

QSY Society Minutes

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Coordinator: Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF

Co-Coordinator: Fred Lauricella, KC2QFR

Contest and Events Manager: Scott Dunlavey, W2NTV

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Business Meeting Overview

Meeting called to order at 10:30 by Stan

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions

Next meeting: Saturday, January 7th 10 a.m., Annual Holiday Banquet on Saturday Dec 10 at 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the East Fishkill Community Center

Meeting adjourned at: 12:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Stan

Photos courtesy of Scott W2NTV

Attendees

Paul WA2JTX	Scott W2NTV	Mike KC2HEI	Doug N2LEA
Keith KD2AOF	Liz KD2AOI	Stu W2AO	Pete WA2BXK
Richard K2DTE	Valerie Giese XYL	Bob WA2JQK	Ted K2JMY
Paul N2DVI	David KC2QFS	Joann KC2YID	Marcus N2LTV
Mark WA2NYY	Tony W1ZMB	Henry KB2VJP	Julian WA2WMJ
Fred KC2QFR	Stan WB2LQF	Jim AC2EU	

Presentation

A roundtable was held in lieu of a presentation.

Stan WB2LQF began the roundtable. He discussed his continuing interest in an old antenna design, the end fed half wave antenna, also known as the EFHWA and pronounced "EF-WAAH." This classic design was well known to generations of hams but doesn't seem to have 'caught on' – yet – with the younger folks. The QRP population is just now beginning to take an interest. The EFHWA has a lot going for it, especially with regard to operating portable. Although it is also a very worthy fixed station design, perhaps its biggest advantage, compared to the many commercial portable antennas on the market, is that it is a full-sized antenna that delivers effective and efficient full-sized performance. There are no loading coils, traps, or other power robbing devices. The radiation pattern is predictable (unlike a random wire). Radials are unnecessary as they would not improve anything if they were added. The counterpoise requirement is minimal and the shield of the coax cable accomplishes the return with

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great results as long as the coax is not too short (ineffective counterpoise effect). The coax must not be an exact $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength (then the coax will radiate), and must not be excessively long (then there is coax loss). Because the EFHWA is being fed at the very end, the impedance is quite high – about 4000 ohms. A 9:1 transformer brings this impedance into the range of most modern tuners and autotuners. Stan's vertical version of this antenna delivered SWRs of 1.3:1 or better from 40 meters through 6 meters (with optimum performance on 20 through 6). He's worked a pile of DX with his new antenna running just 5 watts. Stan will set it up after this meeting for QRP in the Park. Anyone with interest can contact Stan or try looking at AA5TB's excellent website at: <http://aa5tb.com/efha.html>. This site links to many additional sources of information on this subject. Stan and Tony made an informative video comparing Tony's OCF (Off Center Fed Dipole) with Stan's EFHWA vertical and posted it on Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWkpQ785Pjo>

- Scott W2NTV announced that he had worked the Christmas Island DXpedition T32C on three modes on 10 through 30 meters and that it was a heck of a lot easier than working TF2T on the Ivory Coast. That's a real pileup! Scott's really been enjoying working the DXpeditions and intends to stick with it for the foreseeable future.
- Jim AC2EU is working on putting up an antenna. He noted that coincidental to Stan's experiences, he has been boning up on end fed half wave antennas and is seriously considering one. Jim is presently using an FT-450 primarily on 80 and 40 meters and is now learning CW.
- Keith KD2AOF is studying for his General exam at this time. He's acquired a packet radio controller and has been playing with it but sure could use some help! Anyone in the Club who would like to help him?
- Liz KD2AOI is also right in the middle of studying for her General exam. Liz commented that during the recent snowstorm and power outages, she and her family gathered around her two meter radio to listen to the ham activity. Liz says her family was duly impressed!
- Mark WA2NYY demonstrated his newly acquired antenna installation tool. It's called "Chuckee" and it's available at most pet stores. It has a patented design to throw tennis balls to Rover without wearing out your arm. Mark found that it's a great "range enhancer" when trying to toss a wire up into a tree. He claims that he can toss a tennis ball about 75 to 100 feet near vertically with minimal effort. You too can own a



Jim McVey – One of our new coordinators



Liz, KD2AOI

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"Chuckee" for a mere \$10-\$12. Visit your local pet store!

