

HAMATEUR CHATTER

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club

January 2014 Volume 22, Issue 1

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

Presidents' Letter

I hope everyone survived the cold snap that we had this month. We all should have been out doing antenna work. You know what they say antennas put up in the cold work better. They really would have worked after that cold snap. I know this is the January newsletter, however the month of February will be the club's busiest month. Most of these events will happen before the next newsletter. So look for a recap next month.

The MRAC FM simplex contest will be held on Sunday February 9th 2014. I will again activate W9RH from the dorms of UWM. Please talk up this event to everyone. We really need to increase activity. If you know someone who lives outside the area please encourage them to activate their area. The more people to work the more fun it will be. The website has been updated with the current information.

February 15th will also be our 4th annual interclub swapfest with MAARS. Again we are looking for volunteers to help staff the event. The last couple of years we have purchased pizza for lunch during clean up. If you plan on help please let me know so I can get you on the list. This is a great fund raiser for the club and a general good time. Please talk this event up so we can get more people to attend.

Our February 27th club meeting will be a Potluck dinner. The better the swapfest, the better the food selection provided by the club will be. I have really enjoyed the last few years that we have done this at the meetings. More to come on this in next month's newsletter.

There will be more discussion at the January 30th meeting. Plus Dave WB9BWP will have a short NASA video on the Juno satellite amateur radio experiment that happened back in October.

I also have some other club related topics I would like to discuss.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Dave KA9WXN



Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of directors meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Dave Shank, KA9WXN club president.

Director's present: Michael KC9CMT, Dave KA9WXN, Joe, N9UX, Hal, KB9OZN, Al, KC9IJJ, Dan, N9ASA.

Absent: None. There is one vacancy on the Board of Director's.

Preliminary Discussions: The Board of Director's minutes were accepted as published in the November Chatter by a motion forwarded by Michael, KC9CMT seconded by Hal, KB9OZN. Joe, N9UX, did not give a report on the treasury. The Church where we hold our meetings was very happy that we contacted him when water was noticed in the elevator shaft. The crack that contains the sump pump is around ten feet deep, so water damage would have been sustained by the church without our diligence. A number of our club officers should have the phone number of the Church



MRAC Officers:

Terms Expiring in 2014

- President – Dave, KA9WXN
- V-President– Dan, N9ASA
- Secretary – Mike, KC9CMT
- Treasurer – Joe, N9UX
- Director – Vacant

Terms Expiring in 2015

- Director – Al, KC9IJJ
- Director – Hal, KB9OZN

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.

**PO Box 26233
Milwaukee, WI**

53226-0233

maintenance person in case of emergencies. Rates for our AT&T phone service are locked in for 2014.

Meeting programs: Dan, N9ASA will be acting president for this month's meeting due to the planned absence of Dave, KA9WXN. Dave, WB9BWP will be doing a program during this week's membership meeting on his home built antenna, and also will present some information on the club history.

There will be no meeting held in December due to the holidays. The January 2014 meeting topic is still open. Either Gary, or Jeff Annis, K9BS will give a presentation. N9GMT may do a presentation on mobile HF radio operation. Jeff Annis, K9BS would be happy to give his presentation on antenna modeling. The February meeting will be a food gathering again in 2014, also a short talk regarding the April elections. March or April's meeting may be a presentation given by Cheryl, K9BIK on the Ham Nation podcast production. How to use a MFJ-269 antenna analyzer would also be a good topic for the future meeting. May will be the annual club auction. ***The idea was forwarded to the board of going to a sporting event such as a Milwaukee Admirals game this spring, this idea will be uploaded to the club's Yahoo group for sign-ups.*** The membership will be polled on this idea. Area clubs will be getting together to buy tables at the WAARC swapfest in January. The clubs' will be in a row along the south wall like last year.

Field Day: The club has the money now to buy a rotator for use at field day. Dave, KA9WXN has a contact that is in the rotator rebuilding business that he can call, in an attempt to get a good deal on a unit. The farmers market will be at Konkell park in Greenfield again in 2014.

Special Project Committees & Committee reports:

Repeater Report: Dave, WB9BWP is the repeater trustee. The club would like more than one repeater trustee. A club repeater trustee must be a extra class operator to have the kind of privileges that are necessary to operate at field day to our fullest extent. The club has been talking about downloading and playing on the repeater the Rain Report. Mark, AB9CD is working on this project. There has been some problems getting the club website updated, as reported by Dave, KA9WXN.

New Business: Getting tables bought for the WAARC swapfest. Dave, KA9WXN was given all the information on the club website by Mark, AB9CD. Dave will be handling this function from now on. Dave, WB9BWP continues to work on the club's history. Joe, N9UX needs help with the FM Simplex contest advertising. The word needs to get out to all the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois clubs about this important event. Mark, AB9CD volunteered to score the submitted sheets. Dave, WB9BWP needs more DVD's for his historical work. He is also working on the history book, which is now due around the time of our club's Hamfest. A change in food items has been forwarded by Hal, KB9OZN. The membership will be asked again this month if they want a change in menu. Elections: the club should start talking about this during the first of the year, so that we can get some people interested in running for the board of director's.

