

AmRRON BEACON



Feb 13, 2023 / Vol 1

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T-REX 2023 scheduled for July 21st- 23rd!

From AmRRON Headquarters

Welcome to the first edition of the AmRRON Beacon, the periodical to keep AmRRON members informed, educated, and interested in emergency communications for disasters and civil defense.

This project is long overdue and we're excited that it is finally under way. We hope you are too.

We appreciate and value your feedback and input to help us improve and grow. If you have suggestions for additional content on a regular or periodic basis, we would like to hear from you.

We plan to feature articles, reviews, news, gear, and announcements, as well as

the experiences and insights from you, the members of AmRRON.

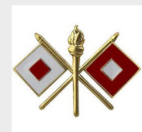
There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty in today's world, and the importance of patriots to stay informed and connected can't be emphasized strongly enough.

The AmRRON Beacon is intended to move us as individuals and as a network toward that common goal.

Our hope is to provide content you'll value and return to for reference long after each edition is published.

We look forward to your contributions! 73!

-JJS



CommstatX Update

CommstatX is a companion program to JS8Call and is currently being developed and tested by a team of AmRRON Corps operators. It displays mapping and Status Report data for quick identification of trouble hot spots. It is also extremely useful for conducting STATREP nets and making brief announcements to the network. This is very like to be a high-use tool in a prolonged grid down environment when transmitting power is precious.



Two (of the many) Benefits of Joining AmRRON Corps:

Z-net

The Zello walkie talkie app has been an invaluable tool for AmRRON Corps members to communicate, coordinate, mentor and train, and build esprit de corps, regionally and nationwide. Think of it as a nationwide repeater. There are several channels, including a main channel for making initial contacts and announcements, and other channels dedicated to specific regional activities, including 'help desk' style channels for testing, training, troubleshooting, and mentoring on topics ranging from Linux and Raspberry Pi building, antennas, solar and other backup power topics, software setup and troubleshooting, etc. There is also a practice net on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, which gives participants a chance to participate in a nationwide voice net. This functions just like on 2 meter repeater, where proper net and radio procedures are demonstrated, except FCC call signs are not used, but rather each operator's AmRRON Call signs are used.

Corps Proboards Forum

The second most used feature is the online AmRRON Corps forum. Here, you will find a library of discussions and topics on anything and everything related to AmRRON, digital modes, alternative backup power, antennas, OPSEC, security, current events, etc. The forum is a great place to take advantage of the depth of knowledge and experience found across AmRRON.

Get Started!

Joining AmRRON Corps is a great way to fast-track your way up the communications capabilities ladder, with the help and encouragement of some of the greatest folks you'd ever hope to meet. If you have the drive and self-motivation, they'll be happy to meet you halfway!

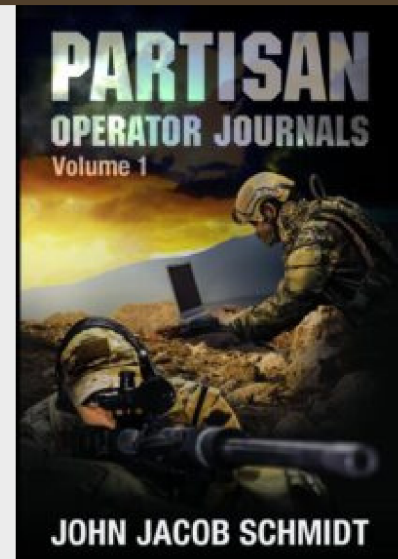
[CLICK HERE](#)

to learn more about joining AmRRON Corps



YOU HAVE 3 UNREAD MESSAGES

militaryhumor.net



VERICODE PROJECT IS BACK

AIB VERICODE PROJECT



The 'Vericode Project' is somewhat of an over-the-air scavenger hunt, which involves gathering two components:

