

THE YCARS TRANSMITTER



Ham Radio News, Events and Information

YCARS Club House - 2051 Squire Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29732 – Mailing Address YCARS PO Box 4141 C.R.S., Rock Hill, SC 29732

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APRIL CLUB EVENTS

Apr 1, 2021 – Operating night 18:00 (6:00pm) Limited Attendance
 Apr. 8, 2021 – Business meeting 19:30 (7:30pm) Clubhouse limited Attendance
 Apr. 9, 2021 – Simplex Net 146.580MHz following the YCARS 2m Evening Net, approx. 21:15 (9:15pm)
 Apr. 17, 2021 VE Test Session 09:30 YCARS Clubhouse
 Apr. 22, 2021 Program meeting 19:30 (7:30pm) YouTube Live stream – WB4QNI – Steve – Antennas
 TBD – HF Introduction and basics livestream Elmering session.

2021 YCARS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – W3SPC
 STEVE CZAIKOWSKI
 VICE PRESIDENT –
 KM4WLS PHILIP
 CHANDLER
 TREASURER – K4DQP
 DARCY PACH
 SECRETARY – KN4KCD
 RON PRYOR
 CUSTODIAN – KD4RNP
 WAYNE REEVES
 TRUSTEE – NJ4Z
 JOHN GENDRON

CLUB NET SCHEDULE

2 Meter Morning Net
 Weekdays Mon-Fri 11:00
 K4Ytz Repeater
 147.030MHz (-) pl 88.5
 2 Meter Evening Net
 Weekdays Mon-Sun 20:30
 K4Ytz Repeater
 147.030MHz (-) pl 88.5
 ARES 2 Meter Weekly Net
 Mondays 19:30
 Simplex 146.580MHz
 Hoodlum Friendship Net
 Saturdays 22:00
 10meters 28.340 USB

The YCARS Transmitter

Welcome to the YCARS Transmitter Vol. 1 No. 4 for APR. 2021.

Hello everyone,

Welcome to April 2021 and the latest edition of the YCARS Transmitter. The first quarter of 2021 is behind us and we are into the Spring.

Along with the dawning of this Spring, we see the possible light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. As many of the club members and general public have or are close to getting their vaccinations, club activities are beginning ever so slowly to increase. We are so excited to be getting back to in-person events and seeing our YCARS Family again.

In this month's issue, we learn how to avoid those awkward questions and visits by the uninitiated to the ham world, by applying some simple rules to those who enter our realm in "From NJ4Z's Hamshack". Speaking of avoiding awkward situations, NJ4Z gives guidance to New Hams on avoiding G.A.S. while selecting your rig and building out your shack in "Getting on the Air".

Daniel WD2DW guides us to the place where RF meets Digital, giving us the basics of DMR, in our "Ask and Elmer" feature. David, KX4UV shares a unique opportunity for speed, fun and adrenaline rush afforded Ham operators by volunteering to serve the community in our new feature "YCARS in Action."

Springtime in the Carolinas means a return to possible severe weather, NJ4Z shares a remote antenna disconnect solution in "On the Workbench".

Joe W8DKR, shares a college story about circuit connections in Octogenarian Observations. We also pay a humorous and enjoyable visit the Jeff WA4WYC, Wild Yellers Chicken Coup, where he explains the different codes and languages for CW... yep it just isn't Morse.

April showers bring May flowers, and it all about water in this months' "The Prepared Ham" feature by Jack, N3NSA.

We have club updates, in "YCARS Aware" on the resumption of in-person activities, upgrades to the club radio room and antennas, VE team changes, and of course an announcement concerning the Rock Hill Hamfest. We are welcoming new members, new hams and congratulating folks on their upgrades. We have awards to hang on the "Wall of Arrogance" and new bones in "The Boneyard". Finally, we have updates from Ares and Skywarn.

We will see you all again in May!!!

Please help us keep this newsletter rolling along. You can e-mail NJ4Z@YCARS.org with submissions and questions. Deadline for May Submissions is April 15th, 2021.

APRIL 2021 CONTEST CALENDAR

**Apr. 3 - LA, MS
QSO Party - 14:00
UTC**

**Apr. 4 - NA Sprint
SSB 00:00 UTC**

**Apr. 10 - FT8/4 DX
contest 12:00 UTC**

**Apr. 10 - NM QSO
Party - 14:00 UTC**

**Apr. 10 - GA QSO
Party - 16:00 UTC**

**Apr. 17 - CQMM DX
- 09:00 UTC**

**Apr. 17 - MI QSO
Party - 16:00 UTC**

**Apr. 17 - ON (CA)
QSO Party - 18:00
UTC**

**Apr. 24 - FL QSO
Party - 16:00UTC**



FROM NJ4Z's HAM SHACK

Musings from the Editor

Hamshack Guests and the Hamshack Rules

I so do love this hobby of ours. It brings me great joy most of the time and sometimes it just frustrates the hell out of me, but so it is with anything you are passionate about. Just like a relationship or a marriage, there are many times of immense joy, times filled with tears of sadness and then times of utter and complete frustration, but all of it makes life interesting and worth living.

I enjoy sharing my passion for this hobby with others. Those of you who know me know, I love to talk ham radio; gear, propagation, antennas, all of it. I am a bit of an extrovert, which is very much different than when I was a child and young man. I was painfully shy. I credit my incredible wife Brenda for bringing me out of my shell. She has never met a stranger and she is an amazing conversationalist. Watching her over the years, I gained confidence and skill in communicating with others. Which means I now cannot shut my mouth, especially when it comes to HAM Radio; It is all her fault. I love having people to my shack, Covid has limited that over the past year, but I love it none the less. Again, sometimes a passion can have a dark side. When talking with people, that are not Hams and that do not understand my passion for the hobby, they sometimes ask questions. Questions that put the cheese on the grater, to speak frankly. Then there are the folks, that make themselves right at home, uninvited. They ensconce themselves in the operating chair and worst of all begin to touch things... oh the humanity, of it all!

To avoid unpleasantness that comes with those situations, I have developed NJ4Z's Hamshack Rules and posted on the door to the Hamshack. So here they are...

1. **My Shack, my rules** – you have been invited into my special place, there are rules you must follow... since this is my hamshack, these are my rules.
2. **No sitting in my chair** – A King has a throne, a captain has a captain's seat, a Ham Operator has an operating chair. You just wouldn't just go sit on some King's throne or in the captain seat on a vessel, would you? So, why should my operating chair be any different!
3. **Keep your hands off the equipment** – When visiting a control room, studio, industrial plant or any other place that has switches, knobs, buttons, dials, and screens, the temptation to fiddle around to see what they do is immense. A Hamshack is no different, the switches, knobs, buttons, and dials are in a certain position for a reason. The reason is the stations works best that way, and I will never remember where I had them, if you mess with them. It took me a long time to get them where I like them and I don't want to go down that road again. All kidding aside, if you visit my shack you will more than likely get the opportunity to play around with all the eye candy, but only if I say so.
4. **Do not ask if you or I can speak to "The Enterprise", speak with Aliens, or if "E.T." can phone home with this gear.** – Com'on man!?! This is Ham radio; this is serious stuff. No time to be joking around in my shack about talking with E.T., Aliens or "The Enterprise" ... If I could or have do think I would share that information. Besides, we all know the Greys have built pyramids under the Antarctic ice and are just waiting for us to destroy ourselves so they can take over, an operator at the South Pole told me so. Actually, with some of the gear in Ham radio shacks you can speak with spacecraft and bounce signals off satellites, it is pretty darn cool. **(Cont.Pg.4)**

5. Any objections to the rules, please see rule #1 – ‘Nuff said.

Also please note: there is an unwritten agreement between Ham Operators and it would be rule number six and it is as follows:

- 6. Discussions regarding the cost of the antennas and equipment in the shack are not to be discussed in the presence of the spouse or significant other, for that will cause discord in the relationship.** We all hope if something happens to us, one of our Ham buddies will sell our gear for what it is worth and not what we told our spouses/significant others what we paid for it.



