



HAMATEUR CHATTER



The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club

December 2014 Volume 22, Issue 12

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

First, I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season. Hopefully Santa will get you that new radio you want Christmas.

Immediately after the holidays starts a busy time for our club. We start off the new year with our table at the West Allis Radio Amateurs Club Swapfest on January 10th. This year, their fest has moved to the Waukesha Expo Area's "round building". Our club table will be located just in front of the stage area. We will also have some table space open for club members to sell items. Additionally, ham radio testing will also take place in the Oconomowoc room in the arena. Anyone interested in testing should enter through the outside doors on the north side of the arena. Information about what to bring for testing is available on the MRAC website: <http://w9rh.org/testing.htm>

While we were hoping to have a Yaesu Fusion presentation at our January 29th meeting, we're rescheduling this presentation for another upcoming meeting. Instead, the West Allis Club will have a few minutes to talk about the Wisconsin QSO Party. The more MRAC members who enter, the more chances we can win the "club" category. We might even have an internal contest about who gets the best score, so these are things to discuss.

We also need to talk about the MRAC Simplex contest. Again, it's important for us to have strong member participation this year. A good showing means we need our club members to submit logs properly and in a timely manner. Please help us spread the word about this contest.

Finally, don't forget our upcoming Swapfest on February 14th. We really need everyone's help to promote this fest, so we are asking you to get the word out. It's also important that we get people to volunteer. The more people we have to help staff the fest, the more time everyone has to shop.

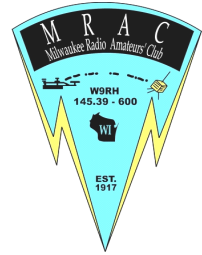
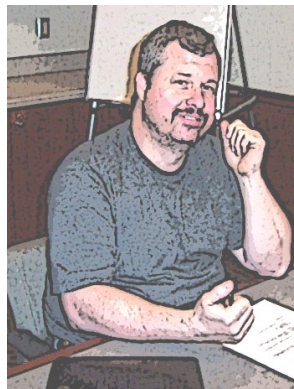
We'll even buy pizza for all the volunteers during clean up, so please consider helping us make this Swapfest a success by volunteering. Details about our Swapfest are available on our website: <http://w9rh.org/swapfest.html> Hope to see you all there!

'73 Dave. KA9WXN



Happy Holidays!

The Board of Directors of MRAC & I would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season. We hope to see all of you back at our January 29th Membership meeting. Happy Holidays!



MRAC Officers:

Terms Expiring in 2016

- President – Dave, KA9WXN
- V-President– Dan, N9ASA
- Secretary – MBH KC9CMT
- Treasurer – MBH, KC9CMT
- Director – Mark, KB9RQZ

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

Swapfest—January 3, 2015

Just 2 days after New Year's!

The West Allis Radio Amateur Club's 42nd Annual Midwinter Swapfest will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2015, 8:00AM to 1:00PM at the Waukesha County Expo Center Round Building, Waukesha, WI.

Directions: I-94 west from Milwaukee to County Hwy J (exit 294), south to County Hwy FT, west to the Expo.

Testing: will be held 9:00-11:15AM at AMF Waukesha Lanes (across the road from Expo).

Advance admission: \$4.00

Admission at the door: \$5.00

Tables (8 Ft): \$24

Send advance registration form and #10 business size SASE to WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Advance reservation deadline is December 25, 2013.

For more information visit <http://www.warac.org/swap/index.htm> or call Phil Gural, W9NAW, 414.425.3649.

- West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.

www.warac.org

Membership Minutes

The November membership meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Dave Shank, KA9WXN club president. The Mic was passed for member and guest introductions. There will be no meetings in the month of December 2014 due to the holiday season. The program for January has not be firmly established yet, the February meeting will be a food gathering as we have done the last two years. The MRAC will have tables at the WARC swapfest on January 10th 2015 in Waukesha. Mark, AB9CD and Joe, N9UX will be working on the FM simplex contest on February 8th 2015. The MRAC swapfest will be on February 14th in 2015.

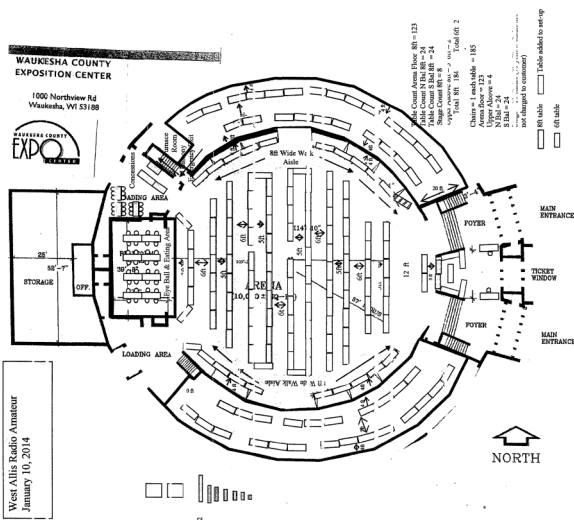
Meeting program: The meeting program tonight will be given by Mark, AB9CD. The presentation will be a general presentation on how to operate an oscilloscope. The MRAC thanks Mark, AB9CD for setting up, and presenting this very technical presentation. Access Beginners Oscilloscope tutorial on the Internet for a more in depth discussion. The presentation displayed both DC & AC wave forms. Most scopes come with 10:1 sampling probes, so you must multiply your reading by 10. Presented where both digital and analog 100 MHz scopes. Groupings on analog Oscilloscope: Channel, Channel, Trigger, & Display control, under screen.

