PCARA Update

Volume 18, Issue 10 Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc. October 2017

Flying foxes

The PCARA **Special Event Station** (call W2NYW) held on Saturday September 9, 2017 celebrating 250 years of Old Saint Peter's Church in Cortlandt Manor, NY was a success! Quite a few contacts were made and many people stopped by the tent to learn about amateur radio. Many thanks to David K2WPM for organizing the event and to our members who helped to make it happen! I would also like to thank the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society and Old Saint Peter's Church Committee for Preservation for inviting us to participate and celebrate an important milestone in our local history.

Another very well attended **PCARA Breakfast** was held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday September 16, 2017 at Turco's in Yorktown, NY. These breakfasts serve as a great opportunity for everyone to get together, socialize, and discuss activities that we might want to do as a club in the future. At 2:00 p.m. that same day, PCARA's first **Foxhunt University** was held at Walter Panas High School, 300 Croton Avenue in Cortlandt Manor, NY. Professor Karl N2KZ covered the basics of Foxhunting with a discussion and demonstration of various techniques and tricks for improving Foxhunting abilities. Class concluded with a mini hunt on the school grounds. Lessons learned were put to good use at the **PCARA Foxhunt** on September 23. *[Report p.16 -Ed.]*

On Sunday October 15, 2017 PCARA will be partnering with our associates from WECA in providing communications support for the 37th Annual Memorial Harry Chapin **Walk/Run Against Hunger** in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. We'll need members to help cover the courses. If you're interested in helping please let us know at: mail'at'pcara.org. We shall be discussing details and assigning stations at the October meeting. For more information on the Harry Chapin Memorial Walk/Run Against Hunger, please visit: http://www.runagainsthunger.com/.

Karl N2KZ (right) conducts PCARA's first Foxhunt University at Walter Panas High School. [Pic by N2CKD.]

PCARA will be participating in the **New York State QSO Party** on Saturday October 21, 2017. This year as in years past, PCARA is sponsoring two plaques in the categories of "NY Multi-One Low Power" and "Non-NY SSB Low Power". Joe WA2MCR has graciously offered to host PCARA's New York State QSO Party entry. Thanks Joe!

Here are some upcoming regional Hamfests for your calendar:

- Sunday October 1, 2017: Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club (MBARC) Fallfest/Hamfest, Fishkill, NY. Please visit: http://wr2abb.org/home/ for the flier.
- Saturday October 7, 2017: Bergen Amateur Radio Association (BARA) Hamfest at Westwood High School in the Township of Washington in Bergen County New Jersey. More details can be found at: https://www.bara.org/hamfest/.
- Sunday October 8, 2017: Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club (HOSARC) Hamfest at the New York Hall of Science in Flushing Meadow, Corona Park, Queens, NY. Please visit: http://www.hosarc.org/hamfests.html.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is **Sunday October 1, 2017** at 3:00 pm at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor, NY. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

- 73 de Greg, KB2CQE

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The Little Things

I must have dozens of radios. Each one has something a little bit different from the other. How about:

- continuous tuning AM and aircraft VHF AM?
- AM/FM/analog TV?
- TRF front end AM with FM but only goes to 1660?

I bet you know what I am talking about. I bet you have some, too!

I have some items I think of as fine violins: My GE Superadios, my Yaesu FT DX 1200 and a GE Model 400 table radio. Many of my beloved rigs are ones that I built: a Heathkit HW-16 with HG-10B VFO, my Small Wonder Labs SW+ series transceivers and my Oak Hills Research OHR-100A for 30 meters that still has the spirit of its designer, Doug DeMaw W1FB, twirling around inside it. It is a great rig.

Heathkit HW-16 (top) and Yaesu FT DX 1200.

These top-performing radios are wonderful but I can't honestly say they are my daily run-of-the-mill utilitarian radios that pick up local stations and keep me company during day-to-day tasks or while falling asleep.

Outside of my trusty high-tech car radio, I mostly listen to a palm-sized Sony SRF-M37W Walkman series radio capable of AM/FM and NOAA weather broadcasts. It is great for late night AM DXing, long walks with my dog, catching up with the news sitting in hotel rooms... you name it! The single AAA battery plays on and on almost forever. With a digital readout and three layers of preset buttons, it is very easy-to-use and convenient. It is also not very expensive.

Karl's SRF-M37W Weather/AM/FM Walkman has presets for 5 weather band, 10 FM and 5 AM frequencies — plus 5 direct key presets for any band.

I also have a rather ancient Radio Shack 'Flavoradio.' It is an AM-only portable using a 9 volt battery just like the good old days. The name comes from the variety of colors the plastic cases came in. Blue was 'blueberry,' magenta was 'strawberry', black was 'blackberry.' You get it? I found this one in a Michigan Radio Shack, marked down numerous times, with a final selling price of $4.00. I thought to myself "What other person on Earth would appreciate this radio?" It is a three IF stage superhet and it actually works pretty well... and it has a speaker!

Karl's Realistic 'Flavoradio' 12-202 in Blueberry.

I also have an inclination to rehabilitate your tired, your poor, your troubled radios yearning to breathe free. My beloved GE Model 400 was found on a roadside, out in the rain, along a road outside of Ithaca, New York in the Finger Lakes region.

GE Model 400 five-tube receiver.

I have two 'boom boxes' I use at work that were sitting in the garbage ready for the crusher. One of them had a wicked wound where a cigarette had melted the CD player's door cover.

Another 'boom box' is branded as a Philco. I had seen it kicking around my workplace, sitting on top of discarded equipment, occupying a top shelf of a library of manuals and generally collecting dust. There was good reason. It was missing its plastic ribbon tuning dial. The tuning knob pivots and spins on a post broken away from the plastic cabinet. The top side slide switch for band changing was broken, too.

Boom boxes by Sharp (above) and Philco (below) rescued from the garbage.

This required some delicate surgery. I used a fine metric screw to rebuild and re-attach the tuning knob post. I cleaned up and rehabilitated the band switch. I tried to clean the cabinet of all the wall paint droppings, stickers dirt and muck and other abuse it took.

Alas, even after all the tinkering, you still have to kind of guess where you are when tuning. You find a station. You then try to navigate to the station you want by relative tuning around the dial. Without a dial pointer, you are flying blind! I know where WCBS 880 can be found by observing where little paint drops remain along the tuning knob! For all my efforts, I have a reasonably working radio that I can rest assured very few people would be tempted to walk off with.

*This is how the Philco 123K tuning dial **should** appear, with dial pointer.*

What are we listening to? Close-up of Karl's rescued Philco 123K radio/cassette recorder with AM/FM band switch top right, but no dial pointer.

I had a similar experience with a tossed-out carcass of a GE clock radio I found on top of a trash barrel in Manhattan years ago. I rehabilitated its radio circuitry and mounted it in a cabinet that I formulated from two discarded plastic parts bins. See page 14 of the December 2016 edition of *PCARA Update* for full details of its fate! It is fun to make wondrous things from left-overs and castaways.

Karl's recycled GE clock radio, re-housed in a pair of parts-organizer bins.

The underlying theme of this behavior is simple: It is wonderful to use fine equipment with impressive antennas to become a proficient and reliable radio communicator. It is an entirely different experience when your knowledge, experience and improvisation lifts you to another level. You should try it more often! When you make something from nothing — and then accomplish great things — it's a wonderful thing! The best things in life may be (nearly) free! Hand me those lemons! I want to make lemonade!

