SKYVIEW
Skyview Radio Society, K3MJW
K3MJW
2335 Turkey Ridge Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

Q5er – The Official Newsletter of the Skyview Radio Society

If you ask Artificial Intelligence to describe it's vision of Skyview Radio Society . . . . (tu MS Copilot)

2025 is Skyview's 65th Anniversary !!

October 1, 2025

- Swap & Shop Results
- VE Testing Results
- 40m Beam Rotor Problems
- USB Port Protection
- Mother Nature Issues
- ARRL Influenced KDKA
- GA Parks & Peaks
- . . . . And More . . .
-
-
-

Sunspot Numbers Are Still High

Time to exercise the 10-12-15-17-20 Meter bands while they are Still Hot

Inside this issue:

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

Skyview Members like to :

1. Build & Modify Stuff
2. Configure their Shack
3. Operate Outdoors
4. Share their Experience

All of that, especially the last item is what keep this Newsletter going.

Since it is published electronically, the only limit that I have is to keep the overall size within reason.

I like to see lots of photos, but I have to reduce the resolution on many of them to get the file size down.

Jody - K3JZD

Remember: The number of people older than you never increases, it only decreases

Ham Radio is a Contact Sport

From the Treasurer

The Skyview Swap & Shop was once again a financial success.

All week the weather looked iffy, but when Sunday came, it settled into a comfortable mostly sunny day.

The proceeds from the Swap & Shop fund the club's radios, radio accessories, computers, antennas, etc.

To those of you who provided member support by responding to the request to contribute $15 in advance, Thank You !!!

To those of you who provided member support by coming to the event and buying raffle tickets, Thank You !!!

To those of you who donated items to be sold on the 'Skyview Table", Thank You !!!

Jody - K3JZD

ADVENTURE: The respectful pursuit of trouble.

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.

As much as I hate to point it out, COVID is not 100% gone. There are still daily hospitalization admissions for the more serious COVID cases. Sharing is not caring. If you are not feeling well, please stay home.

You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream – CS Lewis

Skyview Business Meeting Minutes

de Don - WA3HGW

Skyview Radio Society

Monthly Business Meeting – September 2, 2025

Call to Order: 7:30 PM by President Jerry Lasalle, W3UY.

Attending – 23 members: W3UY, KQ3S, WC3O, N3DRB, WB5LLI, WA3KFS, NJ3R, W3IU, AG3U, KC3TTK, AB3GY, WA3HGW, W1MP, AC3IE, AG3I, KU3J, KA3CBA, K3JZD, KC3VNB, K3STL, K3FAZ, KC3FWD and associate member Bill Rudert (no call - yet).

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the August 5, 2025 meeting were distributed for review. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by W1MP and seconded by KA3CBA. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jody, K3JZD, reviewed the 31 August 2025 Financial Report (attached). Final details for the Swap & Shop will be presented on the September financial report. Preliminary income is about $6000 so far. All fixed expenses for the month were paid including insurance, utilities, and school tax. No major increases were incurred. Fixed expenses look good for the remainder of 2025. There was some expense for repair of an antenna analyzer. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by AG3I and seconded by KA3CBA. The motion passed without objection.

Membership Report: Tom, AB3GY, advised there are 5 new membership applications for August. AB3GYmade a motion to open the membership rolls. The motion was seconded by WA3HGW. The motion passed without objection. The applications are from:

William Rudert, no call, from Sarver, PA.

Mac Liang, KB3LYA, a General class from Gibsonia, PA.

Casey Braffert, KD3BUF, a General class from Greensburg, PA.

Joel Cox, KC3LVG, a General class from Indianola, PA.

Jim Holman, KU3J, an Extra class from Cheswick, PA.

AB3GY made a motion to accept the applications, which were seconded by AG3I. The motion passed without objection. AB3GY made a motion to close the membership rolls, which was seconded by W1MP. The motion passed without objection. Membership now stands at 167.

Radio Officer Report: Bob, WC3O, reported that all radios were operating normally. The Hy Gain Hy-Tower coax was replaced due to water ingress into the old cable. During the Swap & Shop setup, the Hy-Tower was lowered and the 80 meter dipole wire which was stuck on the antenna was removed. This cured the high SWR problems on the 80 meter band. A future project will lower the Hy-Tower and rejuvenate the element connections and weld the tower sections for better electrical connection. Bob is still working on the crank-up tower cables, and is making progress.

Kitchen Report: Bob, WC3O, reported that current balance is $141. The kitchen fund paid for all the Swap & Shop food purchases.

VE Report: There was one new ham from the August VE session, new member Casey Braffert, KD3BUF. One candidate is currently scheduled for the September 20 session at this time.

Newsletter: The August Q5er is now out. No articles by Cookie this issue! New material requested by September 15 for the October issue.

Building Committee: Marty, AG3I, reported that the architect met with the Board of Directors via Zoom. Various options to proceed were discussed. The officers in attendance voted, with one abstention, to secure an informal meeting with township officials to talk about our needs and get their opinions on thy way to proceed.

Calendar of Events:

September 7 - Butler ARA Hamfest at Unionville VFD.
September 14 – Clearfield Co ARC, PA. Inaugural hamfest.
September 20 – VE session.
September 21 – Flight of the Bumblebees CW contest, QRP.
September 27 – CQ WW RTTY contest.
September 29 – HATfest in Newell, WV.

Swap & Shop: John, WA3KFS thanked all for their help with our hamfest. Everything went well from setup to the Sunday Swap & Shop to tear down. It looks that we were at maximum capacity from parking to tailgating spots. A job well done.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Weather Night: September 9 – Space weather. K3FAZ noted we've been enjoying some pleasant weather lately. June was the busiest weather month in about 12 years as noted by the NWS.

Elmer Night: September 22. Possible presentation on setting up remote station operations.

Smoke and Solder: Some work on updating a couple of Icom IC-705 radios to a different USB connector. A few other projects were being done.

Net Report: August 7 = 35, August 14 = 45, August 21 = 41 and August 28 = 41. Average is 40.5 for the month with KC3PXQ getting the 45 check-ins.

50/50 Drawing: total collected is $30 with $15 going to winner Jody, K3JZD. Thanks to Jody for again donating the proceeds to the club treasury.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion to adjourn was made by N2MA and seconded by KA3CBA. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

2025 Swap & Shop Prize Winners

Random Door Prizes:

Heil T-Shirt: WA3YNX Herb Gilliland, AC3KI Jan Shadle

Heil Book: WA3TFS James Forkin, N3DL Tim Haniwalt, KS3N Tom Straub

Door Prizes:

8:30 AM Torroid Tools: WA3NGA Andrew Horvath

9:00 AM $25 ARRL Gift Certificate: WU3U Curt McCormick

9:30 AM $25 ARRL Gift Certificate: KC3YKT Joe Ducarme

10:00 AM $50 ARRL Gift Certificate: KQ3S Jim Painter

10:30 AM $50 ARRL Gift Certificate: K3HX Tim Colbert

Main Prizes:

RT Systems Programming Software: KD8BJW Susan Johnson

440 Mhz J-Pole: KB3NZU Justin Fowler

2M/440Mhz J-Pole: K3YQA Bill Kubisiak

$100 DX Engineering Gift Certificate: N2MA Al Houston

$100 DX Engineering Gift Certificate: WB6CQA Christopher Grill

Astron SS-30M Power Supply: K3CRO John Moskala

Icom IC-7300: KB3VSP Daniel Grazulis

Begali Key :

Begali Morse Code Key: KD8BJW Susan Johnson

50/50 Raffle :

$137: KC2EGL Mike Brennan

2025 Swap & Shop Report

de John - WA3KFS

The 2025 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 AM. meeting time, but few delays sped up much of the heavy lifting, e.g. tent set up and placing those old heavy yellow wooden tables.

The completion of set up was done in record time. 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 AM., there were several members already getting things in shape up. We were quickly set up for business.

The weather forecast was iffy but Skyview's luck held. On Sunday, the sun came out, and it was a beautiful day.

Fortunately, Skyview has the most loyal hamfest followers. The paid attendance (approx. 225) and gross dollars received were about above average. Our treasurer, Jody, K3JZD, is trying to calculate an exact number, but that will have to wait until he has paid all the costs.

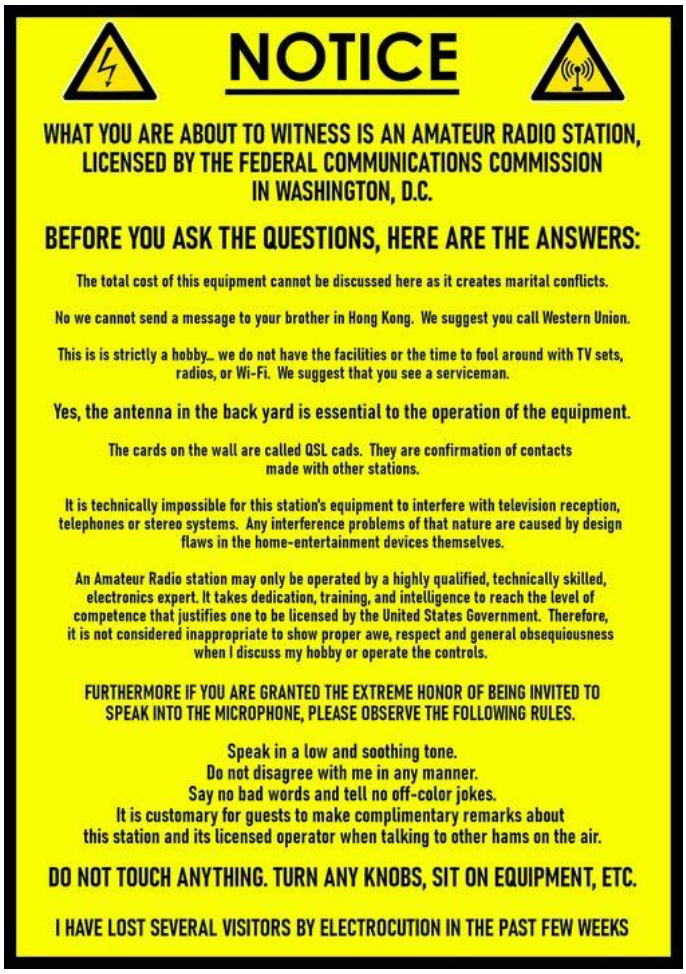
The lucky prizewinners were listed on the reflector and all listed on the previous page.

