



# The Microphone Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society



(A monthly publication for members and friends of LWARS)

**Aug 2024**

[www.lwars.com](http://www.lwars.com) [www.facebook.com/LakeWhitneyAmateurRadioSociety](https://www.facebook.com/LakeWhitneyAmateurRadioSociety) [www.qrz.com/lookup/nz5t](http://www.qrz.com/lookup/nz5t)

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| <b>LWARS Board:</b><br>Pres. Roy McCleary (N5ZKW)<br>VP. Martin Coons (N5FAC)<br>Treas. Robert Tear (N9KGL)<br>Sec. Kenneth Ezzell (KE5EZZ)<br>Dir. Matthew Sullivan (KG5ZPV)<br>Dir. Mike Drew (KG5FZC)<br>Dir. Tim Hutchings (N5TCH) | <b>LWARS Training Net:</b><br>Each Thursday at 7 PM. Repeater 146.620 Tone 123<br><br><b>Simplex 146.580</b><br>(Simplex Net - First Thursday Evening of the Month)<br><br>Back Up Repeater 146.780 Tone 123<br><br><b>Email</b><br>lwars.nz5t@gmail.com | <b>Next Meeting:</b><br>Saturday, Aug 17, 2024, at 10 AM<br>Lake Whitney Public Library,<br>602 E. Jefferson Ave, Whitney, TX.<br><br>Check the club's Facebook page or check<br>into the Thursday evening LWARS Training<br>Net for any updates.<br>LWARS meets on the third Saturday of each<br>month at 10 AM. |
| Members: 38    Tech:10    Gen:10    Extra:16    Advance:1    Associate: 1  |  |   |

From The Secretary's Desk....

### Correction On Field Day Set Up Crew

Beliving that all of the crew was in the field day crew photo, I mistankly left out a person who worked very hard that day and help out tremendously.

Jean Smoot, thank you for all you do!

### Slow Time Of The Year For LWARS

As we are between major events for LWARS, In this issue, I will be sharing ham news, tips, and intersting thing I have come across.

I welcome any items you would like to share with LWARS and friends in future publications of The Microphone. Please send news (ham or personal), tips, recipies, photos, projects, etc. to me at KE5EZZ@outlook.com .

### *Upcoming Dates of Note:*

Aug 17 8:00 am Club Board Meeting, W. Library.

Aug 17 10:00 am Club Meeting, Whitney Library.

Oct 3-5 08:00 am 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Pioneer Days

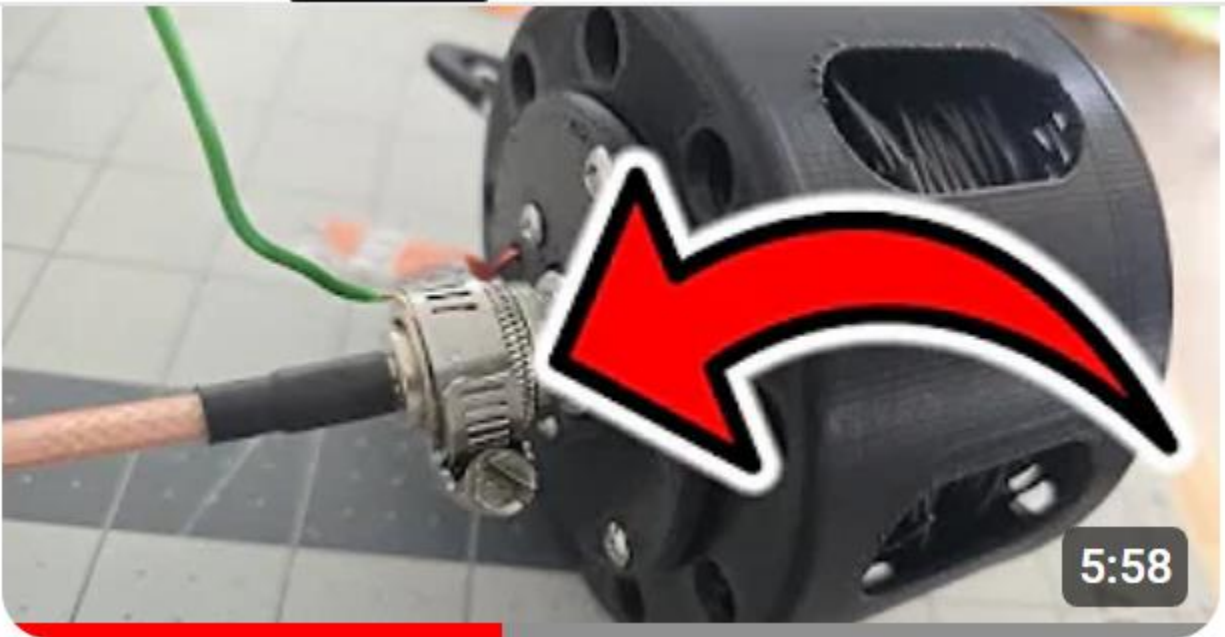
Oct 4 7:00 am Belton HamExpo!

