The South Lyon Area Amateur Radio Club meets at the Witch's Hatch Depot Museum, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon, MI 48178

The SLAARC President's Newsletter

Dear SLAARC member:

What a Great Field Day 2017! Congrats to the Field Day committee for organizing the event with each taking on a special task;

- Chairman Eric K8ERS
- Digital Station Mike W8MSC
- Banners Chris KE8FDB
- Safety Officer Nick W8WMU

And, as always, no Field Day would be successful without great food. Thanks to Ed KD8OSM and his family for providing the meals!

Things started out very slow on Friday morning when we were about to start set-up. We had heavy rain with high winds. Spent the first ½ hour sitting in the vehicles waiting for it the let-up. Good news, that was the last major rain we saw for the rest of the event. By Friday evening, we had seven antennae set-up and two skeletons of the main tent-structures. We did a quick noise check and were very satisfied.

If you wish to stop receiving this meeting notice, please reply to John T. Haworth,
mailto:nu8m@arrl.com?subject=SLAARC Meeting Notice

Saturday also started slow. It was windy and we were struggling getting up the radio tents. By the time all was set, it was only minutes away from the start. Most structures stayed up, except for the pop-up that was covering the main generator. The first blew away and was destroyed. The second stayed put, but the cover kept blowing off. Finally, we just left it uncovered.

One of our newest additions to Field Day was the digital-only station. It was a definite success. Not only were many members able to see how it was done, many visitors were interested in what it was as well.

All three stations were kept active through the event. By Sunday morning, it became evident that propagation was not normal. 40 and 20 where hopping, with Alaska and Hawaii coming in. Then 6-meters started to open early in the morning with openings then becoming apparent on 15 and 10. It appeared to be one of the first Field Days in years when all the bands were open and hot! We ran until the very end.

With lots of help, and quick work, we broke-down the site by 4:25 and could finally go home a take a very deserved shower!

I heard many very good words from both visitors and members about how impressive and well-done it was. It is one for the record books!

Meeting Announcement

Agenda Highlights

Come to the meeting to:

- Discuss how Field Day went for you
- How many of the 13 Colony stations you worked
- Bring your Show and Tell item. (Optional)

All this fun at one meeting. But wait, that's not all.

Presentation

Field Day Results and Feedback

Meeting Date: July 9, 2017

Meeting Time: 18:30-Social, 19:00-Meeting Start

John NU8M SLAARC President

http://www.slaarc.com

Attachments

Last Business Meeting Minutes
Next Meeting Agenda
73's…de NU8M

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I thought this was a good article. I have been working to improve my code, and this is the next step….a great article from KB6NU

How to Copy CW in Your Head
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, "How do I learn to copy in my head?" When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs $20 and is available from n7agk.com.

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly whats sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes", then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss

as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit…dah dah dah….dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pitbull, not the letters "D O G."

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code* and the *No Nonsense* series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com