- Stu W2AO reports that he has been licensed since 1956. He enjoys 75M phone and 40M. Stu also has been exploring 60 meters lately. He has a simple doublet fed with ladder line that has been a faithful antenna for a long, long time, and it survived the recent storm just fine! Stu also works HF mobile and admitted to a continuing love affair with older radio gear. Stu is a member of the Antique Wireless Association and recently attended their Rochester convention. Nothing warms Stu's heart more than a pre 1930's Type 210 glowing softly!
- Pete WA2BXK has not been on the air much lately. He loves his Collins' gear (and so does the local power company) and he just acquired a fresh dial and drum overlay for his KW1. Wisely, Pete is going to wait until AFTER Straight Key Night to install them so he doesn't lose out on the biggest nostalgia night of the year!
- Doug N2LEA has recently emerged from about 15 years of inactivity. He picked up a Ten-Tec Argonaut Five and is now working on an antenna for it.
- Joann KC2YID noted that she was duly impressed with the hams she heard on the air during the recent power outages throughout the area.
- David KC2QFS has been extremely busy at work at IBM which has included a lot of traveling. On the home front, David said he's seen a lot of storm damage he needs to address. So not much time for hamming at present.
- Mike KC2HEI lost an antenna during the storm. He's primarily been operating PSK where he is attempting to qualify for WAS. He needs Vermont, Alaska, Missouri, and Rhode Island.
- Ted K2JMY reported that the Green Hornet rotator problem he's suffered with for the last six months just fixed itself. He recently worked PJ2 and ST0R and now has a total of 377 countries – he's got 'em all folks! Ted did admit that he's been working on this for over 50 years! Ted needs to get these two QSLs into the hands of ARRL prior to December 31st and his only option is Logbook of the World (LOTW). Ted could sure use some assistance getting set up. Anyone who might be willing and able to assist Ted – please contact him directly.
- Bob WA2JQK reported that anyone who owns and uses an MFJ antenna analyzer should be aware that if the batteries run low, the analyzer reports highly inaccurate readings. He recently went around in circles thinking he had a problem when he didn't! Thanks for the heads-up, Bob. Bob also reported that he continuously enjoys DXing with nothing more than 100 watts and a wire antenna.
- Paul N2DXL is presently operating only UHF/VHF mobile at this time but hopes to get an HF antenna up soon.
- Marcus N2LTV operates primarily on 40M CW. From Brooklyn, despite his high ambient noise level, he was nonetheless able to snag T32C on 10M CW. Good going, Marcus!



Tony and JB

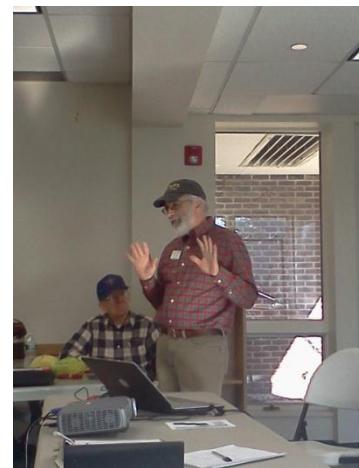
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- Julian WA2WMJ worked T32C a total of 18 times on various bands and modes using his 135' OCF. Julian suggested that less experienced ops, when working DX, should listen carefully and when instructed to reply 'up', they should do so accurately and carefully. Answering a call that's not on the right frequency is just a waste of time. Try to listen to where the other station currently in QSO is, zero beat it, and be prepared to drop your call in when the QSO concludes. Whatever you do, please don't answer the DX who is working "split" on his own transmit frequency. It accomplishes nothing except to create interference.
- Tony W1ZMB has been a ham for 58 years. Tony reported that his K2 is "the best radio I've ever had" and his pair of crossed 135' OCF dipoles seem to be "working the world" for Tony. In the four months since he finished building his K2 he's worked 104 countries, all continents, and most states – all on 5 watts! Great show, Tony, and thanks for promoting simple antennas and QRP power levels.
- Rich K2DTE hasn't been on lately but plans to clean up the storm mess and get back to ham radio soon.
- Valerie (Rich's XYL) spends enjoys making "chemo hats" for local patients while Rich plays radio.
- Henry KB2VJP continues to collect components to build a solid state QRP rig.
- Paul WA2JTX explained that he recently concluded that his antenna is 'crap.' So he ordered a commercial OCF – and that didn't work either. Seems like Paul might just have a bad coax and that's his next debugging project! He's motivated to solve this antenna problem so he can get his brand new acquisition, an ICOM IC-706 Mark II G and his LDG Z100 on the air. Paul's presently working on his CW.
- Fred, KC2QFR ended the roundtable by launching into his presentation of Global QSL. Fred demonstrated this alternative method of creating and exchanging QSL cards via the bureaus at a cost of only 13 cents per card! This alternative method is COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE to all of the award sponsors, including ARRL, because these are 'real cards' handled by the various bureaus using QSO info that you upload from your computer. The presentation was well received – so well received that something very unique happened – we ran over by 30 minutes and no one jumped up and ran out the door! It takes a 'darn good presentation' keep QSY members in their seats that long! Thank you, Fred.