My lovely and talented wife made the sign for me. You know she is a saint and has a great sense of humor, otherwise, how would she put up with me.

Until next month, stay healthy and safe, and stay passionate about Ham Radio!

All the best,

John Gendron, NJ4Z

Editor YCARS Transmitter

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Getting on the Air Helping New Hams Advance!

So, you have earned your Ticket, what is next? The Rig and how to avoid G.A.S.!

John Gendron, NJ4Z



Last month we discussed some simple antennas, that will get us going in the hobby. The best sage advice I have been given about antennas, is purchase or build the best you can afford, it is the most important part of your station. Antennas are not the sexist subject in the world, unless you are talking about hanging massive amounts of aluminum in the sky or building massive ground-based array. What is the sexist part of the system, well of course that is the radio, or in the vernacular the RIG! It is what you look at and what everyone sees when you are operating with others.

We all come into this hobby not knowing what we don't know. Some of us purchase a radio before we take the test, some of us wait until we earn our ticket. Unless you are lucky enough to have an experienced ham to guide you into the hobby, before you buy that first rig, most of us end up buying an inexpensive handheld. That is fine, nothing wrong with it, it is a means to an end. It gets you something to operate with and gets you on the air.

We are going beyond your first radio. You have been in the hobby for a bit now and have learned drinking from the firehose and you go. That 5watt handheld is fine for somethings, but maybe it is not footing the bill now. We may have learned, you must go outside to make the repeater consistently, or the pie/pizza pan ground plane works in some areas of the house better than others. You may have also learned the sometimes-difficult task of making a 5watt handheld work in the vehicle while driving.

I will assume that at this point you have learned that this a great hobby, and you are ready for the next steps, in the journey. You are ready to start building a home station and possibly going mobile. Oh, the choices, mobile, base, monoband, dual-band, triband, analog, digital, crossband repeat, and on we go. So many choices, so many prices, so many manufactures, so many models, how do you decide? At this point, a condition known as **G.A.S.** can occur; talk about sexy, right? What is G.A.S., you ask? **GEAR ACQUISTION SYNDROME** – the insane need to acquire gear at an alarming rate to improve our stations, our signals and for some, bragging rights. It is best to avoid G.A.S., because this can lead to an empty wallet, a cluttered shack

and/or garage and some serious regret. So how do we avoid G.A.S.? No, it is not TUMS or Gas-X; Here is a fool proof three-part solution to avoid G.A.S., planning, budget and research.

So right now, I am guessing most of you are sitting there confused and trying to rectify in your mind why I am talking about G.A.S. and not recommending rigs. It is difficult to make recommendations, and they will do little good without knowing why you are buying a rig. These three steps are a solid plan regardless of what piece of equipment you are purchasing.

Step one of G.A.S. avoidance, **“The Planning”**. There are a few key questions you need to ask yourself, what is the goal for this transceiver, are you wanting to build a base station, go mobile, portable ops in a go box, all the above? What bands do I want to cover, 10M, 6M, 2M, 70cm, 1.25M (222MHz), 33cm (902MHz), 23cm (1240MHz)? Do you want to operate on one of the digital modes, D-Star, System Fusion, DMR? Do you want to do SSB, Weak Signal (FT8/4), Work Satellites, EME (Earth-moon-Earth), Grid square chasing? All of these and so much more are possible just with a Technicians License. Maybe you are already down the road studying for your general and want a combined UHF/VHF/HF rig. The major step here is to decide what you want to do or may want to accomplish in the short term and write that down. Also make sure to include the must haves for your purchase.

Step two of G.A.S. avoidance, **“The Budget”**. Now we know what we are trying to accomplish, we need to set a budget. Everyone’s lifestyle and disposable income is different. **Do not, I repeat, DO NOT**, try to compete with other Hams on purchasing gear. To steal a line and rewrite as my own, “Gear Envy leads to the dark side, Gear Envy leads to spending, spending leads to broke and broke leads to suffering. Grave danger you are in, if you follow this path. Set a realistic budget for yourself, you know your finances better than anyone else. Quite frankly, if another ham runs down your gear, you are hanging out with the wrong hams. One other fine point, there is a rig for you at your price point. It may not be new, the latest and the greatest, with all the bells and whistles or it just could be the best on the market. All that matters is it gets your goals accomplished, that is the point.

Step three of G.A.S. avoidance, **“The Research”**. Now you know what you want to do, and you know what you can spend. You are off to the races looking at what is out there, new and pre-loved. Which bells and whistles are must haves? Check <https://www.eham.net> for reviews of gear, it is great place to start. eHam has a huge database of equipment reviews and most have several, if not tens and hundreds of reviews. QST and CQ magazine also do great in-depth product reviews. An ARRL membership really comes in handy here, so you can search the achieves. YouTube has thousands of video reviews, keep in mind some those reviews can be biased, and are only one persons’ opinion of the gear. QRZ is also a good place to look for reviews of gear. The resellers websites, DX Engineering, Ham Radio Outlet, Gigaparts, R&L electronics, MTC, Buy Two Way Radios, etc. all have reviews by folks who have purchased the gear, and many do their own reviews in print and video. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER be afraid or hesitant to ask an Elmer, fellow club member, or other ham about their experience with a

certain piece of equipment. We are here to help; we want your journey to be a joyful and successful one.

Once you decide on a rig, purchase it and get it set up... one last step... read the manual to learn how to operate it, then "GET ON THE AIR."

Next Month we will explore outfitting your shack for operating, so get your thinking caps on and tools belts ready...

Octogenarian Observations – Joe Avampato – W8DKR

While a student at The Ohio State University in the early 1960's I walked by a classroom and watched a Professor draw a new circuit on the blackboard. He said it was necessary to limit the number of circuit connections such as the voltage, ground, input and output. I walked away thinking it is always possible to connect another wire to a circuit. What new technology did I miss? See answer at: <http://www.onechipsystems.com> , April.

NEW HAMS AND UPGRADES

Welcome to the Hobby

New Hams that earned their Tickets in the February 27, and March 20, 2021 test sessions

Vicki Carnes	KO4NQX
Steve Rodgers	KO4NQW
William McMillan	KO4NZA
Yolanda (Joy) Taylor	KO4ORD

Congratulations on the Upgrade

Club Members who have successfully upgraded operator class.

Steve Gribble	KO4MNO/AG
Bill Ross	KO4NPK/AG
Joe Eichorn	KO4LAT/AE
Christian Arnold	KO4FLD/AE (12 Years Old!!!)

ASK AN ELMER

HAM RADIO ADVICE AND ANSWERS

This column will be a forum to ask questions and seek knowledge of amateur radio... we are looking for someone to help answer these questions for members, if you would like to volunteer to help answer or have a question, please email NJ4Z@ycars.com –

The Question for this month is from **Several Club members regarding the basics of Digital Mobile Radio, (DMR).**

Daniel Boyer, WD2DW, York County ARES E.C. was kind enough to respond.

So Why DMR?

DMR started as a commercial standard for radio communication to allow advanced features and to improve spectrum efficiency. It didn't take long for the amateur radio community to pick up on it. DMR in the ham world is a vast topic and I can't even begin to get into the weeds with it in a few short paragraphs so let's start with some basic myth busting.

