



K4NAB News



Serving Aiken County and Surrounding Areas

Computers and Ham Radio

Linux, OSX, Unix and Windows of many pains or er, ah varieties..

Mixing radios with computers

D-Star, APRS, Winlink2000, PSK and more! Sure your dashboard GPS might tell you where you are. But how about seeing where other people are located in real time and sending them messages, email, text or pictures for free as you go along? Hams do that with modern hybrids of radios and computers

“Software Revolution” began when computer memory costs dropped and hams were quick to integrate the power of the soundcard into radio communications. With radio’s transmitting and the computer’s encoding capabilities, digital signals have blossomed around the world to the point where it is hard to tell where the radio stops and computers begin. New “hamware” for Windows, Mac and Linux applications is coming out almost daily.

SDR Radio—the radio IS a computer
A whole new radio is just a download away
Since the beginning of radio itself, signals arrived at antennas and were processed by bits of hardware so that the information they carried could be understood by human beings. Regardless of the design, the common element of every radio was hardware—a technology locked into place and difficult to change. Today’s amateurs have entered a new era. They’ve surpassed many of the

limitations of hardware by using software instead.

They’re still sending and receiving signals, but now they’re using computers to create “virtual” radios that can change in an instant, operating with any type of signal at the click of a mouse button. This incredible technology is known as Software Defined Radio and it promises a future that those early experimenters would never have dreamed possible.

TIME and SPACE

Everyone knows that time is money. But did you know that it’s also frequency? Time also varies with the density of gravity. Time and frequency are different ways to look at one of the fundamental dimensions of the universe (to be more precise, the frequency of a radio wave is defined by the number of its cycles per second, and the second is defined by the frequency of a specific atomic interaction—mathematically, time and frequency are inverse measurements of the same thing). While my interest in time and frequency started with the simple desire to be able to measure my ham transmitter’s frequency, it led me into nooks and crannies of precise measurement as a hobby in and of itself. I’ve become a “time-nut.”

—John Ackermann, N8UR



The minimum has lasted long enough. Gimmie the spots!

By Chris Codella, W2PA

Across

- 1. Eight furlongs
- 5. Propagation predictor, with solar
- 9. Early ham technology
- 14. 7700 maker
- 15. Network, especially in I-land
- 16. Blender setting
- 17. Solar WX org.
- 18. Kit maker of the 1960s
- 19. Poem of lament
- 20. Propagation predictors, with 58 down
- 22. OX dir. from XE

- 24. Formerly known as
- 25. Chop (off)
- 26. Solar minimum result
- 28. Fed. fiscal agency
- 31. "Encore!"
- 33. 144 MHz
- 34. Phoned
- 36. Deteriorates
- 38. Post det. stage
- 42. Hams eagerly await it
- 45. 1970s sat.
- 46. Garbage barge
- 47. "I'm ___ your tricks!"
- 48. Checks in check ins
- 50. Calls from NJ or NY
- 52. What some amateurs are, professionally
- 53. The 2009 sun, mostly
- 57. W7 ARRL sect.
- 59. 440 MHz region, say
- 60. Prefix, opposite of 63 down

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- 61. Early receiver maker
- 65. Wanderer
- 67. Generate RF sig.
- 69. Handle
- 70. Nonsensical
- 71. Tropospheric propagation path
- 72. Connectors with shells
- 73. FD abodes
- 74. Ckts. for CW
- 75. Put in stitches

Down

- 1. Subcompact
- 2. Desktop feature
- 3. PA front panel label
- 4. In-box contents
- 5. C6 city
- 6. KH6 rings
- 7. GMT replacer
- 8. Veracruz prefix



- 9. Indy place
- 10. YA cent
- 11. Hara, for example
- 12. Superhet alternative
- 13. Sent CW
- 21. It may follow a dot
- 23. ___ King Cole
- 26. Picks up, on the air
- 27. Fab
- 28. Shamu, for one
- 29. W0 Clinic
- 30. Locking connectors
- 32. Column crossers
- 35. Sparkle
- 37. KC4 WX
- 39. Code for code
- 40. Receiver rear panel label
- 41. Con cons
- 43. Rules out
- 44. 33 dBm
- 49. K7UGA, once: Abbr.
- 51. Ant. measurement
- 53. 56 down measurement
- 54. Second SS weekend
- 55. GD isle
- 56. See 53 down

- 58. Types of 20 across
- 61. Micro micro
- 62. Antenna measurement
- 63. Prefix, with directional
- 64. What crank-up sections do when cranked-down
- 66. Dip. or Inv-V, e.g.
- 68. Propagation condx indicator

Club dues

ARRL New and Renewal Memberships

Please remember to apply for new or renewal ARRL membership through the Club. The club receives a rebate of \$2 for renewals and \$15 for new ARRL memberships, but you MUST use the ARRL membership form that is supplied by the Club. You pay your dues directly to the Club, and the Club forwards your membership application and fees (less the Club's rebate) directly to ARRL. If you are a NEW ARRL member, or haven't been a member for the past 2 years, the \$15 rebate that the Club receives will be applied to your Club dues, so your next year's Club dues will be FREE! It's a Win-Win-Win for everyone, YOU, the CLUB, and the ARRL !! See Steve W8SC or Tom W4KVF for information or forms.

Club dues for 2009 are due, \$15 for individual membership, \$18 for family membership. Please send your dues to Tom Arnold, W4KVF.

Tom Arnold, W4KVF
 North Augusta Belvedere Radio Club
 1909 Curtis Drive
 North Augusta, SC 29841

Morse Out

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Upcoming hamfests and events.

3 Oct 2009

York County Amateur Radio Society (K4Y TZ)
Faith Assembly of God
2800 Faith Blvd., Rock Hill, SC
<http://www.rockhillhamfest.com>
Talk-In: 147.030 neg (no tone)
Contact: Sheila Parrish, KG4CDF
Email: coy@navacore.net

Amateur Radio Club of Augusta
<http://w4dv.org>
Talk-In: 145.490
Evans Middle School
4781 Hereford Farm Road
Evans, GA
Contact: Douglas Pugh, KE4JSJ
1806 Birch Drive
North Augusta, SC 29860
Phone: 803-279-6725
Email: doug9945@yahoo.com

24 Oct 2009

Sumter "OPEN AIR" Hamfest
Sumter Amateur Radio Association
Sumter Jaycee Hut
314 Pine Street, Sumter, SC
<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/2695/sara.htm>
Talk-In: 147.015 (PL 156.7)
Contact: Carl Ecabert, AA1MD
Email: aa1md@ftc-i.net

9 Jan 2010

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society
Greenwood Civic Center
1610 Highway 72/221 East, Greenwood, SC
<http://www.w4gwd.org/>
Talk-In: 147.165+ & Alternate 443.900+ (both PL 107.2)
Contact: Tedd Davison, AI4WN
Email: ai4wn@arrl.net

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Contests 2009

Sep 19-20 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-GHz.html>
Sep 26-27 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest
<http://www.cqww.com/>
Oct 24-25 CQ WW SSB Contest
<http://www.cqww.com/>
Nov 7-8 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
Nov 21-22 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)
Nov 28-29 CQ WW CW Contest
<http://www.cqww.com/>
Dec 4-6 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec 12-13 ARRL 10 Meter Contest