



Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

Skyview Swap and Shop Was a Success

We were blessed with a nice clear August day for our small, casual, friendly Swap & Shop event. It was warm but not hot. Ideal weather. We were near capacity with the vendors and tailgaters using 37 spots. 230 non-members visited us at some point during the day. Twelve of them took advantage of our One-Day Only Membership Special and applied for Skyview membership.

An untold number of members came out and supported the event. We do not have any real count of the members who were on site because of the advance entrance tickets that we ask each member to purchase (by the way, while not 100% responded to that request, I am pleased to see more and more of you are doing so each year). During the event, all positions were staffed with a mixture of seasoned members and new members. We could not utilize all of the members who came out to offer their support during the event, but we were glad to have you there if someone doing a job needed spelled off. And, you served a valuable purpose by being an on-site Skyview Ambassador. There was enough member support to make the setup and tear down both go quite quickly.

Everyone who did one of the jobs did a great job. A special thanks go to the members who worked the kitchen. They were nudged into making a vey fast transition from serving Breakfast to serving Lunch. There were just too many hungry people to give them the break that they needed. And kudos go to the crews that got the vendors and tailgaters shoehorned into spots on our hillside and found room for all of our visitors to park. Of course all of the ticket sellers were kept busy, and the announcements kept everyone informed throughout the day. And of course thanks to John - WA3KFS who found all of the prizes and managed all of the details.

We had two great presentations, one on digital voice modes, and one on Summits On The Air. And the tables under the large tent provided a nice place to eat or relax.



I am not going to attempt to compete with the club web site and the club Facebook page as far as pictures go. So, take a trip over to each of them to see the event pictures (links below).

Jody - K3JZD

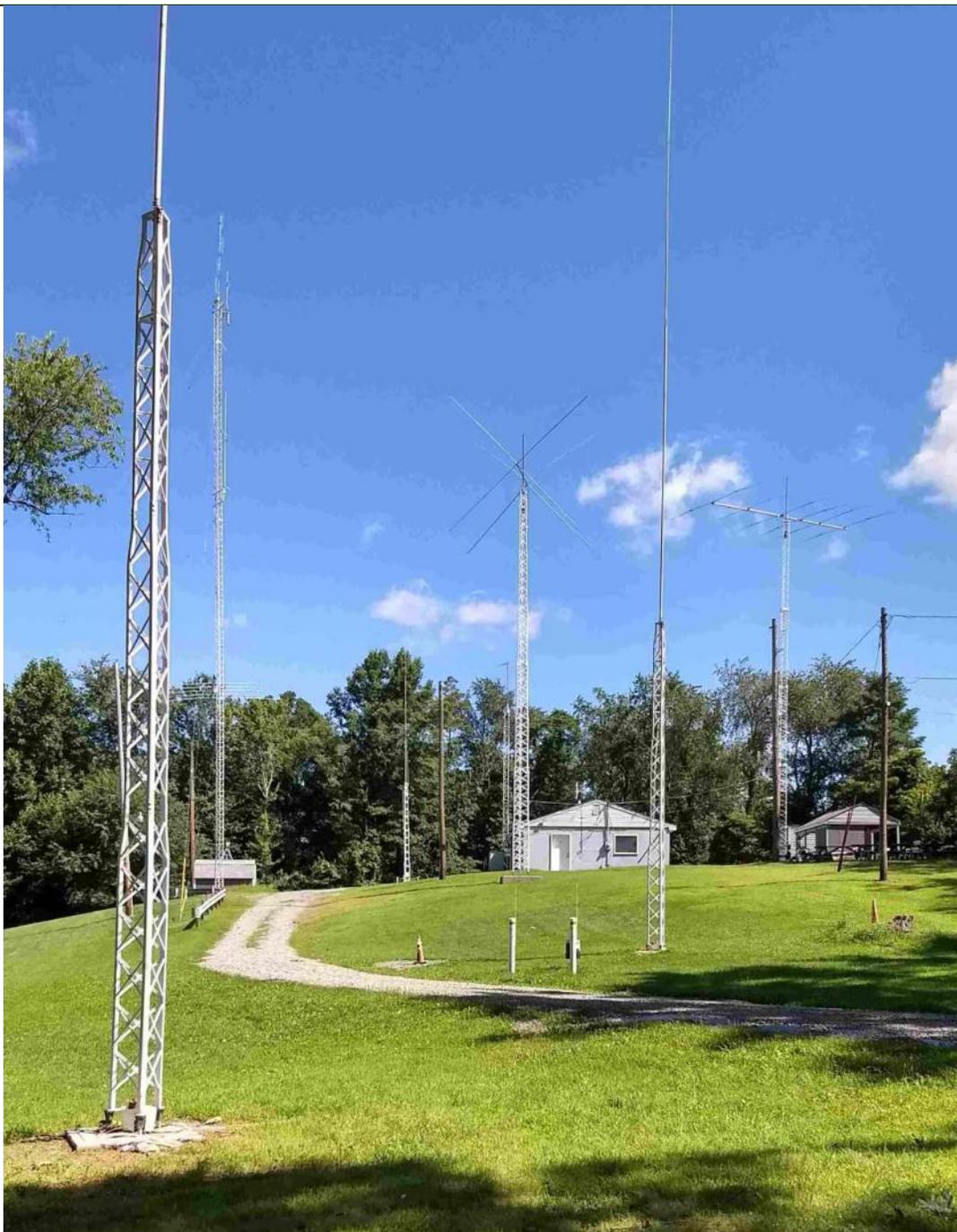
October 1, 2019

- FirstNet Progress
- PA QSO Party in October
- SOTA Accomplishment
- 88, Code For Love and Kisses
- Handheld Cell Phones: GOOD ??
- Space Weather
- And More

Sunspots?
I don't need no stinking Sunspots.
I have 40 meters and 80 Meters.

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The Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse is the “Every Tuesday Place” . . .

Something is going on at ‘the joint’ each and every Tuesday evening, from about 1900 hours to whenever.

See the general schedule of Tuesday events on the Skyview Web Page: <http://www.skyviewradio.net>

For the latest up-to-date plan, check the Groups.io Reflector at : <https://groups.io/g/K3MJW>

Directions are on: <http://www.skyviewradio.net>

Guests are always welcome !!

