

Messonger 2.0

November 2024 The Volume 5 Issue 3



Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club's Quarterly Newsletter

W1DDD.org

ARRL FIELD FILLED WITH "RADIO ACTIVITY"

BY MARK HOFSTRA — [KW1X](#)

This year's Field Day didn't disappoint, unless you're talking about the weather. On Saturday near dinner we probably had over an inch of rain in less than an hour! Total time of rainfall for the event was probably about three hours. What a mess!

I was impressed with the number of contacts made. Twenty-six people signed up compared to 40 the previous year, yet we were still able to make 1,451 contacts, not including the GOTA station. That was below the 2023 totals which was 1,647 contacts. I'm thinking we lost the 196 QSO's due to the rain delay.

CW was the mode of choice with 925 of the 1,451 contacts. FT-8/FT-4 took second with 357 contacts and phone pulled up the rear with 169 QSO's. The hot band was 17 meters with 558 contacts. Twenty meters was a close second with 530 QSO's and after that it was 15, 80, 6 and 10, respectively.

Total points were down only 46 points from the 2023 total. I think



BVARC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday Dec 7 5-9pm
At Bella Restaurant

Tickets will be available at the regular meeting on November 25th and the deadline for purchasing the tickets.

Please Pay by Check.

Tickets are \$33 per person for members & guest

If you can't attend the meeting you can purchase tickets by mail sending your payment and information to either committee members:

Bob and Ginny Jones 49 Farmview Drive, Cumberland, RI 02864

Ray and Patty Vilnit 7 Park Street, Blackstone, MA 01504



this was due to the effort we placed on bonus points. In particular the WinLink totals, which gave us an extra 300 points that we didn't have from the previous year. Thanks to everyone that made WinLink possible!

All the equipment seemed to survive despite the downpours. The tri-bander had some issues but that may have been due to a setup error, as I may have not tightened up all the connections. The club may have to invest in a newer antenna in the future.

This year I was placing a little more emphasis on networking all the stations so that we could see our score in real time. It was fun watching the totals on the contest scoreboard as well as each operator's totals.

I want to thank everyone from the members who helped with setup to the members who made and brought food. Despite the weather I think it was a great turnout! Nothing could have been achieved if it wasn't for the club's teamwork.

All in all, I hope everyone had as much fun as I did!



From Our President

Hello Fellow BVARC Members,

Rolling back the clock on my service to BVARC, I find myself recalling some fascinating moments from humble beginnings.

On May 11, 2019, I was approached by the then Board Of Governors to review and revise our current bylaws and position these bylaws to be acceptable for the future consideration of a 501-(C)-3 application. I then said to myself, "What could be easier than this?" This shouldn't take more than a few months, six months tops, and then we can move onto something else. Little did any of us know at the time that we would have to do this work during the COVID 19 pandemic, over Zoom meetings, emails and many text messages. But, we all worked together and ratified the new bylaws on Jan. 31, 2022.

Later in 2019, I was approached to run for BVARC president. Having been in the role before as president of the Enfield Connecticut Radio Amateur Group I said to myself "What could be easier than this?" In November 2019, I was elected to the presidency while standing in the parking lot of Our Saviour's Parish with a mask on. Given COVID was in full force at the time, the then president, Matt Penttila, NA1Q, quickly handed me the gavel, black leather bag, a set of keys and said good luck. The first few of our meetings, thereafter, were not face to face but Zoom meetings. We all worked together to get through it and we were stronger for it when we finally were able to meet in person once again.

Throughout my administration BVARC has grown from about 56 members to 77 members today. We've worked to streamline our monthly meetings, reorganize our finances, and build structure to our various committees while keeping our signature VE Sessions, Field Day activities (Summer and Winter), and Christmas parties strong. We worked together to develop an award-winning quarterly newsletter and demonstrated our generosity through the development of a scholarship award program and continued to support the activities and presentations at the Consortium.

None of these and other matters have been completed alone or in a vacuum. It's the membership, officers and board of directors that

has to be thanked for their participation and organizational skills which are put to the test each and every time. Without these individuals giving their time and making it happen, BVARC achievements would not have happened.

