

K3MJW 2335 Turkey Ridge Road New Kensington, PA 15068



Q5er - The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

Skyview 2023 Swap & Shop



We had another great weather day. It was good to see such a great turnout for our annual event

2023 is Skyview's 63rd Anniversary!!

October 1, 2023

- Swap & Shop Pictures
- Swap & Shop Prizes
- Grote Reber
- 500 Mile Bicycle Ride
- K3MJW in Icom Ad
- HF.DXView.org
- CW Speed Check
- Bumper Sticker?
- Raspberry Pi 5

•

• And More

Sunspot Numbers are Way Up There !!!

Time to exercise the 10-12-15-17-20 Meter bands

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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 : $\underline{\text{https://groups.io/g/K3MJW}}$

Directions are on: http://www.skyviewradio.net Guests are always welcome !!

From the Editor

Lots of good contributions this month

Jody - K3JZD



This is the Begali Pearl Key that we Raffled Off at our 2023 Swap & Shop.

The lucky winner was Dave - N3XF

Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

From the Treasurer

The 2023 Skyview Swap & Shop was a success. If you helped in any way, or came out and bought raffle tickets, or sent in your money for the three admission tickets that were mailed out, or contributed something to be sold at the Skyview Table, **THANK YOU**.

This year we had a fantastic volume of sales at the Skyview Table. It was loaded with all kinds of 'good stuff'. There was something for almost everybody who shopped there. Those sales contributed to us having one of out best years ever.

Now it is time to prepare for next year. Collect your no longer needed ham and electronic items. We now have a storage facility, so you can drop off donated used items off throughout the year. Skyview relies on donated items for the Main Prize Raffle. You can contribute a new, in-the-box, Main Raffle Prize for 2024.

Jody - K3JZD

Continue Use the Skyview Facilities At Your Own
Risk - It is Not Really History Yet.

Follow https://groups.io/g/K3MJW for COVID updates.

Skyview Radio Society is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Donations to Skyview are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Support your club.

Wine is constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy – Benjamin Franklin

June Business Meeting Minutes

de Don - WA3HGW

Skyview Radio Society Monthly Business Meeting

September 5, 2023

Call to Order: 7:30 PM by President Paul Krystosek, AC3IE.

Attending – 35 Members: WA3HGW, W3BUW, N3WMC, KC3VNB, AG3I, W3IU, NK3P, K3STL, KQ3S, KC3PXQ, J3JAS, AG3U, AC3KI, KA3CBA, K3FAZ, WQ3Q, KC3CBQ, AC3GB, AC3Q, WA3SCM, N2MA, AJ3O, K3ES, W3UY, W3ZVX, KC3IE, K3JZD, N3TIN, WA3KFS, WC3O, K3WM, KC3TTK and K4PDF.

Prior Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the August 1, 2023 meeting were distributed for member review. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by WA3KFS and seconded by AC3KI. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jody, K3JZD reviewed the Financial Report of 31 August 2023 and a preliminary Swap & Shop summary (both attached). There was much activity this month due to the Swap & Shop. In addition to Swap & Shop expense, there were expenses for Phase 1 of the ADA compliant restroom remodel. Preliminary results from the Swap & Shop indicate income to be about \$5,000. We are still on track to finish out the year with a small surplus for building fixed expenses. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by W3BUW and seconded by AC3GB. The motion passed without objection.

Membership Report: Tom, AB3GY, advised there are seven new membership applications. AB3GY made a motion to open the membership rolls, which was seconded by AG3I. The applications are from: Eddie Misiewicz, KB3YRU, a General class ham from Belle Vernon, PA.

Connie Misiewicz, KB3YYC, a Technician class ham from Belle Vernon, PA.

Charles Mance, KC3TTK, a General class ham from New Kensington, PA.

James Cloonan, W3YS, an Extra class ham from New Brighton, PA.

Chuck Eglhaut, K3CWE, an Extra class ham from Greensburg, PA.

Diane Wilson, no license, (Family member of Chris Wilson, W3CDW) from Oakmont, PA.

Dave Slater, WA3SCM, an Extra class ham from Murrysville, PA.

A motion to accept all seven nominations was made by AB3GY and seconded by AC3KI. The motion passed without exception. AB3GY made a motion to close the membership rolls, which was seconded by KC3PXQ. The motion passed without exception. Membership now stands at 163.

Radio Officer Report: The facility experienced a lightning strike recently which took out some equipment including a TNC for our APRS station, cable modem and router, the 80 meter vertical phase controller and some other minor items. Most have already been repaired or replaced. The remainder should be fixed soon.

Steve, KE3Z obtained two Arcom repeater controllers for the 2 meter repeater and its backup. These will add additional capabilities to implement Echolink plus weather alerts on both main and backup repeaters.

Kitchen Report: Bob, WC3O, noted the kitchen balance is at \$71. Supply costs for the Swap & Shop were \$670, most of which were covered by a donation.

VE Report: There are potentially two license candidates for the next VE session on September 16.

Newsletter: The August issue of the *Q5er* is out. There are already good submissions for the October *Q5er* Jody is looking for any additional newsletter submissions by September 15 for the October issue.

Facilities: N3TIN reported the septic system was pumped out. About the lower 2/3 of driveway was repaired with a new layer of crushed stone.

Building Committee: AG3I reports that Phase 1, bathroom remodel, of the building plan is in process. The shell is completed and ADA compliant sidewalk done. The ground was leveled and grass seed placed. The next work is installation of drywall and other internal finishing.

