

This OVARC email newsletter is sponsored by the Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club <http://www.tucsonhamradio.org>



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING LOCATION

Ascension Lutheran Church
1220 W Magee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704 (east of LaCanada on Magee)
Third Friday of each month at 7:00 pm except December



From the editor:

One of the things you will notice right away is the addition of a Table of Contents. So at least now you can know which page to jump to if you spot something interesting. A lot of the new formatting results from my editing of the documentation for the Propnet project conceived by Jeff N7YG, one of our club members.

Keep in mind that many of these articles are reporting the solution to a common problem of some kind. Others give operating tips and programming tips. Some are just for fun.

We try to include someones review of a product they have found especially notable. This months review concerns a Yaesu FTM400XD mobile companion to the new Yaesu DR-1X repeaters we are planning for the club.

Where do I get all these articles? A lot of these I get from various reflectors to which I subscribe, with credit given to the subscriber. Others are personal experience. Some come from others wishing to directly contribute, and yet others are reprinted by permission from other newsletters. Most prized are those by club members wishing to contribute.

I am hoping to have two or three club members take responsibility for regular articles, such a net listing, upcoming contests, public service activity schedules, etc. Maybe even a quick description of upcoming speakers and next months raffle prizes.

Please make sure you get any articles (or suggestions for articles you would like to see) to me before the 21st of each month so that I will have time to get them ready for the newsletter.

With that, forward we go into the ether (hey, this is the digital age of Internet, so a lot of electrons are terribly inconvenienced).

Ron Herring W7HD Editor, Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Serving the greater Tucson and southeastern Arizona area

Table of Contents

2015 OFFICERS.....3

2016 BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS.....3

Sunday Night Net.....3

Wednesday night NBEMS net.....4

OVARC REPEATERS.....4

 ANALOG.....4

 DIGITAL.....4

ECHOLINK.....4

Arizona Fusion Repeaters.....5

LINUX TIPS AND TRICK.....7

 PROGRAMMING.....7

 PRINTING.....7

Radio Programming Tips From Bob AF9W.....9

NOTES ON NBEMS CONFIGURATION OF FLDIGI AND FLMSG.....9

WINDOWS 10 TIPS AND TRICKS.....11

 problem with the soundcard going away.....11

 The Trick to running legacy web apps in Windows 10.....11

HUMOROUS TALES.....12

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS AND TRICKS.....12

 headphones to wear over my hearing aids.....12

 subscribe to a reflector.....12

 identify a mystery signal in FLDigi.....13

HOW DOES YOUR GPS MEASURE POSITION?.....13

GET YOUR CODE SPEED WAY UP THERE.....14

 how to progress past mediocre copy speed.....14

 two distinct types of training.....14

 Farnsworth method.....14

 copying ONLY at speeds faster than you can comfortably copy.....14

REVIEW OF THE YAESU FTM-400XD.....15

 many times faster to sync than the older model radio.....15

 vastly improved sensitivity.....16

 editing memories in the FTM-400.....16

STORING AN EMAIL ADDRESS IN GMAIL.....17

hamqth.com.....20

MISCELLANEOUS WEBSITE REFERENCES.....21

=====

2015 OFFICERS :

- Bob Molczan, KA7VPR -- President president@tucsonhamradio.org
- Ron Herring, W7HD -- Vice President vicepresident@tucsonhamradio.org
- Scott Boone, K7ADX -- Treasurer treasurer@tucsonhamradio.org
- Howard Chorost, KC7AC – Secretary secretary@tucsonhamradio.org

Board Members:

- Dave Coccio, N7AKC Gary Schmitz, KT7AZ Steve Wood, W1SR
- Carl Foster, KB7AZ Bob Stephens, AF9W

Nominations for the five vacating board member positions should be sent to ka7vpr@comcast.net. You can nominate yourself or someone you think is deserving. Elections will be held at the January 15, 2016 meeting.

Once the board members are elected, the board members will then decide who will be filling which office. Note that a board member may fill more than one office during their 2-year term.

=====

2016 BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS as of 20-Dec-2015

- Ross Eckert K4WBR • Scott Boone K7ADX
- Hanna Eckert KG7TPD • Lanny Voight KF7LV
- Fred Bresani W2HZ • Gary Pierce AE7GP

=====

Sunday Night Net 19:00 MST OVARC Repeater System

Join the group every Sunday night at 19:00 MST (7:00PM) on the OVARC repeater system for the Sunday Night Net. We also have our Radio Tradio on this net where you can list ham radio items for sale. Everyone is welcome on the net regardless of club affiliation.

We are always looking for Net Control Stations so if you would like to try your hand at being NCS, contact Lanny, KF7LV our Net Manager.

