

# W9JOZ

Volume 9, Issue 2

February 2019

**Next Meeting is February 21st**

**Dues are due and still \$12.00  
Elections at last meeting  
decided the current officers  
would remain in office.**

**Weekly 2 meter Net**

**We are having the Saturday Night Net  
at 8:00 pm on the 145.410 repeater.**

**Hope you can check in and join us for  
some good conversation.**

**We could use some more check-ins on  
the net.**

**Thanks  
John W3ML**



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.



**Are you on the air?**

**Richard, K9QA is an official ARRL DXCC  
Card Checker. Contact him at  
k9qa@arrl.net to have your cards  
checked.**

**DX Century Club**

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## February Events

### Birthdays

1st - KC8OBH, David

4th - K9BZM, Bill

**Starke County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net will be on each Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Central time.**

DAY OF WEEK: Saturday 8:00 p.m. Central time

HOST: KN9OX Repeater

FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600

PL TONE: 131.8

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### News Items Listed

**See all the For Sale Items at**

**[www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm](http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm)**

**There are a lot of them there.**

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Tom Troike sent this in:

### **The Promise Tomorrow Brings**

Dear Tom,

This year is already off to an amazing start. We have an ongoing solar storm that is bringing long-awaited aurora to many places in the world. I have seen aurora field reports as far south as Germany in Europe and Montana in the United States. In the south, aurora has graced the skies over Tasmania and New Zealand. Although these solar minimum storms pale by comparison to those just a few years ago, one thing is certain. This Space Weather community is growing. This storm has been reasonably weak, yet I have seen a flood of aurora photos, along with numerous amateur radio reports, and even several GPS questions from many new

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names and faces. I must say, this is a welcome surprise-- and I have **YOU** to thank for it. The word is definitely getting out!

As a confirmation of this, recently I was contacted by Benjamin Higginbotham, the executive producer of a long-running web TV channel called "TMRO" (pronounced, you guessed it, "Tomorrow.") You can check out their very informative shows here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TMRO>. It turns out they are kicking-off a new "Space News" show and they want a Space Weather segment tailored to their specific audience. Thus far it seems many of their viewers have similar interests as our community. I believe their dialogue will add to ours. Many of you have already requested I add meteor showers and moon phases to my forecasts and this might be an opportune time to try out such new additions! I will keep you posted as things develop.

As for the forecast this week, we still have a sleepy Sun for the most part. The current solar storm will slowly wane over the next few days, which could bring us some pulsating aurora and sub-auroral arcs (aka STEVE) before it's gone. But soon thereafter the weather will turn quiet again. I will take this quiet time to ponder a next-generation forecast and lean optimistically into the promise tomorrow brings.

Cheers,  
Tamitha

See her broadcast here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDPdyxfNWdA&feature=youtu.be>

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Tom W8FIB sent this to me:

## Radio stations around the world

THIS IS FANTASTIC

<http://radio.garden/live/toulouse/radiopresence>

**Technology today keeps significantly increasing.**

*Listen to what's going on in the rest of the world.....*

The green dots on this Google Earth web site represent broadcasting sites around the world. Sometimes with multiple radio stations.

**Click on any one of the dots** and you will immediately listen to one of the stations from that location with very good sound. On the upper right side of the screen you will see the names of any other radio stations in the area.

**Note: This would not work on my old computer, but did on the new one. John W3ML**

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Groundhog did not see his shadow.

Early Spring called by him.

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# Amateur radio (illegally) aiding yacht racers

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Golden Globe Race (<https://goldengloberace.com>), a 30,000 mile, non-stop solo yacht race to celebrate Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation. There are 18 sailors in the race, which started on July 1, 2018 from Les Sables-D'Olonne, France.

Amateur radio is at the heart of the latest controversy surrounding the race. *Scuttlebutt Sailing News* reported (<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/maintaining-information-barrier/>) on January 21, 2019 (day 205 of the race):

“Sailors have been making use of the Amateur Radio net (ham radio) for decades, and while National telecommunication authorities have often turned a deaf ear to unlicensed operators using made-up call signs while at sea, warnings from a National regulator to Golden Globe Race skippers has created intrigue into an exciting finale for race leaders.

“Modern navigation and routing tools are restricted from use in the 2018-19 contest, limiting GGR skippers to the type of equipment available for the inaugural Sunday Times Golden Globe solo non-stop round the world race in 1968-69. That includes Amateur Radio.

“The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing. [[Neither Van den Heede or Slats have valid amateur radio licenses...Dan]]

“Said the warning, 'You use an amateur callsign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur callsign then I urge you to present it.'”

