



Nevada County Amateur Radio Club

Nuggets

Nevada County Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

ncarc.org

September 2017

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submissions: ncarc.news@gmail.com

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	W6AI	Dan Patterson
ARES	K6TM	Richard Vizcarra
Webmaster	AI6MC	Cal McKitrick
Newsletter	W8BIT	Mark Graybill

Next Meeting:
Monday Sept 11, 2017
doors open 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

AUGUST MEETING

Come enjoy the August meeting with your fellow hams! In a group with official positions of Curmudgeon and Keeper of Shaggy Dog Tales, you are sure to be able to learn to get more out of your amateur radio efforts!

We will have the digital radio that will be the prize of a drawing at the Christmas meeting available for inspection and coveting.

Club Net

Tuesdays at 7:00pm

147.285 + offset PL 151.4 or 136.5

Members / Guests are encouraged to check in.

After 2m Net: Informal 10m Net@ 28.453 USB

Coffee Chat (Ham n' Coffee)

Thursdays, 8am at Valentina's Bistro

841 Sutton Way, Grass Valley

License Exams

At the Salvation Army Meeting Room

10725 Alta Street - Grass Valley

Contact John Morris W6EXX

jf-morris@usa.net

NEVADA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES

No minutes submitted for the last meeting.

TALK TO THE WORLD ON A DUMMY LOAD

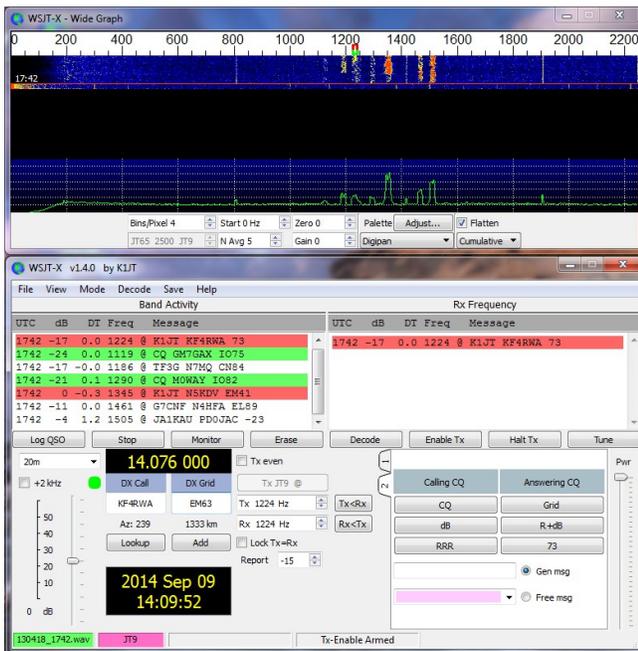
FT-8 is the amazing new digital mode that our own Jim, W6LG featured on his YouTube channel. He gets a contact at over 750 miles on a pair of light bulbs emitting about a milliwatt!

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I'd give a link, but it'd just appear as a long string of random characters here in the newsletter, so just go to <http://youtube.com> and use the search terms "**W6LG FT-8 Mode**" to see his videos on this amazing digital mode.

You can operate FT-8 with a digital rig interface (both control and audio) and the WSJT-X software available free on the web for Linux, Mac OS, and even Windows:

<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/>



The WSJT-X Software Interface

WSJT-X also supports a number of other modes, including JT-4, JT-9, JT-65, QRA64, ISCAT, MSK144, WSPR, and "Echo", for detecting and measuring your own signal off moonbounce! The software describes itself as "complex", and while it's definitely a good idea to have a gander at the documentation, it's really no more complex than other digital mode software. Once you set it up, it practically makes the contacts for you.

Here at the W8BIT base station, I haven't used it yet because I need to add rig control to my digital interface. Currently all I have is an audio interface to my trusty old Kenwood TS-450S. I've got the connectors and a soldering iron, so I'll

probably either whip one up soon, or I'll cop out and buy a full interface with cable off the internet if my other projects are too demanding (I have a series of woodworking projects that are already behind schedule, so that may well be the way I go--I hope my electronic engineering credibility doesn't suffer for it!)

For me, FT-8 holds a lot of promise. As many of you know, my main antenna is an 80m Skywire Loop (horizontal loop antenna). This is a great listening antenna, and I get a great SWR match on all HF bands *without* a tuner, but it takes a bit of power to be heard. As they say, it "radiates equally poorly in all directions."

However, since FT-8 is a low power mode, it should allow me to make more contacts without putting up a beam antenna just yet (a cubic quad on a rotor is in the plans, but did I mention how far behind I am with my current list of projects?)

73 de W8BIT

Upcoming Hamswaps:

Western Placer Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 16 September, 2017

McBean Park
65 McBean Park (Highway 193)
Lincoln, CA 95648
<http://www.wparc.us>
Talk-In: 147.300+ (PL 179.9)

09/23/2017 | Reno Fall Ham Swap

Location: Reno, NV
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://renohamswap.com>

10/20/2017 | Pacific Division Convention (PACIFICON 2017)

Location: San Ramon, CA
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.pacificon.org>