DMR Radios are expensive and require expensive software to program. FALSE, DMR radios can be purchased for under \$100 and most have free software.

DMR is useless if the internet goes down. FALSE, DMR can be used on simplex and even through repeaters on backup power. Not all DMR is over the internet.

It's hard to find someone to talk to on DMR. FALSE DMR is constantly expanding and while it can seem difficult at times to find other users to talk to, there are many tools that exist across the networks to help you find what you're looking for.

The terminology is quite different than what we are used to but don't let that stop you. To program a DMR radio, you need to know the frequency and color code of the repeater. Obviously, frequency is the same as analog, same conventions of spacing and offset. Color code is repeater specific, think of it like you would a PL tone. In most cases the color code will be 1. Once you know this, you can decide on which talkgroups you want to use. Repeater owners often list the predefined talkgroups that are available to the user. Talkgroups are defined by their ID number, and their time slot which is either 1 or 2. Most repeaters are listed on the Repeaterbook website (<https://www.repeaterbook.com>) or other reference sites and all the information you need is contained in the details section for the specific repeater.

DMR radios also lay out the channels in a different way than most hams are used to. Since a separate channel is usually required for each talkgroup, radio organization is broken into zones. You can set up zones geographically or by repeater or even by network if you're using a hotspot device. For example, I set the zones up by repeater.

Zone name: Rock Hill PRN, Channels in the zone are the talkgroups I have access to. LOCAL, CHAT 1, CHAT 2, PRN, Echotest.

Zone 2 is Chester PRN, same channels, just different repeater.

The first step for DMR

First, go to Radioid.net and apply for a DMR id. This is how you access DMR systems and identify your radio to the network. This is required. Once you have a DMR id, program a radio and have fun!

Radio options

I highly recommend the Anytone 868/878 as a first DMR radio. There are less expensive options for sure, but this is a great first DMR. Easy to program and use, very stable, customizable, and great quality. The battery is huge and lasts forever and it's rugged.

If you're looking for something more cost effective, the Radioddity GD-77 is a great radio that can be purchased for around \$90 however it can be a little less forgiving with programming.

As always if you have any questions please email me and we can get you squared away.

73

Daniel J. Boyer WD2DW

Hamshack Hotline:4658

YCARS in Action – Community Service

David McLaren -KX4UV, YCARS Community Service Chair

Volunteer Opportunities are everywhere, even for us Hams. One good example is the Sandblast Rally held annually during late February or early March in Cheraw, SC. The Sandblast Rally is a performance rally race event open to competitors using cars, trucks and motorcycles to traverse a course that winds through Sandhills State Forest and the H. Copper Black Recreation facility. This race is multi-staged and has 5 main courses. During competition the competitors may travel a course in one direction and then later in the event the path of travel is reversed. This allows for 9 stages of competition varying in length from 8 to 14 miles on a limited number of courses. The competition for the rally is diverse with some competitors operating on a shoestring budget, while some are fully sponsored race teams.

This was my second year of volunteering for this event and I loved every minute of it. Setting the scene, I am in the woods of Sand Hills State Park enjoying the nature around me, then a drone of a distant engine breaks the silence. The drone continues to increase in volume and intensity, quickly becoming a deafening roar, as around the corner a motorcycle,



car or a truck with a rooster tail of sand following, screams past my position. An adrenalin rush ensues, as another engine breaks the short silence of the last pass.

Ham operators who volunteer, participate as Race Marshals, and are typically paired with another volunteer who is not operating a radio. This event gives volunteers a chance to get close to the action, and in a race environment this is a unique opportunity. The price in being close to the action, is risk, you must be sure to be alert as to not get too close to the action. Competitors race on a sandy course which can be loose and slick to hard pack conditions. These conditions along with mechanical failures and driving errors can cause a competitor to miss a turn or otherwise go off track. As a Marshal team, you have an assigned check point or tactical position. The position may require a four-wheel drive to reach or may require a short hike to get a proper vantage point for observation. As a team you are responsible for several goals first and foremost the safety of spectators, race officials and competitors. Your team is positioned to ensure spectators or spectator vehicles do not enter the racecourse and spotting any conditions that would lead to an unsafe race environment. The marshals are also responsible for recording the competitor's vehicle numbers as they pass their position. This enables the race control to keep track of any competitors that may have had mechanical failures or run off course preventing them from finishing a stage.

The radio capable marshals operate in a race control net, focusing on safety and positions of competitors on track. In relay fashion the competitors' vehicles are tracked from start to finish of each stage. This helps narrow the search area for any vehicles that fail to cross the finish line. It also allows for a quick response in case of emergencies. This net also allows for communication of staffing needs along the course. The Marshal teams also relay any conditions that would make for the course unsafe for competition, the need for assistance for any spectators that may arise. In the event a marshal needs to leave their assigned position a request for a replacement can be sent via the net.

During the event, situations may arise which allow for another unique opportunity. An opportunity which is a favorite of mine. Marshals sometimes get to drive the course, between stages, allowing for transition of observation positions for different stages. For the most part you are not left to your own devices out driving on the course, unfortunately a pace vehicle is leading the way. Although, many times the pace vehicle is not maintaining the recommended speed... smirk! It can be extremely fun hitting the flooded areas or creek bottoms at speed. Although I am not an experienced racer, at all, it sure is fun to play on the track.

If you decide to join the YCARS team in support of this event in the future, be sure to get a good night's rest, as the day starts early and ends late. A 06:00 wake-up to meet the Course Captain at the rally point, then a caravan out to your assigned post and eight to ten-hour shift are ahead of you. Be sure to have a full tank of gas in the vehicle, and of course sunscreen, drinks and snacks, chairs and possibly some rain gear, as this is a rain or shine event. It is advised to have two programmed radios (primary and secondary) along with extra batteries. The race control frequencies are provided a few days before the event. The juice is certainly worth the squeeze with this event. The opportunity to be close to the action as one can get without participating, coupled with the opportunity to mingle with the competitors, other volunteers and diehard rally race enthusiasts from all over the east coast makes this an exciting, fun filled and rewarding event.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please see <https://www.sandblastrally.com> for more information about the event and competitors. They are always looking for folks to help run comms for this rally, give it a try. This is David KX4UV signing off. 73

THE WORKBENCH

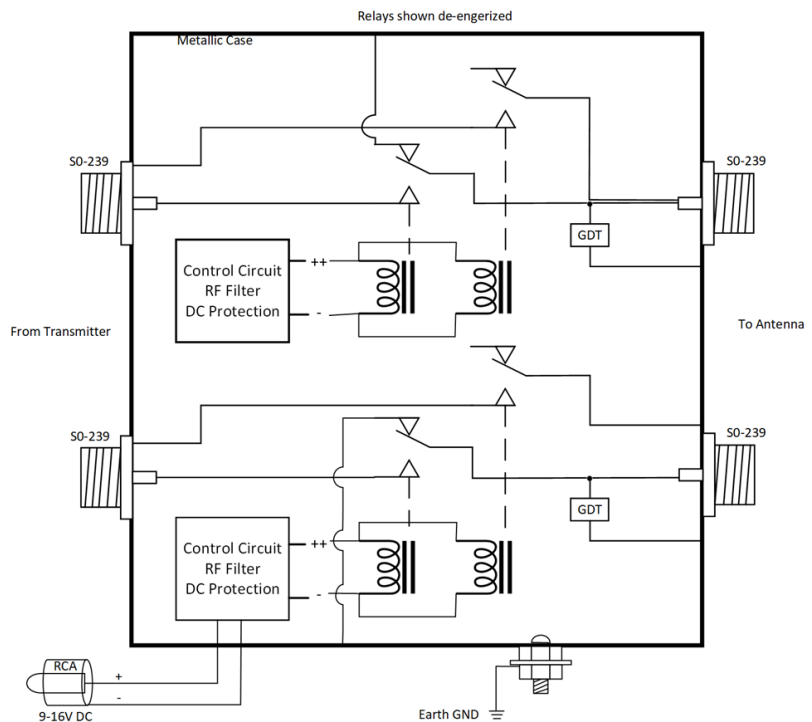
HAM RADIO PROJECTS, TIPS AND TRICKS

To Disconnect or not... that is the question, maybe we have an answer.