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



Skyview VE Sessions

Skyview provides VE Testing at the Skyview Clubhouse each month (Details provided later, near the end of this newsletter)

Here are some of the recent success stories

August 2025

KD3UBF - Casey Braffet - Technician

September 2025

KD3BYF - Brady Bottegal - General

KD3BYT - Bill Rudert - Technician

de Bill - N3WMC

Rotor Problem On Our 40m Beam

de Cooky - WC3O

I thought I would write about some of the projects up at the clubhouse that we have been working on.

Here's one:

During 13 Colonies we smelled something burning in the radio room. It turned out to be the Yaesu rotor controller for the 40 meter beam.

A little backstory first...

I bought that rotor from a vendor that comes to many area hamfests. It was a NEW Yaesu 2800SDX rotor. Never taken out of the box. The 2800 is the largest rotor that Yaesu makes, as opposed to the small 800 and the midsized 1000. The 2800 is notably larger than what we needed for our 40 meter Moxon beam. I like overhead. I figured that this rotor would last a very long time before we would ever need to worry about it. I was wrong...

40m Beam's View Toward Europe

Most antenna rotors turn 360 degrees. The Yaesu rotors turn 450 degrees. I really don't care much about this feature, but it's there. The antenna was turned to the full 450 degree limit, and it stuck... Would not turn. I tried everything I could think of - WOULD NOT TURN. DAMN!

We had a Yaesu 800 rotor sitting around. The load of the beam and mast were right on the limit of what that rotor was rated. I installed the 800 and it worked.

When the Yaesu controller went up in smoke I decided to replace the controller with a Green Heron rotor controller that I bought used from Bill, NY9H two years ago at Dayton. For me the controller was a solution looking for a problem.

Well here's a problem! The Green Heron rotor controllers can be configured to work with most any rotor, including ring rotors and prop-pitch rotors. And yes, Yaesu rotors too. After figuring out all of the jumper settings, transformer tap setting and software settings it was all set! Well, yes and no…

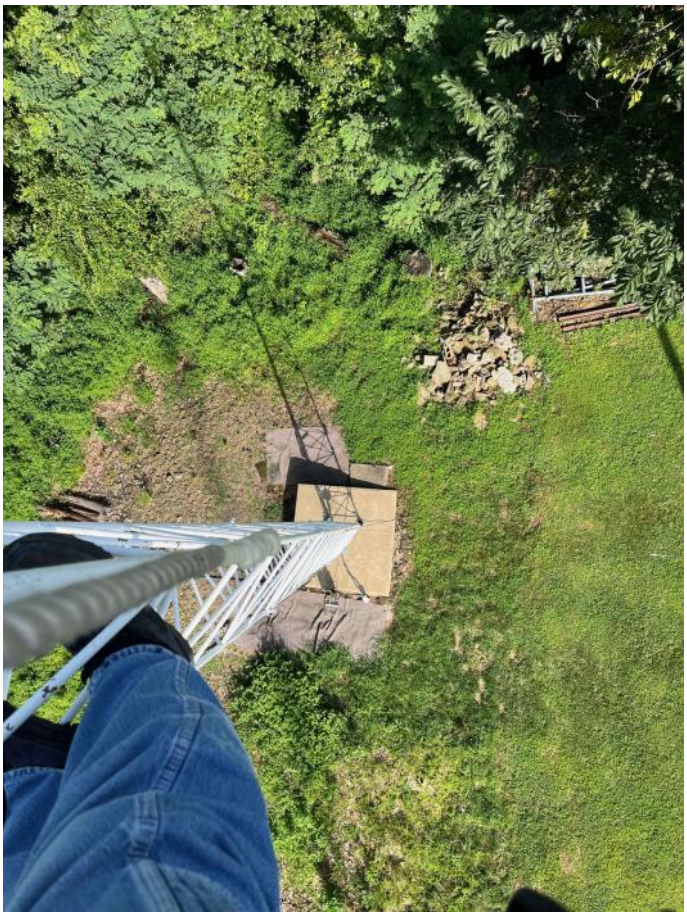
I think the reason the Yaesu controller smoked was because there was a major malfunction in that 800 rotor up in the tower. Oh goodie.

Enter Dave, WA3SCM:

(Going back in time) After I had replaced the stuck 2800 rotor with the smaller 800 rotor, Dave asked me if it would be ok if he took the 2800 rotor home and see if he could repair it. I gave the rotor to Dave where he meticulously studied and documented the workings of the rotor. He repaired the rotor and brought it back! Remember that this rotor is basically new, it just had a defect.

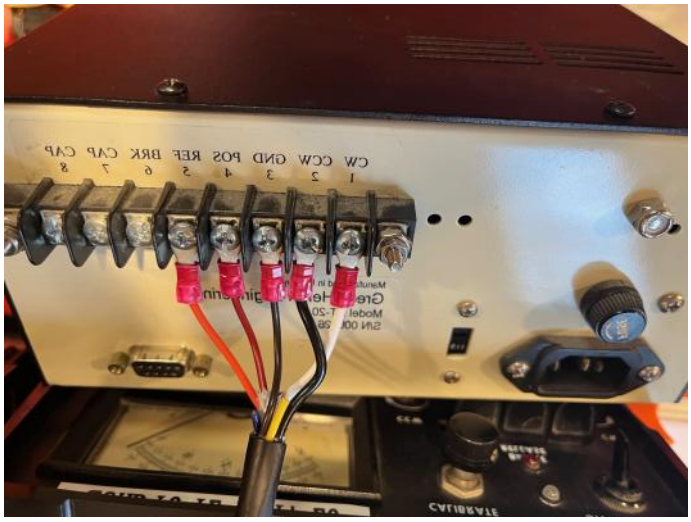
The 2800 sat in the closet because the 800 rotor was working fine, until now... (Unlike Hygain rotors, there is VERY little information about Yaesu rotors floating around. I pulled the top off of the 2800 rotor and after seeing the workings, I quickly said the hell with this and put it back together. Thank you Dave!)

So up the tower I went and replaced the 800 with the 2800. While not an easy job, all went well.

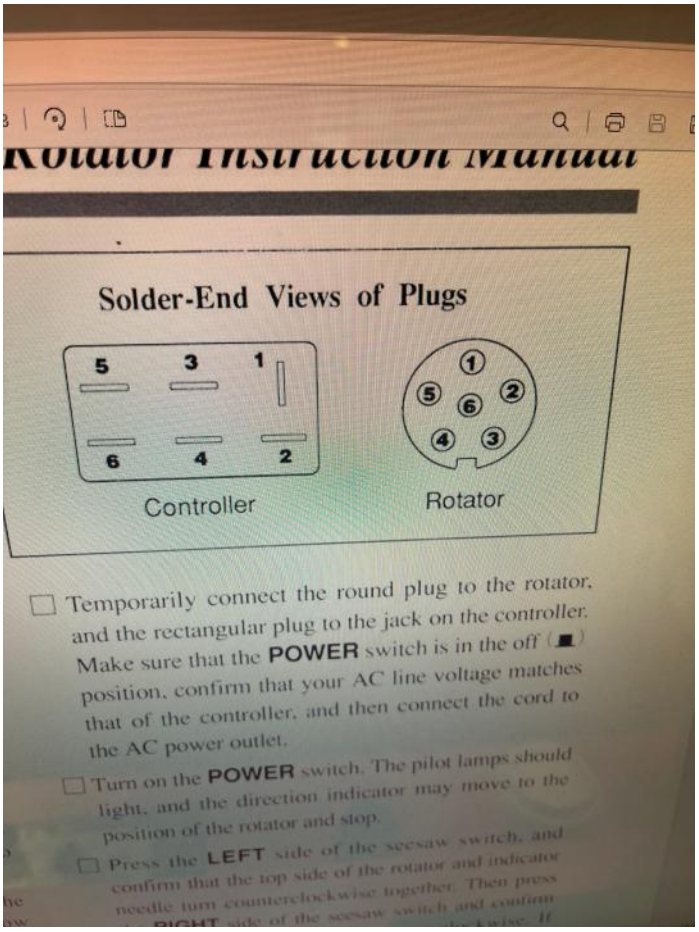


Changing Rotor on 40m Beam

With the 2800 rotor re-installed it was time to finish configuring the Green Heron rotor controller. Now that the rotor turns all went well. HOPEFULLY I won't need to think about it for some time! PLEASE! (If you shake the 800 rotor something is floating around inside)



There are YouTube videos showing how the Green Heron rotor controller works. All the cool contesters use them because they are heavy duty, simple to operate, have good logic to keep people from harming the rotors such as switching directions too quickly or doing sudden stops. They communicate with your computer via RS232 (The newer models also have a USB port) They have a very good Groups.io where the owner of the company quickly answers questions, as he did for me.



You'll see more of these great controllers for sale because MicroHam came out with a new rotor controller called the ARCO. It has many more bells and whistles. It makes julienne fries and will tie your shoes for you.

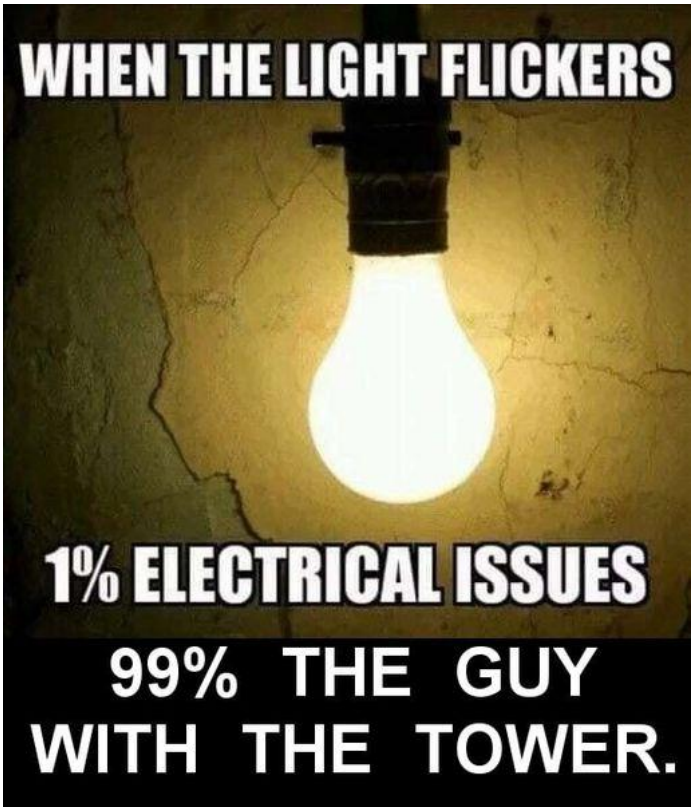
It's really sexy and a lot of people are replacing their Green Heron controllers with ARCOs. To me, that's a good opportunity to pick up some Green Heron controllers at a good price.