Thank you to each and every member, officer and board member that has gone above and beyond to make this club so very successful.

Since I took office as president I have ended each letter with, "*If everyone does only one thing, there won't be anything left to do but to have fun!*" All I can ask you to do is to volunteer, do something to help our club. Start small, and ask for help. I promise you'll get much more out of it than you put in.

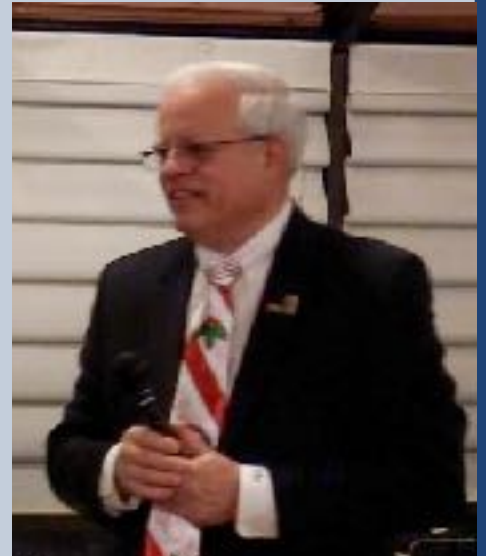
Thank you all for your continued support during my tenure as your president and CEO of BVARC. I'm not leaving BVARC, just stepping aside allowing for someone else to take over the office and bring us to the next logical level. Please give the next president the same support that you have given me and we will be in great hands.

73,

N1RGK

Ken Trudel

President & CEO, BVARC



MAKING SIMPLE POWER POLE ENDS

BY MATT PENTILLA-NA1Q

I was attending HamXposition 2024 and the fellow at ClubGearOnline (the POTA Booth) was building these simple little power pole ends which allow for disconnecting the power pole plugs from the wire with no desoldering or decrimping or cutting off the crimped contacts inside the power pole housing.

This setup uses the traditional 30A Anderson power pole set of one red, one black, two 1" long pieces of 10AWG solid copper wire, some 3/4" shrink tubing and two WAGU 221-2401 lever nut inline wire splice connectors.

Assembly is pretty simple. Solder or crimp one end of each of the 10GA wires into the Anderson power pole connector contact. Then slide each contact into the power pole housings, making sure the notch of the contact locks into the spring in the housing. Next, place both power pole connectors together, with the wide portion of the red hood of the housing on the right when looking down at it.

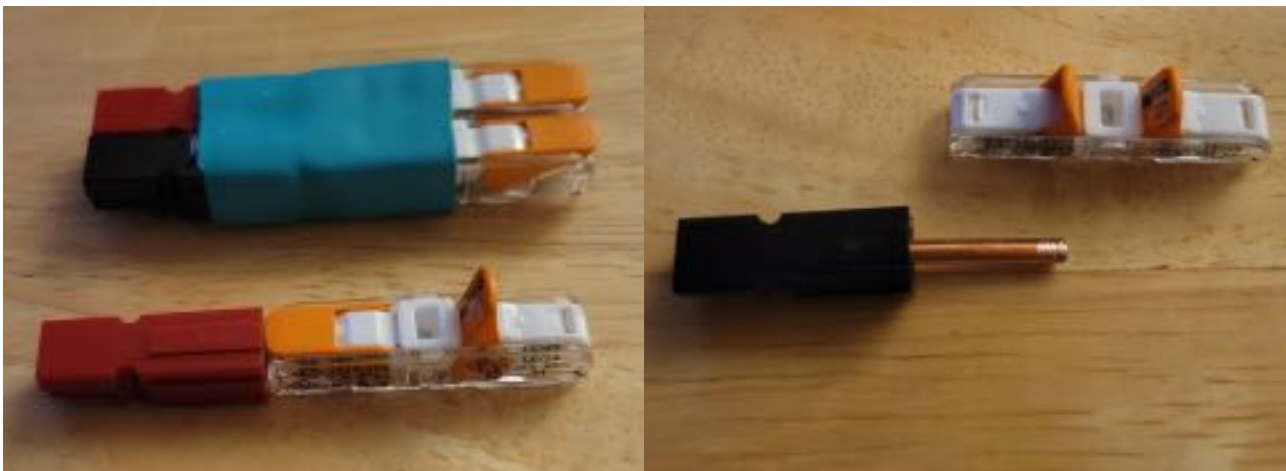
Then using the WAGU connectors, flip one of the orange levers up, slide the end with the lever up

on the other end of the 10GA wire, keeping the orange lever sides facing up toward you, and press inward until the WAGU connector hits the back of the Anderson power pole housing.

