

HAMATEUR CHATTER

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club

April 2011, Volume 19, Issue 4

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs—since 1917

Presidents Letter

As a regular part of my monthly column it appears I have to acknowledge yet another recent silent key. This time it is Roger Zaun W9UVV. As far as old club members go, Roger only goes back to 1978. However, Roger had been a ham since about 1935. He was too busy running a business to get involved with a radio club. He was most active with MRAC during the 1990's (when he was in his 70's - hear that folks). During those years, he was a board member and officer, often made Field Day, attended and was often a financial contributor to a number of Christmas Parties (which usually lost money in the 90's), and along with Fred Linn W9NZF took on the monumental task of disposing of the equipment of Travis Baird (which led to the raffle held at meetings). At Superfest someone asked me if Roger was still around. Little did either of us know just that weekend...

Did you make the March meeting? I won't get into the "Why not?". I will just say you missed a good meeting and a good opportunity to talk to some important people in amateur radio. The main attraction was Gordon West WB6NOA. He needs no description. Also there and speaking (all off the cuff, no canned presentations here) was Bob Inderbitzen NQ1R, marketing manager of ARRL. Both of those guys have been at 2 prior MRAC meetings. But that was not all. Pete Trotter KB9SMG, Gordon's book publisher took a turn at the mike as well as two guys from C. Crane Co, a distributor of shortwave radios, LED lights, and a host of other unique high tech items located in northern California, Steve Rogers K6PIJ and John Wilder KJ6AVJ. The C. Crane guys also gave me a stack of catalogs and cards to hand out at future meetings for anyone who couldn't make Superfest. Oh, and ARRL, courtesy of Bob, shipped a box of books and other items to my house to use as prizes or whatever as we wish. If we would have had a few more people (I wanted to see over 40) they would have

been prizes. Maybe I'll just distribute them among the board members in appreciation of their work for the club.

I have heard some comments on some of our plans for upcoming events (and even some comments on past activities). We live in a free country where people are free to express their opinions. I welcome opinions. However, Monday morning quarterbacking is very easy especially compared to stepping up and getting involved with an activity. It often seems to me that the people who have the most opinions are the ones who participate in the planning of an activity the least.

There are some preliminary plans for Field Day. It involves a new location. Since 1930 we have held Field Day from at least a dozen different locations. This one is in Milwaukee county. So NO MORE EXCUSES about having to travel too far. It also will have the participation of a city fire department, a first in modern times for us. Would you like to participate in the planning for the event? Field Day presents a lot of small details to be worked out in order to have a successful event. Or maybe you just want to sit back and complain. Contact Dave Schank KA9WXN or Al Maahs KC9IJJ to help.

We also have some preliminary plans for the 95th anniversary. It just might be in conjunction with Superfest 2012. We should use the 95th to practice for doing some big stuff for 100. Of course if we don't get some new members and some new life in some old members, who knows about 100 (maybe it will be at my house for a few select invitees).

All this talk about really getting involved with the club brings me to one part of this month's meeting, the election of 3 directors. Al Maahs KC9IJJ and Hal Newton KB9OZN and the invisible director are those whose terms are up. Even if Al and Hal want to run again, that invisible director has been there too long (besides the empty VP and Treasurer positions). Why not run? The only real qualification is the ability to tell your right hand from your left (oh yea, and the desire to "do stuff"). If you pass that test, why not be a director.



MRAC Officers:

Terms Expiring in 2012

- President – Dave, WB9BWP
- V-President– Vacant
- Secretary – Mike, KC9CMT
- Treasurer – Vacant
- Director – Mark, AB9CD
- Director – Dave, KA9WXN

Terms Expiring in 2011

- Director – Al, KC9IJJ
- Director – Hal, WB9OZN
- Director – Vacant

The Club Phone Number is: (414) 332-MRAC or

(414) 332- 6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:

www.w9rh.org

Mail correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.

P.O. Box 240545

Milwaukee, WI 53223

Presidents Letter concluded.

