

Next Meeting: Sept 22 at the
MCL Cafeteria in Kettering

Sept. 2017

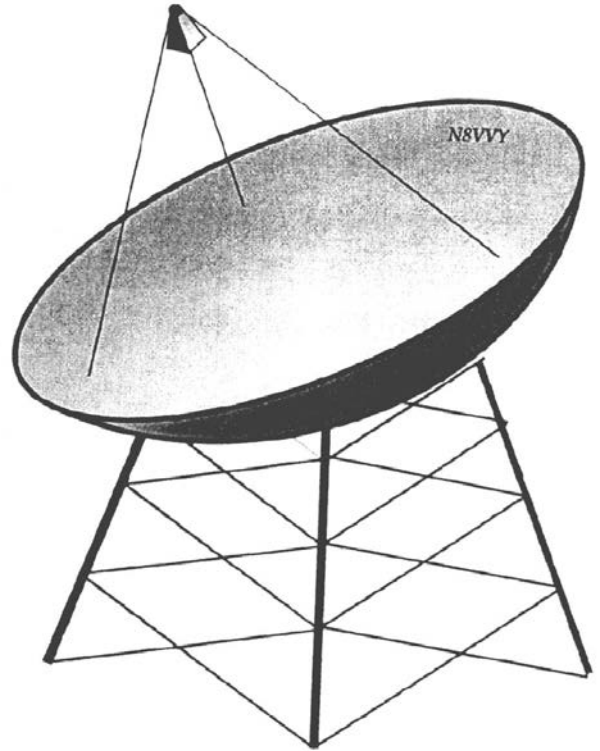
ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION

Newsletter: *The Midwest VHF/UHF
Society*

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Annual Society membership is \$ 12.00. Please
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Beacons: 1296.079 **W8KSE** EM79ur Dayton, OH---- 2W to Big Wheel at 800' AGL.

Listen for the **K9AYA Beacons** at EM79qk, 2W @ 10,368.000 MHz
 both are copied by K4TO daily. 1W @ 5,760.000 MHz

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Upcoming Event:

2017 Microwave Update Conference
Sansa Clara, Cal.
Oct. 26-29

DE N8ZM. In my last column I wrote about Hurricane Harvey, and since then we have seen Irma, Jose, Maria, and several more behind those are forming. Seems like it is going to be a rough year. Our best wishes to all who have been or will be affected.

I just returned from attending the TAPR Digital Communications Conference in St. Louis, and it was, as always, very interesting and inspiring. Topics were wide ranging, from a Raspberry PI and Internet based scheme for group code practice, to a whole afternoon dedicated to the studies made of the effects of the recent eclipse on RF propagation. Most of the talks were by a group of young hams who are undergraduates with HamSci, a group of citizen scientists sponsored by the New Jersey Institute of Technology. These 'kids' did an outstanding job with their presentations, and more important, had done great work in planning and implementing the experiments and data collection they wanted to do. And our own N8UR gave an interesting talk on how to fill a terabyte disk with data from the eclipse. Lots of good stuff!

The ARRL VHF contest was a couple of weeks back, and we had a lot of participation on our end, as well as on the air, although band openings were not plentiful. It was interesting to see how many digital mode QSO's were made, which generated a lot of controversy on the VHF Contesting reflector. The complaints were mostly that folks were spending too much time using digital to QSO for contacts that would have gone faster on CW/SSB, thereby wasting valuable contest time. Another complaint was that it was becoming a computer-to-computer contest. The anti-Luddite movement, of course, felt that anything that helps make contacts is a good thing. Some proposed penalizing digital contacts by only scoring them with half the points as traditional modes. I tend to agree that digital mode tended to hold the op's attention at our 6m position; we often had to tap them on the shoulder to move them back to SSB. Seems to me that some sort of adjustment is in order. Possibly allow two signals simultaneously on 6m if one is digital?

Also last month I mentioned that we would like to move as many of you to the email version of Anom Prop as possible as a way to free up funds for projects such as beacons. I believe only one person responded, so I assume that others simply have delayed responding and will email me soon to provide an updated email address. Thanks.