[Net_Manager@tucsonhamradio.org]

Wednesday night NBEMS net

19:30 MST

OVARC Repeater System

Please join us for an exercise in FLDIGI and NBEMS every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm on the Ovarc repeater system. We primarily use 146.620 due to military interference issues on 444.100 and Internet linking issues between 146.620 and the other repeaters.

The next net will be on January 6th 2016, since many of the net members will be out of town during the holidays.

=====

OVARC REPEATERS

OVARC REPEATERS - ANALOG All analog repeaters use 156.7 PL and are linked

- 146.620 - Keystone Peak west of Green Valley
- 147.320 + Catalina Fire District
- 444.100 + Oro Valley PD Main stations
- 447.525 - Marana Town Center (coming soon with a Yaesu DR-1X repeater)

OVARC REPEATERS - DIGITAL (Either club-owned or club-member-owned)

- 445.800 (-5 MHz) Near Naranja and La Canada Drive in Oro Valley
- 445.1375 - North side of Tucson in the Foothills
- 440.7625 + Located near Camino Seco and 22nd St

ECHOLINK node 99946

Repeater map for OVARC Analog Repeaters

<http://mapme.com/ovarc-repeaters?trigger=wizard>

Good Day Everyone!

As you all may know, our repeater technical team has been experimenting with Yaesu System Fusion C4FM over the last few weeks. The intention was to see if the DR-1X repeater system would integrate into our existing linked repeater system, and then provide both Digital and Analog upgrade paths toward replacing our 25 year old repeater gear. The push goes on to decide if making the move to the Yaesu repeater is a wise one, while taking into consideration the deadline for purchasing the Yaesu gear at a greatly reduced price by December 31, 2015.

Please keep in mind that we HAVE NOT made a decision to implement Yaesu C4FM into the OVARC repeater system as of yet. I have received questions from club members as to whether or not to buying into Yaesu System Fusion at this time is a wise decision. We the Board of Directors along with our newly appointed "Repeater Committee Chairman Gary KT7AZ are NOT suggesting that any of you make a decision to purchase Yaesu Fusion gear at this time while basing your decision on the anticipated OVARC move toward adopting the C4FM Digital format. In fact, information brought out at today's Board meeting may suggest that the DR-1X Fusion repeater may NOT serve our purposes due to technical deficiencies in operation and design.

Currently there are a few Fusion repeaters in our area that may be used with C4FM Fusion. We suggest your checking into their coverage to determine if it suits your needs, and warrants your making a Fusion purchase. Please DO NOT make an investment decision in anticipation of OVARC installing these repeaters at this time.

Best regards,
Bob

Bob Mołczan
KA7VPR
PRESIDENT
O.V.A.R.C.

Arizona Fusion Repeaters

YAESU System Fusion:

Frequency	Status	Location	Type	Callsign	DSQ	Analog / Digital	Sponsor/comments
145.170	Active	Bullhead City	Tall bldg	W7GAA	No	Yes / PL-131.6	Dual Mode
146.700	Active	Lake Havasu	Tall Bldg	K7LHC	No	Yes / PL-131.6	London Bridge ARC
440.4000	Active	Surprise	Backyard	AE7JG	no	Yes / PL-98.4	AE7JG Dual mode
441.100	Active	Pinnacle Pk	Hill top	WØNWA	No	PL,RM,IR,EL/103.5	IRLP Node 4243 Echolink Node 228624 Dual Mode
441.200	Active	Sierra Vista	Building	W7DIG	No	Yes / PL-100.0	IRLP Node 3952 WWW.SAZARC.COM
442.4500	Active	Sun City	Backyard	KA7G	no	Yes / PL-91.5	IRLP Node 8383
443.1500	Active	Scottsdale	Tall Bldg	W7MOT	No	Yes / PL-100.0	MARC
444.925	Active	Mt Lemmon	Mtn Top	KB7ZZY	Yes	DSQ 023	Digital/Analog input---Analog output only
145.210	Active	Maricopa	Tower	WY7H	No	Yes/ 162.2	IRLP node 3354 Maricopa Amateur Radio Association Dual Mode
448.0000	Active	White Tnk east peak	Mtn Top	N8NQP	No	Yes / PL-123.0	Wires-X Dual Mode
449.125	Active	Maricopa	Tower	WY7H	No	Yes / 136.5	IRLP node 3354 Maricopa Amateur Radio Association Dual Mode
449.650	Active	Tucson	Hilltop	KB7ZZY	Yes	DSQ 023	Digital/Analog input---Analog output only

<http://www.azrepeaters.net/index.php?n=RepeaterMaps.SystemFusion>

<http://www.azrepeaters.net/index.php?n=Main.Linkswelike>

=====

OVARC National Parks on the Air

Saguaro West National Park

January 1-3, 2016



The club will be activating Saguaro National Park – NP49 as W7AI on January 1-3, 2016 using HF CW, SSB, and digital modes as part of the ARRL National Parks on the Air Program. More information on the National Parks on the Air program can be seen at <https://npota.arrrl.org/index.php>.