It's All Relative

Reading *PCARA Update* often reassures me that many of us lead parallel lives. After reading Malcolm, NM9J's article comparing his legacy Icom IC-W32A to his new Yaesu FT-70DR, I was inspired to compare my old Icom IC-T7H to my new Yaesu FT-60 HT. (See the September 2017 edition of *PCARA Update* pages 4 through 8.) It seems we also had parallel results.

I originally purchased my Icom IC-T7H dual band 2m/440 MHz HT just after the September 11, 2001 attacks on The World Trade Center. It was on that fateful day that my original HT, an Icom IC-T2H 2 meter single bander, disappeared from my carry bag never to be seen again. The replacement IC-T7H was a work horse! It was my only means of operating on these two bands for the longest time. All of the early Old Goats Nets came from that device usually rigged up to a 2 meter antenna on my car. On a full charge, on a good day, it was rated at about 6 watts output.

Original Icom IC-T2H single band transceiver (left) and its dual-band replacement IC-T7H (right)

I have owned my IC-T7H for about 16 years and have had just a few problems with it. Somehow I managed to blow the speaker on it and had to replace it. The biggest problem was self-inflicted. The HT uses a handy BNC connector for an antenna portal. I connected and disconnected antennas from this continually and wore out the BNC a few times. Some careful

disassembly and soldering (and the exact part from Icom) fixes this problem without too much effort.

For reasons still unknown, instead of using a small jumper wire from the output board to the tip of the BNC connector, Icom employed a zero ohm resistor to make that small jump. The quarter watt resistor size made the part delicate and the connection tentative. I knew I was near to another repair when I received reports of my signal dropping out. Eventually, I tried replacing it with a very flexible little jumper of wire. I haven't had problems since!

Close-up of Icom IC-T7H BNC antenna socket with ground tab soldered to the "2F unit" circuit board, top left. Tip of the BNC socket is connected to the "1F unit" board mounted below.

I did not realize it until I could compare it with other transceivers, but the IC-T7H actually has some pretty nice features. Most HTs can operate with up to about 5 watts of power on 2 meters. At 6 watts, the IC-T7H was just a little bit better. That extra watt or two of output power makes it a very effective transmitter. It also has a pretty sensitive and selective receiver.

Karl's Yaesu FT-60R HT.

I found the small 'rubber duck' antenna to have a fairly wide bandwidth. The IC-T7H has an expanded receiver reaching from 118 to 174 MHz plus 400 to 470 MHz — and this little antenna covers those wide open spaces very nicely. For instance, it hears the NOAA Weather Radio stations with better than average sensitivity. You can hear the weak ones on the IC-T7H!

Programming presets and digging down to deeper features really requires a manual or a very good memory! Scanning user-defined frequency ranges, for example, can be done but it is a little difficult to get there. Everything considered, the IC-T7H, with its rugged all-metal case, is a nice radio to own and enjoy.

To insure that I would always be able to operate portable on VHF/UHF, I recently purchased a Yaesu FT-60R HT as a backup. The programming of the Yaesu is no easier than the Icom. Again, you need a copy of the manual on your smartphone to remember all the settings and procedures. The FT-60R is a bit lighter in weight than the Icom.

Both units feature good long battery life and effective charging abilities. The old-school Icom takes a good ten hours or more to achieve a solid charge using a 'wall-wart'. The Yaesu charges up in a dedicated cradle also powered by a 'wall-wart.' There is a nifty color-coded LED on the front of the cradle indicating when you are charging and when you are complete.

The Yaesu has a few deficiencies. The receiver is not as sensitive as the Icom. I also found that the Yaesu 'rubber-duck' has a very high Q centered on the two amateur bands it serves. Any signal outside of those two distinct ranges is difficult to receive.

A most useful feature of the FT-60R is a common one these days: You can write 6 character alphanumeric legends into each frequency memory to remind you of what it is. 146.670 becomes 'PCARA2.' Now you don't have to memorize what every frequency is for. This is a breakthrough! The amount of memories varies wildly. The IC-T7H has 70 presets available. The Yaesu FT-60R has (gulp) over 1000 memories.

Example of a memory channel alpha-numeric tag as it would be displayed on the Yaesu FT-60R.

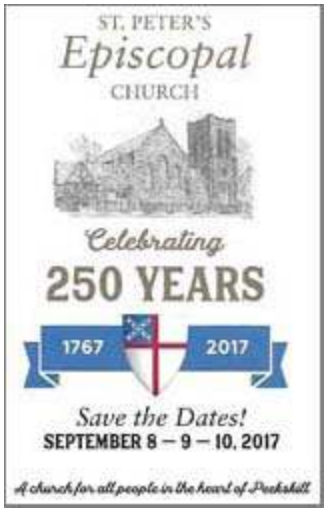
In any case, the IC-T7H is now a discontinued model. The Yaesu FT-60R is still available and has served as a standard HT for thousands of hams worldwide. I would highly recommend both. The FT-60R is a cost-effective solution as an introductory transceiver for a new ham — and one that you could grow into as you learn the many, many features it offers. See the FT-60R New Product News available at: http://www.yaesu.com/.

See you on Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m. — PCARA 2m repeater at 146.67 MHz, -600 kHz offset and a 156.7 Hz PL — for The Old Goats Net!

73 es dit dit de N2KZ - 'The Old Goat.'

Special Event – Old St. Peter's

Early on Saturday morning, September 9, several PCARA members arrived at Old St. Peter's cemetery to set up a Special Event Station. David K2WPM had arranged our presence with the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, which was holding its Colonial Fair in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of Old St. Peter's Church. The weather forecast called for mixed sun and clouds, with temperatures rising to 68°F.



Publicity for the Special Event, using club call W2NYW, had been arranged by David on the ARRL web site. The Van Cortlandtville Historical Society's press release had been picked up by local media, including a mention of our upcoming amateur radio activity.


Van Cortlandtville Colonial Fair coincides with Old St. Peter's Church celebration

Van Cortlandtville Historical Society Colonial Fair Co-organizer Mary Foley of Cortlandt Manor

From Croton Gazette, Aug 31 [tnx Henry, KB2VJP].

The old Church — completed in 1767 — is surrounded by historical headstones. General George Washington attended services in the building when he stayed nearby during the Revolutionary War. The church building was used as an Army Hospital by French General Rochambeau on his way to and from the Battle of Yorktown, Virginia in 1781-2.

Despite the many grave markers, David was able to find a clear space alongside the track that leads through the Old Cemetery to the Church. A Coleman shelter belonging to Charles, N2SO was soon erected, along with chairs and a table. Charles had brought his pneumatic antenna launcher — this was used to launch lines across two adjacent trees, which then supported a ZS6BKW computer-optimized G5RV antenna brought along by NM9J. (See *PCARA Update,* July 2009 for details.) Fred KD2GJJ joined in these efforts, raising the club's sign and new "Flag" banner.

David checked the ZS6BKW's SWR on his RigExpert antenna analyzer and pronounced it satisfactory.

David K2WPM and Fred KD2GJJ thread the coaxial cable feeder around the Coleman Shelter.

