

AmRRON BEACON



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From AmRRON Headquarters

CQ CQ AmRRON!

Greetings patriot radio operators!

First of all, thanks for your patience with taking a break from the Beacon and the Partisan Operator Journal last week. I will be finishing up POJ Entry #041, and starting #042 this week.

Like POJ Volume 1, the Second Volume will also have twenty-five chapters (#026 through #050), so it's getting very close to being a published book. As soon as that happens, then the audio books for Volumes 1 and 2 will be produced (since several of you have asked).

We're also excited to begin producing videos again. I will be moving some of the older videos first, from the RFR channel to the AmRRON Youtube channel, and then new videos will be

produced, many of them short, easy to consume topical vids. We'll keep you posted.

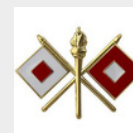
Finally, let's talk about nets and beaoning. We still have operators who are beaoning (or heartbeating -- JS8Call; or 'Sounding' -- FSQ) during scheduled nets. These are often automated and happen while an operator who forgot was away from his station. Try to be mindful of turning your beacons off if you are going to be away from your station during scheduled nets.

But what's worse is stations who manually send out a SNR (Signal strength Report query in JS8Call DURING a net, on the net frequency.

Don't be "that guy." Everyone will appreciate you not sending a SNR query during nets.

God bless, and 73 everyone!

-JJS



*"The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
But victory belongs to the Lord."*

Proverbs 21:31

RADIO NEWS

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NO AM RADIO IN NEW CARS? SOME GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PUSHING BACK AGAINST AUTOMAKERS

The great debate regarding AM radio is firing up, as more automakers ditch the old school feature.

In February, seven former FEMA members sent a letter to the Department of Transportation advocating for AM. They believe it's a critical public safety tool used by federal, state, and local officials during natural disasters.

"AM radio has been the backbone of emergency frequencies and emergency communications for a very long time in this country," said Brock Long, former FEMA administrator (2017-2019).

Long went on to say that a failure in communication can exacerbate or increase the complexity of disasters. He believes certain car companies began throwing out AM radio without understanding the ramifications of the Emergency Alert System that FEMA is in charge of operating.

"If you notice in Florida, particularly South Florida, a lot of the hurricane evacuation information is put forward through AM radio," Long said. "And Kellie, the reason behind that is because AM radio operates at a much lower frequency, and it has the ability to push through solid structures, it has the ability to penetrate deep, far and wide."

Automakers argue that drivers can still access AM on their smartphones, but Long said that won't cut it in times of disaster.

Read the full article at: <https://tinyurl.com/5n9araj6>

MORE HEADLINES

VA PAID FOR BUT DIDN'T DEPLOY AN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

VHA's failure to set up an enterprise-wide emergency communication system comes after the agency spent more than \$8.5 million and awarded a five-year contract to install a resilient high-frequency radio network at approximately 200 VA facilities by January 2020, the VA Inspector General report said.

VA's goal of establishing a last-resort communications capability by January 2020 has, more than three years later, not resulted in a nationwide functional system," the report said.

When functional, a last-resort communications system like an RHFRN can allow VA facilities to communicate with federal, state and local agencies with high-frequency capabilities to reestablish health care for veterans in the event of a natural disaster or incident that disrupts communications across external infrastructures.

The audit found that 17 of the 21 sampled locations lacked a fully operational system, despite the VA previously claiming the network was operable in 60% of its facilities with the required radio equipment. The agency "overstated the degree to which the network was operational" and required equipment repairs and increased training across the vast majority of RHFRN sites.

<https://tinyurl.com/25kdm2an>

THE CACTUS CHRONICLES (PART 3)

Follow along as Cactus, chronicles his real-life radio journey towards being a better prepared radio operator for his family, his friends, and his faith. Over the next few months, Cactus will share about his successes and failures as he works to improve his communications skills and abilities.

The Cactus Chronicles, Entry #3 2023.04.09, Rain and Rushing

This week, I was rushed to beat the clock and the clouds during the local 2 meter net. Dealing with multiple scheduling conflicts and a potential spring shower increased the excitement.

Currently, I can't setup a base station and this is frustrating at times, but it's my reality. Every time I want to talk on the radio, I have to drag all of my gear from a storage closet and go set it up in a field location. It's inconvenient, but it has created some valuable learning experiences. About 15 minutes before the local net was to start, I grabbed my pack, radio gear and headed out to setup my station. With all of my recent practice, I've been able to get my station up in about 5 minutes. So for the net, I calculated a 5-minute walk, 5 minutes to set-up and 5 minutes to spare.

However, I was overconfident and underestimated the weather. As I was moving to a good radio location, I had one eye on the clock and one eye on the clouds. Trying to outmaneuver them both nearly caused me to completely miss the net...and get wet.

Unfortunately, I was late starting the net, but I pushed through the minor issues and was able to take one check-in.

Here are a few lessons I learned:

- Don't be overconfident. Variables happen and cutting the schedule too close can cause unneeded stress.



Water Filtration

You have to have it! (click below)



(Cactus Chronicles Cont..)

- Don't underestimate the weather. I relied too much on the local weather forecaster and didn't trust my visual observations.

