

McKean County Amateur Radio Club



OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Our trip to Belgium, France and Germany: We left here on July 11 and returned home on August 22. I had the opportunity to operate Amateur Radio from Belgium as ON9CLW, my Belgium station call sign, and F/NJ3K from two locations in France, and DL/NJ3K from the Black forest in Germany. We had a great time visiting with our son and his family. Our two grandsons were wonderful. The oldest, Thomas, put me to work fixing things. I ended up fixing the battery compartment connections on a digital camera, two sets of stereo speakers, one needed the wire connector fixed, and the other the wire broke off the bass speaker. Several toys were repaired also. The biggest repair was a Sony stereo amplifier from the 70's. The push switches were dirty, I had to get some cleaner for those. The power supply in the amp blew 2 fuses. I was able to download the schematic from the web and John had a meter and soldering gun. I found a bad output transistor and was able to purchase a new one for 0.65 cents.

We spent a week in Normandy France, saw the American Cemetery, a German cemetery, Omaha, Utah, Gold beaches. Several museums, got in to one free as I am a veteran. Point Du Hoc, where the US Army Rangers scaled the cliffs, a German radar installation. Some pictures below.

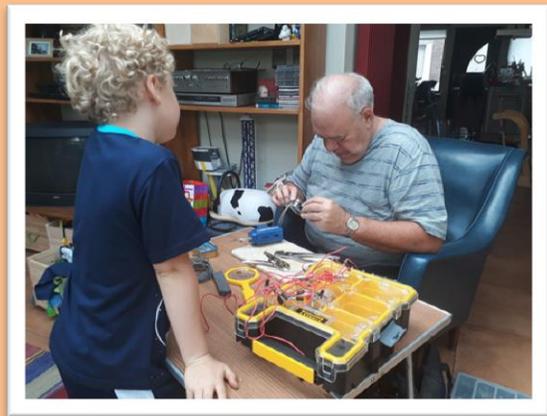
Went to Germany to the prison camp at Dachau. Saw things there that made my eyes fill up with tears, to say the least.

Operated from Omaha Beach, this was the first activation of this park for WWFF/FFF the World Wide Flora and Fauna. The Black Forest operation was great, beautiful location about 5,000 feet up, then it rained. Boy did it rain. John had the car keys and he went for a hike up the hill, I managed to get snow everything packed up so the radio stuff was dry but I wasn't. Only mad 5 QSO's from there. Pictures below.

We had a great time and it was the longest vacation for both of us, guess there is one good thing about being retired.



Black Forest DL/NJ3K



Me fixing a camera and the Sony amp in the back ground. One of the gun placements at Point du Hoc.

Reminder: the club will be active for the PA QSO Party, October 13 and 14. We will set up antennas on Friday the 12th. Please come out and give us a hand, GREAT time to get on HF if you are new or feeling a little rusty. See the clubs web site <http://www.w3vv.com/> and <http://paqso.org/> for more details.

Due to fact that I can't email too large of a file, The Stone Tower POTA activation in the Allegany State Park, NY, and the 80th Anniversary of the McKean County Radio Club will be covered in the next newsletter. But I will try to fit a couple of pictures in here.



I also have an article from Carol and Steve on a few hamfest's they visited this summer, you remember summer, you know just a few weeks ago, any way that too will be in the next news letter.

I am still moving along with my quest for [DXCC, QRP \(5 watts \) CW Mobile](#). I am now at 99 DXCC entities. Who says you need a 1000 watts and a 100 foot tower and a Yagi. I started in earnest about a year ago, I will have a write up when the big day arrives, soon I hope. I get ried of running out to the car in my pajamas in the middle of the night to try and work a new one.

Don't forget the secret word contest!