Calendar of Events:

Butler Hamfest – September 10. CQ WW RTTY – September 23-24. PA QSO Party – October 14 & 15. Founders Day Special Event – October 22

Old Business: The Greenbank radio observatory trip went well. The added "Tech Tour" was very well received.

New Business: Jody, K3JZD, noted a small change to our finances. The monthly charges for the Simply Safe clubhouse security system were transferred to the club. They will now be paid automatically by direct transfer of funds. Any security alert notifications will still go to the designated primary or secondary club members.

Information from the informal BOD meeting held prior to the business meeting were discussed. A number of questions for the drilling company land agent were formulated. These questions will be presented to the land agent and we will ask for his reply via email to President AC3IE. The BOD will follow-up after we receive those answers.

There is a large-scale computer museum in New Kensington. Bob, WC3O, is working on arranging a special club tour of the museum. The tour will most likely be on a Thursday evening, and he is hoping to be able to run our regular Thursday net from that location. Dinner at a Mexican restaurant in New Kensington prior to the tour.

Weather Night:

September – Radiosondes and weather balloons by W3BUW.

October – Open – Possibly a winter Skywarn class. November – Open - Possibly a winter Skywarn class if it isn't done in October.

December – The 2nd Saturday is Skywarn Recognition Day. Ham radio operation at the NWS station, WX3PIT.

Elmer Night: Nothing scheduled at this time.

Net Report: The check-in numbers averaged 39.8 in August. If you want to volunteer for net control, contact K3STL or WC3O.

50/50 Drawing: The total collected was \$58. The winner of \$29 was new member Dave, WA3SCM.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion to adjourn was made by W3BUW and seconded by AC3KI. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Stewart – WA3HGW Secretary; Skyview Radio Society, Inc.



Raspberry Pi V5

In mid October, you will be able to purchase a new Raspberry Pi 5. Look for news online.

Sales during 2023 will be limited to 'quantity one' orders to get them into the most hands.

Several changes to the external interface connectors.

2023 Swap & Shop Pictures







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2023 Swap & Shop Prize Winners

Door Prizes:

8:30 AM - ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate: Andy Pato WA3PBD

9:00 AM - ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate: Paul McGowan WU3P

9:30 AM - ARRL \$50 Gift Certificate: Tom Kaib NS3U

10:00 AM - Clipboard/Band Plan Combo: Gary Weslager K3GW

50/50

\$93.00: Jeff Poklembo K3KR

Main Prizes:

Multimeter #1: Michael Kowalcheck KV3L

Multimeter #2: Paul Krystosek AC3IE

J-Pole Antenna (Donated by Art WA3BKD): Len Marmo W3LA

ECG Soldering Station: Don Stewart WA3HGW

DX Engineering \$100 Gift Certificate #1: Bob Senft KB3PSI

DX Engineering \$100 Gift Certificate #2: Paul Barbour KC3WHX

Yaesu FT-4X: Curt McCormick WU3U

PEET Brothers Weather Station: Eric Fowler WV3E

Begali Key

Dave Sarault N3XF

Reflections de Andrew - KC3SDJ

September marks the beginning of a quieter time of year in my life when I can slow down and reflect on the past.

This can be both good and bad!

I was first licensed in May 2021 after passing my Technician-level exam at Skyview. While I was proud to accomplish that step, I wasn't stopping there.

I have always been fascinated by HF ionospheric propagation. My interest in HF began as a small child when I learned that my neighbor could talk to his friend in Germany with that funky looking antenna in his backyard. I immediately started studying for my General and I passed that test in September 2021.

I began to build a very modest station in my Hampton Township apartment, not expecting much in the way of QSOs. Wow, was I surprised! While phone QSOs were not always plentiful, I enjoyed FT8 and RTTY modes after I solved some common-mode issues with my antenna and feedline setup. I was able to make 3300 QSOs from that apartment in less than a year.

In June 2022, my wife and I moved into our first home in Moon Township, where I lost my FN00 grid square and became an EN90. I mentioned the installation of my Hustler 6BTV in my last article, so I won't bore you all with those details again.

I figured the performance of a well-grounded vertical at my new QTH high atop the hill would do well for me. But I didn't realize just how well it would work. I have made 6,000 QSOs since moving to Moon. And this month I will surpass 10,000 QSOs in just two years of my being a General-class license holder.

I am proud to have been able to break through so many QRO pileups of POTA and DX hunters with my "100 watts and a vertical". And I am thrilled to have made so many friendships with folks in Italy that I speak with almost nightly. Most notably, those friends are Patrizio (I5ZSS), Franco (IZ5MJS), and Lauro (IK4GRO).

It has been an honor to receive QSL cards from Germany, Northern Ireland, and Namibia. It even resulted in a conversation with my letter carrier, as he thought it was so exciting to be able to talk to those folks without leaving the house or picking up the phone.

It has also been an honor to serve the Breezeshooters as well as our own Skyview Radio Society when I am able. I am very glad that my location on the hill in Moon allows me to get into the Skyview 146.64 repeater easily.

My future goals are to earn my Extra class license, and begin to learn CW. Other future plans may involve adding an amplifier. But I may wait until if and when we move to a QTH with more property to allow for installation of a beam antenna.

I am grateful for all of the wonderful folks that I have met through the past couple of years, particularly my Skyview friends. It's the people that make this hobby so enjoyable.