The antenna was connected to K2WPM's Yaesu FT-450D HF/6m transceiver then tuned up on 40 meters and 20 meters. The radio was powered by a lithium iron phosphate battery. We had a Honda generator ready in case battery power should prove inadequate, but the two 15Ah $LiFePO_4$ batteries from Bioenno Power were quite sufficient to run the radio at 100W PEP output throughout the event.

Charles N2SO and Fred KD2GJJ look on as David connects the FT-450D transceiver to a $LiFePO_4$ battery.

During the previous week, there had been concern about solar flares and coronal mass ejections, but conditions seemed to have stabilized by the time our operations began on Saturday Sept 9. Activity was helped by the "Ohio State Parks on the Air" contest, with a large number of portable stations operating from Ohio's 74 State Parks. Later we heard 20 meter SSB contest activity from Europe in the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club's Worked All Europe DX Contest. David worked one of the WAE contest stations, EA5DFV in Alicante, Spain.

Close-up of the Bioenno $LiFePO_4$ battery

Orientation of the antenna combined with the cemetery's hillside location probably favored a take-off in the general direction of WNW. Most of the activity was on 40 meters, with stations worked in Michigan, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ontario and Virginia — plus Minnesota on 20 meters.

Malcolm NM9J watches over the free handouts as David K2WPM makes SSB contacts on 40 meters. [Pic by N2EAB]

We were subsequently joined by club members Mike N2EAB and Bob N2CBH. Several members made contact with W2NYW over the air and Joe WA2MCR was kind enough to "spot" our Special Event frequency on the DX clusters, attracting additional QSOs.

Members of the Historical Society, supporters of Old St. Peter's Church and re-enactors from the 2nd NY Regiment, all in period dress, came by the station to see what was going on.

Fred KD2GJJ engages in conversation with one of the military re-enactors, dressed in the uniform of the 2nd New York Line Infantry.

During the afternoon there was a steady flow of visitors who took an interest in the station and were then given publicity hand-outs from ARRL and PCARA. Several visitors were persuaded to chat over the air with distant stations. They were rewarded with an immediate "Certificate of Recognition", signed by the station operator.

Special Event station W2NYW was located by the track leading from the Cemetery entrance to Old St. Peter's.

By late afternoon, with 52 contacts made, the flow of visitors arriving by Trolley from Cortlandt Town Hall had diminished and a decision was made to dismantle the station. It did not take long to drop the antenna, remove items from the table and collapse Charles' shelter into its carrying bag. Vehicles were driven along the narrow track to pack equipment away so the site could be left in its original condition. We had been careful to treat the site with respect — by not disturbing any of the grave markers, some of which are in a fragile state after 250 years of weathering. They have stood testament for centuries to the historical remains below.

The Peekskill Trolley Company's "Stella" brought visitors from the Town Hall parking lot to the Old Cemetery entrance.

From headstones to headphones — a view of the Special Event station taken through part of the Old Cemetery.

- NM9J

A Power(*pole*) for good

Power distribution in the NM9J shack is being changed over to Anderson Powerpole® modular connectors. Here is a short description of the experience so far.

Primeval power

When I began acquiring mobile radios back in the UK, I would wire them directly to a 12 volt battery or a 12V power supply. As the number of radios increased, I realized that a plug and socket system would make it easier to move equipment between radio room and mobile installation. There was no standard for 12 volt connectors at the time, so I chose my own 'standard' using polarized plugs and sockets intended for the external connections to European broadcast receivers.

G3VNQ/NM9J 'standard' 12V DC connector.

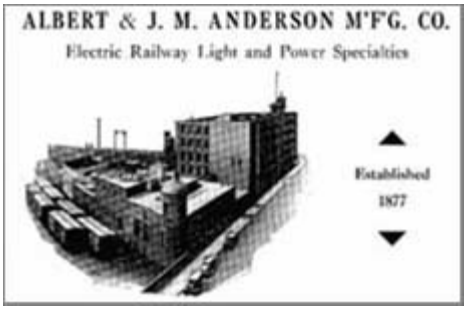
The two pins of the male connector were hollow so that wires could be pushed inside and soldered. I decided on my own polarity standard with the positive (red) wire soldered to the larger pin and negative (black wire) soldered to the smaller pin. As the number of radios and power supplies grew, I constructed my own fused, multi-way adapters for connecting multiple radios to each 12 volt power supply.

Home-made four-way adapter for 12V connectors.

Those polarized plugs and sockets followed me across the Atlantic and have worked quite efficiently for many years. However, my stock of connectors was running low, and some newer radios have been wired directly to binding posts. I realized it was time to "go modern".

Arrival of Anderson

The Albert & J.M. Anderson Manufacturing Company began in 1877 as a small company in Boston, MA making cast metal parts for the Boston Trolley system. Early inventions included a trolley pole — first used on overhead electric railways in 1890 — plus electrical connectors and insulators.

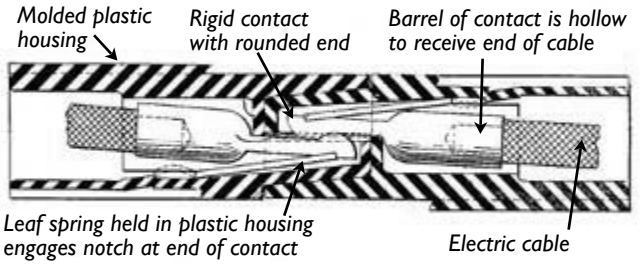


In the 1950s the Albert & J.M. Anderson Manufacturing Company developed a Storage Battery Connector (SB®) for electric forklift trucks. An important feature was the genderless, self-cleaning contacts which mate with each other.

Anderson SB® storage battery connector.

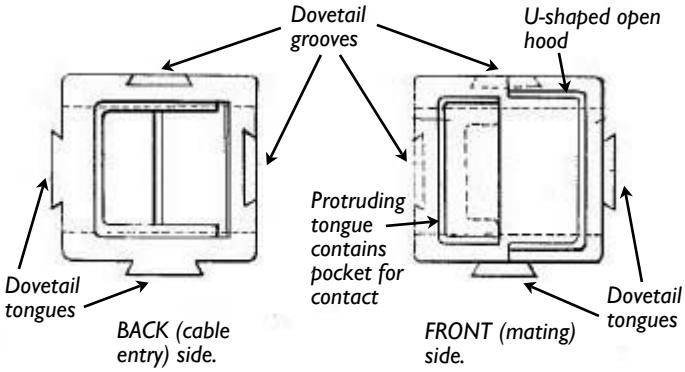
Like Lego® for 'lectric

Anderson Powerpoles first appeared in the early 1960s. The key patent, US 3,259,870 was filed in 1963 by Edward D. ("Don") Winkler and granted in 1966. Like the SB® series, these ingenious connectors feature a flat wiping contact system which is **genderless** (neither male nor female).



Drawing of Anderson Powerpole genderless connectors, adapted from U.S. Patent 3,259,870

The modular housings for the contacts are molded with **dovetail tongues and grooves** along their sides, which allow **side-by-side assembly** — as well as one on top of the other.

