

The Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association's *eGroundwave*.

An electronic version of the old printed one from years gone by
Editor-Wannabe Bob Ledford, WA4IDI located some where in "the Bubble of
Tranquility."

September 2009 Edition

Welcome to the second edition of the resurrected eGroundwave. As your wannabe Editor I still need everyone's help at making this successful. So send in your ideas for articles, articles for inclusion, editorials etc. At this point in time everything you read is totally my idea or thoughts, if you disagree with the content then whip out your keyboard and send in your idea I WILL PUBLISH IT AS YOU SUBMIT IT.

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History of the Groundwave (with revisions)

Thanks to Bill Schwartz, WS1C, for hanging onto a bunch of old, really old, papers he was able to provide more historical information. "***GW history - I recall a single sheet – both sides in early 60s (I came to DB in '64) published by Richard Cullom WA4OQX (SK) in the 60s from when he was pres. I followed, then Ken Trainor (SK) and Joe Forrester (SK). Recall we mimeographed it. Think Dorthea (SK) & Clarence Mulligan (SK) did it for a while, then Havilands took over GW. I dropped out before the Grays.***" When I first joined DBARA back in the late 60's or early 70's DBARA had a paper version that was edited, published and mailed out every month by the publishing team of the Haviland (Bob and Opal) and the Berry (Gray and Cindy) families. They gathered or wrote most of the content and put it on 8 ½ by 14 inch legal size pages in a two column format. Took it to the local printer for printing and stapling, picked it up and brought it home for folding labeling and mailing every month for many years.

DBARA had a non-profit mailing permit, a monthly printing bill and stamps so putting it out monthly was not cheap by any means. I was out of the area apparently when it was decided to cease publication.

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The Great Repeater Controversy of 2009 Continues on

As many of you read in the September edition there is a lot of controversy going on with should we “add the CTSS codes or leave everything alone?”

The resolution to the situation was put to a general membership vote in a motion prepared in advance by Repeater Chair, Frank Haas, KB4T. Read off at the general meeting in Frank’s absence by Director Paul Milward, NU4C.

The August General Meeting only resolved that the issue was more than most of the members present did not know what to do. Several members took the floor during the discussion period which went around those commenting several times, Paul Milward, Bill Schwartz, WS1C, Bob Straughn, WR4FSU, Arthur Byrnes, KA4WDK and Mel Vola, W4OWK. and made their views known.” The matter was tabled for one month.

My thoughts on the matter are quite simple. Activate the tone mode, put a simple announcement on every id that says “Tone Access is 103.5.” Then you have two options put the frequency in once with no tone and a second time with a tone. Then you can DX on band openings provided the DX repeater is a no tone and you can skip the id’er with the announcements. (I think I have that right, I got so confused with all the rhetoric going around during the discussion period).

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The eGroundwave’s Wanna Bee Editor would like each sitting officer to submit a very brief but factual run down of his or her monthly doings on what they do for your club every month.

Why do I ask for this? Quite simple as I have been asked the question many times how much time do I spend each month on the web site and DBARA business. The answer for the webmaster side is simply put. A minimum of two hours a day is spent either on updating by the drag and drop method or at the keyboard. Less than three hours a week on Director business which most of the time is spent with the President acting as a sounding board on his idea’s or thoughts on a particular matter that he has a problem with. Since I decided to activate the eGroundwave maybe another hour or two a day at the present time. So you can see why I would not mind some help on some of the load. Anyone want to be a Director or Editor for starts?

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THE LOCAL CLUB RESOURCE

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, shares his views on how clubs play an important role in Amateur Radio. Fusaro is Assistant Manager of the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. He is also the ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor.

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem, regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail, so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching. The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks whom we swore we would never be like.

Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally, I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals, each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club.

If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club, there is the usual cast of characters who add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help. Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this? Two hams will be in QSO -- perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair -- when another radio operator will break in with a helpful suggestion. This situation may have happened to you, or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something, the closest resource is your local club. On the surface, the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved, you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the 80-20 rule is a simple expression that 80 percent of the effects come from 20 percent of the causes. As applied in the business world, this would be 80 percent of the sales are driven by 20 percent of the customers. In a club, the percentages may be slightly different, but the fact remains that a small

percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen.

This is not to suggest that 80 percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug," some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work? Of course, it would be much more fun without the negative comments, but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock, someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work: "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society -- and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude, asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course, we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years, we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the old-timer, even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved.

Don't know where your local club is? Use the ARRL Affiliated Club search <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.phtml>>. You can reach Fusaro by e-mail w3iz@arrl.org .

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Passing the Tech Test By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I teach One-Day Tech classes. At the start of each class, I go over the following to help focus students on what to keep in mind when taking the test. It occurs to me that these are good tips no matter who is taking the test, so if you know someone who will be testing soon, please feel free to pass along this advice.

Technical Topics

The Tech test is not very technical, but there are three technical topics that you need to know:

- * Ohm's Law,
- * how to calculate power, and
- * the relationship between frequency and wavelength.

