

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB

KCRC



December 2015

*"Vale et gratias omnes pisces!"*

Volume 2, Issue 12

**Next Club Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 12th, 2016 at  
7:30PM**

Our weekly Nets meet on Sunday at 11 AM on 28.380 (10 meters) and  
Tuesday on 146.730 PL 88.5 (2 Meters) at 9 PM

## KCRC 2016 Elections

Further details will be posted on  
[www.KC2RC.com](http://www.KC2RC.com) and  
[www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com](http://www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com)  
as they develop.

The Kings County Radio Club held our annual 2016 Elections. All positions received nominations, which were seconded and passed unanimously by all members in good standing present at the December meeting.

The elected officers were:

President—Howard N2GOT

Vice President—Gary N2WGR

Treasurer—Richard KA2KDQ

Recording Secretary—Roy AC2GS

Executives-At-Large—Mitch N2RGA and Howard K2IGJ

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## November Volunteer Exam Session

Our December VE Session produced two new Technician Class Amateur Radio Operators—and two new club members!

Stay tuned to our club web site for the date of our next VE Session!

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## Annual Year End Holiday Party!

Our 2015 Year End Holiday Party was a success. Over 16 members (and their XYLs) participated. Zach KD2FLL won the raffle (a book donated by Roy AC2GS). Zach's home made chocolate chip cookies were a rousing success!

Sorry, no pictures (everybody was too busy eating and talking to snap any pictures).

The Kings County Radio Club is at [www.KC2RC.com](http://www.KC2RC.com) or  
[www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com](http://www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com)  
KCRC is an ARRL affiliated club (see: [www.ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org))

# Ham Radio University 2016

One of the big local Ham events is Ham Radio University, which will be held on Sunday, January 5th 2016 at Briarcliffe College, 1055 Stewart Ave., Bethpage, NY.

Doors will open at 7:30 AM, with the first forum starting at 9:00 AM. The suggested donation is \$3 per person.

We should try to have a Club presence at this event to remind our fellow Hams that KCRC is alive and well. Perhaps we can set up some small groups driving together that share the expenses, or help out some members that would find the trip by themselves problematic?

Your President urges your attendance.



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## Minutes of the December 2015 KCRC Meeting, December 8th, 2015

The monthly meeting was called to order by our President, Howard N2GOT. Also present at tonight's meeting were Vice President Mitch N2RGA, Secretary Juan KC2QNK, Howard K2IGJ, Robert AB2LO, Zac KD2FFL, Ed W2DEV, Gary N2WGR, Len WB2MJH, Ettiene, Steve W2GOP, Tommy KB2GTO...

Treasury Report—Our Treasury currently has \$2,198.96 in assets and our PayPal account is \$111 in the black.

Elections for 2016 club officers were held. All positions were nominated and seconded and were elected by unanimous vote of all the members in good standing attending the December meeting. The new officers of the club for 2016 are as follows:

President—Howard N2GOT

Vice President—Gary N2WGR

Treasurer—Richard KA2KDQ

Recording Secretary—Roy AC2GS

Executives-At-Large—Mitch N2RGA and Howard K2IGJ

The remaining new and old business was tabled for the January meeting.

A book on dealing with electrical noise and interference was raffled off and we quickly started The Annual Year End Holiday Party, which broke up after 10 PM.

# A Message From Our President...

Hello fellow members and friends,

I'd like to send out a big thank you to all new friends and members. Our year end party was a big success and we had a decent turnout.

I'm very happy to welcome several new members who joined our club this year. I'd like to salute and thank all the efforts made by some of our members who spread the word about our club via the Internet and through old fashioned mail! We must keep plugging away at this through future endeavors!

The weather has been very warm and great for many outdoor activities, including antenna work!

Seems like winter may not get here until next month?

Ham Radio University will be held in a few weeks on Sunday, January 10th.

I urge everyone to attend if you'd like to learn about subjects such as antenna building, software defined radios, DXing, transmitter hunting and many more aspects of ham radio.

We've had a table at this event before. It's been about 2 years since I was there.

Contact me if you are interested in attending. Maybe we can setup a display table?

You can checkout [hamradiouniversity.org](http://hamradiouniversity.org)

Let's get some more people involved with our volunteer examiner sessions.

I encourage all of our extra class members to obtain their VE accreditation with the ARRL.

We'd like to have more help in this area. It's important for us to have more assistance at our test sessions.

It's not too early to prepare for club events. Lets prepare for our club's field day and other outdoor events for 2016!

