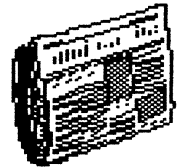


FEEDBACK



JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB, Inc.

The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, 7:30 PM at the Overland Park Christian Church at 75th and Conser streets, west of the Fire Station.

August Meetings

Friday, August 9, 2013 7:30 pm

The program this evening will be on the 145.29 repeater controller, which he is programming. Should be an interesting program as Tom N0GSG explains his procedure and the things the controller can do.

Friday, August 23, 2013 6:30 pm

The program for this evening will be a fox hunt.

=====
NOTICE: Meet at **6:30 pm** at the church and the hunt starts at 7:00 pm. You do not have to be a member to enter or observe the hunt.
=====

2013 Field Day Video a Hit

John K0IZ notified me his video of the 2013 JCRAC Field Day was distributed by the ARRL to Section Managers, Assistant Section Managers, and many others. Per John, "As a result the Club has received very nice exposure, with hundreds of hits on the YouTube video."

The video can be seen here

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HIQYLP3vXY>

John K0IZ, thanks for your work to produce the FD video and you have our (editorial "our")

Congratulations.

Dick N0TO, Editor

JCRAC Dues Choices

Remember, you have an option now on JCRAC dues; pay \$40 for TWO YEARS, as compared to the regular rate of \$24 per year, and your grandchild under the age of 18 qualifies as a member of the family for membership purposes.

Amateur License Testing

When?

Third Saturday of each month, at 9:00 am.

Where?

Johnson County Public Library
Blue Valley Branch, 9000 West 151st St.
Overland Park, KS

(Just west of Antioch on north side of 151st St.)

Fee? \$14

Pre-registration is NOT required.

Walk-ins are welcome!

For more information contact

Jim Lee, N0KCB 913-745-5121 or

e-mail: JimLee@kc.rr.com

Commercial RadioTests are also available.

Public Service Events List

Larry Staples W0AIB compiles, and makes available by e-mail, a list of the public service activities/events in the metro Kansas City area. Please let W0AIB know of any ham-type public service events, with confirmed dates, scheduled to be held in the metro area in 2013.

Happy Birthday

When you get a chance, say "Happy Birthday" to the following club member(s). If your birthday is not listed here, it was not listed in www.qrz.com, but, you can email us the month and day (we don't publish the year!) and we will add it to the list:

Jim McCoy	W0LQV	Aug.15
Steve Rainey	WD0DPB	Aug.25

FYI: The attached link is a great website about personal security. Reducing personal risk of robbery, rape, car jackings, home security, etc.

<http://www.nononsenseselfdefense.com/>

John K0IZ

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The club mailing address is: JCRAC, P.O.Box 93, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201. FEEDBACK is published monthly for the JCRAC membership. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Club or the officers. Items for FEEDBACK should be in the Editor's possession by the fourth Friday of each month for publication in FEEDBACK for the following month. The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club website address is:
<http://www.w0erh.org/>

What a difference a year makes when it comes to the weather. Last year we were experiencing 100 plus degree temperatures and the lack of rain. Here we are August 2013 and have not had a single 100 degree high and rain is in the forecast each day.

Public service events are in full swing. I hope you are taking the opportunity to "play" with your radio equipment. Volunteering for an event brings you in contact other Amateurs and is a great learning experience.

Last year at this time we were experiencing issues with the 2 meter repeater. A new issue started in July this year. Bill WA0CBW tracked down the problem again to the power amplifier (PA). Without the PA, the repeater output is 1 watt. It is amazing that the repeater coverage area does not seem to be impacted much. Tom N0GSG is working on the PA and once repaired it will be returned to service. Thanks to Bill and Tom for keeping us on the air.

The Ensor Farm activities and auction will start Friday evening, October 25th with the auction beginning at Noon on Saturday the 26th. Keep looking for items for the auction.

Bill KA2FNK, President

JCRAC Minutes from Pg 3

Reports:

- 6 m Few contact on the East Coast.
- 10 m SSB net NR.
- 440 Wheat Shocker net NR.
- 2m Wheat Shocker 18 check-ins on July 11 and 15 check-ins on July 4.
- HF Activity 10m has been opening up lately. 13 Colonies contest was last weekend. Eddy Paul KY0F was able to contact 12 of the 13 Colonies.

Announcements:

- Lenexa Midnight Bike Ride July 13/14
- KCHEART meeting July 13 at the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District building in Blue Springs.

