

Solid Copy de KC7Z

Newsletter of the North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club
 PO BOX 2268 -- Silverdale, WA 98383-2268
 Web page: <http://www.nkarc.org>

November 2009

Pres Sez

Well this year is coming to an end rapidly and I would like to take this opportunity to say a few things that I have learned. The first is that my initial assumption of what a club is has been wrong twice now. I joined the club under the assumption that everyone in the club was there because they were truly interested and wanted to be involved. I now believe that to be true for most of the new members and a very small percentage of the other members. I have found that most members do not really want to be involved in any club project but are happy with just coming to a monthly meeting when entertainment is provided or they just want to have their name on the roster and that is the extent of the club involvement.

The second item I learned was that no matter how many times you ask or what form the questionnaires take 90% or more the club members will not respond to inquires about how to make the club more interesting for them. These two points make the job of club officers very frustrating and since this is a volunteer service all can understand why it is so hard to get members to volunteer.

I am not sure if this is the way all amateur radio clubs are or if it is true of all types of clubs. I believe there is a solution to the above issues and that is to establish membership involvement criteria. I think the criteria is easy to establish. It should be financially based. By that I mean the following: Club officers and directors would have free membership, with an attendance criteria. General membership fee would be \$100 per year with \$5 refund for every meeting or event supported. Additional rebates would be given to those conducting training or lectures.

The above is a way that I see to try and revitalize the club. I am sure that you all have an opinion about how you would do it but will you share it.

It took a lot of effort last year to get the Club Officer and Director positions filled and still we ended the year with the Secretary not filled and only one commitment for the open six positions in 2010. Everyone needs to seriously look at their commitment to the club.

AI -KE7RPR

=====00000=====

Tnx for the support:

I put out a request on the NKARC email list for articles and information to be included in the November issue of Solid Copy thinking there would be two or three responses. This is what happened previously when I tried to get some involvement from the club members. As Gomer Pyle would say "Surprise Surprise." I have enough material to support at least two more issues of Solid Copy without having to solicit anymore. Inputs included everything from trade, sell and take items to articles on ham radio of interest to most all members to suggestions of urls to relevant articles and even a puzzle which will be included in this issue.

Don't stop submitting information and suggestions. If you submit an article or an item for publication, you will be credited. It's great to see your name as a byline in a publication. Let's see if we can channel some of the enthusiasm in these items for the newsletter into increased interest in club activities.

Bob – N7KTP
 Solid Copy Editor

November, 2009

November Club Meetings

Board of Directors and Business Meeting

Location: Fire Station #51 – Silverdale
Date: Friday November 13th
Time: 6:30 PM until complete or 9:00 PM

Club Meeting

Location: Fire Station #51 – Silverdale
Date: Saturday November 21st
Time: 6:30 PM until complete or 9:00 PM

Club Breakfast

Location: All Star Lanes – Silverdale
Date: Saturday November 28th
Time: 9:00 AM

December Club Meetings

Board of Directors and Business Meeting

Location: Fire Station #51 – Silverdale
Date: Friday December 11th
Time: 6:30 PM until complete or 9:00 PM

December dinner:

Location: Clearwater Casino Buffet
Date: Thursday December 17TH
Time: 6:00 PM
Cost: \$17.65 per person

=====00000=====

NKARC needs use of Service Monitor

The North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club [NKARC] has a co-ordinated repeater on 444.075 Mhz. [PL tone: 103.5] which now is performing like an "alligator" [BIG mouth and SMALL ears].

The transmitter is working satisfactorily but the receiver is not very sensitive. We need help from anyone with a service monitor to help us improve the receiver performance.

If you can help or know someone who can, please send me an email at N7SI@prodigy.net

Warren Norman N7SI

=====00000=====

NKARC Web Page

Visit the NKARC web page at:

<http://www.nkarc.org>

and take a look at what is there. If you have any questions or ideas, email webmaster Dave, N7ORM at:

webmaster@nkarc.org.