Hamfest Committee: Our Hamfest will be on February 15th, 2014. Al, KC9IJJ will be providing tickets for promotional purposes as soon as possible. The club is looking at getting two of the Chinese VHF/UHF ham radios to use as door prizes during our Hamfest in February. Al, KC9IJJ is working on this. Dave, WB9BWP will be getting logging software as a prize. The club will be moving the table sales to a Google, Yahoo, cloud based spreadsheet. This would be available at all times to the Board of Directors'. Tickets will be done in house so that we can send out some as advertising for our event. Dan, N9ASA printed up two thousand fliers for the swapfest during the spring of 2013. Dan will be printing up more fliers prior to the WAARC swapfest in January. Dave, WB9BWP is storing the fliers at his resident. Dan, N9ASA will be manning a table for his D-Star "MadDog" group. Our club is ARRL approved again this year.

Special Projects: The club needs someone to take over the FM simplex contest for February of 2014.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm by Dave, KA9WXN seconded by Al, KC9IJJ. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. The room was returned to an organized condition as it was when the room was opened.



Membership Meeting Minutes

The MRAC membership meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Dan, N9ASA club Vice-president. The Mic was passed around for introductions.

Preliminary discussion: The meeting on January 30th will be on antenna modeling. The February simplex contest will be held on February 9th. February 15th is the MRAC/MAARS inter-club Hamfest. There have been some commercials on the TV from Velveeta Cheese featuring a ham station in the background.

Tonight's Program:

Tonight's program is a discussion by Dave, WB9BWP on his Telescoping Mast Tilt mount. Butternut Butterfly antenna tune up, and whatever Else Dave decides to talk about. Dave finished this project in October. The Rohn Telescoping Mast can be shipped by UPS. Most other towers are shipped by truck to the purchaser. Butternut, Butterfly antenna; this was picked by Dave because of its small footprint. Has a 6ft boom, works well when it is tuned up. Dave has a custom built mount for his Rohn telescoping heavy duty antenna mast. The antenna weights twenty-six pounds plus the rotator. His tower is guyed in three directions in his yard. Points were plotted on an antenna analyzer when the tower was being installed. Frequency changes with height.

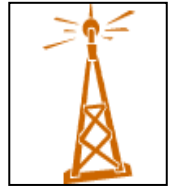
Dan, N9ASA started that business portion of the membership meeting at 8:25 pm. Joe, N9UX then gave his October treasurers report of the clubs' finances. The club has over \$18k in bank assets. Joe is now also working on the MRAC website. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as read by Al, KC9IJJ, and seconded by Michael, KC9CMT. Joe needs someone to work the FM simplex contest in his place this year. Fliers for the Simplex contest are being written and will be distributed around the Milwaukee area Ham community. Dan mentioned that we need more participation in the snack fund. Input from the membership is needed into which we should keep this activity or not. Jerry mentioned that some of the postal IRCs' are expiring and will not be any good after December 31st, 2013.

Future meeting topics: An oscilloscope intro course, How to work and program a particular radio. There will be no meeting in December of 2013 due to the holidays.

Pancho is still looking for someone to help out during the club nets on Friday evening. We have a 10 meter and 2 meter net. At 8 and 9 pm respectively.

There will be a food & coffee gathering at Denny's with Jerry after the club meeting.

Dave accepted motions to adjourn the business meeting at 8:34pm. Motion made by Al, KC9IJJ seconded by Joe, K9UX. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm. The room was then policed of trash, chair put away and area returned to an acceptable condition as found before the meeting commenced.



2014 FM Simplex Contest

February 9th, ham radio operators will get on the air for the annual FM Simplex contest sponsored by the MRAC. Once again, the club station will be on the air operating with the W9RH call sign. I invite everyone to join us on the air, on whatever band you can. 144, 440, 52 and 223 each have their own time slot.

Please promote the contest wherever you can, on the radio and club meetings. Please remind folks there is a club competition, the MRAC hasn't won in a few years, I'd like to see the club have another entry on the plaque at AES.

Full information is on the club website, including the flyer and complete rules.

www.W9RH.org

If anyone has questions regarding the contest, please free to contact me via email at n9ux@arri.net.

Have fun and thanks for participating!

Joe
N9UX

Winter Weather Dangers

Important safety tips for the days ahead

(MADISON) – 2013 is going out with an arctic blast as bitter cold temperatures will cover the Badger State in the days ahead. Here's the latest information on weather conditions and tips to keep you and your family safe.

Bitter temperatures – Arctic air will move in creating dangerously cold wind chills. Temperatures will fall into the single digits today in Northwest Wisconsin and the rest of the state tomorrow. Bitterly cold overnight wind chill readings of 20 to 35 below zero should be widespread across the state from Sunday evening into the morning hours on Tuesday. The rest of the week will also be below normal for temperatures.

