



Signals from SARA

WØJH	©2019 The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association An ARRL Affiliate & Special Service Club www.radioham.org	November 2019
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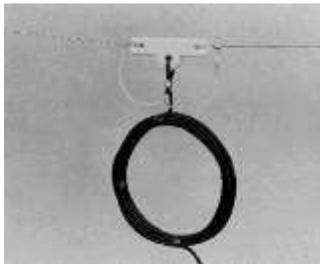
Baluns, Ununs & Chokes

Saturday, Nov. 9 Meeting Program

Since many of us use center-fed Zepp multi-band antenna systems, Dave (WØOXB) offered to teach us a thing or two about baluns, ununs and chokes.



Dave will explain what each of these are; where they can be used; and when they should be used. He assures us that you won't need to know any advanced math or how to interpret Smith Chart data to understand the basics.



According to Dave, "Although baluns, ununs and chokes are often found in antenna systems, their use can be confusing and misunderstood by many hams. (So don't feel bad if you're a bit confused!) I hope to shed some light on these devices so folks will know why

they are vital to the operation of good, effective stations."

Topics like common-mode current, current .vs voltage transformation, matching balanced to unbalanced systems, use of 4:1, 1:1 and other ratio systems are just a few of the important discussion topics Dave plans to cover.



Announcements

Monthly Meeting:
November 9, 2019
Meeting: 09:00
[Boutwells Landing](#)
Gables Wing
Auditorium A
(Lower Level)

Program: Introduction to Baluns, Ununs & Chokes (Dave, WØOXB)

Pre-meeting: ~07:15 - 08:45
Breakfast & Coffee
[Perkins Restaurant](#)
2050 Frontage Rd W
Stillwater, MN

SARA On the Air

SARA Phone Roundtables:
Daily @ 20:00 Local:
(*except* Tuesday & Thursday)
1.966 MHz LSB +/- QRM
(*alternates:* 21.316 MHz or 50.166 MHz USB +/- QRM)

Monday @ 09:00 Local:
3.856 MHz LSB +/- QRM

SARA Weekly Nets:
Wednesday @ 21:00 Local:
SARA 2m Repeater
147.060⁺ MHz (Positive offset)
DCS/DTCS 026(Normal)

Digital Net RETURNS
Nov. 10 Sunday @ 19:00
Local: 3.58215 MHz USB
(500-1000 Hz) on waterfall
Mode announced via email

Can't Find Us on the Air?
... Monitor SARA Repeater!

Proud affiliate of the **Courage Kenny Handiham Program**

handiham.org
Ham radio for people with disabilities

Bandwidth from the President



Greetings from my shack, de Joe KCØIO.

I need to make a correction to a statement made in Bandwidth last month regarding the Secretary's position for 2020. I omitted a very important word that changes the whole meaning of the sentence! As corrected, it reads as follows:

“As we near the end of 2019, it is time to consider the annual election of Officers at the January meeting. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected annually. One 2-year director position is elected each election cycle. The expiring 2-yr term is currently held by Doug N9TOW. Current secretary Collin KEØIYN has informed me of his decision to not seek reelection due to growing work responsibilities and related travel. Nominations for officers will occur at the December meeting.”

I am in the process of packing for the Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event Nov 1-3. Aside from Field Day, this is the largest field activity for SARA. This is the 15th consecutive year that SARA has commemorated the ship and crew from the vicinity of the Split Rock Lighthouse, the 14th year from the Trail Center at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. My first year was back in 2011, when I made a day trip up with KDØJTG. In 2013, we started running a digital station from my campsite at the park and we did that through 2016. In 2017 we moved digital operations to the brand-new SARA trailer, and snowfall in the days prior ended my tent camping.

Member participation in this field activity just amazes me. When you consider that we travel better than 3 hours north to set up and operate, the fact that we regularly get around 25 members plus spouses and guests that make the trip for the weekend or the day is testimony to the “esprit de corps” that exists around the Split Rock weekend and within the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association.

Our Fall General Class License classes wrapped up October 31st. I want to acknowledge the work of Training Chair Bob WØGAF and all the instructors over the 8-week class as they prepare the students for their General Class license upgrade. Attendance has been 4-5 student a week, including two teens. I wish them all good luck at the VE Session on November 7th at Boutwells Landing. Of course, we couldn't hold the classes if we didn't have rooms to hold them. Extra thanks to John N5JLZ for arranging for rooms with the Stillwater Public Library!

The SARA HF Digital Net will return on Sunday November 10th. As has been the prac-

tice in previous years, the net will can be found on 80 meters at or about 3.582.15, depending on the mode. A broadcast e-mail reminder is sent that includes the mode of the day and the planned frequency. THOR-16 has proven to be very effective for the net, but we do vary the digital mode “of the day” as we explore modes and propagation and test the effectiveness of a given mode. This year, I’d like to rotate Net Control around a bit to give others the experience of running a digital net. I look forward to seeing you on the waterfall for the SARA HF Digital Net!

For our Nov 9th meeting, Dave Glas WØOXB is presenting a program on Baluns, Ununs, and Chokes. I am looking forward to better understanding how those wraps of wire and iron work! Don’t forget the pre-meeting Breakfast will be at Perkins Restaurant 2050 W Frontage Rd (Hwy 36 & Washington) in Stillwater at 7:30 AM. The breakfast gang hopes to see you there!

73 es CUL, de Joe (KCØOIO)

SARA Membership

While our current membership continues to creep up to where we have a total of 112 members for 2019, I particularly thank the 49 who have submitted dues for 2020. This compares to having 27 who had renewed at this point last year for the then upcoming year.