Finally, we haven't talked about this for a while, but after listening to some on-air conversations, I think it's time to go over this again. MRAC has been in continuous operation since 1917. 2M repeaters came into being in the late 1960's. They really became popular in the 1970's. A repeater costs a lot of money and requires a lot of work, so a number of "repeater clubs" sprang up to own and operate the "new" repeaters. Now I admit, we should have been one of the first groups to get involved with the new-fangled repeaters. Through a number of mis-steps it was not until about 1991 that we finally did get a repeater. Of course it really didn't work well until about 2001, but that's another story (see the complete story in the club history book, updated for 2011 by the way). So? MRAC is not a "repeater club". We are not the 539 repeater club (if that is true, then I guess about 10 years ago we were the 045 repeater club). We are a general purpose club that happens to have a repeater. We were one of the early VECs. We were a SAREX QSL manager. We have taught license classes. We had a communications van long before ARES was even ARES (in fact we actually started the local ARES group). We had weekly meetings in the 1920's. We sponsored conventions starting back in 1926. We even sponsored the Wisconsin QSO party back in the 1950's.

We participated in the very first Field Day in 1930. We've had members who were some of the top Dxers in the country/world. We've had members who became ARRL Section Managers, Central Division Directors, we even had a member who became the Assistant Secretary of ARRL. We've had members who were Emergency Coordinators, we even had a member who was Chairman of the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. We even one upped ourselves by having a VHF sprint style contest on a Sunday in February in 1950. Remember we are not a repeater club. We spend very little money and time on the repeater. We are the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. We also happen to have a repeater. We do radio. We do stuff. What do you do?

Oh, the April meeting is "Show and Tell". Here you have a great chance to show us what you do, and if you do radio too!

And, we will have a couple of prizes to be given to someone who participates in the "Show and Tell". Could it be you?

MRAC April elections:

An election in a volunteer organization, such as the MRAC is for the purpose of choosing officers/leaders who will keep the organization running smoothly and efficiently, help the group meet its goals, and work well with members and committees.

Most organizations provide for nominating and electing officers in their constitution or bylaws. The group will determine standing rules. The County Extension Council's guide is its "standing rules." Considerations in nominating and electing officers usually include eligibility, time of nomination, time of electing, method of nominating and electing, and time to assume office. These are matters to be decided through formal action of the council if standing rules do not cover them. It is the chairperson's responsibility to conduct elections, but the chair should have no more influence over the election than any other member.



Nominations

A nomination is a formal presentation to the organization of a candidate for office. The nomination serves only to focus attention on certain members as nominees; no member is barred from election by a failure to be nominated.

Nominations may be made in three ways: from the floor, by ballot, or by nominating committee's report. Any method will be satisfactory if members think carefully about their choices for an office. Consider several important things about a person when selecting a nominee:

Ability to fill the office;

Willingness to work; time available to handle the office;

How well the person has already worked in the organization;

His/her interest; and

Knowledge or willingness to learn about the organization.

In every case, the member should consent to serve before being nominated.

From the Floor

This method is democratic because every member has the opportunity to nominate someone. However, nominations should be thought out carefully and the person consulted before the nomination is made. Nominations are in order as soon as the chair calls for them; no second is required. When a nomination is made, the chair repeats it and the secretary records it.

A member may nominate only one person for the same office. Some organizations ask the committee to present two nominations for each office, but others select only one. The committee is permitted to nominate one of its own members, but should not nominate a large number. Serving on the nominating committee does not disqualify a member from holding office.

When the nominating committee's report is called for, the nominating committee's chair reads it and hands a copy to the secretary. The report is not accepted but is treated as if nominations had been made from the floor. The organization's chair then reads the nominations one by one and asks for further nominations after each, pausing a reasonable time to allow for nominations to be made from the floor. When the chair asks for further nominations and none is made, the chair may then declare that nominations are closed.

Except when voting by VOICE, members may vote for anyone who is eligible, regardless of whether he/she has been nominated. If voting is by VOICE or STANDING, the vote may be taken on each office as soon as candidates for that office are nominated, or voting may be delayed until nominations for all offices have been made. If voting is by BALLOT, nominations for all offices are completed before balloting, so that only one ballot is needed. The chair votes when voting is by ballot. Usually, the vote needed to elect is stated in who receives the necessary majority is elected.

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by President Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP.

Present: Dave, KA9WXN Mark, AB9CD, Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP Michael, KC9CMT, Al, KC9IJJ, Hal, KB9OZN.

Absent: None

Dave, WB9BWP made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the HamChatter, seconded by Michael KC9CMT. Accepted by a vote of 6-0

Treasurer report not read. Club has no treasurer.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS:

ARES Waukesha WS training meeting the week of April 2nd will concentrate on a shortened version of the WX program.

The MRAC field day site will be a Konkel park, across from Greenfield Fire station #1, on Layton Avenue and 51st Street.

Dues for membership will increase to \$20 after AES SuperFest this year. Anyone who wishes to run for one of the open director positions must be a member in good standing as of the time of the April meeting.