With springs arrival every year the threat for severe weather and your garden variety thunderstorms return. Every Ham's worst nightmare is to have equipment damaged or destroyed because of lightning. Let's face It, we put up huge amounts of wire and aluminum, high in the air. We are chancing fate. Although a direct lightning strike is rare, at least I don't know of many Hams who have taken a direct strike, I do know a few who have had equipment damaged. We want to do the best we can to protect our gear and our homes from lightning damage. Hence, we should ground our equipment and antenna systems.

While researching for a way to protect my shack, I found all kinds of useful tidbits and methods that have been used. Mason jars, rubber caps, knife switches, relay-based disconnectors, you name it, it is out there. I replaced all the feedlines coming into the shack last spring. Opening and closing a window every time I want to operate was getting old and it was unsightly as the cables hung vertically off the roof of the front porch. The cables were also in the way of my wife's gardening, and victim, at least once to the cruel justice of a set of pruners. Who is to say whether it was intentional or not?

My solution was installing the cables through the attic, by an MFJ feed through panel in an attic window, and direct path to the shack. It is a very clean installation, but it left me no way of disconnecting the feedlines inside the house. I needed a way to disconnect the feedlines, to protect the shack and the house. I did not want to climb in the attic or go outside every time to disconnect the cables from the antennas. That sent me researching to find a solution. I found a product that remotely disconnects the antenna(s), the Paradan Radio Antenna Disconnecter (<https://www.paradanradio.com>). It is a well-built piece of kit.



Paradan Radio Disconnecter Design

Designed by Dan Gravereaux, N1ZZ, who started West Mountain Radio and Paradan Radio, the disconnecter will allow for either one or two feedlines to be remotely disconnected. The unit has high-power relays that ground the antenna leads when not in use. The unit features RF filtered diodes and has a gas discharge tube to help eliminate static discharge and lightning damage. The unit can be connected to the auxiliary port of a radio so that when the radio is powered on it triggers the relay closed and the antennas are connected to the radio. When powered off the antennas are grounded.

Great idea, for a one rig shack, or for a shack that runs multiple rigs on multiple antennas. I wanted to be able to remotely connect my antennas regardless of which rig I powered up. Which brings us to this month's workbench build. A simple switch box that allows me to remotely disconnect any of the antennas I have connected to the shack by way of the Paradan disconnecter.

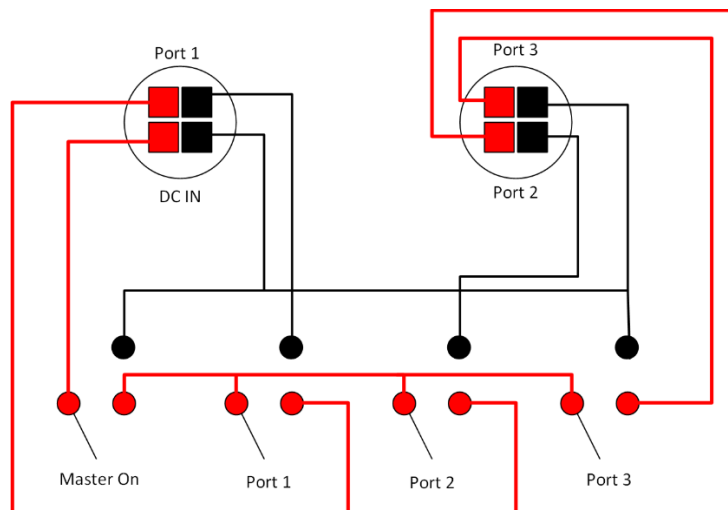


The project is a very simple design and build. In the design process I knew, I wanted to have the capability of controlling multiple disconnectors independent of the rigs or amps in the shack. The selector unit I designed and built is powered via a connection to the shack power supply. It has an independent power switch and three switches that can control the disconnecter units.



Eventually I am going to either incorporate an Arduino or Raspberry PI into this design with a touch screen or software interface to the shack computer.

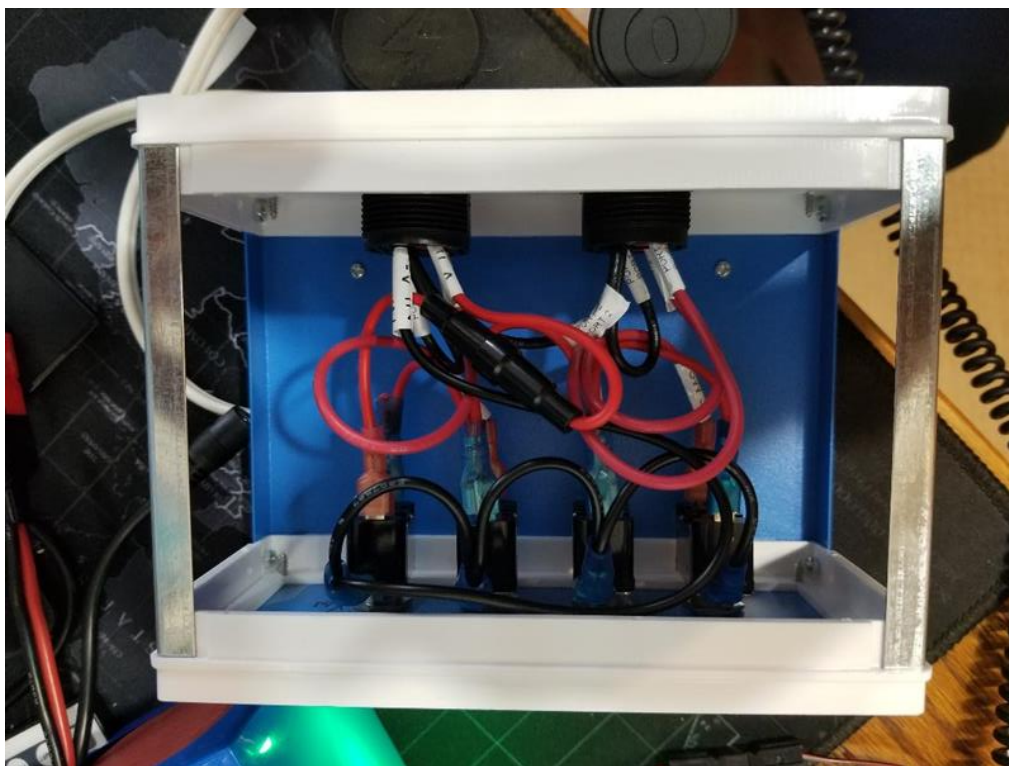
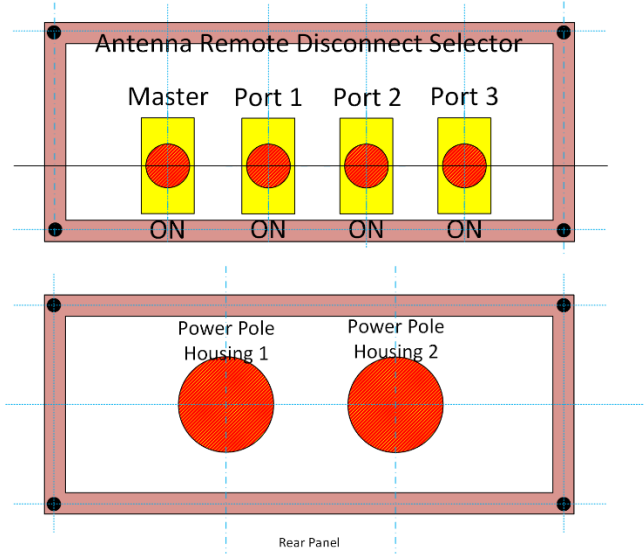
The circuit design basically allows for the main power switch to feed power to each of the control switches. The control switches are connected to power pole connectors on the rear panel for connection to the two-conductor power cable for the disconnectors.



