

The **March meeting** will be held Friday, 29 Mar. at 7:30 PM in the basement meeting room of the Huntington Bank in Springboro. Location is at the SW corner of the intersection of state routes 73 and 741.

Keith Baker, KB1SF, Executive Vice President of AMSAT will bring us up-to-date on the scheduled launch of P3d in July.

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Upcoming Events

- 4/5 Apr. Southeastern VHF Society Conference, Atlanta, Ga...Contact K3TD at (770) 513-9252
- 6 Apr. DARA Zip Contest (see pg. 5)
- 14 Apr. 144 MHz ARRL Spring Sprints
- 30 Apr. 432 MHz “ “ “
- 17/18 May 50 MHz “ “ “
- 16/18 May Dayton Hamvention
- 24/26 July Central States at Hot Springs AR , W5ZN (ex WB5IGF) & WB5LUA Website:
www.csvhfs.org

de N8ZM

Today is the first day of Spring, and it has been an OK day, weatherwise. At least the trend is directionally correct. The sky has cleared enough to allow viewing comet Hale-Bopp readily morning and evening. Has anyone considered whether comet bounce propagation is feasible? My guess would be that the icy tail would be a poor reflector, at best, and that fuzzy reflector would make aurora signals seem like Q5 copy! At a distance of maybe 50 million miles, the one-way propagation delay would be around 275 seconds, or 4-1/2 minutes. Given adequate power, antenna gain, and a system noise temp approaching absolute zero, it might be possible. Frequency choice would be critical, also. Although the lead time has been relatively short (Hale-Bopp was discovered only two years ago), it seems likely to me that there are scientists who have tried to use some sort of radio wave reflection technique to study the characteristics of the comet from the ground or low orbits. Getting a space probe together for a rendezvous in two years is literally impossible in the currently underfunded space biz. If anyone has any info on remote comet studies using reflected RF, I'd be most appreciative of the chance to learn more about it.

Speaking of RF in space, the program this month will be an update from Keith Baker, KB1SF, on the status of the Phase 3D project, due for launch in just a few months. Although the launch has been delayed once or twice, there are still interesting developments as AMSAT's engineers use the time to work out the bugs and assure that the bird will be as reliable and long-lived as possible. Come on out on the 28th (yes, Good Friday) to hear the latest.

Also, Midwest VHF/UHF Society has recently acquired some serious surplus VHF paging equipment, specifically some low-band VHF power amplifiers based on the 4-400A tetrode. Most of the units are complete assemblies with power supplies and mounted in six-foot rack cabinets. Power ratings as used are in the 300 watt range, setup for class-C service. A little bias adjustment and retuning would put these on six or ten meters in most cases. There are also some odds and ends of antennas, hard-line, exciters, and more. If you are interested, call me at 937-667-5990 for more info. The proceeds go into the treasury to support projects such as the 5-meter dish installation and an antenna test facility. Further, the club has also acquired a new supply of the ever popular radar detector assemblies in various states of completion, including fully assembled! The details are elsewhere in this issue, but this deal is terrific if you want to play around at 10 Ghz, either transmitting, or receiving. Do you remember when Bruce, KA8EDE, demonstrated his 10 Ghz FM(or was it AM?) TV TX-RX system? It is interesting how much, and yet how little the technology has changed in the 3-4 years since our last batch. The RF stuff is not much different, but the signal processing is now highly integrated into VLSI chips.

Come on down to Springboro and enjoy some good clean VHF/UHF fun!

de N8ZM.

This and That

Space is getting crowded. Forty years ago the first satellite, Sputnik, was launched. Since then more than 8,000 satellites have been added and although many decayed and have reentered there are several thousand big objects out there now. Additionally there are many smaller pieces that are not detected and tracked by the space radars. At least one collision of two satellites has been documented. The space shuttle is being hit by tiny particles often and is now moving through space with the windows facing away from the motion. There is absolutely no regulation in place to control this situation. (Deutsche Welle-TV)

The Rubber Ducky on your HT is a little more than a dummy load, and the dummy is holding the radio. If you really want to get out with that little radio, pitch the duck and build a real antenna. (Prof. Quad / DEBCO)

The “Net” (Web) is there when you need it; 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Universal X-Band LNB. A dual range LNB can be had in Germany for about \$ 35.00. The ranges are 10.7 to 11.7 and 11.75 to 12.75 GHz. The local oscillators are on 9.75 and 10.6 GHz. IFs are, 950 to 1950 and 1150 to 2150 MHz. DK3FF, Ernst reports the hams have workshops where they modify suitable LNBs for ham use. Not sure what is done to stabilize the LO to make SSB possible. Ernst will find out and report soon.

Muscle Power Radio. A radio powered by a handcrank is a great hit in remote areas in Africa. Presumably a generator coupled to a flywheel is providing the electricity to run the radio for up to one half hour before “another cranking” is needed.

The Atlantic River. A former pilot of the troubled “Rich” airline made a startling comment on “60 Minutes” the other night. Sometimes when the navigation system would not function flying across the Atlantic, he would simply follow other airplanes.

Talking about Airlines...In a book on airline disasters 60% were attributed to human error. About the famous “black boxes”: only one out of six helps in revealing a cause of the accident.

How Full is Your Battery? This glanced from a “maintenance free” lead acid battery: fully charged 12.6V or more, 75% 12.4V, 50% 12.2V, 25% 12.0V, fully discharged 11.7V or less.

The Job of Boxing. “It’s just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I beat people up.” Mohammed Ali.

Television won’t be able to hold onto any market it captures after the first six months. people will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night. Darryl F. Zanuck in 1946.

WWVB at 60 KHz is increasing its power from 10 kW to 40 kW. This should make it possible to use simple receivers built into clocks for time keeping throughout the continental US. These have been available at very reasonable cost on the European market for some time.

Don’t go where the path leads, rather go where there is no path and leave a trail. J.H. Keene.

