



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB DECEMBER 2013

NEWSLETTER

Baofeng UV-5R tip by KB2VMU Matt Degen

On The Baofeng UV-5R, there's no need to program separate memory channels for different power levels on each repeater. Simply press the # key (bottom right key of the keypad) to toggle between high and low power. This following website has a lot of great info on that HT.

For other helpful tips visit the website:

<http://www.miklor.com/uv5r/>



In the Shack

We now have keys to the shack that can be checked out by club members who want to use club equipment during lunchtime. Contact KF2P for details... X5467

New License Classes Forming

A Technician License Class and and General License Class will begin on January 6th. To Register, please contact me at X7779 or by email.

gstevens@bnl.gov

-Gary Stevens

The BNLARC Technician Class Success!

Our Technician license class started with twenty eight students. Twenty two students who started finished the class with a Technician Class license or better. The final result is the we have one student who earned an Amateur Extra License, seven students who earned their General Class License and fourteen



students who now hold a Technician Class License.

We are now holding a Friday at noon Newbie Net so that our new license holders can become comfortable using the air waves and to answer questions about using ham equipment in general. Everyone is welcome so please check in!



The BNL Amateur Radio Club Holiday Breakfast 2013.

By Gary Stevens,
KD5SDQ

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these club members from a hearty holiday breakfast!



In all, eleven members and guests attended. We considered rescheduling but due to the proximity to the upcoming holidays, an alternate date was unavailable. It was suggested that we do it again in July so that others might have to opportunity to participate in the camaraderie. I'm thinking an new tradition... we could all meet for lunch at Joe's Crab Shack in Riverhead sometime! What are your thoughts?



Simple Instructions for Echolink

The IRLP node is Node number **4677**. The EchoLink node is K2BNL-R with a node number of: **248798**

You can receive calls or place calls from/to either network but not at the same time. Presently, the EchoLink system allows only one connection at a time. This can be increased some and is dependent on the bandwidth available. There are Apps for iPhone and Droid devices for EchoLink. IRLP is a different animal and does not allow PC connections only radios. see: <http://irlp.net>

To make a call out on IRLP just enter the Node number you want to call. see: <http://status.irlp.net/> for nodes Hit 73 to disconnect

To make a call out on EchoLink just enter (*) + the Node number you want to call. The (*) tells the controller that you are making a call to an EchoLink node. see: <http://echolink.org/logins.jsp>
Hit 73 to disconnect

To see the status of the node: <http://stn4677.ip.irlp.net:15426/irlpvmon/>

Antenna Workshop

As part of the Technician class, we held an antenna building workshop during lunchtime at the lab. It was so much fun that we want to do this again! This time we want to invite all club members as well. If you are interested, contact me and I will let you know when we have it again, gstevens@bnl.gov

Morse Code Class

K2FP (Nick) is hosting a class for those wanting to learn/practice morse code. If you are interested in learning code, contact Nick kf2p@bnl.gov

2014 Club Dues

by KD5SFQ

It is that time of the year once again!

If you have not paid your dues for 2014 yet, please do so now.

Welcome New Members!

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members:

Bill Eisele	KD2FFL
Razvan Popescu	WA2RP
Ivy Olderding	KD2FFH
Keith Radich	KD2FFM
Rich Casella	KD2FFA
Pati Kewish	KD2FFG
Lisa Soto	KD2FFJ

Ham Radio University



Event

Sunday January 5, 2014
Briarcliffe College
1055 Stewart Ave
Bethpage, NY 11714

Spreading Ham Radio Knowledge and Know How

Keynote Speaker
Mike Lisenco N2YBB



Our Club Repeater and Echolink - The rest of the story

By Jon Andrews K1IMD

In February-March 2012 I was invited to attend a meeting for the upcoming installation of a new radio console system for the BNL Fire Department and the radio shop. I met Anand Kandasamy (KD2FFN) of Instrumentation and Bob Healy from ITD. We discussed the up coming project and the details of how we would go about the project.

As the project evolved over time it expanded to 4 radio consoles, Digital P25 & Encryption and comprised all the radio systems at the facility. So what went from a couple week project became a 3 month project! The reason I mention this is that I was at BNL a lot of days over a 3-4 month period. I was working installing and tweaking equipment all over the facility. One place I spent a good amount of time was at the tower site Trailer 834 and by chance who would come wondering by in early September 2012? Rich Conte (N2RRQ). By this time I had peeked inside the BERA cabinet a couple times, noticed the EchoLink PC that was not working... I had also been listening on the repeater during my commute and while on site but never heard any activity.

Rich saw my work truck parked out out by the tower and noticed what appeared to be ham antennas on it. He was correct of course. The obvious antenna was the HF Mini Screwdriver, a dead give a way. He knocked on the door we did the formalities and he said he was the guy that keeps the repeater running. My response "When are you going to get rid of that piece of junk?" To which Rich responded that it has been a challenge to keep working with no working test equipment and the receiver seemed to have problems. My response "I had a Maggorie 220 repeater many years ago and is was horrible... and that it is not surprising that using a mobile PA would have noise problems." I also added that a repeater like that should not be at a site like this... Rich responded that it was what they got... My Response was "I will see what I can do.."

The Fall NEARFest hamfest was in a couple weeks and my plan was going be to shop for a new repeater for BERA... I called a very good friend of mine from Maine, Paul Alberghini W1IMD as I was going to meet him at the hamfest. He asked are you going to be looking for anything? I said I was going to look for a good UHF repeater for one of the local clubs... an MSF5000 high power or something similar... His response "Well you are not going to have to look very far... how many do you want?" I said two... he said OK... come to NEARFest with your Excursion empty! I still have two more in my garage... the rest is history...

Hurricane Sandy slowed up my delivery schedule because my tower came down and big pine tree came down... everything was a mess... not all that much better now but getting there. I did have to re-tune the repeater as it was in the commercial band and originally came from a mountaintop in Vermont. I made a few ham mod's one which kills the PL (CTCSS) on the output when there is loss of an input signal. This is required to allow remote links to communicate without delay...

On December 7th 2012 I hauled the beast over to the trailer and hooked it up to the antenna using and old Motorola Duplexer, it was tuned OK but was pretty lossy. Rich arrived just about the time I was ready to flip the switch. Later on I tried to tune the duplexer and made it worse... Rich got someone to repair the flaky tuning but it was still very lossy so the duplexer from the old repeater was put in line and it worked pretty well... subsequently the pre-amp from the old repeater was added in line with the receiver and that is the way it has been for a while now.

The repeater is a Motorola MSF5000 CXB reversion (computer programmable verses a CLB EPROM programmable model that requires a very special and rare programmer to program) capable of 100 watts presently set to about 80 watts out. These repeaters are real workhorses see: <http://www.repeater-builder.com/motorola/msf/msf-intro.html> and many would be still in service if it were not for the FCC narrow banding!

Calendar

January 6th at 12 noon

The Technician Classes and General Classes will begin.

It will be held on M-W-F each week until completion. Please show your support by attending a class. You can help with demonstrations and by fielding questions from students.

January 21st at 12 noon

Club meeting onsite at the Shack.

Contributors

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YOUR NAME GOES
HERE

Let's face it, clubs are more fun when evryone participates. Share your HAM tips, projects and experiences with us by writing a short blurb for the NEWSLETTER. Just send me your article or chicken scratch. It's all good! gstevens@bnl.gov