Sixteen people showed up at the MAARS pancake breakfast.

Election for three Directors seats will take place in April of this year, not May as in the past.

Urgent need to solidify a date for next years swapfest so that flyers can be printed and advertizing can commence.

Old Business:

The pancake breakfast was a good social event, but did not bring in very much in revenue. More advertizing needs to be done when this event returns.

New Business:

SwapFest: Club needs to confirm date and facility before any movement can take place in this regard. Dave, KA9WXN will coordinate this with his employer. MRAC wants to have a ARRL sponsored event next year.

Field Day: Still in need of Field day committee. Dave, KA9WXN has offered to head the committee and is moving forward in organizing a Field Day activity of the club this year.

Club Anniversary: MRAC will be Celebrating our 95th anniversary in the year 2012. We will be using our Call sign of W9RH when we coordinate with AES to have our event during their SuperFest. This is so far in the planning stages.

Net Committee: John KB9SXH and Poncho KA9OFA, have been running the 2 meter and 10 meter nets that the club offers. A committee is still needed for this important club function.

Repeater: K9FSC has volunteered to be a control operator for our repeater. Malicious interference has been reported to be occurring during all the nets in the Milwaukee area.

2011 Club Budget: The 2011 club budget was presented and discussed at this meeting. Projections indicate that the club will end up in the black this year. A motion was made to accept the budget by AB9CD and seconded by AL, KC9IJJ. The budget passed on a vote of 6-0.

Life Memberships: The club needs to print certificates for presentation to our life members in recognitions of their service. Dave, WB9BWP has offered to print up the certificates.

Club Apparel: Dave, KA9WXN, stated that the company that appeared at our swapfest can make hats for the club at a reasonable price.

Programs:

April: Show & Tell Night. Fix ups Etc.. Projects or New Purchases from the Membership. **Election of new Board of Director members.**

May: The annual Auction. Hosted by Dave DeFebo.

June: Open

July & August: No Meetings.

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM . Motion made by Dave WB9BWP, Second by Michael KC9CMT. Passed by a voice vote of 6-0.

Room returned to condition as found upon arrival.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael, KC9CMT

Membership Meeting Minutes

General Membership assembly called to order at 7:09 pm by president Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP.

The Mic was sent around the room for introduction of memberships and guests.

Tonight's program was by Gordon West, WB6NOA. He presented a excellent program on wildfire efforts in southern California and how hams in the area responded. He also presented his program on supporting Amateur radio. It was a very good program and was uplifting and encouraging.

Bob, NQ1R from ARRL headquarters came in to our meeting and talked about public service: A new level I encom course is in the works at this time. A new FD logo has been posted on the ARRL website and he encouraged every one to have a look at it. There is a presentation on YouTube regarding spectrum defense and HR bill 607 that is being debated in the House of Representatives in Washington. HR607 in about a reallocation of the 70cm band that will directly affect amateur radio, so we should all fill out the sample letters that are on the ARRL website. These letters will be accumulated and presented to the appropriate congressmen.

Gordon West introduced a C-Crane technician that will be at the AES SuperFest this year. C-Crane makes SW radios and has a interesting product line. The prep when asked stated that he thought DRM was going nowhere and should not be thought of as a factor in SWL. Gordon West closed out his presentation at 8:10 Pm.

After a short break our business meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by Dave, WB9BWP.

The secretaries minutes were accepted as published in the Chatter by a unanimous vote of the membership.

No treasurers report. We still do not have a treasurer.

Dave, KA9WXN talked briefly about the recent pancake breakfast at our meeting site. The combined clubs want to do more of this type of social activity, perhaps sponsoring a chili cook-off this summer along with another pancake breakfast. The clubs SwapFest with the MAARS group was successful.

Membership Meeting Minutes Continued

Our next club meeting will be April 28th, when we will be having a show and tell program along with the spring directors election.

Our club members discussed the recent rise in Jammer activity on the various nets around the area. People using bogus call signs & names are causing malicious interference with the 2 meter net at times.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm, by Al, KC9IJJ and seconded by Michael, KC9CMT. The meeting for March was thus adjourned.

Election of new directors will take place at the April meeting starting in 2011.

Raffle table items and refreshments were available after the meeting, and the church basement was returned to a useable condition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael, KC9CMT



Gordon West, WB9NOA talks to Everett Hokanson, K9PSX.



Gordon West, WB6NOA starts his presentation with Dave, WB9BWP's help.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be April 28th at 7:00PM. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance.

Please do not call the church for information!

