

BARC's BARK

October, 2009

Repeaters: 2 m 146.70 MHz (-)
70cm 448.90 MHz (-)

Web Site: www.qsl.net/w0dk/

Officers:

Pres. Jack Ciaccia ----- WMØG
V.Pres. Gary Carroll ----- WØQN
Secy. John Reilly ----- NØTA
Treas. Mike Derr ----- W3DIF
Trustee Rip VanWinkle -- NVØM
BARC Jrs Ellie VanWinkle - NØQCX
Newsletter Mike Stutzer ----- KDØFDJ

Coming Events

Tues. Oct. 20, 7:00 pm BARC monthly meeting, at the Airport Clubhouse at 3335 Airport Rd. Boulder. BARC member **Joe Biniskiewicz, KD6EFP** will speak on "TCP/IP & Local Area Networks"

Subtopics:

- TCP/IP Addressing & Routing
- Ethernet Hubs, Switches & Routers
- Firewalls: Private, Protected & Public Interfaces
- Virtual Local Area Networks (VLANs)
- Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)
- Wireless Security



Rob: Sticks By His Measurements

September Meeting

Rob Sherwood described his thoughtful approach to both RF and audio performance measurement. He persuasively argued that some measurements currently reported by the ARRL need to be carefully interpreted, and presented his own findings about those expensive things that appear in those mouth-watering, full-page ads in the amateur rags. Rob's data pays homage to a somewhat earlier generation of classics and those who continue to operate them. As for me, I live next door to a loud animal called a "Leonberger", and hence have more use for a Woofing Filter than a Roofing Filter.



Dazed, but Not Confused, by Rob's Data

BARCfest '09

I joined a busy throng of flea-marketers at the BARCfest, again held at the Boulder County Fairgrounds Exhibition Bldg. The tables contained everything from vacuum tubes of mysterious origin, to nautical equipment such as Gary WØQN's professional underwater camera and somebody else's Hammarlund HQ-110, a novel electronic boat anchor that weighs twice as much as the purely mechanical one on my cruising sailboat.



From This.....



.....To This



The 100W PEP Boys: Manny, Moe and Jack
(John NØTA, Mike W3DIF and Jack WMØG)



Putting the Cart Before the Horse?



Migrating Starling Impaler
(Patent Pending)

QRP Into the Wind

Most people think that we are happy-go-lucky folks; always the optimists. With the generally lousy propagation induced by the quiescent Sun, and the passing of the summer Sporadic-E season, we QRPers could be forgiven for unplugging our microphones in favor of PSKing into the 40 meter waterholes.

Yet there I was one recent morning, spinning the dial to 14.285 MHz (the "QRP Calling Frequency" you didn't know existed), when a voice CQ from Lars, SM5CAK crackled forth from my tinny FT-817 speaker. Bored to tears, I decided to QRP into what would normally be a hellish cacophony of Kilowatt Alleyists with New Jersey accents. To my amazement, the intrepid Swede came back to my /QRP call, forcing the power-hungry mob to sit helplessly while I completed the QSO. Lars requested my photo-laden QSL card, which he should soon receive.

Many of you naysayers are probably thinking that Lars received my flea-powered emission on a costly stack of 7-element Yagi's planted near a fjord full of salt herring; seashore taxed high enough to make Bjorn Borg weep. Well when Lars sees my beautiful and informative QSL card, he will know it was money well spent.

Just as I was about to go back to full-time PSKing, my mobile 10m rig wheezed to life with Sporadic-E from the Longhorn State. I tried to send a Hi Dee Dee to those plowboys, but my "L'il Wil", 3' magmount whip just couldn't make the trip. I yearned for Tommy T's NSA-approved, cartop vertical. But the L'il Wil has served me well, surviving countless brushes with my garage beams, so it will continue to disgrace the otherwise graceful roofline of my Acura sedan.



Prez Sez

Receiver Considerations....

Last month, our own Rob Sherwood, NCØB gave us a great presentation on what really makes the difference in a good contest CW and SSB receiver. According to Rob, the Noise Floor and the Close-in Dynamic Range make the most difference when listening to a real good receiver. Rob went into detail on the difference between Wide and Close-in Dynamic Range measurements. He also gave us a good tip about attenuating the signals on a noisy band to make better use of the receiver's dynamic range. Rob went on to give us even more information on the use of roofing filters in today's and yesterdays premier receivers. Rob should know, because he was the one -- way back in 1972 -- that was building and using them in his famous Drake receiver modifications. Today, manufacturers like Ten-Tec and Elecraft routinely use roofing filters in the front ends of their top of the line radios. We are very fortunate to have BARC members like Rob Sherwood and others share their expertise on these important ham radio topics. Thanks again, Rob! <http://www.sherweng.com/>

BARCfest Hamonomics:

As we discussed last month, in order to see how the economy is doing, all you need to do is attend BARCfest each year **and you will** be able to come away with the necessary economic data to indicate trends and patterns in the Nation's economy. This is not a generally accepted economic measurement (yet) but like any new science, it takes time to prove that the theory and measurements track well.