Vy 73,

Andrew - KC3SDJ

Grote Reber - W9GFZ (SK)

de Al - N2MA

(December 22, 1911 – December 20, 2002)

"Grote Reber was the father of radio astronomy. He built the 1st parabolic dish in 1937 to study cosmic radio signals. Reber was the first to map radio emissions from the Milky Way galaxy and the Sun." He published important papers on the ionosphere and the atmosphere, as well as a paper on the age of lava flows



His first using 9 Meter (29ft) was receiving at 3300 MHz, then 900 MHz and finally successful at 160MHz in 1938.

Reber, an electrical engineer and amateur radio operator, built the first radio telescope. that he used to pioneer the radio astrological mapping of the stars.

Grote learned in 1933 of "Karl Jansky's first discovery of radio waves emanating from the Milky Way in the constellation Sagittarius. He is considered one of the founding figures of radio astronomy."

"He turned his attention to making a radio frequency sky map, which he completed in 1941 and extended in 1943. He published a considerable body of work during this era, and was the initiator of the "explosion" of radio astronomy in the immediate post-Second World War era...."

For a decade from 1937 he was the world's only radio astronomer, a field that only expanded after World War Two when scientists, who had gained a great deal of knowledge during the wartime expansion of RADAR, entered the field, starting with Project Diana. Project Diana was a military project started after WWII to provide detection of inter ballistic missiles. They were to 1st to prove that they could do Earth Moon Earth bounce at 115MHz. As Wayne K3WM can tell you, it still takes 2.5 seconds to get a signal back..

As the Father of the Radio Telescope, visitors to Green Bank Observatory are greeted by one of Rebers telescopes

This article includes quotes from the ARRL and Wikipedia.
Grote was a true Radio Amateur.



Multi-Radio Portable Ops With One Antenna

de Curt - WU3U



I think many of us have been part of a multi-station portable operation and the complications that can go along with it.

During COVID, once a week, myself and a group of friends started operating portable in a local park. At times, with five or six guys each with their own equipment and a limited number of bands that can be worked at the same time, it was sort of a fire drill with everyone moving in different directions all trying to accomplish a similar task.

This resulted in physical limitations of the site with respect to antenna placement, people tripping over coax and RF interference from these stations operating on

adjacent bands. Adding to this was that one guy that that just didn't understand that he couldn't work FT8 on 40m while someone was already working phone on 40m.

While the last issue can be corrected through education or possibly a 2x4, I felt that there had to be an easier way to streamline a setup of this type of operation all while reducing interference.

To back up a little, I had previously purchased an antenna made by HyEndFed. It's a four band antenna designed for 40-20-15-10m. This 38' long wire antenna has very good SWR on its designated bands. I was using this with a Spiderbeam 40' heavy duty fiberglass push up mast as a vertical.

While I wasn't using it for the park operations, I was using it at home for a portable setup in the backyard. It worked great. One radio, one antenna, four bands, nothing out of the ordinary.

One day while browsing DX Engineering's web site I stumbled onto Low Band Systems Quadplexer which is designed for 40-20-15-10m, ironically the same bands as the HyEndFed antenna. Would it really allow four radios to use one antenna with possibly some or all of them transmitting at the same time? While a little pricy at just over \$500, I ordered it.

As I was waiting for it to arrive, I soon discovered that you also needed to use individual band pass filters between the Quadplexer and the radios for each of the four bands. I had thought that maybe the Quadraplexer itself would provide enough isolation between its antenna ports. But that is not the case. Band pass filters were required. But I had some home built band pass filters that I could use so that wasn't necessarily a problem.

I explained my experiment to the weekly park gang over lunch one day. Some of these guys have been licensed nearly 30 years longer than myself. Everyone was sort of skeptical despite everyone's eagerness to experiment.

Many of us use those little diplexers and triplexers from Diamond or Comet so that we can connect something like the Comet GP15 or Diamond V2000 2m/70cm/6m antennas to a couple of radios but we're not transmitting on more than one radio at a time. It's simply to break out the bands to separate radios.

DX Engineering has a good return policy so if this was a bust, I could get my money back and hopefully not have to use my refund to get my radios repaired.

It just seemed too good to be true and thought maybe I was missing something. The guys were jokingly referring to this idea as my, "Magic Box".

I decided to test this with two of my own radios so that if something catastrophic happened, it would be to one of my radios and not theirs.

Setup took less than 10 minutes and everything looked good on each of the four bands with the RigExpert an-

tenna analyzer. The receive sounded good on 20 & 40m so that seemed promising. We set the radios for 25w (just in case) and much to everyone's surprise including my own, we were quickly making QSO's on 20 & 40m.

Eventually we had two radios keyed up at the same time. It felt like there was one antenna for each band. We then bumped the power up gradually until we reached 100W and had no issues. The following week we had three radios operating and soon after, four radios.

During Field Day 2022 I suggested to a local group that I was operating with that we use my setup. It had proven itself at the park and I knew it shouldn't backfire on me.

These were seasoned hams that were set in their ways and to them, the only way to do Field Day is to string up a bunch of mono band dipoles and possibly drag a beam to the event.

They weren't really comfortable with the one antenna thing, but I was responsible for one of the stations that year so with my tail between my legs I humored myself and I operated 20, 15 and occasionally 10m with one radio switching between band pass filters.

Eventually someone operated FT8 on a second radio at the same time as myself on a setup capable of supporting four radios.

Later in the year those same guys saw the park operation with four bands blaring away. Soon they were taking pictures and notes about the equipment, eventually ordering a setup of their own.

