

## THE KING OF THE HILL IS NO MORE

BY JOHN TUDENHAM WØJRP

## 6 METER BEACON RELOCATED

BY JAY RUPAR KØETC

**T**he following is a true story about a ham in a city in western New York which took place around 1970. It was told to me by a visiting ham while I lived in Tulsa.

There is at least one in every city a big DXer that works 20 meters and always seems to beat all other stations by at least 10 dB to any part of the world. This fellow was called the "King of the Hill" as he ran maximum legal power, had a full size 4 element yagi on an 80 foot tower, and last but not least was located on top of one of the highest hills in the area.

Some of the local hams decided to play a trick on the "King of the Hill". First they talked to his wife to get her OK and not to tell him. One afternoon while he was not home they cut the coax at the base of the tower, they made up a half wave dipole and placed in in the bushes in his back yard just 4 feet off the ground. After the late TV news, the King of the Hill turned his rig on 20 meters, this night the New Zealand and South Pacific stations were rolling in and the other locals were getting S9 reports. He noticed he was not hearing them that well, he finally worked a ZL and got just

an S5 report. The other guys said "What happened to your big signal?"

By now he knew something was wrong. It didn't seem to help turning the beam and the SWR was slightly higher. Also his wife started to laugh, which only made him madder. Finally one of the

**...THEY MADE UP A HALF WAVE DIPOLE AND PLACED IN IN THE BUSHES..JUST 4 FEET OFF THE GROUND.**

local hams suggested he go out and check his coax feedline. Then he discovered he was transmitting on a four foot high dipole.

The local hams offered to come over and fix his antenna. One thing for sure the "King of the Hill" was no longer "Top Dog" on the frequency on 20 meters. ¶



**J**ay Rupar, KØETC reports that his 6 mtr beacon (KØETC/B) has found a new home. It was located inside a concrete block building with a dipole 15 ft high. Very few reports were received from that location during a year of operation.

Thanks to Larry KCØAUY and his mother Zelma, the beacon has been moved to Zelma's property north of Joplin on 43 Highway. It is about 1 mile south of the intersection of 43 and 96.

This location is a ham's dream. It is on a high hill overlooking the surrounding countryside. It has a very beautiful view and most of us would love to be putting up antennas and hamming from there.

In this first month of operation the beacon has been reported in 31 grids, the best dx being from VE9AA in FN65, New Brunswick, Canada.

The beacon is a converted RCA 40 watt commercial xmtr now running 10 watts to a homebrew turnstile antenna at 25 ft. A turnstile is a pair of horizontal crossed dipoles fed 90 degrees out of phase to give omnidirectional coverage.

Beacons are used to find out when there is propagation from one area to another even if there are no stations transmitting at the time. U.S.A. beacons on 6 mtrs operate between 50.060 and 50.080 MHZ.

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# WHEN IN DOUBT AIM NORTH

BY JOHN TUDENHAM WØJRP

# VHF SPECIAL REPORT

**KCØAUY CONFIRMS  
100 GRID LOCATORS**

**T**here is an old saying among VHF Ops "When in doubt aim North". This means the signal you are hearing is not necessarily coming from the direction it is located. This applies to several types of wave propagation, one is "Aurora", caused by a Magnetic disturbance and the Northern Lights are visible.

The night of August 26 caught me by surprise. I wasn't looking at the Northern Sky, in fact it was fairly cloudy at the time, and I hadn't checked the WWV propagation report at 18 minutes past the hour. About 10:30pm I was

listening to a Cardinal Baseball game on the radio (WMBH AM 1450) a long way from VHF. The phone rang and it was Jay KØETC

. He said there was some garbled signals coming through on six meters. One was KAØPQW in grid EN33 in southern MN. KAØPQW mentioned also that two meters was open. Turning my beams North toward the Aurora curtain (not at the station), I heard several stations on six SSB and CW. Then I checked two meters and heard several signals with fair strength on CW but they sounded like a bunch of hash or a buzz saw. No musical tone at all. I recognized this as Aurora. On six meters, voice signals were somewhat readable, but on two meters nearly impossible.