I produced a template drill /cut template in Mirrosoft Visio to overlay on the front and rear panels of the project box to make it easier to align the switches and power pole mounts. I used a drill press to make the holes for the switches and power pole housings. The Power pole housing require 1-1/8" holes haw bit.

The assembly process is very simple. Using .250 quick disconnect connectors, which were soldered and crimped. To connect the 18ga hookup wire to the LED lit indicator switches.

I used 30 amp power pole connectors, as the 18ga wire is an easy fit into the terminals. Adhesive cable labels make wire identification easy.



The interior of the switch box with all connections made.

This not an expensive project to build, save the dual feedline model disconnecter, which I selected for the project, as it retails at \$190.00.

Antenna Disconnect Selector Switch Project Material List
Disconnecter for Dual Paradan Radio Disconnecter

QTY	Part number	Description
1	DXE-UE-2P	Outdoor Enclosure
1	Dual Antenna Disconnecter	
1	LRS01-DC 12V	12v Surge Protector
4	RA-UHF-M/F	Right Angel UHF adapter
10	DXE-TCB-100	1" Tinned Copper Braid
1	202195738	5/8" X96" Ground rod
4	#8 Wall Anchor	#8 1-1/4 Wall anchor
1	202706308	#8 x 1/2" Self tapping screw
1	3000983210	18ga 2c burial control wire/ 100ft
3	30A APP set	30a Anderson Power Poles Set (R&B)
	Outdoor total	
1	170X130X80 AU-5	Project box
2	PM-Rnd-Dual APP	Panel Mount Dual Power Pole
4	ASW-70DG	HD 12V, 20A SPST Toggle Switch Grn LED
1	1598185	18 AWG 10ft red/ 10ft Black silicone Wire
12	20223072	.250 quick disconnect terminal

The outdoor portion of the project is housed in a DX Engineering enclosure. The Paradan unit is connected to an 8ft driven ground rod next to the enclosure. I did install a 12v surge suppressor on the power supply cable to the disconnecter. That is preventing any stray voltage coming back to the shack via the 18ga two-conductor.

As you can see, I used 90-degree UHF connectors due to the size of the box and maintaining the bend radius on the LMR-400. The enclosure is designed to feed through top to bottom. My concern is having penetrations on top of an exposed enclosure is going to lead eventually to water migration into the enclosure.



There you have it, a way to remotely disconnect your antennas, when not in use, to protect your shack and dwelling from static and lightning. I have produced a two videos on the system and construction of the box, you can find them on my YouTube Channel "From the Hamshack" [FROM THE HAMSHACK - YouTube](#) and a presentation done for the club on the YCARS YouTube channel [A Fantastic Antenna Remote Disconnect - YouTube](#).

If you have questions or need help, please reach out to me at NJ4Z@YCARS.org. I will be placing the PDFs of the templates, circuit diagram, and parts list in the club members' section.

All the best,

John, NJ4Z

73

THE YCARS BONEYARD

A Place to Sell, Trade or Find Ham Related Equipment

NU4S – “Shep” Shepard is looking for a Chuscraft R-9 or similar Vertical rtoller1@cfl.rr.com

NJ4Z – John Gendron has two Kenwood TH-F6A handhelds with accessories \$ 530.00 for the pair. Contact NJ4Z@YCARS.ORG for details.

WN4DVJ – Bill Wells is listing a TYT-MD9600 DMR Mobile unit for \$200.00 and a TYT-MD380 DMR Handheld for \$60.00 Contact Bill for details at Bwells@comporium.net or 803-417-7117

AE8J – Andy – Just in time for sun spot cycle 25. Hy-Gain TH-11DX--- Eleven element, 5 band Yagi beam antenna. Covers 20 thru 10 meters. 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m. New in box, never assembled. DX Engineering price \$1,299.00. Asking price is \$750.00. Contact Andy, AE8J at akunik@bellsouth.net.

KN4KCD – Ron – FT-70DR/DE HT from Yaesu. It is NIB, never fired up, asking \$140.00. KC4KCD@YCARS.ORG

W3PAL – Andre – FTDX3000d for sale. I want to offer this for club members first, before I advertise it elsewhere. The radio is in excellent condition. Non-smoking shack. Everything works as it should. The radio has an optional 300 Hz roofing filter (\$200 value) and a Voice Recorder board (\$70 value). Original box, manuals are included. Asking \$1,250 Andre, W3PAL (704) 231-4095 aeivanov@comporium.net

K4YTZ – the club has several items for sale – please see [YCARS Boneyard – Page 1 – K4YTZ – YCARS](#) for details.

Kenwood TS-450S with matching PS	DSA 5600A Frequency Counter
Mosely RV-& Vertical Antenna	B&W Model 333 Dummy Load
Kenwood TS-520	MFJ-482 Memory Keyer
Astron RS-12A Power Supply	2 Cobra 19XS CB's
Uniden BC 760XLT Scanner	Azden PCS-2000 2 Meter FM



Jeff Bylthe - KA4WYC's Wild Yella Chicken Coup

Do You Know Morse Code, If So Which Language???

Ok.... You say you know Morse Code, a language developed by Samuel F. B Morse and Alfred Vail in the mid 1800's. The Dits and Dahs or dots and dashes...!! But did you know there are several other 'Morse Code' Alphabets?? We, as American Amateurs usually use the International Morse Code. But there are several other 'Codes' out there. You have the American Telegraph Morse, Wabun Morse - the Japanese Code and a Hebrew "Code". Morse Code can be used to transmit messages in English and many other languages, like German for example. For languages not written with the Latin alphabet other versions of Morse Code are used. There are versions of Morse Code for the Greek, Cyrillic, Arabic and Hebrew alphabets, and for Japanese, a version known as Wabun Code (和文モールス符号), which maps *kana* syllables to specific codes, is used.

The Chinese telegraph code is used to map Chinese characters to four-digit codes and then those digits are sent using standard Morse code. Korean Morse code uses the SKATS (Standard Korean Alphabet Transliteration System) mapping, originally developed to allow Korean to be typed on western typewriters. WHEW who knew...!!!

But WAIT... there was a 'Code' prior to Sam and Al's code...?!? DO WHAT????? Yep, there was an Alphabet 10 years before the alphabet of Morse and Vail was developed. There is a very interesting museum in Gottingen, Germany called the Gauss-Warber Telegraph Memorial. Here is a pic of the machine that sent code. It was very awkward to use. It had +'s and -'s. You had to push and pull to send a character, using high voltage pulses that caused a magnetic field burst of voltage at the far end, 3 Kilometers away, from a wire Gauss and Warber hung between Gauss's Observatory and Warber's Lab. There was a tiny compass needle that moved from the voltage burst and then you had to decode the pulses. It was so slow, that when Gauss sent a massager to Warber's lab with the message he had just sent, and the massager got there before Warber could decode the original message. So the University decided not to fund their Telegraph.