Have a very happy and safe holiday season!

73,

Howard N2GOT

# The Care and Feeding of Jammers?

## So, Now What? (Part 7)

There are a few terms for this phenomena - malicious interference, QRMing, but the most frequently used term is 'Jammers'. I'm not referring to 'Lids' who can't seem to coordinate their fingers on their 'push to talk' (PTT) buttons and "step on others", nor am I referring to other "Lids" that can't remember to look around their local frequency to check that no one is already transmitting on a frequency close by, before they push their PTT button and blather on, or even the type of "Lid" that likes to "tune up" for 10 to 15 minutes during someone else's communications. No, I am alluding to those products of a brother and a sister's poor choice of sex partners, under the influence of some cheap alcoholic beverage, that get their jollies by blocking legitimate transmissions with their blank carriers, making weird noises, short outburst of obscenities, or specific insults at people trying to talk to each other on the air! These guys are not just jerks by accident - they are determined and planned out jerks!

If you have used your transmitter more than a handful of times you most likely have been a victim of these pitiful wretches. These people are utterly impotent - powerless in the real world. They are devoid of any true substance - mere ghosts wandering unnoticed in their real lives, unable to affect anyone, for good or bad, and then they discover the radio!

Radios are a godsend for these wretches. Turn it on, spin the dial, find someone, somewhere talking civilly to another soul. All it takes is a press of that PTT button and you can affect another soul! Someone that would not look twice at you in the street, someone that wouldn't think it worth his time to even insult you will now RESPOND to you. Some of your victims will mention you repeatedly to each other and, even better, they will "engage" themselves with you in this random act of intellectual debasement. They will stop having their friendly little conversations and get up on a soap box to hurl obscenities back at you for half an hour! What do they say? Bad publicity is just as good as good publicity? "These guys know of me - they hate me, they FEAR me! Why should I ever stop!"

As much as I dislike trying to "get into the mind" of such human detritus, I think this is what goes thru these scabrous fellows. So, what is the best route to deal with them?

There seem to be two major schools of thought with dealing with the Jammers. The "low road" is to threaten their lives and suggest that their mother's had immoral congress with farm animals which brought them into this world. The high road is to deny them their "15 minutes of fame". To not "pay attention" to them, and they will "get tired" and "go away"...

It sounds reasonable, like something someone's reasonable parent might say about "the school bully", but not terribly emotionally satisfying. How do most hackneyed movie writers usually write that scene? It's usually the bullied child learns Karate or "The Force" or perhaps what a wuss most bullies tend to be, and proceeds to knock the crap out of said bully in the school yard, to a large audience from school (always including the cute girl that never really was impressed by the previously bullied kid before this). By the end of the pivotal scene the bully is skulking away, never to be heard from again and the ex-victim of his previous bullying, is the new "Karate Kid", or "Jedi Knight" or whatever. The musical score reaches a crushing crescendo and the movie is over...

Well, life ain't no movie, it isn't even a tired old prison show on TV where the first day "in da joint" you find the "biggest, meanest, ugliest con", and beat the crap out of him. Some Action Movie aficionados, no doubt, fantasize about strangling the offenders with their own coaxial cables, or bludgeoning them with the chassis of the offender's own re-purposed CB boxes. No, I'm sorry, but we all are presently living in the real, sorta civilized world. So, put away your idle threats and your run-on creative Anglo-Saxon

obscenity laced turns of phrase, and think of what might actually work.

If this were a perfect world we would react as a nation of laws. We would notify the chief enforcement agency of these acts of radio vandalism and watch the law in action. These jammers are clearly in violation of parts of Part 97 of the Federal Communications Act! Unfortunately, this isn't a perfect world, and likely never will be. The FCC seems to be an almost toothless beast, these days when it comes to enforcement of any rules, with more and more of those few remaining teeth falling out under the policy of increasing budget cuts (if only the FCC could convince Congress that if the FCC is weak, "The Terrorist Win", or some simplistic drivel like that).

So, physically attacking this scum might be emotionally satisfying, but it is quite illegal and for all our bluff and bluster, it is unlikely to happen. Hurling epithets at these jerks is only going to inflate their illusion of importance in the world, and will much more likely fuel future episodes. Some people respond to Jammers by behaving almost identically to them - "we become that which we hate"! The authorities simply don't give a sh\*t. They don't understand anything about radios and they don't really care. As they see it, this is all just adults playing with their toys, screwing with each other. The Police feel like they have much more important problems to deal with, so don't expect a SWAT team to descend upon a jammer's site of operations. This would leave us with...