=====00000=====

From the VE Team:

ARRL VEC 2009/2010 Examination Fee

The ARRL VEC exam fee for 2009 is \$15.00. A \$15 fee is charged to every person seeking a new license or upgrade as listed on the ARRL VEC Candidate Roster. That one fee pays for one attempt at each of the three exam elements. If an applicant retests an exam element that was failed moments earlier, another \$15 fee is charged (and another Roster entry is created). The ARRL VEC exam fee for 2010 will remain at \$15.00.

Horace Ory, K7ORY

=====00000=====

Hints for DX and Digital Modes

For those of you new to DX, the following links have info on current and future DX operations.

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>
<http://www.n0hr.com/wk34/index.htm>

To help you get started on HF digital modes, try the free and very popular software MultiPSK. It works with your computer's sound card.

http://f6cte.free.fr/index_anglais.htm

Dave
WA6PMX

=====00000=====

November, 2009

Items for sale - or for free

I have a couple items which might be of interest:

- 1) A Heath phone patch, model HD-5. It is in near perfect condition. \$5.00
- 2) A B&W 75 ohm (note this) low pass filter. It is 40 years old but NIB. \$10.00

I also have several lengths of a type of co-ax cable/wire. This was USN stock and I think it was used as an antenna transmission line for RF control of under water mines. This stuff is actually a co-ax but it is heavily jacketed with a strong outer shield (inside the black jacket) and would make a great long wire or dipole. The cables/wire are 2 to 3 hundred feet each. They are hell for stout but not so much as to be difficult to deploy. I would not use this for field trips. If it were threaded high up through a few trees it would be there till hell freezes over. The price is right. If nobody wants it, to the dump it goes.

Doug Hudson
K7CUU
Bremerton,WA
dhudson@silverlinknet

FREE! FREE! FREE!:

I have 8 or 10 new perforated ceiling tiles, 2 x 2 ft square, that could be used as acoustic tiles on the wall of someone's shack, to reduce audio reverberations.

Can bring to the next meeting or could be picked up at my QTH about 5 minutes S. of Poulsbo off hwy 305.

Ron Sefton - N7EM 360-779-5418
rlsefton@comcast.net

=====00000=====

Buy---Trade---Sell----Need

**One man's discard is another man's treasure,
Let the club know of it by putting it here.**

=====00000=====

DX pedition to Easter Island

For those who may be interested in DX, Easter Island is a rare place to contact. There is a "DX Expedition" down there until 15 November.

Here is the info on the operation. Look it up on the internet. :

Easter Is Internet----- <http://rapanui2009.org/>
Call sign XR0Y [XR-zero-Y]

Save up any questions you may have on DX, Ed AK7H and I will give a talk on DX at the next club meeting. The talk will be more of an introduction to DX rather than extreme detail.

Bring your questions. There are a lot of DX chasers in the club that will help you.

Warren N7SI

=====00000=====

Digital Mode Contesting

The Mt. Baker Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a pretty neat contest for the digi crowd, in the month of November. Take a look at

<http://groups.google.com/group/nwwdigi/web/that-dam-contest>

and join in on the fun.

73 and may the sunspots be with us

ARRL Western Washington Section
Section Manager: James David Pace, K7CEX
k7cex@arrl.org

=====00000=====

Looking for Elmer:

Did you meet Elmer before you got involved in amateur radio? Or did you meet him after you got your license and he gave you good advice on how to start? Think back of the help he was in learning what those strange term like propagation meant. There is somebody else who now needs help. Why not introduce Elmer to that person?

=====00000=====

Establish National Emergency Calling Frequency

NEED SUPPORT. Need your comments on my idea. I have fielded to the ARRL (for sponsorship) and the FCC on establishing a national (as in American, states and territories and American flagged vessels) emergency calling frequency. This would be a one stop calling frequency for national level emergency communications; then of course traffic can be QSYed. This allocation would not be an international or IARU sponsored initiative, but rather American.