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## Neat Trick To Add A Counterpoise To Any Antenna

Seen on HamRadioDude Youtube channel, posted on Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

This ham dude showed a quick way to add a counterpoise to an antenna by using a hose clamp! As seen below, clamping a stripped wire to rf connector is a great way. This could be a fix for a broken counterpoise connection that was original to your set up or just experimenting with radials (number of and lengths).



## Summit County (Ohio) amateur radio operators team up with EMA to provide emergency communications

<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2024/07/26/ohio-armature-radio-operators-ema>

When an emergency happens, communication can be key. Summit County's Emergency Management team has a new partner to help them respond to anything from severe weather to a disaster: amateur radio operators.

"I have my radio programmed with a lot of different frequencies," said Ken Dorsey, the Emergency Coordinator for Summit County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

He says cell phones don't always work during wide-scale emergencies, so he keeps a radio in his car just in case. "We do emergency communications if there is a large-scale disaster or event," Dorsey said.

Dorsey says they partner with the Summit County EMA to provide radio communications.

"We would probably staff the new communications center in Tallmadge because we have equipment there now. If we needed to we could set up in remote locations," he said. "This would be a perfect example. Maybe the Red Cross does open shelters, and they may want communication between shelters or with the main Red Cross."

Ted Urbach has a radio base set up in his home. His dad and father-in-law got him started in being an amateur radio operator.

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"My father-in-law gifted me with a handheld radio, and it got stored for several years," he said. "We dug it out and I thought, 'let me just see if I can get it working.' It worked."

It has since morphed into a setup that allows Urbach to talk to people on the other side of the world if necessary.

"These are mostly used for long range communications: Europe, Africa, basically all around the world," Urbach said, pointing out a particular radio.

As for Dorsey, he also has a portable radio go-box that allows him to go anywhere with his radio.

"All of the radio gear is right here. All you need to do is connect it to a battery," he said. "This is one of our battery packs. Then connect it to an antenna and you're ready to go."

From eham.net

## GB1URC from August 8 to September 4, 2024 - QTH: Glasgow (Scotland):

2024-08-08 From eham.net

The Unicom Radio Club (URC) will be activating the special event callsign GB1URC from August 8 to September 4, 2024. QTH: Glasgow (Scotland), Grid Locator: IO75TT, WAB: NS56.

More info: <https://unicomradio.com/gb1urc>



YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF.....

1. YOUR WIFE SAID, "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA". *I don't get this one...?*
2. YOUR WIFE SAID, "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!
3. YOUR WIFE SAID, "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID "HAM FEST"!
4. YOUR WIFE SAID, "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, "LOG BOOK"!
5. YOUR WIFE SAID, "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT?", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, "IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?"
6. YOUR WIFE SAID, "TURN ON THE FAN", AND YOU SHOUGHT SHE SAID, "CHANGE THE BANDS". kc9rxc <https://www.hamuniverse.com/humor.html>

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## **HAM Radio Best Practices** <https://hamradiofornontechies.com/ham-radio-tips/>

HAM Radio is a whole new world for you, and you want to jump into it ASAP, however you are bound to make mistakes on occasion and that's alright. Play nice with everyone you speak to. Here are a few tips and even unwritten **rules in Ham Radio** to help you avoid pitfalls and maybe some embarrassing situations:

### **On the air:**

- After pressing your [PTT](#) button, wait about ½ second before speaking, especially if you're communicating through a repeater. The repeater takes a second to "catch up" with you.
- When speaking into your microphone, keep the microphone a little bit away, don't talk into it like you see in the movies. This will make sure you don't sound bloated on the air.
- Place your hand microphone about four to six inches from your mouth when transmitting. Speak clearly and use your voice without yelling in to the mic.
- When announcing your call sign along with that of another ham, the rule is to put yourself last, as in "KI5LMR, this is KI5WTR" if your call sign was KI5WTR.
- While it's customary to call out CQ on HF bands, it's best practice on the 2-meter and 70-cm bands to announce your call sign instead, especially on a repeater.
- If another ham points out a problem with your transmission ("you're sounding a little scratchy"), always assume the problem is with you (location, orientation, power too low, etc.) or your equipment first, and always admit your mistakes
- If you'd like to jump into an ongoing conversation, avoid using the word break ; instead, say your call sign between their transmissions. Usually they will acknowledge you and allow you to speak.
- After your contact releases his PTT (Push-to-talk) button, wait one to two seconds before you press yours, in case another person wants to join the conversation or has an emergency.
- Avoid "[kerchunking](#)", which is repeatedly pressing and releasing your PTT button without announcing your call sign; it's not only illegal, but irritating to others, especially those listening on a repeater. Remember...good practices!
- When speaking through a repeater, try and keep your conversations to under a few minutes. Most repeaters will have a time out. The repeater I use times out every two minutes. Don't sweat it, you will get used to this. Remember, this is all new to you right now.