"Just don't pay ANY attention to them". Ignore them. Do not even take the time to respond to their excremental acts. Don't mention interference, don't mention QRM, don't mention ANYTHING that they are producing - they are without substance, their crap just passes by us unnoticed! They DO NOT EXIST. Is it less emotionally rewarding to do? Yup! Is it the most likely way that these dip-shits will find some other way to spend their valueless lives upon this world? Perhaps!

To ridiculously paraphrase Frank Herbert's "*Dune*" (it's a great book, I heartily recommend it, if you've never read it):

*"I must not "jam". Jamming is the mind-killer. Jamming is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face my jammers. I will permit them to pass over me and through me. And when they have gone past I will turn the inner eye to see their path. Where the jammers have gone, there will be nothing. Only I will remain."*

Right now, it's the best route we have!

Any thoughts?

- Your Editor -

# Morse Code Key Porn,

## The *Food Porn* of CW Appreciators

What follows is an infinitesimally small collection drawn from the many hundreds of different morse code keys that have been made throughout the years. They can be fashioned from re-purposed sardine cans, fashioned with a pair of tin shears, all the way to jeweled keys that might have been owned by the previous King of Jordan, a famous Ham in his day. The costs vary, but the purpose remains the same, to communicate by CW (continuous wave). Here are but a few examples.



The famous J-38! Any day you can still find J-38's being offered on Ebay, for a price. Some are pristine, most are more than a little bit battered. Either as a memento of times past, or a key for the annual straight key night they are still highly prized. Mass produced from the World War II era, they were manufactured from a number of companies - the most unusual might be the Lionel Company that is much more famous for their model trains. They are simple and sturdy and a joy to own.



This simple beauty is a Rectangular Speed-X from the William Nye Company. An old yet sturdy and economical design that is still being produced to this very day.



This is the Kent KT-1 straight key. A very sturdy model made in Great Britain.



This is the same manufacturer's (Kent) take on a twin paddle iambic key, the TP1-B.



This is my favorite, the legendary Chevron M0AGA/G4HCD Morse Key. It has grown scarce due to the ill health of its designers.

This is my little collection, but I thought I would include a few models that I do not own...



This is the historical Vibroplex semi-automatic "Bug" key. A long time ago, before solid state electronics could fashion an affordable electronic keyer the straight key was king! Horace Martin, founder of Vibroplex began to manufacture a revolutionary key in 1905 that that mechanically generated a series of short "dits" one after the other. The operator still had to manually supply all the "dahs" and deal with alternating "dits" and "dahs". If your message was mostly made out of *E's, I's, S's, H's, 5's*, and *error* this key could handle it all, if not it most have been a pain in the backside to deal with. When electronic keyers arrived this design might have become purely historical, but much like the unicycle, which is a bit goofy looking and difficult to learn to use and not worth the effort to use getting around, the "Bug" is still around for its particular fans. Personally, I don't *Grok* it, but *different strokes for different folks...*



This beauty is the Begali Sculpture. Pietro Begali, I2RTF manufactures and sells a large selection of beautiful and highly respected morse code keys. They are all a thing of beauty.

Well, this is just *the tip of the iceberg* when it comes to memorable Morse Code Keys. There have been multi-volume books published on the subject.

Anyone wish to share their favorites?

-The Editor- (I can be reached at [TheEditor@KC2RC.com](mailto:TheEditor@KC2RC.com))



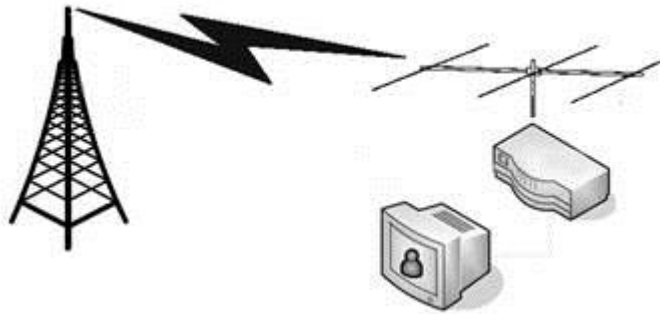
# As Simple As Simplex?