Club Nets

Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:30 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz USB.**

Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Visit our website at: www.w9rh.org

Or phone (414) 332-MRAC or 332 - 6722

Chatter Deadline

The **DEADLINE** for items to be published in the **Chatter** is the 15th of each month. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects) for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me or Submit articles and materials by e-mail at: Kc9cmt@earthlink.net

or by Post at:

Michael B. Harris

807 Nicholson RD

South Milwaukee, WI 53172-1447

Adjustable 1-10 Minute Timer Project

The circuit starts timing when switched on. The green LED lights to show that timing is in progress. When the time period is over the green LED turns off, the red LED turns on and the bleeper sounds.

The time period is set by adjusting the variable resistor. It can be adjusted from 1 to 10 minutes (approximately) with the parts shown in the diagram. You can mark the times on a scale drawn on the box.

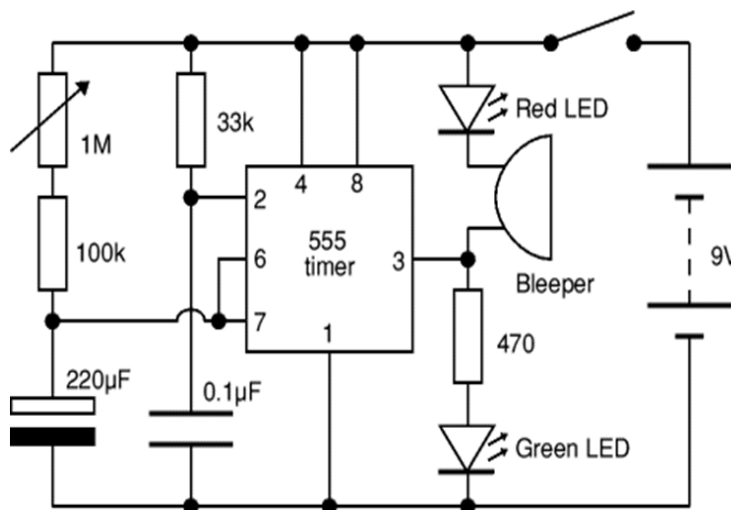
Please note that the range of time periods is only approximate. With perfect components the maximum time period should be 4½ minutes, but this is typically extended to about 10 minutes because the 220µF timing capacitor slowly leaks charge. This is a problem with all electrolytic capacitors, but some leak more than others. In addition the actual value of electrolytic capacitors can vary by as much as ±30% of their rated value.

This project uses a power-on triggered 555 monostable circuit.

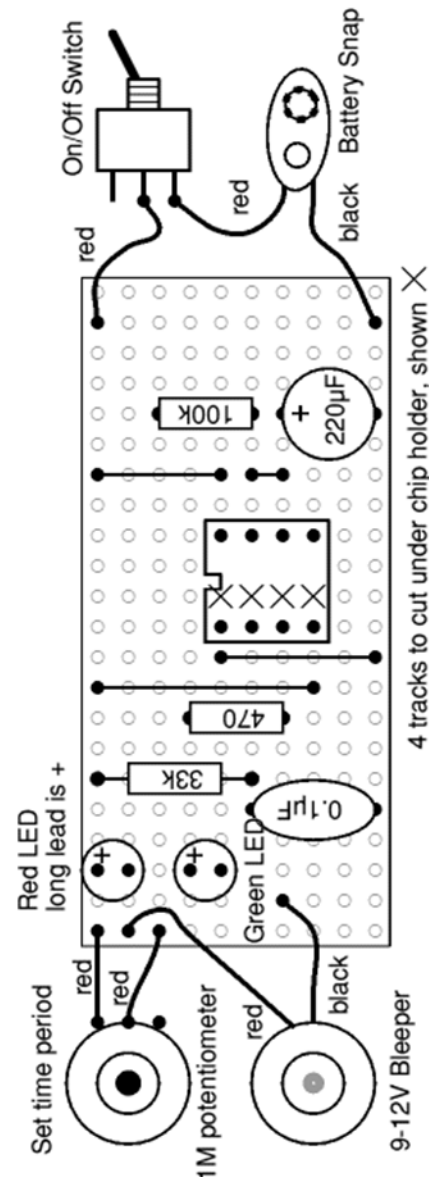
Parts Required

- resistors: 470, 33k, 100k
- variable resistor: 1M
- capacitors: 0.1µF, 220µF 16V radial
- LEDs: red, green
- bleeper 9-12V
- 555 timer IC
- 8-pin DIL socket for IC
- on/off switch
- battery clip for 9V PP3
- stripboard 10 rows × 22 holes

Circuit diagram



Stripboard Layout



A kit for this project is available from [RSH Electronics](http://www.rsh-electronics.com). If you are new to electronics buying a kit is a good way to be sure you have the correct parts for the project.

