

QSY Society Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Coordinator Kieran - (N2MWE).
24 members were in attendance.

Holiday Party:

The holiday party is tentatively set for Sunday, December 13 at 10 AM at the Route 84 Diner.
Cost is \$13 for adults and \$7 for children. Contributions (unwrapped toys) for Toys for Tots are being requested from attendees.

Books for Sale:

A number of ARRL publications were donated to QSY from the League through the efforts of Pete (N2YJZ). These included reference books on antennas and a repeater directory. Some were sold and the proceeds put into the QSY treasury. Shirley (N2SKP)

Show and Tell:

“The Quiet Zone” – a video from PBS was shown. Shirley (N2SKP)
http://www.pbs.org/kcet/wiredscience/story/105-the_quiet_zone.html

10 m half square antenna with a 50 ohm impedance. Julian (WA2WMJ)

Election:

Scott (KC2NTV) and Dennis (NC2F) have agreed to run for election as coordinators for 2010. (Actual election will happen in November.

Program:

Who are we? What’s our interests, accomplishments, challenges or goals? Here’s what we said:

John N2QMT: interested in PSK and digital modes, operating Icom 706 from the deck, HVN Saturday nights.

Kieran N2MWE: most memorable moment was contacting Clipperton Island on 10m on Icom 746; now in a condo, have lots of interference – now mostly operate portable in the car, on repeaters. Hope to do a mobile installation – DX 70 - into the truck before a summertime driving trip. It’s been 5 years since HF, and misses it!

JB - (a picture says more than words) – showed his latest homebrew antenna – a 10 meter half square.

Kyle KC2VDG: interested in Skywarn – told after training, you can operate from your home; told to contact Rich N2EYH.



Chet AB2FF: has a Kenwood H-70, my antenna is down, need to repair the mounting to tree.

Enjoys special events.

Scott KC2NTV: hopes to pick up my CW speed – goal is to make 5 Band DXCC, SSB and CW.

Joe KC2VGF: our official ‘new guy!’ – still learning alot, trying for the Extra class license.

Mark KC2RAD: like to operate 40 and 80, listening on 20.



Jim N2IMU: likes digital modes, especially on the PEARL repeater, uses Icom 2820, find him on MBARC and PEARL 220.

Hal KC2LOR – looking for 220 band interest – find him on 223.920 (MBARC). PEARL also has good 220 machine, very good coverage. (discussion – why get on 220? .. use it or lose it .. will be glad to take unused 220 equipment off your hands, pass it on to someone else)

Fred KC2QFR: Still feels like he’s the ‘new guy’, there’s so much to do! Enjoys digital modes, likes to compare different modes when contacting

stations. 40, 30, 20, 10 meters. Likes doing things with antennas, especially design simulations. Likes verticals, (good for small yard) likes to compare to wire antennas.

Mike KC2HEI: trying to increase CW speed – listens to W1AW – worked Belgium recently, 40m dipole, up 20’. Curious about LOTW, signed up for it but doesn’t see any activity (discussion about LOTW – Fred uses it a lot for digital modes, is good for ARRL awards, you don’t need QSLs, it records the contacts) likes the Field Day logging program (www.N2FJP.com), and bought it for logging, is using it now. He had to convert spreadsheets from Microsoft Works. He noticed the 80m CW net on the QSY webpage but doesn’t hear any slow CW there (discussion about 80m CW – many CW nets on 3.576 – ESS Slow speed net at 6pm nightly, is a good one to copy. The QSY net is dormant due to lack of check-ins... suggested try FISTS frequencies <http://www.fists.org/activity.html>)

Gary KB2PQE: got hit by lightening a couple weeks ago! How bad? Lost main computer, laptop, Yaesu 890, commercial radio, power supply, antenna tuner, Verizon router. Has an inverted L wire antenna. Can you believe the cheap Bearcat scanner, plugged into the wall is fine. (lots of discussion about where did the lightening come in, other lightening stories by other members) think it came in through the ground – lost surge protectors (they aren’t going to help against lightening!)

Bob N2DET: moved several months ago to Long Beach, interested in learning CW – (suggested he contact Rick KF2TP, (code400@gmail.com) his neighbor in Long Beach, who joined us the past two Field Days, to operate CW.