So Morse Code isn't used much anymore... !!! Yeah RIGHT...!!! Just listen to the bottom portion of any of the HF bands. Listen to Operators wanting to workstations on Moon bounce. Or DX'ers wanting to work those rare contacts....??

I would encourage anyone reading this to go to www.CWops.org and sign up for a session. Remember it takes several months to get a 'seat' in an Online Class.

73 Jeff KA4WYC

But Jeff, how do I know I'm sending the CORRECT Morse Code??? Again, we Amateurs use the International Morse Code. This is what Samuel and Alfred used in 1843 to transmit the Iconic "What Hath God Wrought"!! OK, where did this come from?? (Read last moths Newsletter about Annie B. Ellsworth).

THE PREPARED HAM

Insight into preparedness from Lt. Col. Jack Wiles (RET), N3NSA

ARE YOU PREPARED TO RUN OUT OF WATER?

I've been thinking about how to structure this article for a long time. After much thought, and a little more research, I still have no idea of how this is going to flow. I guess the best thing to do is to throw some words on paper (so to speak) and get started. I'll just start with some bullet points and we'll go from there.

Water - Just What Is It?

Without question, it's the most amazing chemical substance on the planet. For as simple as it seems (2 Hydrogen atoms and 1 Oxygen atom - H₂O) it is crucial for our existence here on earth. Most of us don't really understand how amazing it is. Here are a few examples of its unique qualities.

It's at its heaviest at a different temperature than most of us think. For years, I thought that water would be at its heaviest when it turned to ice. When I thought of those huge blocks of ice crashing into the water as they broke off a glacier, they looked pretty darn heavy to me. Well, water isn't quite that simple. It's at its heaviest at a little over 39 degrees Fahrenheit. It freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. If that weren't the case, bodies of water would freeze from the bottom up and kill a lot of the aquatic life in them.

It can also exist in several states (liquid, gas, solid) which are water, steam/water vapor or ice. Pretty cool stuff!

Water makes up over 70% of the earth's surface and can make up close to 3/4 of a human body depending on our individual size.

To learn more about this much needed substance, visit one of my favorite links for a detailed and interesting read about just what water is:

[Water - Wikipedia](#)

Where Do We Get Our Water?

If all is going well, we just go to any spigot in our home and turn it on. Fortunately for us here in America, that works for most of us most of the time. It could be water from a well (needing power to pump it out of the ground), or from a local municipality water treatment plant ('city' water) and piped to our home (also needing power at the local municipality to pump it to our homes).

Each of these ways of getting water into our homes have somewhat different things to consider. I'll talk about those as I discuss the quality of the water that comes into our homes.

Throughout all these discussions about overall preparedness, you can begin to see how each piece of the puzzle is usually dependent on one or more other pieces of the puzzle. In considering where we get our water, we can already see how getting it into a glass for a nice cold drink usually requires some form of power. If your water comes from your well, you need to plan for enough emergency power to keep that pump able to do its job for however the disaster lasts. If you are on 'city-water', you need to plan for what you will do if the water stops flowing for an undetermined amount of time.

For most emergency preparedness planning, I am a firm believer in having a backup to your backup plans. That usually means having several ways to ensure that you have what you need for you and your family to survive if you need to survive on your own for an extended period.

Additional water storage is always a good idea. How much you store will be an individual decision.

It is recommended that each of us drink about 64 ounces (1/2 gallon) of water each day. Since our bodies use it and are made up of such a large percentage of water, it's critical that we now stop drinking it. In that sense, it is way more important in the short term than food. Everything that I read says that if we stop bringing water or suitable liquids into our bodies for three days, that could be fatal.

For now, let's consider an emergency plan for a month. If you plan for one month, it will be easy to then at least know what you would need should you plan for two months, or three, etc.

Just for drinking water, you would need at least 15 gallons at the 1/2 gallon per day usage just to keep your body hydrated. If you get into summer months and possibly some physical activity, that could quickly double. For a family of 4, now we're talking 60 gallons of just drinking water for a one-month plan for your family.

I need to stop right here and mention something else. That 1/2 gallon per day is just drinking water. You will also need water for hygiene (washing yourself and cooking utensils regularly) water for pets, etc. Many plans out there call for planning on 1 gallon per person, per day. I personally think that you should plan for needing at least 2 gallons per person per day. As an experiment, try to spend a day using just 2 gallons to see how quickly it is used up.

I don't want to get into crazy math here, but if we each consume 2 gallons per day for 30 days that's 60 gallons per person, or 240 gallons for a family of 4 for one month.

As with my other articles, I'm going to include a few links for you to visit to get more information for your Prepared Ham library. This link from FEMA has some great suggestions for more things to consider and quantities to plan for.

<https://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/f&web.pdf>

Other Available Water Sources

Before I list a few other places to get water, let me mention the two basic classifications of water that determine whether or now we can drink it without purifying it. Those classifications are simple. The water should be considered either Potable, or Non-Potable. Which category that the water that you have ready to drink will be based on what's in the water besides water. This can be simple dirt, living things, or possibly chemicals. Sometimes it's all three!

The water from water treatment plants is tested and treated if necessary, for living things and chemicals. Some chemicals (such as chlorine) are added to the water to kill the living things. There are many regulations concerning how much of any substance can be in our potable water.

While I'm on the topic of treatment plants, there are two parts of your water bill if you are on 'city' water. One is for the water delivered to your home, the other is for the wastewater taken away from your home (sewage). In addition to their function, each of these services require lots of power to pump the water/wastewater in and out of your home. If a major power outage were to ever prevent those pumps from working, not only will your supply of water be stopped from that source, so will your removal of wastewater. All of the wastewater that leaves your home goes into a larger pipe (often 4" diameter) and ultimately into a wastewater treatment plant. During a lengthily major power outage, you could continually flush your toilets using water from other sources, but that drainpipe leaving your home could possibly fill up and backup into your home. That would obviously take long-term major power failure or outage at the wastewater treatment plant. It is something to keep in mind though.

Many of us who have wells also have a septic system for our wastewater disposal. If you have both, you are technically your own water treatment supplier. Your septic system won't normally need power, but your well pump will. The septic system could back up if not properly maintained even without a possible disaster.

The link above describing water lists many places where our water can come from other than water treatment plants and private wells. All these other places need to be considered non-potable water sources needing some form of water treatment. Places such as lakes, streams, ponds, rainwater catchment systems etc. are all places to get water to treat. It's a good idea to

begin looking at where any of these places are should you need to leave your home to get more water.

It's a good idea to store some quantity of water near or in their homes while their supply of potable water is available under normal conditions. Here are links to a couple of containers that some of us use to store 100 gallons or more of water. I normally consider this to be non-potable water in need of final purification prior to drinking it. It's good clean water since I filled the containers from my spigot while city water was available. I have just chosen to purify whatever I have stored (in some cases for several years) in some type of container. I'll explain how I purify it at the end of this article.

7 Gallon Containers

I really like having some of these on hand. They are small enough to be easily moveable for most adults, and each one comes with a spigot already attached. I have been using products produced by this brand for close to 50 years now. Just don't forget to fill them BEFORE you need water.