As proof of the “Trailing BARCFest Economic Theory,” I would like to present “Exhibit A” below... (the chart). This is an actual representation of the results of every BARCFest for the past ten years, beginning with the year 2000.

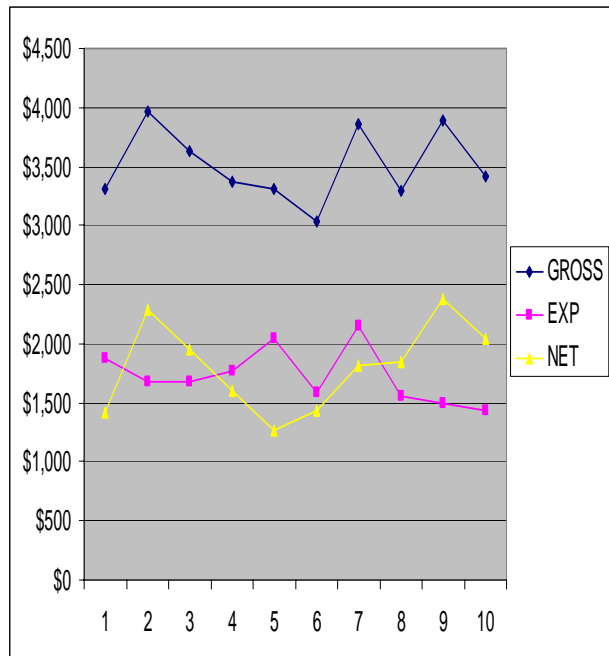


Exhibit A

When economic times were comparatively better (before 2005), BARCFest gross receipts (the top black line) were generally down and when we started into the recession, which many economists believe, began about four years ago, BARCFest’s gross receipts trended up. Notice that this line is inversely proportional to the purported state of the Nation’s economy. The purple line represents the expenses that BARC incurs each year and they have settled down to a more predictable amount over the last few years due to the diligence of our BARCFest Chairman, Mike Derr, W3DIF. You can observe on this chart that our net proceeds (the yellow line) have been rising... which is the product of holding BARCFest expenses to an equitable level while gross sales increased.

Is the Nation in a recession? Are we coming out of one? Is BARCFest attendance affected by the Nation’s economy? Are BARCFest’s ticket and table sales up or down? Are hams eligible for a “Cash for Boat Anchors” federal subsidy? We feel that Government economists will be checking with the BARCFest committee from here on out, and who knows, we hams may eventually get our own presidentially appointed Ham Radio Swapfest Czar!

I want to thank EVERY BARC MEMBER that helped with BARCFest this year. You volunteers were great. We had a nice turnout for table set up the night before with many of our new members there in force. On Sunday, everyone showed up and performed their assigned duties very well. The VE team did their usual great job, and I heard they had some very good results with new licensees and many upgrades. The BARC Juniors were ‘sold out’ in the NW corner. Another excellent job kids! The 3 Chefs concession were almost sold out of food by the end of the day. Tear down and clean up went very well... and the building looked great when we left. Everybody’s help on every assignment made this a very successful BARC fund raising event. Once again... on behalf of BARC, thank you one and all!

BEST 73 ES GUD DX DE JACK WMØG



"If the economy keeps going like this, we will be to sell the rest of this huge ticket roll next year! "

From the Desk of the ARRL

Alpha Radio Products Sold to Seedman

On September 15, Michael Seedman, AA6DY, announced that his company, RF Concepts <<http://www.rfconcepts.com/>>, had purchased Boulder, Colorado-based Alpha Radio Products <<http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/>>. Seedman explained in a press release <http://www.rfconcepts.com/dear_alpha_customers.asp> that when he contacted Alpha to purchase a new amplifier, he was "disappointed to learn that I would not receive it for months." He was told that as each amplifier is made by hand, there was not enough shelf inventory to send a new one right away. Working with Alpha Products president Molly Hardman, WØMOM, "we created a way to capitalize the company in order to put amplifiers in inventory for immediate availability. Customers will no longer have to wait weeks or months to add an Alpha product to their station." Seedman said that RF Concepts "will focus on shipping our backlog of Alpha amplifiers and building sufficient product to ship from stock. We will honor our existing customer commitments -- including warranties, customer and technical support and repairs -- and keep our extensive parts inventories to support the more than 10,000 Alpha amplifiers in the market." Hardman will be staying on as Vice President of Sales for RF Concepts.