From the Editor

Well, with this newsletter, we are getting into the part of the year that few of us are fond of. We hardy Pennsylvanians tough it out for 6-8 months of weather that keeps us indoors a lot.

However, not having to deal with outside chores, other than a bit of snow once in a while, is not really that bad for we hams as we usually have a little more time to enjoy our hobby.

It also gives you more time to 'give back' by sharing your stories and expertise with others. This newsletter is but one of the ways of doing that. The Skyview FaceBook page and K3MJW Group.io are other ways of doing that. Since this newsletter is only published every 2 months, it is not the best place for timely stuff. However, it is quite suitable for stuff with lots of text and lots of pictures and/or diagrams.

So, next time you have an inspiration to tell the story of something that you did, something that you built, something that you discovered while using your particular radio, something that you discovered while operating, a neat portable operation, or whatever, consider writing it up and sending to me.

Jody - K3JZD

From the Treasurer

I was very pleased to see the great response from the mailing that John - WA3KFS made requesting that each member purchase three Swap & Shop attendance tickets in advance. While not 100% of you responded, I think that we may have hit a new high in responses this year. If you did respond, Thank You. If you did not get around to it, please try harder next year. While we have been blessed with good weather the last few years, if we should have a rainout, that may be the only real income that we have to cover our costs for food, etc.

And, not really a financial matter, I appreciate all of you who came out to the Swap & Shop and volunteered to do a job. Thinking about it, we really do not have that many jobs, and some of the seasoned members like to do the same jobs every year. But, we would be a lot wiser if we mixed some new folks in to assist them and learn the ropes. We could have used a few more people helping to get the visitors parked tightly so we did not run out of room. Another couple of people selling the admission tickets would not have hurt. And the kitchen crew might have benefited from having an additional person managing the order queue. Everyone doing a job really needs a break once in a while, so I think that having other people trained and ready to spell them off would be good.

Jody - K3JZD

Newbee Question of the week :

“With the US still on the Imperial System of Measurement, how does the 70cm Band work so well?”

Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

From the Center Seat

de Bill - N3NMC

WHY HAM RADIO IS SUCH A GREAT HOBBY

Recently with all the storms along the east coast I have been monitoring the nets and am so impressed and proud of the way Amateur Radio has been in the forefront of providing communications to help with these disasters.

But all I have to do is look no farther than the Skyview Amateur Radio Society. With our membership now at 128, it is amazing the amount of expertise we have in our club.

Recently we had members putting in an antenna base, tear down and remove the old storage building and get the new parking area up and running. Thanks to Cookie, Joe, Marty, Matt, and all the other members who helped with these projects.

We have a great VE team led by AG3U. The team has conducted numerous VE sessions and we conducted a Technician Class with a VE session following. Hats off to the VE team.

Thanks also to the many hams who have donated money and equipment to the club (Thanks Jody JZD, The Captain HPM, and Tom TLN) and the other members who also donated equipment, money and/or their time. It is much appreciated.

Congrats to John WA3KFS and all the Skyview members who helped to pull off this year's Swap and Shop. It was a great event as usual and very well attended. Many people said they love this event because it is outdoors and is always great food.

When the call comes out for public service events, Skyview members respond in droves. If you go to any public event from the Marathon to Vintage Grand Prix, Skyview will be there.

Special thanks to Jim KQ3S for organizing the POTA trip and the Founders Day Special Event station. These are both fun activities so please get involved.



We are now in the Fall/Winter Contest Season. We operate contests from the club and many members are involved at their home QTH. Contests are a good way to learn about operating procedures (and ways to not operate) and also will give you a chance to make new contacts for different awards.

Don't be afraid to come up and help operate a contest from the "Joint". There are many members who will help you to "Learn the Ropes" of contesting and you can also sit outside and enjoy one of " Tall Guys" fires while you are there and enjoy the food that is part of these events .

And lastly again thanks to all Skyview members who helped with all the various events this year.

73 de Bill N3WMC

SWOP 'N SHOP 2019

de John - WA3KFS

The Skyview 2019 hamfest is now in the history books. I would like to thank everyone that helped and supported the event. As you well know, it takes many hands to pull this fund raising event off.

The set-up on Saturday went very well. Many members had showed up well before the 9:00 A.M. meeting time, and had much of the heavy lifting already (those old yellow wooden tables) completed. I could not have asked for any better group of hard working hams.

On Sunday morning, the weather was great for a hamfest. As I arrived at the club at 6:00 A.M., there were several members already getting things in shape up. We were quickly set up for business. It was cool and damp, but the morning sun quickly warmed things up.

Fortunately, Skyview has the most loyal hamfest followers. The paid attendance (approx. 250) and gross dollars received were once again above average.

The excellent co-operation of the membership helps make this event a pleasurable experience. Again, I would like to thank everyone that helped make this hamfest a success.

John Italiano

WA3KFS

Skyview Hamfest Chairman

Here are the lucky winners of the prizes:

Door Prizes:

8:30 AM Custom Callsign Mug by AC0KK:

Ken Powell KG4LLQ

9:00 AM ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate:

Jim Shuey W3IU

10:00 AM ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate:

D. A. Henry W3FE

11:00 AM ARRL \$50 Gift Certificate:

Bob Yusko KB3OMB

Main Prizes:

PEET Bros. Weather Station :

Rich Spiek N3JLR

DX Engineering \$100 Gift Certificate:

K3BRZ (Breezeshooters) Claimed by Kathy KB3OYS (Breezeshooter Director)

DX Engineering \$100 Gift Certificate:

Ralph Bliss KB3LBB

N3FJP Logging Software:

Nate Firestone W3SVJ

Dual Band J-Pole built Rock Solid by Art WA3BKD:

Nate Firestone W3SVJ

You read that correct... Nate won two prizes

(It Pays to Play)

Begali Nickel Plated Pearl Iambic Paddles:

Cory Sickles WA3UVV

[Following is a letter that I wrote to the chairman of the Somerset ARC Hamfest. -TLN]

July 30, 2019

Hello Stewart;

A little Somerset County Amateur Radio Club story from your hamfest first place prize winner.

I'm Tom Nagy, W3TLN, from Butler County and a Skyview Radio Society member.

