. Just thinking about the hurt in her eyes, still brings tears to mine. Although I don’t know her name, I still am led to pray for this child. Seeing other parents who reeked with the smell of alcohol early in the morning, says it all. Our family values are under attack and we need to do something about it. Hopefully our club can have a positive influence on children within our community.

On a lighter note, remember January 1st is straight key night. If you have some time break out the old hand key and make some contacts. Remember to send your vote in for the best fist, and best story. Details are in QST each year.

HERLONG, Albert Sydney, Jr Patriot Democrat

A Representative from Florida; born in Manistee, Monroe County, Ala., February 14, 1909; moved with his parents to Marion County, Fla., in 1912; attended the public schools of Sumter and Lake Counties and Leesburg High School; was graduated from the University of Florida at Gainesville in 1930; was admitted to the bar in 1930 and commenced the practice of law in Leesburg, Lake County, Fla.; elected county judge of Lake County, Fla., and served from 1937 to 1949;

city attorney of Leesburg from 1946 to 1948; held Reserve commission as captain in the United States Army and was called to active duty in the Judge Advocate General’s Department in August 1941; was discharged in 1942 due to physical disability; served two enlistments in the Florida State Guard; president of the Florida State Baseball League in 1947 and 1948; elected as a Democrat to the Eighty-first and to the nine succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1949-January 3, 1969); was not a candidate for reelection in 1968 to the Ninety-first Congress; resumed the practice of law; member of the Securities and Exchange Commission 1969-1973; died December 27, 1995.

The following was from Mr. Herlong in 1963.....

Congressional Record--Appendix, pp. A34-A35

January 10, 1963

Current Communist Goals

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF HON. A. S. HERLONG, JR. OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 1963

Mr. HERLONG. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Patricia Nordman of De Land, Fla., is an ardent and articulate opponent of communism, and until recently published the De Land Courier, which she dedicated to the purpose of alerting the public to the dangers of communism in America.

At Mrs. Nordman's request, I include in the RECORD, under unanimous consent, the following "Current Communist Goals," which she identifies as an excerpt from "The Naked Communist," by Cleon Skousen:

[From "The Naked Communist," by Cleon Skousen]

CURRENT COMMUNIST GOALS

1. U.S. acceptance of coexistence as the only alternative to atomic war.
2. U.S. willingness to capitulate in preference to engaging in atomic war.
3. Develop the illusion that total disarmament [by] the United States would be a demonstration of moral strength.
4. Permit free trade between all nations regardless of Communist affiliation and regardless of whether or not items could be used for war.
5. Extension of long-term loans to Russia and Soviet satellites.
6. Provide American aid to all nations regardless of Communist domination.
7. Grant recognition of Red China. Admission of Red China to the U.N.
8. Set up East and West Germany as separate states in spite of Khrushchev's promise in 1955 to settle the German question by free elections under supervision of the U.N.
9. Prolong the conferences to ban atomic tests because the United States has agreed to suspend tests as long as negotiations are in progress.
10. Allow all Soviet satellites individual representation in the U.N.

11. Promote the U.N. as the only hope for mankind. If its charter is rewritten, demand that it be set up as a one-world government with its own independent armed forces. (Some Communist leaders believe the world can be taken over as easily by the U.N. as by Moscow. Sometimes these two centers compete with each other as they are now doing in the Congo.)

12. Resist any attempt to outlaw the Communist Party.

13. Do away with all loyalty oaths.

14. Continue giving Russia access to the U.S. Patent Office.

15. Capture one or both of the political parties in the United States.

16. Use technical decisions of the courts to weaken basic American institutions by claiming their activities violate civil rights.

17. Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers' associations. Put the party line in textbooks.