The OVARC event planning team (W8TK, K7EAZ, and AF9W) have scouted Saguaro West. There are three picnic areas with tables and ramadas but none with electricity. Park administration does not allow gasoline generators, so we will operate with battery power. There are no trees taller than 10 ft., so we will be antenna-challenged as well. The ramadas can't be reserved, so we plan to arrive early to secure a good spot, and park roads close at sunset, so we will not be staying overnight.

We think the best location is the Ez-Kim-in-Zin picnic area which offers two ramadas with tables and plenty of parking. All of the picnic areas are located on Bajada Loop Drive, which is a dirt road. The road is not in great condition but a high clearance vehicle is not necessary. Check out the park website, which has a good map: <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm> An entrance fee is required to use the park. This can be a daily pass, multi-day pass, or annual pass. Entrance passes can be purchased at the National Park Visitor Center. The entrance fee is for each vehicle. When you sign up via the SignupGenius please indicate whether or not you have a National Park Pass. We'll arrange a carpool to make sure those that don't have a pass can get into the park.

Operations will take place from 800am until 400pm on Jan 1, 2, and 3. Signup will be by 1-hour shift like we do for Field Day. We intend to operate 1 transmitter at a time so we don't need to worry about filters and interference. The operator for each shift will be able to pick the mode and bands they intend to operate. Logging will be via N1MM in DXpedition mode. Lunch will NOT be provided so please plan to bring your own. We will have water at the event but you still might want to consider bringing that also. To sign up for an operating slot please go here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadac2ca2fa7-ovarc>

We will need equipment for this event. Our biggest concern is power. We want to run 100 watts if possible. When signing up for the event, please list equipment you may have that you would be

willing to bring. We need to keep the antenna's low key so we are planning on wire antennas only.

Equipment List

- 100w Radio capable of CW, SSB, and Digital with computer interface for logging
- Radio should have narrow band filters for CW and Digital
- Logging and digital mode computer running N1MM and fldigi with extended battery capability
- Digital interface like Signalink
- Winkeyer with interface
- 12v Deep cycle batteries
- Coax
- Antenna mast
- Wire antenna

The planning committee believes it can source most of this equipment but if an operator would like to bring out their own station to operate that would be fine. If anyone has a solar system for charging batteries that would be cool.

If you have any questions, please send an email to npota@tucsonhamradio.org

=====

LINUX TIPS AND TRICKS

PROGRAMMING

- Looking for a really good book on the Linux command line? It's called The Linux Command Line by William E. Shotts, Jr and is in PDF format and FREE to download. Go to this link to download it.

<http://linuxcommand.org/tlcl.php>

If you prefer a hard copy of this 400+ page book, you can get it at Amazon for \$24.44.

- If you want a well-written book on C and C++ programming, Jamsa's C/C++ Programmers Bible (available on Amazon for \$8.93 used) is an excellent choice, since it gives real-life examples so you can get the work done quickly.
- One other that I relied on for many years is the Waite Group's Turbo C Bible, also available on Amazon used for \$0.99. Written in Nov 1988, it has been my goto for a long time, since it also gives working examples of the code with a superb index.

PRINTING

- The OpenPrinting.org website maintains a database of printers along with recommended printer drivers for them.

<http://www.linuxfoundation.org/collaborate/workgroups/openprinting>

- Another site that describes how to use the windows drivers under Linux is here:

<http://www.enterprisenetworkingplanet.com/windows/article.php/3621876/Push->

[Windows-Printer-Drivers-with-CUPS.htm](#)

Selecting the boot partition on a computer using grub2

- If the menu is displayed during boot, use the up and down arrows to select the boot partition and press ENTER.
- Hold the shift key during boot to enter grub menu if it isn't displayed. On some systems that display the boot menu you may need to use the 'e' key instead to edit the menu entry. This will allow you to modify that particular entry.
- Once in the edit menu, you can press F2 or ctrl-C to get a grub command line. You are on your own from there! That is truly for 'gurus' only. You can run 'sudo grub2-mkconfig' and it will add all operating systems it can find to the boot menu.
- One more - Fedora has a tool called grub-customizer, a graphical tool which must be run as superuser. It is NOT user-friendly.

Ron W7HD

COM Ports Using LINUX/WINE

Bob, WB8ILI

16 December 2015

Following is the procedure I use to enable COM Ports to be accessible from Visual Basic Programs running on a LINUX/Wine system. This procedure applies to my UBUNTU 14.04 (64 bit) system. Other distributions or versions may be different. (Editors Note: Linux Mint does steps 1-4 for you.)