Actually, I just bought another Green Heron Rotor controller from Dave, N3XF at the Somerset hamfest. Yes, it's a solution looking for a problem.

So that's that

Cooky
Skyview Radio Officer

Who are you going to blame ?



QMX+ Internal Battery & Speaker

de Dan - NM3A

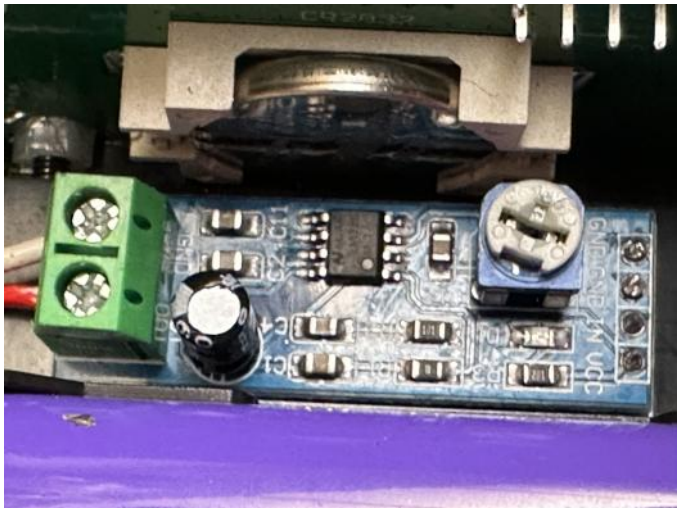
When the QMX+ (5W CW/SSB/digital 160-6m TCVR)

came out in May 2024, I had to build it right away - and I did! Later, a group put together a kit to add an internal battery, speaker, and automatic antenna tuning unit. I purchased that right away too. However, I was not wild about the ATU as it required constant power and a glitch would cause it to lose its tuning. That might be a problem for the finals if I transmitted before I realized the tuning loss. In addition, this early interface to the QMX+ resulted in a significant RF impedance bump. So, to prevent those issues and since I already have an Elecraft T1 with latching relays that works well, I decided to sell it without building it.

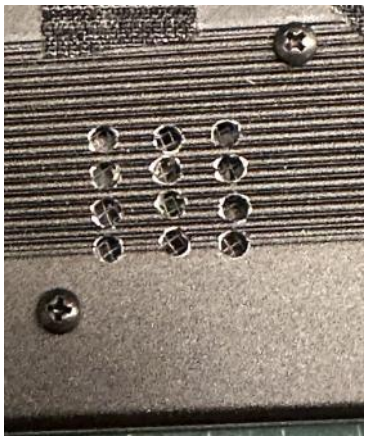
Earlier in 2025, Necati, TA7MNA, developed an internal board with Li ion battery, BMS, charger, and speaker amplifier for the 12V QMX+. Hans, G0UPL, of QRP Labs fame, showcased it at FDIM and Hamvention. I got the last one in Necati's first batch. Now that I finally got some free time, I installed it in my QMX+ in July 2025. Necati has a new version out that also allows for 9V QMX+ versions. The whole project is documented on GitHub or available through Necati's web site.
[https://github.com/laxdronum/QMX-Plus-Battery-and-Audio-Board]

The one I got was a completed board with all daughter boards, battery holders, and male jumpers for mounting included. The only items I needed to add were three flat top 18650 Li Ion 3500mAhr cells, 11mm nylon standoffs, and a small speaker. Soldering the male jumpers onto the QMX+ main board was trivial. I simply inserted them into the pre-mounted female jumpers on the battery/speaker board, lined them up on the main board, and soldered them in place. With this done, I removed the battery/speaker board and inserted the 18650s. I checked voltages and current with the charger connected and disconnected to make sure the batteries were subjected to no undue currents.

A small, shielded 1½" 8 ohm speaker was wired to the output of the LM386 audio amplifier and the whole thing placed back in the QMX+.

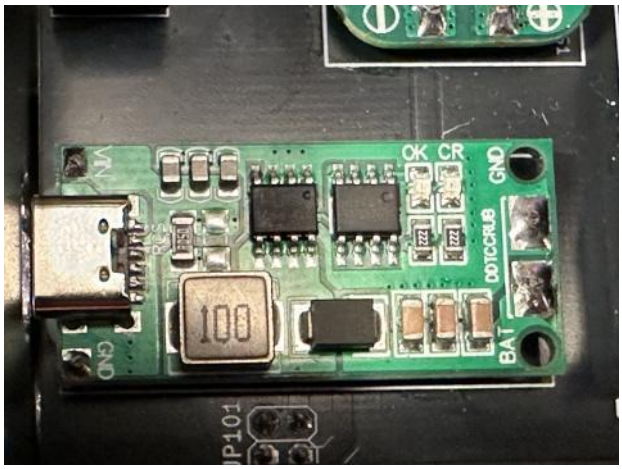


The audio amplifier drive was set at minimum QMX+ volume and function was complete. The speaker was mounted under the back of the top cover using two #4 screws, washers and nuts. Twelve 1/8" holes were drilled above the speaker and window screening placed over the speaker for protection.

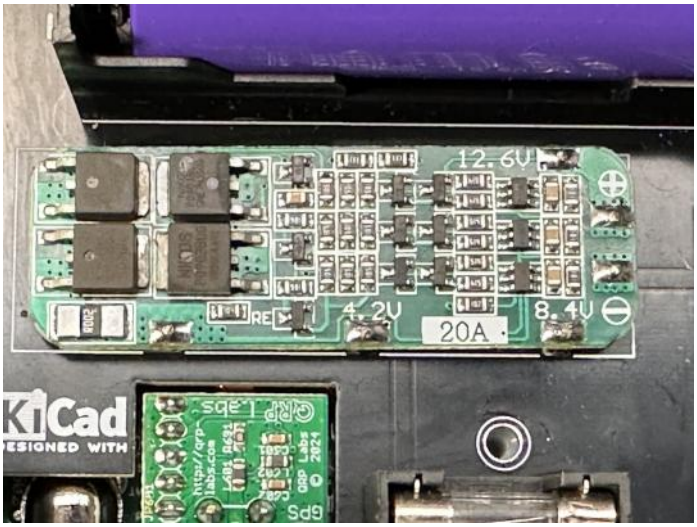


This internal speaker is disconnected when headphones are connected. Once the board was in place, the rear panel was marked where the new USB-C connecter is located and then an opening made in the rear panel.

Necati gives warnings to users: always have radio turned off when connecting or disconnecting power from the barrel connector or when charging internal batteries from the USB-C port on the battery/speaker board. (This USB-C port is only for charging, while the USB-C port on the QMX+ board is only for data connection to a computer.) Reasons for the warnings are potential voltage transients during external power disconnects, high voltage during charging, and RFI during charging.



The 3.5 Ahr battery should provide power for quite a few POTA or SOTA outings on a single charge as the QMX+ draws less than 100mA on receive and well under 1A on transmit. However, the LM386 audio amplifier will draw a minimum or 30 mA extra even with headphone use and as much as 120 mA more with speaker use. Even so, with a 40% T/R duty cycle as is typical for CW, this should provide 5-6 hours of operating time typically. Digital use may limit it to somewhat less than 5 hours and SSB may increase it a bit. A full charge from empty will probably take 4-7 hours with a 1-2A, 5V USB-C connection. There is a complete battery management system (BMS) on board, along with the Li ion USB-C (5V) charger.



Connecting power to the 5.5/2.1mm barrel port in the back of the QMX+ disconnects the internal battery from the QMX+ by a switch inside the coaxial power connector. It does this by disconnecting the ground (-) connection to the internal battery. Generally, I hook up external power leads to my QRP radios that terminate in a Power Pole connector as I generally dislike coaxial barrel connectors. Unfortunately, this bypasses the internal ground disconnect switch of the 5.5/2.1mm port. So I removed the Power Pole connection from the QMX+ to avoid conflicting power supply issues. This prevents applying incorrect voltages to the internal batteries and risking dangerous scenarios. One down side to an internal battery is that any bump of the volume control can turn the radio on when packed away. I may need to invest in a front cover to prevent this.

So, now I can operate without a separate battery, but I can still connect an external battery or power supply if need be. And I can listen to my QMX+ without headphones whenever I want. This is great for showcasing to other hams and the general public, what the QMX+ can do.

72, Dan, NM3A

Simple Solution for a Simple Problem

de Charles - KC3TTK

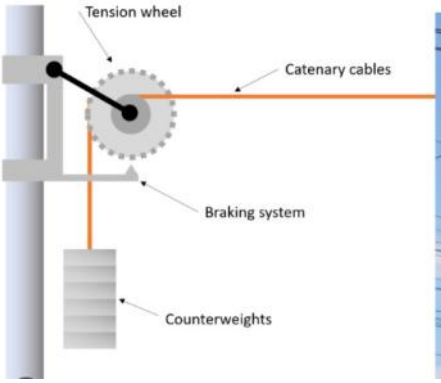
My current main HF antenna is a G5RV. I have not had a chance to put up a tower or a beam on the roof yet. The G5RV has worked reasonably well for me considering the cost to erect it.

When I received my license a few years ago I was excited to get on the air. I hoisted the center of the antenna into a cherry tree and put the wires as high as I could on either side of my yard using 1-inch conduits. I knew the tree would move and I came up with a system of springs to allow for movement of the tree. This has worked well until 2025.

Three times this year my antenna was ripped down because of excessive winds. The antenna pulled the spring which pulled the conduit and the bending moment broke the conduit clamps. Granted I used plastic clamps as sort of a mechanical "fuse" in the event something like this happened.

But three times since April made me go back to the drawing board. I do not have the ability to erect a mast or a tower at my present QTH. I was left thinking what could I do to prevent this from happening again.

Then it struck me. I was listening to a presentation on electrification of rail and there was a discussion on catenaries and cables. Particularly how the railways kept the cables at the correct tension. There were many different permutations of this over the years ranging from simple weights to hydraulic tensioner systems.

