

THE RAG CHEW

A Newsletter for the N7LGN American Legion Post 113 Radio Club and the Idaho Society of Radio Amateurs

Yaesu FTM



Yaesu FTM-400XDR C4FM Digital Dual Band Transceivers are the first mobiles to be fully compatible with the YAESU System Fusion Dual-Mode Analog/Digital communication system. These advanced digital transceivers have three digital modes plus an analog mode. FTM-400XD(R/E) models replace the FTM-400D(R/E) radios with improved GPS performance for enhanced APRS operation.

Proposal: A Club Project?

Beyond the activities listed in this Newsletter, here is another thing we can do as a club that may be fun. It's a club construction project. It involves building QRP transceivers. If you received the latest edition of QST (April, 2022), you

may have read the article about the QRP radios. The article was "a Potato Powered Transceiver" on page 38. The radio is called a Pixie. I checked with the company and discovered the kits are

\$9.00 each. Shipping is free. If you are interested in building these radios as a club project, let us know at the meetings or through e-mail.

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In this issue:

- Note from the editor
- Tech question
- ARRL News
- Activity News
- Club project?
- For Sale Items

Events this month and beyond:

- March 19—Testing at the Post
- March 23—N7LGN Club Meeting—Winlink
- March 24—ISRA Club Meeting—Go Kit
- March 27—Antenna building
- April 9—Fox Hunt
- May 6—Ed Fong at N7LGN
- June 24—25—Field Day

From The Editor

By: Yers Trooly

The Ides of March have come and gone. As far as the month coming in like a lion, meeah...not so much. If you didn't settle all your debts on the 15th, you missed an opportunity and if your name is Julius Caesar and you are reading this...you made it! You should know that March and April are set-up months for the summer and as such there are a few operating activities listed elsewhere that may be of interest.

First a disclosure: The schematic I offered last edition was wrong! Oh the shame of it. The transistors were PNP and drawn upside down. The good news: two people caught it. The bad news: only two people caught it. The diagram this month will work...in fact, I've built it. Give it a try. You may have a good time putting it together.

In this newsletter you will see an article about a proposed club project. Have a read and please consider it. The project offers you an opportunity to get involved in an easy educational project that actually works! It is one of several things in the offing. I mention this because these group events are going to

come fast for a while. It's kind of like pent up demand in economics terms. The tape measure antenna build project is an example. Additionally, it looks like there is a desire to put on a "now what" event for folks getting started and even people who want a quick refresher. There is an article in this newsletter about that.

Finally, there is an opportunity to put on a "quickie" class for the Technician license if anyone is interested. To be clear, I am not a big fan of quickie classes, but it's all that can be offered between now and June 30, 2022. This is a true freebee class in that the book (The ARRL Technician License Manual) and all materials including the class are free. There is a class limit of seven. The test still costs \$15.00, but it's as cheap as it gets. The book is a great reference manual for use anytime.

So now, it's over to you: What do you want to see and are you interested in any of the events discussed? Please, oh please let us know.

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Activity Corner

By: Bob Whitlatch,
K6OWF

On Wednesday March 23, N7LGN Meeting Activity

Dan Woodall/N7DKW will treat us to a Winlink presentation. Dan writes, "Winlink is a service for amateur radio and government licensed stations that allows hams to send and receive emails. It is very useful in emergency and off grid communications. Winlink can use VHF, UHF, and HF bands as well as connecting to the Winlink system via the internet. Developing this capability can help a ham to better assist the public and emergency managers during disaster events."

Dan was licensed in 2001 and began serving with the Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services in 2004. He currently serves the Idaho Office of Emergency Management Reserve Corps and the Idaho Amateur Radio Emergency Service District.

Please come and experience Dan's enthusiastic program.

To remove your name from our mailing list or correspond with questions and comments, please e mail me at rjdees@aol.com.

A “Now What????” Class

By: H.Dean Bunnell

The ISRA and N7LGN will be holding a 2 (ish) hour hands-on class for new Ham Radio Operators, those that would like to become Ham Radio Operators, and anyone that just needs a refresher. The class will be held on a Saturday and all necessary equipment will be supplied – you can bring your own radio if you already have one.

The “Now What” class will include discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on activities with club equipment including:

- Getting you on the air for the first time during the class session

- How to communicate with a UHF/VHF radio

- How to use a Repeater

- How to select a Handheld Transceiver (HT)

- How to program and use an HT

- How to communicate with an HF radio

- How to get your Technician License

- Antennas

- Grounding

A reference manual for new Ham's and those that want to become a Ham will be available for a cost of \$10. Please let us know if you or any of your friends would be interested in attending a class like this. Also, if anyone would like to come and help us out with the class, please let us know.

CLASSES !

By: Tom (WA9WSJ and Diane (KE7HHW)

.Hello All,

For those that may not know, Diane KE7HHW and myself, Tom WA9WSJ have been offering Free ham classes for all licenses, in Garden City.

We use only the Gordon West book. These classes last 6 to 8 weeks on the average, occasionally less (depending on the class). Our method is to follow the book, show short videos, live demonstrations and display real components, all where applicable. This way, text, visual and hands on covers all types of learning avenues.

We offer testing through the W5YI group for classes and for any that may have not taken our class but are ready to test. We are very flexible for setting up a test session for those that can't make other testing venues. The cost of the test is \$14.00.

There are no set class schedules, but ask that you contact Diane through ke7hhw@msn.com, or wa9wsj@wa9wsj.com or Diane KE7HHW at 208-297-7667 (not a text number) or 208-807-7146 (texts ok), for current information. Thanks!

To remove your name from our mailing list or correspond with questions and comments, please e mail me at rjdees@aol.com.