On the road - If you are traveling make sure you have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. Items to include in the kit are candles and matches, a flashlight, pocket knife, snacks, a cell phone adapter, a blanket and extra clothing. For a complete list go to <http://ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov>

Health Risks - With wind chills of -20 to -35, there is an increased risk of frostbite and hypothermia. If you must venture outdoors, make sure you wear a hat and gloves. Frostbite can happen in less than 30 minutes of exposure to those conditions. Symptoms include a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in fingers, toes, ear tips and tip of the nose. Limit your time outside. If you see these signs, seek medical care immediately.

Hypothermia is also a danger in these conditions. That is when your body temperature drops below 95°F. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation, slurred speech and drowsiness. Again, limit your outdoor activity and seek medical care if you detect these symptoms.

Carbon Monoxide Danger - Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control. More than 20,000 people visit the emergency room and nearly 500 are killed each year from carbon monoxide poisoning.

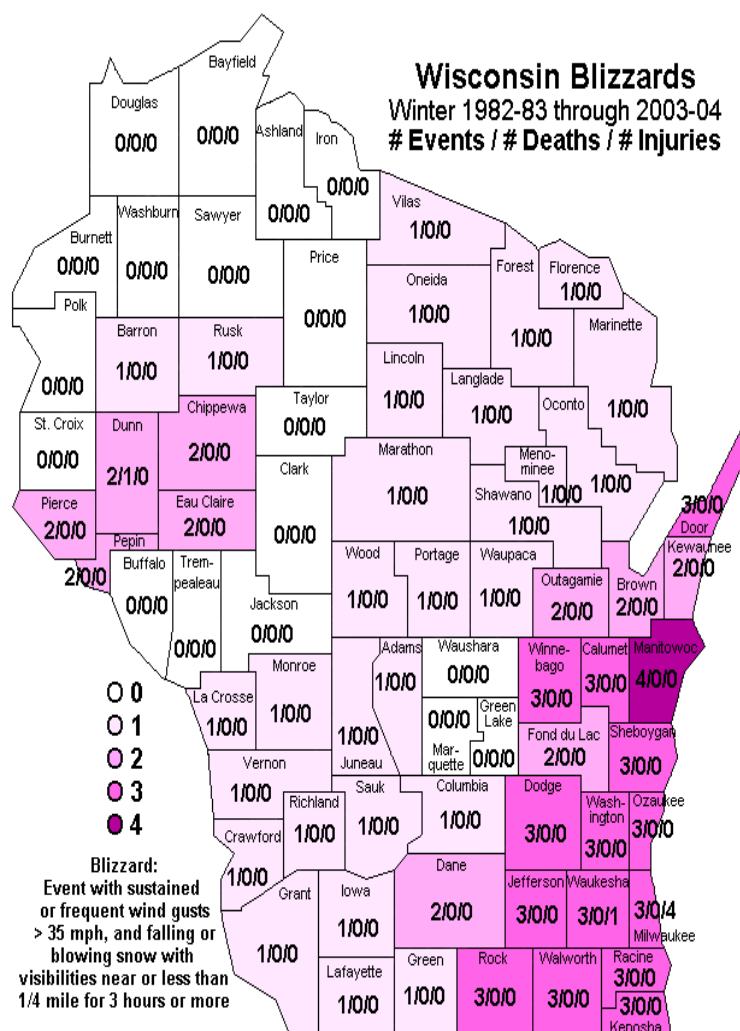
Make sure you have working CO detectors. All homes and duplexes in Wisconsin are required to have CO detectors on every level including the basement, but not the attic or storage areas. Have your furnace or wood-burning stove inspected annually to make sure it is structurally and functionally sound and vents properly to the outside of your home.

Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home or an unventilated garage. Any heating system that burns fuel will produce carbon monoxide.

Use a battery-powered detector where you have fuel burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, cabins, RVs, and boats with enclosed cabins. Never run a car in an enclosed space. If a vehicle is running, you must have a door open to the outside. Generators should be run a safe distance from the home. Never run a generator in the home or garage, or right next to windows or doors.

Breathing carbon monoxide displaces the oxygen in the blood and can cause death within minutes at high levels. Symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide are often mistaken for the flu and include headaches, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath/chest pain, nausea/vomiting, and confusion. If you experience any of these symptoms, or your carbon monoxide detector sounds an alarm, head outside immediately for fresh air and call 911.

Pet care - While our pets might seem to have built-in, warm winter coats, they too are sensitive to the elements. It is recommended to bring them indoors during this bitter weather. Dogs and cats can get frost bitten ears, nose and feet if left outside during bitter cold weather. Chemicals used to melt snow and ice can also irritate pets' paws - be sure to keep anti-freeze, salt and other poisons away from pets.



The Experimenters Bench

Solderability of Enameled Copper Wire

Kevin asked about the solderability of the wire I had used in the [wiring pencil](#). I picked the wire I had in stock that was subjectively the was the right gauge and the easiest to solder based on past experience. I hadn't however made detailed tests, so this quick experiment was undertaken to detail the performance of the particular brands I had in stock.