I propose one very near the 30 meter ham band. Like an abandoned NTIA (government) fixed service SSB allocation, say 10.150 usb for example. The later would not require rigs to be altered in most cases. End of the band but going USB. No brainer in my mind. Day, night. right in the middle of the HF spectrum.

Then the weekend contesters can do their thing with impunity. But that is not the reason for this service. The reasons are more obvious to anyone involved with emergency communications. And except for the lawyers at the FCC, obvious to the most casual observer.

Any good words of justification on this matter, please contact Jim Wylder, ke6oj@arrl.net, I will consolidate and forward.

=====00000=====

Underpaid Authors Wanted

Here's a thought concerning getting interesting articles into the newsletter. Not all of us have great writing skills, but most of us have opinions, interesting tales to tell, or questions to ask. Our newsletter is a great place to put your ideas out to the rest of the ham world.

If you would like to tell of your experiences, or to ask questions, technical, or ethical, submit them to our editor. Send them in any form and don't worry about being grammatically perfect. The Editor can tidy your handiwork and our readers will get more variety.

N7EM

=====00000=====

Establish a LF Amateur Band

NEED SUPPORT. Need similar justification for a proposal to the ARRL for sponsorship and to the FCC on establishing a LF amateur band. Ok, they are working at WARC-2012 on a 500KHz allocation, worldwide, but that is MF. I am talking LF. The Brits already have two such allocations (YES, TWO IN OPERATION) on about: 73KHz and 137KHz, as are many other Europeans. Why has not our FCC honored us with such consideration. Why? 1. They are lawyers. 2. We have not earnestly asked. Any good words of justification on this matter, please contact Jim Wylder, ke6oj@arrl.net, I will consolidate and forward.

Let's have a place for the QRPers and experimenters to experiment, not just run appliances. BTW, a top hat LF vertical is going up at my QTH soon. One can comply with Part 15 if the antenna is under 50 feet total.

NEWS FLASH for you MF buffs. WD2XSH/20, Eugene OR, heard recently and often 599 +15over on 507.57 KHz in the evenings. CW VVV VVV VVVs with ID then a dit and six long dashes. Go figure. There is more but you have to copy the CW and hear for yourself. I am not giving it away.

Don't start operating (xmit) yet. You need an experimental license from our friends at the FCC, and reams of paperwork to get started. And then there is the EPA to deal with. A few lawyers in your pocket would help.

You can give it some considered thought and express yourself, or sit back and let future generations fend for themselves. Think about all those before you who got you your spectrum.

=====00000=====

RACES/ACS Net Sessions:

The Kitsap RACES/ACS net is held on Sunday nights at 7:30 PM on the 145.43 repeater (-600 offset, 179.9 PL tone). Check in and be informed on emergency communications in Kitsap County. The packet radio net in on 145.01 Mhz at 7:00 PM. Connect and type "/talk" at the prompt. If you have 10meter capability, check into the HF Net on 28.330 Mhz starting at 7:00 PM

November, 2009

Keep Kitsap Green:

Help the environment by properly disposing of discharged household batteries. This includes alkaline, regular zinc carbide batteries, and batteries with heavy metals such as ni-cads and lithium ion. The Solid Waste Facility on Hansville Road accepts the batteries as part of the county-wide recycling program. Otherwise, bring them to the meeting for transfer to the disposal site.

Do not bring lead-acid batteries to the meeting for disposal. Take them to the Solid Waste Facility.

=====0000=====

Change Address or Call Sign?

Please notify the club secretary to update the roster if you changed your address, call sign or e-mail address. Include your phone number so that you can be contacted in case of emergency or for assistance. This will insure that you will get the latest news via the club newsletter. Either notify Norm (N7ORM) at the meeting or drop a card to NKARC at PO Box 2268, Silverdale, WA 98383-2268. You can also send the changes via e-mail to Norm or Bob Tomas at bobtomas@sprintmail.com

=====0000=====

Got Batteries?