Now drop the lever down. This will lock the WAGU to the wire. Do this for both wires. making sure to keep both levers on the same side and parallel to each other.

Next, just double check continuity with a multimeter, making sure the contact makes connection to the other end of the splice connector. Remember anything can mess up in production, like a bad splice connector or failure to lock to the wire.

Finally, take a 1 to 1-1/4" piece of 3/4" inside diameter (before shrinking) shrink tubing and slide it over the power poles just past the little pin hole and make sure the tubing is long enough to cover the inner set of latching levers. Heat the shrink tubing just enough to bring it down to size and your connector is now ready to be used and re-used multiple times. Make a few and toss them in the Go Kit as a just in case.



Welcome Aboard

BVARC has welcomed several new members to its roster since the last newsletter, Mark Rousseau, KC1UWQ, Tom Zeibig, KC1TNZ, and Rich Barnett, N9NP. If you meet them at club meetings or functions, please say hello.

CONSORTIUM CONCEPTS

A Continuously Evolving Learning Tool

BY JIM JOHNSON - K1GND

Back in 1990, Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, noticed a growing problem among Hams. What Bob realized was the lack of an understanding of the fundamental concepts of antennas, power supplies, radio wave propagation, morse code and basic electronic fundamentals, all required qualifications for acquiring an FCC-issued amateur radio license prior to the current multiple-choice examination.

Bob examined the problem and decided this was an opportunity to remedy the shortfall by starting teaching sessions covering basic radio concepts. These sessions, he decided, would be conducted by experienced hams.

The concept evolved into what is now the Consortium. Hard to believe, but the Consortium is in its 30th year of supporting Bob's belief that Hams could best learn from experienced Hams (Elmers).

Since its inception, there have been many changes in Ham radio. One only has to look back to the time of Marconi (who started with a vertical antenna) and realize the variations of the simple vertical. In Marconi's time, there wasn't even an understanding of atmospheric,



ground waves, alternating current, vacuum tubes, solid-state electronics and all the other components that make up today's modern Ham radio.

Subjects covered in the past 30 years include basic antenna construction, power from the pole to your radio, propagation, power supplies, coaxial cable descriptions, soldering, digital modes, CW operation and many other topics and modes reflecting today's modern radio.

You can join the Consortium which is held on the first Monday of the month at the Manville Sportmen's Rod and Gun Club, 250 High Street, Manville, R.I. 02838. Meetings last 40 to 60 minutes beginning at 7 p.m.

Consider joining us. There is no admission fee or club membership required. For the meeting schedule, check W1DDD.ORG and click on the [Consortium in the heading](#).

Upcoming Consortium Schedule

2024

January 8 - All About Vertical Antennas

February 5 - All About Horizontal Antennas

March 4 - All About Half Wave End Fed Antennas And Transformers

April 1 - All About SSB Settings , Protocol And QSLing

May 6 -Getting Ready For Field Day

June 3 - 2024

October 7 - 2024

November 4 - 2024

Mystery Shadows Each Radio Spectrum Expedition

By RONALD R. BLAIS-KB1RYT

Ham radio incorporates a cornucopia of experiences, challenges, triumphs, disappointments, achievements, experimentation, and rewards.

Each foray across the bands is comparable to riding a roller coaster. One moment you're climbing to the peak of ecstasy in having logged that long-sought contact, earning one of the numerous achievement awards associated with the hobby. Next, you're plunging to the depths of frustration and despair at the inability to break through a pileup to log a rare entity.