JCRAC Minutes cont'd on Pg 4



QCWA

Come enjoy lunch with other hams. QCWA Mid-Continent Chapter 35 meets each Thursday at 11:00 am for lunch at Waid's, 103rd and State Line in KC, MO. Waid's is located just east of State Line and north of 103rd Street. You don't have to belong to QCWA to attend the luncheons...just drop in and enjoy the company of other hams. Mid-Continent Chapter 35 serves the Metro KC area in both Kansas and Missouri. Ron Wood KØBRO is President and JCRAC club member George Yantis KØGY is Chapter 35 Secretary and Treasurer. Starting in January 2013 QCWA publications will be on-line only as one means of reducing costs. More information on QCWA and Mid-Continent Chapter events can be found at

<http://www.qcwa.org/>

For Sale and Wanted

FOR SALE:

Name badges with your name, call letters, and QTH; top quality, engraved in a wide range of colors. For sale, 4" diameter multi-colored embroidered patches, with the WØERH call sign, for sale at \$3.00 ea. This will give the club a small profit on each patch. Contact Jim McCoy WØLQV at 913-648-4406 or w0lqv@arrl.net

Ensor Museum

If you can visit the Ensor Park and Museum, just 5 minutes South of central Olathe but haven't, do it now and see a most interesting and original flashback to the mid-1900's. Our motto "SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT" is true. A site map, Ensor GPS coordinates, and much more can be seen on the website at www.w9bsp-w9ua.org/ Larry Woodworth WØHXS, Ensor Park and Museum Manager

Wheatshocker Net

The weekly Wheatshocker Net is on Thursday evenings, 8 pm on 145.29 (-). There is usually a

'meeting-after-the-net' on or about 28.475 MHz usb. The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net is also called on 145.29 (-) at 7:00 pm local, on Tuesday.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday July 12, 2013. The meeting started at 7:30 pm. Attendance: Self-introduction with name and call sign. 40 signed the check-in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from June 12, 2013 were read and accepted with one opposed vote. The Treasurer's report, as follows, was read and accepted unanimously.

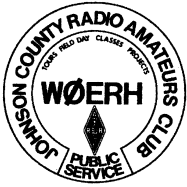
Cash on Hand	\$ 550.89
Checking Account	\$ 722.10
Savings Account	<u>\$ 8,618.86</u>
Total	\$ 9,891.85
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 778.25
Memorial Fund	\$ 150.00

Old Business:

- Field Day 2013 final report Over all things went very, very well. Special thanks go out to Jay Greenough KD0OYQ for heading up this year's Field Day event.
- Ensor Auction October 25 and 26. Items for the auction can be donated or you can place items in the auction on a consignment basis.

New Business:

- Treasure vote will take place at the next meeting.
 - Lon Martin KØWJ would like to see the Club sponsor (with his help) a Mobile HF Antenna Shootout contest.
- Rita Hoffman KBØTJR on behalf of the Johnson County ECS presented Dick Carter NØTO a Plaque recognizing him for his 39 years of volunteer service with ECS. Thank you Dick.



JCRAC Minutes cont'd from Pg 2

- Look for other Public Service events on Larry's List.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Program:

- The program was a presentation by Bill Gery KA2FNK on RMS Express.

Submitted by Ted Knapp NØTEK, Secretary.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday July 26, 2013. The meeting Started at 7:30 pm. Attendance: Self-introduction with name and call sign. 31 signed the check-in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from the July 12, 2013 were read and accepted with one opposed vote. The Treasurer's report, as follows, was read and accepted unanimously.

Cash on Hand	\$ 599.89
Checking Account	\$ 680.37
Savings Account	\$ 7,618.86
Total	\$ 8,899.12
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 796.25
Memorial Fund	\$ 150.00

Old Business:

- Field Day 2013 expenses were \$1,038.80.
- Ensor Auction October 25 and 26. An Auctioneer has been lined up (he is a Ham). Please spread the word about this event on any nets you are checking in on. Fliers will soon be available. We are also look for a good "Ham" movie.

New Business:

- Election for Treasurer. The nominating committee identified 2 possible candidates for Treasurer. After consideration by both individuals, the committee would like to present to the club for nomination as Treasurer Cal Lewandowski KC0CL. A Motion and Second was made to nominate Cal as Treasurer. A vote was taken which received unanimous approval.

Dick Carter NØTO purchased a couple of new remote overhead projector controllers.

- Now we don't need to use the ladder to operate the projector. Thanks Dick.
- Sonny Fontes KDØSHI and Ted Knapp NØTEK recently passed the General and Amateur Extra class licenses respectively. Congratulations.