My wife and I spent 14 winters in Florida. There we met Bill K3JQO and Lou N3BLY Casteel from Trent Rd, Rockwood. Bill was a long ago SCARC member. Even though I have been involved with amateur radio since 1959 I was never licensed for one reason or another. One morning I was reading the morning newspaper and saw that the Florida Citrus ARC was having a two Saturday Technician class. I told my wife that I was going to attend. I also told Bill Casteel and he was very encouraging. Well I passed and Bill loaned me a Yaesu H-T.

Bill, Lou, my wife and I would go out to dinner often in FL. Bill was getting up in years plus we enjoyed their company. Also we wanted to make certain they were eating well as their daughter was concerned with them being in FL alone. Occasionally back in Pennsylvania, we would drive to Somerset, visit Bill and Lou and take them out for dinner.

Amateur radio was often the topic of conversation between Bill and I. Bill was also an accomplished artist and we would often paint together in FL. Bill had many interesting hobbies and was very, very interesting.

Bill and his wife were in their late 80's and their daughter, KA3FSR, from Mercersburg bought them a home next to hers in Mercersburg. They lived there for a few years and Lou past away in 2015.

I stayed in touch with Bill via Facebook. A couple months ago I saw on Facebook that it was Bill's birthday. I sent him a note wishing him Happy Birthday. After doing a quick Google I discovered Bill had passed away December 21, 2018. I was shocked and quickly took down my Facebook Happy Birthday wish to him. I'll place Bill's obituary at the bottom of this letter.

Now, finally, to the point of this note to you and the Somerset County Amateur Radio Club. I was the winner of the Yaesu FT-891 at the hamfest as I mentioned. After leaving the hamfest my wife and I were chatting and she said Bill, being a long time SCARC member, must have been looking down on me and had something to do with me being the lucky first place prize winner. That got my attention and is still running through my thoughts.

Additionally, in 2012 when I became licensed in FL I put Echolink on my computer. My first contact as an amateur was though Echolink to a SCARC member, Unfortunately, I can't recall his call or name but I think he was from the Jennerstown area. He was very cordial and encouraging.

These are just my rambling thoughts and I thought your club may be interested in this story. Feel free to read this letter at your meeting and/or use it in your newsletter.

Thanks to all your club members for putting on a very nice hamfest at a very nice venue.

Attached to this email are 2 photos of Bill doing two of his many hobbies.

73,

Tom Nagy, W3TLN

Bill Casteel - K3JQO (SK)



William L (“Bill”) Casteel, 91, formerly of Terra Alta, WV and Somerset, PA left his mortal body on Dec. 21, 2018, at Penn Hall Nursing center in Chambersburg, PA. The winter solstice, a full moon, a Christmas comet, and the Perseid meteor shower all heralded his passing and would have pleased him immensely.

A naval veteran of World War II, he served in the Pacific Theater and survived a ship sinking at Buckner Bay, Okinawa during Typhoon Louise in October, 1945. He was one of the first Americans to visit Nagasaki after the war and appreciated the importance of our precious alliances to help preserve world peace.

Bill retired from Penelec in 1989. He was a highly creative individual with boundless curiosity, an engaging personality, and myriad achievements. He was well known among local artists, ham radio operators, history buffs, gun makers and marksmen. Some will remember his letters to the editor of the Somerset Daily American, which were frequent, forthright, and fiercely independent. Bill was at home in the woods or at the beach and was a natural musician with excellent pitch and a beautiful tenor voice. He enjoyed vast genres of music and taught himself to play many instruments. He also produced a remarkable collection of oil and acrylic paintings and a trove of distinctive watercolors.

Bill was preceded in death by Eleanor Luthera (“Lou”) Casteel, his wife of 66 years. He is survived by a son, William Benson (“Ben”) Casteel of Tallahassee, FL and two daughters: Kay Casteel (m. Neil Coleman) of Mercersburg, PA and Carol Capps (m. William Capps) of Pittsburgh, PA. His grandchildren (Ashley Capps & James Capps, both of Pittsburgh; and Fiona Coleman of North Wales, PA) will remember him as a fount of information, a source of inspiration, a teller of many (often humorous) stories, and a man who loved them all dearly.

A memorial service is planned for 2:30pm, January 5th, 2019, at Penn Hall Chapel (now called Chambers Pointe) in Chambersburg, PA. As a Navy veteran, Bill requested that his ashes and those of his wife be buried at sea during a military service.

Adapt to This As You Get Off Of The Interstate



AT&T Updates On FirstNet Buildout

Aug. 12, 2019 <https://seekingalpha.com/news/>

AT&T has issued an update on its FirstNet public safety network buildout at the annual conference of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.

The company says it's drawn nearly 9,000 public safety agencies as FirstNet subscribers, accounting for more than 750,000 connections.

It also points to recognition as the fastest network experience for public safety clients.

FirstNet's Band 14 spectrum has been deployed in nearly 650 markets to date, and coverage completion for Band 14 is ahead of schedule at 65%.

There are more than 75 FirstNet Ready devices available.

ED : FirstNet is the government sponsored high reliability communications network for use during disasters..