The other day, I was checking the batteries in a non-working analog multi-meter. Guess what! Batteries were dated 2004, so you know old they must have been. I once had a leaking alkaline cell do damage to an expensive antenna analyzer, so it finally dawned on me to mark the back of each battery powered item with a bit of masking tape and date of the last battery change.

We are supposed to check our smoke alarms each fall when Daylight Savings Time goes away. Maybe we should include the batteries in our portable gear along with the smoke alarm checks.

Ron N7EM

=====0000=====

Communications in a Natural Disaster

Why amateur radio when we have a viable cell phone network? After the earthquake that rumbled through Puget Sound in 1992, cell phones were not working. Amateur radio was there to provide support between agencies. Keep your HT charged and ready.

The following articles are from the ARRL E-Letter of 22 October 2009

EmComm Companion Bill Offered in Senate

On Tuesday, October 6, Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), along with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), introduced [Senate Bill 1755](#), The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. Similar to [HR 2160](#) -- also called The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- that was introduced this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18), the bill, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations." =====0000=====

Did You Know? WWV and WWVH

Today, most amateurs know that radio stations WWV and WWVH broadcast time and frequency information 24 hours a day, seven days a week to millions of listeners worldwide. Administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), WWV is located in Fort Collins, Colorado, about 60 miles north of Denver; WWVH is located on the Island of Kauai, Hawaii on a 30 acre site near Kekaha at Kokole Point. Both stations broadcast information that includes time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, geophysical alerts, marine storm warnings and Global Positioning System (GPS) status reports. Most hams today think of WWV and WWVH as "time stations." According to *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, that's only half-true: they are really time and frequency stations. "The time signals that you hear are regulated by an atomic clock that uses the oscillations of Cesium atoms as its standard -- 9,162,361,770 oscillations equal 1 second," wrote Ford in the June 1994 issue of *QST*.

The following article is reprinted from the Clallum County Amateur Radio Club newsletter *QTC May 07*. Considering the usual winter conditions of storms and high winds, I consider it a timely subject for presentation to NKARC. Thanks to the author, Paul Honore' (W6IAM) for graciously allowing publication in Solid Copy.

Bob, N7KTP

--

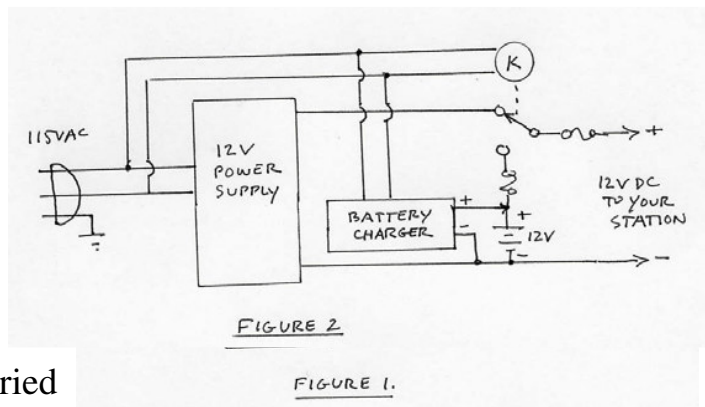
Storage Batteries for emergency backup

Several times, lately, the question has been asked, "How should I connect a lead-acid storage battery to supply emergency power to my rig?" The bad news is there's no single answer to the question. There are, however, as many opinions as there are hams who use batteries. The good news is that most of the opinions are valid. Over the years I've tried three different approaches and all work well

enough so I'll outline them here and you can take your pick. If none of these appeal to you, additional methods can be found on the internet or in back issues of QST magazine.

