

THE TARA NEWS Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League Volume 18 Issue 03 March 2007 ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie - W5JBP



It's Only 3 Months Away





More than a Club

Named "Amateur of the Year"

Dayton Hamvention® has named ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie, W5JBP, as its 2007 Amateur of the Year. Hamvention says Haynie's League leadership "helped define Amateur Radio's role in emergency communication." Hamvention also announced this week that ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, will receive Hamvention's Special Achievement Award to recognize his technical expertise in documenting the threat of interference from broadband over power line (BPL) systems. Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) David Cameron, VE7LTD, was named the recipient of the Technical Excellence Award.

"I was astonished, and I'm deeply honored," Haynie said after getting word that he'd be receiving Hamvention's top award in May. "It's quite a recognition -- and quite a surprise."

A ham for 34 years, Haynie, who lives in Dallas, was West Gulf Division Director for eight years and an ARRL vice president for two years. He then served three terms as the League's volunteer president, from 2000 until 2006, when he was succeeded by current ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Haynie's award nomination cited his "energy, tenacity and attention to detail that has transformed the American Radio Relay League from the service organization it was prior to 9/11 into the proactive, vital emergency service clearing house and educational operation that it is today."

During his tenure as League president, Haynie's effort to define Amateur Radio's role in homeland security was among his top initiatives. In 2003, he signed a formal Statement of Affiliation between the Department of Homeland Security and ARRL. He has an abiding interest in emergency communication and has promoted Amateur Radio's emergency communication value and contributions on Capitol Hill and elsewhere.

Haynie also championed "The Big Project" -- now the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) -- to bring ham radio and wireless technology into schools.



We're a Famíly



Upcoming Public Service Events

On Sunday, March 25, 2007 the Colonie Elks will be hosting their Annual "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny"! This breakfast as is all the breakfasts at the Elks is very nice with plenty of home cooked food and there will be special gifts for all the kids.

There will be scrambled eggs, home fries, french toast, pancakes, corned beef hash, sausage, ham, coffee, orange juice, milk and much more.

Hope to see you all there. Tony, W2BEJ will be our host! 73 de Karen - KS2O

Runnin of the "Chilly" Green

On Saturday, March 10,2007 We had our very first Public Service Event for the 2007 season which was the "Runnin of the Green" in Green Island.

We lucked out with the weather but the wind was very cold. We also had a fantastic number of volunteers to turn out for our first event!

Thanks to all who came out to help me!

Beth	KC2BSC	Ken	WA2TQK
Ray	N2ZQF	Sue	KC2IBI
Ed	KC2HNC	Dave	WA2IGM
Ray	N2VLY	Lisa	KC2OEA
Margaret	N2PEK	Duffy	N2TZQ
Ron	KC2PSA	Howie	KC2MNW

Thanks again!

Karen KS2O







Thursday, May 17, 2007 6:25 PM GHI Work Force Run Washington Park, Albany, NY

Sunday, May 20, 2007 8:00 AM East Greenbush Rotary Run

Monday, May 28, 2007 10:00 AM Watervliet Memorial Day Parade

Sat.urday, June 2, 2007 10:00 AM Freihofer's Run for Women Washington Park, Albany, NY

Sunday, September 23, 2007 8:00 AM Arsenal City Run –Watervliet, NY

October 30-31, 2007 6-10 PM Pumpkin Patrol - Rensselaer & Albany Counties

Give back to Amateur Radio by Participating in a Public Service Event

PLEASE, BEFORE YOU LEAVE, YOUR RADIO "CHECK YOUR MICROPHONE" or " Shut the Radio Off"

Ripper's Repeater Shutdown Due to Antenna Problem

The "Scratchies" seem to be getting worse all the time on our 147.210 repeater. Therefore our repeater committee has made the decision to shut the repeater down until we get the antenna repaired and replaced. It is nearly useless at this point and we don't want to take a chance of damaging another PA circuit.

In the meantime please use the 147.090 N2SQW repeater in Cairo. Hopefully ours will be repaired soon and we will send that bulletin out when it happens.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this might cause. Also, remember that we have the 449.925 repeater, which is operating in good shape and the 224.280 repeater that is also working fine. So feel free to use them.

