Lake County Ham Radio Journal

K9TMS operates from his van outside the WeLCARS Worldwide Headquarters for the 432 MHz Spring Sprints while the rest of the club plays the Hokey Pokey.

The Official Newsletter Of

WeLCARS

W9WLC

www.welcars.org

Stoned Monkey VHF

Amateur Radio Club

N9UHF

www.stonedmonkey.org

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WeLCARS Meetings and Events

VE Session
Friday May 8 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center
23 South St., Fox Lake

General Meeting
MFJ Factory Tour Video
Friday May 15 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center

General Meeting
Various Aspects of QSLing
Friday May 22 - 7PM
Fox Lake Community Center

Hamfests

Treasures From Your Trunk Hamfest
[Better than "Junk In Your Trunk" - Ed.]
May 30 - Racine, WI
www.rcares.org

6 Meter Club of Chicago
June 21 - Wheaton, IL
www.k9ona.com

South Milwaukee ARC
July 11 - Oak Creek, WI
www.qsl.net/wa9txe

On the Air

Informal Net / Radio Tradio
Sundays 8PM
KB9I Repeater
145.41 (-) PL 107.2

222 MHz and WSJT Practice
Sundays after Radio Tradio
(about 8:45PM)
224.860 (-) PL 110.9
144.165 USB - FSK441

Contest Calendar

Nevada QSO Party
May 9 1PM - May 10 1PM
1.8-50 MHz Phone, CW, Digital
nv.arrl.org/NQP

50 MHz Sprint Sprint
May 9 6PM - 10PM
50 MHz   Phone, CW
www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprintrules.htm

EU PSK DX Contest
May 16 7AM - May 17 7AM
3.5-28 MHz PSK
www.eu.srars.org

June VHF QSO Party
June 13 1PM - June 14 10PM
50+ MHz Phone, CW, Digital
www.arrl.org/contests

Kid's Day
June 20 1PM - 7PM
3.5-28 MHz   Phone
www.arrl.org

ARRL Field Day
June 27 1PM - June 28 4PM
1.8+ MHz   Phone, CW, Digital
www.arrl.org/contests

Other Events

Lake Co RACES Meeting
May 4 - 7PM
Lake County EOC

MCWA Meeting
Low Band Antennas
May 5 - 7:30PM
Nunda Township Hall

McHenry Co RACES Meeting
May 26 - 7PM
McHenry County EOC

432 MHz Sprint Sprints

Story by Chris Burke - N9YH, Photos by Christopher Bork - KC9MKL

Once again WeLCARS gathered at the Worldwide Headquarters (WWHQ) for the Spring 432 MHz Sprint Contest. The Sprints, sponsored by John K9JK, can make for a nice diversion in the middle of the week to play radio. The advantage of the Sprints are they're only 4 hours long, making it easy to get in, do a little contesting and socializing, and get home at a reasonable hour. The night got off to a rough start, though, when Joe N9IFG reported that the pizza cooker had finally given up the ghost and refused to cook one more Aldi pizza.
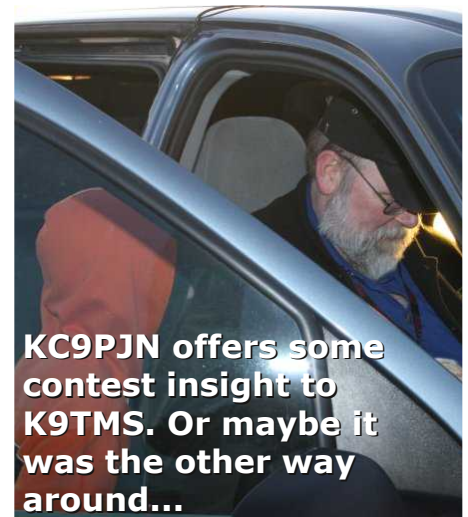
N9IFG came out with War Wagon II. This setup features "the good van" outfitted with an Icom IC-706 Mk IIG and pulling a modified boat trailer with a few antennas and a generator. Several members operated from the War Wagon II using the club's W9WLC callsign. Tom K9TMS also used an IC-706 from his van with the help of a 110 watt amplifier. Tom used a military mast setup to get his antenna in the air. There was also the KC9PJN superstation operating on 446.0 MHz FM. Operators there were newly licensed Jonathan KC9PJN as well as the yet unlicensed Jenna (KC9MKL's daughter) and Matthew (KC9PJN's brother). Jonathan and I shared the duties of "control operator" for the station whenever Jenna or Matthew were on the air. Matthew's proudest moment came when he heard a new station after listening to static for 20 minutes. We weren't able to work Dennis N9TZL, but a few minutes later Matthew made his first radio contact with Mark N9UM, though in all his excitement his little 6-year-old voice came out a little hard to understand. Other notables on the air included Eric KB9BNY from the War Wagon II, Christopher KC9MKL, Jay KC9NJZ, and Dan "Dr. Bero" K9BTW straight from his celebrity look-alike contest dressed as the Unibomber.