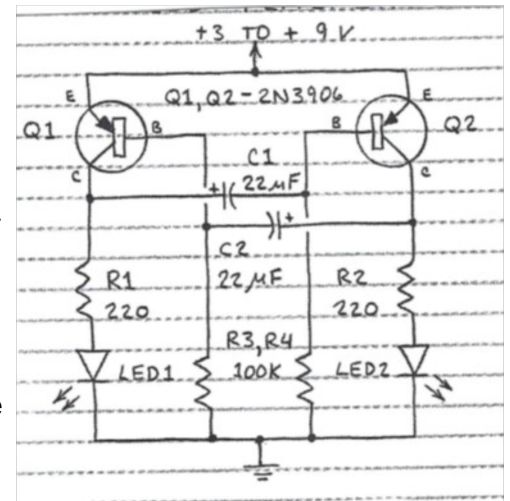
Tech Topic

By: Yers Trooly

Here is your circuit for this month. It is quite famous and used in many applications. Your task is to identify the circuit, and describe how it works. If you build the circuit, it will work!

Last month the circuit was supposed to be a switch, but I managed to draw it incorrectly. I was trying to get you to understand the idea of increasing the base current to cause the transistor to turn fully on.

Send in your responses...this is a fun circuit and quite useful.



For Sale or Trade

Selling Yaesu ft-60 with charger and back up battery. Unit comes with a mh-34b4b mic. All selling for \$150.00. Contact Hugh at: hughfryling@gmail.com.

Yaesu FT 8800 R/E mobile radio. Has remote for vehicle, ram mount system for dash board, antenna with mount for vehicle.

Also:

Homeland Security Operations Guide Booklet canvas gear bag

Miscellaneous connectors (about 20 pieces)

Technician Class prep book

Six foot extension cable used for house antenna to hand-held connection

Twenty foot coax with BNC

Antenna car cable with plugs on both ends

Price: \$300.00 OBO

Contact Paul Baeder W7PSB

Meridian, ID

425 228 3337

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Dr. Schmidt

By: Bob Whitlatch

. Dr. Carl Schmidt was a hit with a crowd I counted at 50+ at the event. It was fun that so many people came and had dinner first. People asked engaging questions during and at the end of the program. So glad that Kim made himself available to provide answers to Carl's questions about radio technologies I have yet to verbally master.

I thought Carl's talk covered a well-defined path from the Core of the Sun to the Magnetosphere/Ionosphere of the Earth. It was just sciency enough to be challenging with added cocktail facts and gifs to make it fun and interesting.

Bob's gave us terrific wait staff service and well prepared meals. Kim's crew purchased and assembled that nice AV equipment. Some of it may have been rented or borrowed. Kim's hand-made SWARC marketing gizmos for Carl to give guests who asked good questions was a nice touch.



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and comments, please e mail me at rjdees@aol.com.

mailing list or correspond with questions

ARRL News

ARRL has filed [comments](#) with the US Forest Service (USFS) seeking an exemption for amateur radio facilities to a proposed new \$1,400 annual administrative fee. The USFS proposal resulted from requirements in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (aka "the Farm Bill"), which directs the Forest Service to collect fees for issuing communications use authorizations based on the cost to the agency for processing the applications, maintenance, and other related activities. These fees would be in addition to annual rental and cost-recovery fees already being collected.

On February 24, the Forest Service filed a [Notice](#) with the *Federal Register* that the comment filing window will be re-opened on March 1 and additional comments will be accepted through March 31. Any radio amateurs missing the first comment period or wishing to add to their earlier comments are encouraged to do so during this additional period.

"Although the discussion put forward by the Forest Service in its proposal focuses on commercial uses, the proposal would sweep within its requirements amateur radio uses that are solely noncommercial," ARRL said in comments filed on February 22. "Radio amateurs establish and maintain facilities at certain locations for public service purposes with no remuneration or reimbursement. Unlike broadcasters and commercial wireless and fiber providers, radio amateurs are uniquely barred by the terms of their federal licenses from receiving compensation of any sort."

"Non-commercial and uncompensated communication uses by radio amateurs within Forest Service areas long have served the public interest in many ways, among them by providing the means for otherwise unobtainable emergency communication capabilities in times of need," ARRL noted. "Amateurs perform this valuable public service without cost to taxpayers. The importance of these capabilities [has] been demonstrated repeatedly. The skills of amateur operators have served our country well with their carefully located equip-

ment when enabling exchanges of possibly life-saving messages in difficult terrain during forest fires, extending communications assistance help during hurricanes, and providing communications capabilities during search-and-rescue missions in remote areas."

ARRL stressed that equipment, maintenance, and other costs associated with amateur radio facilities on USFS lands "are borne solely by the volunteer radio amateurs themselves."

ARRL continued, "Commercial applicants usually request more extensive use of the lands administered by the Forest Service, and these requests necessarily result in more complex issues having to be considered and resolved."

"It is foreseeable that many radio amateurs providing these services would have to opt to withdraw and cease their work," if not exempted from the proposed fees, ARRL said. "In many cases the most useful locations for needed coverage from their stations is uniquely on Forest Service lands. In short, the proposal to include volunteer uncompensated amateur service applicants with the commercial wireless service and broadcast applicants is grossly inequitable. There is a disparity in the amount of resources necessary to consider applications from radio amateurs as compared to that required by commercial applicants."

"Our best estimate is that there are fewer than 100 covered amateur locations, but those likely are unique and essential to covering forested areas in times of need, such as forest fires or lost hikers," ARRL said. "These dissimilarities in complexity and scope should be recognized in this fees proposal and amateur radio applications exempted."

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