



OPEN MIC

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

AUGUST 2016

W0ALX RARC, 15125 160th Ave, Villard, Minnesota 56385-2350

www.w0alx.org

Alexandria Rpt: 146.790-

442.025+ (88.5)

Sauk Centre Rpt: 147.255+

SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 20

8am: Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alex

10am: Monthly RARC Meeting, Glenwood State Bank, Alex

SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 27: Kensington Runestone Park

10am to 3pm (approx) W0ALX 80th Birthday Operational Event

12 noon Annual RARC Picnic

PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER...

Greetings from the shack of WA0EBZ

Now that we are in the heat of the summer months, 80 – 90 degree days and 70% humidity; afternoons are spent indoors with air conditioning and catching up on new things available in ham radio equipment. In the wake of overwhelming sales response to the recently introduced “Peanut Whistle 250” transmitter and the “Gary Coleman QSO machine”, amateur radio equipment manufacturer Peanut Whistle Inc.” is announcing a new line of ham radio station accessories designed to enhance your operating experience.

There is a new accessory designed to satisfy a unique ham radio need. There may be times you want to transmit – but don’t want to make QSOs. Peanut Whistle will unveil the “Automatic Voice Box” at the upcoming Radio Consumer Device Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Automatic Voice Box seamlessly integrates with your transceiver’s audio connections and transmits randomly generated pronouncements of QRM. The idea of a voice-keyer is being taken to the next level. If you’re listening to a DX pileup with hundreds of stations calling, you may at first be puzzled about how to join in. Now, you can participate in the chaos and QRM with nothing more than the push of a silky-smooth momentary switch.”

Operated by a 10-key remote control pad, the base unit comes supplied with 25 pre-recorded audio messages – recorded by top industry voice over talent – ranging from profane to simply irritating.

A sample of the 25 included messages:

- “HELLO HELLO HELLO HELLO HELLO”
- “Breaker...Breaker...”
- RANDOM WHISTLING
- THE ENTIRE PREAMBLE TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION (Read by Hal Holbrook)

For a limited time, the company is including "The 1970's: Slang" voice module on the first 100 units sold. This provides the user 10 additional pre-recorded messages ranging from J.J. Walker's "DY-NO-MITE!" to former President Richard Nixon stating "I AM NOT A CROOK."

"While not profane, they remain very annoying and a GREAT source of QRM, the device has been beta-tested for several months on 14.313 MHz with great success."

The AutomaticVoice Box may be ordered from your favorite ham radio retailer; M.S.R.P \$149.99. After the introductory offer has expired, you may order the 1970's Slang module as a \$25 option. ORDER TODAY!

Hope to see a good turnout at the next club meeting and at our annual Picnic.

73; Wayne (wa0ebz)

[RUNESTONE ARC MEETING MINUTES JULY 16](#)

1. Present: Alden N0MIC, Mike W0MKE, Mike KC0TAF, Wayne WB0KUG, John W0JAR, Roger KD0UTA, Bill KG0DX, Wayne WA0EBZ, George N0RCL, Norm W7ISD, Andy KC0SAL and Stan Thompson
2. Meeting called to order by Wayne WA0EBZ at 10am.
3. June minutes were reference; motion by WB0KUG, second KD0UTA, passed.
4. Treasure Report (W0JAR): Beg Bal \$3612.90, incidental expenses \$140.90, End Bal \$3472.00
5. No Trustee Report
6. No Education Report
7. Technical Report (WB0KUG): all repeaters functioning satisfactorily
8. PIO Report (KC0SAL): reviewed recent publicity
9. Old Business: a) Aug 27 Picnic at noon at Kensington Runestone Park--80th Birthday activity before and after picnic, b) WILL BE REGULAR RARC MEETING ON AUG 20 AT 10AM AT GLENWOOD STATE BANK, c) approximately 600 bikers will participate in the Tour of Saints event starting at St Ben's college. KC0TAF will be net control, d) KD0MOM, KC0QAL and KG0DX helped with the MS Tram accross Minnesota this year, e) if you have any pics of club events please send them to KC0SAL, f) the 13 Colonies event garnered a "clean sweep" by WA0EBZ--CONGRATS!, g) National Parks on the Air continues until the end of December--lots of great opportunities
10. New Business: a) need Net Controls for November and December, b) AES is going out of business-bought up by HRO, c) Program responsibilities-Aug KB0INZ or WA0EBZ Sept N0RCL Oct Pat? Nov W7ISD d) Band condx have been fair to good, e) St Paul Island currently active, f) many contests available for competition or just plain fun, g) July 15-24 Solar Car Challenge, h) no action on cargo trailer, i) Saturday club meetings?, j) WA0EBZ announced he would not be President in 2017
11. Adjourn, motion by W7ISD, second by KC0TAF, passed
12. W0MKE presented an operational APRS station using the latest craze, the Rasberry Pi/tnc, radio. Great program and should generate some interest. Thanks Mike for an informative session.

2016 MONDAY NITE NET CONTROLS

January	Tom KD0MOM
February	Jim KB0INZ
March	Bill KG0DX
April	Mike W0MKE
May	Roger KD0UTA
June	Bill KG0DX
July	George N0RCL
August	Jim KB0INZ
September	Jim NN0Q
October	George N0RCL
November	
December	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 6: 8am Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre

Aug 20: 8am Coffee/Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria

Aug 20: 10am RARC Monthly Club Meeting, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

Aug 27: 10am W0ALX 80th Operational Activity, Kensington Runestone Park

Aug 27: 12 noon, RARC Annual Picnic, Kensington Runestone Park

Aug 27: 1pm W0ALX 80th Operational Activity, Kensington Runestone Park (til we're tired out)

Aug 27: Brainerd Tailgate Swapmeet

Sept 3: 8am Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre

Sept 17: 8am Coffee/Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria

Sept 17: 10am RARC Monthly Club Meeting, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

A BIG "THANK YOU" AND "THE WINNERS ARE:"

The family of Maggie N0NYV and Joe KA0PPU (SK) have determined that some of their radio "stuff" may be of interest to RARC members. Consequently, at the last club meeting a Radio Shack Multimeter was awarded to Mike W0MKE and a 3amp power supply went to Roger KD0UTA. And of course, a BIG THANK YOU goes to Maggie and her family for making these items available to us. Remember, you gotta be there to have your name drawn.

2016 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

Wayne WA0EBZ	PRESIDENT
Norm W7ISD	VICE-PRESIDENT
John W0JAR	TREASURE
Bill KG0DX	SECRETARY

Wayne WB0KUG TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Jim KB0INZ TRUSTEE
John W0JAR DIRECTOR (2017)
Mike W0MKE DIRECTOR (2018)
Norm W7ISD DIRECTOR (2019)
Andy KC0SAL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

[5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports](#)

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie – M0PZT @M0PZT
Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

=====

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.