My premier joy as a ham is the aura of mystery which shadows me whenever I explore the bands. I never know who I will encounter during each expedition, adding a degree of excitement and anticipation to each exploration.

On May 5, 2012, I was searching the 20-meter band when a particular CQ call captured my attention.

Instantly, a jolt of excitement surged through me upon learning the call emanated from Oregon, a state I had yet to log. After several attempts, contact.

The episode was brief. The caller identified himself as Joe. We exchanged reports, 73s and moved on. The initial flush of excitement of having worked my first Oregon station quickly faded into the labyrinth of my mind as I continued searching the band.

I had forgotten about my Oregon QSO until a trip to my mailbox in June 2012 produced a return envelope containing a QSL card postmarked June 25 from Pendleton, Oregon. Anticipation gripped me.

In freeing the card from its envelope, a broad grin flashed across my face and a hearty chuckle burst from my chest.

Joe of Oregon, I discovered, was Joe Rudi, NK7U, a 16-year Major League baseball veteran.

An internet search reveals Joe was a three-time All-Star who patrolled the outfield for the Oakland A's, California Angels and Boston Red Sox during his career.

He was a member of the A's dynasty team that won three consecutive World Series Championships from 1972 to 1974. His teammates included Baseball Hall of Famers Reggie Jackson, Jim "Catfish" Hunter and Rollie Fingers, the relief pitcher with the distinctive handlebar mustache.

His leaping, game-saving catch against the wall in the ninth inning of Game 2 in the 1972 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds immortalized Joe in Oakland A's lore. For his play in Oakland, Joe was enshrined into the A's Hall of Fame in 2022.


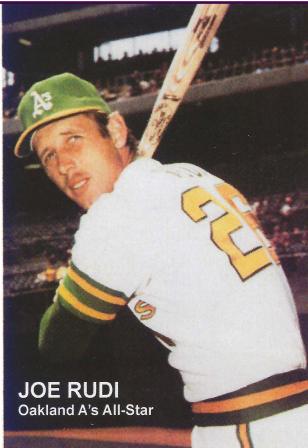


His defensive skills earned him three Gold Glove Awards.

He concluded his career with the Red Sox.

At the time of our QSO, Joe was a member of the Snake River Contest Club. He currently resides in The Villages, Florida, remaining an active ham.

As a lifelong baseball, and Red Sox, fan, I consider Joe's QSO at the top of my favorites list.

You just never know who you will meet during each radio spectrum expedition. Such mysteries help make our hobby exciting and rewarding.

NK7U SNAKE RIVER CONTEST CLUB					
CONFIRMING QSO					
STATION	DATE	UTC			
KB1RYT	5-5-12	2047			
RST	MHZ	2-WAY	QSL		
5-9	14	SSB	TDX		
OPERATORS: JOE, NK7U MIKE, N1TT JERRY, N7WR SCOTT, K7ZO				QSL VIA: JOE RUDI PO BOX 425 BAKER CITY, OR 97814 U.S.A. GRID SQUARE DN14	

Across THE Spectrum

BVARC SIMPLEX NET

Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on 146.565.

RI SWAP AND SELL NET

Net: Saturdays 9 a.m. on the NB1RI repeaters

Website: RISWAP.NET

A place where RI amateur radio operators can swap and sell items free!

The net runs on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. on the NB1RI network.

Weekly listings of VE sessions, club meetings, nets on the air, bulletins, flea markets, used and wanted ham radio equipment for sale and weekly ARRL audio news.



The BVARC Christmas party will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 7, starting at 5 p.m. at Bella Restaurant, Nasonville.

The meal will feature family-style chicken, including chicken soup, along with all the fixings. A cash bar in the banquet room will be available. Matt Pentilla (NA1Q) is donating the cake and Judson Mitsock (W1JMZ) is providing music.

DID YOU KNOW?



* There are 58 amateur radio clubs and organizations in Rhode Island (from silentkeys.org.)

*On 17 December 1902, a transmission from the Marconi station in [Glace Bay](#), Nova Scotia, Canada, became the world's first radio message to cross the Atlantic from North America.

