



# The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



## October, 2011 Newsletter

Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

### Local Ham Community

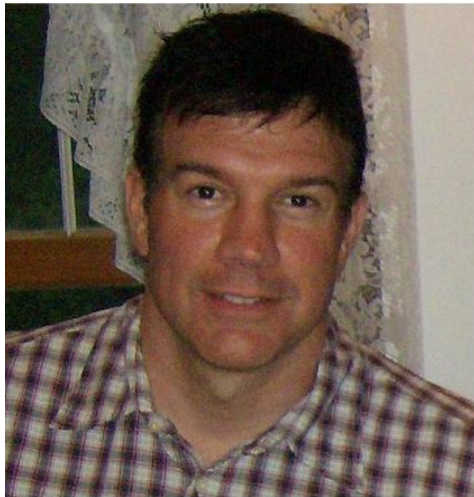
K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9 Hz)

KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz)



Ham Radio Rocks!

## High-Altitude Balloon For \$100?



By Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

Bic doesn't make one yet, but if we could launch a "disposable" near-space balloon for \$100, I'm sure we could talk 5 Licensed Amateurs into "investing" \$20 each!

Barry, N8PPF's son Craig, KJ8DYP launches a near-space balloon every spring with his students at The Bay School in San Francisco. Students organize a first-class project, with high-end cameras, APRS tracking, and onboard sensors. The school has a generous budget of somewhere between \$500-\$1000 dollars for each launch. Visit their website at: <http://ikaros.xrg.us/>

Two MIT students recently did a barebones launch for \$148. Not a 5-star project like the high school students, but they got some nice photos from 98,000 feet, which

*The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, October 10, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. As of this writing, there has been no program announcement for the meeting. Come anyway. We always have lots of interesting conversations going on.*

*Please remember to check into the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. on the K8EEN 2-meter Repeater.*

*Also check out the UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. and is a social net. Please join us for the fun of it.*

*Every Wednesday at 5:00 PM, MVARC club members meet at Wendy's, 522 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Dinner Coordinator Dick Huggins, N8RDH, reports good turnouts for this event. Come share dinner with friends, or make new friends, by attending one or all of these events.*

*Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.*

*\*\*\*The next Breakfast will be Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio\*\*\**

you can view here: <http://space.1337arts.com/>



We're Hams. What would it take to homebrew a near-space platform using the best ideas from previous launches, and all the latest, lightest, and cheapest tech, for no more than \$100 cash? And "borrow" the rest.

The MIT students budgeted \$25 for a 350g Kaymont weather balloon, and \$25 for the helium. They used a \$49.99 Motorola i290 prepaid cell phone with GPS from Boost Mobile to track it on the internet for free using AccuTracking. The Bay School uses this as a backup for their APRS transmitter.

So what does any of this have to do with Ham Radio? Nothing yet!

Now it's time to start "borrowing." Instead of high-end Go-Pro cams, we risk somebody's \$39.99 Kodak MiniHD from Big Lots. This is a credit card sized camcorder as thin as a pencil that takes hi-res 720p video and stills, and is very light. Guys velcro these to the chin bar inside their motorcycle helmets, and get spectacular, hi-res footage to put on YouTube. It's a smaller, lighter, cheaper, next-generation competitor to the Flip MinoHD used by The Bay School.

Then we scrounge up a styrofoam cooler, a model rocket parachute, some lithium AA batteries, hand warmer packets, antenna, duct tape, etc.

As long as we keep the cash outlay to \$100 for a first launch, nobody will be too upset if it lands in the Ohio River and ends up in the Gulf of Mexico.

If we're successful, somebody might risk an \$89 ATV Mini Color Camera, with a \$99 100mW ATV mini-transmitter from P.C. Electronics, on a future launch. After all, we want something on board that's Ham Radio, and as Mike, KC8YLD pointed out, live TV on the way up would really be cool. At least we'd have some footage if we didn't recover the balloon.