Membership runs on a calendar basis from January 1st through December 31st. Nothing is gained by paying dues late. Timely renewals make life easier for the Treasurer as well as myself, as it is much simpler to update renewals to the current roster rather than having to re-add as best I can, those whom get dropped from the roster and email list due to a lapse in membership. Membership info is on the radioham.org website and you can contact me directly with any questions.

Shel NØDRX
SARA Trustee



VE Session Scheduled for November 7th

The VE Team consisting of NØUHR, NØDXH, N9JNQ, KØZZT, KEØGOM, AD6QT, KØGW, WØGAF, WØOXB, KCØOIO, KEØQQN & myself is set for the November 7th VE Session at Boutwells Landing.

We intend to be set up to begin check-ins by 6:30 pm and begin exams at 7:00.

Shel NØDRX



Remote Base Report: Tips for better operation

The remote stations should be treated like club stations that are going to be used by a wide variety of operators who have different experience levels and operating interests. Please follow these tips to make the user experience better for everyone:

- ◆ Take some time to learn the control interface. It varies depending on the device you are using to run the software.
- ◆ Read the welcome messages posted by the station admin. These can help you with control settings and information about available modes.
- ◆ Identify your transmissions; every 10 minutes and at the end of a series of transmissions. "YOURCALL via REMOTECALL" at least every 10 minutes. For shorter intervals, you can use just your own call until the 10 minute mark and the very end.
- ◆ Use the software's ASK feature to ask if you can tune the radio, especially if there are other users logged on.
- ◆ Some lesser-used settings are real "gotchas" when they are left by careless users who don't return them to their "normal" settings. Examples are SPLIT, RF POWER, RF GAIN, and AGC. The normal settings are SPLIT off, RF POWER 100W, RF GAIN 100%, and AGC slow. Remember that the op logging on may not expect the radio to be in split mode with the RF gain at 20% and the power level at 10 watts with fast AGC - This is a real mess for a newbie to straighten out, and can cause embarrassing transmission in the wrong band of frustration with the signal quality. Contact wa0tda@arrl.net for more information about using the remotes.

New to Ham Radio? Check this out!

The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association (SARA) is always here to assist its members - from antenna installation to rig recommendations to All Things Ham. Our members each have a unique skill set from which to draw to help each other in amateur radio activities. For example, each spring, SARA holds a Technician education class and we see many attendees pass through to become licensed amateur radio operators!

Getting the license, however, is only the first step. Much like passing the written driver's test to get a learner's permit, it's just the first step. Now it's time to get out on the road. To drive. To operate. And SARA wants to do more to help our newly licensed operators get "behind the wheel" safely, effectively, and with enthusiasm and enjoyment. In the coming months, SARA will prepare resources and reach out to current members to find support for our new hams to ensure they find the value and joy they were looking for when they initially set out to get their license.

So look for more details in upcoming newsletters from the newly established SARA committee for helping new hams. Of course, if you are interested in helping, including, but not limited to, being a resource for tech-specific portions of amateur radio, the SARA committee can be reached via email at:

NewHamHelp@radioham.org



2019 Operators



SARA's big, annual special event is over!

About 20 from the club were on hand to operate as WØJH Special Event Station. As our fifteenth consecutive year it marked 44 years since the fateful night of the infamous iron-ore carrier the Edmund Fitzgerald.

More than just operating!

Yes, as usual, we had plenty of time for fun and learning! And of course the After-hour Networking/Critiquing Sessions were a big hit. True SARA teamwork and esprit de corps was obvious during the long weekend (e.g., moving gear, setting up stations and antennas, logging and operating, putting away gear at the end of the day, cleaning the facility, taking down the antennas, etc.).

So, how did we do on contacts?!

According to the logs, we did a great job!

The 40m and 20m bands amounted to about 90% of our contacts. The remainder of Qs were on 75m.

SSB (voice) was ~90% of our operation and digital modes made up the remainder. The total, bottom line tally was slightly over 700 contacts.

Very fast QSB (signal fading) was quite common but besides most of North America, we managed to make contact with foreign countries including: Russia, France, Italy, Cayman Islands and a few stations in South/Central America.

A big **THANKS** to all attendees for a great event. We already have next year booked. (Special TNX to IPI Jim for pulling the club's trailer!)

A few photos from this years event are on the next few pages. More will be posted.

“Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald” Split Rock Lighthouse Special Event - November 1-3



“Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald” Split Rock Lighthouse Special Event - November 1-3



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Lew Buschman (ADØCK - SK)

At newsletter press time, we learned Lew had passed away.



Bill Unger (VE3XT)

Via relay from Brad (VE3MXJ), Bill is now in a hospice facility in Thunder Bay.



Bill Eggers (KDØOTB)

In talking to Bill by phone last week, he said he will be having hospice care at his brother's home at Marine on the St. Croix.

Holly Wiste (KEØRZZ)

We understand Holly recently underwent tumor surgery and is recovering.



*Please join us in keeping them in your thoughts.
If you're a person of faith, prayers for them and their families would be very much appreciated.*

Upcoming SARA Meetings & Events

- Nov. 7: VE Exam; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- Nov. 9: Monthly Meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- Dec. 14: Monthly Meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights

Board Meetings are held Thursdays the week following Monthly Saturday Meetings at the Stillwater Public Library

2019

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

SARA Needs YOU!

Get involved ...
 Make a difference ...
Have fun!

www.radioham.org
 Facebook: SARA - Stillwater Amateur Radio Association

