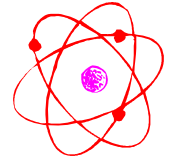


Columbia Amateur Radio Association Newsletter



August, 2000

7:30 PM Tuesday, August 22 Room 401 Gateway Center

Learn How PSK-31 Can Help You Hear

Signals in the Noise

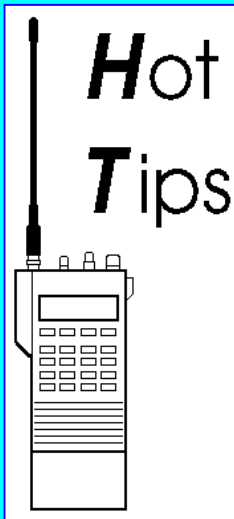
Presented by
Jon Wilson, KF30

This month's meeting will feature a demonstration of PSK-31, which stands for Phase Shift Keyed (modulation) at 31 bits per second. It is a keyboard to keyboard communications method which uses a personal computer as the terminal device. No TNC or similar modem device is needed, only a personal computer, a sound card, and suitable cabling.

PSK-31 is a very narrow (31 Hz) modulation and it is very bandwidth efficient. The computer can detect signals that the human ear cannot pick out. It is very resistant to noise. It is a mode like RTTY but uses a code with a heritage back to CW. Unlike packet Radio, PSK-31 does not use protocol handshaking. This means that a one-to-many conversation (NET) is possible.

We will discuss the latest PSK31 software as well as the "PSKGNR" front end by WD5GNR. We will also demonstrate "PSK31" and "Digipan" by KH6TY and UT2UZ - on the air.

We will supply a list of WWW URLs. We will have "PSK31" and "Digipan" software available on floppy diskettes. There is no fee charged by the developers for the use of these programs. You just have to try it ...



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RACES

The RACES Communications Exercises (COMEX) for July and August have been cancelled statewide as well as in Howard County. We will resume regular COMEXs on the second Tuesdays of September. In the interim, we continue to conduct HF nets throughout the summer months.

On July 11, we conducted the HF net, beginning on 75M, then QSYing to 10M to continue our evaluation of ground wave propagation throughout the section, and finally returning to 75M.

Participation was quite good during this exercise. The following stations participated in the HF Net on 75M. County representation is also indicated. Call signs preceded by an asterisk (*) were also heard on 10M. HOWA RACES/ARES participants are indicated in bold font.

(*) W3YVQ, BACO	KB3AMO, STMA
(*) N3ZKP, BALT	(*) N3GT, ANAR
(*) WA1QAA; HOWA	(*) N3WKE, BACO
W3TOM, CHAR	(*) KO4A, ANAR
(*) N3QXW, ANAR	(*) WA3WRT, BACO
(*) W3BOB, ANAR	W3COU, CECI
(*) N3VNG, FRED	(*) W3CCI, HOWA
K3WJ, GARR;	(*) K3UOD, HOWA
(*) W3DFW, ALLE	(*) KB3TB, PRGE
KB3DVC, PRGE	W3YD, PRGE
(*) N3SEO, ANAR	K3FOR, ANAR
KA3SKW, GARR	(*) KZ3AB, HOWA
(*) N3ZOC, ANAR	KK3F, PRGE

N3JFI Bedford, PA (10M relay via W3DFW).

Dave Carr, W3VK, was NCS for the evening net session.

Sincere thanks to all who took the time and made the effort to join us, especially during the 10M portion of the net.

Don't forget to note the next COMEX on your calendar. It will be on the second Tuesday of September – the 12th, and will begin at 1930 hours local time. See you on the ARES/RACES net, September 5th, the first Tuesday of September. The net meets at 1930 hours on 147.135/R-.

de WA1QAA

Maryland Summer Biathlon Public Service Event

We have been requested to provide four volunteers with handheld radios to support the (first) Maryland 2000 USBA Summer Biathlon event, scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2000 in Marriottsville, Maryland – on the grounds of the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore, Inc. (AGC) Patapsco Range facility (at the intersection of Marriottsville Road and Wards Chapel Road).

Our support would allow for "health and safety" monitoring and reporting of event activities, particularly along the 6K running course (actually made up of a 2K "loop" course run three times), and especially if any competitors have a problem during the event. Four volunteers from your organization

would support three manned positions along the course, with a fourth "floater" person to allow rotating a relief person or manning another position should it become necessary. The estimated duration of the actual Biathlon competition event is approximately 4 hours. The starting time for the race will be 11:00AM, but volunteers should be at the Range by 10:00AM to become familiar with the course.