Method 1. "Float" the battery on the power supply

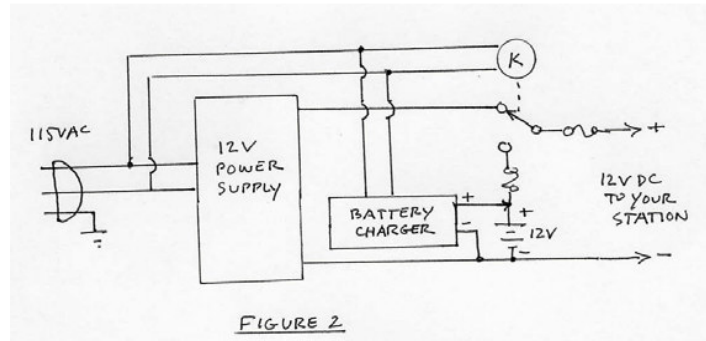
You can connect the battery in parallel with your power supply. This will provide an automatic changeover from mains to battery power without any hiccup in operation and the power supply will charge the battery whenever it is turned on. There are some things to consider, however. Unlike your power supply, the battery has no built-in current limiting or short circuit protection. It is capable of delivering several hundred amps of current for enough time to melt down a lot of things. In fact a dead short across the output terminals is likely to cause the battery to self destruct, splattering bits of shrapnel and sulfuric acid all over the place. That could spoil your whole day! If you use this approach, be sure to include a fuse close to the Positive battery terminal to prevent this sort of catastrophic event from happening. Make the fuse slightly larger than the maximum current you intend to draw from the power supply. Make sure that your power supply doesn't drain current from the battery when it is turned off. If you find a current drain you'll have to include a locking diode in series with the supply output. The diode must be capable of handling at least twice the maximum current your station will draw and it will probably need a heat-sink. The diode will drop between .5 and 1.5 volts internally



so you'll have to increase the power supply output voltage to compensate.

Method 2. Switch between the battery and the power supply

Using this method, the battery and the power supply are kept independent of each other and a trickle charger keeps the battery topped off and ready for instant use. A mechanical switch can be used to make the changeover or you can make it automatic by substituting a 110VAC relay for the switch. This way, the power supply is connected to the station by default and switching to battery backup is automatic on power failure. Since the battery and the power supply are independent of each other, no steering diode is needed and the battery remains on "charge" whether the power supply is turned ON or OFF. If you don't have a suitable 115VAC relay you can use a small transformer to power a 6, 12 or 24VAC relay, if needed, add a rectifier diode to power a DC relay.