For planning purposes, Here are the dates of the MVUS meetings for the next three months, unless I hear loud objections. October 27, which may conflict with some Beggar's Nights but being away for the evening might be a good thing; November 24, the traditional day after Thanksgiving; and December 22, which appears to be far enough before Christmas to be acceptable. I hope to see as many of you as possible on those dates!

73, Tom.

This & That 9-17

Frogs. Not everywhere where there is water will you find frogs, but where you hear frogs there is water. [Goethe]

Logic. So far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain. And so far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality. [Albert Einstein]

Its the Law. You hear that often, but how is it implemented? Well, lawyers find loopholes and judges try to plug them. [Gerd]

Old Saying. Why make it simple when you can make it complicated. [German Saying]

Law of Probability. The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act. [Universal Laws]

Law of Random Numbers. If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers. [Universal laws]

Children. It takes more money to amuse to-day's children than it took to educate their parents. [Unknown, L.M. Boyd]

December of 1999. How many artificial objects are circling the earth these days? About 110,000, at last report. [L.M. Boyd]

World Status. The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt. [Bertrand Russel]

Congress. There is no distinctly Native American criminal class... except Congress. [Mark Twain]

In Session. No man's life, liberty or prosperity is safe while the legislature is in session. [Mark Twain]

Internet. Nothing on the Internet is safe and everything can be hacked. [Theonis Bates]

American Politics. Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies. [Groucho Marx]

LED Polarity. It's a diode: the longer lead is positive, the shorter negative. [Gerd]

Choice. The fact that choice does not guarantee quality should be clear each time we flick through 500 cable TV channels without finding a single viewing option. [Linda Darling Hammond]

What do OM's want, when They Get Old?

Used to be they got for themselves a little sports car. That's what a good friend of mine did who was well ahead of me in years. However, he never invited me for a ride and I don't think he used it much. I see this problem now with my (radio) station. All is there, in working order, but I am not on the air often, as I used to be! I think we are "over extended" prisoners of our gadgets that require steady attention.

But what replaced that little sports car? I have recently seen more PU trucks driven by single old guys. Seems like they like the camaraderie with other PU drivers. I have a good friend who is 10 years older who had to have a PU, he got one and actually drove around in it. We once even went together on a day trip. Now he is beyond driving cars, but likes to reminisce about the horse he once owned and then the big motorcycle. He's got pictures of both in his room. Then there are the neighbors who go out and buy humongous riding mowers with headlights and motorcycle grade mufflers, called resonators for that special sound effect.

But we digress. What did "Gerd" want for his golden years? Well, of course, a pure Electric Car. What got the coup of the ground was when our son, visiting over Labor Day, found the right car for dad, which is now sitting in the garage filling the spot previously taken up by the big station wagon which found an untimely end earlier this year. The predominant electric approach today is the "Hybrid" car, which has a combustion engine **plus** an electric motor. So you have the best of the two systems, but, of course, the added weight and complexity. The equivalent MPGs for the Hybrids are in the 50ties, while the pure Electrics get about 120.

The present drawback for the electric car only is the limited range of about 100 to 200 miles,, good for a small to medium size town. A pure electric for longer trips has to wait for a bigger or better battery or a system where batteries can easily be swapped. Charging stations are OK, when you have the time for a charge, like if you have the opportunity at work to plug your Electric in in the morning and find the battery fully charged at night for the way home. There are also a number of charge stations around town, mostly at businesses that value your visit. Our Air Force Museum has a high voltage charge receptacle, which is almost as close to the door as the handicap parking spaces.

The e-cars' high voltage batteries can be charged with your regular 120VAC or from a higher 240VAC special receptacle. The high voltage charging is about three times as fast as the low voltage. In my case you need 20 hours while the "fast charge" takes only 7 hours. Since I am retired, I am pretty much in control of my schedule. So I can easily skip a day to get my battery completely charged, if I needed the full charge for my next mission. All this can be worked out and I am looking forward to it and accumulating experience. The car only comes with the 120V charger, which is ubiquitous in every American house or garage. However, looking ahead I had an 240V outlet installed ca 25 years ago. This outlet is presently fused at 20 Amp (needs 30), I have to check whether the wiring supports 30 Amps, which would cut the charge time and get it in the overnight range!

