



OPEN MIC



A NEWSLETTER OF THE
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

W0ALX RARC, 2301 S Le Homme Dieu Drive NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
www.w0alx.org Alexandria Rpt: 146.790- 442.025+ (88.5) Sauk Centre Rpt: 147.255+

NOVEMBER 2015

NOTE CHANGES FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00am Breakfast Brass Lantern, Alexandria

9:30am Board of Directors Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

10:00am RARC Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

SEE YOU THERE!

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17 RARC MEETING

ATTENDEES: KD0UTA Roger, N0RCL George, W0JAR John, W0KCJ Norm, WB0KUG Wayne, N0MIC Alden, W0XPC Dave, KG0DX Bill, WA0EBZ Wayne and visitor AE5ED Steve Olson from Watertown, SD.

MINUTES from last meeting approved as printed in October Open Mic. W0KCJ moved, W0JAR seconded.

TREASURE REPORT from W0KCJ approved. Monthly expenses totaled \$10 leaving a general balance of \$3562.03. W0XPC moved, KD0UTA seconded.

TRUSTEE REPORT from W0KCJ noted that the Repeater Council will meet in Maple Grove on Oct 24. Council dues of \$10 were paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. KG0DX reported on the 80 meter installation at the Law Enforcement Center noting that weather delayed the work until another time. (The installation was delayed a second time due to weather and a major incident in Pope/Douglas Counties.)
2. WA0EBZ will check out costing of a utility trailer for club use—he'll report at the Nov meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. WA0EBZ reported that he will represent Todd County hams on October 27 at their Community Partners mtg.
 2. W0XPC will represent Douglas County hams at the Community Partners meeting in Alexandria on Nov 19.
 3. Board of Directors will meet at 9:30am on Saturday November (Glenwood State Bank) for the purpose of creating a roster of nominees for club officers.
 4. N0RCL and W0JAR will research cost and availability of the Depot and Forada Supper Club for the Christmas Party. They'll report at next club meeting
- UHF,VHF,HF:** All agreed that conditions were terrible.
- SPECIAL EVENTS:** Many special events upcoming in the next month or two including Jamboree On The Air, USGA Aux, WV Railway Days, Halloween events, Edmund Fitzgerald 40th anniversary, Green Valley, AZ events, etc. No shortage of opportunities.
- DX ACTIVITIES:** The calendars are filled with special events, contests and special dx-peditions to unique places to deal with the "most wanted" DX Entities.
- PROGRAM:** Highlighting super station W3LPL.
- ADJOURN:** N0RCL moved, KD0UTA seconded, passed.

-submitted by KG0DX

PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER.....

At breakfast prior to last month's RARC meeting, one of our members asked if anyone had ever heard of the term LID. Some had and others had not. Later I wondered where the term came from and when it was first used. In 1912 The Railroad Telegrapher printed a humorous poem. Here is an extract:

And if some "Ham" who sounds insane,
Should move me to say things profane
O stay my hand upon the key
and may I not get "H" for "P."
May I refrain to open my door
and kick through it some tedious bore.
Who brings to me his half-wit kid
to be transformed into a lid.

Boys' Life, Feb 1932 is one of the earliest mentions I can find of a lid in radio: "...taking care not to play the lid."

A lid is a radio operator who is either fresh from school or hasn't taken the trouble to learn to use his head and his fist at the same time. Popular Science, Feb 1933 also shows *lid* used around the same time for the telegraph: He uses a bug, but it runs away with him. As a sender he's a lid. He can't read ahead and has combinations. It occurred to me that early use of "lid" isn't really about personal character - it seems to be saying someone is a newbie or has bad operating technique.

QST 1927: When you have traffic and want to get it off, DO NOT give it to a "lid" operator. If you do, the chances are that it will die right there.

Are you a lid? Good question, after reading this you can ask yourself does this sound like me?
Let us define what a LID is.

1. In earlier telegraphy days a LID was referred to an operator that used a Prince Albert can lid to hear the Telegraph sounder easier. Usually these operators were new and sometimes slow and would slow down the whole Telegraphy system because of the operator that was slow or making many mistakes.
 2. A LID now days is referred to any Ham operator that is a poor operator.
 3. Defined by a friend of mine a LID is some one that does not change their ways even after being corrected.
- Wishing all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving;
QLF?

WA0EBZ

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov 16,23,30: 7pm W0ALX 2 meter net, W0KCJ NC
Nov 21: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria
Nov 21: 9:30am, Bd of Directors, Glenwood St Bank, Alex
Nov 21: 10am RARC Club Mtg, Glenwood St Bank, Alex
Nov 26: Thanksgiving Day

Dec 5: 8am Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre
Dec 7,14,21,28: 7pm W0ALX 2 meter net, KD0AAA (1st and 3rd Mondays; need NC for 14th and 28th)
Dec 19: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria
Dec 19: NO MONTHLY CLUB MEETING
Dec 25: Christmas Day
(((Date, time and location of Christmas Party will be set at the Nov 21 club meeting)))