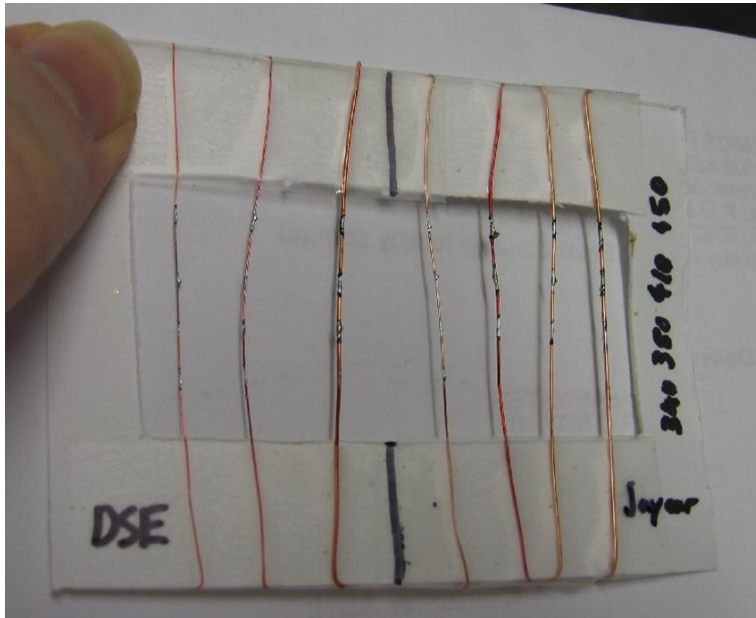
I just happen to have a wide variety of gauges and brands of wire in stock, collected over the years from various suppliers. The supplies may no longer carry the particular wire I tested, or carry something different identified by the same catalogue number, so this data is only really for my benefit, but the experiment is easy to perform for yourself. I generally find enameled copper wire is much easier to tin from a cut end. Submerging the cut end in a puddle of solder on the tip of the iron will rapidly burn back the varnish except for especially refractory varnishes, of which I only have a few samples, mostly on quite heavy gauge wire. Tinning in the middle of an unbroken length is generally quite difficult, at normal soldering temperature, except for very fine gauge wires.

I have a cheap DSE sourced temperature controlled soldering station (catalogue number T-1976) which I purchased last year after my previous unit (also DSE sourced, the more expensive T-2200) was no longer supported by DSE for spares and I was in need of a new element. The unit is adjustable from 250 - 450 °C. I normally run at 340 °C, so I picked four test temperatures, starting with 340 °C and going right up the units limit of 450 °C. Temperatures below 340 °C were not investigated.

Samples of wire were taped to a cardboard frame and tinning attempted at each of the four temperatures. The heat effected zones may have overlapped, especially for the thicker more conductive gauges, but lower temperatures were attempted first, progressing to higher ones. The tinning was attempted to a maximum of 20 seconds per test. Wires up to 500 um only were tested.

Supplier	Catalogue Number	Gauge	Colour	Solderability				Comments
				340 °C	380 °C	410 °C	450 °C	
DSE	W-3136	125 um	Red	Easy	Easy	Easy	Easy	By far the easiest wire to tin
DSE	W-3132	200 um	Red	Easy	Easy	Easy	Easy	Quite similar to the 125 um wire, takes slightly longer to tin, but otherwise very easy to use and mechanically more robust.
DSE	W-3126	400 um	Amber	No	Hard	OK	Poor	Quite hard to tin at low temperatures. Lots of burnt material at higher ones.
Jaycar	W4012	250 um	Amber	Easy	Easy	Easy	Easy	In most ways identical to the 200 um DSE wire, just a different colour and slightly thicker gauge.
Jaycar	W4013	300 um	Red	No	Poor	OK	OK	Takes a long time to burn through and tin. Lots of heat works eventually, fair amount of burnt junk results.
Jaycar	W4014	400 um	Amber	No	Poor	OK	Poor	Around 410 °C seemed optimal for this wire, producing less burnt material than higher temperatures, but being hard to tin much below this. I found this result a little surprising.
Jaycar	W4016	500 um	Amber	No	Hard	Poor	OK	Needs lots of heat, not too bad otherwise.
Hen-dricks QRP Kits	NA 321 (#28)	321 um	Red	Fair	OK	Easy	OK	"Thermaleze" wire. Tins with rubbing to get it started at the lowest temperature. Higher temperatures tin easier, but very high temperatures start to produce more burnt material.
Hen-dricks QRP Kits	NA 321 (#28)	321 um	Green	Fair	OK	Easy	OK	Same as the Red except or the colour.

In general the results indicate thinner gauges are easier to tin. All wires tested tin from a cut end at the lowest temperature, but may take quite some time and effort/rubbing. All wires will tin mid-wire eventually at 380 °C, but some can take quite a long time and require rubbing back and forth with the iron to start penetration of the enamel. At 410 °C and above all wires tin pretty easily. Higher temperatures are more robust and quicker to tin, but also tend to produce more blackening and slaggy solder.