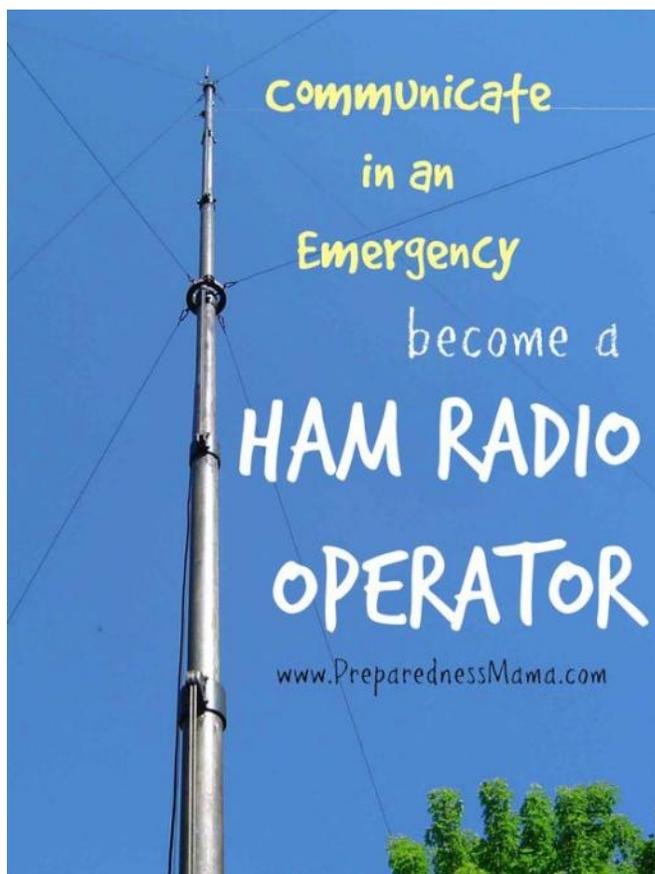
Pennsylvania QSO Party – October 12-13

The 2019 Pennsylvania QSO Party will be held on October 12th and 13th. The bonus station will be K3SMT, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Somerset Amateur Radio Club.

Please visit <http://paqso.org> for Party information.

Space Weather News for Sep. 25, 2019

A SUMMER WITHOUT SUNSPOTS: The sun is undergoing a remarkable period of spotlessness. During northern summer 2019, the face of the sun was blank (no sunspots) more than 89% of the time. This marks it as one of the deepest Solar Minima in a century. Interestingly, the summer of 2019 also brought a sign that Solar Minimum is coming to an end. Visit Spaceweather.com (<https://spaceweather.com>) for the full story.



Summits On The Air (SOTA)

de Jody - K3JZD

I have not published much about SOTA lately. My current situation at home has prevented me from getting out to any summits this year. Maybe some of you sat in on the presentation that Richard -N2GBR gave at the Swap & Shop.

For those of you who not have heard of SOTA, you can get info here: <https://www.sota.org.uk/>

In a nutshell, some folks climb up to the top of a summit (aka mountain), set up a portable station, and make contacts. Other folks remain in the comfort of their climate controlled homes and make contacts with those on the summits.

To keep it interesting the “Activators” get points for going out, climbing the mountain, and doing the Activation. And the “Chasers” will get points for contacting these Activators. Activators will also get “Summit to Summit” (S2S) points for contacting other Activators who are out on their Summits.

There are some nuances, but essentially each of the eligible “Summits” have been assigned a point value between 1 and 10, based on the elevation of the Summit. The Activators and the Chasers both use these assigned points to accumulate their totals.

Whenever a Chaser accumulates 1000 Points, he is known as a “SOTA Shack Sloth”. Whenever an Activator accumulates 1000 Points, he is known as a “SOTA Mountain Goat”. It is far easier to become a Shack Sloth than it is to become a Mountain Goat.

What prompted me to write this article, was this story that just appeared on the North American SOTA Reflector.

KX0R Reaches 5X Mountain Goat!

Carey (KX0R) just passed the 5X MG level here in Colorado. Only five activators in NA have managed to do that. However, that’s only part of his story. To put things in perspective here are some of his stats:

- **1105 summits activated**
- **43,609 total activation QSO’s**
- **3032 Summit to Summit contacts made**
- **7944 contacts made as a chaser**

Chasers always have a reasonable chance of working Carey (AKA George on CW) as he is usually QRV for a few hours and operates on many bands. He’s made an amazing number of contacts activating summits! Carey is also a very active Chaser when he’s not climbing mountains.

Congratulations on your awesome achievement OM and I know you’ll be active for many many years to come!

73. Brad WA6MM

A “5X Mountain Goat” has obtained 5000 Activator Points. And he does it in the Rocky Mountains.

I have George in my log many, many times—both from Chasing him from home as well as Summit to Summit. I like to Chase him using 5 watts, the same power that he is using whenever he is on a Summit. It is a rare day when I cannot complete a QSO with him.

Lookup KX0R on QRZ.com — he has quite a story to tell. That is the kind of web page that you want to point someone who is considering ham radio to.

Jody — K3JZD

Contesting For The Little Pistol

de Bill - N3WMC

I thought I would share my thoughts on contesting as a "Little Pistol " station. I have been operating contests since I became a ham. I love the challenge of making as many contacts as I can and try to better my score each year by using my own equipment. I am not a expert, don't have the antenna system we have at the "Joint" or what Tim has at the K3LR superstation. But I still enjoy myself with my little 100W station.

I also enjoy going to the club and the times we have gone to K3LR to operate K2M. To get started we have many good testers at K3MJW. Seek them out, they will be more than happy to help you with any questions you may have. Go to the Contest University page <https://www.contestuniversity.com> They have numerous videos and PDF files of experts who have given talks at CTU about contesting.

As for my little pistol station I am pretty happy with the results I get each year. I work SSB, RTTY and CW contests. So now let me give you a brief overview of what I did when I set up my station.

(1.) A few years ago I re-worked my station. I have a Vertical from Zero Five that will work 40m-10M and a end fed from My End Fed Antennas that will work 80m-10M. Do I wish I had a Tower beam and amplifier, of course I do but it is not in the cards. I have learned from experience which hours and band conditions work best for my situation. I change goals every year and even during the contest.

(2.) I made sure to put a good ground system in with polyphasers for surge protection. Ward Silver NOAX has a excellent book on grounding and bonding. You will also find his presentations on Video and PDF from the Contest University Web site. Ken Pollack WB3JOB did an excellent presentation on

grounding at the Joint, his notes can be found on the Skyview reflector under files section.

(3.) My station has evolved over the years. Contrary to what some hams will say, you don't have to have the latest and greatest station to do contests, (I used a ICOM 718 for years). I now have the ICOM 7610 after selling my ICOM 7600. I like the two receivers, the dual waterfalls, and some of the many SDR features for contesting. If you have a basic radio you can buy a SDR receiver from SDRPlay, AirSpy and many others sources. You can set it up with your radio to get a nice waterfall. I also use a LDG 200Pro II tuner to make my radio happy. I have Alpha Delta Antenna switches, I like the center position on them with the gas surge protection. Lastly my ham computer and Power supply are on its own surge protection strip. When not in use I unplug the computer and power supply. NOTHING will protect you from a direct hit, but I try to minimize any damage.