Plugging in the key, I worked K9MRI in grid EN70 near Ft. Wayne, IN on two meters. Quite a surprise, as I had just had a nice QSO with Joe on the Tropo opening the week before on SSB. We exchanged reports as 59A. Signals were strong but no musical note. "A" is a typical exchange to identify an Aurora signal. I then worked KØPJ in North East IA grid EN43. I heard several other

stations before the Aurora quit at around 23:30 local time. Actually the Northern Latitudes get more openings than we do, however there has been Aurora observed as far south as southern FL and Havana Cuba. This is very rare however.

I checked the WWV propagation report at 23:18 local time and they were giving a "K" index of 7 (very high). A "K" index of 4 indicates disturbed conditions. The Solar flux was running 129.

As the 11 year solar cycle continues it's climb, we can expect more VHF Aurora openings. Aurora has been worked as high as the 432 MHz band, and I have observed it in the 222 MHz band.

This type of two meter opening, where only

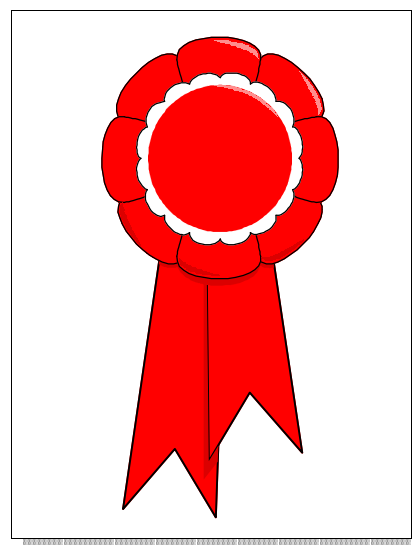
CW can be read, might encourage a lot of people to study the code. Over the past fifteen years I have worked as far east as NJ, and west to CO on two meter Aurora. There is one fellow in MD "Gene W3ZZ" who I have worked by three types of wave propagation on two meters; Aurora, Sporadic-E, and Meteor Scatter. I have never worked Maryland on Tropo Ducting or that would be four.

On Six Meters Voice is readable but sometimes with some difficulty. Aurora on six meters is not to be confused with "Aurora E" which sometimes occurs during an Aurora, only clearer signals by direct path. Aurora E is rare on two meters but has been observed in the Northern Latitudes.

One thing to remember, next time you hear an Aurora signal don't think something is wrong with your equipment. That is a first impression of many. ¶

**...THEY SOUNDED LIKE  
A BUNCH OF HASH  
OR A BUZZ SAW.**

**I**t was KCØAUY Larry Hiatt's first year on six meters and he has done with a very modest station what it sometimes takes years to accomplish. He has managed to confirm **100 grid squares** on six meters. Larry runs a 10 watt MFJ transceiver on six and until recently,



had no beam antenna. All this was done with a simple half wave horizontal dipole, and a Ringo Vertical Antenna.

This has not what we would call a good year for the summer E-skip season on six. While slightly better than last year, the seasons of 1995 and 1996 were quite a bit better with more frequent openings.

We congratulate Larry for a job well done, and we know he will be looking forward to even better things now that he has a 3 element yagi in the air. With some practice, he has also learned good operating procedures which is very important. ¶

# THE WORLD OF VHF/UHF

BY JOHN TUDENHAM WØJRP

## GOOD TWO METER TROPO DUCTING IN AUGUST

August 20 and 21st saw a return to good Tropo Ducting especially on the Two meter band. This was caused by a stationary high pressure area over the Midwest. Signals were so strong that a St. Louis area repeater on 147.21 MHz was taking out our repeater only 15 miles from Joplin. I was able to contact an old friend in the St Louis area on 146.52 FM simplex with cross polarization. I was Horizontal and he Vertical.