Separated at Birth: K9BTW and the Unibomber

Conditions for the contest weren't the most favorable, and there aren't any long haul contacts to write home about to match last year's QSO with K2DRH near the Iowa border. It was difficult to hear rover stations operating in the next grid square to the south. Most of us were able to copy and work John K9JK, but we were never able to get solid copy on Mike WB8BZK. Some of the "usual suspects" were absent from the contest, as well, notably Gene N9TF or any stations from north of the Cheddar Curtain.

We may not have set the troposphere on fire, but like all our efforts we can say we had a good time!

KC9PJN offers some contest insight to K9TMS. Or maybe it was the other way around...

Jenna just after making a contact

War Wagons Ho!

HSMM on 220 MHz?
Steve Lampereur - KB9MWR

This is an interesting product with lots of possibilities. It's a powerful 802.11 non line of sight radio module designed for Metering Applications - 180-280 MHz Frequency Band. The reason I point it out is because it is the first VHF 802.11 radio I have run across.

The XR1 would fit into the 1.25m amateur (220MHz) band frequency wise. However, there is a gap in the band. As most hams are aware, we have 219-220 MHz secondary and 222-225 MHz primary. It would be nice if the full 219 to 225 MHz was available. [Curse you, UPS! - Ed.]

Like all Atheros based radios, the XR1 specs references that channel size can be set. Even with the minimum channel size 5 MHz it wouldn't fit into 222MHz band, but there may be ways to reduce the overall spectrum requirements. Could the transmission envelope be modified to be narrower channel? That would be a good question for the guys at Ubiquiti Networks, or the Atheros MadWifi project.

Ubiquiti XR (XtremeRange)

Let's not forget the channel may be 5 MHz but keep in mind Carson's Rule: the channel may be 5 MHz but the signal bandwidth could be much higher. If a 2.5 MHz channel option was coded the throughput would still be very usable.

This card does not have these capabilities and is not legal for sale in the US, but I don't think that would be a major obstacle for hams if it could be modified to fit into the 220 MHz ham band.

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club Digital Backbone Project
from the WIARC

The Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club is deploying a 5.6 - 5.825 GHz high speed digital network in southeast Wisconsin. This high reliability mesh network is designed to support the served agencies of the club as well as act as a backbone for remote receive sites for repeaters and point-to-point links for communications for members.

Several manufacturers are now making transceivers capable of operating in the 5 GHz spectrum that are compatible with the network. The Wisconsin Amateur Radio club has selected the Bullet 5HP by Ubiquiti Networks. This 1 watt transceiver will be available for less than $100 and is enclosed in a waterproof tube that mounts directly to the antenna eliminating the need for coax or any type. A waterproof cat-5 cable is run into the shack. This inexpensive cable carries the digital data and feeds power to the transceiver.

All amateur radio license classes can deploy and operate this technology. If you would like to participate, lend your expertise, or put up your own station please come to a meeting or contact WIARC's technical committee chairman, Glenn Schulz, at W9IQ@arrl.net.

The Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7PM at the Germantown Police Department EOC [Jawohl! - Ed.]. Guests are warmly welcomed and refreshments are served. Visit them on the web at www.wiarc.org for more information.

Announcing the Stoned Monkey June VHF Contest Plan

Tom Staley - K9TMS, President Stoned Monkey VHF ARC

It is that time again that we all need to start thinking toward when the temperatures will actually stay above freezing and playing ham radio will not require mittens, mukluks, and wool socks.

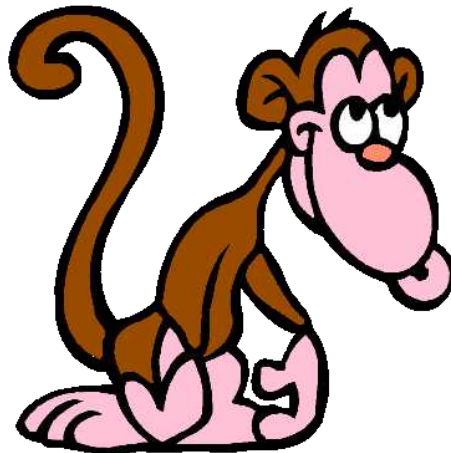June of 2009 will again find the Stoned Monkeys attacking the VHF and up airwaves from the Pioneer Tree Farm in McHenry. The contest dates are June 13th and June 14th. Setup will begin in the afternoon of June 12th and tear down June 15th.

We will again be improving several items this year. We should have 3 Hula Towers ready come contest time. These towers will serve as antenna supports for 144 Mhz, 222 Mhz, and 432 Mhz. The third of these still needs fabrication. This will take place as a WeLCARS/Stoned Monkey Saturday morning project during the month of May. Please watch the reflectors for date and time if you are interested in helping.

Along with the additional Hula Towers we will also be running the 222 Mhz station on an FT817 and Elecraft transverter combination. The new setup will allow a more compact setup and is less an issue when it comes to setting up the drive power level. The FT817 will also have a connection to HRD (Ham Radio Deluxe) to allow for Data system control of the radio which will add an enhancement to operation of the station.

Thanks to a donation from N9IFG the 1296 station will be equipped with a pair of 22 element M2 beams. This should greatly enhance our performance on that band.

As usual there will be the needed software enhancements that we find we need over the course of operations from previous contests. This June will see some subtle yet very significant changes. There have been improvements to the logging software that now allow logging the VHF Sprint contests. In the planned changes department there will be enhancements that will be linked to HRD. One area that we have long sought a solution to was not having to throw items at the 6 meter operator to ascertain the 6 meter operating frequency. With the connection to HRD each radio will now be allowed to report back to the logging software the frequency it is on which should allow for a smoother operation when passing those mults up and down the bands.

We will also be attempting meteor scatter contacts via WSJT on 6 and 2 meters in the very late night and early morning hours Saturday and Sunday. If you are a night owl type operator and want to play with WSJT come on our and join the fun.

We would also like to extend an invitation to any people interested in roving to participate in the contest. If you need assistance with setting up your equipment, logging software, or information on operating please feel free to contact any of the Monkeys and we will try to assist you with your needs.

If you are more inclined to come out and join the fun at the farm site please let us know and we will get you directions on how to get to there from your location. Directions should be posted to the Yahoo Groups sites for both clubs around the end of May.

So mark your calendars now and join in the fun of VHF Contesting.