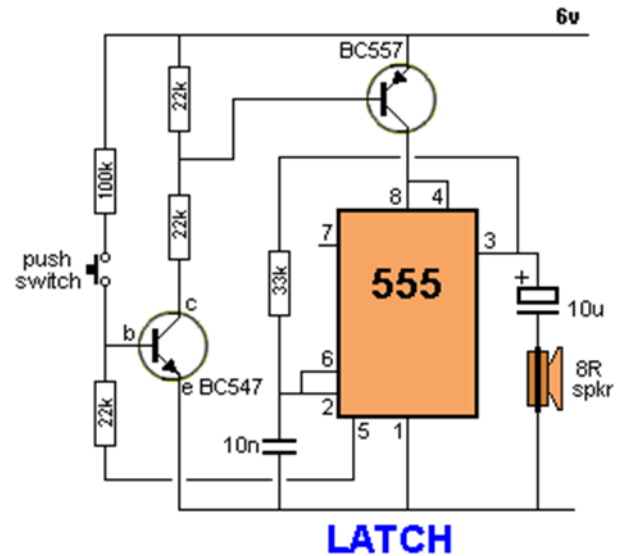
Wires that tin only with difficulty tend to produce a blackened region near the edge of the enamel layer which appears to be a mixture of burnt enamel and rosin flux. The blackening also seems correlated with decreasing quality of the solder. Wire that really needed a lot of cooking produces very slaggy solder that ideally would be removed and replaced with fresh material to make a nice joint.

The smell of the harder enamel burning is quite different to that of the easily tinned material. There is a fair variety of enamel chemistries available, but I am unsure which correspond to the easiest tinning wires as the wire is uncharacterized as to its particular enamel chemistry. At least here in Australia, unless you order directly from a wire supplier, you seem to get almost random material. In particular the same type of spools are used for different kinds of wire, probably because of rebranding and splitting of bulk lots by the retailers. Some material purchased years apart, but of the same gauge, colour and brand has different enamel. This will no doubt frustrate attempts to use the data above.

One thing I didn't test which might be of more practical value is tinning when twisted around an IC socket pin in contact with PCB pads. This is the ultimate fate of the wire used in the wiring pencil, so good performance there is highly desirable. The two easiest to tin materials also happen to be those I chose for the wiring pencil, and I know that in practice they work quite well in that application. Unfortunately they are also the oldest sourced and perhaps are no longer consistent with what is currently offered by Dick Smith.

LATCH Circuit

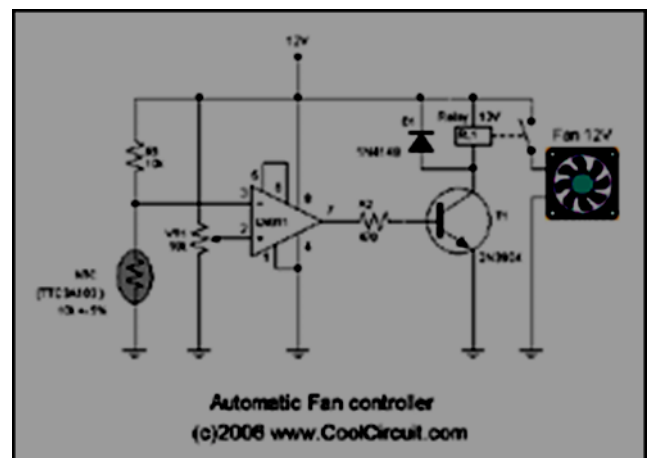
This circuit is a LATCH and remains ACTIVE when the push-button has been pressed for an INSTANT and released.



Automatic fan controller circuit

This circuit will turn on/off 12V DC fan or CPU fan when temperature above normal temperature. You can set turn on temperature by adjust VR1. This circuit use an NTC (Negative temperature coefficient) which is a thermistor is one in which the zero-power resistance decreases with an increase in temperature. So If temperature increase the voltage at pin 3 on LM311 will decrease. The resistance of NTC is about 10K at 25°C.

VR1 should be multi-turn potentiometer type such 10K/25 turn



Ha Thanh Experiences 1LT Gary J. Honold SFODA-104



I enlisted in the Army in September of 1962, and was assigned to the Army Security Agency. After 3 years, and some good performances in an ASA Leadership School, and a junior and a senior 6th Army NCO Academy, I was promoted to SSG E-6. I decided to make the army a career, so I applied for OCS.

After graduating from Infantry OCS at Fort Benning I volunteered for Airborne School before heading to Fort Holabird, MD for MI Branch schooling. I knew that I would soon be heading for Vietnam, and with the theory that if you're going to ride a horse, it might as well be a fast one, I applied for the Special Forces Officer's Course, and [assignment](#) to 5th Group in Vietnam.

After processing into country at Long Binh, and into 5th Group at Nha Trang I was assigned to the S-2 Office of Detachment C-1 in Da Nang. The C-Team Commander at the time, LTC Schungle, had a policy that all staff officers would be attached to an A-Team for 30 days to get a feeling for camp life and operations before beginning their duties at the C-Team.