On sideband was where the action was, with WØVD, KØETC, WØPW, WØJRP and others getting in on the openings. The ducting extended into Western NY in about a 100 mile wide path. Local area stations made contacts with IL, IN, MI, OH, PA, and NY. Also, stations around the St. Louis area and into IL were very strong. The best DX to the east worked from our area was W2DRZ in grid FN02 western NY.

During a QSO with an old friend of mine WØDQY in St Charles, MO located near St. Louis, I reduced my power to 5 watts and I was still S9. Later, the ducting shifted slightly southward with West VA and VA being heard. I worked N4NZ (grid FM07) in Roanoke, VA for a new grid square. It is **very rare** to work the state of VA on Tropo going over the mountains. Most of my previous VA contacts were made by sporadic E skip.

During these great two meter openings no signals were heard on six meters. Stations operating the higher VHF and UHF bands such as 222, 432, 902 and 1296 MHz did experience some DX openings as well.

Six meter E-Skip continued through the first half of August but fell off the last part of the month. We are nearing the

end of the summer season E openings. E-Skip openings are usually scarce in September but can occur, that's why they call it the magic band.

Six meter ops will be watching this fall for possible long skip openings to South America via the F2 layer with the solar flux increasing. It may not happen this far north but should in the southern part of the US, especially southern TX and southern FL. As one six meter op used to say (The late W4GJO), "See you all of a sudden". That about sums it up.

cu on VHF  
73 John Tudenham WØJRP

## JARC REPEATER CONTROLLER REPAIRED

Bruce Cummins KFØTD had to take things into his own hands (quite literally) when, as a member of the Technical Committee, he was doing routine system checks on the JARC 147.21 repeater and discovered that the machine was without control. Apparently during one of the many recent storms the site took a hit which disabled the control system for a short time.

When he discovered the problem he notified Jim WBØIYC, and John KBØTKL. Later (with tools in hand) he and Dave NØKMP went to the site to take a look. When asked what he discovered, his stated "I got the telephone fixed at the repeater. There was a surge protector in line that had opened. I replaced it."

While at the site, they also discovered that the battery was very low on water. Dave obtained distilled water and added almost one gallon to top it off.

Although without remote control, the machine had been fully functional, and gave no signs of any problem. It was only disabled for a brief time while the repairs were made.

# HAMFEST CALENDAR

Note: Listings are updated as information becomes available.

**September 11 & 12** Mena, AR  
**QUEEN WILHELMINA HAMFEST**  
This 29th Annual hamfest will be held at Queen Wilhelmina State Park located just 13 miles west of downtown Mena, AR on Hwy 88. Family fun for all. Over 70 Flea Market spaces available @ \$10.00 each. Camping spots for RV's & Tents. B-B-Q Friday night, and Banquet at the lodge Saturday night with Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL Delta Division Director. Tickets can be purchased from the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge 1-800-264-2477. Gary Hollowell KC5MLC ARES/RACES Coordinator, Little River County, AR.  
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**September 12** Columbia, MO  
**ARRL Hamfest**  
Central Missouri Radio Assn., Columbia  
7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. \$5 admission.  
10,000 sq Feet of Indoor Exhibit Space,  
Located at the "Good Time Country"  
5551 S. Hwy. 163 (just off Hwy. 63 South)  
Perry Ogletree, NØNMC  
PO Box 283, Columbia, MO 65205-0283  
E-mail: cmra@qsl.net  
<http://www.qsl.net/cmra>  
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**September 13** Monett, MO.  
**Ozark Amateur Radio Society HAMFEST**  
Monett, Mo. At the City Park. The park is located east side of Mo Hwy 37, just south of U.S. 60 (across from the golf course). From the entrance, drive to the SE portion of the park. This tail-gater, will begin at 8:am, followed by a pot luck dinner at noon. Plan to participate and bring a covered dish.  
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**September 19th** Owasso, OK  
**Owasso Amateur Radio Club** will be holding a Tailgate Party & Swapfest from 9am to 2pm. North of Tulsa off route 75 at the home of Jack Sperry, N5IDV. All welcome. Bring your own table & chairs, and your equipment for sale or trade. 50/50 drawing, games, food, more. Website for more details and directions: [www.galstar.com/~dsitter/oarc1.html](http://www.galstar.com/~dsitter/oarc1.html)

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They are also useful locally to check out your receivers and your antennas.