- Using my gear in less-than-ideal conditions helps me understand limitations (both the equipment and my own).

Despite the challenges of not being able to having a permanent base station set-up, I'm learning valuable lessons about my gear, my skills and the value of practice.

The AmRRON organization has laid the foundation for each of us to start a local communications network. The procedural process has been simplified and the support is plentiful.

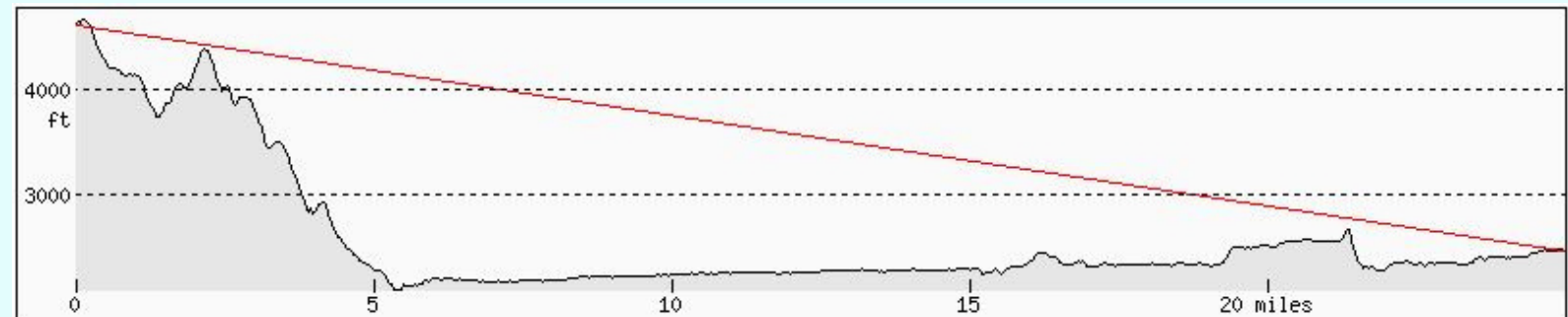
I hope that, especially in trying times, everyone steps-up, steps forward and starts a net. You don't have to be a perfect radio operator (I'm certainly not), you just have to be willing.

God bless and 73's
Cactus

HEY WHAT'S THAT!?

<https://heywhatsthat.com/profiler.html>

Do you have line of sight between hunting camp and the repeater? Between you and your buddy's house? Here is a handy online tool to let you know what terrain lies between two points? This could be invaluable to let you know what high point you may need to drive to to make radio contact, or where to place a portable repeater. Experimenting with it is the best way to become proficient with it, and it's super simple to use! Thanks Kilo Tango-61 !



Weekly video of interest....

(click image to view vid on YT)

Spy Radio: Antenna Considerations

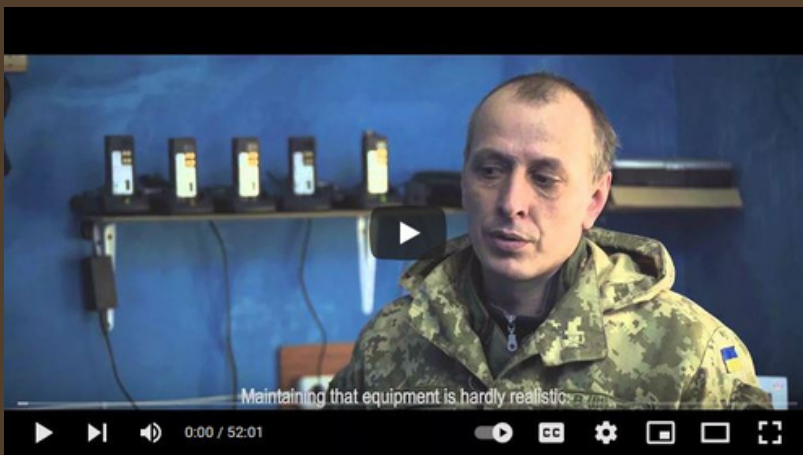
The latest video by S2 Underground is intriguing. Despite the title, it lends itself as much to low profile 'covert' comms for those living in HOA housing as it does those operating in more hostile non-permissive environments (wartime). The history and concepts of "spy" radio communications is definitely worth the watch and listen.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPwdYnxku6E>

General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine

On Radio Communications

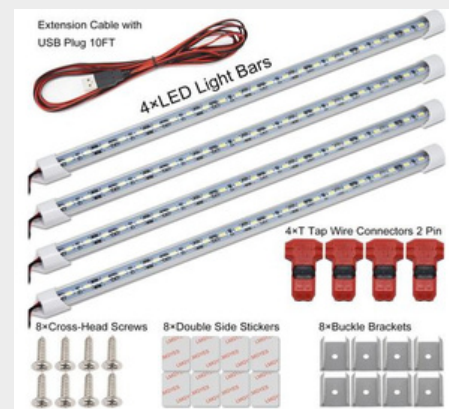


Fascinating documentary on radio communications of the Ukrainians, and the evolution from analog Baofengs to digital Motorolas, and more. Take notes and learn the importance of comms capabilities.

(English subtitles)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0O1WCTfDjsQ>

Extremely efficient
5v USB powered backup lighting
every ham shack should have!



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