1. Make sure the USB device is plugged into your computer . See comments later regarding "real" COM Ports
2. Go to your Terminal. Enter lsusb. It should be obvious which entry is the USB device.
3. Make a note of the two 4-character hex numbers in the format aaaa:bbbb.
4. In Terminal, enter
 modprobe usbserial vendor=0xaaaa product=0xbbbb
5. In Terminal, make sure you are buffering sufficient lines in the display or the information you are looking for may have scrolled off the top (at least 1000 lines). Enter dmesg. Search through the dmesg output for "ttyUSB". Most likely your USB cable is mapped to "/dev/ttyUSB0" but it could be different. Note the case.
6. In Terminal, enter
 cd ~/.wine/dosdevices
 ln -s /dev/ttyUSB0 ./com4 (assuming you want com4)
7. In Terminal, assuming you are still at ~/.wine/dosdevices, enter
 sudo chown bob com4 (where bob is your userid and com4 is the port)
8. I find it easier to go back to the file manager (Nautilus), and navigate to ~/.wine/dosdevices/ and change the permissions. However, it can be done in the Terminal. In any case, change the permission so you (the owner), groups, and guests have read/write permission and can change anything for com4.
9. In Terminal, navigate to /etc/
 sudo gedit group

22-Dec-2015

Change the dialout line to look like "dialout:x:20:bob" (where bob is your userid)

"Real" COM ports (a motherboard with a COM port)

- 1. Start with Step 4, looking for ttyS (note case). Most likely you will find ttyS0.
- 2. In Step 5 substitute ttyS0 for ttyUSB0
- 3. In Step 6 and 7, substitute com1 for com4

End of Procedure

=====

Radio Programming Tips From Bob AF9W

If you are having trouble programming your BaoFeng using Chirp on Windows 10 here are some tips:

- 1. Go to this website where it tells how to change the Prolific driver to the old version

–
http://www.miklor.com/COM/UV_Drivers.php#install

- 2. Make sure you have the latest version of Chirp. A new version was posted on December 1st, 2015 –

http://trac.chirp.danplanet.com/chirp_daily/LATEST

With these changes I was able to reprogram my UV-5R with my Windows 10 machine.

=====

NOTES ON NBEMS CONFIGURATION OF FLDIGI AND FLMSG

On the wednesday night NBEMS net one of our members was having trouble with copying and displaying the messages being sent. Each time FLMSG opened it acted like it had never been configured. He asked for a copy of my configuration (on Linux) so he could get it right. So I first sent him this information, since there is interaction between the two program configurations:

- FLDIGI:
Config / Misc / NBEMS /
- NBEMS data file interface ENABLE
Reception of flmsg files
Open with flmsg checked
Open in browser checked

- flmsg (Locate flmsg) has the program location filled in
(use the browser for this)
Save / Close
Configuration / Save / Close
- FLMSG:
Config / FLdigi connection / Socket
Sync modem to fldigi checked
Change modem with autosend checked

Thanks to David AC7DS for solving the problem. It turned out to be that the FLMSG config file wasn't being saved in the .nbems folder. Once he fixed that all worked well.

The point of this is DON'T MESS WITH PATH SETTINGS in programs that expect a specific structure to the file system unless you know what the consequences will be. In windows, you will see these folders under your home folder:

- fldigi.files (with lots of folders underneath)
- flrig.files (with the prefs files) and debug_log
- NBEMS.files (with several folders)

Under Linux in your home directory (you have to enable show hidden files to see them) you will find these:

- .fldigi
- .flrig
- .fltk
- .nbems

As you may have noticed, windows uses a prefix a dot and a suffix. Linux uses a dot followed by the folder name. Feel free to explore, but DON'T change anything in there unless you really know what you are doing.

By the way, many of us have switched to either Mac or Linux for one reason - Windows messes with the soundcard settings, especially the enumeration (which card number is associated with which driver). The bottom line - either Mac or Linux is more stable (and faster) than windows. windows 10 has introduced a whole new complexity and

seems to change things with every round of forced updates. The next article below showcases this problem.

The biggest problem in Linux is obtaining drivers for newer printers. Some manufacturers simply do not support Mac or Linux. There is a way around this, but that is the subject of yet another article. (See OpenPrinting.org above for one possible solution.)

Ron W7HD

= = = = =

WINDOWS 10 TIPS AND TRICKS

I noticed in the OVARC newsletter that you had a problem with the soundcard going away while using Rocky. I just discovered that my old Griffin iMic soundcard no longer works with Windows 10 so I have to get a new one. What soundcard were you using that stopped working? I don't want one of those.