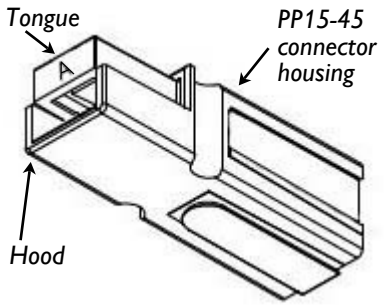


Drawing of dovetail tongues and grooves plus mating parts of a Powerpole housing, from U.S. Patent 3,259,870.

These connectors were first utilized in 1964 on San Francisco's BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) train system, where they are still in use today.

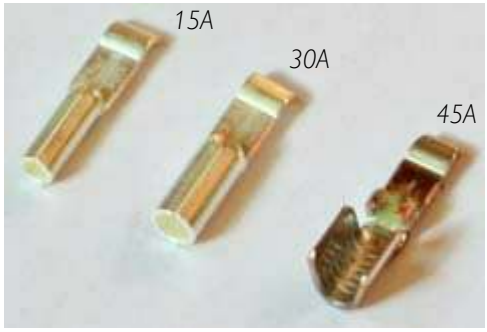
Anderson Powerpoles were introduced into our hobby by ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and RACES, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. In the late 1990s, California's Orange County RACES published a standard method of assembly for red and black Powerpole connectors where the red

housing is positioned on the left with tongue down and hood up. An alternative way to remember this is **tongue top, red right** — in other words looking into the open ends of the red and black housings, with their tongues up (usually bearing a molded letter "A") the red housing with positive polarity should be on the right, and the black housing should be on the left.



*ARES/RACES standard for physical arrangement of Powerpole housings can be remembered as **t**ongue **t**op, **r**ed **r**ight.*

The recommended Powerpole for amateur radio use is Anderson Power Products' PP15-45 series. Standard PP15-45 plastic housings can accommodate different sized power contacts that will still mate together. This is accomplished by having barrels that increase in size along with the wire size. The recommended contact for most amateur radio work is the silver-plated closed barrel type rated at **30 amps** that can accommodate 12 – 16 AWG wire. There is another contact available for lower currents up to 15 amps with a barrel sized for 16 – 20 AWG wire. For larger currents up to 45 amps, a tin-plated open-barrel contact is available that can hold 10 – 14 AWG wire.



Contacts for use with Powerpole PP15-45 series plastic housings. Left: silver-plated closed barrel contact for 16 to 20 AWG wire. Center: silver-plated contact for 12 to 16 AWG wire. Right: tin-plated open barrel contact for 10 to 14 AWG wire.

Anderson Power Products' part numbers for these housings and contacts are as follows:

PP15-45 Standard Housings (suitable for any PP15-45 power contact)	*Part no.*
Red housing:	*1327*
Black housing:	*1327G6*

PP15-45 Silver Plated Power Contact, closed barrel

12 - 16 AWG wire size (30A max):	*1331*
16 - 20 AWG wire size (15A max):	*1332*

PP15-45 Tin Plated Power Contact, open barrel

10 - 14 AWG wire size (45A max):	*261G2*

The plastic housings are molded in **polycarbonate**. They incorporate a **stainless steel** leaf spring to hold the power contact in place and maintain constant pressure on the mating surfaces. The **silver-plated copper** contacts provide very low contact resistance of less than 1 milliohm and have a self-wiping action whenever the modular connectors are mated or separated. Contacts can be crimped or soldered to the wire — though crimping is the preferred method for maximum reliability. A high-quality crimping tool is recommended to apply the correct amount of pressure and avoid distorting the barrel of the contact, otherwise it may not fit within the tight dimensions of the plastic housing.

Cross-section view of an assembled Powerpole connector shows power contact held in place by the leaf spring.

Convenient choice

I carried out a survey of available offerings online and decided to purchase an **Andy-Crimp Pro™ Powerpole Starter Kit** from Quicksilver Radio. This kit includes a ratcheting crimper, a Powerpole insertion/extraction tool, an adjustable wire stripper, a four-way PWR-Blok splitter; a screwdriver for changing dies and an assortment of 15 amp, 30 amp and 45 amp Powerpole connectors.

Andy-Crimp Pro™ Powerpole Starter Kit.

I also purchased a LighterPole™ (cigarette lighter adapter) and a pair of power supply cables with ring terminals. Quicksilver Radio was attending the CARA Hamfest so I was able to pick up what I needed without any shipping charge.

Let's begin

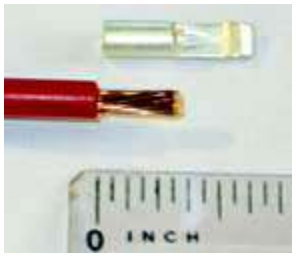
I began with a couple of Icom and Yaesu mobile radios that were connected to a single 12V power supply with binding posts. These radios' 12 AWG cables had insulation stripped from the ends, with the bare copper strands either twisted around the binding posts or (I'm ashamed to say) temporarily pushed into the 4 mm banana sockets.

Original binding post connections on a RadioShack linear power supply.

I followed instructions supplied by Quicksilver with the "Andy-Crimp Pro" for stripping the cable ends then crimping in the tool. This is not so easy the first time around, so I watched a video presentation by W2AEW on YouTube — https://youtu.be/QzLvdR6X81k

Here is my own summary of the steps involved:

1. Strip 5/16" of insulation from the end of the cable — use an adjustable tool to avoid nicking the copper strands.
2. Gently twist the copper strands together by hand.
3. Select a correctly-sized silver-plated contact and insert the end of the stripped cable into the barrel.
4. With the crimping tool held in the right hand, insert contact and wire into the correct cavity with left hand. For 12 AWG wire and a 30 amp contact, choose the cavity labeled "30". (**Avoid the gap** between cavities!)
5. With the wire facing toward you, make sure the **seam** of the contact barrel is facing *up*. On the other side of the tool the hooked end of the contact surface should point *down*. The contact surface should be horizontal in the crimper.
6. Apply steady pressure on the crimper handles until the tool closes and automatically releases the ratchet mechanism. Two hands may be needed.
7. Open the handles, remove the crimped contact and examine for any problems.
8. Insert the crimped contact into the plastic housing from the rear. For 12 AWG wire, insertion can be carried out by hand. Position the contact to lie parallel with the stainless steel leaf spring. The 'hooked' end of the contact should snap over the retaining leaf spring, which then holds the contact firmly in place. Check the contact position visually and give a **firm tug** on the wire. There should be only a little movement and it should *not* be possible to pull the wire and contact out of the housing.
9. Repeat for the second wire and contact. Orient the cables and connectors ready for assembly of the plastic housings using the ARES/RACES standard — "hood up, red on left" (or "tongue top, red right".)
10. Slide the dovetail joints on the sides of the two plastic housings past each other until they lock together*. The ends of the housings should then be flush.



Strip 5/16" of insulation, twist strands together.


Insert wire into barrel.


Place wire + barrel into crimping tool, seam up.


Ensure contact is level with hook pointing down.


Contact after crimping.


Insert contact, hook down, into rear of plastic housing, with hood up.


Check that contact is firmly held in place by the leaf spring.


Slide the housings' dovetail joints together, "hood up, red on left".

* (If your first and second wires are part of a molded **zip-cord**, orient *both* contacts correctly on the cable before crimping. Then slide the plastic housings together *before* inserting the crimped contacts into the housings.)