Stoned Monkey June 2009 VHF Contest Setup

Station	50		Boss	K9HA
Equipment		**Description**	**Supplier**	**Ready**
Radio		IC756ProII	K9HA	Yes
Power Supply		40 amp Diamond	K9HA	Yes
Amplifier		--	--	--
Antenna		2 - 5 Element Beam	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		120 foot RG213	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		30 foot tower	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		CD45II	K9TMS	Yes
Mast		18 foot Penninger	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Silver Boot Box - 50	K9TMS	Yes
Table		??		
Chair(s)		???	K9HA	??
Shelter		Chicken Coop		YES

Station	144		Boss	N9REP
Equipment		**Description**	**Supplier**	**Ready**
Radio		IC756ProII & Elecraft Transverter	K9TMS	Yes
Power Supply		MFJ 40 - Radio Transverter Astron 60 - Amplifier	K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		TE Systems 400 Watt	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		Big Bertha	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		120 foot LMR400	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Hula 1	N9REP	Yes
Rotor		HD73	N9REP	Yes
Mast		10 foot water pipe	N9REP	Yes
Computer		Silver Shoe Box 144	K9TMS	Yes
Table		Amplifier Cart	K9TMS	Yes
Chair(s)		????		
Shelter		Chicken Coop	K9TMS	Yes

Station	222		Boss	K9TMS
Equipment		**Description**	**Supplier**	**Ready**
Radio		FT817, Elecraft Xverter and Mirage Amp	K9TMS	NO
Power Supply		Samlex 35 Radio Xverter Diamond 40 - Amplifier	K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		Mirage 120 Watt	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		2 -15 Element Boomers & 4 Elelment boomer for FM	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		Cinta ????????	K9TMS	NO
Antenna Support		Hula 2	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		HD 73	K9TMS	Yes
Mast		10 Foot with Adapter	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Blue Boot Box 222 (Server Computer)	K9TMS	Yes
Table		K9TMS	K9TMS	Yes
Chair(s)		2 - Fold Ups	K9TMS	Yes
Shelter		Chicken Coop	K9TMS	Yes

Transverter needs final alignment

Stoned Monkey June 2009 VHF Contest Setup

Station	432		Boss	N9TZL
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		IC7000	K9BTW	Yes
Power Supply		40 Amp Diamond	K9BTW	Yes
Amplifier		RFC 110 Watt	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		2 - 719B Boomers	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		Cinta	N9REP	NO
Antenna Support		Hula 3	K9TMS	NO
Rotor		Wilson HD	K9TMS	Yes
Mast		10 Foot with Adapter	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Blue Boot Box 432	K9TMS	Yes
Table		K9TMS	K9TMS	Yes
Chair(s)		????	???	??
Shelter		Chicken Coop		

Station	03/1.2		Boss	K9TMS
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		FT817 & DEMI Xverters	K9TMS	Yes
Power Supply		Jet Stream 14	K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		20 Watt 1.2G	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna		903 - 11 M2 2 X 1296 - 22 M2	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		Hard Line & 9913	K9TMS	????
Antenna Support		Tripod	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		Yeasu 250 or AR40	K9TMS	NO
Mast		?????????	K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Shared with 222	K9TMS	Yes
Table		Shared with 222	K9TMS	Yes
Chair(s)		Shared with 222	K9TMS	Yes
Shelter		Chicken Coop		

Station	FM		Boss	N9REP
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		?????????	????	??
Power Supply		?????????	????	??
Amplifier		NA	NA	NA
Antenna		Long Stick	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		RG8X	K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Fiberglass Tripod	K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		NA		
Mast		?????		
Computer		Shared with 144		
Table		Shared with 144		
Chair(s)		Shared with 144		
Shelter		NA		

Sponsored Rovers

W9WLC (N9IFG)???
K9PLS ???

WeLCARS Field Day 2009
Tom Staley - K9TMS, WeLCARS Contest Coordinator

Field Day for 2009 at WeLCARS will see some significant changes. Most importantly will be a change of location. After being almost electrocuted and blown into Lake Michigan holding onto a shelter most everyone involved thought a change of venue was in store for the group for 2009. As a result we are planning on holding the 2009 Field Day event at none other than WWHQ (WeLCARS Worldwide Headquarters). I think I am not alone in the idea that there is much to be looked forward to this year, like NOT having to hold a shelter to the ground, NOT becoming food for 1 billion hungry imported mosquitoes from Minnesota, and enjoying the air conditioned comfort and real bathrooms we will be afforded at WWHQ! And Joe will even have a real kitchen (well almost) to electrocute hot dogs and fry pizzas in.