As a result of this warning, Slats is considering dropping out of the race, even though the race is nearly complete. *Yachting Monthly* reports (<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/golden-globe-race/golden-globe-race-slats-considers-quitting-comms-row-68574>):

“Mark Slats, who is less than 50 miles from Golden Globe Race leader Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, has announced he is thinking about retiring from the race after being banned from broadcasting on the Ham Radio Net.

“Race organisers said the Dutch skipper does not have the required licence, and has been warned by the Dutch authorities to stop broadcasting, which has left him unable to communicate with his shore team.

“Under the rules of the race, all of the entrants are able to use this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, but, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by national and international regulations.”

It's not only the yachters that are flouting the rules, it's the amateur radio operators who are communicating with them. According to *Yachting Monthly*, OFCOM, the UK regulator issued the following warning:

“Fair warning both to unregistered GGR skippers and to legitimate Ham radio operators communicating with them. In Britain, the Ham Radio net is controlled by OFCOM, which recently revoked more than 500 licences for non-compliance. This includes communicating with unregistered Ham radio operators. The maximum penalty is 6 months in prison, a £5,000 fine and loss of their licence.”

This is a fascinating story, and I wish that I'd found out about this sooner. It would be interesting to listen in on some of these communications. One question I have is why these guys failed to obtain a valid amateur radio license? The Golden Globe Radio website notes, “[The race] will be sailed under the auspices of the Royal Nomuka Yacht Club in the Kingdom of Tonga. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a Ulukalala is Patron of the Race.” They probably could have issued valid amateur radio licenses to all the racers.

If any of you have heard the communications or know any more about the technical details, I'd love to hear from you.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). When he's not thinking about operating maritime mobile, you'll find him on 30m, 40m, and 80m.

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## Handy Hint

### Securing Feed Line to a Tower

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Using vinyl plastic electrical tape to secure feed lines to tower legs poses long term problems. First-water can collect under the tape promoting corrosion, second-after exposure to the sun and weather the tape can become a sticky mess and third-the tape can be difficult to remove.

Plastic wire-ties can work well as long as they are UV resistant. Their disadvantage is that they can be used only one time.

An alternative is to use stainless steel shower curtain hooks. They are corrosion resistant, non-magnetic, easy to install, strong, cheap and can be re-used multiple times.

Available in many styles, there are two snap-together types that are of interest. The first is just a 2 inch diameter latching loop. The second is slightly larger and is tear drop shaped. Both are available from Amazon in packs ranging from 8 to 12 rings for about Five Dollars. They are also available from many other sources such as Walmart, Meijer's and eBay.



Clip a ring around the cables (coax, rotator, etc.) and on to one of the tower rungs. Repeat evenly spaced up the tower. A pack of twelve would give a spacing of about four feet on a fifty foot tower. Should you have concerns about strength, we tested one of the round type and couldn't pull it apart at fifty pounds tension. The tear-drop type was not tested, but because of its design it probably isn't as strong.



Another use is to dress multiple cables. For example, there are large number of cables that enter my home through a crawl space and were hanging from the floor joists in a random fashion. Using the shower curtain rings as cable hangers, it was possible to clean up the disorder and arrange them in a neat fashion. (Similar items to the shower curtain rings are marketed to electricians under a fancier name as "Cable Saddles" and cost more).

The use of plastic shower curtain rings is not advised as they are not as strong and will deteriorate from the Sun's UV rays and eventually break.

Don't need the full pack? Use the extras as key rings.

◀73's and Good DX▶

Here is a link to an article for using clothes hangers as spacers in making a multi-band dipole.

<http://walte50.tripod.com/id1.html>

Another link sent in to me by Tom W8FIB

Lots of publications about commercial radio and TV to view

<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/>

**One I found interesting is the old 73 Amateur Radio Magazine from 1960 to 2003. (W3ML)**

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**From:** Bill Murray (was in Keesler Amateur Radio Club K5TYP when I was there) He is also on TWS

I was in Southern Japan in 2014 but never got to Tokyo--not enough time. But I knew of this place and it would be the only place in Tokyo that I would want to visit. Divide the yen prices by a 1,000 and you'll get close enough for government work.

<https://swling.com/blog/2019/01/guest-post-a-visit-to-tokyos-akihabara-district/>

Bill

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**Below are two pictures taken at  
the Christmas dinner 2018.**





If you have a presentation for the meeting, please let me know.

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If you have something for the newsletter, please send it to me before the 20th of the month.

See you at a meeting.

73

*John*, W3ML