If you are willing to volunteer for this unusual event, please call Bob Scarburgh at 410 465-2421.

From The Prez...

In addition to the public service request that you have just read, we have received a special request for assistance:

"My brother in law lives in Columbia MD. He has had a stroke. And he lives alone. His home health care people know nothing about hi fi and video. And he is now breaking things and can't figure out what he has done.

We could really use some help in the form of someone that would be willing to spend an hour or two say every other week and help him set up and play with his high end audio and video (DVD and home theater).

Any help would be greatly appreciated

Thanks

Jeff (formerly, a long, long time ago KN3ATQ)"

If you are willing to spend a bit of time helping Jeff's brother, please give me a call at 410 465-2421.

Bob Scarburgh, KC3EV

Hamfest Help

I hate to rush the arrival of Fall, which seems to get here all too soon, as it is, but Hamfest time is soon to be upon us. We are looking for volunteers to spend 1 – 2 hours at one of the following positions:

- Ticket sales at the gate
- Parking direction
- Tail-gate parking direction
- Talk-in operation

Please call me if you can spare an hour or two and are willing to help with one of these tasks. In return for your efforts, you will get into the hamfest for free and be entered in the workers' prize drawings.

The Hamfest will be on October 8, this year, at the Howard County Fairgrounds. As always, we will have our table toss party on Saturday afternoon.

Credit Where Credit is Due...

The pictures of the Field Day satellite station gang in last month's newsletter should have been credited to Jim Pilotte, N3ZPL. My apologies, Jim!

TenTec Kits

TenTec, who produces a fine series of American designed and manufactured amateur gear, is offering an unusual promotion to ham clubs. They will allow us to sell any of their kits through the club, and will give the club \$25 out of every \$100 that we take in. Not a bad deal at all. Several of our members have built and are using their gear and speak quite highly of it.

Here is a short list of what's available:

Short wave Receiver (100 kHz – 30MHz, digital tuning)	\$195
5W 6 Meter FM Xcvr	\$195
HF CW QRP Xcvr (20, 30, 40, or 80 Meters)	\$95
HF/2 Meter Wattmeter	\$49
2 Meter FM/Packet Xcvr	\$195

They also have a whole range of mini-kits providing all kinds of useful station accessories, receivers, pre-amps, speech processors, etc., all under \$30.

There are a couple of possibilities here: a club project, perhaps at a

club meeting, a display at the CARA table at the hamfest, and an on-going fund raiser for the club. I will bring the brochure to the meeting for all to see.

Your response will likely determine where we go from there.

2000 Maryland QSO Party

Rod Clayton, KA3BHY, and Jim Pilotte, N3ZPL, operated from Rod's yard and racked up 150 contacts.

CARA QSL Card

Rod and Jim suggested that we send out QSL cards to confirm the contacts during the QSO Party. That's a great idea, but I don't believe that CARA has a QSL card!

Here's an opportunity for all you creative types out there. How about designing a QSL card for CARA? It should incorporate the club logo and be relevant to the club and our activities and could use photos and/or graphics.

Submit your designs by e-mail, snail mail, or in person. The nicest design, in the opinion of the club board of directors, will win two year's free membership in CARA and two tickets to this year's hamfest.

For Sale

- Maxon 4 channel 25 watt UHF Transceiver with CTCSS (tone) board

Commercial radio tuned to amateur frequencies
Fully crystallized, crystals can be traded for local frequencies
With mic, cords, manual
\$50

- Kenwood TS-430S HF Transceiver

Power supply, cables & manual
\$400

- 3. Clegg FM 21 15 Watt 220 MHz Transceiver

Uses 2 crystals/channel
\$10

- Genave GTX-200 10 Watt 2m Transceiver

Uses 2 crystals/channel
Good packet rig
\$10

- GE Custom Exec 25 Watt 2m Transceiver

Uses 2 crystals/channel
\$15

- Kenwood TM 251A 25 Watt Synthesized 2m Transceiver w/ 440 MHz Receive

\$100

- Dow Key DKC-TRM-1 HF Transmit/Receive Switch w/ power supply
(Used to isolate receiver during transmit, when operating separate receiver)
\$10

- Dentron Jr. Antenna Tuner
\$25

Contact Dave Prestel, W8AJR, 410 203-9432, if you're interested in any of these items.

Antenna Supplies

We have antenna wire and feedline left over from our antenna building program and are making available to the members at cost. Contact Dave Prestel, (W8AJR) at (410) 203-9432 or dprestel@sprintmail.com.