As I write this I have only been on three trips and just want to relate my first impressions. After paying the drop-off charge to the trucker and getting the keys handed, I got into the car, positioned my seat, adjusted the mirrors then inserted the key, turned it and nothing happened. The xyl and a technician watched me. I fumbled around, found the button to move the side window down and commented "it's not starting". The technician looked puzzled,

then remarked: "Sir, the motor is running." He was right. The electric motor is so quiet, that this is a common experience. When you drive through a neighborhood and go below 25 Mph, the car will generate acoustical noises to warn people of its presence.

Gerd, WB8IFM

The Metric or the Decimal System.

Reprinted from 2015

Only three countries in the world are not using the metric system. Those are the United States, Liberia and Burma (Myanmar). Some timid attempts have been made to introduce the metric system of measurements, but with no success. Occasionally some horrific errors are made when converting to metric from another system. When I ask why not changing to the Metric System, the typical answer is, it's hard enough as it is, we are in no mood to learn another system.

I can attest to that; after the 50+ years in this country I still have to struggle with certain measurements, hard to convert, to memorize etc. I still have to look up weights and volumes, just too awkward to memorize. In 1964 I got a booklet with 18 pages **of conversion factors**, there are about 1300 of them. To this day I use this booklet, which is showing its age.

When you change the word “metric” to “decimal” you have a much better word to describe this system. It is also known as the SI system. SI (St I) is French for international standards. For length on earth you have the meter and all other length measurements are related by multiplication or division of 10s as per the table below. Weight and volume are just as easy and uniform, and as you get into scientific work of the very small all is metric. However, because of the immense distances in space, light years are used.

Now compare this with the US system: you got the foot, and there are 5,280 feet in a mile.

On the other end you got 12 inches in a foot. The inch is divided into halves, quarters, eights, sixteens etc.

In fine measurements the inch is divided (metric wise) into “mils” which are 1/1000s of an inch.

Of course, the US has been using the decimal system with money for a long time, but they still had to have quarters, just to make it a little harder to count money. Unnecessary learning effort and confusion can be avoided by switching to metric, which in today's world should be a no-brainer. A good website which explains “metric” very well is: www.mathsisfun.com. I bet you, if you look at it, you will admit that you already know all this and the rest, using it, is a “piece of cake!” So let's get with it. A hint, when it comes to using length measurements: the multiplier 10 and 100 for the meter are seldom used as is 1/10th. So, if you go big, you jump to km (kilo meters) and if you go smaller you go to cm (centi meters).

Gerd, WB8IFM

Tera	T	1,000,000,000,000
Giga	G	1,000,000,000
Mega	M	1,000,000
kilo	k	1,000
hecto	h	100
deca	dK -or- da	10
metre, gram, liter, second, celcius		
deci	d	.1
centi	c	.01
milli	m	.001
micro	μ	.000,001
nano	n	.000,000,001
pico	p	.000,000,000,001

It was on this date, 100 years ago, that Einstein submitted his paper *The Field Equations of Gravitation* for publication (1915). The paper included 10 equations, which made up his Theory of General Relativity. The equations lay out Einstein's theory of gravity: where it comes from and how it interacts with "spacetime." Einstein's theory viewed space and time not as two separate elements, but interwoven such that a change in one produces an effect on the other. He didn't come up with the idea of a space-time continuum — that idea came from his former professor, Hermann Minkowski — but Einstein elaborated on it.

Before General Relativity, Einstein developed his Theory of Special Relativity. He came up with it in 1905, and that theory states that the speed of light is a constant — it's the same for everybody, wherever you are in the universe — and it's also a kind of universal speed limit, meaning nothing can go faster than the speed of light. But speed is also relative based on the observer's frame of reference. When you're flying in an airplane, you don't feel a sensation of movement, but an observer standing on the ground will report that the plane is moving very quickly. Einstein realized that if space and time are on a single continuum, then as the rate of speed goes up, the rate of time must go down and vice versa. For an object moving slowly through space, time is passing quickly. Conversely, if an object is moving at a very high rate of speed, time actually slows down. We don't notice it, because we move so slowly, but the closer an object gets to attaining the speed of light, the bigger the effect is. Since Einstein's era, scientists have actually proved this theory by sending atomic clocks up in high-speed rockets. When they are brought back to Earth, the clocks on the rockets are just slightly behind their earthly counterparts.