Nick N2QZ: used to be very active in traffic handling, a year ago had 3rd child and changed job at same time, went from 5-6 nets per day to 5-6 per month, mostly CW. Now set up RTTY, and hopes to copy the Field Day Bulletin in 2010.

Dennis NC2F: happy to have just finished HF mobile installation, having lots of fun, his first contacts were Russia, followed by Cuba, and Australia on Yaesu 857. Antenna is an ATAS 120A . <http://www.comdac.com/literature/yaesu/atas-120a.pdf> Says the overall key is a ‘good ground’. Installed in a VW Jetta, 100 watts, 20 meters. Tune the frequency, the antenna system adjusts through the radio automatically, clean design. JB says it’s a ‘clean installation.’ It’s nice to drive on a nice day, go to a QSY October 2009

park, and operate HF. Mounted on left trunk. Need to find out where the best ground is on different car models. He went to an Audi/VW dealer for info. (SKP asked him to post it to the blog)

Tony W1ZMB: off the air, my antennas are down since putting up a new roof – will be looking to do a different installation. When on the air, enjoys CW – was licensed longer than anyone in the room – 1954!

Henry KB2VJP – is setting up station from scratch, interested in everything I can learn, have components, hopes to be on the air soon, wants to learn CW. Has bad ears, found that he can hear CW better than voice. JB's got a job for him – helping put up an antenna at his neighbor N2SKP.

George N8END – goes back 30 years, fought CW wars in the 80s – has an 8 call, originally licensed in Detroit – has 3 passions – wanted to get into ATV – not much activity in this area – (discussion, suggested

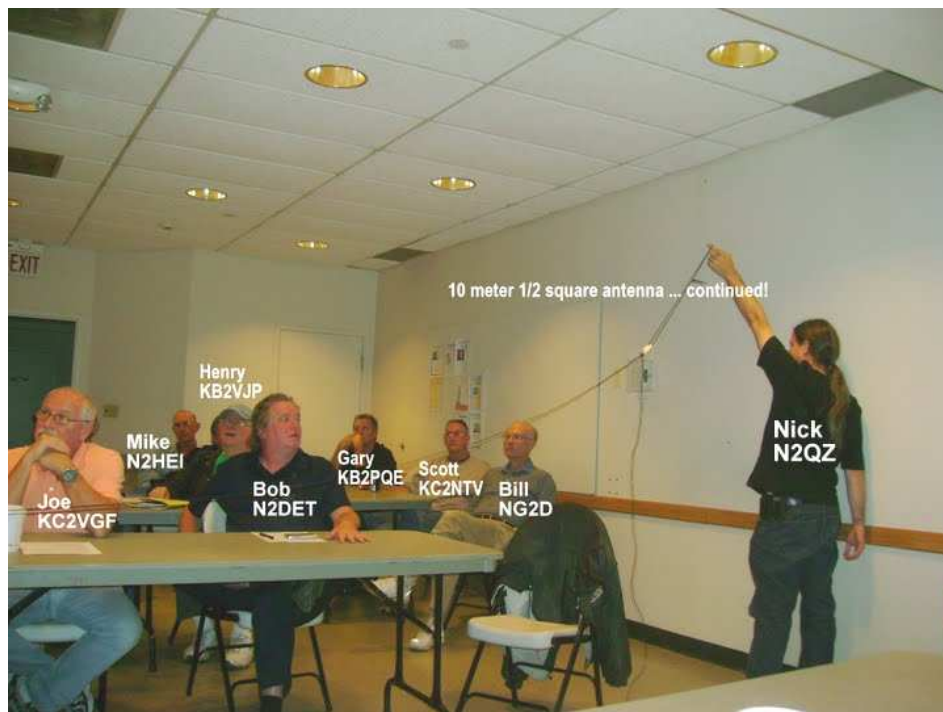
contact Ray N2SPF), wants to get on 160 meters, its always intrigued him, close to the am band, and my REAL passion is US Power Squadron – are there any recreational boaters here, Lake George, LI Sound, ocean? Marine Amateur Radio – many boaters use Marine SSB not in hambands, there's a special license. Anyone want to put up about eight 300' towers?! Suggested to drop a wire off the Empire State building, or off the Beacon Walkway over the Hudson.