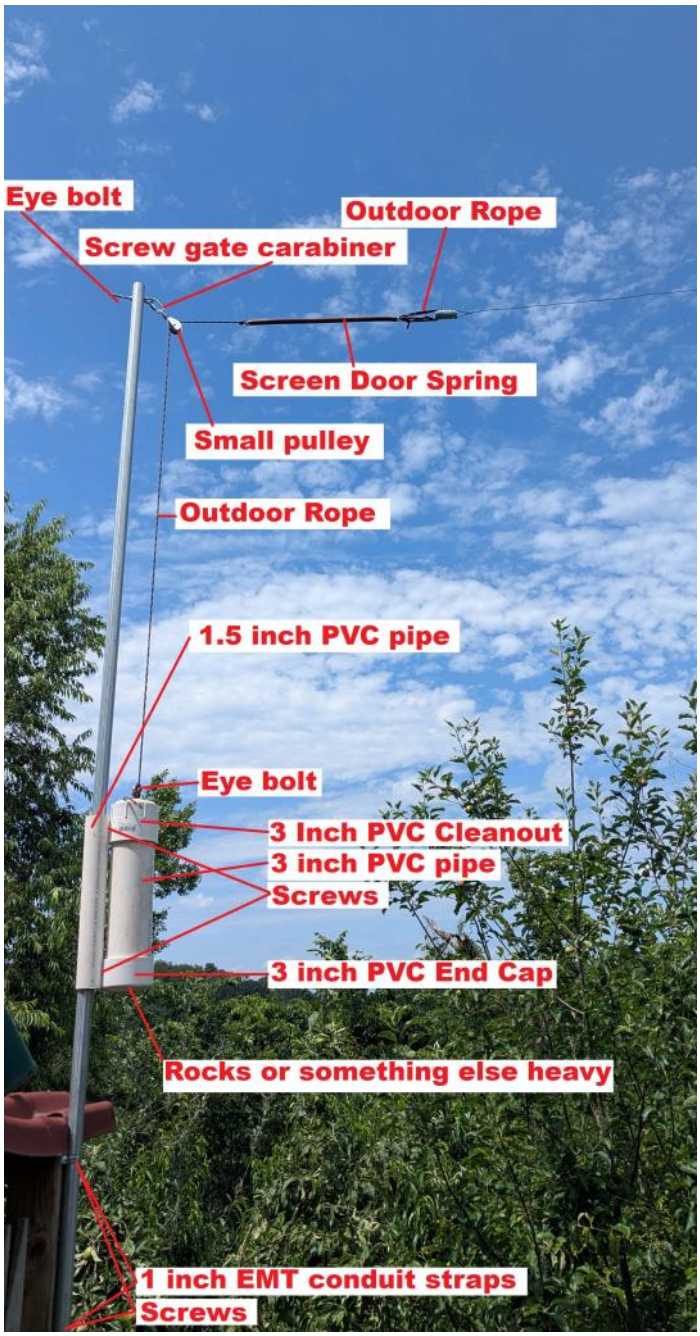


After the last bout of storms I had ran out of plastic conduit clamps. It was time to do something different. So I created my own constant tension system drawing my inspiration from the overhead catenary of the electrified railroads.

The parts I used were:

- 3 inch PVC pipe
- 3 inch PVC End Cap
- 3 Inch PVC Cleanout
- 1.5 inch PVC pipe
- 1 inch EMT conduit
- 1 inch EMT conduit straps x 2
- Screws x6
- Eye bolt x2
- Small pulley
- Screw gate carabiner
- Screen Door Spring
- Outdoor Rope
- Rocks or something else heavy

I did not take pictures of the build process but here everything is labeled.



This is the west side of my antenna. The wind typically blows from west to east here, so I only built one of these for the time being.

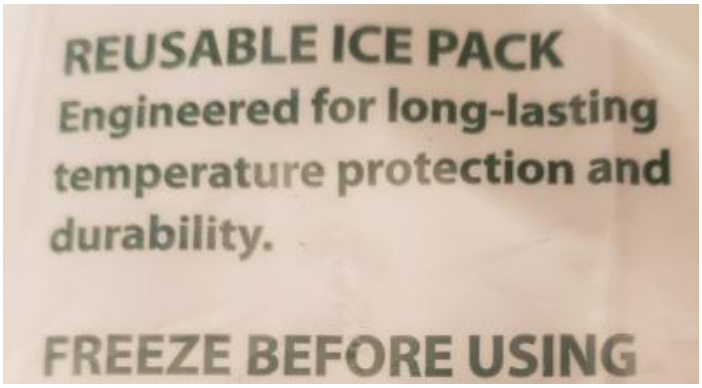
Once I built the apparatus and installed it I added rocks to the damper (hence the cleanout) because I did not know how much weight I needed to add. Right now the three inch PVC pipe is about half full of small rocks. This keeps just enough tension on the wire to keep it straight without putting too much tension on the wire, while allowing it to return to the rest position after a wind event.

So far so good. the antenna has the ability to move about 5 feet. It seems like a simple solution to an annoying problem. I hope this helps someone in the future. Thank you for reading

de Charles - KC3TTK

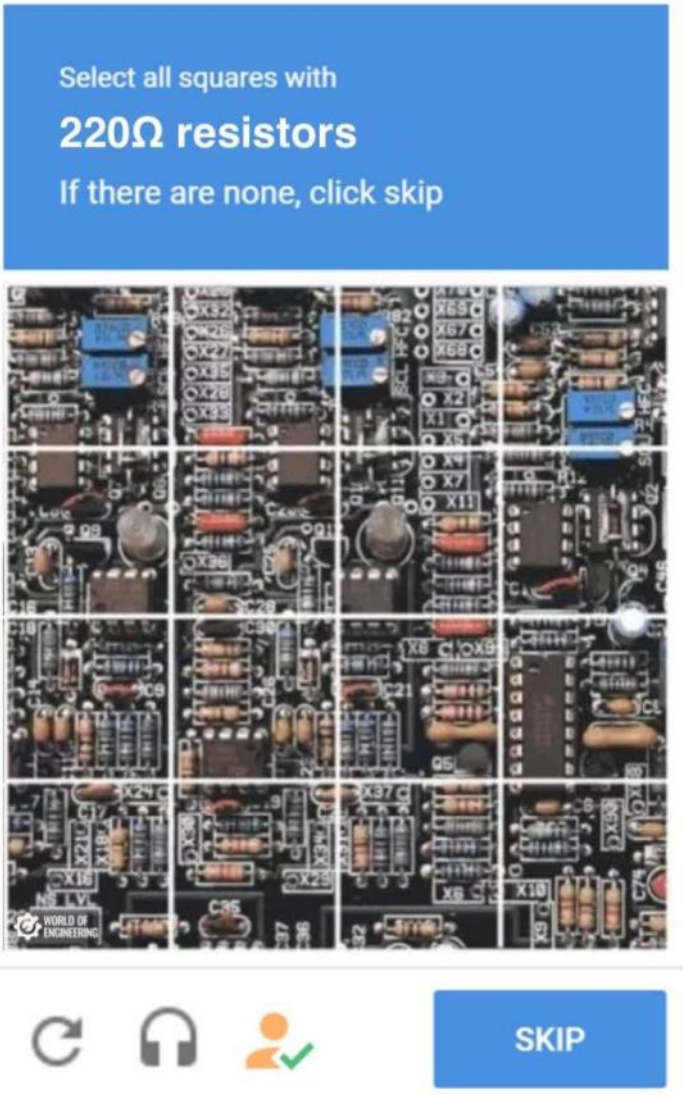
Received some Shipped Perishable Stuff

It was in an Insulated Box with Reusable Ice Packs



Guess whenever you manufacture a product nowadays you have to be very careful with your labeling

Are You a Human ?



USB Port Surge Suppressors Added

Cooky - WC3O

Another project that we have been working on is adding surge suppressors to the USB ports connecting the HF radios to the computers.

Again, a backstory...

Some years ago we took a BIG lightning strike. It followed the CAT5 cable in the repeater shed, went through our internet switch, through the network cabling, through the computer COM ports, through the RigBlaster interfaces and killed the COM ports in the radios, At that time, it was our IC-756 Pro 3s. It was no fun.

If you can, it's always an advantage to isolate as much as you can. I added opto-isolators to our rotor controller computer interface to keep surges from taking out all of the COM ports in the rotor controllers, again...

DX Engineering came out with USB surge suppressors. That got me to thinking that it would be a great idea to try to isolate the USB ports on the radios from the computers. While I thought the DXE products were a tad pricey, I went looking around. I came across some L-COM USB surge suppressors on ebay at a good price.

Our ground bus under the radio table is a 1/2 inch copper pipe. I bought some plumbing hanger clamps and adapted them to mount the surge suppressors.

I have no idea as to their quality, as opposed to the DXE products, but I think they should be good for us. So far no RFI issues that I have noted.

Time will tell.

Cooky - WC3O
Skyview Radio Officer

Icom IC-7760 - A 200W IC-7610 with a Remote Head???

Curt - WU3U

Dubbed "X60" and under glass (plastic) at Hamvention 2024, the X60 was an array of nine loose circuit boards tagged "60th Concept Model". There was a fishbowl and a stack of papers sitting next to it along with a sign asking people to guess what this was. I was intrigued with this radio or at this time, the pile of parts.

The only thing that was easily discernible was the PA module, some filters, tuner board and a circuit board with multiple ethernet jacks and other connectors on it.

Later in the year it was announced that it was the IC-7760 and someone chosen at random from the most correct guesses at Hamvention won an IC-7760. Sadly, I was not the winner.

When the Icom IC-7610 was released, people quickly took the stance, "it's just two 7300's in one box". Priced at nearly three times the price of a 7300, was it really two 7300's on one box? Shouldn't it have only been twice the price then?

While it did closely resemble the IC-7300 from afar, there was an abundance of additional features to be discovered. I think from a manufacturer's standpoint, if you want to hold the interest of your customer base, equipment needs to have a familiar look and feel. We see this with Yeasu and their FTdx10 and the FTdx101 series and just the same with Kenwood.

So, is the 7760 a 200W version of the 7610 with a remote head? Priced at nearly twice the cost of a 7610, my goal was to find out.

I'll start by saying that Rob Sherwood's report on the IC-7760 shows that his tests on the RECEIVER are nearly identical to that of the IC-7610 and he lists the 7760 one notch above the 7610 with slightly better numbers. I capitalized receiver as that's what Rob's specialty is, testing and rating receivers. It's not too often that you will hear him talk about ergonomics, price etc.

If everyone went solely by Rob's list, the only radio you should ever buy would be the FTdx101 or the FTdx10. In a conversation with Rob at Hamvention 2024 he said that he feels that people get too caught up in his receiver ratings and while the receiver is important, there is much more to a radio than it's receiver.