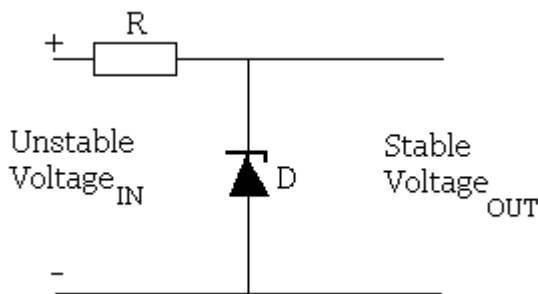
Used with permission of author: John Hewes, The Electronics' Club, www.kpsec.freeuk.com

Zener Diode Voltage Regulator

Make a simple zener diode voltage regulator

A **Zener Diode** is an electronic component which can be used to make a very simple **voltage regulator circuit**. This circuit enables a fixed stable voltage to be taken from an unstable voltage source such as the **battery bank** of a **renewable energy** system which will fluctuate depending on the state of charge of the bank.

Zener Diode Voltage Regulator Circuit



Pictured above is a very simple **voltage regulator** circuit requiring just one **zener diode** and one **resistor**. As long as the input voltage is a few volts more than the desired output voltage, the voltage across the **zener diode** will be stable.

As the input voltage increases the current through the **Zener diode** increases but the **voltage drop** remains constant - a feature of zener diodes. Therefore since the current in the circuit has increased the voltage drop across the **resistor** increases by an amount equal to the difference between the input voltage and the zener voltage of the diode.

Matching the Zener Diode and Resistor to the Situation

Here is a hand-worked example which shows how to choose the correct **zener diode** and **resistor** for a known load: we have an unstable 12 Volt supply voltage and need a stable output of 8 Volts to power a 100mA device. 12 volts is sufficiently above 8 volts to ensure that any ripples in the supply will not take us below our target voltage.

1. Choose a Zener Diode

Since we need 8 Volts we can choose between a 7.5V or an 8.2V **zener diode**. 8.2V is close enough to our target voltage so we choose a zener diode with an 8.2 Volt **zener voltage**.

2. Calculate the Maximum Current in the Circuit

Our load device needs 100mA of current, plus we also need at least 5mA for the zener diode, therefore lets set I_{max} as 110mA to be safe. If you add 10-20% to the load current, this will give you a safe value for the maximum current in the circuit as long as the input voltage is unlikely to jump much higher.

3. Select the Power Rating of the Zener Diode

Zener diodes are available in a range of difference power ratings. If a large current flows through a small zener diode

it will be destroyed, therefore we calculate the power to be lost in the diode and select a diode rated above that value. Here the zener power rating is equal to the zener voltage multiplied by the maximum current (I_{max}) calculated above which equals $8.2 * 0.110 = 0.9$ Watts. Therefore a 1.3 Watt power rated zener diode should be perfect. We multiply the full maximum current by the zener voltage since when no current is flowing through the load - e.g. when the device is switched off - all of the current will flow through the zener diode.

4. Select the Resistor

The voltage dropped across the resistor is equal to the difference between the source voltage and the zener voltage = $12 - 8 = 4$ Volts, and therefore the resistance according to **Ohm's Law** is the voltage drop divided by $I_{max} = 4/0.110 = 36$ Ohms so choose a 39 Ohm resistor.

If the source voltage is likely to be much over the 12 Volts stated then the voltage dropped across the resistor will be larger and so a resistor with a larger resistance may be required.

5. Select the Power Rating of the Resistor

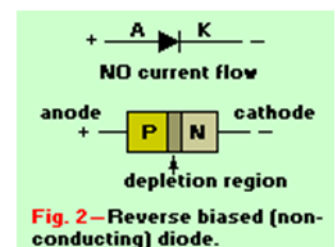
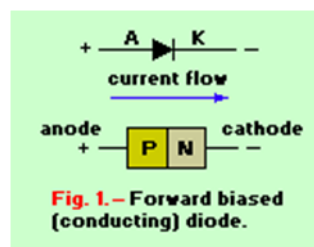
The power dissipated in the resistor is equal to the voltage drop across the resistor multiplied by I_{max} . Therefore in this example power = $4 * 0.110 = 0.440$ Watts. Using a 0.5 Watt resistor would be cutting it a bit fine - particularly if the source voltage is going to fluctuate higher regularly, therefore a 1 or 2 Watt rated **resistor** should be used here despite it costing a few pennies extra.