This year we will try to bump up our station compliment by getting on the air in our usual manner as well as adding some points in areas we have yet to explore for Field Day. This year we will enter as a 6A (Six Alpha). We will be adding stations for CW and Digital (I hope!).

This year will also see our youngest operator; KC9PJN has been drafted to watch over the 2 meter operation. I just hope that all of us old fogys can keep up with him. I will be working with Jonathan to insure he has a good time and can work as many stations as possible.

Both 6 and 2 will share the same tower so this will have to be a coordinated effort between the two stations.

There are many things that need to be done between now and F/D. Please consult the list below to see what you have been volunteered for. If there is something you can help with or would like to attempt to do please let any one of us know.

There are several things that still need doing; among these will be the next step in the K9TMS Logging Software. Based on the November Sweeps and VHF Logs, I hope to have a working version for F/D. Conversions are underway now on the VHF Log to incorporate HRD frequency read backs into the log. These features if successful will be transferred into the F/D to adjust frequency bands, assuming the station has a supported radio and interface to the computer. This will hopefully go a long way toward eliminating contacts being logged to the wrong band. Mode will not be able to be tracked as conveniently as digital contacts will read back as SSB with the sound card interfaces we will be using.

One item we are kind of short on is feed line assemblies. If you can help in this regard please let us know. The feed lines will need to be at least 100 feet to be useful from where we will be operating.

There will be a planning session for Field Day in late May to further look at preparations for the contest. Please check the Yahoo group for this date in the near future.

Again if there is anything you would like to help with or try please let me know. I can be reached at k9tms@mindspring.com or via phone most weekend nights at 847-546-7380.

PS If you have received your HF license since F/D 2008, you just were volunteered for GOTA.

WeLCARS Field Day 2009 Contest Worksheet

Station	HF-1	20 Meters		Boss	K9HA
Equipment		Description		Supplier	Ready
Radio		IC756ProII		K9HA	Yes?
Power Supply		Diamond 40 Amp		K9HA	Yes?
Amplifier		NO			
Antenna		Rotatable Dipole		N9QDS	NO
Feedline		RG8X		K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Hula 2		K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		HD 73		K9TMS	Yes
Mast		10 Foot with adapter		K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Silver Boot Box - 50		K9TMS	Yes
Table		????			
Chair(s)		????			
Shelter		WWWHQ		N9IFG	

20 meter beam needs re-working Need feedline supplier

Station	HF-2	40 Meters		Boss	K9BTW
Equipment		Description		Supplier	Ready
Radio		???????		K9BTW	??
Power Supply		???????		K9BTW	??
Amplifier		NO			
Antenna		40 Meter Dipole		K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		RG8X		K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Military mast		K9TMS	Yes
Rotor		NA		NA	NA
Mast		NA		NA	NA
Computer		Blue Boot Box 432		K9TMS	Yes
Table		???			
Chair(s)		????			
Shelter		WWWHQ		N9IFG	

Antenna to be built need feed line supplier

Station	HF-3	80 Meters (Night) & 15 Meters (Day)		Boss	N9QDS
Equipment		Description		Supplier	Ready
Radio		TS-850		N9QDS	???
Power Supply		?????		N9QDS	???
Amplifier		?????		N9QDS	???
Antenna		?????		N9QDS	No
Feedline		?????		????	??
Antenna Support		?????		????	??
Rotor		NA		NA	NA
Mast		NA		NA	NA
Computer		Silever Shoe Box 144		K9TMS	Yes
Table		?????		????	??
Chair(s)		?????		????	??
Shelter		?????		N9QDS	??

