

Indian River Amateur Radio Club's Spurious Emissions

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IRARC Activities for January

Happy New Year! The month of January has taken off with a roar and your newsletter editor decided to hop on the wagon and see what IRARC members did inside and outside the clubhouse for public service, education and sometimes just plain fun during the month. We covered the normal club meeting on Jan 6th, an afternoon of learning about digital communications on Jan

8th, DSTAR Training over at Ray Kassis' studio on Jan 10th, a BEARS meeting on Jan 11th and an Antenna Clinic on Jan 15th -whew! This list does not include the usual Wednesday night ARES net or the obligatory board meetings or the monthly satellite test for the American Red Cross. You can drip you toes into the hobby to explore a new mode or dive deep but you should never be bored!



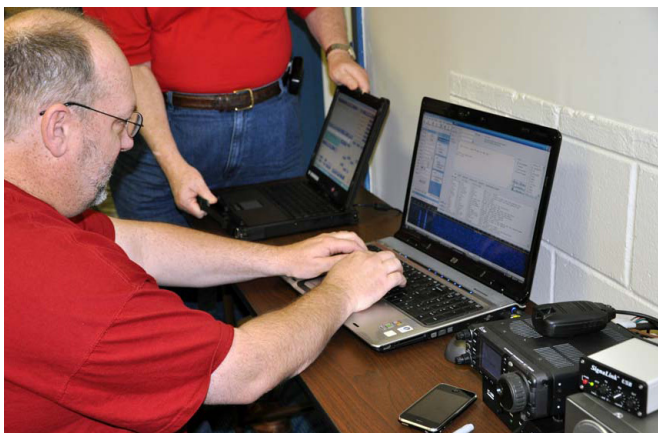
Gathering of IRARC members to learn about digital communications (RTTY, PSK-31) during the ARRL RTTY Round-Up on Jan 8th at the IRARC club station

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Who knew you could run RTTY without a 250 pound machine going "clickity" with the attendant smell of lubricated mechanical metal mass moving at 60 words per minute? Well today's digital modes are a far cry from those days. Radio Teletype (RTTY) is just one of many modes operated today with computer, sound card interface and the right software to make these modes just plain fun

to operate. Marty Grove, KJ4LQX along with a host of members operated a ICOM radio with a computer running HRD Digital Master during the ARRL RTTY Roundup on Jan 8th. The goal of the demonstration may have been to have a good showing but another hidden goal was accomplished by introducing digital operations to a bunch of analog hams during a contest environment. The fun

of operating was apparent to all who marveled at the simplicity of the radio setup and the ease of looking at a computer displaying the signals within a band, selecting the signal to decode, calling the decoded station and completing the QSO with the prescribed contact information. There are advantages of narrow band operations with low power but we'll save that for other article.



Marty KJ4LQX getting into the digital groove during the ARRL RTTY Roundup using HP laptop and ICOM IC-7000 (100 watt radio).

Meet Us On the Following...

On Wednesday evenings at 7:15 local, the Central Brevard County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net meets on IRARC's 145.370 MHz repeater Down 600 KHz (tone 156.7 Hz). After the net, informal ops on 147.42 MHz simplex. Sunday at 1500L on 3.820 MHz for the Half-Time Net. On the web point your browser to: <http://irarc.ham-radio-op.net>

IRARC's Spurious Emissions is published monthly. Comments and articles are welcomed, contact Dave Lerret, KU0R, payloadone@earthlink.net

IRARC Antenna Clinic

Greg O'Neill, AB4GO hosted an antenna clinic at the IRARC club station on January 15th. The goal of the clinic was to examine various antenna modelling software used in amateur radio applications. Greg used a commercial program called Antenna Model, "antennamodel.com" for the primary demonstrations. As with any modeling software it is important to set up the model to define the variables and the environment before running the model. One modeling program can't cov-

er all aspects of the effort so it is important to know each program's strengths and weaknesses. Greg demonstrated the effects of setting up the proper variables and selection of the environment including describing the ground conductivity. To make the demonstration easy to verify, Greg modeled a dipole antenna set at various heights above ground and provided an explanation of the model outputs. Greg also examined a popular antenna used for portable operations -

the Buddipole. The program provides a clear 3-D view of the radiation profile and using the Smith Chart views one can easily determine the proper match required for efficient operation. Besides the Antenna Model Program (cost \$90) other modeling programs are EZNEC (cost \$90), Nec2Go (cost \$40) and NEC-Win Plus (\$150). The clinic was well received by those in attendance. New topics and perhaps more advanced classes will be offered in the future.

Club Meeting News

The January IRARC meeting began with an introduction of Chuck Broughton, KI4TNA, a new IRARC member who with Chris Johnson's, AJ4TK, assistance will refurbish the Cocoa Beach PD repeater for IRARC use. Greg AB4GO reported the high/low trailer has been dispositioned, meaning no more IRARC liability. Del Anderson, KJ4UWA has passed his Extra Class exam -well

done! Gene W4JMX will have a table at the Orlando Hamcation Feb 11-13. Wayne Savold, K0DKT and Jerry Phelps, KJ4IMP, have the club packet station up and running. Bob N4VO reported all repeaters are operational. Steve N4UTQ gave a presentation on jet engines. On DX news Terry, AF7W worked Cameroon on 20 meters while Greg, AB4GO worked KC4AAA (Antarctica) on 20 meters

QRP! WOAGE won the 50/50 drawing and took home \$15.



Next IRARC meeting
February 3rd at
7:30 PM at Rock-
ledge American
Red Cross. Steve,
N4UTQ presents
the tech of rocket
engines.

Strays -n- Stuff



Greg, AB4GO at the IRARC Antenna Clinic on Jan 15th is demonstrating the effects of adjusting the height of a dipole above ground with the change reflected on the radiation pattern. Now I know why my attic antenna performs well as a NVIS antenna!

- IRARC Financial Report for January 2011
Checking: \$2883, Equipment Fund: \$1707
- Next Satellite Terminal Test will be on February 19th with setup at 9 AM.
- 2011 General Member Club Dues are \$18.00. Please bring checks to the February meeting.
- Half Time Net meets Sundays at 1500L on 3.820 MHz LSB. The Florida Hurricane net meets at 2100L on Mondays. KJ4OXT DSTAR 147.030 MHz repeater or via Internet Reflector 34A.
- Are you RadioActive? Check the IRARC website calendar at <http://irarc.ham-radio-op.net/> for upcoming events, photos and links to other local clubs.

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