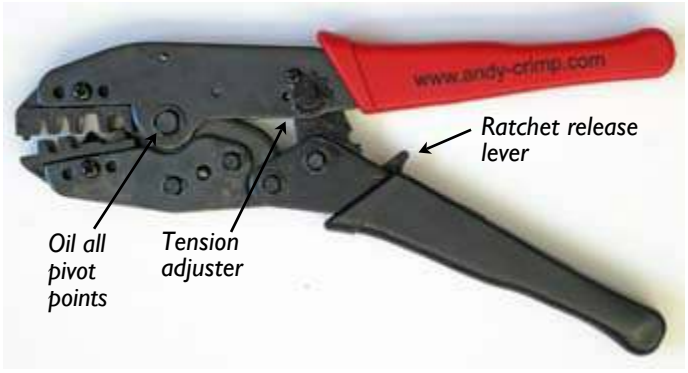
Crimping complications

I ran into some problems during the first few attempts at crimping. The major difficulty occurred when the crimping tool would jam shut. No matter how hard I pressed, there was no way to close the handles

sufficiently to release the ratcheting mechanism, allowing the jaws to open. The advice from Quicksilver was to push the release lever toward the front of the tool — but this did not clear the jam.

One suggestion found on the Internet was to position the crimping tool on the workbench then press down on the top handle with *both* hands and full body weight. This worked occasionally. Another suggestion was to apply a drop of machine oil to all bearings and other moving parts of the tool to keep them lubricated.

The main improvement came after I noted that there is a tension adjustment wheel on the label side of the crimping tool. This toothed wheel is held in place by a Phillips screw. I loosened the Phillips screw and rotated the wheel one notch in the "negative" direction.



Quicksilver Radio's Andy-Crimp Pro™ crimping tool.

This made it a lot easier to close the handles to the point where the ratchet mechanism releases automatically. There is a warning on West Mountain Radio's web site *not* to adjust this tension too high or too low. I have checked subsequent joints by examining the barrel and tugging on the cables after crimping — the connections seem to be quite sound.

One other difficulty can occur with **old cables** that were previously soldered or roughly twisted together to fit into a binding post or other socket. Those stiff cable ends may not fit well into the Powerpole connector barrels, with stray strands of wire sticking out. My advice is to start afresh by snipping off the old termination.

Adjustable wire stripper.

Use side-cutters to cut cleanly through cable insulation and conductors. Then use the **adjustable wire stripper** to remove exactly 5/16" of insulation *without* cutting through any wire strands. Gently twist the strands of wire together using fingers for the thinner strands or pliers for thicker strands. The copper wire should then fit smoothly into the Powerpole contact's barrel, ready for crimping.

Power supply sockets

I had purchased a Quicksilver "Powerpals™" adapter with fused Powerpoles wired to ¼" ring terminals. This was intended for connecting to my Astron RS-20M power supply, which has a pair of ¼" threaded studs on the rear panel for making connections. The Powerpals adapter has an inline fuse holder with 25A automotive ATO-style blade fuse included. It did not take long to remove the old wire connections from the power supply then bolt on the ring terminals of the Quicksilver Powerpole adapter. (Hint — those exposed studs should be *covered*.)

Powerpals™ adapter for connecting Powerpole-equipped cables to a supply with studs or binding posts.

The next power supply to be upgraded had binding posts with color-coded caps that screw down onto threaded connectors. Ring terminals would not be suitable for this type of adapter as the power supply screw-caps are **captive**. I made up my own adapter cable with **spade lugs** that would slide securely under the binding posts.

The parts required are:

- Bussmann ATC-30A Inline Fuse Holder or similar
- Suitable ATC blade fuse (10A in this case)
- 6" of black insulated 12 AWG wire
- Red and black 30A Powerpoles
- Spade terminals (crimp)
- Red sleeving (to cover yellow wire).

Most of these items are available from Walmart's auto spares department or from an automobile parts store. Connect the inline fuse's leads to a red Powerpole at one end and

Bussmann ATC-30A inline fuse holder, spade terminals, Anderson Powerpoles and 10A ATC blade fuses.

Home-brew power supply adapter with spade terminals at one end, 10 amp inline ATC fuse in the middle and Anderson Powerpoles at the other end.

crimp a spade lug to the other end. Prepare a 6" straight-through black wire in a similar manner. Use nylon ties to fasten the two wires together.

Hint: if you need to fit *two* spade lugs under a single binding post, bring the two wires in from opposite directions so they are tightened up 180° apart.

Cigar lighter outlet

I have a couple of power supplies where the connector takes the form of a cigarette lighter outlet, also known as a vehicle 12V auxiliary power outlet. This requires a cigarette lighter plug to make the connection. Quicksilver Radio has their "LighterPole™" which is a cigarette lighter plug equipped with a red LED and Powerpole connectors at the top. The Lighterpole is rated at 15 amp and has a 15A glass fuse behind the spring-loaded center contact.

Quicksilver Radio LighterPole™

I made up my own cigarette lighter Powerpole adapter using a RadioShack solderless "Cigarette Lighter Accessory Plug" (270-028) with a pair of binding posts on the top and a 10 amp fuse inside. All I had to do was cut 6" lengths of red and black 12 AWG wire, crimp spade terminals on one end and install red and black Powerpoles on the other end. Red plastic sleeving protects the red spade terminal and the two wires were fastened together with a nylon tie.

Home-made cigar lighter adapter using RS accessory plug.

Multiway connectors

If you look in the West Mountain Radio catalog, you will see a variety of "RIGrunner" DC power distribution panels with fused Powerpole connectors. Each panel allows several radios to be connected to a single, large 12 volt power supply. Prices vary between $70 and $280, depending on the number of outlets and optional features. MFJ has a similar range of power distribution panels.

West Mountain Radio Rigrunner 4005.

These products are rugged and very well made, but they might be overkill for sharing a power supply between a few radios. Bearing in mind that Powerpoles can be stacked not only side-by-side but also one on top of another, Quicksilver has a range of "PWR-BLOK" products with 4 to 12 pairs of Powerpoles stacked vertically. A PWR-BLOK 4 splitter was included in my crimper kit, and I purchased an additional PWR-BLOK 8 for the Astron power supply. Current rating is 45 amp maximum. Prices vary between $19 and $49.

Quicksilver PWR-BLOK 8.

You will need to use one of the PWR-BLOK's Powerpole pairs to connect to the 12V power supply. The remaining pairs can then be used for connecting radio equipment. Be sure to include a fuse in the cable that runs from PWR-BLOK to the power supply.

Adopt and adapt

Despite being a late adopter of Powerpoles for use with 12 volt DC amateur equipment, I can thoroughly recommend their clever design and the ARES/RACES standard — which prevents accidental connection with incorrect polarity. If you have 12 volt power supplies, batteries or radios which are shared during PCARA activities, then make yourself *interoperable* by wiring everything through Anderson Powerpoles and Powerpole adapters.

- NM9J

Run Against Hunger

Keep on running

After our combined efforts during the last three years, organizers of the Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger have once again invited PCARA and WECA to provide communication support for their 2017 event, which takes place on Sunday October 15.

The first Run Against Hunger was organized in Croton-on-Hudson to honor singer-songwriter Harry Chapin who died in an auto-accident in 1981. This year's run will be the 37th annual event.