In many cases there are minimal differences in the receivers in the first 25 radios on his list. To his point, his daily drivers are a pair of IC-7610's, a Kenwood TS-990 and an Icom 7300. One major brand is missing from his list of personal radios despite that brand being in the top two positions of his own ratings.

Just like the 7610 resembles the 7300, the user interface on the 7760 at first glance looks very similar to the 7610. As mentioned previously, that only makes sense for a manufacturer to stick with a similar interface because someone that wants to transition from one radio to another will feel more comfortable with a familiar look and feel on the next level radio.

One of the first things that you will notice is that Icom has removed the physical band stacking buttons as used on the 7610 and replaced that area with a 2.5" touch screen capable of scrolling between the band stacking registers, filter settings and the (S/Power, ALC, Comp, SWR, iD) multi-function meter.

Many of the online pictures for the 7760 show only the screen with the filter settings. The initial rage online was, "they removed the band stacking buttons, why would they do that!?" Yes, they removed the band stacking buttons but they are still there if you choose the screen that displays the band stacking buttons. This new 2.5" display is much like the one on that can be seen on the Kenwood TS-990S.

The 200w PA is an LDMOS amplifier capable of 450w but limited to 200W to allow for what Icom lists as Full Duty Cycle or in small print, "200W and 1-hour continuous transmission with 100 VAC input (ambient temperature 25C). The 7610 is 100W and is not engineered for full duty cycle.

The 7760 has four cooling fans. There are two fans on the PA and two on the front of the case. The 7610 has one cooling fan.

The control head on the 7760 has two independent speakers. They can be used individually for the separate A & B bands, or they can be used as a pair for one or both VFOs. The 7610 has one speaker.

"The transmit Intermod using Digital Pre Distortion barefoot on the 7760 is several dB cleaner than the 7610 running DPD. When either the 7760 or 7610 drive an Icom PW2 amplifier, there is no difference in DPD." (direct quote from Rob Sherwood)

The 7760 has four transceiver antenna ports. The 7610 has two. Both radios have a single receive antenna port. On the 7610 the DIGI-SEL circuit was located right after the RF input (antenna) to prevent signal distortion by out-of-band interference. Even if the preamp could be turned ON when using DIGI-SEL on the 7610, the noise figure (receiver sensitivity) could not be improved, as DIGI-SEL had an insertion loss due to its narrow bandwidth.

Enabling the DIGI-SEL on the 7610 automatically turns off the preamp. With the IC-7760, the preamp can be turned on to enhance the signal first, then DIGI-SEL filters out unwanted out-of-band signals, so the preamp works together with DIGI-SEL on the 7760 unlike the 7610 where you could not use the preamps with DIGI-SEL. This alone makes a significant difference for the better in a received signal under the right conditions.

The 7760's preamp has 4dB more gain than the 7610's preamp.

The IC-7760 has a revised band pass filter configuration. On the 7610, the HF band was divided into 9 bands. The IC-7760 divides the HF band into 11 bands and also changes the cutoff frequency of each BPF to reduce the influence of the international broadcast band and adjacent commercial radios on the amateur bands. For example, the bandwidth of the 7 MHz band BPF in the 7760 was narrowed to 6.5~7.8 MHz when compared to 6.0~8.0 MHz in the 7610, so that it is not affected by international broadcasting in the 5.9~6.2 MHz and 9.4~9.9 MHz bands.

The 7760 has a built-in power supply unlike the 7610 requiring an external power supply. There are advantages and disadvantages to this.

Having an internal supply is not conducive to portable operation via battery. If the radio could have been powered via battery, its 200W output would be very demanding.

On a DXpedition most likely they would be running a generator so the internal power supply could be a plus. The internal supply eliminates any voltage drop in your power supply cabling and possibly Powerpole issues that some people have experienced when they are not made up properly..

7760 has two USB ports & one IQ port on the remote head and one IQ port on the RF deck. The 7610 has one USB port and one IQ port.

7760's display sweep speed is 30 times a second. 7610 can be up to 29.3 times a second which is faster but a very minimal difference.

7760 has an FT8 Preset, 7610 does not.

7760's Noise Blanker is 1 S unit better than the 7610 SD Card max capacity on the 7760 is 256gb. The 7610's max capacity s 32gb.

7760 allows you to set a maximum transmit power for each individual band. The 7610 has one overall maximum transmit power setting that affects all bands at the same time and cannot be adjusted for each band.

Preamp 1: Designed to improve intermodulation performance, this preamp enhances the receiver's ability to handle strong signals without distortion, making it ideal for crowded band conditions.

Preamp 2: A high-gain preamplifier that boosts weak signals, improving sensitivity and reception of distant or weaker signals.

The CW key jack and USB ports have been moved to the back of the control head on the 7760 compared to them being on the front of the 7610. This can clean up some cables running across the front part of your desk if you are a CW operator or using a USB port with the RC-28 remote encoder.

7760 offers contest serial number counter for both RTTY and CW. The 7610 only has a counter for CW.

Audio Peak Filter and Twin Peak Filter controls moved to the left side of the radio instead of being on the right like the 7610.

7760's headphone jack is now 1/8" instead of 1/4". In my opinion this is a slight downgrade, but most headphones natively have an 1/8" plug even though many include a 1/4" to 1/8" adapter.

7760 has the SWR test function like the 7300 which was not present on the 7610.

7760's power meter is in Watts. The 7610's power meter is in percentage. This was probably changed on the 7760 as tracking 0-100 watts to 0-100% on the 7610 was simple. 20% = 20 watts. With the 7760 being 200w, that conversion isn't quite as straight forward as a percentage when running at odd power levels. Showing the power output in wattage only makes sense for the 7760.

7760 has a Notch button on the front of the radio and the 7610 does not.

7760 has a Function Key on the front of the radio and the 7610 does not.

7760 has a user replaceable clock battery, the 7610 does not, nor does the 7300.

7760 has the memory pad button moved to the right side of the radio using the area where it was on the 7610 for more useful buttons.

Auto Tune button for CW has been moved next to the VFO knob making it a little more convenient to press while tuning CW signals.

7760 Multi knob moved to the top right.

CW Speed and Pitch are no longer separate knobs on the 7760. These values are adjusted in a menu.

The physical button for filter selection on the 7760 has been removed when compared with to 7610. Changing filters is done on the touch screen just like on the 7300. 7610 had a separate button on the front of the radio and the filters could not be selected on the touch screen.

Although it was originally advertised that the remote head had to be on the same LAN as the RF deck, you can now use the 7760's remote head over the internet

A recent firmware update allows you to connect a wireless ethernet dongle to the remote head allowing for the remote head to be connected to a Wi-Fi network. This seems like something that should have been built into the radio's control head but at least wireless is now an option.

Having played with a 7760 for a couple of months now, it feels very similar to the 7610. That only stands to reason. The sound from the built in speakers is definitely an improvement. Under certain situations being able to use the preamps with DIGI-SEL makes a world of difference but not in every situation.

I was prepared for the noise of four fans to drive me out of the shack under heavy duty cycles. The four fans are very quiet. If I hold my hand in front of the air intake on the front of the RF deck I can feel air slightly rushing past my fingers but you can barely hear the fans with a ear close to the front of the RF deck.

The default CI-V address is B2 which is different from the 7610's being 98. This posed a few issues in the beginning as the Commander software that I'm using to control a Palstar HF Auto tuner would not allow me to select the 7760 nor was CI-V address B2 an option in my SPE Expert amplifier.

For a short period of time I changed the CI-V to 98 to mimic the 7610. SDR Control for Icom which hosts up its radio interface screens based on CI-V value was not as flexible. Being that I had to change the CI-V to match that of the 7610, SDR Control for Icom would not give me the ability to access the additional functions available in the 7760. I was limited to what the 7610 had.

Commander quickly came out with an update to add the 7760 and I contacted SPE Expert and they were unaware of the new CI-V range used in the 7760. Within a couple

of days they sent me a new firmware file to test in the amplifier. They sent me a firmware update and although I found a bug in their initial attempt, the following day they sent me another file that corrected the issue.

I'm now able to run the default CI-V with Commander, the amplifier and SDR Control for Icom which has also allowed me to take advantage of the new features in that software related to the 7760.

If you already own an IC-7610, none of the new features **individually** on the 7760 are worth instantly dumping your 7610 to buy a 7760. The **combined** features and your operating style will probably be more of what determines if the IC-7760 is right for you.

For me, most of the above listed differences were a welcome change. I also do a lot of remote operating and even though I was able to do that with the 7610, the biggest difference is that I'm now able to take the control head with me if I don't want to use the Icom RS-BA1 software program or the SDR Control for Icom app to run the radio. There's a lot to be said for having the actual control head right in front of you and being able to connect a laptop to it for contest logging wherever you happen to want to operate from.

My first mode of choice is phone, but I also do a fair amount of digital operation. I've often wondered if the power amplifier in many of these modern-day radios have been designed to hold up under full power for digital modes if or when you want to run that much power. The full duty cycle was another enticement for me. We have to remember that modes like FT8 are weak signal modes and not necessarily weak power modes so for people that want to run 100w or more, this radio is designed to hold up at those power levels.

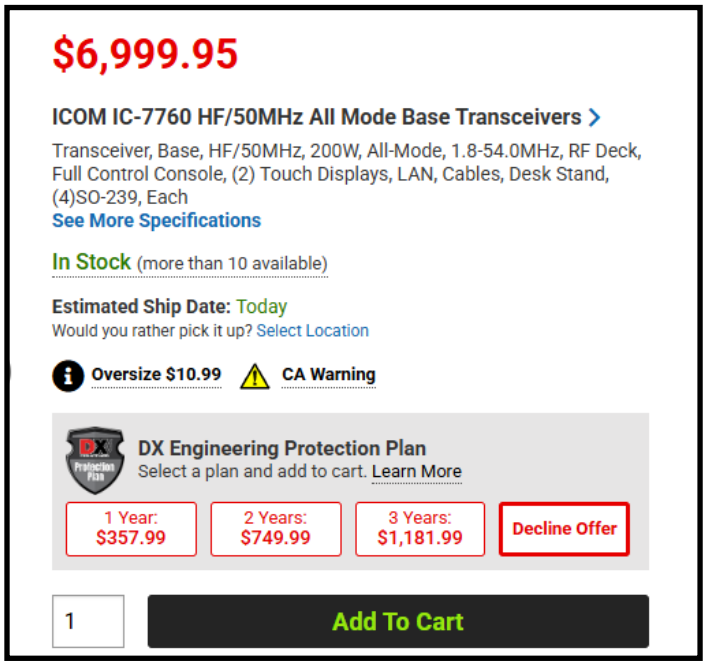
To wrap things up, the IC-7760 feels much like the 705, 7300, 9700, 7610 & 7850. This deep dive into it shows that there is more to it than a 200W PA and a remote head when comparing it to the 7610.