Antenna to be built need feed line supplier

WeLCARS Field Day 2009 Contest Worksheet

Station	HF-4	CW?????		Boss	*N9YH*
Equipment		**Description**		**Supplier**	**Ready**
Radio		TS850		N9YH	Yes
Power Supply		Samlex		N9YH	Yes
Amplifier		????		???	???
Antenna		????		???	???
Feedline		????			
Antenna Support		????			
Rotor		????			
Mast		????			
Computer		????		???	
Table		????			
Chair(s)		????			
Shelter		????			

Station	HF-5	6 Meters		Boss	*K9TMS*
Equipment		**Description**		**Supplier**	**Ready**
Radio		IC756ProII		K9TMS	Yes
Power Supply		ICOM Switcher		K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		NO			
Antenna		5 Element Beam		K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		120 foot RG213		K9TMS	Yes
Antenna Support		Top 20 foot of Aluminum tower with Hula Base		K9TMS	NO
Rotor		CD45		K9TMS	No
Mast		10 foot Penninger		K9TMS	Yes
Computer		Blue Boot Box 222 (System Server)		K9TMS	Yes
Table		????		????	???
Chair(s)		????		????	???
Shelter		WWWHQ		N9IFG	

Station	HF-6	Digital		Boss	*KC9LFP*
Equipment		**Description**		**Supplier**	**Ready**
Radio		FT897		KC9LFP	Yes
Power Supply		??????		KC9LPF	????
Amplifier		NO			
Antenna		Ham Stick 20 Meter & 40 Meter		K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		??????????		????	?????
Antenna Support		10 Foot Tripod		K9TMS	NO
Rotor		AR40		K9TMS	NO
Mast		10 Foot		K9TMS	????
Computer		?????		KC9LFP	???
Table		????		????	???
Chair(s)		????		????	???
Shelter		WWWHQ		N9IFG	

WeLCARS Field Day 2009 Contest Worksheet

Station	VHF	VHF	Boss	*KC9PJN*
Equipment		Description	Supplier	Ready
Radio		IC7000	K9TMS	Yes
Power Supply		Diamond 40	K9TMS	Yes
Amplifier		150 Watt Mirage for 2 Meters		
Antenna		4 Element Boomer	K9TMS	Yes
Feedline		120 Foot LMR 400	????	?????
Antenna Support		Shared with 6	????	????
Rotor		Shared with 6	????	????
Mast		Shared with 6	?????	????
Computer		White Notebook	K9TMS	Yes
Table		????	????	???
Chair(s)		????	????	???
Shelter		WWWHQ	N9IFG	

Extra Points And Such

Item		Notes	Boss	
Satellite			K9BTW	
Digital			KC9LFP	
ATV			N9MYY	
Propaganda Table			N9IFG	
GOTA			W9LGP	
Food			Scouts?	

GENERATORS

5.7KW	MAC	Radios	K9TMS	
1.5 KW	MAC	Computers (Digital Inverter)	K9TMS	
????				

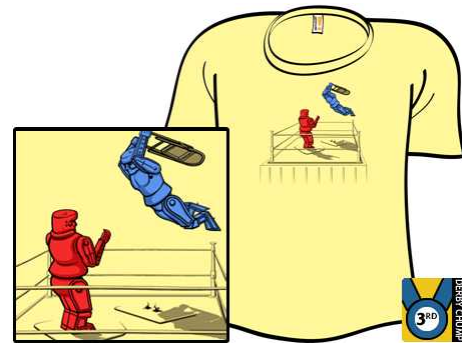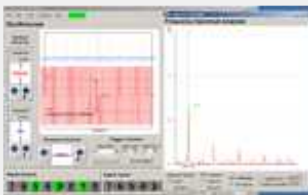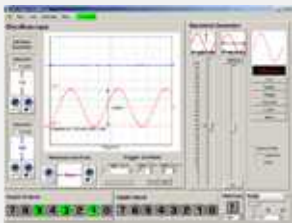# Product Showcase Showdown

Chris Burke - N9YH

Hot Air SMD Rework and Soldering Station

An SMD rework station and soldering station all in one. The folks at CircuitSpecialists.com say this multi-purpose station is perfect for all your surface mount and thru-hole requirements. The ESD safe soldering iron uses a ceramic heating element for fast heat up and stable temperature control. A separate aluminum constructed soldering iron holder is included (not shown). The temperature is controlled by a centrally located knob.