(4.) Lastly, for a list of contests, either go to the ARRL or WA7BNM web sites or purchase the ARRL calendar. They have an extensive list of contests you can participate in. Most importantly HAVE FUN. It's a contest, not life and death (although some think otherwise. LOL).

Next issue I will bring up types of contests, software to help with logging and how to submit your logs with the Cabrillo format.

de Bill N3WMC

Owned and Operated by Members

de Jody - K3JZD

Anyone who watches any television has surely seen the Thermo-Twin Windows advertisements. They stress that they are Employee 'Owned and Operated'. Skyview is somewhat similar in that we are 'Member Owned and Operated'.

New Members join and become Owners. They remain Owners as long as they continue to renew their Membership. For an organization that owns property, I think we are kind of unique in that we do not have any Initiation Fee. You become an Owner as soon as your Membership Application is accepted.

Like every organization, we elect Officers and a Board of Directors to manage the day to day Operations. We also have various Committees to assist the Officers. We hold Open Monthly Business Meetings for the Officers and Committees to report what is going on to the Owners and to listen to ideas and/or concerns from the Owners. We hold Periodic Open Board of Director Meetings to insure that the Officers and Committees are functioning as expected. A very common organizational structure for a club.

Unlike Thermo-Twin Windows, where all of the Owners are out there every working day doing their part by doing their assigned tasks, our having Officers, Committees, and a Board of Directors to manage our affairs does not require full time Owner involvement. So, it is important to keep all of the Owners up to date and in-the-loop. For those Owners who do not attend the Open Meetings, we have the club web site, the club FaceBook page, the K3MJW Groups.io Reflector, the club 146.640 Repeater, our Thursday Night Net on the club Repeater, and this newsletter. Sometimes overlapping, sometimes not.

One thing that all Owners need to understand is that while the elected Officers and Board of Directors, and the appointed Committees, are charged with managing our affairs, they very often need help from the other Owners. Periodically we have some work that need to be done on our property. Sometimes it is maintenance. Sometimes it is improvements. We try to do whatever we can do ourselves, as we do not have unlimited funds.

So, Owner help during any property project is always appreciated. Most of the time it is 'soft labor' which is best suited for our younger Owners. However our older Owners often come out to assist where they can and to provide moral support. (I always tell our new Owners that if they are available for a work party to come on out - there is no better way to get acquainted with the other Owners. And if you are a new Owner with special skills or equipment, be sure to make what you can offer known!!)

One thing that is rarely discussed in any of our various means of communication to the Owners is our financing. We are compliant with our Constitution in that we set our Dues structure to cover 'keeping the lights on' - we cover all of our fixed expenses each year with the Dues that we collect from the Owners. However, there are lots of other needs - for repairs and for improvements.

In August we held our annual Swap & Shop. That raises some money for repairs and for improvements. But not a great deal. We also rely on Owners who are in position to be able to make Donations.

August was a great example of Owners stepping up and assisting financially. We had an unexpected amount of dirt delivered to our property. It was free, so we could not refuse. This dirt would provide us with some additional parking space at the upper end. However, to make it usable, we needed to add underlayment and gravel. Owners stepped up and purchased the necessary underlayment and gravel. We installed a concrete base for a replacement tower in the back of the lot. Owners stepped up and purchased materials and some of the 14 yards of concrete that we needed (the club purchased the rest of the concrete). If the club had to purchase everything for these two projects, that would have exceeded the amount that we took in at the Swap & Shop.

An Owner purchased the parts needed to rebuild the beam near the Pavilion. Another Owner donated a lightly used Icom IC-7600 transceiver. Another Owner donated money towards a new storage facility.

So, Skyview is a Member Owned and Operated AND SUPPORTED. Many Owners are not in a position where they can do any more than pay their Annual Dues. This is not to suggest that anyone is expected to do more. Let me say that again: There is no expectation that any Owner will do any more than just pay their Annual Dues.

However, Owners that are in a position to provide additional financial support should know that Skyview is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. All donations that Owners choose to make may be Tax Deductable if your particular tax situation can take advantage of that.

Many of our retired Owners are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from their Tax Sheltered Accounts. If you are there, then you know that RMD money is 100% taxable. What may not be well known is that some portion of your annual RMD can be directed to Skyview as a Tax-Free Transaction. You will not pay any taxes on the portion of your RMD that is donated to Skyview, and Skyview will not pay any tax on that amount. It is a win-win situation. *(See Jody - K3JZD for details).*

Many Owners who have made additional financial donations have requested that their donation remain anonymous. We respect those wishes.

Once again, this is not intended to be an arm twisting. This is just to make all Owners aware of the fact that your Dues cover our fixed expenses each year, and what we earn at our August Swap & Shop will provide some funds for some repairs and improvements. Our improvements are throttled by our Income. Our growing (think clubhouse expansion) and improving (think radios, antennas, computers, repeaters, networks, backup batteries, etc), will be dependent upon Owners that are in a position to make additional donations to Skyview.

One other thing worth mentioning is that Owners who choose to pick up an invoice and pay it, without Skyview having to process it as an 'In' and 'Out' in our books, is an ideal situation. Our 501(c)(3) reporting is quite simple if we stay below some magic Income Level. Processing it as money 'In' and 'Out' in our books is seen as 'Income'. Providing you with a letter thanking for the amount of your contribution whenever you pick up an Invoice and pay it directly is not 'Income'.

Skyview : Member Owned, Operated, and Supported.
Jody — K3JZD



What's Taking So Long?

de Bob - WC3O

A goodly while back I mentioned that we were working on remoting an HF radio at the clubhouse. This would allow members to access the club's antennas and radios from the comfort of your own home, or even on their phone. With modern radios, remote operation over the Internet has become quite commonplace. The Steel City ARC has a remote station in operation at their clubhouse and it works great.

So why is it taking so long to get this up and running from the Skyview clubhouse? Well, it is a little more complicated than remoting a station at your house. It becomes pretty damned complicated very quickly. Let's look at some of the considerations.

- We need to be able to control who has access to the station (and who does not)
- We need to be able to remote the radio (The easiest aspect to tackle)
- We need to be able to control the main antenna switch (This is not hard, but limits other options)
- We would like to remote control antenna rotors (Not necessary, but would be nice)
- We would like to control the secondary antenna switches in the pavilion and repeater shed
- It would be nice to have a pan adaptor display

There are LOTS of options with many pros and cons.