* Ham radio enthusiasts were instrumental in keeping [U.S. Navy](#) personnel stationed in [Antarctica](#) in contact with loved ones back home during the [International Geophysical Year](#) in the late 1950s.

CALLING ALL ELVES

The **cost is \$33 per person**, including tax and tip. Club members and their friends and family are welcome.

Tickets will be available at the November Consortium and November club meeting. Checks should be made out to BVARC. If using cash, exact change is appreciated. The party committee includes Ray, KC1HQB, and Patty, W1AUT, Vilnit as well as Bob, WB1P, and Ginny, N1WWG, Jones. **Please Pay by Check.**

POTA – Parks on the Air

The Easiest, Fastest Way to Get On the Air and Have a Blast Doing It!

BY PETER SICHEL, - K1AV and KEN TRUDEL - N1RGK

Just before dinner on Friday October 4, I received an email from Peter Sichel, K1AV, via groups.io [W1DDD] regarding his planned POTA activation on Saturday at the WWII Veterans Memorial Park in Woonsocket, RI. Having never attended a POTA activation, and given it was so close to the house, I sent back an email voicing my interest in attending.

Nothing on this day could have been better. Weather was absolutely perfect, sunny and plenty of leaves on the trees to shade us from the sun. The park was full of children and their parents having fun and an amusement park ride company was setting up their rides for all to watch.

2:00 p.m. - Peter and I arrived at the same time and immediately found the perfect picnic table to use as our base station operating point.

2:13 p.m. – Peter started to assemble the antenna, radials, and base station setup.

2:37 p.m. – Peter stated that the station was fully ready and began making contacts.

2:59 p.m. – Operating time was 22 minutes and Peter announced that we had just completed contact 15.

So, in 46 minutes, we erected the station and completed 15 contacts. Not bad for less than an hour's work. It was truly amazing to see just how easy it was to setup this station and make a handful of contacts. A little after 3:00pm, Jim Johnson, K1GND arrived and began to make his own contacts. I took the liberty to document just how easy and fast the setup was. If you have questions, please let Peter know as he explains his station very well.

THE TWO PORTABLE ANTENNA OPTIONS ARE EASY TO SETUP:

1. POTA PERFORMER -

[HTTPS://
DRIVE.GOOGLE.COM/FILE/
D/
1LWSBXXEOVJJDT8IJPOI-9
FYR--NNSXGD/VIEW](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LWSBXXEOVJJDT8IJPOI-9FYR--NNSXGD/VIEW)

2. RYBAKOV -

[HTTPS://WB3GCK.COM/
2018/12/09/REVISITING-
THE-RYBAKOV-806-
VERTICAL/](https://wb3gck.com/2018/12/09/revisiting-the-rybakov-806-vertical/)



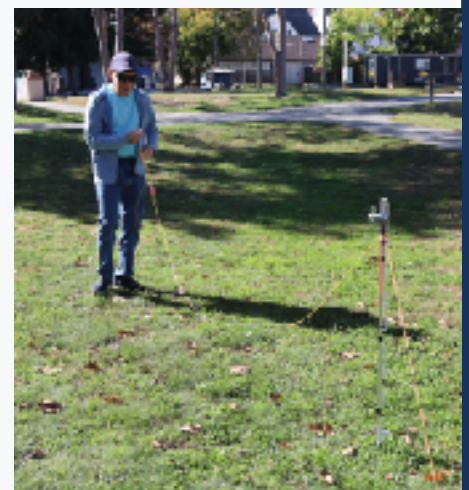
All pieces of the station we used fit into the tan backpack along with the two 4' stakes. Easily carried from your car to the station operating position.



Here, Peter demonstrates just how easy it is to set the antenna into the ground.



Notice the antenna anchor pole and easy on/off connection points for the antenna and coax connectors.