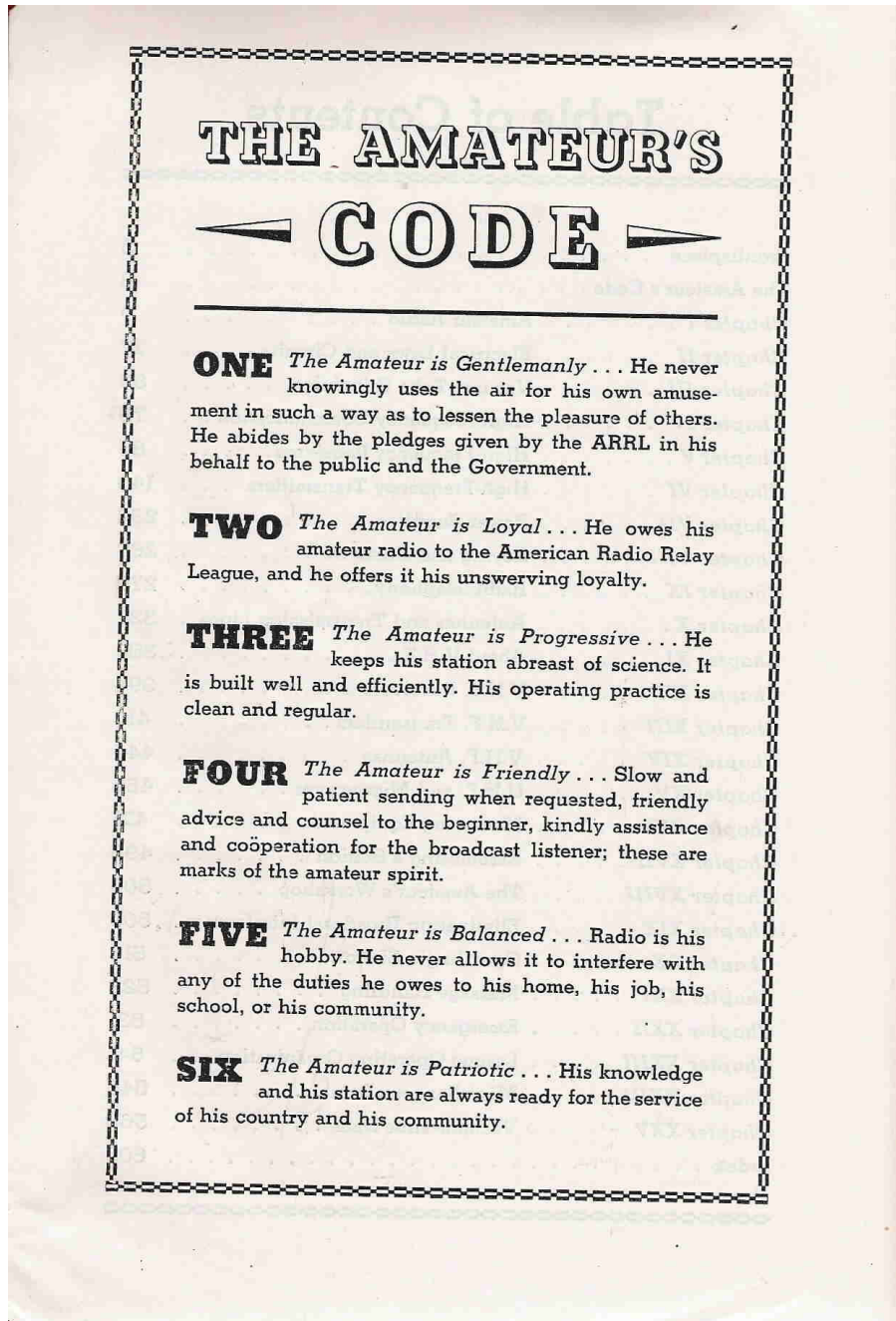
Method 3. Battery power only, with continuous charge

Because we have so many power failures on the Olympic Peninsula and the fact that they usually occur when I'm likely to be operating in emergency mode, I chose to power my station on battery only. To maintain a full charge at all times, I built a rather unique voltage-sensing charger based on a design by Bob Lewis AA4PB and published in the ARRL Emergency Communications Handbook. I described the modifications in the March issue of CCARC-QTC (*A continuous Charger for Lead-acid Storage Batteries.*) I prefer this adaptive charging approach because it maintains a full charge on the battery without overcharging it and the charger is left on-line 24/7 with no hash or switching transients in either transmit or receive mode regardless of operating power or frequency. It's not difficult build and I highly recommend it.

Be careful when handling or connecting storage batteries. Wear protective clothing and safety glasses and to avoid sparking and possible explosion always connect leads to the battery terminals first, and then to the load. To avoid acid spills and collateral damage, place the battery in some type of ventilated container. There are specially designed battery boxes available at automotive and marine supply stores. Keep the battery well away from your operating area, preferably OUTDOORS where hydrogen gas can be vented safely and harmlessly. Mine is housed in a freezer chest on a balcony outside my radio shack. Power is brought into the shack via heavy duty automotive cables through a bakelite panel mounted in a small window opening. Terminals made from 3/8 inch brass running-thread provide feed-through connections and a 100 Amp cutout switch in the

positive lead provides a safety disconnect.

Paul Honore' W6IAM



This copy of the Amateur's Code is taken from the ARRL Handbook 1936 Edition. It was written in 1928 and I remember my Dad, W9NXP (SK) had a copy in his shack to remind him of what amateur radio is all about, especially item four. Let's keep it in mind. Bob, N7KTP