18. Gain control of all student newspapers.

19. Use student riots to foment public protests against programs or organizations which are under Communist attack.

20. Infiltrate the press. Get control of book-review assignments, editorial writing, policymaking positions.

21. Gain control of key positions in radio, TV, and motion pictures.

22. Continue discrediting American culture by degrading all forms of artistic expression. An American Communist cell was told to "eliminate all good sculpture from parks and buildings, substitute shapeless, awkward and meaningless forms."

23. Control art critics and directors of art museums. "Our plan is to promote ugliness, repulsive, meaningless art."

24. Eliminate all laws governing obscenity by calling them "censorship" and a violation of free speech and free press.

25. Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.

26. Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as "normal, natural, healthy."

27. Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with "social" religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity which does not need a "religious crutch."

28. Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in the schools on the ground that it violates the principle of "separation of church and state."

29. Discredit the American Constitution by calling it inadequate, old-fashioned, out of step with modern needs, a hindrance to cooperation between nations on a worldwide basis.

30. Discredit the American Founding Fathers. Present them as selfish aristocrats who had no concern for the "common man."

31. Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American history on the ground that it was only a minor part of the "big picture." Give more emphasis to Russian history since the Communists took over.

32. Support any socialist movement to give centralized control over any part of the culture--education, social agencies, welfare programs, mental health clinics, etc.

33. Eliminate all laws or procedures which interfere with the operation of the Communist apparatus.

34. Eliminate the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

35. Discredit and eventually dismantle the FBI.

36. Infiltrate and gain control of more unions.

37. Infiltrate and gain control of big business.

38. Transfer some of the powers of arrest from the police to social agencies. Treat all behavioral problems as psychiatric disorders which no one but psychiatrists can understand [or treat].

39. Dominate the psychiatric profession and use mental health laws as a means of gaining coercive control over those who oppose Communist goals.

40. Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce.

41. Emphasize the need to raise children away from the negative influence of parents. Attribute prejudices, mental blocks and retarding of children to suppressive influence of parents.

42. Create the impression that violence and insurrection are legitimate aspects of the American tradition; that students and special-interest groups should rise up and use ["united force"] to solve economic, political or social problems.

43. Overthrow all colonial governments before native populations are ready for self-government.

44. Internationalize the Panama Canal.

45. Repeal the Connally reservation so the United States cannot prevent the World Court from seizing jurisdiction [over domestic problems. Give the World Court jurisdiction] over nations and individuals alike.

What Happened?

We might be well to look real close at the platforms of those seeking the office of President and congress this coming election. While I don't want to make the STATIC political in any way, I need for club members to start sending in stuff for publication. It's your newsletter; lets make it a good one or discontinue it all together. The choice belongs to you, the club members.

500 kHz EXPERIMENT ENTERS SECOND SEASON

arrl letter November 9th

Fall has brought lower static and good propagation, making excellent conditions for the 500 kHz experimenters. The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 19 active stations.

Project Coordinator for the ARRL-sponsored 500 kHz experiment Fritz Raab, W1FR, said, "We have been joined by a second US experimental license, WE2XGR, with five participants, as well experimenters in the UK, Germany, Sweden and the Czech Republic; operating modes include CW, QRSS, PSK-31, and others. Contacts have been achieved at distances up to 1234 miles. Signals have been received all over North America, Alaska, and Hawaii, and trans-Atlantic reports are not uncommon."

The best time to listen is between sunset and sunrise, Raab said. "The operating frequencies are: WD2XSH -- 505.2-510 kHz; WE2XGR -- 505-515 kHz; UK -- 501-504 kHz, and SM, DL, OK -- 505.0-505.2 kHz. Reception reports should be filed at the www.500kc.com Web site so that they become part of our data base." Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX

<<http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>>.

Corn fed deer from Bob Nelson N5EW

Names have been removed to protect the stupid.

Actual Letter from someone who farms.

I had this idea that I was going to rope a deer, put it in a stall, feed it up on corn for a couple of weeks, then kill it and eat it. The first step in this adventure was getting a deer. I figured that, since they congregated at my cattle feeder and do not seem to have much fear of me when we are there (a bold one will sometimes come right up and sniff at the bags of feed while I am in the back of the truck not 4 feet away), it should not be difficult to rope one, get up to it and toss a bag over its head (to calm it down) then hog tie it and transport it home.