Our licenses also allow us to transmit telemetry in-flight from any onboard sensors.

Eventually, somebody might spring for a \$220 Micro-Trak RTG FA, GPS2, Antenna Combo 10W APRS transmitter. Or just the board for \$150, without the GPS and antenna.

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**Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to Amateur Radio, with an emphasis on local activity, equipment reviews, and personal experiences to the Newsletter Editor. Articles are due on the Sunday before the first Monday of the month.**

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This would be fun for us grown-up kids, and if we did it with local students, it would be a great way to introduce them to the joys of science and Amateur Radio.

## Bitten by the Bug

By Craig Miller, W8CR

Ahhhhh, just put the kid on the bus, and the wife is on her way to the salt mine. Now, I have 45 minutes to see if I can scare up a quick QSO.

40 meters sounds pretty quiet this morning--no ear splitting static crashes. The usual morning CW junkies must have already headed off to work or out mowing the grass. I spin the dial down to 7.023 to see if any speedsters are still on. Some days, I can even keep up with them at 30-35 wpm. It must be later than I thought, though. Those guys are gone too.

Tuning back up to 7.030, I hear a couple of guys wrapping up a chat at about 20 wpm: "FB FRED MUST QRT TO WALK THE DOG 73 ES CUL..." (translation: "Good copy, Fred, but I really gotta go to the bathroom! Best regards and see you later.").

I spin the dial up to 7.032, and don't hear any beeps or boops. I guess here is where I'll cast my line. "QRL?" (translation: "Anybody out there working that last rare DX station for your DXCC that I can't hear?"). Nuttin' heard. I'll QRL one more time before "CQ CQ CQ DE W8CR W8CR K". Silence. Again "CQ CQ...". Just the hiss out of the speaker. Well maybe this ain't gonna happen today. One more time...

Bam – I got one! He's got a nice strong signal too. But, wait. What the ...? What is he sending me? "DAAAAHHHHHHH DIT DIT DIT DIT DAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAHHHHH DIT DITDITDIT DIT DIT DITDITDITDAAAAHHHHHHH." NUTS! He's using a bug, a mechanical key dating back to the old railroad days. It's an ingenious mechanism for sending high speed code, but it takes a lot of practice to send

clear, copyable code. I can barely make out my callsign let alone his – this isn't gonna be fun.

I have two options:

1. Don't reply and pretend I didn't hear him. He's really strong, though, and most likely I am, too. He knows I can hear him. Plus, that's the coward's way out.

2. Answer him and tough it out.

I answer him. We exchange the usual stuff. My RST is 579, his name is Bill, and he lives in Niassa Fihls, errrrr, Niagara Falls, NY. "Niagara Falls, eh?" We've been wanting to visit there before our kid gets too old to even want to be seen with his parents, let alone ride in a car for 6 hours to look at water flowing over rocks. Plus, that's where Nikola Tesla built his hydro power station that illuminated Buffalo over a hundred years ago. I'm hooked now – lotsa questions for him.

As our conversation progresses, his dot-to-dash ratio varies all over the map, but I slowly get used his style of CW. It's like listening to British shows on PBS. At first, they're totally unintelligible, but over time, your brain figures it out.

I have to give him credit, he's using something that is a passing skill. I have a bug I bought years ago, but could never master it well enough for me to feel comfortable subjecting others to the noise.

Well, that 45 minutes passed fast. Time to get to work. I promised I would look him up whenever we get to Niagara. I guess it wasn't a total nightmare working him and his bug, after all. Kinda like talking to somebody with a thick accent.

After all, he is a New Yorker.

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This month's column was written by Craig Miller, W8CR. I worked Craig about a month ago, and when he mentioned that he'd written articles for his club's newsletter, I asked if he'd like to provide a column occasionally. I hope you enjoy this column as much as I did.

73!

