



QSP



December 2009

December VE Report

The **December 18, 2009** CKARC Meeting was at **Gutierrez Mexican Restaurant on Westport Blvd. At 6:00 PM**

January Meeting is Friday, January 29, 2010 @ 7:30 PM, at KWU

For the December 9th Session:

We had One Candidate: Trenton Bronson, N2OBM, of Abilene, Ks. Trenton attempted the Extra Class exam, and was mighty close, but missed 2 questions too many. Better luck next time Trent!

VE's present were: Sid, N0OBM, Harvey, K0RY, Ron, WA0PSF, and Don, KA0EIC

Thanks to all the VE's who helped with the Exam Sessions. I appreciate the help, and so do those who took exams this month. Especially in light of the bad weather that night.

Next Exam session is **Wednesday January 13th, 2010**, at 7:00 PM, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.
Sid N0OBM VE Team Leader

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2010 Storm Spotter Class—Saline County

The date has been set for the 2010 Storm Spotter Class by the Wichita Office of the National Weather Service. This year's class will be on **Monday February 22nd, 2010** at 7:00 PM at the **4 H Building** in Kenwood Park.

This is the class that has been held at Nickell Barracks for the past several years, so please note the change of location! [The dates & Locations of the other "area" classes will be posted as soon as I get the information. \[Ed.\]](#)

Minutes of the November Meeting

The Minutes of the November meeting were read and accepted at the December 2009 meeting.

New Officers were installed at the December meeting as follows:

President: Robert, WBØWTM
Vice President: Leon, WAØJFC
Secretary: Alvin, WØME
Treasurer: Mitch, KAØIFW

The winner of the Joe Addison, WØPKD Award for 2009 is Dean Speaks, KDØFRP, Assistant Director of Saline County Emergency Management. Congratulations Dean!!

Complete December minutes will be in the January 2010 issue of QSP. *[Ed.]*

Reminders

Open House at “The Hill” west of Salina January 1st. 10 AM till ?? *[Unconfirmed at press time]*

City of Salina Siren Test Net, January 4th at 4:30 PM on the NØKSC Repeater (147.270+) if the Weather cooperates! *[If it's above 32 degrees!]*

ARES Net January 5th at 8:00 PM on the NØKSC Repeater (147.270+ no tone)

ARRL-VEC Test Session on Wednesday **January 13th at 7:00 PM.**

Board meeting follows the exam session on **January 13th** at 8:00 PM (or after Testing—which ever is later) in the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

ARES Meeting is January 21st at 8:00 PM in the EOC.

CKARC Meeting January 29th at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall.

There is a full **Calendar of Events** on the CKARC Web site <http://www.centalksarc.com>

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

Simple, Inexpensive Coax Connector Tool

By Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ

I use a lot of PL-259 connectors to build feedline cables for friends and recent Technician hams that need some help getting on the air. I have streamlined the process by using a coax prep tool similar to the DX Engineering DXE-UT-8213 and the K4AVU crimp tool mounted in a bench vise. The slowest step in the process is attaching the connector to the prepared coax. Aside from aligning the connector and making certain the center conductor wires all fit into the center pin, I still use a pair of vise grips to grab the connector and thread it onto the coax outer covering. I take special precautions to assure the vise grip is snug enough so the jaws don't grind the connector and yet not too snug that it deforms the connector. With a little creativity and time, I've replaced the vise grips with a simple and inexpensive tool that protects the connector and requires minimal effort to get the connector all the way onto the coax.

I reused a PL-259 barrel and glued it inside a PVC T-connector with the threads pointed outward. I found the 3/4" with threaded 1/2" PVC connector gives a modest fit to the PL-259 barrel. I used Gorilla Glue and coated the PVC threads before inserting the barrel. This glue expands as it dries and some glue wicked up the connector along the knurled edge.



Prep the coax as usual, but then thread the PL-259 connector into the new tool.



Line up the connector on the coax and twist away.



The T-connector side openings allow you to see when the center conductor has reached the tip of the connector. Just unthread the tool from the installed connector and I'm ready to crimp the connector and solder the tip for another flawless installation. For the price of a PVC connector, a leftover PL-259 barrel, and some glue, I have a tool that does the job quickly every time.

From eHam.net

Scott Robbins, W4PA, to Purchase Vibroplex



Scott Robbins, W4PA, K1SFA, Photo]



The Vibroplex Original Bug.

Scott Robbins, W4PA, of Knoxville, Tennessee, told the ARRL that he has signed an agreement to purchase The Vibroplex Company, Inc from present owner Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, W4OA, effective December 21, 2009. "Vibroplex represents the great tradition of CW operation in Amateur Radio going back many, many years," Robbins told the ARRL. "I'm tickled to be able to continue the more than 100 years of history that has gone into this company."