Bob AF9W

I fixed it yesterday by deleting it from the usb section of device manager. Then unplugged it, loaded the driver from the manufacturers website and plugged it back in. Windows 10 loaded the correct driver this time and it is working again.

This is a common problem with Windows 10. For some reason, they've never gotten driver detection foolproof (as we've discovered over and over in our Propnet client program). So if you have a plug-in suddenly stop working (especially after a round o f updates), you might try this trick:

You might try unplugging it, going into device manager and locating the Griffin in the USB section (IMPORTANT - not in the sound card section), right-clicking on it and deleting it. Then download the driver from the Griffin website (or whoever makes the soundcard) and installing the driver. If no driver is available, Windows will find something anyway. Then replug it and let Windows load the correct driver.

The one I was using was the DreamBass Genie, which has stereo input and output so it would work with my KX3 I/Q output. It now works great again.

Ron W7HD

The Trick to running legacy web apps in windows 10

Windows 10 users can run web apps that require ActiveX controls but it entails a few tweaks – and foregoing Microsoft Edge.

http://www.techrepublic.com/article/running-legacy-web-apps-in-windows-10/?tag=nl.e101&s_cid=e101&ttag=e101&ftag=TRE684d531

=====

HUMOROUS TALES

Listening to some of the guys on the nets tell about traveling experiences reminded me of a hilarious incident when I lived in Oregon. We used to take the 3 kids (Brian, Sean, and Shannon) to a different place in Oregon at least once a month.

On one trip we were on the way back home from visiting yet another place in Oregon. I happened to glance in the rear-view mirror and saw Shannon crying great big alligator tears. Keep in mind that Shannon's favorite candy was a Hershey bar. But she wasn't eating it!

I asked her what was wrong? She said, "Sean said my Hershey bar had molecules in it!" Sean's response was "Well it does.". I had to pull over and stop because I was laughing so hard.

Keep in mind that Sean AF7LP was a certified genius and was prone to read encyclopedias for enjoyment (and now at 47 has geniuses of his own). His daughter (Brianna) has absolutely no fear and is a perfect female copy of her father. My wife tells him, "What goes around comes around." :-)

Ron W7HD

=====

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS AND TRICKS

Q. I need a pair of headphones to wear over my hearing aids for use with my KX3.

A. I use the Bose OE2 (on-ear). These don't require batteries, give plenty of volume, and are comfortable for long periods. I frequently wear them right over my in-ear buds that are used for phone conversations, so they should work well with your hearing aid. They run about \$100, but are well worth it, especially if you want maximum sound quality. Check at Costco if you have an account there. Amazon also carries them. Best Buy usually also has them in stock, but is NOT always the best price. Ron W7HD

Q. How do I find better instructions for using my radio?

A. You need to subscribe to a reflector for that product. For example, both Google and Yahoo have reflectors for just about every product out there. Simply do a search for "reflector lists" or similar to locate them. For example, I searched for "amateur radio reflectors" and got this partial list:

- <http://www.ac6v.com/mail.htm>
- <http://hamradio.ad1c.us/links.htm> List of lists
- <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo> All the public mailing lists on mailman.qth.net
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/1000MPMarkV/>
- <http://www.orcadxcc.org/reflectors.html>

Q. How do I identify a mystery signal in FLDigi?

A. For help in identifying other modes, see:

- <http://www.nonstopsystems.com/radio/radio-sounds.html>
- <http://www.iz4czl.ucoz.com/index/111/0-36>
- <http://kb9ukd.com/digital/>
- http://www.w2sjw.com/radio_sounds.html
- http://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Signal_Identification_Guide?PageSpeed=noscript

=====

HOW DOES YOUR GPS MEASURE POSITION?

This became a real issue during a recent public service event (Arizona Vail Trail Run) that I worked. All of the maps and instructions gave the locations in decimal degrees. However, my Yaesu FTM-350 GPS insisted that it should be displayed in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

Reading the Yaesu manual was an exercise in frustration. Finally, I manually converted the locations into d-m-s units and marked them on the documentation.

This worked great until I got to my location for the Arizona Vail Trail Run, according to my GPS, and found no one there! It turns out the GPS coordinates were close, but not exact enough. I needed to be about 500 yards further south and just over the hill on this dirt road which made a goat path look good.

When I found the true position, there was no place to park (there is vegetation right next to the road), so I had to drive down a ways, turn around and come back to a spot that offered enough room to get most of my truck out of the drive path with Scott K7ADX assisting.

In spite of all the initial frustration the event went very well and was a joy to work. Now that I know how to find the place, I will volunteer to do the same spot with Scott next year :-)

Later that day, I went back and re-read the GPS instructions for the FTM-350. Still no clue how to do make it display decimal degrees. Found several websites that claimed to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the FTM-350 GPS. None of them offered any clues, either.