Business meeting preliminary discussions: As the membership meeting is a week early this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the HamChatter has not been published and distributed to the membership. The Treasurers report was given by Michael, KC9CMT. The October balance sheet ended with \$17,253.40 in our Club accounts. The Treasurers report was accepted as reported by a motion made by Hal, KB9OZN, and seconded by Al, KC9IJJ. The club has a Facebook page that the MRAC would like its members to endorse to their friends and other Hams. The club would like to have committees for our field day effort, to better coordinate our activities.

The club needs new people to volunteer for the board of directors. The club also needs people to help out with both content and proofreading of the club newsletter. Pancho would like to see more club members sign-in during the 2 meter net on Friday nights at 9 pm. The club wants to develop project committees that would report to the board of directors.

A food gathering with Jerry will be taking place immediately after tonight's meeting at Denny's on Capitol drive.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm by Dave, KA9WXN seconded by Michael, KC9CMT. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. The room was returned to a clean and organized condition as it was when the room was opened.



Thought Experiment

Editors' Note: Your brain is like anything else. If you stop using it, stop contemplating existential problems, you may find that the ability to think logically becomes compromised. So..... Have at it!

Schrodinger's Cat Why was it necessary?

First, a historical subtlety: Schrödinger has actually stolen the idea of the cat from Einstein.

Second, both men – Einstein and Schrödinger – used the thought experiment to "explain" a point that was wrong. They thought it was absurd for quantum mechanics to say that the state $a|\text{alive}\rangle + b|\text{dead}\rangle$ was possible in Nature (it was claimed to be possible in quantum mechanics) because it allowed the both "incompatible" types of the cat to exist simultaneously.

Third, they were wrong because quantum mechanics does imply that such superpositions are totally allowed and must be allowed and this fact can be experimentally verified – not really with cats but with objects of a characteristic size that has been increasing. Macroscopic objects have already been put to similar "general superposition states".

The men introduced it to fight against the conventional, Copenhagen-like interpretations of quantum mechanics, and that's how most people are using the meme today, too. But the men were wrong, so from a scientifically valid viewpoint, the thought experiment shows that superpositions are indeed always allowed – it is a postulate of quantum mechanics – even if such states are counterintuitive. Similar superpositions of common-sense states are measured so that only $|a|^2$ and $|b|^2$ from the coefficients matter and may be interpreted as (more or less classical) probabilities. Due to decoherence, the relative phase is virtually unmeasurable for large, chaotic systems like cats, but in principle, even the relative phase matters.

Quite generally, the people who are wrong – who have a problem with quantum mechanics – like to say that the superposition means that the cat is alive "and" dead. But the right, quantum answer is that the addition in the wave function doesn't mean "and". Instead, it means a sort of "or", so the superposition simply says that the cat is dead *or* alive, with the appropriate probabilities (quantum mechanics determines not only the probabilities but also their complex phases, and those may matter for other questions).

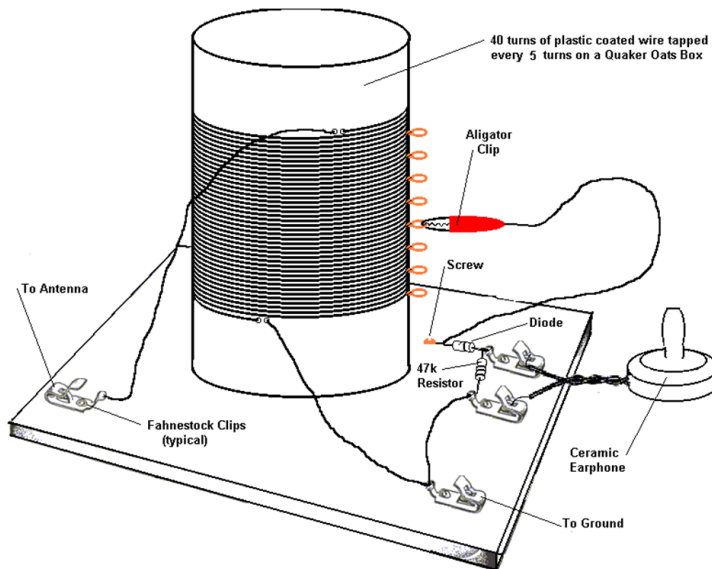
Schrödinger's cat is a thought experiment, sometimes described as a paradox.

The scenario presents a cat that may be both alive and dead, depending on an earlier random event. Although the original "experiment" was imaginary, similar principles have been researched and used in practical applications. The thought experiment is also often featured in theoretical discussions of the interpretations of quantum mechanics. Schrödinger wrote: One can even set up quite ridiculous cases.