I was attached to the team without a real position...just sort of an extra body. On my first stint as the "night watch" part of my duties were to burn the waste in the pit below the "2 holer" latrine before everyone got up in the morning. Being new to the job, and not knowing exactly how much diesel to dump into the pit, I nearly blew up our deluxe facility. The 2 holer box lifted off the cement pad, rocked, and flames shot out of the holes like an inverted Atlas-Agena Rocket. My first patrol was a fairly short AO recon northwest of the camp with SGT Davis to look at an area that hadn't been checked out in awhile. Pretty uneventful really. Very light contact with what was probably just a trail watcher, and one of the CIDG stepped on a shit-dipped punji.

Life back at the camp was pretty laid back. My bunker was a two-man affair under the ARVN Artillery Battery pit (At that time they had 3 guns, I believe, all in one large circular re-ventment). Oh what fun it was when they got a fire mission in the middle of the night. Can you say levitate? One day, while walking by the TOC, I stuck my head in to ask the Team Sergeant, MSG Tadeusz Sosniak, something-or-other. He was typing up the MOPSUM at the time. Just as I entered the Team XO, 1LT Eagle needed to get some carbon paper that was stored under the typewriter. "Top" paused in his typing for a moment with his fingers poised over the keyboard

LT Eagle lifted the typewriter to slide the carbon paper out from underneath. Being the wiseass that I am I said, "Ain't that just like a damned Polack."

Hold your fingers up there, and wait for someone to lift the typewriter to meet them". I remember Top chasing me down the Detachment Street with both of us laughing hard enough to make it difficult to run.

On my second patrol SGT Davis and I hatched a plan over a few beers in the Teamhouse late one night to take a surprise patrol out to an area east of the camp where every man, woman, and child was known to be VC, or VC sympathizers. To keep the word from getting out (as with most A-Camps we figured that at least 10% of our CIDG were VC) SGT Davis and I went to the LLDB TOC at about 4:00 A.M. to [request](#) a patrol for first light. Because of the tunnel and bunker complex in the village we were loaded down way more heavily than normal with WP and frag grenades.

As we snaked along the old French road, and approached a facing ridge we didn't pay much attention to the CIDG lagging further and further behind the interpreter and ourselves. The interpreter was toward a head high cut bank to my left, I was just left of road center, and SGT Davis was near the right edge of the road. It wasn't until the first burst that we really noticed that the CIDG were out of sight around a bend in the road a short distance behind us....and they didn't really seem much interested in moving forward. The initial burst hit the interpreter in the right hip, skipped me somehow, and kicked up dirt beside me down the center of the road. I threw a body block into the interpreter, who had frozen in place, knocking him into a small depression at the left side of the road. SGT Davis dove off the right side of the road behind a tree where the ground dropped into a paddy. It wasn't until then that it sank in that the radio was back with the CIDG. SGT Davis yelled, "cover me" (in the best Hollywood Western tradition). I grabbed the interpreter's and my M-16s and started spraying the ridgeline to our front.

SGT Davis pulled the pin and threw a WP grenade for the cover of thick white smoke it provided, jumped up and dashed back to where the CIDG were huddled watching the excitement (or, at least from their position, listening to it), grabbed the radio, and in what I thought was a very stupid move at the time, brought it back forward.

Because of the many twists following the road in the valley the camp could not hear the FM. They had no idea we were in fairly heavy contact until a Caribou, going into Ha Thanh on a resupply asked the camp if they had artillery going out to the east because they saw a lot of smoke. We finally got a FAC overhead, but they were shooting at him enough that he had to be a little careful lining up to fire his HE rockets until he called in a flight of A1Es. The FAC rolled in to make his marking pass, and then the A1Es followed....from the VC toward us. When the firefight was over, but before we had med-evaced the interpreter, I noticed that the cannon had stopped chewing up the ground on line, and about 15 yards from us, and I used an empty M-16 magazine to rake over a 2" X 8" piece of still very hot bomb shrapnel laying within arms reach.

When the camp found out we were in contact they actually had to draw straws to make someone stay back at the camp to maintain an American presence there. LT Eagle and MSG Sosniak had been on a "show of force" patrol with their LLDB counterparts that had turned into a 7 1/2 hour running fire-fight the day before, and they led the charge out of the gate. Great bunch of guys to have on your side in a fight. When the rest of the team got there we counted 5 VC KIA (if I remember right), and then moved on to the village where we dumped some WP and HE grenades into tunnels and bunkers before returning to camp.

One evening SGT (at the time. Later SSG) Gleason....known as "Fat Jack", which was a real stretch because he was neither fat, nor named Jack....decided to reinforce the "No movement outside the wire after 6 P.M." rule. He jumped into the .50 cal bunker, went to single shot, and picked out this poor SOB walking along low on the hillside, across the paddies south of camp. He placed one round about 5 yards behind the guy. Nguyen picked up the pace, and SGT Gleason put another round about 5 yards behind him. The guy picked up the pace even more. Long story short....before it was over the guy was sprinting across the hillside with a speed that would be the envy of an Olympic sprinter. Probably not a good CA/PsyOps move, but we didn't have much for traffic outside the wire after 6 P.M. for the rest of the time I was there.