First, I wanted to talk about two basic access options:

Use a host/server operation where (your) computer has a program that runs and remotes into the server computer at the clubhouse. These programs are great and control the radio and rotors, but controlling our main antenna switch might be an issue.

The second option is to use a program like TeamViewer and remote into a computer at the clubhouse and control everything from the desktop of the host PC. I'm thinking this might be what we need to do. This would allow us to control the radio, rotors, and the main antenna switch. When I figure out how to control the secondary antenna switches, this would also work. Plus you could run programs such as WSJT from that same computer.

I have asked others that have remote radio operations as to how they did it.

First, I e-mailed Tim, K3LR. Tim forwarded my request to "Tim2" Tim, W3YQ. Tim, LR and Tim, YQ are best buds. Tim2 told me that he uses N4PY software.

<http://www.n4py.com/>

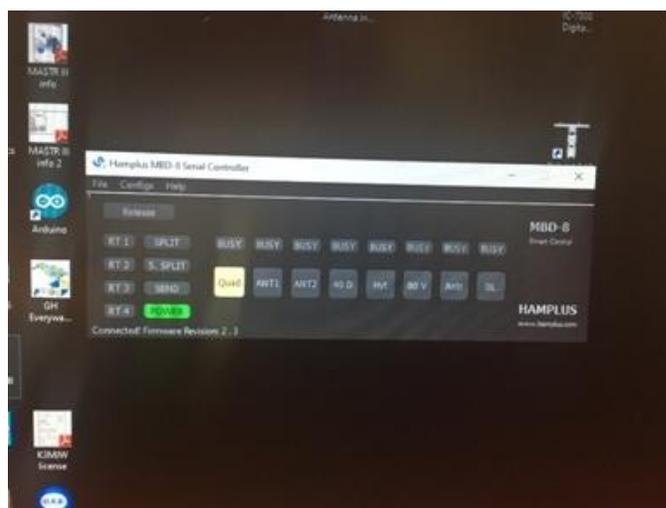
I also asked my buddy Mike, WA3O. Mike uses Remote Hams to control his rig.

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

ICOM make a program to remote the IC-7300 (and others) that can be run on the desktop, I think. Marty, AG3I uses this and likes it. It also gives you access to the spectrum scope on the 7300.

There are also plenty of other options.

One of the real sticking points is our main antenna switch. There is a program supplied by the manufacturer, HamPlus, to control the switch. The HamPlus program provides an image like the hardware control console where you simply click on the desired antenna. No different than pushing a button on the boxes at each of our operating positions.



This will allow us to control the main antenna switch, but I think only when on the desktop of the host computer. This would not be possible with a system that works off of its own remote program. By being able to control the main switch, a user would have access to many of the club's antennas – But not all of them. Two positions on our main switch select remote antenna switches, not antennas. Each of these remote antenna switches then select one antenna.

So, to have access to all the club's antennas we would need to also be able to remotely control these two remote antenna switches. Currently the remote switches are physical boxes but they could be controlled by an internet controllable I/O controller. But if we do that, how do we control those two remote switches while at the club? Can we have the two physical control boxes in parallel with the I/O controllers? Or would we have to control those two remote switches with that I/O controller from the club as well? That would mean that computers would be required to be used for any operating up at the clubhouse and would add even more confusion.



To control the antenna rotors is fairly straight forward. The quad antenna rotor control box already has an after-market control board installed that allows for RS-232 control. It works great. That could be added to the other rotor control boxes at the club, no problem.

Controlling who has access is easy using some of the other programs, but then there's that main antenna switch issue again.

Speaking of the HamPlus main antenna switch, I see that Craig, K9CT uses this antennas switch, only he uses Green Heron I/O control boards rather than using the HamPlus hardware consoles.

Look at the top-left corner of the bottom picture to see his antenna switch with the four I/O control boards wired in.

<http://www.k9ct.us/contest-antennas/layout>

Maybe we could do that on the 4th radio port on the switch. Currently the 4th position is at the right end of the bench and is set up to allow members to place their own radio there and have access to all the club's antennas. Maybe make this position's main antenna switch access computer controlled only and place the 7300 in that location?

Back to controlling access – We need individuals to have separate passwords so that their access can be turned on or off. This limits some of our options. (TeamViewer might have that available in their paid subscription version, but we do not like paid subscription versions . . .)

Also, this arrangement needs to be simple enough to operate so that it doesn't take a PhD to figure it all out.

So as you can see, this has turned out to be a pretty complicated proposition. There are plenty of possibilities, compromises, contradictions and more. Combine this with other club projects, cutting the grass, antennas, cutting the grass, working on radios, cutting the grass, chopping up trees, cutting the grass, and it has been hard to give this project much time.

Maybe we don't need to attack this all at one time, make improvements as we go along.

Stay tuned. They tell me that Winter is coming. Hopefully we can have this all worked out before too long.

Your Radio Officer
Bob, WC3O

88, Or How Telegraphers Coded 'Love and Kisses'

The Atlantic

Jan 6, 2014

[Alexis C. Madriqal](#)



An Australian telegraph station around 1912

What humans will do to save themselves from typing a few characters: LOL. ROTFL. TTYL. BRB. Universal sentiments and actions become encoded.

Well, imagine that each character had to be tapped down the line in Morse code. Telegraph operators had even more incentive to cut down on letters than did even the T9 texters of yore.

And so they came up with codes to communicate the things that they needed to say often. These were first codified by Walter P. Phillips into what became known as the [Phillips Code](#) in 1879. (It was updated several times, the last I found in 1975.)

Nearly all of these codes are now obsolete. But there is a small group of hobbyists who keep a few them alive. Amateur radio enthusiasts still use at least a couple of these abbreviations to this day as detailed by [Glen Zook](#), [call sign K9STH](#), in a widely reproduced brief history that relies on a 1934 Navy bulletin on the origins of '73.'

WIRE- Preference over everything except 95

- 1- Wait a moment
- 2- Important business
- 3- What time is it?