Bill NG2D – my radio is still in the closet, for about 8-10 years, enjoyed getting on the air at the Lighthouse event, working on getting my CW speed up, have mastered 35 of 40 characters. www.Lcwo.net (learn cw online) He once knew 20wpm, enuf to pass his extra exam, remembered he took his extra licensing test during the last week it was open in NYC (discussions about who took tests in NYC, where and who the examiners were!)

Peter WA2BXX – licensed 1958, has a KW1 in his shed, wasn't working when he got it, had 'fun' getting it operational. Brings it 'out' on Straight Key Night. Likes to work on 'stuff' – has a repeater on Mt Zion, behind Marlboro – everyone's invited to use it – 447.725 (down 5mHZ) – good coverage into the Hudson Valley.

Steve W2NVL – also licensed in '58, you can find him on the Down Home net, 7.173 daily from 6-7am, has Yaesu 450 in car, listens on Pete's machine. Sharing tips: he got an Icom 7100 receiver on Ebay, in perfect condition except for a scratch on the faceplate. He found a great product – Janvil – company that makes kits for scratch removal - a 2 oz bottle, cleaner & light and heavy scratch remover - \$12 – works very well. (discussion – another good product is Flitx – a metal cleaner to take rust off – takes scratches off - N2QZ) Can find in auto supply or sporting good stores.

Paul WA2ZCM – his HF antenna came down, now uses a homebrew Moxon – works well. Dabbles in NTS, CW, digital modes. With his son, likes to operate public service events such as the rally races and MS walk. (discussion – MBARC Crop Walk coming up Oct 18, and the NYC Marathon – go to the WECA meeting 10/13 if interested)



The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

POSTED TO THE QSY BLOG, FOLLOWING THE MEETING...

Last night, QSY Society had our regular monthly meeting and the topic for the evening was a conversation among the members regarding the things about Ham Radio that they particularly enjoy. Everyone in the room was given an opportunity to speak for a few minutes about the hobby as it pertains to them.

There were a few recurring themes that were discussed that I'd like to address. Several members indicated that one of their goals is to learn or increase speed in CW operating. I know that there used to be (still is??) a "QSY Society CW Net" on 3,576 KHz that meets every night at 9:00pm. This net was designed for anyone who wanted to practice their CW operating skills. If this net isn't active currently, it is simply due to under use. A link for more information about this net follows... [QSY CW Net](#). If that time slot doesn't work for you, make a sked with someone else in the club. (Note: the QSY CW Practice Net has been dormant for the past year, due to lack of check-ins; if anyone's interested in a practice net, tell John at n2qmt@yahoo.com)

Another topic mentioned by several members was the fact that they do not have an antenna up. My suggestion is that if you want to get an antenna up before the winter comes, LET OTHERS KNOW!! If you do not have an antenna to put up, there are members that will help you build one. Alternatively, you can purchase one and solicit some help to put it up. I am guilty of not taking action in my own shack when it comes to this but listening to others during the meeting made me realize that we are all in the hobby together. Pick a day that works for you, then send an email out (or a message on the reflector), or make a couple of phone calls. I am certain that you would be able to get a couple of people to help out for a while and get you on the air.

I think that Shirley is going to include as part of the meeting minutes, a list of members who were at the meeting and the topics each person discussed. For example, I talked about digital modes and operating portable. I would be happy to assist anyone who is trying to get on the digital modes. I am by no means an expert but I would be happy to try and help. Fred, KC2QFR is another member who is active with digital modes and I know he is willing to help others as well. Use this list.

I want to thank everyone that came to the meeting and participated. I heard several good comments from folks and I for one, thoroughly enjoyed listening to everyone. We had members present who are very newly licensed and we had members who have been licensed over 50 years! The one last thing I'd like to stress is that this is YOUR club and don't be afraid to tap into the resources that are available. 73.

John N2QMT

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Posted By N2QMT to [QSY Society](#) at 10/07/2009 10:16:00 AM