A cat is penned up in a steel chamber, along with the following device (which must be secured against direct interference by the cat): in a Geiger counter, there is a tiny bit of radioactive substance, so small, that perhaps in the course of the hour one of the atoms decays, but also, with equal probability, perhaps none; if it happens, the counter tube discharges and through a relay releases a hammer that shatters a small flask of hydrocyanic acid. If one has left this entire system to itself for an hour, one would say that the cat still lives if meanwhile no atom has decayed. The psi-function of the entire system would express this by having in it the living and dead cat (pardon the expression) mixed or smeared out in equal parts. It is typical of these cases that an indeterminacy originally restricted to the atomic domain becomes transformed into macroscopic indeterminacy, which can then be resolved by direct observation. That prevents us from so naively accepting as valid a "blurred model" for representing reality. In itself, it would not embody anything unclear or contradictory. There is a difference between a shaky or out-of-focus photograph and a snapshot of clouds and fog banks.



Build A Crystal Radio for the "Beginner" Radio #1



You will need the following items

- 1 Quaker Oats box (4" Diameter size)
- 1 Mounting Board (Wood)
- 1 100 foot spool of #24 or #22 solid plastic insulated wire
- 1 Germanium Diode 1N34, 1N34a, 1N60 etc.
- 1 47K resistor 1/4 or 1/2 watt
- 1 alligator clip

<>1 Ceramic Hi Impedance Earphone

Suppliers:

(Please remember: A earphone or headphones or "ear buds" from Radio Shack etc will not work. They must be Ceramic "HI Impedance" earphone. NOT the kind used on transistor radios)

4 Fahnestock Clips (You could use a machine screw up through the bottom of the board and a nut. Then a knurled nut or another nut to tighten the wires down.

Construction

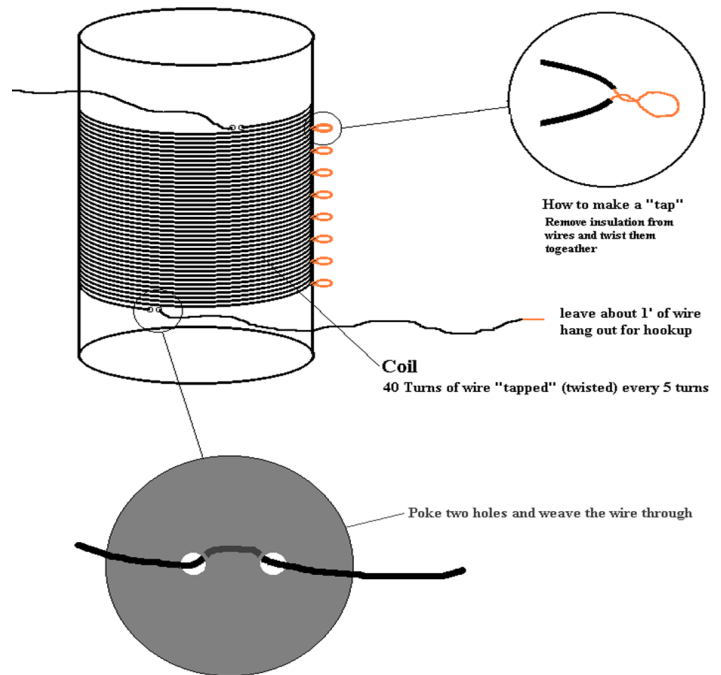
Take the Quaker Oats container (empty of coarse) and on the open side, come down about a 1/2" and poke two holes (careful). Poke the wire through the right hole and back through the second hole like shown below at the top. Pull about a foot of wire out. On the inside of the oats box, place a piece of tape on the wire and the two holes. This will keep the wire from slipping out.

Wrap 5 turns of wire around the oats box and make a "tap". See the illustration below on how to make a tap. Twist the wire a couple of times and remove the insulation at the twist (see below).

Continue making wraps and every 5 turns make a tap until you get to 40 turns.

At 40 turns, poke two holes next to the last turn of wire. Cut the wire off the spool of extra wire about a foot long. Poke the wire into the first hole and back out the second hole. Place a piece of tape on the inside like on the top. This will keep the wire tight on the oats box.

You now have your coil wound like in the illustration below.