Renewable Energy System Battery Bank Situation

If the above situation is referring to a renewable energy system battery bank, the 12V source voltage could vary from as little as 10.6 Volts to as much as 15.5 Volts. Therefore we need to check that everything still works correctly at the higher and lower voltage.

If the source voltage rose to 15.5 Volts then we would have $15.5 - 8.2 = 7.3$ Volts dropped across the 39 Ohm resistor: a current of 187mA. If the source voltage fell to 10.6 Volts then we would have just $10.6 - 8.2 = 2.4$ Volts dropped across the 39 Ohm resistor: a current of 61mA. Therefore in both cases we easily have enough current passing through the **zener diode** to ensure a stable output voltage will be maintained.

At maximum voltage we would have 1.37 Watts of power dissipated by the resistor - therefore it is good we chose a 2 Watt rated model. We would also have a potential maximum of 1.5 Watts dissipated by the zener diode - therefore we should also change this to a 2 Watt rated model to be on the safe side.



Early Radio: The Vietnam War

Chuck Truitt - My Own Private Air Taxi - September, 1969

After spending about five or six weeks at Vandergrift Combat Base (LZ Stud), nestled between some mountains a little SW of the Rockpile in the very NW of RVN (Republic of Vietnam), our 1st Radio Battalion unit pulled back to Dong Ha. I was a Marine Corporal and the date would have been several days into September 1969.

Actually, I had been a corporal since back when I was promoted at Company "H," Marine Support Battalion, Homestead Air Force Base, way in the south of Florida. I'll never forget when I went up before the promotion board in November 1968; because our 50 man Marine unit was attached to a Navy unit there on that Air Force base - a rather unique situation - there was a Navy Lt. Cmdr. amongst the Marines on my meritorious promotion board. Along with all the other questions that was asked me such as, "what's your 5th General Order?, what's the bias on your trouser leg?, and what does the names Maddox, and Turner Joy mean to you?" That squid (Navy person) asked me one question only, "how do you like working with the Navy?" Now Gunny Weeks had just coached me before going into the promotion board, "Truitt, the best thing you can do is answer those questions honestly, and to the best of your ability; don't try and 'blow any smoke.'" As a result of his coaching, my answer to that Lt. Cmdr. was as honest as I could make it. Well, I got the meritorious promotion, but the Gunny told me, "Truitt, that was poor judgment, 'Sir, if I had'a wanted to work with the Navy, I'd a joined the Navy!' was not the right answer; you'd of been promoted as of 1 December, but now it won't be till 1 January 1969." Ha! So much for honesty - you don't get points for honesty - when you're a Marine working with the Navy. (Man, come to think of it, I've got a couple good stories from Company "H," but later!)

Back at Vandergrift, a typhoon had just passed by thoroughly soaking and blowing things about, there in the first few days of September '69. (There's another good story here!) I can remember absolutely nothing about the move; just all of a sudden we were back in Dong Ha.

Within a few days after arriving in Dong Ha, SSgt Dave Carpenter, who was the guy in charge of keeping the HFDF (high frequency radio direction finding) nets up and operable, came to me. Dave said, "Truitt, I understand that you want to work DF." "Get your stuff together because we need you to go to the LZ and catch a bird up to Dong Ha mountain" (FSB Fuller). Before driving me over to the LZ, Dave took me out to the "Pig Pen" and gave me a crash course on operating the PRD-1 radio direction finder, which we called a Pig. (Of course I already had the prime prerequisite, a knowledge of Morse Code.) Dave also showed me the finer details of using the Comus pad, a thick booklet with many pages from which we could encrypt all the pertinent information necessary to do our job.

First stop was the LZ at Dong Ha where I told them "Dong Ha Mountain." The wait there wasn't too long, maybe an hour or two, and the guy in the control shack said "Truitt there's a bird gonna drop in, and pick you up to take you on up to Fuller." Hot Dog! I was definitely ready, and all my stuff was ready to go too. Dave had driven me over in a jeep with my Willie Peter bag (water proof bag) of personal gear, a whole grunch of batteries, two cases of Black Label beer, a U.S. Mail

bag with mail for the 1st RadBn guys, and my "deuce gear" (short for Form 782 Issue, or combat gear). The bird that dropped in was a LOaCH (Light Observation Chopper) also called a "BB" which is a Hughes-500, the same kind of bird that "TC" flew on the TV program "Magnum PI" except the tail was a little different. There were only two men

aboard, the pilot and the observer; they stopped just for me! Wow, my own private "air taxi." This pic is from [240th Assault Helicopter Company](#)

The flight from DongHa up to the mountain was not long, as I believe it was probably 20 miles WNW of the Combat Base, and just a very few thousand meters from the DMZ with the Song Bin Hai (river) running down the center of the "Z."