Dan KB6NU

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Craig Miller, W8CR, began his ham career in 1974 as WN8TLC. He lives in Ostrander, Ohio. He enjoys HF CW ragchewing with a little bit of DXing and contesting tossed in. He is an active officer in the Delaware County (Ohio) ARES and a member of the DELARA

## Radio-Activity



By Don Russell, W8PEN

Here comes another Field Day story. Well, not really, but how about another antenna project for readers?

This years Field Day saw a change in the 20 meter SSB stations antenna. Rather than the bulky and heavy three element tri-band Beam antenna used in past years, a wire antenna was tried. There were a number of reasons to go this path: A beam antenna requires a Tower and an antenna rotator. Towers are heavy and requires many volunteers with muscle to put up on Field Day. Making the tower harder to put up is the fact that we usually put the beam antenna on the tower beforehand, making the tower top heavy. While we have never had a tower come down, I am not too sure it is not a disaster waiting to happen. After all, we guy the tower with pounded in water pipes and rope. I have always said during the raising or lowering of the tower that if it starts to fall, don't worry about the antenna, just run! Of course back then it was my antenna. The tower comes down fast after Field Day. It is heavy and we are tired. Not a good combination.

While there were some raised eyebrows when I presented the 20 meter wire antenna, trust prevailed and the antenna was put up. Of course, we had left the tower and beam behind as an incentive.

This antenna is no ordinary wire antenna, although it looks much like a dipole, and the antenna provided 281 contacts on 20 meter SSB during Field Day. Certainly a respectable result. Fact is, the 20 meter station had some equipment problems and was putting out very low power for nobody knows how long. Switching to a different transceiver Sunday morning made a big difference. Who knows how many contacts we could have made if we were running full power the entire Field Day period.

I thought I might spend a bit of time describing this antenna. Perhaps readers would like to build their own. It is as easy to make as a dipole.

Then antenna is called a 20 meter Extended Zepp antenna. It has 3 db gain over a dipole at a similar

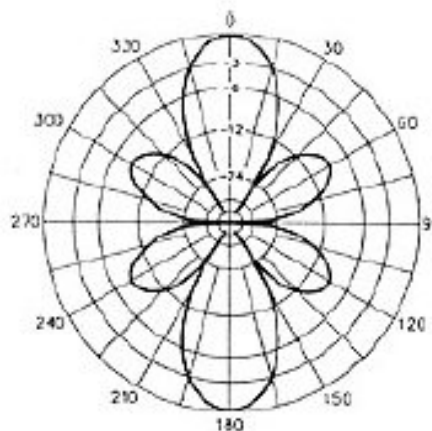
height above ground. While the antenna is designed for gain on 20 meters, it is a useful antenna on 80 - 10 meters when fed with 300 - 600 ohm ladder line. Unlike other multi-band antennas fed with ladder line, this antenna has a gain pattern broadside to the wires. For example, while an 80 meter antenna fed with ladder line can be used on 80 - 10 meters (called a doublet antenna), the antenna pattern is broadside to the wires only on 80 meters. The other bands have gain, but one does not know where that gain is going. Pretty much unpredictable. Good luck aiming an 80 meter doublet antenna towards Europe on 20 meters! The Extended Zepp antenna, however, is predictable and can be easily aimed. Just run the antenna North and South to cover East and West, or run it East and West to cover North and South (or any variant of this).

The Extended Zepp antenna looks like a dipole and acts like a beam. Easy to build as a dipole, gain of a two element beam. That is because this antenna is a two element wire collinear array. It is a beam! The antenna is made of two lengths of wire. Each leg is  $5/8$  wavelength long and attached to a center insulator and two end insulators. The theory of operation for this antenna is beyond the scope of this short article.

The antenna used for Field Day had legs of 44 feet each for a total of 88 feet and was fed with 600 ohm ladder line into an antenna tuner.

For 10 meter operators, this antenna can be shortened to 22 feet per leg, or 44 feet total length. This shortened antenna will have 3 db gain on 10 meters and be useful on 40 - 10 meters. Measure carefully so you get the 3 db gain you are looking for.