I filled the cattle feeder then hid down at the end with my rope. The cattle, having seen the roping thing before, stayed well back. They were not having any of it. After about 20 minutes, my deer showed up -- 3 of them.

I picked out a likely looking one, stepped out from the end of the feeder, and threw my rope. The deer just stood there and stared at me.

I wrapped the rope around my waist and twisted the end so I would have a good hold. The deer still just stood and stared at me, but you could tell it was mildly concerned about the whole rope situation.

I took a step towards it...it took a step away. I put a little tension on the rope and received an education.

The first thing that I learned is that, while a deer may just stand there looking at you funny while you rope it, they are spurred to action when you start pulling on that rope. That deer EXPLODED.

The second thing I learned is that pound for pound, a deer is a LOT stronger than a cow or a colt. A cow or a colt in that

weight range I could fight down with a rope with some dignity. A deer, no chance. That thing ran and bucked and twisted and pulled. There was no controlling it and certainly no getting close to it. As it jerked me off my feet and started dragging me across the ground, it occurred to me that having a deer on a rope was not nearly as good an idea as I originally imagined.

The only upside is that they do not have as much stamina as many animals.

A brief 10 minutes later, it was tired and not nearly as quick to jerk me off my feet and drag me when I managed to get up. It took me a few minutes to realize this, since I was mostly blinded by the blood flowing out of the big gash in my head.

At that point, I had lost my taste for corn-fed venison. I just wanted to get that devil creature off the end of that rope. I figured if I just let it go with the rope hanging around its neck, it would likely die slow and painfully somewhere. At the time, there was no love at all between me and that deer. At that moment, I hated the thing, and I would venture a guess that the feeling was mutual.

Despite the gash in my head and the several large knots where I had cleverly arrested the deer's momentum by bracing my head against various large rocks as it dragged me across the ground, I could still think clearly enough to recognize that there was a small chance that I shared some tiny amount of responsibility for the situation we were in, so I didn't want the deer to have it suffer a slow death, so I managed to get it lined back up in between my truck and the feeder - a little trap I had set before hand... kind of like a squeeze chute. I got it to back in there and started moving up so I could get my rope back.

Did you know that deer bite? They do! I never in a million years would have thought that a deer would bite somebody, so I was very surprised when I reached up there to grab that rope and the deer grabbed hold of my wrist.

Now, when a deer bites you, it is not like being bit by a horse where they just bite you and then let go. A deer bites you and shakes its head -- almost like a pit bull. They bite HARD and it hurts.

The proper thing to do when a deer bites you is probably to freeze and draw back slowly. I tried screaming and shaking instead. My method was ineffective. It seems like the deer was biting and shaking for several minutes, but it was likely only several seconds. I, being smarter than a deer (though you may be questioning that claim by now) tricked it.

While I kept it busy tearing the dickens out of my right arm, I reached up with my left hand and pulled that rope loose.

That was when I got my final lesson in deer behavior for the day. Deer will strike at you with their front feet. They rear right up on their back feet and strike right about head and shoulder level, and their hooves are surprisingly sharp.

I learned a long time ago that, when an animal -- like a horse -- strikes at you with their hooves and you can't get away easily, the best thing to do is try to make a loud noise and make an aggressive move towards the animal. This will usually cause them to back down a bit so you can escape.

This was not a horse. This was a deer, so obviously, such trickery would not work. In the course of a millisecond, I devised a different strategy.

I screamed like a woman and tried to turn and run.

The reason I had always been told NOT to try to turn and run from a horse that paws at you is that there is a good chance that it will hit you in the back of the head. Deer may not be so different from horses after all, besides being twice as strong and 3 times as evil, because the second I turned to run, it hit me right in the back of the head and knocked me down.