Einstein worked on expanding and fine-tuning his Special Relativity theory for almost a decade. Once he felt confident that his equations could accurately describe gravity's effect on spacetime, he published them as *The Field Equations of Gravitation* or — as they're more familiarly known, the Theory of General Relativity. According to Einstein's theory, matter actually bends the "fabric" of spacetime. If you envision spacetime as a rubber sheet that's being held stretched out above the ground, and put a heavy object like a bowling ball in the middle of the sheet, the bowling ball will pull down the center of the sheet. And any other, lighter-weight balls that you place on the blanket will be pulled toward the bowling ball, because the bowling ball is keeping the blanket from being flat. That's where gravity comes from, and how it works. To apply the model to our solar system, the Sun is the bowling ball, and the planets are other, smaller balls rolling around the Sun. The planets are moving so fast in their orbits that they just keep circling the Sun; their speed keeps them from falling into the Sun, and gravity keeps them from flying off into space.

Einstein theorized that light curves as a result of gravity's effects on the fabric of spacetime, and that that curve should be visible during an eclipse. In 1919, astronomers traveled to an island off the coast of Africa to photograph a solar eclipse; when the photographs were analyzed, they proved that the deflection of the sunlight matched Einstein's prediction.

Good morning,8-16-2017, Beacon Report by e-mail

The past two mornings, the temperature and dew point have been the same. The wind has been 0 mph. this usually results in fog. We have no fog this morning, nor did we yesterday. I'm glad I'm not a weather forecaster. I would be lousy at it.

The beacon is 20 dB above the noise floor this morning. That's about 5 dB better than it was yesterday.

Currently, on my workbench, I am having an interesting time refurbishing and repairing K8TQK's 5760 MHz transverter. I have it working, as long as I hold some down force on the circuit board with my finger. Since I don't want to spend the rest of my days hanging off of Bob's tower, I am trying to fix it.

The rotating tower project is presently up to 65 feet with the first guy ring and set of guys installed. Work depends on the weather and availability of help.

I am also learning A software program called "Antenna Model", written by a deceased ham. There is no surviving company to support it. If any of you have experience with this program, I would appreciate any help. I use it because it is one that can handle the odd geometry of the Moxon two element yagi as modified by W6NL.

So, it's been a busy and interesting Summer to date. I hope you all had a great picnic. Some day, I plan to be there for that event.

73, Dave, K4TO

Nikola Tesla

It is the birthday (July 10-1856) of inventor **Nikola Tesla**, born in Smiljan, Austria-Hungary (now Croatia). He picked up an interest in inventing from his mother, who used to come up with new and helpful household appliances in her spare time.

He patented the rotating magnetic field, which is the basis for alternating-current machinery, and he also invented the Tesla induction coil, an essential component in radio technology. He sailed to America in 1884, bringing with him four cents, plans for a flying machine, and a few poems he'd written. He got a job with Thomas Edison, but the two had incompatible styles and soon parted ways. Tesla then sold his patent for alternating-current dynamos to Edison's rival, George Westinghouse. Edison waged a media campaign against Westinghouse, Tesla, and alternating current, but to no avail: the Westinghouse Corporation was selected to provide lighting at the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, where Tesla demonstrated how safe alternating current was. He would hook himself up to an electric lamp and allow the current to pass through his body on its way to lighting the lamp.

Two years later, Tesla designed one of the first hydroelectric power plants in the country, at Niagara Falls; the plant was soon supplying power to the city of Buffalo, New York. In 1900, he imagined a worldwide wireless communication system that could also provide free electricity via an enormous tower. J.P. Morgan and other investors funded him at first, but then Edison - and Guglielmo Marconi - caught the investors' eye with their own radio technology. Tesla was forced to scrap his project, literally as well as figuratively: his tower was dismantled and sold for scrap to pay Tesla's debts. Tesla suffered a nervous breakdown, and eventually died, impoverished and alone, in 1943. His alternating current system is still the standard power system in use in the world today.