Reports:

- 6 m NR.
- 10 m SSB net 5 participants on July 25.
- 440 Wheat Shocker net 14 check-ins on July 24 and 13 check-ins on July 17.
- 2m Wheat Shocker 27 check-ins on July 25 and 24 check-ins on July 18.
- 2 m Repeater- The power amplifier (PA) is no longer working properly. Without the PA the repeater output is 1 watt. The PA will be looked at and once repaired it will be returned to service.
- HF Activity 17m to Cuba mobile.

Announcements:

- Sunflowers to Roses Bike Tour August 4. Contact Ryan O'Neil KDØEWB.
 - Camp Fire at Ensor Saturday July 27.
 - Technician Class - August 17 & 24 at Providence Medical Center. Contact Brian Short KCØBS.
 - Look for other Public Service events on Larry's List.
- Business meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Program:

- The program was a video presentation by John Raydo KØIZ on the club's 2013 Field Day. Submitted by Ted Knapp NØTEK, Secretary.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ted NØTEK and Sonny KDØSHI for their recent license class upgrades. I am sure they will enjoy the increased priviledges that result from upgrading.

The WØDEW Method of PL259 Connector Preparation, or, Connectors We Love to Hate: Soldering PL259s

*Tom Wheeler, NØGSG
Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club
June, 2013*

Let's face it. One of every ham's secret fears is that fellow amateurs will discover his or her ineptness at soldering the common PL259, or so-called "UHF" connector. These connectors are everywhere and on just about every piece of equipment made. Yet there are significant numbers among us who contribute to the national stockpile of scrap brass every time we try soldering one. C'mon, it's ok to admit it. You're one of us too.

It's not that soldering these buggers is particularly easy. It's actually quite tricky, because these things are made from a significant chunk of metal. Not enough heat, and you get poor solder joints - - the resulting open circuit is going to be real nice for your rig to operate into. Too much heat, and the innards turn to soup; the sanctity of the center dielectric insulator thus violated, you end up with a nice short circuit. And again, that is going to be real nice for your rig. The line between "not enough" and "too much" heat is way thin. And there's really no way of knowing whether or not you screwed it up until it's all soldered together, and then it's too late.

But WØDEW has suggested a much simpler approach that can save your ego and possibly your rig. WØDEW's method works by soldering the outer braid to the reducer. This means that the method is suitable for preparing RG8x, RG58, and other types of cables requiring the reducer. There may be some who will cry that this approach is not what the manufacturer specifies, or that it isn't secure. This author believes it's a solid approach and needs to be shared with the world. The steps are as follows:

1. Assemble the components as shown in Figure 1, and carefully strip about 1/2 inch of insulation from the outside of the cable. Don't forget to put on the outer threaded shell first!



Figure 1: Orientation of Components

2. Carefully trim away the shield until about 1/8 of an inch remains exposed. Slide the reducer up against the shield, and carefully fold the shield back against the reducer as shown in Figure 2. You really don't want much at all hanging over the edge, as you'll be trimming it away in a future step anyway. Make sure there are no stray bits of wire.

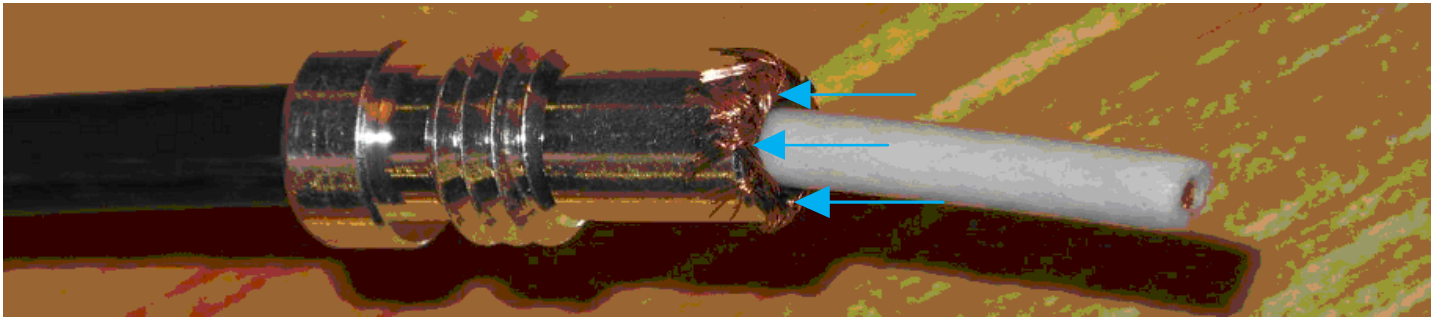


Figure 2: Shield Trimmed and Fitted Around the Reducer

3. Solder the shield to the reducer, but only at the very lip as shown by the arrows in Figure 2. Do not run any solder down the side of the reducer if you can avoid it, or it will be difficult or impossible to thread into the connector barrel. Don't touch the dielectric with your soldering iron! Notice that I do not strip the center conductor in this step. This makes it harder to melt the dielectric insulation. You may want to place the assembly in a vise (gently!) to complete this step.