Another incident involving SGT Gleason happened one day in the Teamhouse. Keep in mind he was the small arms weapons SGT. He sat a loaded M-60 machine gun down on a table none-to-gently, and of course, firing from the open bolt, it went off. The round drilled a reel to reel tape deck sitting across the Teamhouse right through the "boiler room". Everybody came rushing in to see what had happened to find a very sheepish SGT Gleason with a still smoking M-60. The funny thing was that the only function that old tape deck wouldn't perform was fast forward. They sure don't build 'em like they used to.

The ol' pucker factor at the camp was going up even back at the end of May. We decided to have a full gear drill one evening, so that everyone would know exactly what section of the perimeter, and what bunker to go to in the event of an attack. We had gathered in the Teamhouse prior to the event when suddenly there were several KAAARUUUMPS!!! just outside the wire. Everybody grabbed up their web gear and weapons, burst out the door, and dove into their assigned trenches/bunkers for the coming attack. When nothing else happened for about 1/2 an hour we all started straggling back to the Teamhouse. There we met SFC Juan Medina, the heavy weapons NCO. In his beautiful, thick Hispanic accent he said, "Where did everybody go? I was just testing my final protective fire". I think it was that night that I got my nickname "LT Fuzz". I've always had a "baby face", and that night, all done up in battle rattle, LT Eagle looked at me, cracked up, and coined the name.

On another patrol I remember, SFC Medina and I were headed out with a company of CIDG for the southern border of the AO to get into position to do a BDA after a planned B-52 Strike on a staging/hospital complex where our AO met the AO of the camp to our south.

We had traveled all day, and were just pulling into our night location in a downpour. The rain stopped just after we got on top of a knob at the end of a ridge overlooking the river valley. I had strung my hammock, taken off, and wrung out my tiger fatigue pants and shirt, and laid them over my hammock to dry out at least a little. Keep in mind that normally one did not wear underwear in this climate. At least I didn't. So...there I am in my floppy tiger stripe hat, jungle boots, and precious little else, when one of the CIDG stepped on a "hockey puck" mine, and blew his foot off. SFC Medina got on the radio to call in a med-evac, and about that time we notice a platoon sized unit of armed VC moving north along the river bank below us. We were still in range of the 105s at the camp, so I decide to call in an artillery strike. SFC Medina was still manning the radio on our end, and MSG Sosniak was on the radio back at the camp. I'm standing there naked as a jay bird listening to SFC Medina asking for a fire mission in his thick Hispanic accent to MSG Sosniak taking the mission in his equally thick Eastern European accent, who is relaying it to a Vietnamese Artillery LT. "Yard foot blown off, VC platoon just below us, and I am laughing my ass off at this scene. Between chuckles I took the mic from SFC Medina, said, "Juan, you're gonna get us killed", and then I continued to direct this goat screw in the nude.

We got the CIDG med-evaced, the VC scattered, and moved into a new night location with me fully clothed, but never did get in position to do the BDA.

SSG Gleason was the team scrounger. He could get a case of steaks with just about any captured war trinket. Fresh eggs were really a biggy. I joked that if you gave him a captured AK-47, and put him on a helicopter for the SeaBee base he could bring back the base commander in a trade.

Because we were not authorized any M-60 machine guns in our TO&E, only the old WWII vintage, air cooled, .30 cal, A6 machine gun, we could not get any ammunition for the M-60 that had been scrounged/"borrowed" at some point. The exact pedigree of our lone M-60 was lost in the dim past. One of our favorite "resupply" techniques was to invite incoming helicopter crews up to the Teamhouse for refreshments. During the festivities one of us would slip out, walk down to the strip where the chopper was parked, and twist off all but about 3 rounds of linked ammo sticking out of the M-60s they had mounted on board. All the helicopter crews had to know the game. Some just played along better than others. Might have depended on how badly they wanted a cold beer.

One day LT Eagle went up with the FAC that usually flew in our AO. They spotted a water buffalo in a free-fire zone, and decided to put an HE rocket "where the sun don't shine". Again, probably not the best of CA/PsyOps move, but we were young and impetuous. That same FAC bounced the wheel of his bird off the top of the windshield of the jeep Top Sosniak was driving back to the compound from the airfield one day. The FAC was making a low pass over the airfield, and Top, because he was celebrating rotating back to the States in a few days, and was on his last mission.

Another personality that, while not assigned to the team, was always good for a laugh was the 5th Group Veterinarian. He carried more weapons than any of the SF soldiers I knew. He was out inoculating water buffalo one day when one of the ungrateful creatures trapped him on a paddy dike, and gored him through the calf.