I'd say the market for this radio is for the serious contester, remote operator (that's me) and people that want to operate at higher power levels on digital modes with a radio that's built to withstand the rigors of those types of duty cycles.

With the Icom 7850 now being discontinued, I think going forward this is what we will see in the contest stations that choose Icom as their brand of choice.

I can see them having a rack of 7760 RF decks right where the feed lines come into the shack and then desk(s) with only a control head, microphone, and CW key not to mention their computer.

de Curt - WU3U



Mother Nature is Relentless

Cooky - WC3O

Down over the hill at the clubhouse are two receive antennas. One is a LoG (Loop on the Ground), and the other is what is referred to as a VE3DO receive loop strung between two trees, somewhat aimed towards Europe.

As for the LoG, you can't even find it. It is buried under a bunch of leaves. The VE3DO is hard to see from standing up by the 40 meter beam tower, but it can be seen.

This VE3DO loop has been a bit of an ongoing hassle. When I first installed it the deer would keep walking through it and breaking the wire. I attempted a couple of tricks to keep this from happening, but they failed.

Finally I installed a string between the two trees to act as a tripwire. That worked!

The other day I was looking down the hill and I could not see the loop wire. Weeds had grown up and it was tough to even get down there.

Out comes the string trimmer.

After much cutting, I made my way down to the antenna, only to find that a tree limb had fallen down and broke the wire. The tree limb was covered in vines.

After much time cutting with a lopper and the chain saw we were able to remove the limb and restore the wire.

While we were there, the bucket that had been covering the antenna transformer box had deteriorated and fallen apart. I replaced it with one of the buckets that Steve, K3FAZ had brought up for this purpose. (I used another bucket to replace the cracked bucket covering the phasing unit on the 80 meter array) You can see the old orange bucket had split in two.

It looks good now, but mother nature is relentless...

Cooky - WC3O
Skyview Radio Officer

ARRL Plan Influenced First KDKA Broadcast

Pete - W3WC

The story of Westinghouse engineer Frank Conrad of Wilkinsburg, amateur callsign 8XK, and his garage workshop where he experimented with radio is well-known. Beginning in October 1919, Conrad played records and live piano selections from his home. In September 1920, Conrad's station was featured on the cover and in an article in QST Magazine.

I made this history the focus of my hobby activity starting in 2019, a year before the 100th anniversary of KDKA. I produced a website for the occasion (kdka100.org). In 2021, I became trustee of amateur callsign KD3KA, and several on-the-air special events commemorating KDKA's early history have been held. Skyview has taken the operating lead, ensuring the success of these events.

Although the connection between Frank Conrad's garage radio station and the first KDKA transmitter is well understood, the arrival at the decision to broadcast election returns is less so. Westinghouse Vice-President Harry P. Davis chose the presidential election as the subject for the first broadcast in what appears to have been a nod to the wide public interest it would attract.

But was it his idea alone? Under the radar of most of the written history from this period there was a lesser-known plan afoot. A dozen amateur stations in a dozen different cities, organized by the ARRL, would transmit election returns in Morse Code to listeners in their area with a 5-minute per hour time sharing arrangement apparently using the same frequency. This plan was detailed in a Pittsburgh Gazette-Times feature titled "The Radio Amateur – A Department for Wireless News" just over a week before the big day.

This begs the question of whether the ARRL plan to send election returns via Morse Code is what gave Harry P. Davis and Westinghouse the idea to make election returns the basis for the voice broadcast that became KDKA.

It's easy to build the circumstantial case. The ARRL had been formed 6 years earlier and was called the "Radio Relay" league because its members received and resent messages for the purpose of covering distances that a single spark gap transmitter could not reach on its own. Reporting election returns would be a step forward in providing a service to the public at large, when compared to relaying individual messages from point to point.

The *Pittsburgh Gazette-Times* article said:

"The American Radio Relay League, a great national organization of radio amateurs, have made extensive plans for the broadcasting of the election returns which will be of considerable help in this connection. The league contemplates having a long-range transmitting station in each of the following cities, operate on the schedule as indicated, and returns from the various districts can be received continuously throughout the night of November 2.

Boston (1HAA)	From the hour to 5 min. past the hour
Hartford (1AW)	From 5 to 10 min. past
New York (2ZV)	From 10 to 15 min. past
Wheeling (8ZW)	From 15 to 20 min. past
Philadelphia (3HJ)	From 20 to 25 min. past
Washington (3ZW)	From 25 to 30 min. past
Pittsburgh (8XK)	From 30 to 35 min. past
Cleveland (?)	From 35 to 40 min. past
Indianapolis (9ZJ)	From 40 to 45 min. past
Chicago (9ZN)	From 45 to 50 min. past
St. Louis (?)	From 50 to 55 min. past
Little Rock (5ZL)	From 55 past to the hour

"We have been advised by the local assistant traffic manager of the A.R.R.L. that the stations whose calls are shown in brackets have been assigned for this work.

"It is not only planned to broadcast the election returns by radio from coast to coast, but in order to prove the effectiveness of radio as a means of communication between amateur stations, the A.R.R.L. announce that an effort will be made to beat the regular telegraph and telephone lines in getting the returns to the public."

There had been numerous examples of fledgling stations sending election returns in Morse Code up to that time. Perhaps the ARRL plan was an attempt at organizing this activity.

The article went on:

"Not only will the returns be broadcasted by wireless telegraph, but the Westinghouse company in East Pittsburgh plans to announce the returns by wireless telephone, sending out radiophone music between times, on a wave length of 550 meters. This will make it possible for persons who are not acquainted with the telegraph code to hear these returns announced by word of mouth at any amateur radio station they may have access to."

This last paragraph describes the first broadcast of KDKA, then under the special amateur callsign 8ZZ. The article drew a direct connection between the ARRL plan for election returns via Morse Code and the radiophone plan of Westinghouse. In fact, the article refers to the ARRL plan as "broadcasting". The complete article can be found on kdka100.org in the "1920" section.

The connection is strong. Frank Conrad's station had been featured in the September 1920 issue of QST, and he was on the technical advisory committee of the ARRL. Through Conrad, Davis could have been made aware of the ARRL plan for election returns. Conrad's 8XK is designated as the station transmitting election returns for Pittsburgh for five minutes each hour. It is later noted that Burton Williams 8ZD would take over this role to allow Conrad to participate in the Westinghouse project.

But correlation does not necessarily imply causation, as scientists would say. Interest in sending election returns using the burgeoning audio wireless technology did not begin with Westinghouse. There were at least three other instances of election reports by radiophone prior to the KDKA broadcast. To get the full picture surrounding the circumstances, the activities of the Charles Herrold station in San Jose, CA (the forerunner of KQW and KCBS), of station 2XG, known as the Highbridge Station in The Bronx, New York City, and of station 8MK in Detroit, which later became WWJ, must be considered.

On November 5, 1912, the station founded by Charles Herrold transmitted returns in audio of the 4-way presidential race won by Woodrow Wilson from his College of Wireless and Engineering in San Jose. This transmission was received at the University of California at Berkeley, about 42 miles away. 2XG was the experimental station of Lee DeForest and operated from Sedgwick Avenue in the Highbridge section of The Bronx. On November 7, 1916, returns from the presidential election between Wilson and Charles Evans Hughes were transmitted in audio from this station. Then on August 20, 1920, 8MK, known as Detroit News Radiophone, began operations. On August 31, election returns from that day's primary election in Detroit and Michigan were broadcast.

Without a direct source, it cannot be stated definitively that the ARRL Morse Code plan was the primary influence on Harry P. Davis; however, the presence of that plan, coupled with Frank Conrad's active involvement with the ARRL, indicates its likely significance. The other election broadcasts had occurred earlier, in distant cities. Each subsequent event, while related to the previous one through their common focus on elections, may have been the result of an independent decision. Like newspapers before it, the wireless broadcasting of news of historic importance to the public was a natural way to launch a service meant for public consumption.

In the months leading up to the 1920 presidential election and the first KDKA commercial broadcast, the most immediate influence on the decision-making of Harry P. Davis was Frank Conrad, for his technical expertise. Conrad's association with ARRL provides additional context and strengthens the circumstantial argument that ARRL's plan for amateur stations to relay election returns was instrumental in the choice of election returns as the basis for the inaugural KDKA broadcast. The ARRL had developed a strategy to advance the usefulness of wireless telegraphy for the public; and Westinghouse, seeking a way to exploit wireless technology commercially, expanded that strategy by giving it a voice.

de Pete - W3WC

Can AI Be Useful for Ham Radio?

Jody - K3JZD

AI is hyped like it is the biggest thing since canned beer. Maybe it is. We hear about it endlessly, but we are not drowning in practical applications. Yet. This a story about how a ham radio operator used AI to help him with a problem that he had.

Phil – K4PQC had a common problem – he had some kind of manmade noise in his HF receiver. We all know some tricks, like taking a portable radio and walking around your neighborhood to try to see where the noise is worst.

But Phil lives in a flat rural area in Georgia. Walking around was not going to work for him. He tried driving around while watching the S Meter on his radio, but found that to be easier said than done. It was hard to watch for subtle changes while driving.

Phil, having a computer background, came up with an idea to automate this. Use a laptop to read the current S Meter readings from the CAT interface on his radio, and connect a GPS to his laptop to obtain his current location. But this was going to require a custom program in his laptop to capture and record the S Meter readings and location data to use for later evaluation.

Such a program requires multiple components. Each component that he needed probably existed somewhere out on the Internet. Lots of Google searches would find examples for each need. Then he would figure out how to glue them together.

I've done that. The examples that I have found were close, but were not exactly what I needed. So, I have had to spend time manipulating each of them. And 'glueing them together' was often a much bigger chore than I expected it to be.