Ohm's Law

The basic formula for Ohm's Law is voltage (E) equals current (I) times resistance (R), or $E = I \times R$. On the test, there are several questions where they give you two of the values and ask you to calculate the third. If you're asked to calculate the current, you use the formula, $I = E / R$. If you need to calculate the resistance, use the formula $R = E / I$.

How to Calculate Power

The formula for calculating power is power (P) = voltage (E) times current (I), or $P = E \times I$. To calculate the current drawn, when given the power being consumed and the voltage applied to the circuit, use the formula $I = P / E$.

Relationship Between Frequency and Wavelength There are several questions that require you to calculate the wavelength of a signal or some fraction of the wavelength. The reason for this is that antennas are often a fraction of a wavelength.

The formula that describes the relationship between frequency and wavelength is wavelength in meters = $300 / \text{frequency in MHz}$. One question asks for the approximate length of a quarter-wavelength vertical antenna for 146 MHz. To figure that out, you first calculate the wavelength:

wavelength = $300/146 = 2.05$ m or about 80 inches

One quarter of 80 inches is 20 inches, and the antenna will actually be a little bit shorter than that because radio travels more slowly in wire than it does in free space. The correct answer to this question is 19 inches.

That's all there is to the technical part of the test!

Safety

There are lots of questions on the test about operating safely and being safe when working on antennas. My advice when answering these questions is to always choose the most conservative answer. The two exceptions are when asked what is the lowest voltage and current that can hurt you. For these questions, the correct answer is the second lowest choices.

Emergencies

There are lots of questions about what to do in emergencies. There are two things to keep in mind when answering these questions:

- * You should do whatever you can to help someone who is in an emergency situation.
- * You can even break the rules to help someone in an emergency situation. This includes operating on frequencies you are normally not allowed to operate on and communicating with other stations in other radio services.

Miscellaneous Tips

Here are a couple of other miscellaneous tips:

- * The answer is 'D.' If one of the answers to a question is, "D. All of these answers are correct," chances are that is the correct answer. There are 18 questions with this option, and of those 18 questions, there are only two questions--T3B06 and T5B03--where that is not the correct answer.
- * Long-Answer Rule. Where one answer is a lot longer than the other options, chances are that this is the correct answer. I haven't done an exhaustive study of this, but when one answer is very long, take a good, hard look at it.

That's all I have. Good luck on the test!

When not helping people pass the Tech test and become good amateur radio operators, Dan likes to work CW on the HF bands and collect QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. To see what else he's up to, go to www.kb6nu.com

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Frank Miley, WA4SYH (SK) by Bill Schwartz, WS1C

I am sad to report WA4SYH, Frank Miley passed on 26 August. Frank was a graduate of the original Hambone College taught by Clyde Mashburn W4SDR (SK 1978) Frank was active in DBARA in 60s and 70s. He was my sponsor in the Sunset Lions Club. The obit is to be in tomorrow's paper and a service at Ormond Lutheran Church sometime Saturday.

2009.08.27.

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Rumor Mill by "The Ghost"

The rumor mill reporter has found out the Bob Ledford, WA4IDI, Arthur Brynes, KA4WDK and Darryl, AB8GU and Mary Peterson successfully completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course being sponsored by the Daytona Beach Fire Department being conducted at the new fire station at 2545 LPGA Blvd, Daytona Beach.

Frank Reda, AJ4LE, John LoCicero, K4TUG, and Carolyn Truesdale.KI4VWP are supposedly going to tackle the next Daytona Beach Citizen's On Patrol (COP) class coming up soon.

What are you doing for your community?

The Walker family, Lee and Laura, have been having house problems seems something broke on the house and it is in Palm Coast at the repair shop getting fixed so I guess that translates to they have been living at the marina up there since they live on a sail boat. Laura does that mean you have been eating out a lot and not having to clean house?

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Quantitative Email Trivia

Have you ever kept track of the huge amounts of email that we accumulate in a month's time? For the past ear I have been keeping a very loose count and for the months of Jan through July it has been averaging 600 to 1,000 incoming and 300 to 500 outgoing. Someone had it out for me in August 4,774 incoming and only 623 outgoing. No wonder I did not have any spare time to play around!

Submission Guidelines

- Submit your material in Word dot doc format, EGW-date dot text (TXT), EGW-date dot rich text format (RTF) or WordPerfect dot wpd (Any version) format. Example: EGW-2009-08-15.wpd or egw-2009-08-15.wpd . The letters "egw" will alert me as to the fact that it is for the electronic version Groundwave.
- Your submissions will need to be in my inbox at groundwave@dbara.org no later then the 10th of the month as it will go to press so to speak no later then the 15th of each month.
- No anonymous materiels will be published or anything rated less then family or public display so if you want to ventilate and tell everyone what a jerk someone else is don't

bother me with it. Just call him or her up and go clean windows some where and work it out between yourselves.