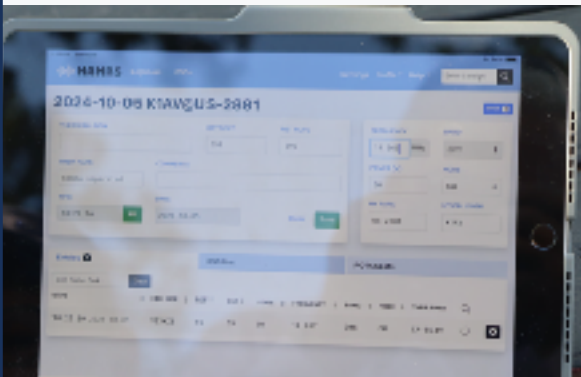


Peter sets in place the radials for the antenna. This process took less than 4 minutes. Just amazing to watch and get just over a 1:1 SWR.



Now the fun begins. It took longer for me to write and construct this article than it took Peter to setup the POTA station and begin making contacts. Remember, Morse Code isn't the only mode. You can use FT8, FT4, and SSB if you prefer.

Here is the 50 Watt HF Power AMP that Peter had with him. This AMP comes in kit form and Peter tells me it is VERY EASY to construct... Christmas is coming!



HAMRS is the call logger that Peter used after first copying down the contacts using a pad and paper.



This ICOM 705 is the radio that Peter used. As with all ICOM's, its durable and easy to setup and use.

The PAC-6 Telescopic Antenna Ballpark SWR Rope.

By MATT PENTILLA—NA1Q



This is a fairly easy project for the BVARC PAC-6 antenna and only requires a bit of shrink tubing, about 20 feet of paracord (orange, yellow, white, highly visible colors) and a large wire nut or Sharpie marker cap.

First thing is why? Well, I was getting tired of trying to find those little black marker lines on the antenna for each band by using the formula $234/f$, then getting a tape measure out and trying to juggle that while extending the antenna out, which was a bit of a pain while doing a POTA (Parks On The Air) activation. So I went to what I knew.

Back in the sailing ship days you would drag a rope with a bucket, and using a set time, counted the number of knots it took overboard before the minute glass ran out to figure out how many nautical miles, or knots, you were traveling. Well those knots were spaced in perfect increments so if eight knots went over the rail, you were travelling eight nautical miles per hour, four knots was four nautical miles per hour. Also, for measuring on battlefields, they would run across the proposed battleground using a rope with knots every 25 to 50 yards to set up distance markers for the soldiers to adjust their sights during a battle on a field of over 1,000 yards. That was a little history lesson, but we're adapting this to ham radio, of course.

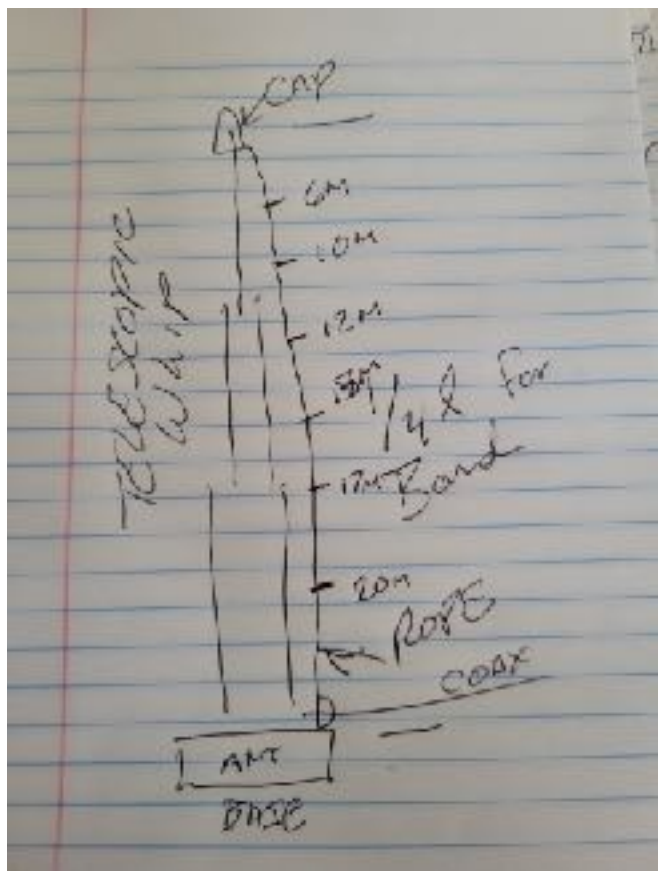
First, you'll need to use a large wire nut or Sharpie cap. I didn't have a dead Sharpie marker so I went to the junk box and found a size six large blue wire nut.