Sunday schedule

Timing of the three races on Sunday October 15th will be the same as last year. Start and finish lines are all close to Croton-Harmon High School — with the exception of the 'Fun Run' start.

5K Run/Walk, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The 5K Run/Walk begins near the High School and continues along Old Post Road South, down Truesdale Drive, then east on Cedar Lane. The route then turns north up Nordica Drive and Truesdale Drive, through Croton Gorge and returns down Cleveland Drive to the High School.

One Mile Fun Run, 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

The start point is on Cleveland Drive, just south of Veteran's Corners. North on Cleveland Drive to CET (Carrie E Tompkins) Elementary School on Gerstein Street, then back along Cleveland Drive, finishing at the High School.

Start of the 2016 Fun Run on Cleveland Drive, Croton-on-Hudson. Runners were divided into two groups — fifth grade and above, followed by everyone else.

10K Run, 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.

From Croton-Harmon High School, north on Cleveland Drive, left on Gerstein Street and right on Wood Road onto Rt 129. Left onto Batten Road, then across the New Croton Dam. Return is along Quaker Ridge Road, crossing the river at Quaker Bridge Road, then Rt.129 to Jacoby Street and returning down Cleveland Avenue to the High School.

Course of the 10K Run Against Hunger. M1-M6 are mile points. W1-W4 are the water stops. X shows trail crossing.

Full details of the three race routes are available at the Run Against Hunger web site, http://www.runagainsthunger.com/course/

Radio stations

At the time of writing there had not yet been the usual meeting between WECA, PCARA and the Run organizers. We anticipate that Water Stops and Mile Points requiring radio communication will be the same as in 2016 — but please watch for announcements about any changes nearer the actual date.

In addition to the Net Control and Organizer's Shadow the following stations will be required for each race (see tables below).

5K Run / Walk, 9:30 a.m.

Station	Location
Stop #1, Start of Croton Gorge Trail	Truedale Drive, Silver Lake parking lot
Stop #2, End of Croton Gorge Trail	Trail end at Cleveland Drive
S3 Intersection	Cleveland Drive and Gerstein Street

One Mile Fun Run, 11:00 a.m.

Station	Location
Turn-around point	CET Elementary School, Gerstein Street.

10K Run Against Hunger, 12 noon

Station	Location
Net control	Croton-Harmon High School
Shadow	Croton-Harmon High School
Trail car	Following last runner
Water Stop #1	140 Batten Rd
Water Stop #2	East end of Croton Dam
Mile Point 3	Croton Dam Rd & Quaker Ridge Rd
Water Stop #3 / Mile 4	Danish Home
Mile Point 5	Quaker Bridge Rd & Niles Rd
Water Stop #4	Jacoby Street
Mile Point 6	Cleveland Dr & Alexander Lane

Come to the Run

If you would like to volunteer, please inform Greg KB2CQE using: *mail'at'pcara.org* or sign up at the October meeting. There will be more information provided closer to the event.

Ready for the run

If you have been assigned to a position around the course, please drive straight to your location *before* the event begins. Croton-on-Hudson Police Department will close streets *ahead* of each race, making it very difficult to drive around the course immediately before the event.

If you do not have an assigned position, be aware that parking at Croton-Harmon High School is very limited, and soon fills up ahead of the first race. There is additional parking available at the adjacent Middle School, but it is a long walk to the High School. It may be better to check with Net Control via radio to find your location.

For maximum flexibility bring along a mobile radio with external antenna — if you have one — as well as your handi-talkie with spare batteries. Program your radio(s) with likely frequencies: 146.565 MHz simplex, 146.67 MHz -0.600 MHz offset, PL 156.7 Hz. There is a possibility that WECA frequencies may also be in use this year so include 147.060 MHz +0.600 MHz, PL 114.8 Hz in your programming — and be prepared to enter additional VHF or UHF frequencies as requested.

Bring suitable clothing and provisions to keep yourself safe and comfortable from ~ 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you will be operating on a street near other vehicles and runners, wear a high visibility vest or jacket.

NY QSO Party 2017

The New York QSO Party, sponsored by the Rochester DX Association, takes place on the third Saturday in October. For 2017, that date falls later than usual on **Saturday October 21**. The contest lasts 12 hours using all modes on HF and VHF/UHF bands.

Last year, PCARA's club entry, organized by Joe, WA2MCR made a total of 352 QSOs, for a total score of 35,690 points. Our class entry was "Multi-One Low Mixed", meaning: multiple operators with only a single transmitted signal, 5 – 100 watts, mixed mode (CW/Phone/Digital). With 100 multipliers (NY counties + U.S. states + Canadian Provinces) the final score was 54,800. As a result, W2NYW reached first place in its class and was awarded the winning plaque for "New York Multi-One Low Power". Surprisingly, this was one of the two plaques sponsored by PCARA last time!

From last year — Lou KD2ITZ and Joe WA2MCR take part in PCARA's entry in the NY QSO Party of 2016.

The other plaque sponsored by PCARA in 2016 was the "Non-New York Phone Low Power" plaque, awarded to Alan, KC3HEO (Meyersdale PA) with 1600 points. For 2017, PCARA is once again sponsoring *both* these plaques.

If you are interested in operating in the New York QSO Party this year, you can take part from your own station, or contact Joe, WA2MCR for details of the club entry using W2NYW. The contest starts at 10:00 a.m. Eastern (1400 GMT) on Saturday October 21 and runs for 12 hours until 10:00 p.m. Eastern that same evening. For the contest exchange, New York stations send signal report plus county, using a three-letter abbreviation for the county name. Westchester is **WES** and Putnam County is **PUT**. Stations outside New York will send their Signal Report plus State, Canadian Province or "DX".

Full contest rules, including the list of three-letter county codes, are available from the NY QSO Party web site at: http://nyqp.org/wordpress/ . Results of this year's QSO party should be available around February 2018.

Foxhunt University report

Following the PCARA Foxhunt of June 3, several members expressed a desire to improve their skills and to arrange more than one Foxhunt per year. On Saturday September 16, PCARA members (plus one guest) gathered at Walter Panas High School for the **Foxhunt University**, organized by Karl N2KZ.

Karl's aim was to distill years of direction-finding experience — inside and outside amateur radio — into an illustrated talk. Members were asked to bring their own 2 meter foxhunt equipment along to compare techniques and to participate in a practical exercise.

The venue had been carefully chosen as the High School has a new outdoor seating area with permanent chairs and tables at the back of the main building, near PCARA's Field Day site. Thanks to Joe, WA2MCR for going to great lengths in order to obtain the permit from Lakeland Central School District.

The session was well-attended, with eleven members and one guest (Steve KD2OFD) sitting in. Weather at the school was warm and dry — though rain showers were being experienced nearby.

PCARA members attending the Foxhunt University on September 16 compare notes, antennas and radios.

The content is too long to cover fully in this report, but a couple of points are worth mentioning. Karl and Malcolm NM9J had brought along RadioShack scanners to act as low-power signal sources on the Foxhunt frequency. In these scanning receivers, the local oscillator operates on a frequency equal to receive frequency minus first intermediate frequency (IF):

$$f_{LO} = f_{RX} - f_{IF}$$

With the scanner set to a receive frequency of 157.415 MHz and a first I.F. of 10.85 MHz, local oscillator radiation takes place on 146.565 MHz. The low power signal source was used by Karl to demonstrate polar diagrams of different directional antennas, including null points, harmonic operation and the effect of attenuators. The signal source also allowed students to check the patterns of their *own* antennas.