I replaced my home-built band pass filters with Morgan Systems 250W filters due to the fact that the home-built filters were meant for 100W SSB. The duty cycle of FT8 and CW is much greater, and the Morgan Filters would allow everyone to run 100W on any band and mode without damaging the filters.

The higher power 250W Morgan filters are a step up from their base model filters and besides higher power handling, they offer more isolation than their less expensive line. In this application it's all about isolation and protecting the radios from each other so I wasn't going skimp and put mine or even more importantly some other another person's equipment at risk.

There are certain harmonics between bands that occasionally make it from one radio to another mostly just visible on a radio with a spectrum scope but occasionally slightly audible, but it's very minimal and well within the tolerance of any radio.

I've also modified my original setup now using BNC to SO-239 adapters on both the Quadraplexer and the filters to allow for faster deployment and less wear on the main connectors. The BNC jumpers attach much faster and the adapters can simply be replaced should the connectors start to wear over time.

Insertion loss has been measured and at the HF frequencies, it's trivial. Right angle SO-239 adapters have also been installed on the radio side of the filters also for the sole reason of eliminating wear on the filter's SO-239 connectors from operators swapping bands throughout the day, something that doesn't have to be considered with most portable setups using multiple antennas.

This year, a group of us operated Field Day as W3K with this setup. We had a station on each band and made around 400 contacts (mostly phone) in mediocre band conditions.

With sort of poor band conditions in the beginning, if you were going for points, FT8 and CW would have been a better choice but our group seemed to enjoy that personal interaction of doing phone although we did have a couple of people working FT8 from time to time.

It was fun to look around and see some people working phone and some on FT8 on different bands, all at the same time. When you know a guy is transmitting on FT8 while two other guys are copying the reports from stations on two of the other bands on phone, you're confident that this is a valid option.

Having worked field day in the past with multiple monoband antennas, I saw little to no difference in the effectiveness of the stations.

For Field Day we did setup a separate antenna for 80m to give us that band when 15m closed down for the evening and 80m opened, all while maintaining our 4E status.

This setup makes for a great multi-station, multi-call sign

POTA operation where four people can activate one park and hand out four different call signs on four different bands and then swap bands. That, "hold for a second operator" drives me and many other people nuts when two hams want to work at the same time in a park. It's really inefficient and slows things down for the activators not to mention the chasers.

From a chaser standpoint they typically can't be on four bands at the same time, so this really maximizes the efficiency of the POTA activation by keeping four bands busy. What better way to spend the day in a park with friends while four people can all be active at the same time, band conditions permitting.

While maybe not necessarily a very cost effective solution, it's quick, easy and allows everyone to maximize their time on the air by not setting up and troubleshooting multiple antennas and equipment.

You still have to make sure that each station sticks to their assigned band, but the mode(s) of operation is their choice.

While I'm quite satisfied with this setup. I'm currently looking at additional options for the multi band antenna.

You never know when you may be able to improve on something. I currently have another antenna in house waiting to test.

Anyone that would like to do a multi-band multi-station POTA activation or work some other event, let me know and I think we can make that happen with the "Magic Box".

Curt - WU3U

What the Feld Hell

de Charles - KC3TTK

So, you get your General License. You have your ICOM 7300. Now, what to do with it? Having your license does not make you an expert. Just like any other type of license (drivers, engineer, explosives, etc) it is just the barrier to entry to engage in the specific activity. You need to know about the topic to get the license but by no means are you an expert.

I am not an expert at anything related to radio, but I have discovered over the years that the best way to try to learn something is to teach it or try to explain it to someone else. Perhaps this is not news to some of the folks who have been in the business for many years, however I am like an immigrant who has landed in a new country, and everything is unique and shiny to me. So I decided to write about something unique I learned about.

What I often ask myself while engaging in this hobby is "what am I trying to do" And the answer to these questions is not static.

For me I don't always know what to say on the radio. I do a lot more listening than talking.

Some of the digital modes have been very interesting. Making QSOs with digital modes and having a few rag chews has been nice. Typing out my messages before transmitting lets me review what I want to say and having the senders' messages on my screen allows me to take screen shots to refer to things later. It also allows me to multitask.

While getting FLDigi going I had a QSO with an operator named Cliff AE5ZA on Olivia. It was my first QSO with a digital mode. He was using a QRP labs kit transmitting at 5 watts. Cliff is located in Pittsburg Texas. We had an hour-or-so long conversation and Cliff gave me some information about a few other digital modes. The most unique one was Hellscreiber or Feld Hell.

Most digital communications are supposed to be read by a machine (either electronic or mechanical). There are some machine-generated communication modes intended to be human readable. Morse, FAX, SSTV and NBTV. Hellschreiber is considered one of these modes.

Hellshcreiber: The Steam Punk of Digital Modes

Hellschreiber is a method of sending text by radio or telephone lines that involves diving each text character into pieces then sending it digitally. The first major application of this was to transmit text for newspapers by telephone in the years before WWII. Ostensibly it was the first widely used facsimile machine.

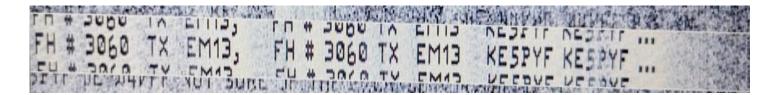
Hellschreiber (in German meaning bright writing or clear writing) was invented or more accurately patented by Rudolph Hell in 1929. The method involves sending characters by a CW type transmitter. On for every black spot and off for every white spot in the text. Different parts of each character are sent at different times. This mode is now called Feld-Hell

Here is an example of Feld-Hell on a computer screen.



