

KINGS POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

More Than 25 Years of Voluntary Emergency Communications Service to Our Community

Officers

President

Dick Bishop, W4NWD
633-7157

Vice President

Joe White, KA1KO
634-2028

Secretary

Sam Brandes, N2OF
642-8519

Treasurer

Bill Love, W2LOV
634-2749

Committee Chairpersons

Club Room Manager

Joe White, KA1KO

KPARC Web Master

Bill Barron, W1WAB

Antenna Managers

Lew Merrill, N4LD

Jim Malanowski, W3SKI

Weather Station Manager

Alan Blackwell, K9YI

Program Chairman

KPARC Repeaters

2 Meter

147.090 PL 146.2

70 CM

442.450 PL 146.2

Echo Link Node

311633

Meetings

First Monday of every
month in the main
clubhouse craft room at
2:00 p.m.

www.kparc.org

From The President



Dick Bishop, W4NWD

Looking Back with a Smile.

Last night after the Sheriff's and SCCARC nets I turned around and heard the end of the 147.105 TARC net in Tampa. Net control turned the net over to the National Weather Service in Ruskin. Meteorologist and ham, Nicole, took over and gave a very concise weather report and a few early facts on the tropical low in the Caribbean.

Why with a smile? Our KPARC club taught a Tech class for the meteorologist in Ruskin there by contributed a little to the usefulness of Ham Radio in our area. Our club has had similar involvement in the expansion of CERT in our area, and more recently sparked interest in Fox Hunting in Brandon and Tampa. You can be proud of our club.

The slow summer period is upon us. Many members are traveling so activity is down in the club room. But on a high note, Alan Blackwell, K9YI, and Tom Parsons, N8QEW, both returned to KP for a brief summer visit, and they stopped by the club several times.

Last month I mentioned the Go kits were under construction. Well they are assembled, but can stand more tweaking. Bill Love, W2LOV, did a great job of designing a versatile HF go kit cabinet. Come by and check them out, and get your ideas incorporated. The plan is to take these kits out to the Bay and operate to gain experience setting them up and just having fun operating remotely.

Also mentioned last month was our KPARC role in helping Kings Point improve the WiFi and Cyberspace Internet services. The transition to support Cyberspace is complete. A set of instructions on how to reboot the system will be displayed in the new cabinet located in the Communications Center next to our club room. Our own KPARC computers are seeing more use. Future plans include logging all HF contacts using Ham Radio Deluxe and an interfaced PC.

A summer newsletter would not be complete without mentioning hurricanes and preparedness efforts. As a new tropical low develops in Hispaniola, each of us must be thinking about how do we find weather info when we need, Ask your self, Do I have all my supplies and plans up to date. Is your emergency

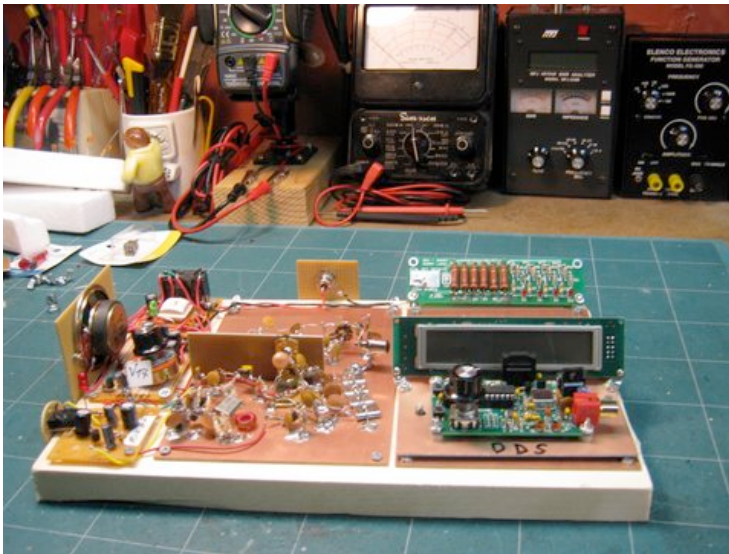
contact info available to others. Is your emergency contact person on vacation for the next two months? Think about it, and write down a plan.