Karl N2KZ demonstrates attenuators to members of the Foxhunt University class.

Another point made by Karl was the use of **harmonics** of the transmitter to zero in on the fox's location when getting very close. Karl recommended setting a frequency of 439.695 MHz (= 146.565 × 3) into a memory channel adjacent to 146.565 MHz. Some radios can also receive the harmonic on 293.130 MHz.

The remaining highlights of the talk are covered in Karl's column "Adventures in DXing", *PCARA Update,* July 2017, pp 2-6. For several members, the main highlight of the event was actually **meeting** Karl — previously only encountered as a voice over the air during the Old Goats Net.

At the end of Karl's presentation there was a practical exercise. Your editor stole away from the main group and set up a mini-Foxhunt station, out of sight of the hunters. Most of the attendees successfully found the fox after just a couple of transmissions. It was being operated with just a handi-talkie from an arbor in the far southwest corner of the High School grounds.

Karl KD2HRW (right) and Matt KD2FME were first to discover the hidden transmitter during a short search that concluded the Foxhunt University.

Everyone who attended the event seemed to be well pleased with the training they had received from Karl, N2KZ and resolved to put his recommendations into practice in upcoming foxhunts.

- NM9J

Simple solar viewer -N2CKD

During the solar eclipse of August 21, 2017 millions of people in North America were treated to the rare sight of a total eclipse as the moon's shadow traveled across the USA — starting at 09:06 a.m. PDT in Oregon and ending at 04:06 p.m. EDT in South Carolina. In Canada, a partial eclipse occurred, ranging from 90% in Vancouver and 70% in Toronto to 60% in Montreal. In the path of totality, this eclipse of the sun produced total darkness lasting between one and three minutes over a track almost 70 miles wide.

Path of the total solar eclipse on Aug 21, 2017 [NASA graphic].

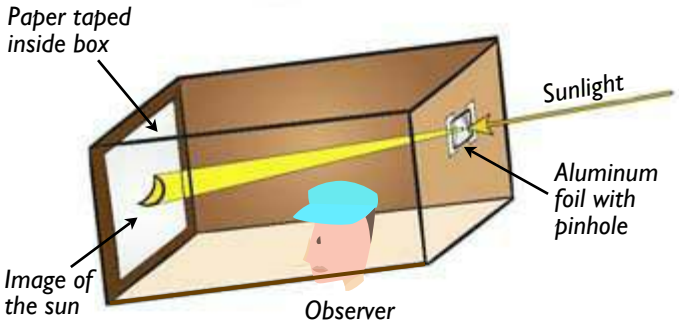
Millions of people saw the eclipse with the aid of special solar eclipse goggles, binoculars, telescopes and simple solar viewers. While the public at large was mostly interested in "viewing" the total eclipse, the Amateur Radio community took the opportunity to get on the air and make radio contacts before, during and after the event. An article by W0AX in *QST* for August 2017 "The Solar Eclipse QSO Party — Are You Ready?" mentions that QSO Party logs and measurements by automated receiver networks will result in one of the largest ever data sets from an amateur radio event. It is hoped that analysis of the results by academic researchers will help validate existing propagation models and prompt further work.

I had traveled to Montreal that same week so I did not have a chance to get on the air and make contacts. But I wanted to participate in the event — the first time in a hundred years that a total eclipse has crossed the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Since I did not have access to solar goggles or other means to safely view the eclipse I searched the web for articles on constructing a simple viewer. I recommend these two articles:

1. "Make Your Own Safe Solar Viewer, A Project for Kids of All Ages", T.R. Richardson, College of Charleston, Department of Physics and Astronomy: http://richardsont.people.cofc.edu/safe_solar_folder/index.html#photography

2. "How to Look at the Sun Safely", the Editors of *Sky & Telescope* (referenced in *QST,* August 2017): http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/observing-news/how-to-look-at-the-sun/

The simple and safe way to look at the Sun without eye damage is to view its image projected onto a sheet of white paper through a small pin-hole. This is the same principle as early pin-hole cameras, which projected an image onto photographic film.



Pinhole projector box. Bottom of the box is left open.

I constructed my pin-hole viewer from a house mover's cardboard packing box and I attached another cardboard box to it to gain additional focal length (approx. 26") to project the sun's image. The cardboard box was used to provide a shaded viewing area of the sun's projected image while viewing it outdoors in bright sunlight. I experimented with different size holes on the side of the box to obtain a clear, sharp image projected on the opposite side. To make the image really sharp I added a small magnifying lens by taping it over the pinhole. The lens I used gave surprisingly good results. It was part of a pair of +1.5 power reading spectacles from a dollar store. Substituting different powered lenses produced different amounts of sharpness.


Solar viewer constructed from cardboard boxes. [N2CKD pic]

The viewer was so easy to construct that I convinced our grandchildren to make their own viewers. In Montreal, on August 21st we used our simple solar viewers to watch the 60% partial eclipse between 1:21 p.m and 2:38 p.m. EDT. The quality of the projected image was very sharp and clear. I captured


Projected image of partial solar eclipse. [N2CKD pic]

pictures on my smartphone and iPad. This was a fun educational project that we will all remember. I hope many fellow amateurs participated in the solar eclipse event and enjoyed it as well.

- 73 de Lovji, N2CKD

Youngsters enjoy viewing the solar eclipse. [N2CKD pic]

[This type of indirect solar viewer — as described by Lovji — can also be used to **safely observe sunspots**. And in case you missed the August 2017 solar eclipse, there will be another opportunity in April 2024, when the path of totality starts over Mexico and Texas on a diagonal track toward Maine and NE Canada. *–Ed.*]

Foxhunt report

PCARA's second foxhunt of 2017 took place in near-perfect conditions on Saturday September 23. The weather was dry, the sun was shining and temperatures were in the low 80s Fahrenheit.

From 2:30 p.m. Karl N2KZ took care of contestants signing in at the Beach Shopping Center in Peekskill. The number of contestants was surprisingly high — ten in all, including two guest operators (Jay N1NRP + Marlon KC1EHW) in one team — and a second team consisting of Charles N2SO and Lou KD2ITZ. No doubt this level of interest was encouraged by PCARA's tape-measure Yagi project organized by KD2ITZ earlier in the year and by the Foxhunt University led by N2KZ on the previous Saturday, September 16.

Hunters prepare at the Beach Shopping Center. L to R: Jay N1NRP, Marlon KC1EHW, Charles N2SO, Lou KD2ITZ and Karl KD2HRW. [Pic by Karl N2KZ.]

At 3:00 p.m. the first transmission came over the air from the fox, played this time by Malcolm, NM9J. The signal on 146.565 MHz simplex was good and strong as the hunters swung their antennas to find the best bearing. General direction was west.

Lovji N2CKD takes a bearing from the Beach Shopping Center. [Pic by N2KZ.]

Lovji N2CKD headed down Rt 202 to the Columbian Engine Company Firehouse and Depew Park, where he ran into Al K2DMV. He then continued to Riverfront Green, assisted by clues in the Fox's script.