Phil decided to see if AI could assist with this chore. He called up the online Microsoft Copilot application and asked it the following question:

"Can you give me a Python script that will monitor and parse the NEMA sentences on COM9 into Date and Time, Latitude and Longitude, Altitude, and the number of satellites along with querying my Elecraft K3 transceiver S-Meter with "SMH;" on COM8 and put this in a data file that I can use for Google My Maps and also display this data. An example of the file:
SAMPLE,TIME,LATITUDE,LONGITUDE,ELEVATION,SATS,S-MTR
1,19:08:52,33.8342125,-83.44334383333333,258.5,12,00;
2,19:08:53,33.834212,-83.443344,258.2,12,36;
3,19:08:54,33.83421166666667,-83.44334433333333,258.1,12,39;
4,19:08:55,33.83421116666667,-83.44334466666666,257.9,11,48;
5,19:08:56,33.83421116666667,-83.443345,257.7,11,46;
6,19:08:57,33.83421116666667,-83.443345,257.6,11,46;
?"

Phil reported that within seconds, Microsoft Copilot gave him a program that glued together all of the various components that he had requested. it even added some error checking that he didn't ask for. And he said that this program worked on the first try, without needing any modifications.

So, as he drove around, every second the program logged his location and his S Meter reading. When he got back home, he fed the data file that was created into his Google My Maps application. He then saw the S Meter readings from his entire drive-around displayed on a Google Map.

So, what about his HF noise? As Phil put it: "Unfortunately, most of the noise was only a couple hundred feet from my backyard ham shack . . . it was coming from my own house!".

Phil's story made a convert out of me. Recently I needed to create a Poll on a web site that I manage. I had no clue how to accomplish that. So, building on Phil's success, I opened up Microsoft Copilot and asked it the following question:

> "Write me a PHP program that can be called from a HTML web page that will be a survey. The survey will have two questions, each with only two possible answers. Question One: "Would you like to see the FOBB moved to the Third Sunday in September when it will be cooler?", with Answers "Yes" or "No"". Question Two: "Would you participate if the first Fall FOBB was in September 2025?", with Answers "Yes" or "No". The survey will also require the respondent to type in their "Callsign". Save the results for each participant who responds in a mysql table named "Move_Question" which has the following format: CALLSIGN Char 10, QUESTION_1 Char 5, QUESTION_2 Char 5"

Within a few seconds, I got a program and all of the setup instructions. But, unlike Phil's experience, what I received did not work. Copilot had found and used some obsolete mysql database code which had instructions that were no longer accepted my mysql.

So, I asked the same question again. Within a few seconds, I got back a completely different program. Again, it came with complete setup instructions. This time it found and used the latest version of the instructions that were needed for the mysql database. I only had to add in the username and password for my database. Then I simply copied it into my web page.

By doing the legwork, and providing the glue, Microsoft Copilot saved me many, many hours. Instead of learning by a lot of trial and error, I was able to learn by just reading through the working program that was provided.

This was not magic. Microsoft Copilot, like the other Generative AI Chatbots out there, very rapidly searches through the stuff that exists out on the Internet and aggregates what it finds. Something that we could do manually. But it would take us much longer. The value added is (1) its ability to parse the question presented, (2) do the rapid searching and aggregating, and (3) present those results in an organized fashion.

I'm sure that there are many ways that Microsoft Copilot, or any other similar Generative AI Chatbot, can assist you. With ham radio stuff as well as other day to day needs. You just have to be very specific in your question. You have to try to cover every deil to keep it in bounds.

However, you still have to use your head to filter out any nonsense that you may get back. It is drawing on data that may be dated and obsolete, or data that may not be 100% accurate. And every now and then it throws out a real ridiculous curveball.

So don't ask it about any critical medical issues. And it will not predict the lottery number you should play tomorrow. Nor how some other future event will play out. It only excels at digging into the past, aggregating it, and reporting what it found.

Give it a try – let this Generative AI do some of your legwork for you. It can be fun. If you don't like the answer to your question, ask again. And again. Then you can aggregate the various responses and choose the one that looks to be the most accurate.

de Jody - K3JZD

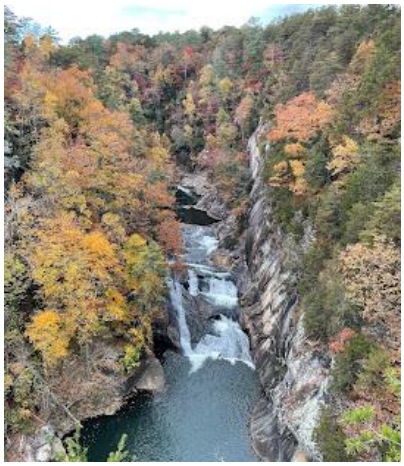
Image Generated by MS Copilot

Georgia Parks & Peaks

Dan - NM3A

On Labor Day weekend we spent some quality time with our five granddaughters and entire family at our daughter's place in Marietta, GA. It was a very enjoyable time with excellent weather and lots of fun, food, and games. You gotta try *Imposter*. It is a riot for a group of three or more! https://play.gameonfamily.com/imposter/

On the drive down, we stopped at Tallulah Gorge State Park (US-2202) in northern Georgia.



This beautiful natural wonder hosts a lot of hiking trails and a *very* long staircase. Operating from the truck gave 13 QSOs and a couple of P2P Qs.

All of my activations were QRP (5 W or less) CW. Some of them were using my IC-7100 mobile rig with hamsticks and the two SOTA sites were with my QMX mid-band radio, which I also used to hunt a few parks from our home base. After the west coast contingent left and the others went back to school and work, Janice and I headed out to some parks for some education and, of course, portable radio.

First trip after Labor Day was to Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site (US-3715), 20 miles from our Marietta base, near Cartersville, in northwest Georgia; a fascinating site with historical evidence across 3000 years. The mounds were built by the Creek Indian ancestors.

P(arking lots)OnTheAir was activated with the minimum of 10 QSOs.

The following day we traveled ten miles west to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (US-0711).

A small museum and numerous markers tell the story of the surrounding battles and General Sherman's march to Atlanta. There is a one mile hike to the top of the 1808 foot ASL mountain, as well as numerous other hikes in the park.

We elected to drive to a parking lot near the summit. From there I hiked up the last few hundred yards to the summit (W4G/CE-001). I activated the summit and the park from this location

The views are spectacular although it was a bit hazy that day. Nearby Marietta (5 miles), Smyrna (8 miles), Atlanta (15 miles)

and Stone Mountain (21 miles)

are readily visible in the distance to the southeast.

There are also recreated sites of Confederate cannons, one of which was right next to my operating position at the summit.

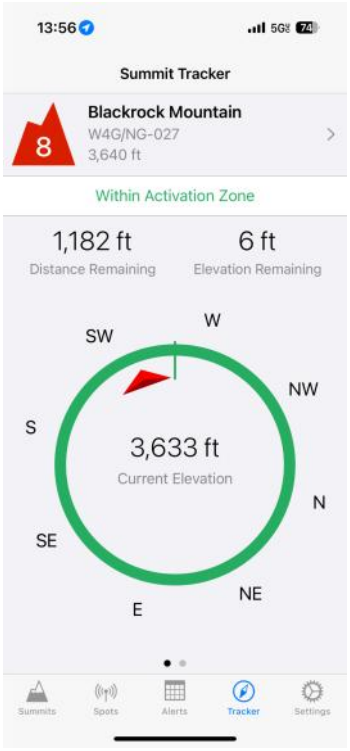
I was not spotted correctly for the SOTA site, so most of my contacts were from POTA hunters. I managed 14 QSOs, including two Skyview members, Bill, NY9H and Marty, AG3I.

Heading back on the Friday after, we stopped at another Georgia park. Black Rock Mountain State Park (US-2167)

boasts to be the highest state park in Georgia. True to its name, it includes Black Rock Mountain (W4G/NG-027) at 3640 feet ASL. A moderate half mile hike brought us to the summit in the park.

There is an actual large rock out cropping at the summit which made for a beautiful operating location. Unfortunately, I was not spotted correctly for SOTA, so again, most of my QSOs came from POTA hunters, not SOTA chasers.

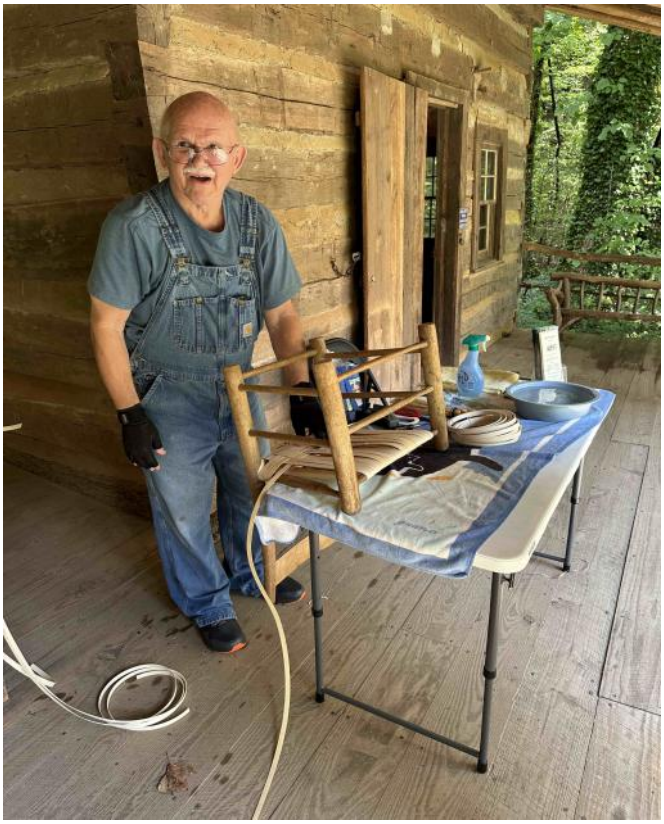
A thunderstorm in the near-by valley chased us down from the summit a bit earlier than I would have liked, but twenty minutes were all that was needed to log 17 Qs.



Despite poor propagation to Pennsylvania, I managed Skyview's Paul, AC3IE and Dave, AA3EE in the log.

Near to the Black Rock Mountain SP is the Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center.

While not a POTA site, it is well worth visiting for a trip to the 18th and 19th century way of life. Our frequent trips to Georgia usually take us through West Virginia and then along the eastern side of the Appalachian Mountains.



There are many, many POTA and SOTA sites along the way. I plan on activating a few new sites each time we make the trek down south. But for now, Pennsylvania still has quite a few that I haven't visited. I better get crackin'!

de Dan - NM3A

Hy-tower Antenna

Cooky - WC3O

Out near the back of the Skyview property sits an antenna known as a Hygain Hy-tower. It was a product made by Hygain that used three sections of Rohn BX tower with a long aluminum stinger out of the top, totaling around 53 feet in height. The antenna is good for 10 meters through 80 meters and utilizes side stubs and a center wire to accomplish making all five bands resonant.