- 4- Where shall I go ahead?
- 5- Have you business for me?
- 6- I am ready
- 7- Are you ready?
- 8- Close your key; ckt is busy
- 9- Close your key for priority business (wire chief, dspr, etc.)
- 10- Keep this ckt closed
- 12- Do you understand?
- 13- I understand
- 14- What is the weather?
- 15- For you and and other to copy
- 17- Lightning here
- 18- What is the trouble?
- 19- Form 19 train order
- 21- Stop for meal
- 22- Wire test
- 23- All copy
- 24- Repeat this back
- 25- Busy on anr wire
- 26- Put on gnd wire
- 27- Priority, very important
- 28- Do you get my writing?
- 29- Private, deliver in sealed envelope.
- 30- No more -end
- 31- Form 31 train order
- 32- I understand that I am to
- 33- Car report (Also, answer is paid for)
- 34- Msg for all officers
- 35- You may use my signal to ans this
- 37- Diversion (Also, inform all interested)
- 39- Important, with priority on thru wire. (Also, sleep-car report)
- 44- Answer promptly by wire
- 73- Best regards
- 88- Love and kisses
- 91- Supt's signal
- 92- Deliver promptly
- 93- Vice pres. & gen. mgr's signals
- 95- President's signal
- 134- Who is at the key?

The list—a decidedly non-sexy counterpart to [the telegraph's sexytime abbreviations](#)—is mostly dedicated to basic traffic direction: stopping, going, clearing wires, assigning importance, etc. But 73 and 88 are different. They are ways of compressing sentiment, and helpful, I'm sure, in sending messages quickly across the wire.

Put another way: 88 was the fastest possible way to transmit love. It was the emoji heart of its day. (It's [something else today](#), sadly.)

Humans now have zillions of ways of abbreviating our emotions for easier transmission along the network. And way up the evolutionary tree, at the beginning of the electrical era, we find this common ancestor, 88.

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ADDENDUM

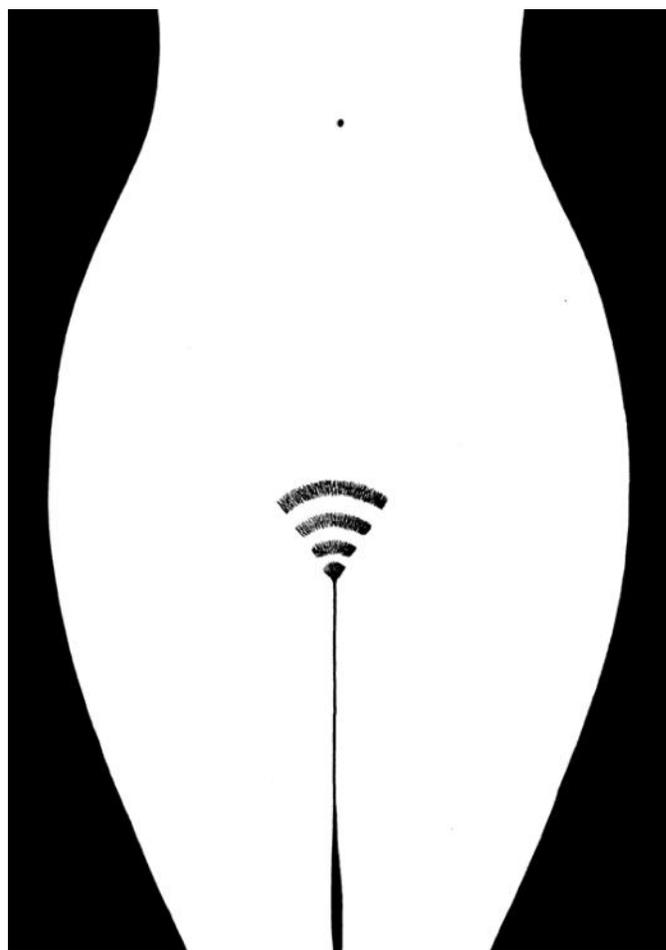
The writer needs to do more research. The list was from Western Union, long predating wireless telegraphy. WU used a number code, as shown, and later an elaborate system of abbreviations called the Phillips Code. The Phillips code, from which abbreviations such as POTUS for "president of the United States" comes, was initially designed by Walter P. Phillips in 1879 for transmission of press and sports news.

A brief history is at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillips_Code

The Phillips code was amended several times and many editions issued. At one time Vibroplex offered a booklet of the Phillips code.

Q signals date to the first radio conference in 1909. The list has been amended and expanded many times. Since it was established by international treaty the Navy may have had a version with additional combinations but it would have followed the international conventions. There were other codes used in telegraphy and for teleprinter service such as the Z code, aimed mostly at aeronautical use. I found a complete and current version of the Q and Z codes on the web but don't have the URL handy. I think this was an ITU site.



RF Emitting [??]

**I saved this space for
YOU**

But, I did not get anything from YOU

**But, I will hold it open for
YOU
to use in the next issue**

Submissions to : K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

Ham Ads Accepted

Have you bought some new equipment and need to sell something to make some room in the shack?

First try the real-time K3MJW Groups.io Reflector .

If that does not work for you, or if you want to include pictures, you can advertise here.

This newsletter goes out to other clubs and is also available to anyone who wants to go to the web site to get it. So, you may reach a larger audience.

Submit to : K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

Newsletter Fillers or ??

While I will put some stuff in here that I have found in another club's newsletter or on the Internet, I would prefer to put your stuff in here instead.

I am always happy to get articles which discuss your opinion on some new radio, antenna, or other ham gear that you have purchased. I am not looking for QST type technical dissertations - am looking for operating experiences with it. What's great? What's good? What is not so great?

I am always happy to get your pictures: Shacks, radios, mobile setups, antennas, customizations, etc.

Lots of new folks will benefit from you sharing your experiences.

Welcome New Members !!

Welcome the following Skyview Radio Society Members who have joined us since publishing the August 2019 newsletter:

- WA3YWU - John Branthoover - Freeport**
- KF3C - Denny Brantner - Loyalhanna**
- KC2EGL - Mike Brennan - Brookville**
- KC3KXZ - Sam Elko - Harrison City**
- KB3APD - Arnold Handy - Derry**
- N3OIF - Betty Handy - Derry**
- N3TIR - Bud Plants - West Alexandria**
- KC3LNG - Bill Poore - Appollo**
- WB3FAE - Tom Rue - Chicora**
- KC2I - Fredrich Schaeuffehlhut - Monroeville**
- K3WWP - John Shannon - Kittanning**
- K3GT - Bob Thacker - Allison Park**

Remember that something is going on up at 'the joint' every Tuesday. Sign up for the K3MJW Groups.io Reflector to get the latest news and event announcements by email.