Have a good August, See you on Aug 2nd at our regular meeting,
73's,
Dick W4NWD

What I Did On My Summer Vacation

By Tom Cooney, KE9LN

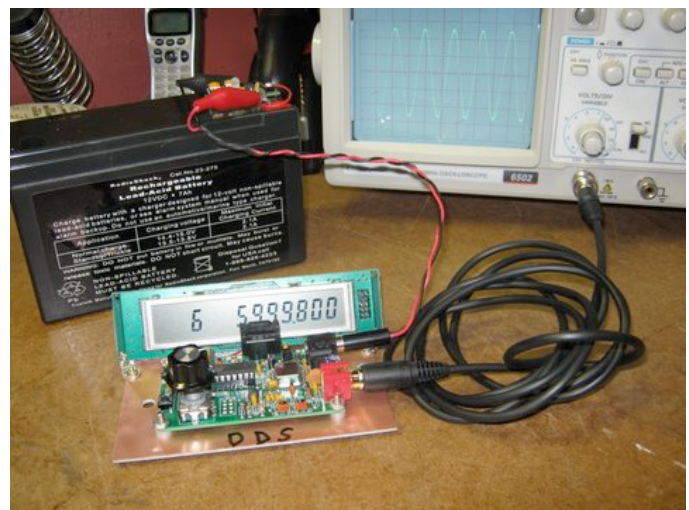
Several of my SCC neighbors and ham radio friends have been asking about my summer up north. When asked, I'm reminded of the essays we had to write back in school, what I did over the summer. Well, here is my answer. I've been very busy with family related events and numerous grandparent duties/activities - but I still have found time for a new, homebrew ham radio project.

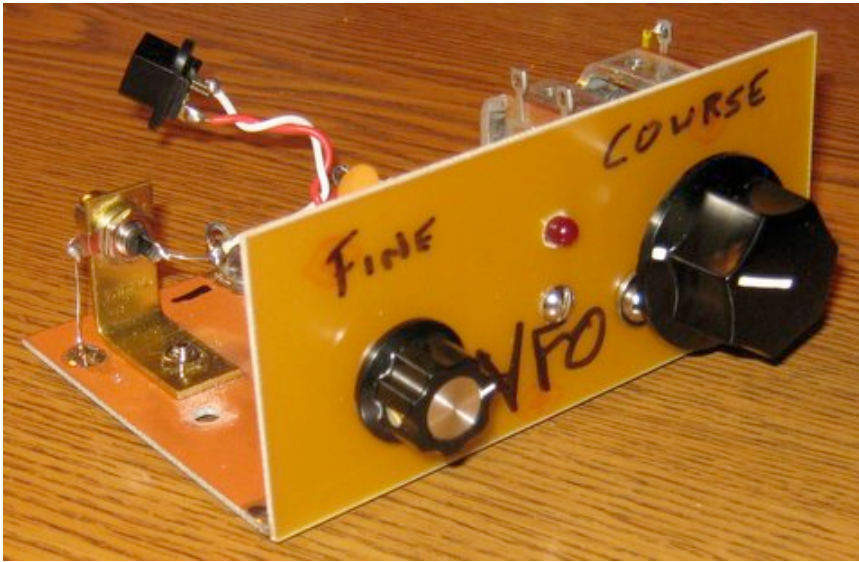


The current project on the bench is a breadboard of a 20meter QRP 6 watt transceiver based on the Bitx20 originally designed by ham Ashhar Farhan (www.phonestack.com/farhan/bitx.html). For ease of construction and experimenting I used the ugly/dead bug construction method (photo #1). This technique builds the circuit over a blank copper PC board by soldering the grounded end of the components to the board and the other ends of the components to each other. (think of a dead bug on its back with its legs up

in the air). This technique provides a very large ground plane and, therefore, is very stable. While ugly, is the fastest way to assemble a circuit and also allowing for quick modifications.

I've built many rigs, but they have always used a conventional / analog type VFO. One of the objectives of this project was to experiment with the new (for me) type of digital VFO called DDS, Direct Digital Synthesizer. I had experimented with the PIC-EL board and Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ "PEgen" VFO software that drives the AD9850 DDS chip on the PIC-EL board. I wanted to use that technology on the new breadboard rig.





(cbjohn.com/aa0zz/PIC-EL-III/PIC-EL-IIIManual.pdf)

I assembled the radio using an old analog type VFO from an earlier project (photo #2). When I got the rig working I swapped the VFO with a DDS. I decided to get a DDS kit (photo #3) and built the N3Z1 DDS 2 kit (www.pongrance.com/super-dds.html). It is high quality kit, assembles easily, and it works GREAT. Hint: order the kit with the DDS Chip (AD9834CRUZ) already soldered on the board. I'm

very happy with the results - no more mechanical induced frequency changes and temperature caused drifts; plus a digital readout!

Back to the bench and smoke some solder. See y'all in September.

73

FALL TOUR PLANS



Plans for a great tour to begin our fall season are in the works according to Dottie Love. Although I am not at liberty to disclose the where, I can say it will be in October and will serve as a very nice welcome back for our snowbirds and a thank your for those of us who kept KPARC humming during the summer months. So stay tuned; as soon as all details are confirmed Dottie will make the announcement.

**REMINDER
KPARC MEETING
MONDAY
AUGUST 2
2:00 p.m.
MAIN CLUBHOUSE
CRAFT ROOM**