The characters are sent in a series of dots. 122.5 pixels per second, originally (like stated above) using a CW type transmitter. However Fed Hell is now sent using tones to a Single Sideband Transmitter. The timing requirements are rather precise, but Rudolf Hell developed a simple and clever technique which involved printing the text twice. This has the advantage of reducing or negating the effects of phase and small timing errors, which eliminates the need for true synchronization.

The text in Feld-Hell is printed twice but not transmitted twice. This was designed this way so the top and bottom of the font can match to create readable text no matter what phase relationship exists between the receiver and transmitter.



This effect can be seen here.

The text can have annoying artifacts and effects due to timing variations due to fading. When the ionispheric path changes the distance can change by several thousand miles resulting in dot arrival time by as much as 20 ms. Since each column occupies only 57ms, having timing off by 20 ms can make text unreadable. Text can also become unreadable if multiple people are transmitting on the same frequency at the same time.



This effect can be seen here.

There are a few modes of Hell. The table below illustrates baud rate, band width and speed.

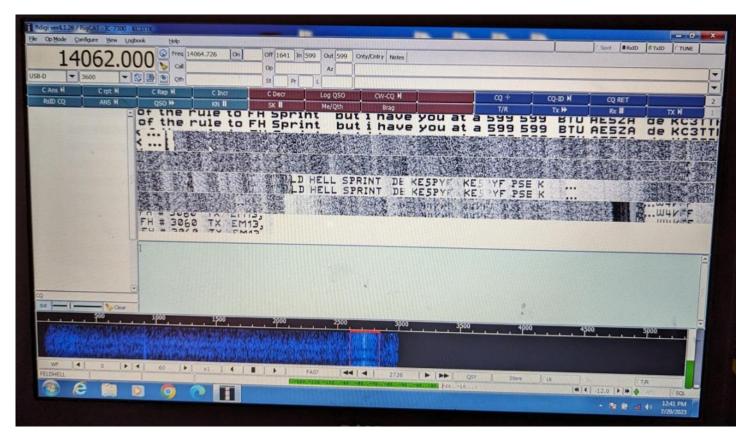
Hell Mode	Baud	Bandwidth	Speed
Feld-Hell	122.5	450 Hz	25 WPM
PSK105	105	105 Hz	25 WPM
FM105	105	55 Hz	25 WPM
PSK245	245	243 Hz	25 WPM
FM245	245	123 Hz	25 WPM

There are some more technical details that I could delve into. But at this point it would just be copy and paste from the websites below.

Now for some of the fun items

The Feld Hell club has events, just like the other events for amateur radio operators. But July 29th 2023 was the Feld Hell Sprint. It was called "A Day of Hell" and the goal was to work as many other stations using Hell as you could. I made about a dozen or so contacts in about an hour. Some as far away as Italy and using as little as 10 watts.

Here is a picture of my computer screen during some of the event.



There is a whole "Feld Hell Club". Their website is linked at the end of this article. You can do more reading about Feld-Hell.

If you want a chance to use this mode or just see it in use there are a few weekly nets that use this mode.

Wednesday Night 20:00 EDT (Thursday @ 00:00z) (FSKH105 mode)

30m Net: 10.142.5 +/- MHz NCS Paul VA3PC

Thursday Night 21:00 Eastern Time (Friday @ 01:00z) (FSKH105 mode)

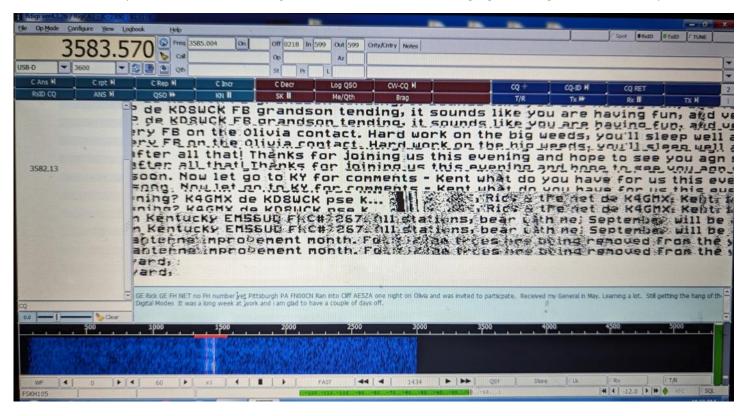
40m Net: 7.0905 +/- NCS Cliff AE5ZA

Friday Night 22:00 Eastern Time (Saturday @ 02:00z) (FSKH105 mode)

80m Net: 3.585 +/- NCS Rick KD8WCK

If anyone is interested in practicing with Hell-Feld or any of the other digital modes, reach out to me. I would be happy to expand my learning.

Here is additional photo of Feld Hell showing the waterfall with a nice strong signal during one of the weekly nets.



Information for this article was obtained from the following websites

Feld Hell Club Website:

https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home?authuser=0

Introduction to Hellscreiber

https://www.qsl.net/zl1bpu/HELL/Index.htm

Thank you 73

Charles - KC3TTK

Accidental CW Hack

de Paul - K2PMD

I started my CW journey a little more than a year and half ago. It is now my favorite mode.

Like any ham radio mode, having the right equipment is essential for reliable communications. Paddles, straight keys, and bugs all have their advantages and disadvantages, but one important thing about all of them is, you will need to get the best you can possibly afford—especially for the shack and contesting.