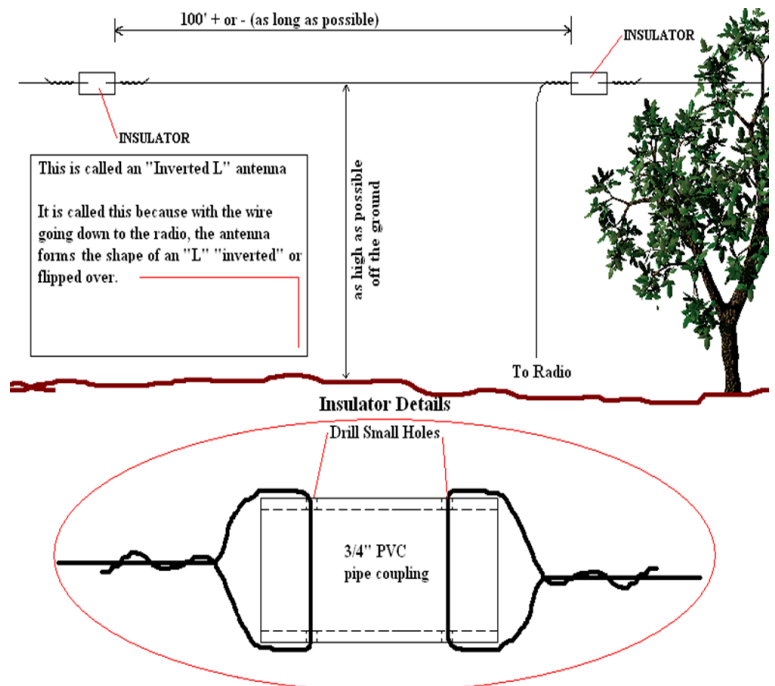


The rest is just assembly and wiring to look like the illustration below.

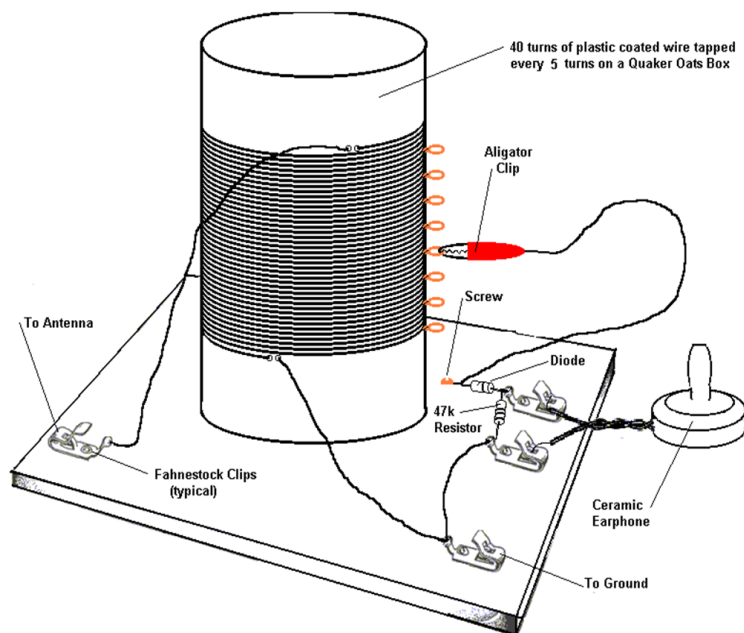
You will need an antenna and ground.

The antenna can be any wire covered or bare, as high and long as possible. Make sure you don't get around electrical wires for your safety and the performance of the radio. Also don't let the antenna "ground out" to trees or the earth (ground). You can make insulator (see below) from plastic water pipe or couplings.

Please don't leave this antenna up during lightning storms!



The ground can be made by connecting to a water pipe, or to a metal rod pounded into the ground (at least 2 feet deep). Hook it all up and put the alligator clip somewhere in the middle. You should hear something!



Weather Hazard Awareness

Winter's Impact

Storms with Strong Winds

Sometimes winter storms are accompanied by strong winds creating blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow, severe drifting, and dangerous wind chill. Strong winds with these intense storms and cold fronts can knock down trees, utility poles, and power lines. Storms near the coast can cause coastal flooding and beach erosion as well as sink ships at sea. In the West and Alaska, winds descending off the mountains can gust to 100 mph or more damaging roofs and other structures.

Extreme Cold

Extreme cold often accompanies a winter storm or is left in its wake. Prolonged exposure to the cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia and become life-threatening. Infants and elderly people are most susceptible. What constitutes extreme cold and its effect varies across different areas of the United States. In areas unaccustomed to winter weather, near freezing temperatures are considered "extreme cold." Freezing temperatures can cause severe damage to citrus fruit crops and other vegetation. Pipes may freeze and burst in homes that are poorly insulated or without heat. In the north, below zero temperatures may be considered as "extreme cold." Long cold spells can cause rivers to freeze, disrupting shipping. Ice jams may form and lead to flooding.

Ice Storms

Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down trees, electrical wires, telephone poles and lines, and communication towers. Communications and power can be disrupted for days while utility companies work to repair the extensive damage. Even small accumulations of ice may cause extreme hazards to motorists and pedestrians.

Heavy Snow Storms

Heavy snow can immobilize a region and paralyze a city, stranding commuters, stopping the flow of supplies, and disrupting emergency and medical services. Accumulations of snow can collapse buildings and knock down trees and power lines. In rural areas, homes and farms may be isolated for days, and unprotected livestock may be lost. In the mountains, heavy snow can lead to avalanches. The cost of snow removal, repairing damages, and loss of business can have large economic impacts on cities and towns.

In the Midwest and Plains... Storms tend to develop over southeast Colorado on the lee of the Rockies. These storms move east or northeast and use both the southward plunge of cold air from Canada and the northward flow of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to produce heavy snow and sometimes blizzard conditions. Other storms affecting the Midwest and Plains intensify in the lee of the Canadian Rockies and move southeast. Arctic air is drawn from the north and moves south across the Plains and Great Lakes. Wind and cold sometimes combine to cause wind chill temperatures as low as 70F below zero. The wind crosses the lakes, tapping its moisture and forming snow squalls and narrow heavy snow bands. This is called "lake-effect snow."