Ron W7HD

= = = = =

GET YOUR CODE SPEED WAY UP THERE

Reprinted with permission from a post by Robert Harmon on the Elecraft reflector

We are not discussing entry level code learning. We are discussing increasing your code speed on receive. And speed is vitally important ! K7QQ is not the only one that can copy high speed CW (he is well over 100 wpm), there are many of us out here. Transitioning to higher speed copy can be done through systematic and regular exercise. I have been a CW operator for over 40 years and it wasn't until fairly late in the game that I accepted the advice from several high speed ops on how to progress past mediocre copy speed. (I will share this below)

First we need to realize there are two distinct types of training for CW. The first is developing your rote memorization skills for learning the characters. I recommend the Farnsworth method for this. With Farnsworth the characters are sent faster than the words. For instance at 10 wpm each character is sent at 20 wpm but enough time is added to slow down the rate to 10 wpm. The ARRL adopted this method years ago for their morse code training materials and the W1AW morse transmissions. For example when W1AW is sending at 18 wpm the characters are sent at 20 wpm.

Now to increase your speed you need to approach your training differently. (which is the subject of Roberts original post). There are different variations of the training used to increase your speed but they all have a common denominator. They all in some form or another introduce copying at a faster speed (go figure).

Here is what I found to be most effective method for me I learned from other ops. Its great to spend time in the saddle copying QSO's in which your current copying speed will allow, but to really increase your copying speed you need to spend some time exercising your copying abilities each day by practice copying ONLY at speeds faster than you can comfortably copy. You won't increase your copying speed by always copying at the same comfortable speeds. Practice at a speed where you are only able to copy one or two characters in each word. Concentrate !! Do this for only 10 minutes each day. If you are really concentrating you will find 10 minutes is about when you are ready to throw in the towel for the day anyway. Later on after you find you are able to copy about half of the overall text then increase the speed back to where you can only copy one or two characters in each word. (This isn't supposed to be easy this is a training exercise.)

Try this only ten minutes a day and see what happens ! Also this needs to be practiced regularly, every day and if you miss a day, no worries, jump back in. Many hams never improve their speed and are content when they reach around 20 wpm max. In many chasing DX and contest operating CW activities it gives you an big advantage to be able to operate at higher speeds. We have all heard the high speed ops during a contest and marvel at how fast their contacts go by. It is great to be able to match their speed and grab a contact ! Its not that difficult folks, just 10 minutes a day of concentrated practice. As you are gaining your speed don't get frustrated over losing a word or words when you are in a CW QSO and losing the intelligibility of the conversation, that happens to all of us and will be remedied when you copying speed is increased.

Lastly, you will with practice, increase your "comfortable" copy speed to upwards of 30 to 35 wpm and more. You will be able to really enjoy morse as a language. You will sit there and listen to sentences and paragraphs go by in your head with complete understanding. It is very enjoyable !

73,
Bob
K6UJ

[Editors note: When operating a CW contest I have noted that my copy speed increases to around 25-30 wpm within a couple of hours of operating.]

= = = = =

REVIEW OF THE YAESU FTM-400XD

From a post by WA7LZO on the Yahoo Fusion reflector

I fired up my new FTM-400XD yesterday afternoon, and have been playing with it since then. Loaded the codeplug (via RTS) from my FTM-400DR into the XD radio. I did extensive A/B comparisons tests between the old and new models, and here's my summary and conclusion:

1. The new GPS is, by far-and-away, noticeably many times faster to sync than the older model radio. When I saw the satellite icon lit solid on the CH, and then checked on the number of birds in view, I was literally shocked at the speed to acquire. I could not believe it could acquire a lock so fast.



2. Perhaps even more impressive with the new GPS is its vastly improved sensitivity! With both units (FTM-400DR and FTM-400XD) side-by-side in my shack, inside my house in a room with no windows, it was no surprise to me that my DR was never able to lock, until it was outside in my vehicle, with a view of the birds up through the front windshield. However, inside my house, in the same room, with the XD's new GPS, it was able to rapidly lock, with 5 or 6 birds in good acquisition. It is obviously a tremendous amount more sensitive. The original 400 works OK in the car, as its CH is pointed up at the front windshield, although its sensitivity always seemed to be similar to my ID-5100, which is quite poor for a modern GPS receiver. The new 400 is probably the most sensitive GPS unit I have used.

Bottom-line: While I don't know if there are any other improvements with the new 400XD model over the 400DR, I've read rumors about the XD's PA deck having been improved to provide a more robust reliability capability, but who knows.

Of course, with the huge dealer sales currently underway with the 400DR, some hams may opt to save a bundle, and go with that fine unit, which would definitely be a good choice. Especially for those hams who may not be interested in APRS, so therefore really have little or no need for GPS. But, if you are into APRS, the new XD is The Bomb, for sure.