American cemetery

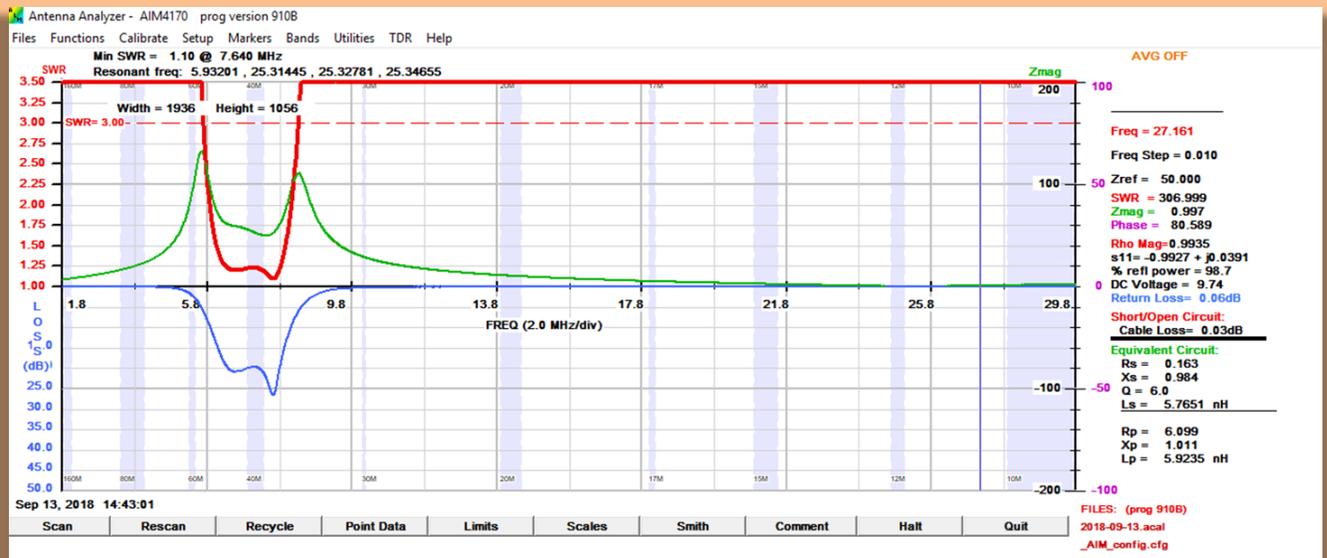
The weather in Europe was hot, we had temps over 100 for over a week, and no one has air conditioning. Don't need it the say it's only hot for a week or so, well let me tell you, it was hot all the time we were there. I saw one of the most disgusting things ever. Google French toilet. Its's a porcelain thing you just squat over. Glad I am a guy. We have over 2,000 pictures and a bunch of videos, but I won't bore you with all of them.

I have been wanting to build same band pass filters for many years and did so in the last week or two. These are from ARRL QST September 1988. They are a Butterworth design. Not too difficult to build, and as for cost, about \$25-\$30 each. Seem to work okay so far. I don't have a vector network analyzer so I can tell you exactly how well they suppress unwanted signals.

I built these for 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters. As I stated I don't have a VNA but I used what I have including the AIM 4170C analyzer and oscilloscope and figure I am suppressing the un-wanted bands from 27 to 48 dB.



Below is the SWR, Z mzg, and return loss of the 40 meter filter.



Amateur Radio License Class Dates.

Again this year the McKean County Department of Emergency Services is hosting a Technician and General license class. Dates, Technician January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2 and 9. The test will be on the 9th. General dates, February 23, March 2, 9, 23, 30, and April 6. The test will be April 6th. Time 0900 til 1600 with an hour off for lunch, location in the DES building, 17175 Rt 6 west of Smethport. Deadline to register is December 22 so we can get the books ordered, There is no cost for the class, books provided by the McKean County DES. Test is free also. For more information and to register contact me, Bruce Manning, at bmanning@zitomedia.net or 814-331-3095.

Upcoming Events

Hamfest: If you attend a Hamfest, send me a report and some pictures I am sure are readers would be interested.

Hamfest/Convention

11/04/2018 | [WACOM 2018 HAMFEST](#)

Location: Canonsburg, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Washington Amateur Communications

Website: <http://www.wacomarc.org/hamfest.html>

Hamfest/Convention

10/06/2018 | [Red Rose Repeater Association Hamfest](#)

Location: Talmage, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Red Rose Repeater Association

Website: <http://www.w3rrr.org>

Hamfest/Convention

10/21/2018 | [RF Hill ARC Hamfest](#)

Location: Sellersville, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: RF Hill Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://rhillarc.org>

Hamfest/Convention

10/28/2018 | [Massillon Hamfest](#)

Location: Massillon, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.w8np.org>

Well it is getting to be colder outside and snow is just around the corner, these are I can find nearby.

Contests:

We have some big contests coming up. Great time to work on DXCC, WAS and other awards.

The PA QSO Party Association Presents the 62nd PA QSO Party - October 13 & 14, 2018
See <http://paqso.org/> for more information.

<http://www.contesting.com/>

Another note: If you have QSL cards to be checked for DXCC, (including 160 meters) WAS or VUCC I can do this. Contact me at bmanning@zitomedia.net

As always if you have something you want me to include in the newsletter please let me know. Send it to bmanning@zitomedia.net