



# *The Maury Amateur Radio Club News*

August 2009 *Send articles, pictures, questions, suggestions, etc to k4bx@hotmail.com*

## ***Greetings from the President!***

Well, I have actually been doing some radio stuff lately. I ran some coax into my shack and mounted the vertical on the side. I have my 2 meter copper J-Pole up also. My 80-meter inverted-vee dipole is still “hanging” in there too. I will connect the 2-meter and the Kenwood soon and I will have a fully functioning shack.

I decided to charge the batteries in the FT-817 and brought it into the house. I talked to Cary on the 2-meter side and he said it was full quieting. I believe I will continue to keep it in the house since I enjoy the scanner frequencies on it and I don't have to go outside to talk on the 2-meter. I have a little multiband hamstick that is great for listening, but trying to tune that thing is a monster. It worked on some of the bands but not all. I will still take it to the woods from time to time but I feel a dipole is going to be the only way to go to actually talk.

We had a great July meeting with Eric Hileman with the Maury County Fire Dept. He covered several topics of Rural Firefighting and the volunteerism of the men and women in the community. What is great about this organization is that it is strictly a volunteer organization. Many hours are donated to protect the areas in the county. I am glad the equipment is finally being updated. You can always help this organization with your donations. “a little goes a long way”!!!

We will have elections of club officers at our August meeting. Please have someone in mind for the offices of the club. There are many in the club who would do great. Why not consider it yourself? It does take some time, but know that many people are grateful for your help and many are willing to help you along the way.

We don't have any guest speakers scheduled for August. Cary was going to do a “chalk-talk” on antennas, but had to back out for this meeting and we will re-schedule his talk for a later time. If you would like to present or know of someone who would like to do a short meeting, please let me know so we can make arrangements.

I have started taking a class for my upcoming return to school and will begin taking some on-line classes next month. I will start my fall semester in October so wish me luck. I plan on still being active in the club as more of a helper than a planner. The club has been a big part of my “hobby life” over the years and I don't intend to stray far from it.

The big event for this area is right around the corner. The Huntsville Hamfest. I received my card in the mail yesterday and have already made plans to go. Danny, Seth, and I are riding together. Our plan is to depart from my house at 6:45-7:00 am., stop in Ardmore for breakfast, and get there in time for the doors to open at 9:00. We will then leave the center between 11:30 and 12:00. If this fits your plans, I have room for 1 more person if you would like to ride with us. Please just let me know.

Our repeater committee has been busy. We are getting closer to having the 440 machines up and running. Stay tuned for the progress report on that. That's it for now. As always, thanks for your help and advice and support.



## *Jerry N4EO is now operating from South Korea as HL9EO*



Jerry will be in South Korea until mid September. He is using a Yaesu FT-100 and a homebrew vertical antenna.

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## *Coming Events...*

August  
11

Club Meeting 7PM at Bonanza in the Columbia Mall. Please arrive early to visit and finish your meal. This month's topic will be the election of officers for the next year.

August  
15

Huntsville Hamfest 9AM. This is a wonderful hamfest, all indoors and air conditioned! It's also open Sunday. For complete details goto <http://www.hamfest.org/>.

August  
22

Club Breakfast 9AM at Stan's out on Bear Creek Pike. There will probably be talk about the things we bought (or should've bought) at the big Huntsville Hamfest.

## World Radio magazine....

Remember World Radio? Even if you weren't a subscriber I bet you got a free copy once in a while. The magazine was bought by CQ Magazine and is no longer printed. I was actually a subscriber and enjoyed it. Well.... guess what? The magazine is still around and published online. Goto <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html> and you can read or download it as a PDF file. You sure can't beat the price.



## FCC Database...

What is your favorite place to look up a callsign? QRZ isn't the only place although I always check it hoping the callsign holder has entered a picture and some info about himself. Myself, I like the University of Arkansas <http://callsign.uar.edu/callsign.shtml>. At this site you can do things like enter your zip code and see a list of all the hams in your town. If you forgot someone's callsign you can enter their last name and the state and look through the list and find him/her. It might be interesting to just enter your last name. When I did that, I found out I'm not the only William Milligan ham operator.

Another interesting site is <http://www.vanityhq.com/>. In the lefthand column you will see N4MC's Ham Locator to see a map showing hams in your neighborhood.



Send in some of your favorite sites to [k4bx@hotmail.com](mailto:k4bx@hotmail.com).