[Reliance Aqua-Tainer Water Container 7 Gallon - Walmart.com - Walmart.com](#)



[Reliance Aqua-Tainer Water Container 7 Gallon - Walmart.com](#)

Free 2-day shipping on qualified orders over \$35. Buy Reliance Aqua-Tainer Water Container 7 Gallon at Walmart.com

www.walmart.com

^0 Gallon Plastic Barrels

I've been using these for years, and they are practically indestructible. Even if they are left outside and freeze, they simply thaw back out and become a good clean (non-potable) water supply. This link is from the current Facebook Marketplace listing which could go away at any time if all of them are sold. I think that this seller has a lot of them available most of the time. Typically, \$20 each - such a deal!

[Pickle barrels - \\$20 \(Harrisburg\) | Garden Items For Sale | Charlotte, NC | Shoppok](#)

[Pickle barrels - \\$20 \(Harrisburg\) | Garden Items For Sale | Charlotte, NC | Shoppok](#)

704995999sevenFood grade 60 gal pickle barrels .with snap in lid and screw on tops.will need to be rinsed out.20.00 each

www.shoppok.com

100 Gallon Tub Water Container

I'm including this link for two reasons. First, to let you know about a cool product called a Waterbob. I didn't know about these until recently. It's a great way to have 100 gallons of water available if you have an early knowledge of a pending water emergency. They are listed as one time use items and can store potable water (assuming that the water was still potable when you filled it from the tub spigot prior to the disaster).

[Waterbob Emergency drinking Water Storage-wbob \(berkeyfilter.com\)](#)

Your Hot Water Heater

This one most of us already have. The water in it would have gotten there from your well, or city water piping. Depending on the situation, it may not be potable without purifying it before drinking it. You will also need to understand how to safely turn off power or gas to your hot water heater and close the valve to prevent any additional potentially contaminated water from entering the tank.

[How to Get Emergency Drinking Water from a Water Heater: 8 Steps \(wikihow.com\)](#)



[How to Get Emergency Drinking Water from a Water Heater: 8 Steps - wikiHow](#)

A typical home water heater can provide between 30 and 60 gallons of clean drinking water during a disaster. Hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other power outages may prevent you from having many things, but clean drinking water should...

www.wikihow.com

What's the Difference Between Filtering and Purifying Water?

That question could take this article in many different directions with somewhat differing answers. Let's just keep it simple and say that purifying removes more of the tiny creepy-crawly's and a few other things much more than simply filtering.

Let's also narrow this down to purifying drinking water during an emergency where our normal supply of safe drinking water may be compromised. For this planning, I prefer to consider my 'city' water coming into my home to be possibly unsafe to drink directly from the tap. My planning also has me without any 'city' power coming into my home (hopefully temporarily).

The links that I've included throughout this article will give you plenty of additional reading material for learning about all of the good things that you want to leave in the water that you drink, and all of the bad things that you want to get out.

Here are a few items that I like to keep in my preparedness kit at home.

LifeStraws

As with many products, there may be other similar types of these devices available. I personally have the original LifeStraw product and I have several of them in my vehicles, home etc. There is no shelf life, and the reviews online have been very positive.

[Amazon.com : LifeStraw Personal Water Filter for Hiking, Camping, Travel, and Emergency Preparedness, 3 Pack, Blue : Sports & Outdoors](#)

[Amazon.com : LifeStraw Personal Water Filter for Hiking, Camping, Travel, and Emergency Preparedness, 1 Pack, Blue : Camping Water Filters : Sports & Outdoors](#)

Amazon.com : LifeStraw Personal Water Filter for Hiking, Camping, Travel, and Emergency Preparedness, 1 Pack, Blue : Camping Water Filters : Sports & Outdoors

www.amazon.com

Sawyer Products Dual Threaded Mini Filtration System

It's amazing to see the new products that are now available since I first started my purified water preparations. This little filter has some pretty interesting credentials. It is amazingly rated to be able to filter up to 100,000 gallons (that's not a typo). I highly recommend that you visit this link to see how it works and learn a lot about emergency water purification as well.

[Amazon.com: Sawyer Products SP2304 Dual Threaded Mini Water Filtration System: Sports & Outdoors](#)

[Amazon.com: Sawyer Products SP2304 Dual Threaded Mini Water Filtration System: Sports & Outdoors](#)

Buy Sawyer Products SP2304 Dual Threaded Mini Water Filtration System: Electronics - Amazon.com ✓ FREE DELIVERY possible on eligible purchases

www.amazon.com

Berkey Systems - Filter/Purifiers

I've had my Berkey Systems filter/purifier for close to 20 years. If we even suspect that the 'city' water is in question, I start using the Berkey for all of our drinking water. Using it just lets me activate that emergency water portion of my disaster plan. I'm going to include a link directly to the Berkey Systems website, and another link to a website of one of their distributors who have included an excellent article about the small contaminants that are removed by this system. There is a reason that it is used by missionaries throughout the world in places where there is no potable water available. The only current downside to getting one of these filters today is that they are in high demand. Several sizes have been marked SOLD-OUT recently. If you want to get one, it's a good idea to get on one of their waiting lists.

[Berkey® Water Filters - World Leader in Water Purification \(berkeyfilters.com\)](#)

The logo for Berkey Filters features the word "Berkey" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font above the word "Filters" in a slightly smaller, bold, blue sans-serif font. To the right of the word "Filters" is a blue water drop icon.

[Berkey® Water Filters - World Leader in Water Purification](#)

World's largest dealer of the famous Berkey® Water Filter systems. Complete source of information about all Berkey® Filter products including videos, specifications, reviews and manuals.

www.berkeyfilters.com

[Black Berkey Water Purifier Filter](#) | [Florida Puerto Rico Texas](#) | [Big Berkey Royal Crown Imperial Stainless](#) | [Pleasant Hill Grain](#)

[Berkey Water Purifier-Filter](#)

/

[pleasanthillgrain.com](#)

Fire and Purifying Water

Most of us have some way to boil water if needed. I'm going to end this article by describing one of my interesting new toys. Like most Hams, I tend to be somewhat of a gadget-guy (more like a LOT of a gadget-guy)!

While looking around on my favorite YouTube, I stumbled on this cool thing called a Kelly Kettle. This is not a new product. In fact, it was first produced in the 1890's in Ireland. For my final link in this article, I'm going to point you to the page describing this amazing little rocket stove. There is a brief YouTube video on the page that you should find interesting. When I received mine a couple of months ago, I took it up to our cabin as one of my 'toys' for that trip. I couldn't believe how quickly it brought 1.6 quarts of water to a rapid boil just using small scraps of bark, leaves, twigs or anything small and burnable. I was convinced that it would be easy to boil unlimited amounts of water pretty quickly just by keeping the fire going (very easy) and refilling the kettle with more water. Amazing little device.

[History of the Kelly Kettle Camping Kettle & Stove](#) | [Camp Equipment](#) | [Camp Cookware](#) | [Survival kit](#) | [Original & Best](#)

[History of the Kelly Kettle Camping Kettle & Stove](#) | [Camp Equipment](#) | [Camp Cookware](#) - [Camp Equipment](#) | [Camp Cookware](#) | [Survival kit](#) | [Original & Best](#)

The 1890's. The first kettle dates back to the 1890's to a small farm on the shores of Lough Conn, County Mayo, Ireland, when a young Patrick Kelly (Great grandfather of the current Co. Directors), a small farmer and fisherman, developed his first kettle from Tin after a cold winter of tinkering and experimenting in a shed.

[www.kellykettle.com](#)


Well, if you've gotten down this far, congratulations!