The hot air soldering is controlled by two adjustable knobs which allow you to achieve a temperature range from 100°C to 500°C, or 212°F to 932°F to you and me. One knob is for air flow, the other for the temperature. A wide range of nozzles are also available. ($99 circuitspecialists.com)

USB Oscilloscpe and Signal Generator

CircuitGear CGR-101 is a unique new, low-cost PC-based instrument which provides the feature of seven devices in one USB-powered compact box: 2-ch 10-bit 2MH oscilloscope, 2-channel spectrum analyzer, 3 MHz 8-bit waveform/standard function generator with 8 digital I/O lines. It also functions as a Network Analyzer, a noise generator, a PWM output source, and makes thousands of Julienne fries [But can you set it and forget it? - Ed.]. Its software runs on Windows, Linux, and Mac OS. ($180 www.saelig.com)

The Convenient Tiny Chair

Imagine if the Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots you played with as a kid and still have in your closet (I promise not to tell your XYL) got out one day and watched too many episodes of WWE Raw. Crazy, right? Even crazier is the guy that cooked that up all by himself and put it on a shirt.

Woot's shirts can be a tad thin, so wash this with care in between trips to those robot competitions. ($15 shirt.woot.com)

Odds and Ends

[After a long hiatus, the Lake County Radio Journal is bringing back our feeble attempt at Meeting Minutes. If this was the Sears Catalog, let's just say this wouldn't be one of the shiny pages you'd save for last... - Ed.]

WSJT Shakedown Cruises

Some club members have been making some attempts at FSK441 using the WSJT software on 2 meters after the Informal Net and Radio Tradio on Sunday nights. Tom K9TMS and Dan K9BTW have had successful 2-way QSOs, and others have had varying degrees of success. The progress has been encouraging, though, as we get closer to the June VHF contest. Frequency for WSJT has been 144.165 USB with coordination (or just general yapping) done on the 224.86 repeater.

Coaxial Cable Sessions

Wendell N9REP and Tom K9TMS led us on some successful coaxial cable making sessions during the month. Several members soldered up their first connectors, including Jonathan KC9PJN and Good Joe KC9LFP.

A Laurel and a Hearty Handshake...

To our newest members Dave Lundborg, Mike Kulis W1MRK (formerly KB9YIV), and Jonathan Burke KC9PJN. Mike recently upgraded to General, is fairly active on the '41 repeater, and is putting together a station for World Domination on the HF bands. Jonathan received his Technician class license at the VE session in March after a few attempts and is the youngest official WeLCARS member at 9 years old. Dave isn't a ham yet, but is planning to take the Tech test Friday May 8 and possibly upgrading to General in June just in time to operate GOTA during Field Day. Good luck, Dave!

Danger! Danger, Will Robinson!

The ARRL is mounting a big public relations push for ham radio's usefulness in an emergency with the swine flu going around. (No, I don't exactly see the relationship, either, but some people thing swine flu is going to be a plague of biblical proportions so you can't blame the ARRL for rolling with it...) Joe N9IFG brought up the possibility of WeLCARS participating in emergency planning in the Fox Lake area.

What does this mean, exactly? Well, to be honest, I'm not really sure. So far, the ARRL is just looking to put together a list of capable hams that couple possibly maybe be called upon when the hogs, mad with swine flu, rise up and take over the world [I'm sorry... What? - Ed.]. For what happens after that, we'll have to do some thinking about what kind of involvement we'd like to have and what we could offer the local governments. At this point, thinking off the cuff, I'm figuring we'll have to do some information gathering, possibly with a survery at a meeting. (Yeah, we could send out an e-mail but it's really easy to ignore an e-mail, fully intending to get back to it.)