Right now, in the shack, I am using a Bencher paddle, which is pretty good at the price point (usually can get a used one for \$100). The biggest problem for me using a paddle, whether in the field or in the shack, is how to keep that darned thing from moving around.

I have tried taping it to the table, magnets, and Velcro. All of those options have not been reliable, at least not for long. Recently, by accident, I decided to tried putting a mouse pad under my Bencher. Whoa! It doesn't move at all! I was amazed.

In my set up (which you can see in the picture), I have my Bencher angled to the right for comfortable sending, and my mouse to the left for easy keyboard/mouse computer logging.





This hack has worked for me and probably will work for you. If it doesn't, well you didn't have to spend much, if any money, to give it a try.

73. Paul - K2PMD

500 Mile Bicycle Ride

de Jody - K3JZD

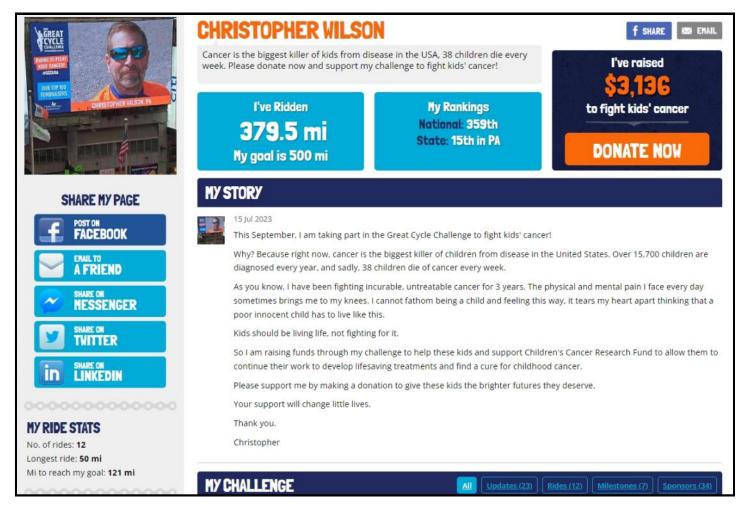
Some of you may know that Chris – W3CDW has dealt with some pretty serious cancer; Incurable, untreatable cancer. At one point he sold off all of his ham radio equipment because he was told that he only had months to live. Then, he experienced a remarkable turnaround. Chris has gotten back into ham radio and has rejoined Skyview.

Chris signed up for the 'Great Cycle Challenge', which was a nationwide event to raise money for Pediatric Cancer Research. Even though he did not have a bicycle, and was still not in perfect shape, he committed to ride 500 miles on a bicycle during September. August was spent learning the bike and doing practice rides to determine his endurance.

On 21SEP23, with 380 miles ridden, and only 120 miles to go, Chris took a spill and went over the handlebars. Injured his back and ribs. With the wet weather, and the pain in his ribs ad back, he thought perhaps he would try to try to finish those last 120 miles by doing shorter mileage spurts on his stationary bike at home. That was not going well. Then, due to the severe weather in many areas, the sponsoring organization decided to extend it through October.

Here's the whole blog on his efforts: https://tinyurl.com/3r3x95nd

Whenever you see Chris at the joint, give him a big ATABOY for attempting this !!



Icom Ad de Bob - WC3O

Question:

Has Skyview Radio Society ever been featured in an ICOM ad?

Find the answer elsewhere in this fine publication

Answer:

YES!

A number of years ago ICOM put together a promotion called "Show us your shack". The intent was for ICOM users to send in a picture of their ICOM powered radio station and these pictures would be featured in an upcoming ICOM ad.

That sounded good to me. Add to that we had recently taken 1st place USA for the CQ WW RTTY contest, and we had the plaque to prove it.

I put out a call on the reflector for all ops to report to the clubhouse for a group picture. Most of the folks in the picture were actual ops and some just happened to be there, so we included them in the picture as well.

It's all good I sent in the picture and details to ICOM. I heard nothing. Time went by. The grass grew. The sun shone.

Nothing.

A lot of time went by. Still, nothing.

Here is my theory of what happened? ICOM was expecting a big response from their users. Instead, they got one. Us.

I think they were hoping that we would forget all about it. However, we did not.

Periodically I would send an email to ICOM to remind them.

I think they figured out that this wasn't going away. So eventually, they came though!

Skyview was featured in two ways. One was on a full page ad in QST (and perhaps other magazines?) AND a large center fold-out!

The only other operation that was featured in the Icom ad was the K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition.

K5D and K3MJW! Hihi

The following picture is the large fold-out as shot from my basement floor. That's us in the picture top and center! (And enlarged below the ad).

I had that mother laminated!

The other picture from QST is lovingly hung in the Skyview Hall of Fame (the bathroom) next to the sink.

And what a handsome group of lads they are.

So YES. Skyview Radio Society - K3MJW was indeed featured in an ICOM ad.

Now put THAT in your pipe and smoke it.

Bob - WC3O





Making It Easier To Set The Frequency

de Paul - AC3IE

When I first started operating Field Day and then Parks On The Air (POTA) I used wire antennas, typically a dipole and later End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) and "Random Wire" (EFRW) configurations. Often faced with the problem of no trees or other potential tall supports for a wire antenna, I looked for other solutions. The vertical antenna was an obvious choice.

I looked at tripods sold by various ham radio equipment retailers, but, while sturdy, they tended to be large, heavy and cumbersome, not to mention expensive. Then I saw a YouTube video about a new version of an existing small tripod from Gabil. From China? No, Taiwan. https://www.gabilradio.com/tripod

Temporarily Offline Ham Radio (KM9G) Review said:

"The BEST Ham Radio Antenna Tripod!"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXjJpwQeNHs

This review was for the MK2, there is now a MK3 which has some improvements and new features.