You have made it through another of my ramblings. If you do decide to visit any of the links that I've included, you will have plenty to read until next month's article. I'm not sure if that one will be an addendum to Food and Water with additional things to consider, of something on my new hobby of Canning. I guess we'll both need to wait until next month to find out!

73 YCARS Brothers and Sisters - Stay safe out there!

Low Tech Jack - N3NSA

Jack Wiles - N3NSA



YORK COUNTY ARES & SKYWARN

**SKYWARN TRAINING
CLASSES – ONLINE**

No Classes scheduled at the time
of publication.

The Ares group was activated on 3/18 for support during the severe weather March 18, 2021. Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding exercises.

YCARS WALL of ARROGANCE

Honoring YCARS Members for Radio Achievements and Awards

April 2021

Darcy Pach, K4DQP – Howell’s Spectacular Thelypody Award Parks on the Air

Awarded for contacting with 500 unique reference areas (Parks)



Just in case anyone was wondering what the heck a Howell’s Spectacular Thelypody (*Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *Spectabilis*) is and looks like.

Club Updates and News

BE YCARS AWARE

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME to our new members:

A big, warm YCARS welcome to our newest club members, that applied or were accepted into the club in March.

- Steve Gribble – KO4MNO
- William Yoos – KW4DN
- Steve Rodgers – KO4NQQW
- James Hales – N7JHK

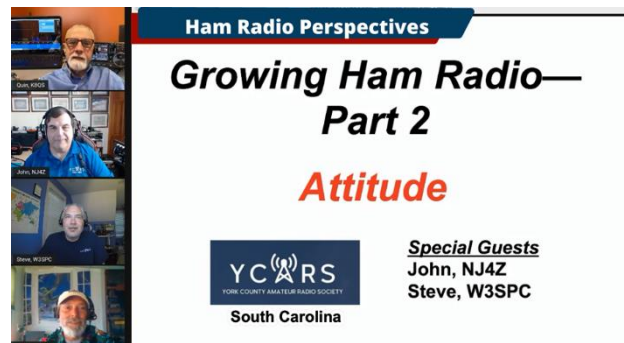
“ASK AN ELMER” The live version...

The club hosted a virtual meeting on Thursday March 4th via Microsoft teams. This meeting was new endeavor for the club, a virtual Elmering session. Geared towards new technicians and generals, the topics covered ranged from basics of programming of handhelds, repeater use and etiquette, basic HF operations and bonding and grounding of equipment and shacks. This successful event was attended by approximately 20 members and had four elmers providing information and answering questions. The replay is available on the clubs YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJotZPA0pOk>. The club will continue these events going forward, separating the Technician and General subject matter into separate events. The separation of the topics will allow for more in depth conversation in a shorter amount of time. Stay tuned for more details and dates.

YCARS chosen to participate in “Ham Radio Perspectives” how to grow the hobby series on YouTube.

Quin K8QS and Tom WA9TDD of “Ham Radio Perspectives” reached out to YCARS in response to comments regarding our club’s growth and activity. Steve W3SPC and John, NJ4Z will be guests on the channels series “Growing Ham Radio”. The second part of the series which featured YCARS was released March 18th and is available on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzoG7RJ0cql>. More of this series to follow as Quin and Tom unpack the success YCARS has had over the past 4 years. The video is also featured on the front page of QRZ.com



Big changes coming to the YCARS radio room and antenna systems

Let me start by thanking all our members who were so very generous when answering the call for financial support to help the club. We also would like to thank some very generous local companies that also provided very generous donations to help the club. Coca-Cola, Harbor Freight and S3 Builders all provided donations to support YCARS. Thanks to these very generous donations, we are happy to announce the antenna repair project, grounding and bonding project, and ALS-600 repairs are fully funded and will begin very soon. The ALS-600 amplifier is at Ameritron for repairs, hope to have it back soon. A new Cushcraft A3S Tri-bander with a 30/40-meter rotatable dipole will be installed on the west tower of the clubhouse. The east tower tri-bander will be replaced with a force 12, five element 17meter monoband antenna and a four element 6meter loop fed antenna, stacked above the 17m beam. This will give the club directional antennas for 6,10,15,17,20, 30 and 40 meters. The club will install new LMR-400 feedlines to the new antennas. New grounding bonding system will be installed along with a whole building surge suppressor. Steve W3SPC, current club president, has been working to upgrade the network infrastructure to support VPN access. These upgrades will allow for at least one of the YCARS station rigs to be available to be operated remotely. More to follow on that. The new camera security camera system is online, a few tweaks need to be made to complete the system, but it is operational. Work to repair the towable antenna mast has begun as well.

In person meetings will resume with limited attendance

As the new Covid-19 vaccinations begin to bring the pandemic to an end, YCARS is cautiously beginning to hold in person events. We are elated to begin to come back to some normalcy of operations. As our commitment membership accessibility is vital to keeping the club membership engaged, we will continue to hold all meetings with virtual access as well. The leadership team and communications committee will continue to update members as we proceed with more engagement and in-person activities. April 1st will be our first in person Operating night, an e-mail invite and reservation will be sent to the club, prior to the meeting. In addition, plans for Summer Field and other club activities have begun in earnest and will be shared as they develop. Also resuming at members discretion is the Thursday Lunch Bunch.

K4BSC - Brent Case – Radio Fox Hunt



Brent K4BSC will be hosting a Fox Hunt on Saturday April 3rd, 2021, 10:00AM. The participants will meet at the Shiland Hill Plaza parking lot on Celanese, behind the Burger King (2645 Celanese Rd). Look for the POTA VAN. Brent will conduct a How-To demonstration on radio direction finding before the hunt.

Save the Date: October 2, 2021 – The 69th ROCK HILL HAMFEST will return!!!!

It is with great JOY the Rock Hill Hamfest committee announces the YCARS sponsored Rock Hill Hamfest will be held October 2nd at new Kirk Baptist Church, 175 Museum Rd. Rock Hill, SC from 8AM until 2PM. The club has petitioned the Roanoke Division to Host the 2021 SC Section State Convention.

We hope to know soon if we will be the host this year.

The Hamfest committee is working to attract vendors for the event and soliciting for raffle prizes. We are looking for volunteers to help with planning and recruitment. Please consider a donation of your time and talent to our largest and most public event of the year.

We have an amazing club, lets make sure we have an amazing Rock Hill Hamfest!

**YCARS VE TEAM now affiliated with W5IY VEC**

David McLaren, KX4UV has graciously volunteered to head up the YCARS VE team. In the evaluation of the Team and testing process, a decision was made by the team to join the W5IY VEC. W5IY provides electronic filing and free testing material to the club. This will reduce some of the fees associated with the team's operations. It also provides the new hams their new call signs on average of three days, instead of the ten to fourteen days submitting through the ARRL. The team has successfully conducted two sessions. If you would like to volunteer to be a VE please reach out to David via KX4UV@YCARS.ORG.

Committee News

Committees - PLEASE consider volunteering for a committee. We'd like to let our members gravitate to the committee that aligns with their personal interests and capabilities to maximize individual member impact. To join a committee, please reach out to the respective committee chair and let them know you're willing and able to help!

Community Service - KX4UV - David McLaren, KX4UV@ycars.org

Communications - NJ4Z - John Gendron, NJ4Z@ycars.org

WHI - AB1CD - Hillary Ramsey, AB1CD@gmx.com

Fundraising - KM4GSF - Linda Fox, lfox368806@yahoo.com

Facilities - WB4QNI - Steve Kelly, WB4QNI@comporium.net

HAM Shack - W3PAL - Andre Ivanov, aeivanov@comporium.net

Bedeep, bedeeep, bedeeep, That's All Folks!!!! See you in May!