Granted, my remarks are merely anecdotal, from my personal perspective, but all I can say is, whatever Yaesu did to improve the GPS receiver module in the XD, it is soooooo sweet!

IMHO, JM2C, and YMMV!

73 and Merry Christmas to all Fusion Fans! Larry WA7LZO/WR7DV

[Additional info on editing memories in the FTM-400]

John, simplest way [to edit memories] is to put a microSD card in the FTM-400 and do a Backup to the microSD card. You can do that with multiple cards. Mark one as the Original or Home and put it aside for a restore copy later.

Take one of the other Backup cards you just created. Read the SD card using your PC and the programming software, edit frequencies as Andrew suggested for a different location or any other settings you want different. Write the changes back to that same Backup card. Do not change the file name on the SD card!

When finished ... Do place it in a storage container with markings to indicate it has been changed or the locale where it is planned for use. Do that multiple times and make as many different cards as you desire.

When you want your radio to contain those differences.:

Turn the radio off, extract any current SD card, and replace it with one that has been changed.

Turn the radio on go to the Setup Menu and select the SD Card menu. Select Backup and do a read from SD to radio.

When it resets you will have the modified data installed. You will still have the original backup SD card that had been put aside. Restore it for later use.

Hope that helped. Larry - N7FM

[Editors note: The current price for the FTM-400XD is about \$540 after a \$100 rebate from HRO. The FTM-400DR is \$400 after rebate.]

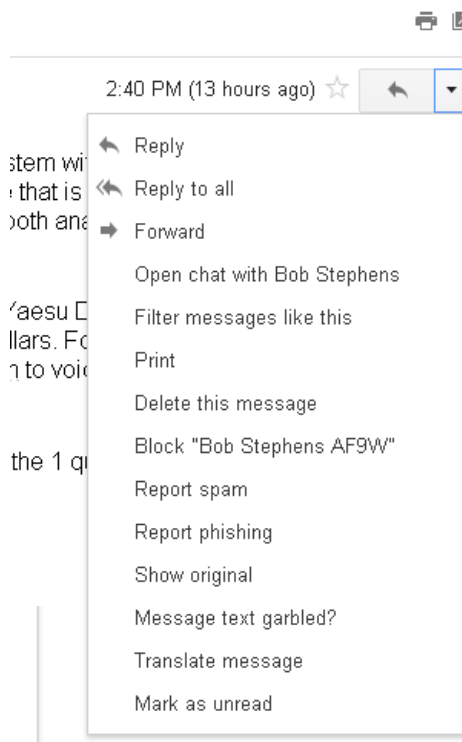
=====

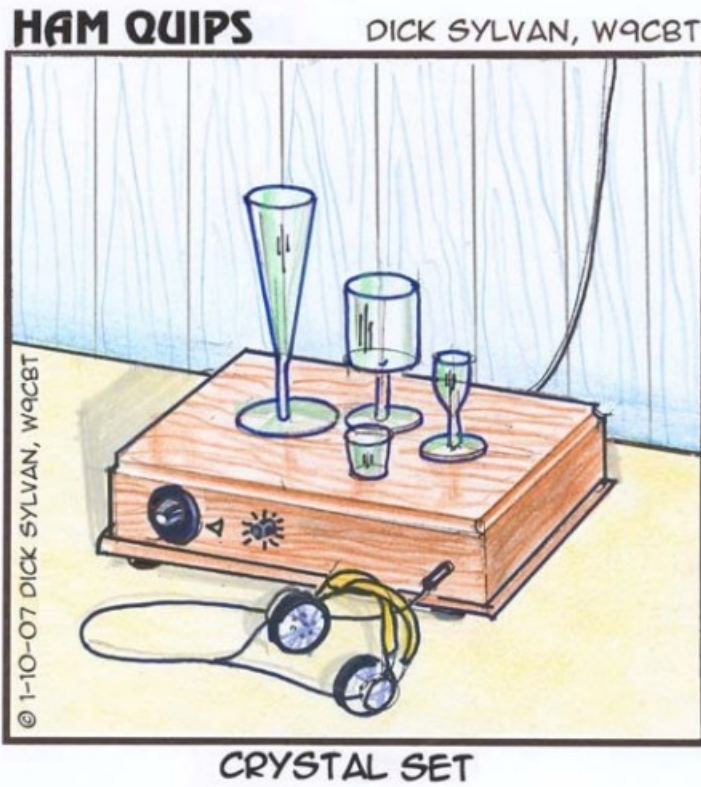
STORING AN EMAIL ADDRESS IN GMAIL

With the email displayed, you would click on the drop-down arrow on the right just past the date/time of the message. When you just hover the mouse over that drop-down it will show "MORE". So now you can select any of these options. However you will not see the Add to contacts if you already have that person in your contacts list. If you don't have them in your contacts list, then between Print and Delete will appear the Add to contacts.