Another review, this time of all three versions.

HOA Ham (KD4BMG) Review said:

"MAJOR UPGRADE to Most Versatile Ham Radio Antenna TRIPOD for Portable Operations, POTA, SOTA"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfsD0nC9BG8

I already had two Shark 40 Meter hamsticks that I used in a dipole configuration. I tried several homebrew vertical configurations with little success. The Gabil tripod provided a stable mount, so I put one of the hamsticks on, added radials and was on the air very quickly.

Since this article is about the vertical, not the tripod we'll move on. At Dayton this year I looked at 17 foot collapsible whip antennas from different vendors and purchased one from Alpha antenna. I am very pleased with it.

The initial enthusiasm wore off when I had to spend time measuring its length and checking for resonance each time I set it up. I could measure the length, write it down and then set up for that length, but there is a better way.

I needed a better way so I looked to one of my other hobbies: woodworking. For certain types of wood projects I need to make multiple parts of several different lengths. A very old technique is to use a "Story Stick". A piece of scrap wood as long as the longest measurement you need. Mark the length for each part on the stick and indicate what it is. Reproducing each length is now quite convenient.

I applied the Story Stick concept to set the length of the vertical by using a thin string/rope that doesn't stretch (much) and marking it for each frequency. Namely 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. This went through several improvement iterations that I won't bore you with, until I came up with the final version.

One end needs to reliably attach to the base of the whip. A knot works for a while, but was not good enough. A cute idea I used for my DX Commander vertical is to use small plastic beads with numbers on them intended for making bracelets and such. The beads are used to mark the band for each of the wires. I had purchased a bag of several hundred and started using them for this project.

A bead with a knot on the far end slips into the quick release base of the whip and securely holds one end of the string



Making the rest of Story String begins with 6 meters. Calculate the length of the whip for the portion of 6 meters you want, set the whip to that length, put it on the tripod and adjust to resonance.

Take the whip off, lay it on the ground, put the string in the base, tie a knot just short of the end of the whip, slide a number "6" bead on and tie another knot to secure it.



Repeat for each band. Here is the 20 Meter Band.



I used the Story String for several POTA activations with good success. I did run into one problem with the whip on the tripod in the field, namely wind. I got it set up in a park without proper trees to support one end of a wire antenna, went to get the coax and the wind had blown it over.

I used one of the available "stunted trees" to hold up a wire antenna and completed the activation. A trip to a hardware store resulted in a cost effective solution in the form of bent wire tent stakes Pound one at the end of each leg and the tripod will stay up in light to moderate wind.



This configuration with the Gabil tripod and a 17 foot collapsible whip antenna is very versatile for operation on the 20 through 6 Meter bands. As an experiment, I extended the whip to its full length and used a tuner to get on 30 meters, it worked.

The Story String makes it fast and convenient to set the length of the whip for resonance on the desired band. When wind is a problem, try some simple tent stakes.

Everything except the collapsible whip and the coax fits into a 6 X 9 X 4.5 inch case.



Paul - AC3IE

HF.DXView.org

de Dan - NM3A

Jon Harder, NGOE, brought out the VHF.DXView.org web site a number of years ago to help VHF operators view who is on the air, where they are and on what bands by means of a world map.

VHF DX operators have used this site for about 20 years to help them make contacts in real time with other operators. It helps operators to identify what paths are open to what areas by various different mechanisms such as Tropospheric Ducting, Meteor Scatter, or Sporadic E.

Jon takes realtime information from APRS and integrates it into his web site map. The site does not predict openings or identify the type of opening, but it does show what paths are being used in real time.

Earlier this year, Jon brought HF.DXView.org online to help HF operators use similar information. Path information is also displayed on a world map, similar to MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) type maps. MUF maps tell you what you can work from a particular location and under what circumstances and to what part of the world. However, this does not take into account who is actually on the air at the time.

Jon's program gives you that real time information about what paths and what frequencies are actually being used by amateur radio operators at the present time. Jon calls his MUF Maximum USED Frequency, rather than Max. Useable Frequency. Like the VHF model, it does not predict openings, but reflects real world weak signal usage rather than just potential usage.

The site integrates PSK Reporter, RBN, WSPR/FT8/4, and DXCluster networks information to show what paths are open to what areas of the world.

This generally uses weak signal information, but it is extrapolated to SSB levels by using a fudge factor. For instance, SSB needs approximately 1000 times the power compared to WSPR. So while this site actually shows what CW, PSK, RTTY, or WSPR signals are actually making the trip between two places in real time, you can also use it to find where an SSB signal will likely propagate.

Of course, you will have to factor in your own power level, antenna gain and receive capability of your own station as well as the fudge factor Jon uses on his maps.

There is a very nice YouTube video interviewing Jon about HF.DXView.org by KOLWC.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=49cM0wnYnsE

Searching for HF.DXView will show several other videos which also explain how to use this tool and other propagation tools, such as DXMaps.

Matthew and Jon are both Minnesota hams. Jon has worked in IT for many years and used this expertise to develop this tool. Personally, I know Jon as he is net control for a Sunday afternoon 40 meter net for the MennoNet which I occasionally check into.

He occasionally checks into the 80 meter MennoNet, which I occasionally check into on Tuesday evenings. His brother Phil, K4NE, works in IT in Virginia and was part of the K4NN Field Day operation with me in 2022. Phil alerted me to this site after it came out earlier this year.