1. The Vericode
2. The Supplemental Vericode

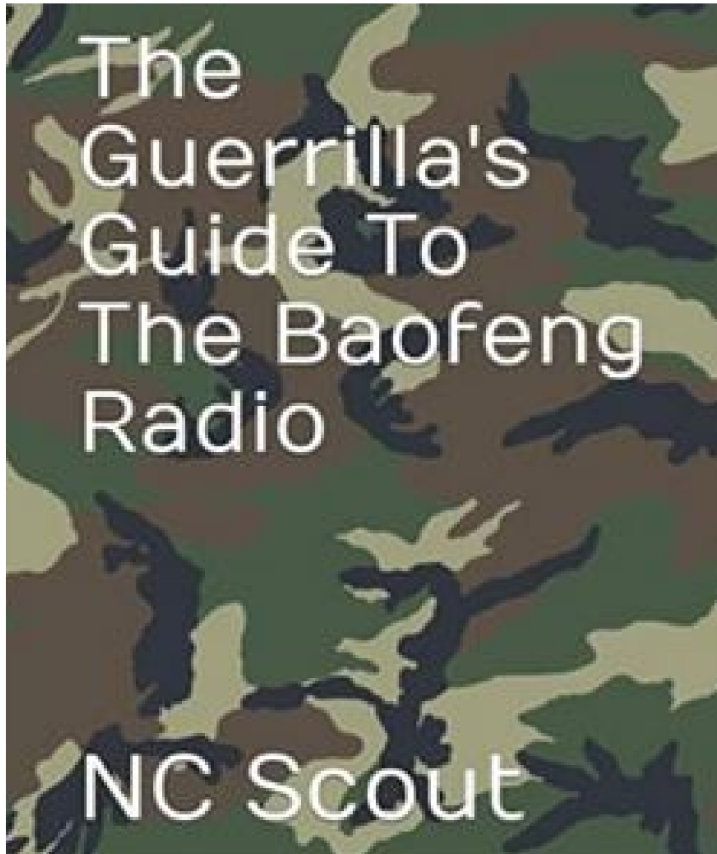
When the two are put together, they form the password to unlock a new Partisan Operator Journal (Volume 2) entry, encrypted and uploaded to the Partisan Operator Journal page on the website. There is no cost whatsoever!

The Vericode Project is designed to help patriot radio operators develop and reinforce multiple skills which could be critical in the future, and it's fun!

- Get the weekly AmRRON Intelligence Brief (AIB)
- Note the Vericode in the AIB
- Get the Supplemental Vericode from one of the scheduled nets (or by relay for one hour afterward)
- Go to the POJ page, and get the encrypted weekly journal entry.
- Use the free PTE software to decrypt the message
- Enjoy another journal entry in an ongoing dystopian saga.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

TRADECRAFT RESOURCES



NC Scout has put out a very timely and relevant resource, and we're happy to share it here. Several AmRRON operators have recently purchased their copies and the reviews are starting to come in as "highly recommended."

THE GUERRILLA'S GUIDE TO THE BAOFENG RADIO

The Guerrilla's Guide To The Baofeng Radio is a handbook for those finding themselves in an austere environment, an underground resistance, or going into harm's way with one of the most common pieces of communications equipment in the world. Going far beyond simple programming or what's written from the Amateur Radio perspective, this manual goes in-depth on how to communicate, creating a communications plan, improvised wire antennas, digital operations and encryption in an easy to follow, step-by-step format based on combat proven methods. Whether you've just invested in a few of the inexpensive radios for an uncertain future or find yourself in rough corners of the world, this manual covers how to create communications where there otherwise would be none.

It's more than just a Baofeng manual, and it's not written with the modern ham radio operator's perspective. It's a partisan's communications field guide.