Karl KD2HRW and his father, John followed a similar route to Depew Park and onward to the river front. Meanwhile Mike N2EAB was investigating side streets then proceeded to Peekskill High School where he ran into Al K2DMV. From there, signals also led to Riverfront Green.

For the hunters who reached the area of Riverfront Green and the Railroad Station there was now a problem. The signal was very strong, with passive attenuators no longer effective, yet there was no sign of the harmonic on 439.695 MHz — or of the fox. Contestants continued to hunt around the area of the station, around Peekskill Yacht Club and the new Southern Waterfront Trail and Park — but without success.

The reason for this lack of foxes was that your editor (NM9J) was located 1000 feet away on the far side of Travis Cove, in the parking lot at Charles Point Pier Park. This elevated spot looks out across the river toward the Yacht Club and across Peekskill Bay to the

Location of the fox at Charles Point Park in Peekskill.

Hudson Highlands and Bear Mountain Bridge. The park is located at the end of Louisa Street, just north of the intersection with John Walsh Boulevard.

First to find the fox at 3:37 p.m. was a vehicle with Yagi antenna poking out of the window. It was the guest team of Jay N1NRP and Marlon KC1EHW from Candlewood ARA (the Danbury area club). They had heard about the foxhunt through Al, K2DMV. Well done!

A mere 30 seconds later, Lovji N2CKD also entered the parking lot, and was awarded second place. A great result, with a very close finish.

Lovji N2CKD (left) gained second place, just behind the team effort of Marlon KC1EHW (right) and Jay N1NRP.

Over the next few minutes more hunters arrived, and by 4:15 p.m. almost all participants had found their quarry. Here is a list of times and placings.

Place	Time	Hunter(s)
1	3:37 p.m.	Jay N1NRP & Marlon KC1EHW
2	3:37½	Lovji N2CKD
3	3:41	Karl KD2HRW and John
4	3:45	Mike N2EAB
5	4:02	Karl N2KZ
6	4:08	Al K2DMV
7	4:14	Charles N2SO & Lou KD2ITZ

The weather was fair and Charles Point park was in such a pleasant spot that most of our hunters stayed on to admire the view and discuss tactics. At 4:30 p.m., NM9J made the final transmission of the event, revealing details of the hidden location and specifying the place of refreshment as the Westchester Diner, ½ mile south on Albany Post Road. All transmissions had been made with an Icom IC-2100H transceiver running 5 watts output to a horizontal dipole, mounted 4 feet above the vehicle roof on an old CB mag-mount mast.

Our first place and second place winners had conflicting appointments so they were unable to join the post-hunt celebrations at the Westchester Diner. Everyone else sat down for some welcome refreshment and described their exciting experiences navigating through Peekskill, amidst all the RF reflections. Al K2DMV stood in for the winners when their signed certificate was presented, and pictures of the event have now been forwarded by e-mail.

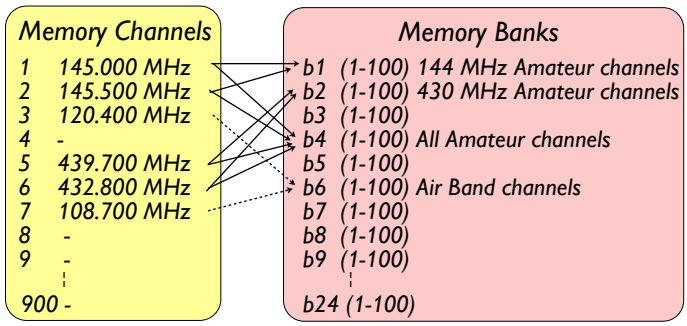
Malcolm NM9J presents the first place certificate to Al, K2DMV standing in for Jay N1NRP (visible on Al's phone).

Congratulations to all who took part in this second PCARA foxhunt of 2017. The large number of people who successfully found the fox was especially gratifying, in view of all the construction and training efforts that have taken place. See you in 2018!

- NM9J

Errata

Apologies for a couple of mistakes that crept into the article "Yaesu FT-70DR review", *PCARA Update* Sept 2017, pp 4-8. On page 8, in a graphic showing memory channels registered in more than one memory bank, the assignment of channels did not make sense because of unintended word-wrap. Here is the corrected version.



Example of memory channels registered in more than one memory bank — from Yaesu FT-70DR/FT-70DE Advance Manual.

In addition there was a typo in the 'Conclusions' section of the article. The first sentence should read "After several weeks of use, I am still very pleased with the **Yaesu** FT-70DR" and *not* "...with the *Icom* FT-70DR".

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

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Newsletter contributions are always very welcome!
Archive: http://home.lanline.com/~pcara/newslett.htm

PCARA Information

PCARA is a **Non-Profit Community Service Organization**. PCARA meetings take place the first Sunday of each month* at 3:00 p.m. in Dining Room B of NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital, Rt. 202, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. Drive round behind the main hospital building and enter from the rear (look for the oxygen tanks). Talk-in is available on the 146.67 repeater. *Apart from holidays and July/August break.

PCARA Repeaters

W2NYW: 146.67 MHz -0.6, PL 156.7Hz
KB2CQE: 449.925MHz -5.0, PL 179.9Hz
N2CBH: 448.725MHz -5.0, PL 107.2Hz

PCARA Calendar

Sun Oct 1: PCARA Meeting, New York Presbyterian - Hudson Valley Hospital, 3:00 p.m.
Sun Oct 15: 37th Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger, Croton-on-Hudson.
Sat Oct 21: New York State QSO Party, 10:00 am - 10:00 p.m.

Hamfests

Sun Oct 1: Mt Beacon ARC Fall Hamfest, Employee Recreation Center, 83 Red Schoolhouse Rd, Fishkill NY, 8:00 am.
Sat Oct 7: Bergen ARA Fall Hamfest, Westwood Reg HS, 701 Ridgewood Rd, Township of Washington, NJ. 8:00 a.m.
Sun Oct 8: Hall of Science ARC Hamfest, NY Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Flushing Meadows, Queens. 9:00 a.m.
Sun Oct 29: LIMARC Hamfest, Levittown Hall, 201 Levittown Parkway Hicksville, NY. 9:00 a.m.

VE Test Sessions

Oct 1: Mt. Beacon Hamfest, Employee Rec Center, 83 Red Schoolhouse Rd., NY. 9:00 a.m. A.D. Schmidt (845) 462-7539.
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28: Westchester ARC Radio Barn, 4 Ledgewood Pl, Armonk, NY. 12:00. Pre-reg M. Rapp, (914) 907-6482.
Oct 8: Yonkers ARC, Will Library, 1500 Central Park Ave, Yonkers NY. 1:00 pm. Pre-reg. John WB2AUL, (914) 969-6548.
Oct 12: WECA, Westchester Co Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd., Valhalla, NY. 7:00 p.m. S. Rothman, (914) 949-1463.
Oct 16: Columbia Univ ARC, 531 Studebaker Bldg, 622 W 132nd St, New York. 6:30 pm, Alan Crosswell (212) 854-3754.
Oct 20: Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 183 Main Street, Cornwall NY. 6:00 p.m. Joseph DeLorenzo (845) 534-3146.

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