So the big secret is the drop-down boxes for many of these context-sensitive menus.

- Add Pushbullet to Contacts list
- Delete this message
- Block "Pushbullet"





Reprinted with permission

From NAQCC newsletter Dec 2015

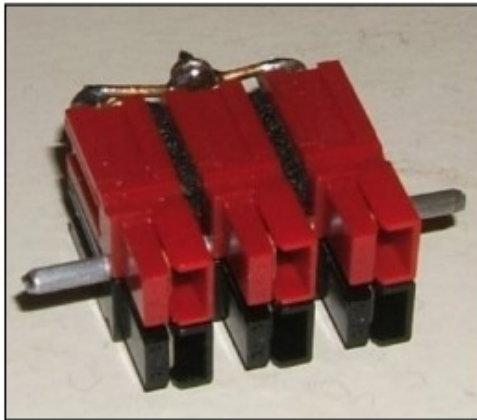
MAKE YOUR OWN POWERPOLE DISTRIBUTION STRIP

by John K3WWP

I mentioned in the chapter news purchasing some power pole connectors at the Washington PA hamfest. Here's what I did with three of them. I made up a little three way connector for portable work so I could plug the battery into one, the KX3 into another, and the PX3 into the remaining one. A simple way to connect three things together through these marvelous power pole connectors. Here are a couple pictures describing how I did it.



22-Dec-2015



The rod (from a coat hanger) through the three is what is holding them together. I also put a spacer between the connectors so they wouldn't be jammed so tightly together. Then I simply covered the solder joints with some card stock and labelled it with my call. I also cut off the projecting rod ends after the picture was taken.

If soldering the powerpole inserts, it is necessary to be careful the solder does not flow onto the contacts or the outside of the little barrel that holds the wire. The easiest way to do that is to stand the wire up, pop on the connector and heat it, feeding the solder in from the bottom and letting it wick up into the barrel. We did that using a couple holes in a board as you see here:



The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has almost 8000 members throughout the world. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

Club President Paul Huff, N8XMS
 9928 Eckles
 Livonia, MI 48150
 USA



For more information, go to the main NAQCC website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>

=====

<https://www.hamqth.com/>



1,501,877 callsigns in database | About | News | Forum | DX Cluster | Login | 22 Dec 2015 | 12:35 UTC

If you use FLdigi you are probably familiar with the free call lookup from hamqth.com. If not, you'll want to bookmark it! It's fast, free, and provides the address, as well as much more.

Did I mention it's free?

MISCELLANEOUS WEBSITE REFERENCES

https://www.yaesu.com/jp/en/wires-x/id/active_node.php	Wires-X node list
http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/HF_Systems	Australian Bureau of Meteorology Space weather services for Global HF conditions
http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/HF_Systems/6/6	Charts show which frequency to use for contact with a station from a mobile
http://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html	Near real-time propagation from over 800 monitoring stations
http://w7hd.net/nbems/index.htm	NBEMS settings as used by OVARC
http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/ramsdis/online/goes-west_goes-east.asp	GOES-West / GOES-East satellite weather views 5-hour loops in various resolutions
http://propnet.org/ http://sourceforge.net/projects/propnetpsk	Real-time propagation program by N7YG, an OVARC club member
http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter_current.pdf	QRP nets, construction articles, and news
http://www.amsat.org/	AMSAT main website for satellite communication
http://www.n7yg.com/Router_Hash.html	How Jeff N7YG eliminated router hash
http://w5dxs.tripod.com/propagation.htm	Propagation explained for the rest of us
http://www.techwholesale.com/history-of-the-radio.html	A nice history of radio from Joy McMachon of Apple Creek HS
http://www.spamgourmet.com/index.pl	Free disposable email addresses
http://www.redcort.com/us-federal-bank-holidays	Current federal bank holiday lists
http://ka7fvv.home.comcast.net/~ka7fvv/satellite.htm	Up to date satellite status and information
http://qthlocator.free.fr/index.php	Find your QTH grid square
http://w7hd.ddns.info/fldigipix/index.htm	FLDigi configuration in pictures
https://www.raspberrypi.org/blog/	Official Raspberry Pi Blog

=====

Permission is hereby granted to use any or all of this newsletter freely. Please acknowledge your source, though. Something like this is encouraged:

Reprinted by permission of the Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club (OVARC)

Feel free to email me at newsletter@tucsonhamradio.org

Please note that all articles submitted may be edited for spelling mistakes. My document program does automatic spell checking (LibreOffice Writer).



Ron Herring W7HD

Newsletter Editor

Tucson, Arizona

===== END NEWSLETTER =====