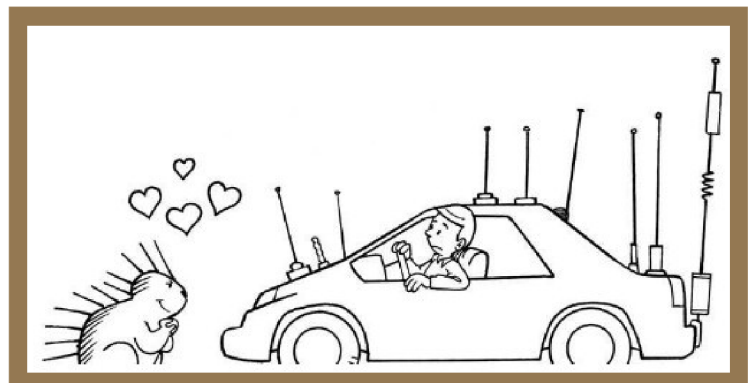
Also, check out his excellent [BRUSHBEATER BLOG!](#)

Get your copy of The Guerrilla's
Guide To The Baofeng Radio

[ORDER HERE!](#)

DIGITAL NET TIPS (during nets):

- Turn your Beacons, Heartbeats, and Sounders OFF in your other digital mode software.
- Turn your JS8Call auto responders OFF during scheduled nets
- If your stations will be unattended during scheduled net, turn all the above OFF to avoid interfering with the nets while you're away.
- Turn your TxID 'OFF' (upper RH corner of your fldigi window) if you are not NCS or ANCS.



Ham Radio Humor

BASIC RADIO STUFF

It is correct radio procedure to call the other station first, and then identify your station.

"Joe, THIS IS David. Over." (correct!)
(**not** This is David, calling Joe)

"Alpha Seven, THIS IS Yankee Three" (correct!)

When transmitting on a radio, press the PTT button and wait momentarily before speaking (just a half a second).

Also, wait momentarily after you are done speaking (less than a half a second) before releasing the PTT button.

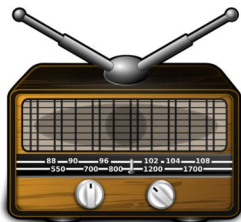
One very common mistake new radio operators make is cutting off the beginning and the end of their sentences because they key the mic just when they start talking, and unkey the mic during their last word.

'Keying the mic' or 'keying the radio' simply means pushing the PTT/mic button, or transmitting the radio.

When speaking into a radio microphone, speak in a clear, normal, voice. Don't yell!

On HF radio, it's normal to raise your voice enough to overcome noisy band conditions.

Do not speak directly INTO the microphone, but speak PAST the microphone. Slightly turning the microphone away from the front of your mouth makes your voice much clearer to others.



"It's not true I had nothing on, I had the radio on."

~Marilyn Monroe

CALENDAR

AmRRON



NATIONAL NETS

Wednesday, February 15th

@ 20:00Z 14.238 LSB 20m Voice
@ 20:30Z 14.110 USB 20m Digital
(Contestia 4/250)

4 hours later...

01:00Z 7.238 LSB 40m Voice
01:30Z 7.220 USB 40m Digital
(Contestia 4/250)

ROLLING REGIONAL NETS

Thursday, February 16th

Voice:

@ 20:00 Local 3.818 LSB 80m Voice

Digital:

@ 20:300 Local 3.588 USB 80m Digital
(Contestia 4/250)

OTHER AmRRON Nets

There are many other regional and local nets which will be featured in future editions.

Until then, you can look for a net in your area or region, at:

<https://amrron.com/nets-regional-national/>

www.amrron.com

Hey, AmRRON...

...SOUND OFF!

WHAT ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING HERE IN THE FUTURE?

- AmRRON News
- Upcoming Events
- Nets
- How-to's
- Security
- Tradecraft
- Gear
- Alt Comms
- Reviews
- From the Field
- Pro Tips
- Antennas
- Electronics and Radio Theory
- Net Reports
- Vid of the Week
- Survey/Poll of the week
- Testimonials
- Training
- Other?

Do you have content you'd like to contribute? Let us know!

Send in your questions, comments, and suggestions:

JohnJacob@amrron.com



"This is perfect! Useful, practical information!!!!"
~Romeo Mike-29



VOLUNTEER AMRRON CORPS EDITORS NEEDED

The AmRRON Beacon is a team effort. If being a volunteer on the editorial staff interests you, let me know.

Help is needed for gathering, organizing, and editing content .

See the AmRRON Beacon thread in the AmRRON Corps forum!

-John Jacob Schmidt