(Apparently not)

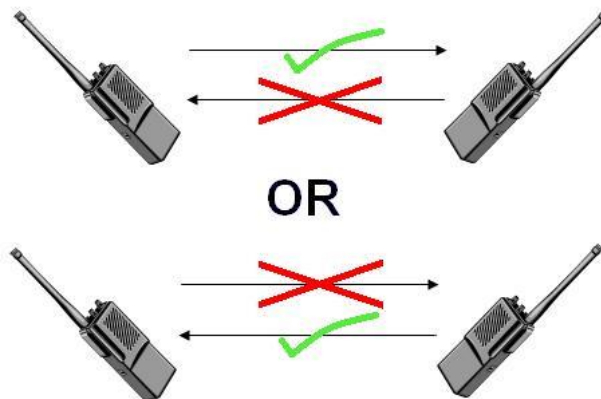
Anyone who has passed by the UHF/VHF Repeater frequencies have heard when two Hams have been having a one-on-one contact for a while and the sense that they are “hogging” the Repeater suddenly occurs to them. “Let’s go to “simplex” Charlie?” Hell, there are band plans with suggested Simplex frequencies as well as a Simplex National Calling Channel...

It’s a shame that the FCC doesn’t allow Amateurs to operate in real “Simplex” mode!

True simplex operation refers to the type of activity that broadcasters do all the time - it is *only* one way communication, there is no “back and forth”



What we Hams use is more accurately called *Half Duplex*, in which both operators can alternately transmit and receive, but not do so simultaneously!

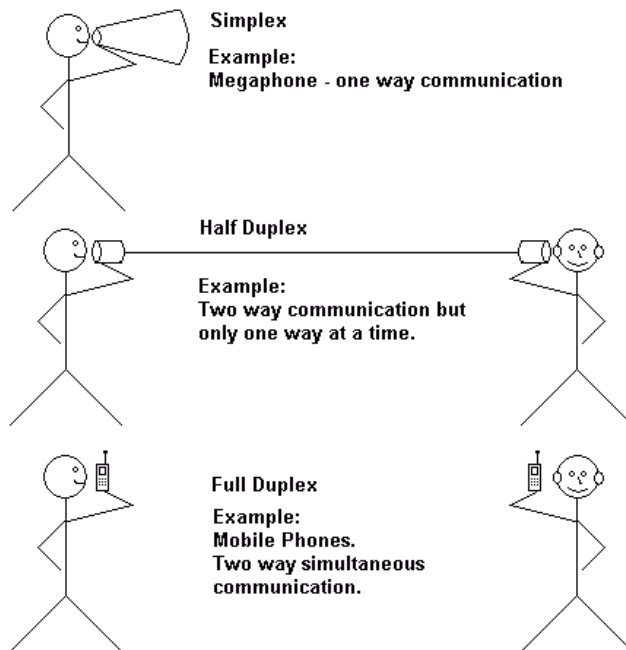


I think we all already know what *Full Duplex* is, we use that method on our telephones everyday. How else would we be able to interrupt the guy on the other end when he starts rambling on...



Why have Hams (and Hams alone) erroneously called *half-duplex* operation *simplex*? Perhaps a long time ago, someone just got it wrong and his fellow Hams didn't want to correct him and make him feel bad... No, that can't be right! I think the rest of the world uses simplex and duplex to describe the use of single (simplex) or double (duplex) *frequencies*, while the rest of the world is using them to describe one-way *directionality* (simplex) or two way simultaneous *directionality*. It's probably way too late to try to fix it, but youz guyz should just know, for the record, that you are operating half duplex when *you think* you're operating simplex!

Just remember:



The [Cranky]Editor

# Goodbye and thanks for all the fish...

Well, all (good) things must come to an end...

This has been an educational experience for your Editor. I never wrote for a Newsletter before. It's a bit like someone who didn't swim, dropping into the deep end of the pool. Fortunately, I was able to swim safely in the "waters of club journalism".

I asked, begged and pleaded for some kind of involvement by anyone else in the club for this endeavor, but nothing ever came of it.

So, now your humble Editor will be "folding" his word processor and move on to other forms of self exploration.

Perhaps, some day, someone out there will pick up the "torch" and try this once again. To you, I wish you better luck, and a more participatory audience.

Your Editor, and as well, all his contributing Editors, Writers, and Graphic Designers... well, that would just be me, wish all the members of the KCRC and any reader that might have wandered by, a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

...and remember. This is all just a hobby, so remember to have fun!

Your humble editor will be swapping his Editor's hat for the Club's Recording Secretary's hat. I am still not sure what that entails, but it has to be less work than this one...

Your intrepid Editor, AC2GS



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