KØETC/B is on 50.071 MHZ so tune down there to check your gear. If you are driving north of Joplin from Stone's Corner, as you pass over the overpass look to your left and see a nice house and a huge garage with the turnstile peeking out at the north end of the garage.

Good luck on 6.

## SIX METER NET SCHEDULE

The 6 meter FM net is held on Thursday nights at 9:00 p.m. local time. For those hams operating the converted Empire Motorola rigs, the net frequency is 52.520 MHz. All other hams should check in on 52.525 MHz. All amateurs are welcome to check in!

If you desire any more information, please contact: Steve Mertens WTØY smertens@bwj.com

## Buy/Sell Trade

**For Sale - Tower 50ft. Rohn 25G , 100ft. #9913 Coax**  
Make Offer.

Les Hovland AAØGY (417) 776-8420 <sup>4/98</sup>

**For Sale - Kenwood TS-440S with PS-430 Power Supply**, excellent condition, with manuals, has CW & SSB filters, auto antenna tuner built in. \$700

Billy Durham NØHNO (316) 251-4439 <sup>4/98</sup>

**For Sale - Alpine #3505 Power Amp**, 12VDC-neg gnd.

**Motorola Mostar Base**, Model #D35TLA5B00BK.

**Motorola Mobile**, Model #D35TLA5B00BK.

**Motorola Power Supply**, Model #HPN1004A. 120VAC, 60 Hz 2.0A, Output 14.2 VDC.

Doug Torson KM5JM (918) 782-2976 <sup>3/98</sup>

(Continued from page 3)

Talkin on the OARC machine 145.45(-)  
Dan Sitterley KA3GRJ OARC President  
mailto:dsitter@galstar.com

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**September 19** North Little Rock, AR  
CAREN Hamfest

Contact Dee Hooker, KD5ASB  
PO Box 94945, N. Little Rock, AR 72190  
501-791-0607 email: kb5kit@flash.net  
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**September 19** Shattuck, OK  
THE GREAT PLAINS RADIO CLUB

— HAMFEST CANCELLED —

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**September 23-27** Hope, AR

A celebration of the old Army proving ground. Some of us who collect military radios are going to get together and have Show-and-Tell for the public. There should be some trading too. Most events will be at the airport. Planes displayed will include a B-17, B-24, and a B-29. If you only come for one day come on the 27th when the main event is an air show.  
Jim Haynes, W6JVE  
jhaynes@alumni.uark.edu, 501-443-9339  
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**October 3** Wichita, KS  
Kansas State Convention

Stan Weir, KBØSHB 132 Anita  
Dr., Haysville, KS 67060-1114  
316-524-2568 email: kb0shb@juno.com  
http://www.feist.com/~warc  
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**October 3** Springdale AR  
1998 NWAARC Hamfest.

At the Jones Center For Families in Springdale. Starts Saturday 8:00am. Setup Friday 7pm-10pm, and Sat 6am. Tables are \$5, tailgates \$4, admission \$6. Dealers, programs and VE testing. Mac W4FH will be testing in room 222. Call 501-443-3359 or email him at dmacdona@ipa.net.

For more information call 501-524-4797  
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**October 10** Mountain Home AR

At the NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY 8:30am until 1:30pm. Admission \$4 Children 12 and under free. Grand Prize and many door prizes.