I then drilled a $7/32$ hole through both sides of the nut. Next, I applied shrink tubing to both ends of the rope to keep them from fraying. Use caution when applying heat, nylon paracord will melt if it gets too hot. I then threaded one end of the rope through the next size up shrink tubing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long, then through the wire nut, then back through the shrink tubing to make a loop with the wire nut inside the loop.

I then went outside and set up the antenna for 6 meters and the lowest SWR with the cap and rope hanging on the corona ball of the whip. I then took and made a mark at the free end where it touched the $3/8$ -24 nut of the antenna base. So now I had a ballpark figure for 6 meters.

Do the same for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters. With the rope marked, I then took $1/2$ " pieces of shrink tubing and placed them over the marker spots on the rope, shrinking them in place with a heat gun. I then trimmed the excess off and left myself a little 4" loop using the same technique I did to apply the wire nut.

The rope is now a part of the antenna, the loop at the end goes over the whip, the cap end on the corona ball. With the mag mount I use on my truck, I can now stretch the whip out for 15



meters, then fine tune it for lowest SWR, usually within a 1/2-inch of the mark depending on frequency, then switch to 10 meters by shortening the whip to the 10-meter mark and tweaking for lowest SWR, again within 1/2 inch. Or if your radio has a tuner, just move it to the mark and use the tuner to get the lowest SWR, your choice.



A contingent of BVARC members traveled to the Manville Sportsmen's Rod and Gun Club, Manville, on Saturday, Sept. 28, for the club's inaugural participation in the Settler's Day celebration. Members greeted visitors, handed out assorted brochures and operated Mickey Callahan's, K1WMC, QSO-A-Go-Go mobile radio trailer attached to two PAC 17 antennas. As an introduction to the ham radio hobby, visitors also were invited to operate the radio. Teri Diiorio, W1PUP, coordinated the club's participation.





BVARC's quarterly newsletter, The Messenger, was awarded third place, out of 14 entries, in the newsletter category at the recent Northeast HamXposition in Marlboro, Mass. Ken Trudel, BVARC president, N1GRK, center, presents award certificates to Teri Diiorio, W1PUP, right, and Ron Blais, KB1RYT, newsletter eo-editors, during September's club meeting.