Keith, KD2AOF



Fred

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Following the program, the 50/50 drawing was held. Fred KC2QFR won the Hints and Kinks Manual and Scott W2NTV won half of the \$77 pot. Scott claimed the cost of his tickets and donated the remainder to the QSY Society. This was most generous of Scott and for that we thank you! A total of \$73 will thus be deposited to the QSY Checking Account on Monday, November 7th.

QRP in the Park

- Following the meeting, interested members gathered at the East Fishkill Recreation Field next to the library.
- Three members brought QRP gear – JB WA2WMJ operated mobile-at-rest from his truck on six and two meters using his famous Moxons antenna built from old aluminum lawn chairs and his ICOM IC-706 MKIIG rig.
- Stan WB2LQF and Tony W1ZMB each brought an Elecraft K2.
- Stan provided the antennas. Tony's K2 was hooked up to a half wave end fed vertical with its top at 33', Fed through 43' of RG-8X feedline into a 9:1 UNUN, that provided better than a 1.3:1 match on all bands.
- Stan used a "43/9" configured as a sloper. This antenna uses a 43 foot radiator with a 9' counterpoise and no coax at all. It is connected directly to the K2 via a dual BNC connector. It's essentially an OCF. It produced 40 through 10 meter capability with better than a 1.6:1 SWR.



In a little over an hour of actual operating time the following resulted:

- JB got skunked on 6 meters. Not his fault. Although the band was open and the beacons were heard, there was no one operating on six meters!
- Tony W1ZMB worked G6PZ and GOORS (England), EA1MX (Spain), and ZW1AS (Brazil).
- Mark WA2NYY worked HA8VK (Hungary) and UT4EK (Ukraine).
- Stan WB2LQF worked N4EEB/KP4 (Puerto Rico), ZW1AS (Brazil), EA1MX (Spain), and R3KM (Russia).
- JB WA2WMJ (on a K2) worked ON5WL (Belgium).

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- We had a great deal of fun. If we didn't spend so much time talking and visiting, we could have made a lot more contacts. But it was all great camaraderie! And the weather cooperated with moderate temperatures and no wind.
- When we first heard ZW1AS we thought we had latched onto a "Big One". A "Z" prefix usually means South Africa or Oceania or some equally desirable DX. The consensus of opinion was that we had worked South Africa! But a later check on QRZ.com showed that ZW1AS was just a Special Event station celebrating a famous Brazilian race car driver in Rio de Janeiro.

Show and Tell

None.

Old Business

The first order of business was to 'elect' our 2012 Coordinator and Co-Coordinator. Jim McVey AC2EU and Tony Castellano W1ZMB were unanimously approved by the members present as Coordinator and Co-Coordinator, respectively. Congratulations to both gentlemen and a big "THANK YOU" from the outgoing coordinators, Stan WB2LQF and Fred KC2QFR. Our incoming coordinators, along with the outgoing coordinators and Scott W2NTV (Event Manager) will meet before the end of the year for a formal turnover. There will be a seamless transition. The QSY website will be updated by Stan WB2LQF to reflect all pertinent changes prior to January 2012, including meeting dates, responsibility changes, contact information, and so forth.

New Business

1. "QRP in the Park" to follow this meeting immediately.
2. Announcement that the 50/50 raffle would include an additional prize of a new ARRL Hints and Kinks manual.
3. Reminder that the Holiday Party is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 10th at the East Fishkill Recreation Center on Route 82 (somewhere near Bry Dain lumber). David Gong, KC2QFS is in charge of this potluck event. Please contact him to get on the attendee list and to sign up for your potluck dish contribution. Check the QSY Website for updates.
4. Scott W2NTV briefly advised of the 2012 Operating Events calendar. It will be updated to the QSY website (by Stan WB2LQF) before year end.

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Send corrections and comments to Bill Walsh (NG2D): wwtalbot@verizon.net

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