Robbins -- who has been employed with Ten-Tec Inc since 1995 (he has been Product Manager for Ten-Tec's Amateur Radio equipment line since 1997) -- will leave his position in mid-December to take over full-time management and ownership of Vibroplex. "It's a great opportunity to continue the more than 100 years of tradition that the Vibroplex name represents," Robbins said. "I've known Mitch for quite a few years and it was an important consideration for both of us that Vibroplex continue operation building quality products for Amateur Radio long into the future. Mitch's experience owning the company will be valuable as we proceed with a seamless ownership transition over the next few weeks."

Robbins told the ARRL that he will move Vibroplex from its present location in Mobile, Alabama to Knoxville, Tennessee during the last two weeks of December, with a planned opening date of January 5, 2010. Vibroplex's toll-free sales line (800) 840-8873, Web site and e-mail contact addresses will remain in continuous operation under the new ownership, he said.

"My first Vibroplex paddle was given to me in 1980 by my father, W2DR; when I left home to attend the University of North Carolina in 1988, a rig, some wire and the key went with me," Robbins said. "Close to 30 years later, it's still on the table -- along with two Vibroplex products I've purchased. I used a Vibroplex chrome iambic to win the 2006 ARRL DX CW contest from Barbados as 8P9PA and I will certainly be using one at the WRTC 2010 competition in Russia this July."

Robbins told the ARRL that he has enjoyed his 14 year career at Ten-Tec, calling it his first "real job" when he was fresh out of college: "I have met literally thousands of hams over the years because of Ten-Tec -- all those exciting years when we were designing new rigs and I was writing the manuals for the Omni-VII and Orion; I'm really proud of what has been accomplished there. I am sure that Ten-Tec and Vibroplex will have some common ground in the future -- both companies already did one commemorative key together back in 2002. Another one would be great!"

Vibroplex is the oldest operating business in the Amateur Radio industry and has been in continuous service to the hobby since founder Horace Martin invented the "bug" semi-automatic Morse code key in 1904.

[From the ARRL Web Site]

January 2010 Contest Calendar

From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

AGB New Year Snowball Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Jan 1 (432)
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 2 to 1500Z, Jan 3
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 2 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 3
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 3
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Jan 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 5
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 8
PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 9
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 9 to 2400Z, Jan 10
Mongolian RTTY DX Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 9
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 9 to 2359Z, Jan 10
WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 9 to 1200Z, Jan 10
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 9
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0600Z, Jan 10
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 10
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 10
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Jan 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 15
LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0600Z, Jan 16
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 16 to 1159Z, Jan 17
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 16 to 0600Z, Jan 17
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Jan 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 18
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Jan 21
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 22
YL-ISSB QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, Jan 23 to 2359Z, Jan 24
MIE 33 Contest	1100Z-1500Z, Jan 23 and 2300Z, Jan 23 to 0300Z, Jan 24
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 23 to 0400Z, Jan 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 27
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 29
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 29 to 2159Z, Jan 31
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 30 to 1800Z, Jan 31
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 30 to 1300Z, Jan 31
SPAR Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 30 to 1700Z, Jan 31
Classic Exchange, CW	1400Z, Jan 31 to 0800Z, Feb 1



Membership Renewal Form

CKARC, Inc.
P. O. Box 2493 Salina, Kansas 67402-2493

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ email: _____

ARRL Member No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Birthday: ____/____ (Month & Day ONLY)

Spouse Name: _____ Call: _____

ARRL Member No.: _____ Birthday: ____/____

May we publish your Phone & Email in the CKARC Rosters? Y N

Roster will **NOT** be published on the Web site (Please circle Y for Yes or N for No)

QSP is the CKARC Newsletter, do you wish to receive the QSP via

Email or Postal Delivery? Email Postal (Check one or the other)

While ARRL Membership is not a Requirement for membership in the CKARC, Inc. **it is highly recommended.** In order to retain "Special Service Club" status, we must remain a minimum of 51% ARRL Membership.

CKARC Dues : \$15.00/Year

Family Member: \$5.00/Year

ARRL Dues : \$39.00/Year

* For additional years, or Family Membership Information, please contact the Treasurer.

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 2493
Salina, Ks. 67402-2493

QSP Editor: Sid Ashen-Brenner, NØOBM
Phone: 785-823-6560
Fax: 785-823-6560
Email: OBM@centralksarc.com



[Http://www.centralksarc.com](http://www.centralksarc.com)

Your issue of QSP is Here!

January Meeting is Friday, January 29, 2010
@ 7:30 PM, at KWU

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY QSP IS JAN. 20, 2009

CKARC January Birthdays

KBØNOV	Neil	Cox	1/4
WBØWTM	Robert	Paul	1/6
KAØBBX	Darin	Gray	1/6
WAØJFC	Leon	Gray	1/8
F/Member	Patty	Yost	1/11
F/Member	Phyllis	Shurts	1/12
KØRY	Harvey	Tewes	1/16
NØOBM	Sid	Ashen-Brenner	1/19
KDØVA	Stephen	Haly	1/19
KCØSMG	Robert	Sheehy, Jr.	1/26
NØOY	Pete	Sias	1/27
WAØPSF	Ron	Tremblay	1/30