### **Personal:**

- While it's not always possible, try and make your conversations positive and upbeat; sounding positive attracts friends, while negative comments tend to turn other hams away from you, even if well-intended.

- Don't get offended just because another ham can't remember your name or call sign, most likely until later on, you will have the same issue. People will eventually get to know you around your area. I used a pen and paper to write down call signs and names when I was on the radio to help me remember who I talked to.
- If another ham does offend you, let it go; don't retaliate or try and belittle the other ham for it; be the adult in the encounter, even if you're a kid. This is not a place to troll others. Save that for Facebook!
- Be considerate of your contact's time, and minimize dead-air time by at least thinking of what you're going to say before keying up.
- Avoid making insulting or disparaging remarks about others on the air; what people hear you say about others, they'll also believe you'll say about them. You are trying to make new friends here after all.
- If you feel you must correct the behavior of another ham, do so off-air, tactfully, and out of earshot of others.
- Within reason, avoid burping, coughing, sniffing, clearing your throat, smacking your lips, and making other bodily or disgusting noises on the air. Why? It's just gross...EWWWW!
- Whenever possible try not to engage in political or religious conversation. These are too hot topics that can easily get out of hand due to varying feelings on the matters. There are thousands of other subjects you can talk about.

### **Equipment:**

- Make sure your radio is programmed with an appropriate frequency list before you stash it away, but be sure to accompany it with a card or sheet to remind you of what the frequencies or channel names are for. If your radio has an SD card as a backup, this will save you a lot of grief later if something happens.
- Learn how to manually program your radio; you might not know when you need to travel through a location where there is no cell signal available for your phone or tablet
- Join a regularly held net, which will give you weekly practice on your radio, to keep you acquainted with your equipment operation and limitations. As far as practical, keep your radio equipment clean; you might never know when you'll need to share your microphone with somebody else, and keeping our controls clean will help ensure that they'll work for you the next time. You paid for it, take care of

On the last page you will find an ICOM Band Chart. You may like this over the ARRL one. You can find it here to download. Inserting it here made it a little blurry.

[https://www.icomamerica.com/uploads/lineup/amateur/Band\\_Plan\\_Map/US-BandPlan\\_3-2024.pdf](https://www.icomamerica.com/uploads/lineup/amateur/Band_Plan_Map/US-BandPlan_3-2024.pdf)

More here... [https://www.icomamerica.com/lineup/amateur/Band\\_Plan\\_Map/](https://www.icomamerica.com/lineup/amateur/Band_Plan_Map/)



This Band Plan is meant to be a general guide and local band plans take precedence.

- Amateur TV Fast Scan
- Satellite
- CW
- Digital
- FM Simplex
- SSB & Weak Signal (No FM)
- FM Repeater

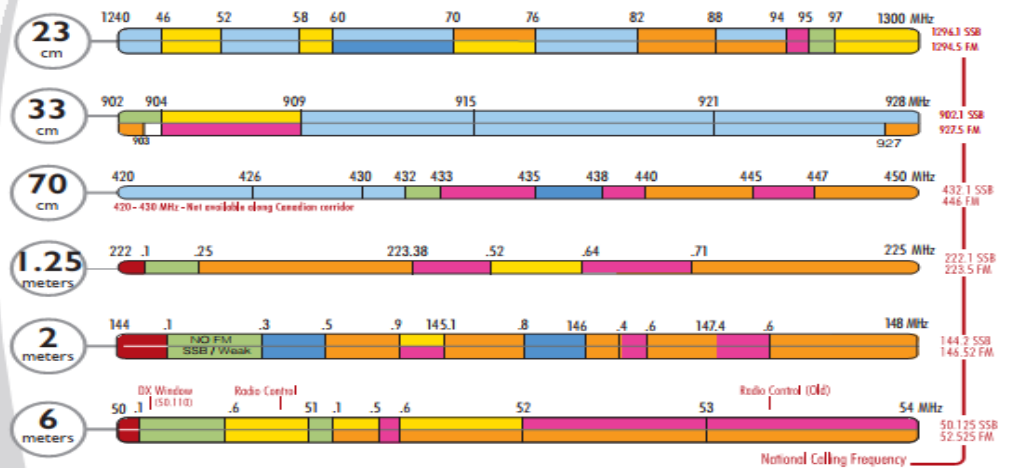
- Extra Voice - CW - Image
- Advanced Voice - CW - Image
- General Voice - CW - Image
- CW - RTTY - DATA
- Novice / Technician - CW
- Novice / Technician - Voice
- No Privileges

E Extra A Advanced G General  
 \* Novice and Technician Limited to 200 watts  
 Under restructuring, all Advanced licence classes retain their operating privileges.

<sup>1</sup>Amateurs wishing to operate on either 630 meters or 2,200 meters must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at: <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>. You will need to register once for each band.

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## U.S.A. Amateur Radio VHF/UHF Band Plan



## U.S.A. Amateur Radio MF/HF Band Plan