If you are a reader who is interested in becoming a Skyview member, then go to:

<http://www.skyviewradio.net/> for information.

If you are a reader who is not yet a ham, and you are interested in becoming a ham, , then go to:

<http://www.skyviewradio.net/> for information.

Skyview Radio Society Roster as of 30SEP19

NM3A	WD3HAY	AB3LS	KD4SBJ
WB3ACC	KB3HGJ	KC3LVC	KB3SOU
W3ANX	WA3HGW	KC3LZH	K3STL
KB3APD	KA3HPM	N2MA	KB3SVJ
KC3AY	KB3HXP	KC3MBM	N3TIN
NA0B	AG3I	KC3MIQ	N3TIR
N3BPB	KC2I	K3MJ	W3TLN
W3BUW	KC3IIO	KC3MNN	N3TTE
KF3C	WA3IKQ	KC3MNO	AG3U
KC3CBQ	W3IU	K3MRN	NS3U
W3CDW	K3JAS	N3MRU	N3UIW
K3CLT	KC3JBS	KG4MSB	K3VRU
K3DCG	N3JLR	KS3N	W3VYK
KC3DIA	KA3JOU	KB3NSH	N3WAV
KC4EGG	N3JPB	AJ3O	N3WMC
KC2EGL	ND9JR	WC3O	W3WTJ
KC3EJC	KC3JSF	K3OGN	K3WWP
AB3ER	KB3JXG	N3OIF	KZ3Y
KC3EVT	KC3JXO	KB3OMB	N3YJN
KB3EYY	K3JZD	KB3ORO	KB3YJQ
WB3FAE	KC3KEI	KR3P	W3YNI
KC3FEI	WA3KFS	NK3P	W3YNX
K3FH	KB3KHR	W3PRL	WA3YWU
K3FKI	AC0KK	AE8Q	K3ZAU
KC3FWD	N3KNB	NU3Q	
N2GBR	W4KV	WQ3Q	
KC3GIL	KC3KXG	NJ3R	
KC3GIN	KC3KXZ	KB3RBV	
KC3GPM	WA3LCY	K3RMB	
K3GT	KC3LHW	W3RRK	
AB3GY	KG4LLQ	I2RTF	
KC3GZW	KC3LNG	KA3RXY	
NC3H	KC3LRT	KQ3S	

Notes: Only Call Signs are being published. Refer to QRZ.COM for more information. (Unable to publish those without Call Signs.)



Cell Phones and Ham Radio

“Cell Phones allow you to talk to your friends.

However, Ham Radio allows you to make new friends.”

Ashton Feller - KD9HRG - Age 13
(From June 2017 CQ Magazine)

**** Skyview VE Testing ****

For EVERYTHING that you need to know, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/SkyviewRadioSocietyHamRadioTesting/>

(This will tell you what you need to bring with you)

Skyview Radio Society Contact person: Bob Worek, AG3U
e-mail: ag3u at arrl.net 724-410-1028

Location: Skyview Radio Society clubhouse. 2335 Turkey Ridge Road. New Kensington, PA 15068.

Directions, and map are on
<http://www.Skyviewradio.net>

Please schedule in advance. While walk-ins accepted, exam may be cancelled if no candidates are scheduled.

>>>>> WARNING <<<<<<

A new Alarm System has been installed up at the joint. Do Not go in there on your own until you learn how to disarm and rearm it.

This Space For Rent

**Become Well Known
Publish in the Q5er**

The Q5er goes to other clubs and is available to all on our web site.

Submissions to : [K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET](mailto:K3JZD@ARRL.NET)

Kul - Links

Jody - K3JZD

There is lots of stuff out on the Internet... Some of it can brighten your day. Some of it can educate you.

I can't really copy and past it all in here. But, I can point you at some of it

Copying Morse Code

<http://tinyurl.com/yy9o8x6l>

After years of listening to people talk about the harm that handheld cell phones are doing, I find this in QST

<http://tinyurl.com/yyrh8jo5>

Could they be "doing more good than harm"??
Should we all be spending a few hours a day on a handheld cell phone as a preventative measure ??

I'll consider any Kul - Links that you find.
Email then to me at: K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET
They might just end up in the next issue

Issue Wrap-up

I'm sure that you skipped over some of the stuff that you were not really interested in. Hopefully there was enough in here to make it worth opening.

Another abbreviated issue. Blame it on Summer. A bit of a focus on our finances in this issue. But our finances are important.

Too much stuff in this issue from me again — this is not intended to be a 'Jody Blog' - everyone needs to get going on their contributions for the next issue !!

As usual, not much real club boilerplate or timely club news in here. The club web page, the club Facebook page, and the K3MJW Groups.io reflector all have the basic club info and the more timely club news. This newsletter is really for 'all else'. So, send me your 'all else' stuff.

Jody - K3JZD

Previous Issues

Previous Issues of the Q5er are available at

<http://www.nelis.net>

Next Newsletter will be Oct 1, 2019
Closing Date For Submissions : Sept 15, 2019

K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

Here is what I feel is a very worthwhile Facebook group :

<http://tinyurl.com/y873zl6c>

It is called "Amateur (Ham) Radio on a Budget", and is a very dynamic group.

Lots of people exploring lots of ideas and lots of new people sharing experiences.

Kind of a on-line Elmering Group which would be helpful to new hams.

Jody - K3JZD



Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

This newsletter may be freely forwarded.

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email your comments and article submissions to: [K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET](mailto:K3JZD@ARRL.NET)



That's Easy

Come up to the Skyview Clubhouse on any Tuesday and ask !!!

All General Information about the Skyview Radio Society is at <http://www.skyviewradio.net>

Subscribe to K3MJW [groups.io](https://groups.io/g/K3MJW) reflector for All Current News & Activities : <https://groups.io/g/K3MJW>
If you want to keep up with what is going on NOW, that is the place - have it forward msgs to your email



Is this how your dining room looks ??

Where are the pictures of your shack ??