There were birds flying around up in that area all the time, but when one landed at Fuller, it was always greeted by smiles from everyone up there. There were probably 200 to 250 men at any given time. There would have been about 150-175 men in the infantry company, and possibly 75-100 arty boys, for the six 105's and associated arty stuff, plus the 5 or 6 of us 1st Rad Bn guys.

Whenever a bird landed there was usually a bunch of guys heading to the pilot or crew to hand them letters to mail (no stamps required, I always wrote in the stamp area "Fly it, it's Free"). Sometimes I handed them a film canister to be developed along w/some MPC (money-Military Payment Certificates). Those guys always took care of us too. Next flight out they would have the developed film, or the transistor radio that I requested, or whatever within reason.

Those pilots and air crew were really decent folks, to a man! I watched a few of them die from up there too. For instance I saw two Cobras go down within a few minutes of each other, another time I saw a CH46 go down. I'll never forget the F4 Phantom on a bombing run a few weeks later, sometime in October it seems, which flew right straight into the deck. There were two Phantoms making bombing runs on a ridge line just NW of us.

Early Radio: The Vietnam War

They were flying in a big circle 180 degrees apart, and as each approached the target in a dive, they'd flip over on their back to spot the target, then flip back over, release some bombs, after which they'd shoot back up to altitude to get in the big circle and make another run while the other Phantom did his thing. One of the Phantoms flipped over to see the target, I heard a 51 Cal. ChiCom m/g chattering, and the jet never flipped back over, but just flew inverted into the deck. When we set down on the LZ there was a bunch of guys there, all hunkered down, or holding on to engineer's stakes, or something to keep from blowing over the side in the choppy wash. My guys were there to help with the beer, batteries and supplies, and to show me where to go.

Since the LZ was just north of the center of the 150 yard long by about 30 to 40 yard wide crest, even the farthest extremity wasn't very far. Our 1st RadBn Ops (Operations) bunker was just north of the LZ and on the western side. For the first couple days I bunked with some grunts from 2/4 in a bunker next to the LZ, that is, until we dug out an 81mm ammo storage area next to the Ops bunker. Prior to my arrival, I guess they were all "hot racking it" in one section of the Ops bunker. As I unloaded, I was introduced to the guys. "This here's SSgt. Chuck Colvard, and that's Sgt. Tom Cunningham, and there's Cpl. Bill Morris - you'll be working with him on the Pig for awhile - and this guy here's Howie "orange socks" Spaulding, from Las Vegas (I'm thinking, what, is this guy nuts or something? Orange Socks?) Yepper, he's nuts all right! And, Ol' Milford Cole, from Sugartown, LA - a real basketball player - I knew Cole from Company "H." Man, what a crew! "Tritt, you aint sleeping in here with us!"

I guess I smelled to sweet, Ha! You know what? Those guys really were some of America's finest young men. They weren't like so many back in the States who were only wrapped up in themselves and/or wasting their lives with drugs and stuff. A large number of Americans were rationalizing, or coming up with some excuse to keep from serving our great country. I'm proud to have associated with them, and with the United States Marine Corps.

For awhile, till after SSgt Joe Armstrong replaced SSgt Chuck Colvard, the entrance to the Ops bunker faced west with a sandbagged wall blocking so that the "little people" couldn't shoot straight inside from the next ridge over. But, there was just a 6 or 7 foot wide ledge along the front of the entrance with a drop past the ledge of about 8 to 10 feet. That's where a whole bunch of extra coiled concertina, razor wire was stored. There was a bunch of it, and if you fell off the ledge, you were in "deep kimchee." Come to find out, that's why I had to make a quick arrival at Fuller. The guy that I was replacing had unfortunately rearranged his facial features and body characteristics just a couple days earlier when he made a head long plunge off the ledge into the wire. It was also his RTD (rotation date), and I'm sure that he was ready to leave Vietnam. And, now it was my turn at Fuller to work HFDF. Di Dah, Di Da Dit .