450Ω Twinlead \$.19/foot
Stranded Cu Wire \$.15/foot
PL-259 w/adaptor \$1.50 each

If you want to build your own J-pole antenna, of the type that we built at the meeting, the directions, courtesy of Alan, N3AC, are available on request

Dave Prestel, W8AJR

**GO TO THE HAMFEST FOR
FREE!**

BE A CARA VOLUNTEER

Club Information

Repeaters (K3CUJ)

147.135 / R+ Net repeater. CTCSS: 156.7 Hz

147.39 / R+ Open autopatch (“*” to activate, “#” to clear) and direct dial 911

448.275 / R- CTCSS: 156.7 Hz

449.475 / R- CTCSS: 156.7 Hz

Mailing Addresses

Club Business

CARA

P.O. Box 911

Columbia, MD 21044

CARA@QSL.net

Newsletter

c/o Dave Prestel W8AJR

10160 Tanfield Court

Ellicott City, MD 21042

dprestel@sprintmail.com

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Activities

Club meeting: the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. , Rm 401, Gateway Center, on Columbia Gateway Drive, off of Rt. 175, near I-95. Monitor net repeater for directions.

On-the-air net: Net repeater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting night.

On-the-air RACES / ARES net: Net repeater at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month.

On-the-air RACES exercise: Net repeater at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday each month.

CARA breakfast: 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month, at Jilly's Restaurant in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center. If you wish to attend, contact Bob Scarborough (KC3EV).

Executive board meeting: Held monthly. Contact Bob Scarborough (KC3EV) for the time and place. All members are welcome.

CARA on the World Wide Web: Visit us at <http://www.qsl.net/cara/> for the latest “hot tips” and electronic edition of the newsletter.

Officers and Chairpersons

Officers:

President	Bob Scarborough	KC3EV	H: 410-465-2421	rscarburgh@aol.com
Vice-president	Dave Prestel	W8AJR	H: 410-203-9432	dprestel@sprintmail.com
Secretary	Dan Goulette	N3LDC	H: 410-796-2587	danjanis@connex.net
Treasurer	John Pinkston	W3GJN	H: 410-531-3450	jpinksto@erols.com
Member-at-large	Tim Titus	W1TRT	H: 410-730-8420	w1trt@aol.com
Past President	Larry Russo	K3TFU	H: 301-725-2840	lrusso@erols.com
Trustee	Alan Chedester	N3AC	H: 301-596-6543	alanc1@juno.com

Committee Chairpersons:

Elmers	John Pinkston	W3GJN	H: 410-531-3450	jpinksto@erols.com
Field Day	Alan Chedester	N3AC	H: 301-596-6543	alanc1@juno.com
	John Pinkston	W3GJN	H: 410-531-3450	jpinksto@erols.com
FAR Rep	Tim Titus	W1TRT	H: 410-730-8420	w1trt@aol.com
Hamfest	Dave Prestel	W8AJR	H: 410-203-9432	dprestel@sprintmail.com
Newsletter	Dave Prestel	W8AJR	H: 410-203-9432	dprestel@sprintmail.com
Publicity	<i>Vacant</i>			
Social	<i>Vacant</i>			
Quartermaster	<i>Vacant</i>			
Technical	Dave Prestel	W8AJR	H: 410-203-9432	dprestel@sprintmail.com
T-MARC Rep	Dave Prestel	W8AJR	H: 410-203-9432	dprestel@sprintmail.com
VE Testing	Bob Scarborough	KC3EV	H: 410-465-2421	rscarburgh@aol.com
Youth Education	Dave Anderson	WA3WZX	H: 410-465-8557	danderson@juno.com
Youth Group	<i>Vacant</i>			

ARES / RACES:

ARES	Ed Wallace	K3EF	H: 410-465-0042	k3ef@aol.com
RACES	Mike Carr	WA1QAA	H: 410-799-0403	bamcc@erols.com

August, 2000 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Breakfast at Jilly's Restaurant
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 VE @ Laurel
20	21	22 CARA meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September, 2000 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 ARES / RACES Net	6	7	8	9 Breakfast at Jilly's Restaurant
10	11	12 RACES COMEX	13	14	15	16 Laurel VE York Hamfest
17 York Hamfest	18	19 ARES / RACES Net	20	21	22	23
24 FAR Fest Bowie, MD	25	26 CARA meeting	27	28	29	30
Dates to Remember: 9/24 – FAR Fest – Bowie Baysox Stadium, Bowie, MD						