

W9JOZ

Volume 7, Issue 7

July 2017

Next Meeting is

July 20, 2017

Fox Hunts

July 16th will be the next one.

Foxhunts are the third Sunday of each month.

Miles and a two-hour time limit

Meet at 1:00 CST at the Sandy Acres Park on the south end of Knox.

Field Day Results are Claimed Score 132 and Bonus Points of 350.

33 contacts were made on 20 meters and 33 contacts were made on 40 meters.

Thanks to Linda, KC8PKY for handling the paperwork and submission to the ARRL.



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, K9CIV is an official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact him at k9civ@arrrl.net to have your cards checked.

DX Century Club

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July Events

Birthdays

July 30 Don, WA9KRT

County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net

Suspended until Fall

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

HOST: KN9OX Repeater

FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600

PL TONE: 131.8

How to Copy CW in Your Head

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, "How do I learn to copy in my head?" When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flash drive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs \$20 and is available from n7agk.com.

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes", then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit...dah dah dah...dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pit-bull, not the letters "D O G."

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code* and the *No Nonsense* series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com

IMPORTANT **Windows XP and Ransomware**

Many of our members use older computers running Windows XP as a backup or interfaced with their ham rigs. Some of the functions used may include logging, rig control, monitoring DX spots and contests. Security wise, it has been somewhat risky to use Microsoft Windows XP since support for these patches ended on April 8, 2014.

The impact of last month's ransomware virus has compelled Microsoft to release a security patch for the obsolete operating system. Because of all the damage caused by the WannaCry ransomware, including many out-of-service Windows XP systems that many of us may still use, Microsoft has issued Security Patch KB4012598.

You can go to the Microsoft web site (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us>) and enter "KB4012598" in the Search box at the top to find it, or you can use [this direct link](#) to the software catalog page. The patch is a simple program (.exe file) that you download, run once, and then reboot. To verify installation after reboot: Start, Control Panel, Add or Remove Programs. Check the *Show updates* box at the top, wait a bit, then scroll down to *Windows XP - Software Updates* at the bottom. You should see Security Update for Windows XP (KB4012598) at the bottom of the list.

Submitted by KD9HL

Links Submitted

Nice list of things as to why *Amateur Radio is Dying*.

<http://www.k6sgh.com/dying.htm>

Tour of 1.4 Megawatt SW Station

Impressive, if not very intimidating. A 10' x 15' balun and transformers bigger than a man.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKlic5e47ek&feature=youtu.be>

The HamSCI organization and their plans for the upcoming eclipse.

<http://hamsci.org/projects/2017-total-solar-eclipse/2017-eclipse-experiment-description>

NASA says Solar Minimum is on the Way

The low bands should get better due to less absorption, but to some extent that gets balanced out by more geomagnetic field activity due to coronal holes. Historically solar minimum has been pretty quiet in terms of geomagnetic field activity, and the initial rise of a solar cycle is the quietest.

20m and 17m should still offer DX opportunities at solar minimum. But 15m and above will not be very productive (except for Es in the summer).

Carl, K9LA

Read more about the Solar Minimum here: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4648214/NASA-says-solar-minimum-way.html>

13 COLONIES (Special Event)

Once again the annual (the 9th) "13 Colonies Special Event" will take place between 1300z, July 1st and 0400z July 7th.

The certificate is printed on heavy card stock. Stations working one state or, as many as all 15, will be eligible for the certificate. A "Clean Sweep" indicator will be affixed for those lucky enough to "Q" all 15. A special endorsement will be attached for stations contacting their sister operation, WM3PEN, in Philadelphia, PA, where independence was declared. New since 2015, the 13 Colonies have added a second sister event station.

GB13COL will operate from Durham, England.

The 13 Colonies certificate will have a Liberty Bell added for a contact with WM3PEN. They will also offer a special QSL card printed just for this event. There should be at least two stations from each on the 13 colonies on the air, as well as Super contest stations, multi-operator Club stations and OM and XYL teams.

The U.S. original 13 colonies are CT-DE- GA-MA-MD-NC-NH-NJ-NY-PA-RI-SC-VA.

Special events stations mentioned are: K2A (NY), K2B (VA), K2C (RI), K2D (CT), K2E (DE), K2F (MD), K2G (GA), K2H (MA), K2I (NJ), K2J (NC), K2K (NH), K2L (SC), and K2M (PA).

All HF bands will be in play, including the WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. 2 meters and 6 meter simplex are encouraged. All modes of operation should be represented -SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital, and the Satellites. The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state station. For more details on the stations, suggested frequencies, QSL info and on how to obtain the special certificate, see:

<http://www.13colonies.info>

3Y0Z BOUVET DXPEDITION

(Press Release #6, dated June 27th).

In consultation with our new transportation partner Aerovias DAP, we continue to refine our plans for our Bouvet DXpedition. We expect to depart from King George Island, in the South Shetlands Islands on January 13, 2018. Our transit time to Bouvet will be between 9 and 11 days depending on weather and the sea state.

Upon arrival at Bouvet we will conduct reconnaissance flights to the island and select a campsite free of crevasses. As weather permits we will begin building our radio city on the ice and secure our infra-structure. Then antennas will go up, our equipment will be assembled and we will begin non-stop operations. We are planning to be at Bouvet for 21 days, and depending on weather and other factors we hope to be on the air for 14-16 days. Then we will return to either King George Island or Punta Arenas, Chile. All in all, we will be away from civilization for 6-7 weeks.

Final preparations continue this summer, and we still have a lot to do: * Equipment will be tested under simulated harsh conditions at the QTH of K9CT.

* Antennas will be assembled, tested and packed for transit at the QTH of WB9Z.

* The Sea Container will be packed and shipped from Atlanta the first week of October.

A team meeting will be held in Atlanta on Sept. 7-10. Topics to be discussed will include:

Safety

Helicopter operations

Site selection

Shelter erection and quick deploy plans

Weather

Escape plans and rescue

Medical considerations

EME set-up and testing

Familiarization and operation of Flex Radios and Amplifiers
Propagation and our strategy
Operator scheduling
And....more.

Our fund-raising continues. We are pleased with our progress toward our goal of 740,500 USDs. The team has committed 400,000 USDs cash as well as paying for their own transportation, food and hotel expenses. DX Clubs have stepped up and some have added additional contributions as have many individual DXers. However, we are still about 200,000 USDs short. Please help if you can. We have a large payment due for the vessel and helicopters in several months.

Please check our website <<http://www.bouvetdx.org>> at periodically for updates and additions as we progress toward departure. You can also join our Facebook group <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/639362206232014>>.

For the 3Y0Z team,
Ralph-K0IR
Bob-K4UEE
Erling-LA6VM

Borrowed from Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin No. 1320

We have several **new** pieces of equipment for sale on our For Sale Page
<http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm>
Please check it out.

Free: 3 Motorola-type Mobile Radios - one is set up to work cross-band
2-6 others are in the 2 meter or 440 meter band. Will not ship.

2 spools of RG 6 cable (approx: 1900 feet). Email John at
<mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com>. Will not ship. \$20.00 for both

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