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Weather Hazard Awareness

Winter Storm Facts:

What Makes a Winter Storm?

COLD AIR:

below freezing temperatures in the clouds and near the ground are necessary to make snow and/or ice.

MOISTURE:

to form clouds and precipitation. Air blowing across a body of water, such as a large lake or the ocean, is an excellent source of moisture.

LIFT:

something to raise the moist air to form the clouds and cause precipitation. An example of lift is warm air colliding with cold air and being forced to rise over the cold dome. The boundary between the warm and cold air masses is called a front. Another example of lift is air flowing up a mountain side.

WINTER STORMS ARE CONSIDERED *DECEPTIVE KILLERS* BECAUSE MOST DEATHS ARE

INDIRECTLY

RELATED TO THE STORM

People die in traffic accidents on icy roads.

People die of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold.

Winter Deaths

Everyone is potentially at risk during winter storms. The actual threat to you depends on your specific situation. Recent observations indicate the following:

- Related to ice and snow:
 - About 70% occur in automobiles.
 - About 25% are people caught out in the storm.
- Related to exposure to cold:
 - 50% are people over 60 years old.
 - Over 75% are males.
 - About 20% occur in the home.

COLD

FROSTBITE

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by that tissue being frozen. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately! If you must wait for help, slowly rewarm affected areas. However, if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before the extremities.

HYPOTHERMIA: LOW BODY TEMPERATURE

Warning signs - uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.

Detection - Take the person's temperature. If below 95F (35C), immediately seek medical care! If medical care is not available, begin warming the person slowly. Warm the body core first. If needed, use your own body heat to help. Get the person into dry clothing, and wrap them in a warm blanket

covering the head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee, or any hot beverage or food; warm broth is better. Do not warm extremities (arms and legs) first! This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

WIND CHILL

The wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also affected by wind chill.

When CAUGHT in a Winter Storm...

OUTSIDE

Find shelter:

- try to stay dry cover all exposed parts of the body.
- No shelter:
- prepare a lean-to, wind-break, or snow cave for protection from the wind.
 - build a fire for heat and to attract attention. place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat. Do not eat snow: It will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

IN A CAR OR TRUCK

Stay in your car or truck. Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.

Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat:

open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.

Make yourself visible to rescuers:

- turn on the dome light at night when running engine. tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna or door.
- raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.

Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers, and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

AT HOME OR IN A BUILDING

Stay inside. When using ALTERNATIVE HEAT from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.:

- use fire safeguards. properly ventilate.
- No heat:
- close off unneeded rooms.
 - stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors. cover windows at night.
- Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration, and subsequent chill.

KEEP AHEAD OF THE STORM by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, and television for the latest winter storm watches, warnings, and advisories.

What to Listen For...

WINTER STORM WATCH:

Severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, are possible within the next day or two. Prepare now!

WINTER STORM WARNING:

Severe winter conditions have begun or are about to begin in your area. Stay indoors!

BLIZZARD WARNING:

Snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. Seek refuge immediately!

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY:

Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, these situations should not become life-threatening. The greatest hazard is often to motorists.

FROST/FREEZE WARNING:

Below freezing temperatures are expected and may cause significant damage to plants, crops, or fruit trees. In areas unaccustomed to freezing temperatures, people who have homes without heat need to take added precautions.

BE PREPARED... Before the Storm Strikes

At home and at work...

Primary concerns are the potential loss of heat, power, telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

Have available:

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
 - Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information. These may be your only links to the outside.
 - Extra food and water. High energy food, such as dried fruit or candy, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration is best.
 - Extra medicine and baby items.
 - First-aid supplies.
 - Heating fuel. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a severe winter storm.
 - Emergency heating source, such as a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.
 - Learn to use properly to prevent a fire.
 - Have proper ventilation.
 - Fire extinguisher and smoke detector.
- Test units regularly to ensure they are working properly.

In cars and trucks...

Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!

- Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.
 - Carry a WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT:
 - blankets/sleeping bags;
 - flashlight with extra batteries;
 - first-aid kit;
 - knife;
 - high-calorie, non-perishable food;
 - extra clothing to keep dry;
 - a large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes;
 - a smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water;
 - sack of sand (or cat litter);
 - shovel;
 - windshield scraper and brush;
 - tool kit;
 - tow rope;
 - booster cables;
 - water container;
 - compass and road maps.
 - Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
 - Try not to travel alone.
- Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

On the farm...

- Move animals to sheltered areas. Shelter belts, properly laid out and oriented, are better protection for cattle than confining shelters, such as sheds.

Have a water supply available. Most animal deaths in winter storms are from dehydration.

DRESS TO FIT THE SEASON. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Trapped air insulates. Layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded. Wear a hat. Half your body heat loss can be from the head. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves. Try to stay dry.

Christmas 1967

It was just a couple of days before Christmas, 1967. When I stepped out of the airport terminal to walk to the rental car, the below zero weather literally took away my breath. Forty-eight hours ago I was transiting, sunny, hot Okinawa and now all the exposed areas of my skin actually hurt from the cold. Once in the car, I turned up the heater to "broil".