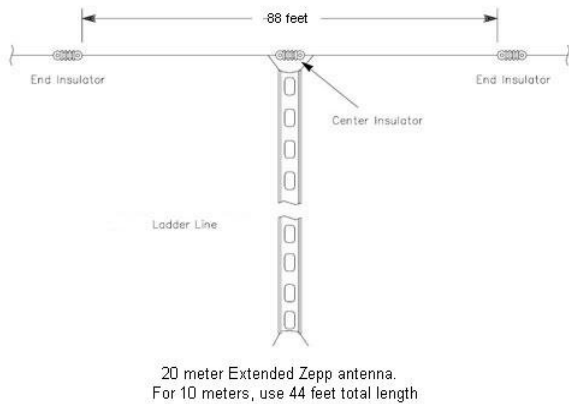
Here is the gain pattern one can expect on the designed band:



This pattern is an overhead view with the antenna running along the 270 and 90 degree line (or horizontal to this page). Notice the huge lobe broadside to the antenna with four useful minor lobes

To assist the builder, This is a look at the antenna from a

physical viewpoint:



Sorry, this is not a step by step article on how to build the antenna. Construction is really pretty simple.

Ladder line can be any length, however, keep it away from any metal and do not roll it up. It needs to be cut to fit. The general rule is to keep ladder line at least two or three inches from a tower, if used as center support. Several pieces of 1/2 inch pvc pipe can be used to keep the ladder line away from the tower. The best way would be to have two high end supports and use no center support.

Speaking of height, this antenna should be at least 1/2 wavelength above the ground at the designed frequency. That means a minimum of 33 feet for 20 meters and 16 feet for 10 meters. Lower antennas will still work well, just not optimal. Just get the antenna up as high as possible. Forty to fifty feet would give exceptional performance.

## AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS



By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

PCARS: October 10 satellite communicate with John Pappay K8YSE

November 14 Elections, free DxLab Software - Dennis AI8P

November 14 - Happy Birthday PCARS

Thank you for sponsoring State Parks on the Air!

MVARC: Sad news in Mount Vernon, they have had 3 SKs in the recent past. They bid final farewell to Keith Frank W8JZR, Jerry Walker KB8JAA, and Donald Dean N8IOJ.

Some of MVARCS members are planning to attend the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communication Course offered at 1021 East Broad St. Columbus, Oct. 8 & 9.

W8CBF club in Johnstown, is made up mostly of young hams 18 and under.

Member Zack Beougher KD8KSN was recently named the Great Lakes Division Young Radio Amateur of the Year. Congratulations Zack!

The hams from Massillon are putting most of their energy in preparing for their Hamfest October 30. They are currently running a tech Class and have a plethora of nets every week.

The Buckeye Belles celebrated their 50th anniversary. Whereas it has been announced that the group is disbanding in the recent "Burr" it was stated that it wasn't the last Burr and the the group would be planning reunions beginning in two years. It's good to see they will keep up contacts. Sadly the Belle's announced two silent keys, Tina Check W8HBI and Anna Wolfe NT8Y/4 Coshocton County ARA held their annual Picnic Sept. 11,

Muskingum Valley Ham Radio Club conducted a special events station W8Z at the Y-bridge in Zanesville.

Cambridge ARA is taking a field trip to the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum October 16. This is in addition to their Picnic October 2, 2pm at the city Park. Their next meeting is Saturday October 29 at 10am at the Community Healthlink Building.

Alliance ran a great article on How I Got Interested in Ham Radio in their Zero Beat Newsletter. The article featured 5 members and their start in Amateur Radio. In a future feature they will highlight Their Favorite Ham Radio Day. They too have started their Fall Radio Class.

Lake County will be active during the Octoberfest up their way and the just supported IBIM Parade and Run.

The OH-KY-IN ARS worked with youth at the Cincinnati Museum Center last month. They are considering moving their File Day operations. They worked just shy of 600 QSOs during the Ohio QSO Party.