Going back in time...

The cement base that the Hy-tower sits on was originally our old repeater tower base. That tower was 100 feet tall and was destroyed during a major macroburst that did major damage around the Pittsburgh area. When the new repeater tower was installed/relocated, we re-utilized the old tower base to hold the Hy-tower.

Our Hy-tower was originally owned by John White, K3VFJ/SK. John lived in Natrona Heights and was an early benefactor to Skyview around the time I came around. His donations allowed us to install the crank-up tower and have a cement floor in the pavilion.

This was back in 2003. When John passed we were allowed to take down his old Hy-tower and bring it to Skyview. So that's the story on where it came from.

So anyways... That is where THIS story begins!

Back when the Hy-tower went up at Skyview, Rich - K3RWN dug a trench to bury the feedline over to the new (to us) antenna. Rich also installed the ground radials. When we first installed the antenna it worked GANGBUSTERS. Over the many years we noticed the antenna performance deteriorating. Finally it got to the point where the tuner in the radio would not cover the bad SWR.

By the way, the Hy-tower is currently semi-permanently connected to the Skyview remote IC-7300. So if you are using the Skyview remote, you are on the Hy-tower.

So anyways...

I took a dummy load out to where the coax connected to the Hy-tower and looked at the condition of the buried coax with an antenna analyzer. It wasn't bad. It was TERRIBLE! I was surprised that the antenna worked at all. It was time to replace that old buried coax.

It was so long since the old coax was installed, I could not remember what path it took. It was direct buried and not very far below the surface.

I pulled on the old coax and found the path. I could not reutilize the path so I had to cut a new path. While pulling up the old coax, it broke around 3 feet from the antenna. You could see the coax had bad water damage and was completely deteriorated.

So with pick and shovel in hand, we proceeded to cut a new path. Thankfully, when the new sidewalk was poured we also buried two PVC pipes going under the sidewalk to allow us to do this very thing.

I had some new DXE RG-213 sitting around that happened to be just the right length. While RG-213 can be direct buried, I wanted to protect it better against heavy cars/trucks that might need to drive over it, over the years.

Enter old garden hose!

We recently replaced our garden hose at the clubhouse and the old hose was just sitting there looking for something to do. BINGO BUCKO! I pulled a pull-string through the hose with a shopvac and then pulled the coax through. Perfect. (Nothing goes to waste)

The hose/coax went into the new trench and was covered over with dirt and tamped down.

After it was all done with new PL-259s installed I retested it. BOOM! Perfect.

In the future we plan on rebuilding the old Hy-tower. Years ago I bought a Hy-tower hardware kit, which is good because you can't get them any more! We are going to weld the tower sections together to ensure good electrical connections between the sections. We will clean up all of the stubs and replace the mounting hardware. A fresh coat of paint, re-tune the old girl and we should be off to the races!

So that's the deal with the Hy-tower

Cooky - WC3O
Skyview Radio Officer

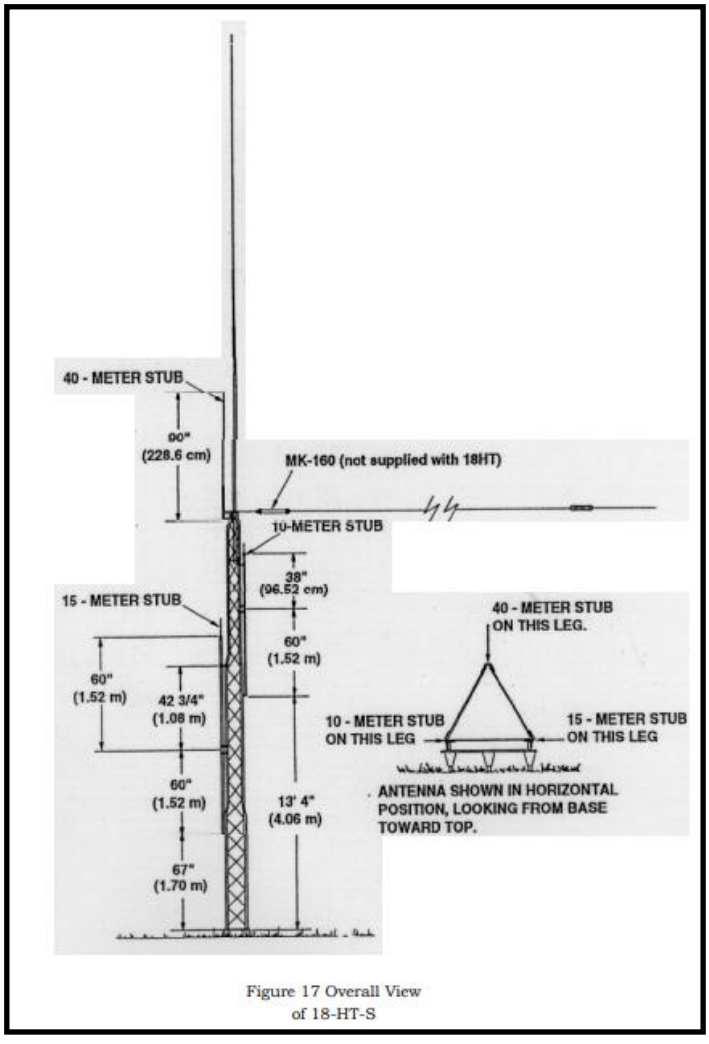


Figure 17 Overall View
of 18-HT-S

Welcome New Members !!

Welcome the following Skyview Radio Society Members who have joined us since publishing the August 2025 newsletter:

KA3EKO – Severino De Pasquale - Pgh 15215

KD3BYT - Bill Rudert - Sarver

KB3LYA - Mac Laing - Gibsonia

KD3BUF - Casey Braffet - Greensburg

KC3LVG - Joel Cox - Indianola

KU3J - Jim Holman - Cheswick

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 25

NM3A	KC3GPM	W1MP	WV8TG
K3AEB	K3GT	K3MRN	N3TIN
KD3AET	AB3GY	N3MRU	N3TIR
N3AFS	KC3GZW	KS3N	W3TLN
KD3ANT	NY9H	AC3NA	KK3TM
KB3APD	WB3HFP	G4NFS	N3TTE
KD3AQP	WA3HGW	KB3NSH	KC3TTK
NA0B	KB3HPC	AJ3O	AA3TZ
N3BAH	K3HSE	WC3O	AG3U
W3BRL	AK4HZ	WO3O	NS3U
KD3BUF	AG3I	KC3OCA	WU3U
W3BUW	AC3IE	KC3OCB	KB3UIO
KD3BYT	KE3IF	KC3OCC	N3UIW
KF3C	KC3IIO	K3OGN	KC3UNP
KA3CBA	AB3IK	N3OIF	W3UY
KC3CBQ	WB3INB	KB3OMB	KX3V
W3CDW	W3IU	K4PDF	KC3VCX
K2CI	KU3J	KC3PIM	KC3VNB
K3CLT	K3JAS	K2PMD	K3VRU
WB6CQA	WB3JHC	KE3PO	KC3VYK
K3CWE	N3JLR	W3PRL	W3VYK
N5DB	KA3JOU	KC3PSQ	N3WAV
K3DCG	ND9JR	KC3PXQ	W3WC
N3DL	K3JZD	AC3Q	KC3WCJ
N3DRB	WA3KFS	NU3Q	K3WM
KB3DVD	AC3KI	KC3QAA	N3WMC
KC2EGL	AC0KK	N3QZU	N3WMI
KC3EJC	K3KR	NJ3R	KA3WVU
KA3EKO	KC3KXZ	K3RAW	K3WWP
AB3ER	WE3L	K3RMB	N3XF
WA3ERT	WA3LCY	W3RRK	W3XOX
N3ERW	AC3LD	I2RTF	KC3YEZ
K3ES	KC3LHW	KI2RTF	N3YJN
KG3F	WB3LJQ	K3RWN	KC3YMC
WB3FAE	WB5LLI	KQ3S	W3YNI
K3FAZ	K3LR	K3SBE	KB3YRU
KC3FEI	KC3LRT	WA3SCM	W3YS
K3FH	AB3LS	KC3SDJ	KB3YT
K3FKI	KC2LVG	KC3SNZ	KB3YYC
KC3FWD	KB3LYA	KB3SOU	KE3Z
AC3GB	N2MA	K3STL	K3ZAU
N2GBR	KC3MBM	KC3STV	KB3ZFC
AC3GE	N3MHZ	KB3SVJ	KC3ZIM
K3GIR	KC3MIQ	W3SW	KC3ZOH
KB3GKX	K3MJ	KC3TEX	W3ZVX

Notes: 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 . . . . .

Nothing this month

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, 2025
Closing Date For Submissions : Nov 15, 2025
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

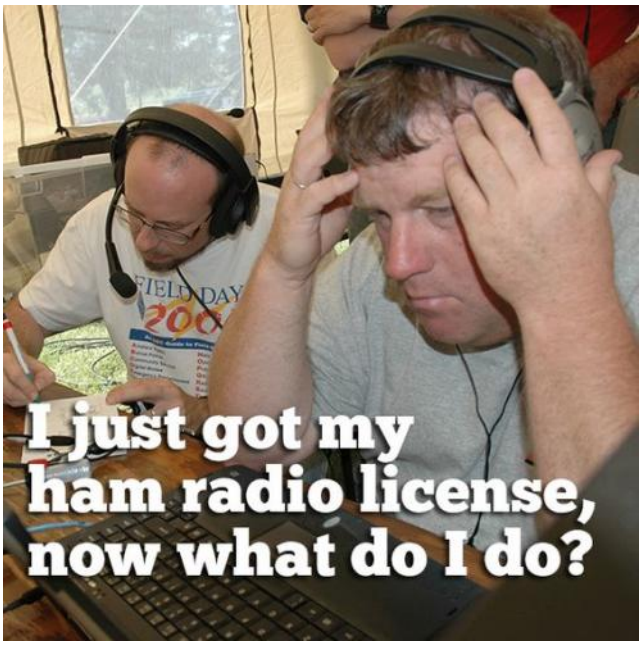
Location: Skyview Clubhouse Meeting Room
2335 Turkey Ridge Rd
New Kensington PA 15068-1936

Contact: Bill Dillen - N3WMC
(724) 882-9612
Email: bdillen@comcast.net
http://www.skyviewradio.net/ve-tests/

Please E-Mail or call to register!!!
– NO WALK INS—MUST REGISTER —

Q5er Editor & Publisher: Jody Nelis - K3JZD

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