I parked the car, grabbed my bag, rang the doorbell and stepped into the house. My Mother stood there looking at me, ghostly pale. I thought she was going to faint. She gave a shout and ran crying into my arms. My Father came into the room and made it a group hug. Within a second, my four brothers and my sister were involved in the very moist, family huddle. There was no way that I could explain to my Irish Mother that the Marine Corps had not starved me to the point of death during the past 13 months. The meal was baked ham, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, peas, corn, carrots, fresh rolls. etc., etc., I had left a bite or two still on my plate. She insisted that I finish. I told her that I couldn't swallow another bite. Typically of her, she put that sad look on her face and began to remind me of all the children in the world that would go to bed hungry that night. And that God would surely punish people who wantonly wasted food, God's precious gift to us all. What could I do? I forced the last two forkfuls down my throat. She broke out into a smile, jumped up from the table, grabbed my plate and began to fill it again! "You see. I was right. I knew you were hungry!"

We sat at the dining room table catching up on the thirteen months which had passed. I am really proud of myself, I only used the "F"- word a couple of times, apologizing profusely. Just as I stood up to excuse myself, my youngest brother, jumped into the room with a battery operated toy machine gun and pulled the trigger: "Brrrrrrrrrrup"!!!

None of my family was startled by his actions, but they were absolutely petrified when I dove behind the sofa. I got up slowly. My heart was pounding like it was about to burst out of my chest. I was here, in Wisconsin, literally in the bosom of my family, but I had to ask myself: "WHEN WOULD I TRULY BE HOME?"

That was the saddest Christmas of my life, and I could only think of the guys back in Vietnam and the families of those who would not be coming home.
Semper Fi Merry Christmas Joe Jake Jacobs HMM-262 66-67

The loneliest Christmas . .

As I write this, my thoughts go back to Nam. I remember as I stood guard duty Christmas Eve night, I was looking out over a mountain, and it was a quiet night for a change. If you really strain the ears, I could hear the Bob Hope Show over 30 miles away, (sound travels great distances at night). My buddy was sleeping in his sack, because 4 hours came real fast before his watch. Being that was all the sleep any of us got each night, we didn't talk much, because we took advantage of it as much as we could. If we had been hit, we probably would all have been killed due to our thoughts were back home, not where we were. That was human nature, for sure.

I dreamed of my family getting up early, (I had everyone up at 5:30 when I was a kid). Then I was thinking of my baby brother, he was 12 years younger than me, wondering if he was getting everyone up at 5:30AM like I did. My brother long since died, and each Christmas I still think of him waking everyone up. That was the loneliest Christmas I ever had in my whole life, which will live with me till the day I die. I want to say to everyone who reads this: time, they say, has a way of healing the heart. Sometimes that is true, other times it doesn't, and this is one of the times it doesn't.

God bless everyone who was there and all the families who never had their sons and daughters return home.

Merry Christmas . . Cpl. Richard Higgins, USMC

Christmas 1966 and '67

I got in country on December 20, 1966. This was just after LBJ made the statement that no American service man would spend two Christmas' or New Years in Vietnam . . boy, was he wrong! On Christmas morning 1966, while still in transit in Da Nang, at 0'dark thirty, still hung over from the night before, I was awakened and thrown into the back of a 6X6. I would later find out that our destination was the end of the airfield where one of our cargo planes, after having been shot out of the sky on approach, wiped a local ville flat as a pancake, killing all its inhabitants. Enroute, while still in total darkness, we turned over side ways into a water filled rice paddy. Having been the first one in and closest to the cab I almost drowned and barely made it out alive.

When we finally got to the crash sight, since I hadn't been issued a weapon yet, I was put on a body detail. I spent the remaining hours of darkness picking up the larger body parts such as torsos, arms, legs (etc.). After dawn broke, I was told to go back for all the smaller remains such as hands, heads, entrails and the like. I'm not trying to gross anyone out here, I'm just trying to graphically describe my indoctrination to the horrors of war and just how mutilated a human body can get when something like this happens. You see, I was only five days in country and, like most, my perception of war and dying was only what I saw growing up watching in WWII movies or on TV with the likes of Combat and such. Later on that morning I was given a box of C-rations to distribute to the perimeter guards who were set up around the crash site. As I ambled down this unnamed street I heard the crack and whizz of what seemed to be (single shot) small arms fire. I don't know how long it took for me to realize that I was the intended target! I guess it still hadn't dawned on me that this too was a combat zone. After all this wasn't the jungle warfare that I was trained in, so I wasn't thinking this is what Vietnam was also all about.

Well, if Christmas '66 was horrific then Christmas '67 was as frightening, if not more so . . but, thank God, it turned out to be a bit more humorous (if that's at all possible!?!). By now, I was short. I had hoped for an early rotation date based on that promise of LBJ's I had heard the year before. But, as you might have guessed, that never came to pass. Nonetheless, if I had to do another Christmas and New Years in Vietnam, at least I could look forward to RELAD orders . . that's right I was due to rotate on January 15th 1968 for "Release from Active Duty"!