The Central Ohio Radio Club announced their Fall

meeting Dinner where they have graciously invited me to speak. I look forward to the visit.

The will be starting back up the CORC Tech net on 147.33 watch for announcements.

John Perone's W8RXX, article on New Car RFI appeared in the September QST.

The Western Reserve ARC is in the middle of their Tech classes and will begin their Amateur Extra classes October 26. A feature I like in their newsletter is a listing of their Elmers and their contact information.

Delaware ARA just received the Joseph E. Phillips K8QOE SK, award for the best newsletter in the Great Lakes Division. Nice job Stan, now just try to keep straight which newsletter is the current one.

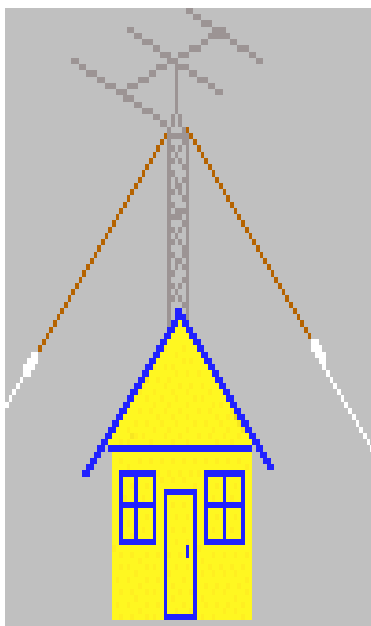
DELARA recently ran special event station W8H in conjunction with the all horse parade. As a club they 4047 QSOs and scores wait for it... 706,962 points in the Ohio QSO party. K8MP's 760 QSOs and 200718 points led the way.

Please send me your newsletters or upcoming events for November by November 12 to make this newsletter's deadline.

73,

E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

ARRL Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator



# HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID

by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

Note: This "Rusty Bumpers" column is from the May 1993 issue of "Solid Copy", the ichmond (VA) Amateur Telecommunications Societies monthly newsletter. Most of the examples used by "Rusty" have happened on the local repeaters exactly as written, although some of the items are exaggerated slightly for humor. (Step 35 was written before the 1993 "no business" rule change.)

(For those uninitiated, a LID is ham radio jargon for an operator who exhibits poor operating practices. A really bad operator! Please remember that this article is meant to be fun. After reading through it, I find a couple of things that I occasionally or even routinely say on our repeater. My bad (?) - - W8PEN, Ed.)

In many areas I have noticed a tendency of people making a distinct effort to sound like a "LID" on the local repeater. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this incomplete guide to radio LID-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

1) Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. For example, "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt," but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK." I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.

2) Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi." No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.

3) Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory." It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."

4) Always say "XX4XXX" (Insert your own call) "for I.D." As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more "LID points".

5) The better the copy on the repeater, the more you should use phonetics. Names should be especially used

if they are short or common ones. I.E. "My name is Al... Alpha Lima" or "Jack.. Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible use the less common HF phonetics "A4SM... America, Number Four, Sugar Mexico." And for maximum "LID points", make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob... Billibong Oregon Bumperpool."

6) Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a great memory test. You may also use "and the group" if you are an "old timer" or just have a bad memory. Extra points for saying everyone's call and then clearing in a silly way - like "This is K2xxx, Chow, Chow."

7) Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation", and vice-versa. And even if the amplifier you're using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your "linear." Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as "linears." You'll be king of the "wrong terminology" hill. Or better yet, refer to them as "lin-e-yars."

8) If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, taking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker, and if it is an emergency, encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

9) Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

10) The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.

11) If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals, his mother, or both; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.

12) If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

13) You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route

but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

14) Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

15) See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are uncopiable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.

16) Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or....well, you get the idea.

17) Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," and "Negatory on that."

18) Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.

19) Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)

20) Start every transmission with the word "Roger" or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.

21) When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've

always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.

22) Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!

23) Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex -- especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.

24) If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. ("I'm sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you're full quieting into the repeater. How about me?")

25) In the same vein as the previous step, when monitoring a repeater, you should always give signal reports as if the repeater didn't exist. ("Yep, I'm right under the repeater. You've got a whopping signal. You're S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.")

26) On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say "over." Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed, but don't let that stop you. Say "over," "back to you," or "go ahead." It serves no useful purpose, but don't worry -- it's still fun.

27) Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You're getting the idea.

28) Use the repeater's autopatch for frivolous routine calls. While pulling into the neighborhood, call home to let them know you'll be there in two minutes. Or call your spouse to complain about the bad day you had at work. After all, the club has "measured rate" service on their phone line, so they get charged for each autopatch call. Your endeavor is to make so many patches in a year that you cost the club at least \$20 in phone bills. That way you'll feel you got your money's worth for your dues.

29) Never say "My name is....". It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases: A) "The personal here is...." B) "The handle here is...." Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it's OK to use them anyway. Don't forget, this has worked just fine for CBers for years. The best retort I ever heard: "My handle is pink, my name is..."

30) Use "73" and "88" incorrectly. Both are already

considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "best of 73's" or "88's". Who cares if it means "best regards" and "love and kisses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds"! Or be funny and say "seventy turds." Or talk like a 1960s CBer and sign off with "Threeeeeeees to ya!". (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3, the average CBers IQ.)

31) Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you're in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" (i.e. "we've been doing this...", "we're doing that...", "we're clear"). Everyone knows you're by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Clinton.

32) Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you'll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.

33) Test repeater functions repeatedly (that's why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of time the repeater has been keyed-up. That stuff is fun to track. Test the outside temperature, or the transmitter heat sink temperature as often as possible. The farther the temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test it. Also, if you get a pager set to the repeater's output frequency, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.

34) If the repeater is off the air for service, complain about the fact that it was off the air as soon as it's turned back on. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because that one repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. Even though you have never donated a penny to help out with the upkeep of it, and despite the fact that you have all 42 local repeaters programmed into your mobile radio.

35) Find ways to get around the "no business" rule on autopatches. Your plan is to try and fool the repeater control operators. Invent code words your secretary at work will understand to disguise any business talk so it sounds like personal chatter. Or get to be friends with the local Domino's Pizza manager. Make it so that when you call him on the patch and ask him to bring over the "floppy disk" you need to your house, he shows-up 30 minutes later with a piping hot large pepperoni and sausage pie. The possibilities are endless....

36) Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. Also, make sure you work through a repeater that you can hear very well, but it cannot hear you. This will put out a kind of "LID mating call": "Well, Joe, I can hear the repeater just fine



here. I wonder why it can't hear me?" You will score maximum LID points if you are mobile, and with the radio lying in the passenger seat.

37) If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other "LID" buddies have a "coded" frequency list. Even though "CODES" are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice "James Bond" tactics.

38) Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently move from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is "rolling" in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!

39) Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.

40) Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like "roger, roger" or "fine business, fine business". I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.

41) If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that magic moment when you can find a fellow "LID", and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than five air miles from you.

These easy steps should put you well on your way to "LID-Hood". I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect "LID". I should also note that these steps can also apply to simplex operation, but nobody really cares because that pawn-shop HTX-202 isn't going to get out too far with just a rubber duck.

73,

Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

P.S. "Rusty Bumpers" is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.



A promotional graphic with a yellow background and a red border. At the top, a blue box contains the text "Support Your Radio Club!". Below this, the text "Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership" is written in a large, black, serif font. At the bottom, another blue box contains the word "TODAY!" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.



## Membership Form

Club dues run from Jan. 1 until Dec. 31 and are collected during the last quarter of the year. You can mail in the dues to the address below or bring them to a meeting. Dues are prorated for new members at the time of application. Visit our Web Page at [www.mvarc.net](http://www.mvarc.net)

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