Now, when a deer paws at you and knocks you down, it does not immediately leave. I suspect it does not recognize that the danger has passed. What they do instead is paw your back and jump up and down on you while you are laying there crying like a little girl and covering your head.

I finally managed to crawl under the truck and the deer went away.

Deutscher Bundestag beschließt neues EMVG

Am 15. November hat der Deutsche Bundestag das neue Gesetz über die elektromagnetische Verträglichkeit von Betriebsmitteln nach zweiter und dritter Lesung beschlossen. Nach Gegenzeichnung durch den Bundespräsidenten und Verkündung im Bundesgesetzblatt ist mit dem Inkrafttreten im Januar zu rechnen. Mit Unterstützung der SPD-Bundestagsfraktion ist es dem Runden Tisch Amateurfunk (RTA) bzw. DARC e.V. gelungen, eine Schlechterstellung des Amateurfunkdienstes gegenüber dem EMVG aus dem Jahr 1998 zu vermeiden. Der ursprüngliche Regierungsentwurf sah keinen ausreichenden Schutz vor elektromagnetischen Unverträglichkeiten vor, wenn eine Amateurfunkstelle betroffen ist. Außerdem hätte durch den vom RTA mehrfach kommentierten Entwurf das Nutzsignal als Störgröße definiert werden können. Die Verbesserungen für den Funkschutz und die Funkamateure im Detail sind als Vorstandsinformation auf der DARC-Webseite veröffentlicht und werden außerdem in der Januar-Ausgabe der CQ DL abgedruckt.

Make your Own Polystyrene “Q” Dope

Bob Gardenghi, K3FQP

Reprinted from December 2007 World Radio Magazine

“Q” dope is a kind of lacquer used to coat radio frequency coils. It serves two useful functions. First of all, it keeps the coils in place and prevents turns from sliding when you have spaced turns and secondly it keeps moisture out. Searching the internet, “Q” dope can be found and 2 oz. costs nearly \$10.00. You can make your own for next to nothing. All you have to do is dissolve some polystyrene in lacquer thinner and you have your own brand of “Q” dope.

Here’s how I went about it. First of all, I suggest that you only make as much as you need. Don’t set out to make a large amount. It is easy and quick to make it when you need it.

As for the source of polystyrene, I chose to use the white poly foam “hot cups.” I suppose you can just as well use the packing material or the poly “peanuts.” I chose the drinking cups assuming that the poly would probably be the cleanest and more likely to be free of contaminants since it is supposedly “food safe.”

I had a can of lacquer thinner on hand which is readily available in paint stores. You can also use solvents such as MEK (methyl ethyl ketone) or toluene, both of which are available in your local building supply store. Be sure to read and heed the warnings on the cans of the lacquer thinner and do this in a well ventilated area.

I started out with about one and a half ounces of thinner in a small glass jar and added pieces of the poly cups stirring and adding until I achieved the desired consistency. I was surprised to find that it took six cups to get what I thought was thick enough. You can adjust the viscosity to whatever you like. You can always add more thinner to thin it out if you find it to be too thick. You will find that in the beginning the solution remains clear as you dissolve pieces in it. As it thickens, it begins to appear somewhat milky in color. It dries clear, however. It also dries very quickly. I use a small brush to apply it to the coil.

If you don’t use it immediately and let it sit overnight or longer you will find that it tends to separate somewhat. So, like paint, you need to stir it well before using.

Use a jar with a tight fitting cover and you have just saved \$10.00.

73 de K3FQP

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Who is this?

Do you have any old photographs, you would like to see if club members could identify? Email them to w0lpd@ktc.com and I will start putting at least one in each STATIC. Email the guess you are making to me also, and I will announce the first to come up with the correct guess in the next issue. If you can’t scan the photo, get it to me and I will have it done and return to you. Will be a great deal of fun to see how club members have changed. We can even put a current photo in the next issue. What do you think?