At this point of my tour, I was at Hoi An, just south of Da Nang, TAD to 7th Comm. Bn. attached to HQ 5th Marine Regiment. Around April of '67, I made a stink to my CO about being stuck in division so he made arrangements for me to go Temporary Active Duty to 7th Comm. Bn. attached to H&S Co. 1st Bn. 5th Marines on Hill 63 at Tam Ky . . what a mistake that was! Well, anyway there was a supposed truce on for the Christmas holiday, yet our perimeter defense NCO insisted that we'd be vulnerable to an attack, and since our CO wouldn't listen to him, he decided to set off a red alert on (you guessed it) Christmas morning, at 0' Dark Thirty! Well, all hell broke loose . . CS gas canisters are going off, pop flares, and automatic weapons fire from the perimeter guards. Everyone in my hooch is all hung over, tripping over each other trying to find our gas masks and weapons. All the while I'm thinking to myself . . You Son Of A Bitch, I got two weeks left in country and I'm going to die on Christmas friggin' morning! Well, order was restored and if I'm not mistaken that NCO is probably just now getting out of the Naval stockade at Portsmouth, Me.

All in all, it was an interesting two Christmas' spent in Vietnam. Certainly not one of those heartwarming stories you always saw depicted in those

wholesome war movies we all grew up watching in the 50's about a bunch of Marines sitting around a foxhole wondering what their girls and family were doing back home. No Virginia, if Santa Clause flew over Vietnam in those years, you can rest assured, at the very least, Rudolph The "Red Nosed" Reindeer wouldn't have been on point! I'm afraid war and dying doesn't take a break to celebrate the Prince of Peace's birthday (sic.).

Semper Fidelis... Your Pal, Sal (aka: Disbo)

The True Spirit of Christmas -Christmas Eve, 1970

I was a CH-46 pilot flying with HMM-364 (Purple Foxes) for a month when Christmas rolled around. Even though I was an FNG, I had figured out that there were no days off. Certainly, I had not been around enough to appreciate what the troops in the field were going through. We didn't have our normal mission line-up for Christmas eve and Christmas day. We were going to drop "B" rats, ice cream, COLD soda and mail to the Marines in the field.

It was a nice day, nobody was taking potshots, and I felt the Christmas spirit. After 10 drops, we developed some mechanical problems, and returned to Marble Mountain. I figured we were done for the day. My HAC, Capt. Dave Nelson, had other ideas; we got another bird and got loaded up again. As the day wore on (14 more drops), I started to notice expectant and increasingly pleased looks on the faces of the Marines we were playing Santa for. By now, the ice cream was melted, the soda was warm, but the mail was still precious.

Our last delivery was at Hill 270, a pencil-dick landing zone, if there ever was one (we had lost a plane there just a month before). The best you could hope for was to hover over the peak and bounce the rear landing gear on the LZ.

We waved off twice before Nellie told the crew chief to lower the ramp and we were going to back in. Had not seen (much less practiced) this maneuver back in the states. Since I was not on the stick, I was able to observe the the Marines jumping and clawing up the ramp to get their above-mentioned melted ice cream and warm soda (the "B" Rats were long gone). This was my first lesson in why aviation exists in the Marine Corps . . support the ground troops!

As we headed back to Marble Mountain, I felt good; I felt, for the first time in my short adult life, satisfied; satisfied that I had finally done something in the true spirit of Christmas.

Lt. Mark Bümm

CHRISTMAS EVE, DONG HA, VIETNAM 1966

By STEPHEN "RAGS" RAGLE

The young Marine sat in a shallow, wet foxhole with a few sand bags piled in front of it. He was huddled under his poncho. It was raining, as usual, and dark.

"This is the darkest place in the world," he thought to himself. His thoughts tried to drift to something warm and dry but couldn't. He wondered if he would ever dry out again. His boots and socks had been wet for weeks and he could not

get them dried out. The rain was incessant. If it wasn't pouring it was drizzling constantly. It was cold.

He sat shivering, thinking, "What happened to that damned heat they had heard so much about?" He had only been in country about three weeks and in Dong Ha about two weeks now, but it was beginning to seem like a lifetime. Just over eleven months and one week to go. That was a lifetime he thought.

They would have a fire in the fireplace at home tonight. It was one of the few nights they did. It was his first Christmas Eve away from home.

The dark. He stared into it trying to get a glimpse of some movement, hoping not to see any because he didn't know how he would react. He was trained for this, but there was still the nagging doubt. It was so dark, it seemed like a nightmare. He could barely make out the first string of barbed wire about twenty feet in front of him. At least there was no fog tonight.

This country was strange; it either had the darkest dark or the thickest fog he had ever seen. There was absolutely no light at night. No stars, no moon. He hadn't even seen the sun during the daytime.

Funny, he thought, how the senses play tricks or...did they? He had heard all the rumors of how quietly the VC moved through the wire. He was always thinking he heard or saw something. The strain and fear were tremendous at this point, but he would soon find he could live with it or get used to it.

The only exception for light was when they thought they heard or saw something. They would call on the land line and request some light, which was ridiculous. When they called, someone behind them would crank up a diesel powered generator to generate the electricity for the spotlights. With the time it took and all the noise it made, the enemy could easily have disappeared back into the bush.