SWELL QSL'S

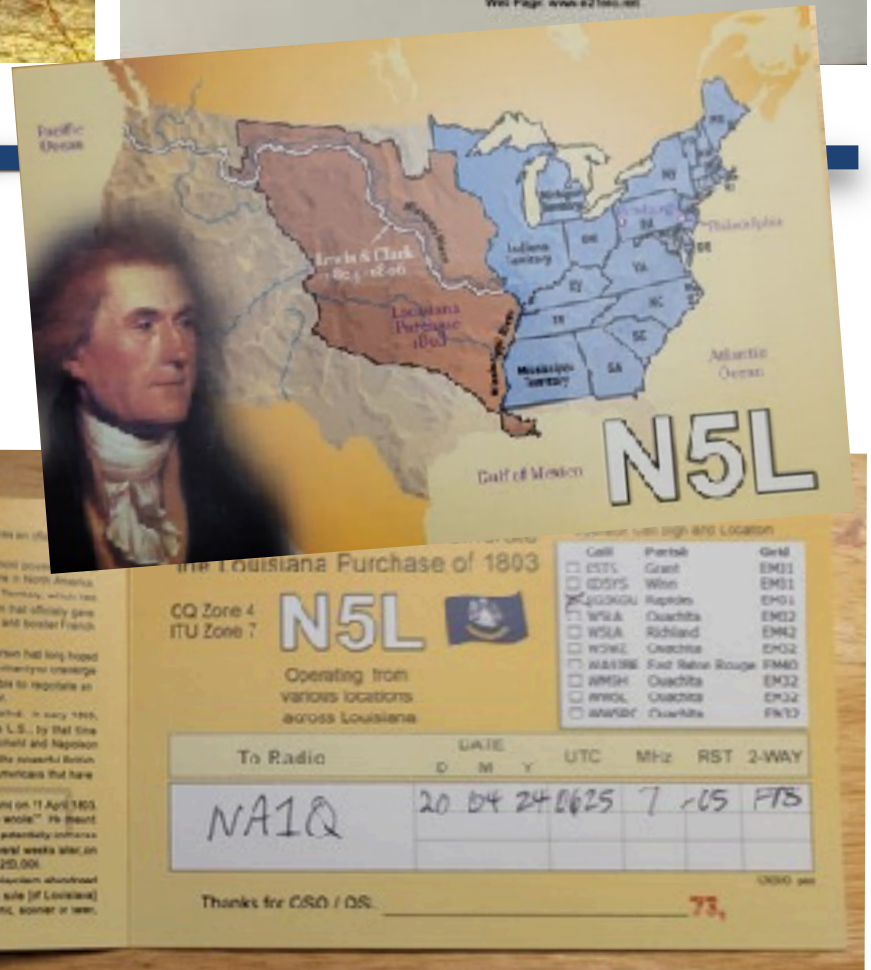


Submitted By Ray Vilnit - KC1HQB



Now this is a really cool QSL card. At first glance just a regular printed QSL card. But this is actually a double sized double sided QSL card.

73 Matt - NA1Q



April 11, 1803
 One of the great surprises in diplomatic history, French Foreign Minister Charles Maurice de Talleyrand makes an offer of Louisiana Territory to the United States.
 Talleyrand was so full. As the foreign minister to British Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, he was one of the most powerful men in the world. Three years earlier, Talleyrand had convinced Napoleon that he could create a new French Empire in North America. The French had long had a tentative claim to the vast area west of the Mississippi River known as Louisiana Territory, which had already been inhabited by Native Americans for centuries. In 1803, Napoleon secretly signed a treaty with Spain that officially gave France full control of the territory. Then he began to debate whether he really ought to give away his empire and restore French colonialism.
 When President Thomas Jefferson learned of Napoleon's plans in 1803, he was understandably alarmed. Jefferson had long hoped the U.S. would expand westward beyond the Mississippi, but the young American republic was in no position to challenge Napoleon for the territory. Jefferson hoped that his minister in France, Robert Livingston, might at least be able to negotiate an agreement whereby Napoleon would give the U.S. control of New Orleans, the gateway to the Mississippi River.
 At first, the situation looked bleak because Livingston's initial attempts at negotiating a distribution agreement failed. In early 1803, Jefferson sent his young Virginia friend James Monroe to Paris to assist Livingston. Fortunately for the U.S., by that time Napoleon's situation in Europe had changed for the worse. War between France and Great Britain was still on, and Napoleon could no longer spare the military resources needed to secure control of Louisiana Territory. Realizing that the powerful British navy would probably take the territory by force, Napoleon reasoned it would be better to sell Louisiana to the Americans than have it fall into the hands of his enemy.
 After months of being bitterly negotiated over the fate of New Orleans, Livingston again met with Napoleon on 11 April 1803. To Livingston's immense surprise, this time the offer French minister coolly agreed, "What will you give for the whole?" He meant not the whole of New Orleans, but the whole of Louisiana. "Why, exactly nothing," that was an offer of potentially infinite significance for the U.S., Livingston and Monroe began to discuss France's proposed deal for the territory. Several weeks later, on April 30, 1803, the American emissaries signed a treaty with France for a purchase of the vast territory for \$125,000.
 It took more than two weeks before Great Britain declared war on France. With the sale of the Louisiana Territory, Napoleon abandoned his dreams of a North American empire, but he also achieved a goal that he thought more important. "The sale [of Louisiana] assures forever the power of the United States," Napoleon later wrote, "and thus gives England arms which, sooner or later, will tumble her price."