Check it out and happy HF operating!

Dan - NM3A





The folks at Upper Burrell Township were nice enough to install a tool in front of the clubhouse to help check your CW speed! Nice folks

(But it went away - I guess we were too fast)

de Bob - WC3O

Saw this bumper sticker on the way home from work. Still don't know what it's about?

de Bob - WC3O

Welcome New Members!!

Welcome the following Skyview Radio Society Members who have joined us since publishing the August 2023 newsletter:

KC3WCJ - Bob Coccaro - Pittsburgh

KC3VYK - Dave Fitzgibbons - West Mifflin

KE3IF - Karl Henry - New Stanton

KC3WBN - Darek Kelsey - Yougwood

KB3YRU - Eddie Misiewicz - Belle Vernon

KB3YYC - Connie Misiewicz - Belle Vernon

KC3TTL - Charles Mance - New Kensington

W3YS - Jim Cloonan - New Brighton

K3CWE - Chuck Eglhaut - Greensburg

TBD - Diane Wilson - Oakmont

WA3SCM - Dave Slater - Murrysville

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 30 SEP 23

NM3A	WB3 HFP	AJ3 O	KB3SOU
N3AFS	WA3 HGW	WC3O	K3STL
KB3 APD	KB3 HPC	WO3 O	KC3STV
NA0B	K3 HSE	KC3 OCA	KB3SVJ
WI8B	KB3 HXP	KC3 OCB	KC3TEX
N3BAH	AG31	KC3 OCC	WV8TG
W3BUW	AC3 IE	N3 OEX	N3 TIN
KF3C	KE3 IF	K3 OGN	N3TIR
KC3 CBQ	KC3 IIO	N3 OIF	W3TLN
W3 CDW	AB3 IK	KB3 OMB	N3TTE
K2CI	WB3 IMB	KB3 ORO	KC3TTK
K3 CLT	W3 IU	NK3 P	AG3U
K3 CWE	K3 JAS	K3 PC	NS3U
K3 DCG	N3 JLR	K4 PDF	N3 UIW
N3 DRB	KA3 JOU	KC3 PIM	KC3UNP
KB3 DVD	ND9 JR	K2 PMD	W3UY
K3 DWS	K3 JZD	KE3 PO	KX3 V
KC2 EGL	WA3 KFS	W3 PRL	KC3VCX
KC3 EJC	AC3 KI	KC3 PSQ	KC3 VNB
K3 ELP	ACØ KK	KC3 PXQ	K3 VRU
AB3 ER	W4 KV	AC3 Q	N3 VXT
WA3 ERT	KC3 KXZ	NU3 Q	KC3VYK
N3 ERW	WE3 L	WQ3 Q	W3 VYK
K3ES	WA3 LCY	KC3 QAA	N3WAV
KB3 EYY	KC3 LHW	KC3 QWF	KC3WBN
AC3 EZ	WB3 LJQ	NJ3R	KC3WCJ
WB3FAE	KB3 LND	K3 RAW	K3 WM
K3FAZ	K3 LR	KC3 RIL	N3 WMC
KC3FEI	KC3 LRT	K3 RMB	KA3WVU
K3FH	AB3LS	KC3 RMN	K3WWP
K3 FKI	KC3LZH	KC3 RPE	N3 XF
KC3FWD	N2 MA	W3 RRK	W3YNI
AC3 GB	KC3 MBM	I2 RTF	KB3YRU
N2 GBR	N3 MHZ	KI2 RTF	W3YS
AC3GE	K3 MJ	KD3 RVR	KB3YYC
KC3 GPM	W3 MLJ	KQ3S	K3ZAU
K3 GT	K3 MRN	K3 SBE	W3ZVX
AB3 GY	N3 MRU	WA3 SCM	
KC3GZW	KS3 N	KC3SDJ	
NC3H	G4 NFS	KC3 SKX	
NY9H	KB3 NSH	KC3 SNZ	

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

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

From Digi-Keyer to DigiKey https://tinyurl.com/4449f395

Extended Life for Coin Cells https://tinyurl.com/bdfrxy6v

Smart ePants ??? https://tinyurl.com/2p9vapjx

Harvesting 'Noise" -> Generating Milliwatts https://tinyurl.com/mr35p5dk

> A \$5600 Taillight Repair Bill !!! https://tinyurl.com/mj9xdh6f

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

Previous Issues

Previous Issues of the Q5er are available at

http://www.nelis.net

Next Newsletter will be December 1, 2023
Closing Date For Submissions: Nov 15, 2023

K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET

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

>>>> WARNING <<<<<

An 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.

**** Skyview VE Testing ****

For Testing Dates, See:

http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session

Time: Usually 8:15 AM

Location: Skyview Clubhouse Meeting Room 2335 Turkey Ridge Rd New Kensington PA 15068-1936

Contact: Bill Dillen
(724) 882-9612
Email: bdillen@comcast.net
http://www.skyviewradio.net/ve-tests/

Please E-Mail or call to register!!!

While walk-ins are accepted, the exam session may be cancelled if no candidates are scheduled.



Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

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email your comments and article submissions to: K3JZD AT ARRL DOT NET



That's Easy

Come up to the Skyview Clubhouse on any

Tuesday and ask !!!

And See: https://tinyurl.com/y79tqsr8

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

Subscribe to K3MJW **groups.io** 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 ??
Send in pictures of your Ham Shack