Let this cool for several minutes before you do anything else with it!

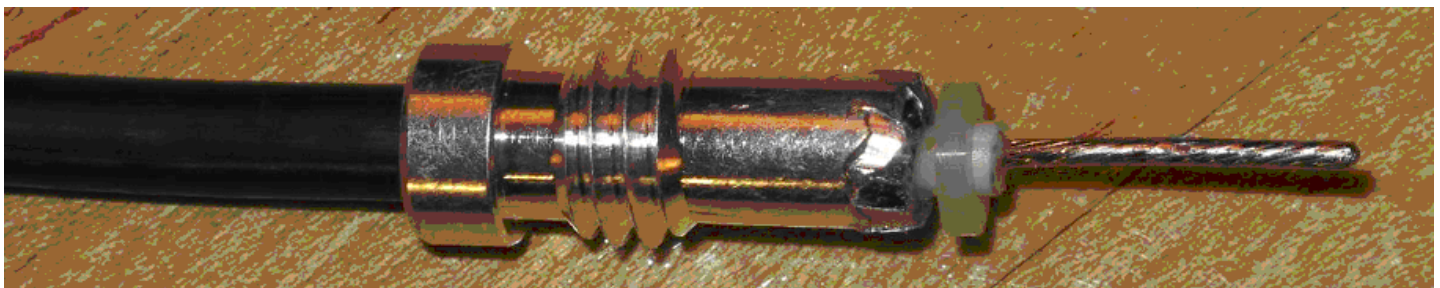


Figure 3: Shield Soldered to Reducer

4. After soldering, the assembly should look a lot like Figure 3. If you got a little solder down the side of the barrel, just cut it away with a sharp pair of wire cutters. Don't worry if you cut away a little of the braid. Just make sure there are no bits of solder or metal clinging to the assembly at this point.

At this time, strip and tin the center conductor, being careful not to nick it. I usually leave about 1/8 of an inch of dielectric intact past the end of the barrel. I also add a 6-32 teflon washer to the assembly, which is optional. The teflon washer provides an extra barrier to stray wires from the shield, and also helps discourage the center conductor from drifting through the dielectric if the connector is subjected to high temperatures and stresses in the field.

You've just completed the most difficult portion of the process. If your assembly looks like Figure 3, then good job!

5. Inspect the inside of the connector shell for any bits of wire or other foreign material, then carefully insert the soldered reducer assembly into it and screw the parts together. Of course, make sure the center conductor is making its way through the center pin.

The parts should screw together easily without the use of force or tools. If that's not so, go back and check that the side of the barrel is free of any excess solder lumps.

If things fit together, go ahead and tighten the two halves together as securely as you can. I generally place the connector body carefully in a vise, and use Knipex pliers to carefully grasp and turn the reducer until it's nice and tight, being careful not to mar the connector.

Using a sharp pair of wire cutters, trim the center conductor so that it's just a little shorter than the center pin. You don't want it sticking out.

Carefully solder the center pin. Solder should only be applied inside the pin. Use only enough to get a good joint; resist the urge to dump a pound of solder into the connector! You should end up with a clean solder fillet as shown in Figure 4. If there's any flux left on the center pin, wipe it off with a clean shop rag.



Figure 4: Solder Fillet on Center Pin

Congratulations, you've just successfully soldered a PL259! You now have full bragging rights, but more importantly, you know the connector is solidly assembled and will be fully reliable in your station. That in itself means peace of mind, especially for your transmitter. But there's an additional benefit to this method that you may have already guessed.

Because the connector body is not soldered together, it's easy to recycle and reuse the connector should the need arise. To remove the connector, simply cut the coax at the rear of the unit and unscrew the reducer. You'll need to pull a little to get the reducer and coax remnant out. The center conductor will remain attached to the center pin; you can then easily desolder it. The reducer will have a bit of shield braid attached that can also easily be removed.

The next time you have to solder on a PL259 connector, give this method a try. Your radio and ego will be glad you did!

(Ed. note: There are varying opinions about this technique of soldering a PL259 but I, for one, am going to try this method the next connector I have to solder. It appears to me to be easier than trying to get solder to flow thru the 4 holes in the barrel of the PL259, even with my 250 watt soldering gun!)