Tables 8'-\$8.00, 5'-\$6.50, includes one admission. Setup Saturday at 7am. For tables, contact PAUL RASMUSSEN KA8VAN gerpa@centuryinter.net days 870-424-2500, night 870-491-5350 fax 870-425-7550 Talk-in on 147.075+

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**October 23-25** Kingston, OK

Texoma Hamarama  
Contact Herb Sleeper, WB5PHM  
8144 Carriage Ln., Wichita Falls, TX  
76306-4115 940-855-5820

E-mail: retmarine@cst.net  
www.qsl.net/KC5SIG/HAMARAMA

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**October 24** Grandview, MO

THE OCTOBERFEST 1998 sponsored by the South-Side Amateur Radio Club Grandview Middle School, 12650 Manchester, same as last 5 years.

CASH PRIZES 1st-\$300.00, 2nd-\$200.00 hourly DOOR PRIZES. Adv.Tickets 4/\$5 Tables \$15 which includes one admission.

Setup 6am, Doors open 8:00am-2:00pm  
TALK-IN 147.120+

LUNCH will be offered by the SSARC  
W5YI VEC exams start at 10:00am.

MUST be pre-registered. Mail form 610 to P.O.BOX 12757

NORTH KANSAS CITY MO. 64116  
For information Donna Quick KBØYJN (816)537-7464, email kb0yjn@juno.com or Mark Sevy KBØVWD (816)331-8948

Letters SSARC, P.O. BOX 701  
GRANDVIEW MO. 64030

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**October 31** Kirkwood, MO

SLARC & GARA, Kirkwood (St. Louis County), MO

For Information Dennis McCarthy, AAØA

5022 Lansdowne Ave., St. Louis, 63109.  
314-351-3568 or 314-533-0321 (Ext. 12)

E-mail: mccartdj@slu.edu

## HUMOROUS QUOTES

### TAKEN FROM A CHURCH BULLETIN

Thursday at 5PM there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the minister in his private study.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north endsof the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

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**CALENDAR ON THIS PAGE**

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**ALSO UNUSED JUNK TO SAVE FOR  
FUTURE ISSUES**

**QRP FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR**

BY JOHN TUDENHAM WØJRP



## Meeting Times, Testing, Events, other Club Information

**T**he **Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**, a Missouri *not-for-profit* organization, meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Joplin Municipal Building, on the lower level, in the Civil Defense dining room at 7:30 PM. The facility is accessible to the handicapped.

The club supports and promotes annual operating events, assists area agencies with communications when requested, and offers training classes for advancement in amateur radio. It also sponsors the JARC HamFest each year in April, and maintains a wide area coverage OPEN 2m repeater on 147.21 MHz.

Club members often meet weekday mornings in Joplin for coffee at the Target Store (3151 East 7th St.)

around 8:30 a.m. Members also meet for breakfast on Saturday morning around 8:30 AM in the restaurant at Smitty's (18th and Maiden Lane) in Joplin.

### 1998 CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Larry	NØMST
Vice-Pres. Jackson	KBØWFE
Treasurer, Jim	NØZSQ
Secretary, Mark	NØZPD

### Amateur Radio VE Testing

License testing by volunteer examiners takes place on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July) at St. Paul's Methodist Church located at 2423 West 26th St. in Joplin. Sign up at 6:30 PM, testing begins promptly at 7 PM.

### ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

This club newsletter provides an open forum for the Four-State area amateur radio community, and **your** comments and contributions are always invited. Items for publication, including classified ads and amateur radio related articles, may be sent to the **JARC Printed Circuit**, P.O. Box 2983, Joplin, MO 64803-2983, or send email to: [jimscott@janics.com](mailto:jimscott@janics.com)

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Non-Commercial Classified ads are free and will be run on a space available basis whenever requested. Submissions may be typed, handwritten, ASCII text files attached with email, or on disks formatted for IBM. *All items* are subject to editing for spelling, content, and space limitations as required. '73 and Thanks. **Jim WBØIYC ¶**

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PRINTED CIRCUIT

Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2983  
Joplin, Missouri 64803-2983