The K7RA Solar Update

Sweet memories of that 11-day run of sunspots ending on the second day of this month will eventually fade. So far, the number of spotless days is seven -- or perhaps eight by later today -- with the last sunspot seen on October 1. A peek at [the latest STEREO images](#) shows two active areas in our Sun's southern hemisphere beyond our direct view, but it is hard to tell if these will emerge as sunspots when they appear over the eastern limb. A rough guess has the first one possibly emerging around October 10, with the second around a week later. Currently, the solar flux forecast shows flux values lower than 70 through October 15, then around 72 during the two-week period from October 16-30. The second spot is seen on the look-ahead image, and is passing into the invisible area, now slightly more than 60 degrees wide in latitude, or about one-sixth of the solar surface. The same NOAA/USAF forecast predicts the same very quiet geomagnetic conditions we've seen for some time, with planetary A index around 5. Two very small increases are predicted for October 11-12, with an A index of 7, and October 24-25, with the A index at 8.

Larry Banks, W1DYJ, of Woburn, Massachusetts, sent in an article from New Scientist magazine titled "[Phantom Storms: How Our Weather Leaks into Space](#)." It has many interesting details about our ionosphere and stratospheric warming.

BARC Board Meeting
October 13, 2009, at Rip & Ellie's

1. Attendance:

Jack Ciaccia (WMØG) – BARC President
Gary Carroll (WØQN) – BARC Vice President
Michael Derr (W3DIF) – BARC Treasurer
John Reilly (NØTA) – BARC Secretary
Ellie Van Winkle (NØQCX) – BARC Juniors
Rip Van Winkle (NVØM) – BARC Trustee

2. Treasurer's Report: As of Sep 30, \$7,970.26.

3. Hamfest: Made \$2,050.16 + \$800 on surplus equipment. Great volunteer turnout. A proposal was made to let BARC members (with a current membership) enter the hamfest early next year.

4. Membership: Current 185 (unrenewed ~ 48)

5. BARC JRs: 30 members. BARCfest raised enough money for Dayton and Field Day. Carole Perry, WB2MGP (Dayton Youth Forum) visited and 66 people came to see her at the Van Winkle's house. Special VE session scheduled for Oct 31. Just starting Dayton selection and preparation.

6. Repeater: Planning an orientation visit to the site on Oct 30. Will be upgrading to the RC-210 controller soon. Plan to maintain the autopatch capability.

8. Remote HF Sites:

- a. Airport site up and running
- b. North site: TS 480 send to Burqhardt's for repair. Bought a 3-element SteppIR. It will be available in a couple of months.

9. D-Star:

- a. Antenna and tri-plexer still tied up in government procurement process. ETA unknown.
- b. BARC now has another 2m repeater pair for D-Star use
- c. Target site: CRA site on Lee Hill.
- d. Will have 2m, 70cm, and 1.2 GHz capability

10. BARC Programs – Gary Carroll:

October: Joe Biniskiewicz KD6ECF– "TCP/IP & Local Area Networks"

November: Homebrew Night II

December: Elections and Brian Wood, WØDZ (DZ Kits)

January: Holiday dinner. Looking at Carrabba's

DVD's: Gary Carroll has been videotaping our meetings and has DVD's available (\$10). The Sep meeting DVD with Rob Sherwood is very popular!

11. Colorado QSOP: not much BARC participation

12. BCARES:

- a. Colorado ARES no longer associated with Pat Lambert, WØIPL
- b. Continuing to do ATV for CU football games
- c. Hospital exercise on Sep 26 was mostly successful

13. BARC web page: Edna Hetchler is the new web mistress. Will be transitioning older material to the new format.

14. Newsletter: Trying to get it out a little earlier. Really need technical articles!

15. Tom Behler, KB8TYJ, has made two suggestions:

- a. Saturday morning breakfast
- b. Weekly BARC VHF net

For Sale

HyGain HG-37SS - 36' Self-supporting Crank-up Tower

HyGain EX-14 "Explorer 14" Tri-Bander

HyGain QK-710 Quad-Band Kit (40 meters) for the EX-14

HyGain CD-45-II Rotator System

CONTACT: Greg Hine <mailto:greghine@gmail.com>

IC-775 Transceiver <http://www.rigpix.com/icom/ic775.htm>

CONTACT: Dick Kiefer <mailto:richard.kiefer@KED-Wireless.com>

Sony ICF 2010 (best shortwave portable receiver that Sony made) :\$200 firm

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/479>

Alinco DJ-X10 handheld scanner; VHF,UHF+*HFSSB!* (make an offer, I hate Alinco)

<http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/widerxvr/3610.html>

WinRadio Planar Log-Periodic Amplified VHF/UHF Receive Antenna: \$65 sort-of firm

<http://www.winradio.com/home/ax31b.htm>

CONTACT: Mike Stutzer <mailto:michael.stutzer@colorado.edu>

WANTED: The low-down, dirty, disgusting snake who stole my Yaesu FT-60R HT (#7G511146) in Fort Collins, on or about 9/25. :

If found, please **CONTACT:** N1AOK at charlie.wilber@gmail.com or notify the Fort Collins Police Department at (970) 419-3375.