The other two Marines with him were also new to the country. They were all on perimeter guard duty and had been since their arrival. They knew they were in for a long harrowing night. They knew there should be no intrusions because the sergeant of the guard was as frightened as they were and did not make any rounds, and the North Vietnamese had agreed to a truce. The NVA did not always abide by the rules, but the guard duty had been uneventful up to this point.

The young Marines were still afraid.

The young Marine turned to his two buddies and told them he had a little something to celebrate Christmas Eve with and warm them up. It was a fifth of Japanese whiskey he had bought from the black market. They only had water to chase it with and cold C-rations but they would make do. They were sitting in the rain, gagging on the rotten whiskey and getting warmer and braver by the minute, when the land-line rang. They figured it was just the sergeant of the guard checking on them.

It was the sarge, but he was announcing the coming of the company commander and gunny. The three Marines scrambled to get rid of the bottle of whiskey and hoped no one smelled the liquor. They figured the rain would probably take care of that.

Soon the Captain and Gunny arrived carrying gifts of Christmas. They had brought the first mail, since they had arrived, and some soft drinks, proclaiming a couple of beers awaited each of them when they got off duty. Each of the Marines had received a package in the mail. They thanked their superiors as they left and began opening their mail. The two other Marines had received cookies and assorted goodies. The first Marine, on opening his package, was shocked to find two fifths of Old Fitzgerald bourbon decanters in it. One of his best friends back in the world had come through on Christmas Eve.

They had one hell of a party that night--not too rowdy though--in the small wet hole in the middle of a war zone. They quickly overcame their fears, discussing how they could take on the whole NVA that night and forgot the cold and wet, just hoping for some kind of action.

They were three drunk Marines that night; there was no enemy activity, lucky for them; and they had one hell of a hangover Christmas morning. They had at least a better Christmas Eve than they had envisioned.

Marine Rifleman's Creed

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine.

My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.

My rifle, without me, is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will...

My rifle and I know that what counts in war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit...

My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strength, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other. We will...

Before God, I swear this creed. My rifle and I are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

The Marine's Ballad

In March of 1965, in the land on Viet Nam.
Things were going badly, and the enemy wouldn't run.
Then, from the halls of the Pentagon, there came a cry for more
The President sent those mighty men of the U.S. Marine Corps.

From their landing craft that early morn, they stared into the dark.
Soon the sun would rise, and the time to disembark.
Their rifles at the ready, their bayonets held high.
On that hostile enemy shore, a many a Marine would die.

The story spread for miles around, the Marines had come ashore.
They hit the beach a running, as they did in wars before.
Those mighty gallant men with their rifles and their packs.
They will charge right through the enemy, and never will turn back.

Through the rice fields and the jungle, the enemy fled that day.
They left their rifles they left their food; they left their dead to lay.
The Marines had won the battle, and they never did turn back.
Those mighty gallant men with their rifles and their packs.

On the shores of many foreign lands, a far across the sea.
The Marines have always won their fame, against the enemy.
They have always won their battles and they never have turned back.
Those mighty gallant men with their rifles and their packs.

©1967 Universal-Cedarwood Pub.



“Joy to the World”

Joy to the World!

The Snow & Ice have come

And Ice coats the barren ground

You scrape a place for parking

And fall and break your ribs,

while your dog stands barking

You also break your hip

There's dog poop under the snow

The wonders of winter in Milwaukee



Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 29th** 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:

Hamfest: February 14th, 8 am General admission

February 26th at 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:

January 4th, 2015 at Waukesha Bowling Lanes.

January 25, 2015

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

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

Area Swapfests

Jan. 3th, 2015 [WARAC's 43nd Annual Midwinter Swapfest](#) Location: Waukesha, WI Sponsor: West Allis Radio Amateur Club Website: <http://www.warac.org>

January 18th, 2015 [48th Annual Mid-Winter Hamfest](#) Location: St. Charles, IL
Sponsor: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Website: <http://wheatonhamfest.org>

MRAC Working Committees 100th Anniversary:

- Dave—KA9WXN
- Dan—N9ASA

Net Committee:

- Open

Field Day

Dave—KA9WXN, Al—KC9IJJ

FM Simplex Contest

- Joe – N9UX
- Mark—AB9CD

Ticket drum and drawing

- Tom – N9UFJ

Newsletter Editor

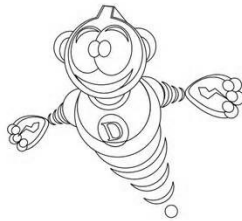
- Michael-KC9CMT

Webmaster

- Dave—KA9WXN

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:

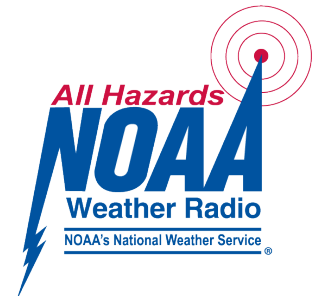
MRAC, PO Box 26233, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0233

Email may be sent to: w9rh@arrl.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 ± 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 442.875+ 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