From Writer's Almanac by Garrison Keillor

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K8TQK	Bob	Mathews	73 Landrum Rd.	Bainbridge	OH	45612		bmathews@horizonview.net
KB8U	Russell	Dwarshuis	1260 Creal Cres	Ann Arbor	MI	48103-2414	934-619-1257	kb8u_vhf@hotmail.com
K8UD	Steven S.	Coy	705 Watervliet Ave	Dayton	OH	45420	937-426-6085	k8ud@arrl.net
W8ULC	Red	Dakin	4519 N Rt 123	Franklin	OH	45005	937-704-0835	RedW8ULC@Clearwire.net
N8UR	John	Ackerman	430 Oakwood Ave.	Oakwood	OH	45409	937-545-5994	jra@febo.com
N8UVM	Robert	Peoples Jr.	8300 W Bailey Rd.	Millfield	OH	45761	740-797-4691	RPeoples@globelcooling.com
KB8VAO	Steve	Gocala	4232 Tippecanoe Rd	Youngstown	OH	44511		KB8VAO@AMSAT.org
KC8VEB	Bruce	Lerner	734 Suntree Dr	Westerville	OH	43081	614-985-4818	bdl7431@sbcglobal.net
N8VES	Sam	Anderson	2143 Otello Ave	Dayton	OH	45414-4513	937-278-1029	N8VES@yahoo.com
WB8VSU	James	Bacher	5849 Terrace Park Dr	Dayton	OH	45429-6049	937-291-3012	j.bacher@ieee.org
N8VZW	John	Human	4080 Danern Dr.	Beavercreek	OH	45430	937-429-0234	JBHuman@outlook.com
WA8WZG	Tom	Whitted	20440 E Feldspar Ln	Black Canyon City	AZ	85324		wa8wzg@wa8wzg.net
N8XA	Phil	Russo	P.O. Box 20401	Dayton	OH	45420-0401		n8xa@arrl.net
K8YMI	Bob	Halley	114 Red Bird Lane	Terrace Park	OH	45174		
WB8YOB	Alan L	Smith	6303 King Arthur	Swartz Creek	MI	48473		
N8ZM	Thomas	Holmes	1055 Wilderness Bluff	Tipp City	OH	45371	937-667-5990	THolmes@woh.rr.com
KB8ZR	Mark	Tessneer	2970 Indian Ripple Rd.	Beavercreek	OH	45440-3641	937-426-1355	kb8zr@amsat.org
KA8ZSB	John	Hepner	9500 Huffman Rd.	Farmersville	OH	45325-9225	937-835-3149	HepnerJ@core.com
K9ATR	Milton	Gibson	5707 S Bridgeton Ln	South Bend	IN	46614-6318	574-291-0886	MeGibso@comcast.net
K9AYA	Bill	Eaton	1600 Boyle Rd.	Hamilton	OH	45013-1066	513-893-0933	bill@rp-l.com
K9EA	Dan	Michnay	9406 Notestine Rd	Ft Wayne	IN	46835-9449		K9EA@arrl.net
W9FT	Ron	Henselman	1409 N.11th Ave	Melrose Park	IL	60160-3523	708-345-6981	W9FT@arrl.net
K9MHZ	Bradley J	Knapp	13240 Bobwhite Ln	Carmel	IN	46033-8959		bradknapp@indy.rr.com
W9NBS	Tom	Stauffer	961 Silvercreek Dr.	Centerville	OH	45458	937-435-1870	
W9SNR	Jim	Mitzlaff	1727 N.Chestnut	Arlington Hgts	IL	60004-3703	847-506-0805	w9snr@outlook.com
N9SV	Dave	Moninger	3663 Hickory Ridge NE	Georgetown	IN	47122	812-366-3912	DaveMoninger@gmail.com
W9SZ	Zack	Widup	1408 Glendale Dr.	Champaign	IL	618021-491	217-384-2288	W9SZ.Zack@gmail.com
W9XA	Kermit	Carlson	1150 McKee	Batavia	IL	60510	630-879-0983	W9XA@yahoo.com
DB6NT	Michael	Kuhne	Birkenweg 15	D-95119 Naila/Hoelle	Germany	---	9288-8232	Michael.6nt@kuhne-electronic.de
7L3DNX	Takumi	Takeno	3-7-3-504-Simosinjo	Nakahara-ku	21	1-0042 Jap	81-44-751-07	naf01266@nifty.com
	Dave	Lundy	2843 LaCresta Dr.	Beavercreek	OH	45431	937-426-1132	Lundy43@gmail.com