**Huntsville Hamfest**  
**Aug 15 & 16, 2009**



*For full details goto [hamfest.org](http://hamfest.org)*

## *Old Ham and installing the mobile radio in the old and new cars....*

Back when the radios were big and very heavy and had tubes in them running mobile was not for the faint of heart. First of all the newer cars (with little room) you would have to use the passengers seat to begin with and go from there. The older cars with the bench seats the radios would fit as a center console but you must have a lot of air space around them since the tubes would get hot. You might ask how would a tube radio run on DC in a mobile when you need to have 120 volts AC.

To run with from 12 volts DC you must have a way to make AC out of it. The older radios used a type of vibrator to make the AC voltage that was needed. The later tube radios used what we would call an inverter to do the same thing. Heathkit used an inverter separate from the radio just like the AC supply. The Swan used a plug-in inverter in the radio work the same way. Other tube radios used the same type set up to run mobile.

The newer solid state radios are very small and some are all band, HF, 2 Meter and 440 and general coverage all in one and most all have a detachable face. The face plate can be mounted on the dash and the radio can be in the trunk or under the seat. This will make life much easier in the little cars we have today.

In most mobile set ups you should run the DC Voltage direct from the battery with the fuses at the battery in case you would get a short in the wires, the fuses would blow and disconnect the wire from the battery ( no fire) .This will also help with the noise from all the other electronics in the car. If you went through the wiring harness like the cigarette lighter you could get all types of electrical noise .The cars we have today are 60% plastic not like the older cars of yesteryear.

Make sure you have a ground wire from the frame to the motor and from the antenna to the frame and from the negative battery terminal to the frame. This will help with the electrical noise. Some cars with all this grounding you will still have problems. The Saturn that I run my Yaesu FT 857 in is OK when running 90 Watts but when I run a full 100 watts my Check Engine will come on. So I run 90 Watts. I also use a Out Backer type of Antenna because of the lower profile that I need for the parking garage that I park in when I go to Nashville. There are better mobile antennas you can use but this works best for me.

If you are tempted to use the cigarette lighter to power a 2 meter radio do not run more than 10 to 20 watts because not like the older cars the wire from the wiring harness to the lighter is no bigger than #16 or #20 wire. The older cars had #12 run to the lighter. In a long QSO it could cause a fire before the fuse could blow. Anyway, it's always best to run the power powers to the battery.

Also when sitting in your car and having a long QSO do not turn the engine off. The battery in most cars is made to start the car not run a radio at 100 watts for very long and most radios will shut down when the DC Voltage gets down to 11 to 10.5 VDC and this will not take long with a long QSO.

I hope this will help a little. Every car is different. Even with cars of the same model, one will work different from the other.



73 for now and happy mobiling

*Art WD4NCO*

# *The MARC Classified Ads*

For Sale

**Icom IC-746** Excellent condition, includes the radio, stock hand mic, and unopened accessory pack. Has 2 Icom drop-in filters installed: 1 250Hz CW filter and 1 500Hz CW filter. Asking \$800

**Icom IC-706MKIIG** This unit was installed in my truck for about 18 months. It has one very light scratch on the top of the body of the unit. The remote head unit is as new. Comes with the original hand mike, accessory kit, mobile mounting bracket, remote mounting kit and a tune control module that will allow you to press the tune button on the radio and get a 5w CW signal for easily checking SWR. Asking \$625

Both of the radios are here at my house in Columbia, TN and are available any time for visual inspection and/or operational check through any of the antennas I have installed here.

Feel free to contact me via email or phone if you have any questions or are interested in any of this gear.

Respectfully, Dan Skaggs - N4EA Ph. 931-490-6951 Email: n4ea@arrl.net

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For Sale

**Kenwood TS-570D** Excellent condition. Comes with hand mic, power cables and original box. \$600

**Elecraft K2** QRP 80-10 meter transceiver with following options installed: KAT2 Automatic antenna tuner, KSB2 SSB Adapter, and the KIO2 Computer Interface. Rig works great other than a scratchy volume control. \$500.

MFJ-949E Antenna tuner. I bought this tuner new at Huntsville a few years back and have only used it for the antenna switch and dummy load. Like new in original box. \$75

Both these rigs are hooked up and working here in Spring Hill. Contact Bill K4BX 931-3815023 or k4bx@arrl.net

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For Sale

The following items are from the shack of WA4ZT

**Kenwood 241** 2 Meter Mobile

**Icom 706** 2M-HF Radio

**Yaseu YS-60** Watt/SWR Meter

**Astron 35 Amp** Power Supply

**D104 Desk Mic**

**CDE Rotor Control**

**Drawa CS401** 4 Position Switch

Call After 6pm 931-359-2959 Ask For Faye



If you have anything to sell, swap, trade or maybe looking for something... send the info to k4bx@hotmail.com for the next newsletter.