2015 NET CONTROL ROSTER

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|-----------|--|
| JANUARY | N0CE |
| FEBRUARY | W0KCJ |
| MARCH | N0RCL |
| APRIL | KD0UTA |
| MAY | KB0INZ |
| JUNE | KG0DX |
| JULY | KD0MOM |
| AUGUST | NN0Q |
| SEPTEMBER | KG0DX |
| OCTOBER | W0MKE |
| NOVEMBER | W0KCJ |
| DECEMBER | KD0AAA (1 st & 3 rd Mon) |

TIDBITS: Have you been following the news developments regarding the "re-appearance" of Heathkit company? Well, in a recent issue of Ham Nation, Bob Heil, K9EID went to some length on the re-emergence of this company into the kit building business. Consequently, I went to the recommended website and was a bit disappointed by what I found. The only real kit was for a small am radio receiver, period. And for a \$150 bucks?? Apparently I wasn't the only one who had issues, read on..... Perhaps we should reserve judgment and see what they develop over the next year or two, we'll see...so stay tuned.

A new Heathkit! So, why am I not excited?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago I got an e-mail from Heathkit. Yes, the NEW Heathkit. you might remember that a couple of years ago, there was all this hype about a "new" Heathkit and how they were going to start designing new kits as well as revive popular old designs.

Then, nothing. They went completely quiet—until a couple of weeks ago. In an e-mail sent to their "insiders," they say:

2015 RARC OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT WAYNE WA0EBZ
VICE PRESIDENT NORM W7ISD
TREASURE NORM W0KCJ
SECRETARY JIM KB0INZ

DIRECTOR(2015) NORM W7ISD
DIRECTOR(2016) BILL KG0DX
DIRECTOR(2017) JOHN W0JAR

"Dear Heathkit Insider,

cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

'What I really hope Heathkit will produce,' a Silicon Valley colleague recently told me, 'is a new radio kit with a beautiful finish, maybe in rosewood.' Something great to enjoy building and learn from, and also visually stunning, so he could put it in his living room and keep it forever.

A SECOND TIDBIT:

The program for the November 21st meeting is titled "Remembering Your Elmer." Most of us had an Elmer, so let's remember them on the 21st. Be prepared to share your history.

"Today, my friend gets his wish.

A THIRD TIDBIT:

They then go on to explain all of the work they've been doing in relocating Heathkit to Santa Cruz, CA, acquiring a second company, and securing all the intellectual property rights to the old Heathkit manuals and logos (meaning no more bootleg copies on the Internet). The e-mail continues:

I know that several of you watch live creation of the Ham Nation program on Wednesday evenings at 8pm (local) which are subsequently available for viewing at your leisure. You can tune in to this program at <http://twit.tv/hn>, the click on "LIVE" and you're in for either the creation or later viewing. The creation takes about 1.25 hours and the edited version around 1 hour. I tend to prefer the creation because you get to see and hear all the goings on; the edited version is sanitized.

"That's a lot, but there's more. We've designed and developed a wide range of entirely new kit products. We authored the manuals for these kits, complete with the beautiful line art you rely on, preserving and respecting our iconic historic Heathkit style. We developed many new inventions and filed patents on them.....We built the back office infrastructure, vendor and supply chain relationships, systems, procedures, operations methods, and well-thought-out corporate structure that a manufacturing company needs to support its customers, to allow us to scale instantly the day we resume major kit sales. All this effort enables us to introduce a fleet of new kits and helps ensure Heathkit can grow, prosper, and continue to bring you great new products for a very long time."

A FOURTH TIDBIT:

Another TV show about amateur radio can be found at www.amateurlogic.tv/downloads.htm Two Americans and an Australian do the teaching and showing on a variety of topics of interest to hams. I believe they do their recording once per month on a Saturday around noon. Check it out; pretty certain you'll find something of interest in the show(s).

So, what's the exciting news? A new QRP transceiver? Maybe a shortwave radio? A new 100-in-1 experimenter kit for Makers?

A FIFTH AND FINAL TIDBIT:

The program at the upcoming club meeting on November 21st will be on "Remembering Your Elmer." I'm confident we'll hear many interesting stories this coming Saturday. So come on in and share your special story.

Uh-uh. Sorry. The "exciting" news is a tuned radio frequency (TRF) AM band (yes, I said AM band) radio kit that costs \$150 (<https://shop.heathkit.com/shop/product/explorer-jr-trf-am-radio-receiver-kit-black-case-gr-150-bk-16>). Not only is that crazy expensive for an AM radio, it doesn't even come with a speaker. On top of that, there's no soldering. You screw all of the components to the board. I'm speechless (well, figuratively, not literally).

CU THERE.....73

I'm not sure what the target market is for this product. It's certainly not amateur radio operators, who expect a lot more (in terms of both functionality and "fun") for their money. Nor is it the "Maker" folks, who want something more challenging than an AM radio. I think that if I took this to show off at the local Ann Arbor Maker group, they'd laugh me out of the place.

I really hope that they have something better up their sleeves. A strong Heathkit would be good for the Maker movement and for ham radio.

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When not thinking about what kit to build next, Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m). His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.Com, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to