Battlefield Communications

Battlefield communications is rarely touted and often maligned in military history. The VHF communication band for the military in those days was divided as follows: Armour/

Infantry/Artillery and it was designed that way for a reason. The Infantry radio frequency had to overlap both sides to call in support. HF or High Frequency communications was designed for long distance communications (over the horizon) and for communications from ground to air a separate link had to be established. Enter Ultra High Frequency (UHF) for air to air and air to ground communications. A completely different radio was required for this purpose. In modern warfare such rules no longer exist. Satellite communications and the development of transistors and solid state technology has altered the whole communication paradigm. For HF communications back to a ship or base camp you needed an AN/GRC-9 that needed a crew of three and to talk to an aircraft a 40 pound MAY-1 and its two man crew was essential. Line of sight was easy, just hump a 30 pound VHF radio in addition to your regular combat gear. It didn't matter. If the battle failed, blame it on a lack of communications. do with the Vietnam war by making it easier for the men on the ground to talk to the men in the skys to organize bomb strikes.



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.



Slogging through the mud in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

VE Testing

Saturday, April 30th, 2011 - AES - 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Saturday, May 28th, 2011 - AES - 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Saturday, July 30th, 2011 - AES - 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Saturday, September 24th, 2011 - AES - 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Saturday, October 29th, 2011 - AES - 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Saturday, November 26th, 2011 - AES - 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

ALL testing takes place at: Amateur Electronic Supply 5720 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53223

Area Swapfests:

May 1st, 2011 | The DeKalb Hamfest, Sandwich, IL.
ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.kish-club.org>

May 7th, 2011 | ARAC Hamfest Location: Superior, WI
ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Arrowhead Radio Amateurs Club
Website: <http://www.thearac.org>

May 7th, 2011 | Ozaukee Radio Club May Hamfest

Cedarburg, WI ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club
Website: <http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>

Working Committees

Field Day

- Open

FM Simplex Contest

- Joe – N9UX
- Jeff – K9VS
- Brian— K9LCQ

Ticket drum and drawing

- Tom – N9UFJ
- Jackie – No Call

Newsletter Editor

- Michael-KC9CMT

Webmaster

- Joe Schwartz—N9UX

Refreshments

- Michael – KC9CMT

Membership Information

The Hamateur Chatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1st. MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00PM the last Thursday of the month except for November when Thanksgiving falls on the last Thursday when the meeting moves forward 1 week to the 3rd Thursday and December, when the Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting. Club Contact Information Our website address <http://www.w9rh.org>

Telephone (414) 332-MRAC (6722)

Address correspondence to:

MRAC, Box 240545, Milwaukee, WI 53223

Email may be sent to

w9rh@arrrl.net

Our YAHOO newsgroup:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRAC-W9RH/>



CLUB NETS:

- Our Six Meter SSB net is Thursday at 8:00PM on 50.160 MHz USB
- Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00PM on 28.490 MHz \pm 5 KHz USB.
- Our Two Meter FM net follows the Ten meter net at 9:00PM on our repeater at 145.390MHz - offset (PL 127.3)

Milwaukee Area Nets

Mon.8:00 PM 3.994 Tech Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- ARES Walworth ARRL News Line

Mon.8:00 PM 146.445 Emergency Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- ARES Net Walworth

Mon.8:45 PM 147.165- ARRL Audio News

Mon. 9:15 PM 444.125+ Waukesha ARES Net

Mon.9:00 PM 147.165- Milwaukee County ARES Net

Tue.9:00 AM 50.160 6 . Mtr 2nd Shifter's Net

Tue. 7:00 PM 145.130 MAARS Trivia Net

Tue. 8:00 PM 7.035 A.F.A.R. (CW)

Wed. 8:00 PM 145.130 MAARS Amateur Radio Newsline

Wed. 9:00 PM 145.130 MAARS IRLP SwapNet d FM-38 Repeaters (IRLP 9624)

Thur. 8:00 PM 50.160, 6 Mtr SSB Net

Thur. 9:00 PM 146.910 Computer Net

Fri. 8:30 PM 28.490 MRAC W9RH 10 Mtr Net SSB

Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390 W9RH 2 Mtr. FM Net

Sat. 9:00 PM 146.910 Saturday Night Fun Net

Sun 8:30 AM 3.985 QCWA (Chapter. 55) SSB Net

Sun 9:00 AM 145.565 X-Country Simplex Group

Sun 8:00 PM 146.91 Information Net

Sun 8:00 PM 28.365 10/10 International Net (SSB)

Sun 9:00 PM 146.91 Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz

SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 Mtr and above are USB.