Early Radio: Military Communications

Never being a group that let any humorous event go unrecognized, every time he walked into the club at the C-Team everyone would stand and shout Ole'.

Some time in May, or very early June, while I was there, CPT Gesregan left Ha Thanh to take over as XO at the Mobile Strike Force Battalion located next to the C-Team in Da Nang. That promoted 1LT Eagle to Team CO, and left the XO position open. I had really enjoyed being with the team, and I asked to be assigned as the XO. The Team wanted me to stay also, but the C-Team S-2 had other plans. After I had "missed" several helicopter rides back to Da Nang he ordered me to be on the next one. That ended my vision of being A-104's XO.

I apologize if I haven't mentioned someone who was at A-104 during that time period. The ones I had a close contact with like CPT Robert A. "Al" Gesregan, 1LT Banze Eagle, MSG Tadeusz Sosniak, SFC Noble Zickefoose, SSG Edward "Fat Jack" Gleason, SFC Juan Medina, and SGT Ivan Davis, I'll never forget. The other Team members....Hey it's been 40 years, and it was only 30 days, or so. Mea Culpa already.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21st at 7:00PM. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance. Access the MRAC Yahoo group for important details about the February Meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

January 30th, 7 pm

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 **8:00 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)-459-9741**

Name of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager
<u>Badger Weather Net (BWN)</u> 3984 kHz, 0500	W9IXG
<u>Badger Emergency Net (BEN)</u> 3985 kHz, 1200	NX9K
<u>Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN)</u> 3985 or 3982.5 kHz, 1700	KB9KEG
<u>Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN)</u> 3555 kHz, 1800	KB9ROB
<u>Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN)</u> 3555 kHz, Sn, T, Th, F, 1830	N1KSN
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E)</u> 3555 kHz, 1900	WB9ICH
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L)</u> 3555 kHz, 2200	W9RTP
<u>ARES/RACES Net</u> 3967.0 kHz, 0800 Sunday	WB9WKO
* Net Control Operator needed. Contact Net Manager for information.	



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 to:

Michael B. Harris
807 Nicholson RD
South Milwaukee, WI 53172-1447

VE Testing:

March 29th, 2014

Location: Amateur Electronic Supply Time: 9:30 AM
(Walk-ins allowed)

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

Area Swapfests

Feb. 15th, 2014 [MRAC/MAARS Swapfest](#) Location:
Brookfield, WI

Sponsor: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club & Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.w9rh.org>

MRAC Working Committees

100th Anniversary:

- Dave—KA9WXN
- Dan—N9ASA

Net Committee:

- Open

Field Day

Dave—KA9WXN, Al—KC9IJJ

FM Simplex Contest

- Joe – N9UX
- Jeff – K9VS

Ticket drum and drawing

- Tom – N9UFJ

Newsletter Editor

- Michael-KC9CMT

Webmaster

- Mark Tellier—
AB9CD

Refreshments

- Hal—KB9OZN



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)-459-9741**

Address correspondence to:

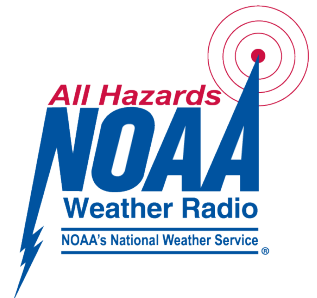
MRAC, PO Box 26233, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0233

Email may be sent to: w9rh@arrrl.net . Our YAHOO newsgroup:

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

CLUB NETS:

- The 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)



The MRAC HamChatter is a monthly publication of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. Serving Amateur Radio in Southeastern Wisconsin & all of Milwaukee County

Club Call sign – W9RH

MRAC Website: <http://www.W9RH.org>

Editor: Michael B. Harris, kc9cmt@Earthlink.net

Milwaukee Area Nets

Mon.8:00 PM 3.994 Tech Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- ARRL Newsline

Mon.8:00 PM 146.445+ Emergency Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- Walworth County ARES net

Mon.8:45 PM 147.165- ARRL Audio News

Mon. 8:00 PM 442.100+ Railroad net, also on EchoLink

Mon. 8:30 PM 442.975+ WARC W9CQ net also on EchoLink 576754

Mon. 8:30 PM 442.150+ Waukesha ARES Net on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of each month.

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

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

Tue. 9:00 PM 145.130+ MAARS Hand Shakers Net

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

Wed. 8:00 PM 145.130+MAARS Amateur Radio Newsline

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.045+ West Allis ARC net

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.270+ Racine County ARES net

Wed. 9:00 PM 145.130+MAARS SwapNet, link to FM-38

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

Thur. 9:00 PM 146.910+ Computer Net

Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490 MRAC W9RH 10 Mtr SSB Net

Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390+ W9RH 2 MTR. FM Net

Sat. 8:00 PM 146.910+ YL's Pink HAMsters 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 146.910+ Information Net

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

Sun 9:00 PM 146.910+ Swap Net

Daily: Milwaukee — Florida Net 7 am, 14.290 mhz.

Thursday's 8:00 PM 448.300+ Tech Net

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