FCC Reduces Fine

Admonishes Amateur Radio Licensee

The FCC has reduced from \$11,000 to \$2500 the fine it imposed in 2004 on Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, of Whittier, California. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released March 1, the FCC said Granda intentionally interfered with Amateur Radio communications and failed to respond to FCC correspondence. Granda petitioned for reconsideration of the \$11,000 fine in 2004.

"In his petition, Mr Granda does not dispute our finding that he caused deliberate interference to Amateur Radio communications nor does he deny his failure to respond to official Commission correspondence," recounted Assistant FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief George R. Dillon, who signed the MO&O. "He does contend, however, that imposition of the full forfeiture amount would impose a financial hardship on him and his spouse."

The FCC agreed to reduce the fine to \$2500 after reviewing Granda's federal tax returns. "The reduction of the forfeiture amount, however, does not lessen the severity of the violations cited in this proceeding, specifically Mr Granda's intentional interference to radio communications," Dillon cautioned. "For that reason, we will further admonish Mr Granda for his violations."

Granda's license renewal has been in limbo since 2003, when the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) set aside his renewal application. As the MO&O noted, the Enforcement Bureau had asked the WTB to "consider this violation in processing Mr Granda's pending license renewal application for KA6VHC." Apparently it did. This week, the WTB renewed Granda's license for just one year.



Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET) 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
CWs Tue, Thu
CWb Daily
RTTY Daily
CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
CWf Tue, Thu
CWb Daily
RTTY Daily
VOICE Daily
CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
CWs Tue, Thu
CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555

RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555 Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elementsfor active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.



I needed a high-power dummy load for legal-limit HF testing. I already had one, but it was connected to my antenna selector system, and I did not want to remove it each time I needed it for the test bench. So the hunt began for a second one – hey you never know!

After perusing all of the usual catalogs and websites (including eBay), I decided to build my own. The design criteria were: use of readily available parts; simple design; minimum of 1 KW power handling; and reasonable cost.

Here is what I came up with. Refer to the pictures, which really tells the story. The heart of the unit is a very low inductance resistor, an OHMITE TA1K0PH50ROK. It's rated at 50 ohms, 1,000 watts. See the OHMITE web site: http://www.ohmite.com/cgi-bin/showpage.cgi?product=tap1000_series. The major drawback is high cost (over \$100) – but thanks to eBay, I was fortunate to locate one for very little. The resistor is mounted on a fairly large heat sink, using plenty of silicone heat transfer grease. The heat sink was cannibalized from an obsolete power supply. The muffin fan was liberated from a computer network server rack. The chassis was purchased new. Although the OHMITE web site specifically suggests use of a water-cooled heat sink, none was available – and I wanted to keep things simple, right? Connections to the resistor were made with copper bus bar, - salvaged from an old circuit breaker panel.



Inside the finished load. Note the use of heavy copper bus bar to make connections to the 1 KW resistor.

The results are most gratifying – with 1,000 watts RF input, the reflected power is negligible from 1.8 to 28 mHz. (Checked with a Bird directional wattmeter). The load is used in the ICAS mode, and does get warm – but the fan keeps things at a reasonable temperature.

I was able to fabricate a valuable piece of test equipment, at low cost. It is especially made for testing high power linear amplifiers, but can be used at lower power levels on HF as well. You can build one, too. Just use your imagination and keep a watch for surplus parts in your travels. Remember to keep your lead lengths to a minimum; use large gauge wire or bus bar for connections. It is important to use silicone grease when mounting the resistor to assure good heat transfer. And get the biggest bad-boy fan you can find – to keep things cool!



Top view showing large heat sink and high CFM fan. An SO-239 was used for coaxial connector.

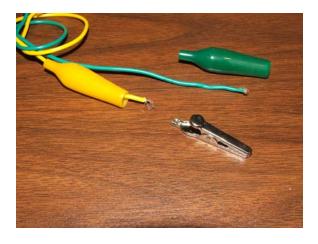


A "Short" Circuit

The term "short circuit" usually refers to an un-intentional low resistance electrical path between conductors – either in wiring, on a copper-clad circuit board, or similar terminal board. Examples are solder bridges, poorly dressed wires, wires that are exposed to extreme temperatures or mechanical deformity – such as being pinched or crushed. But let's talk about another "shortage' – one where you pay for something you didn't bargain for. In this case, I'm referring to test (clip) leads – and a resultant shortage of quality.

Look carefully at the picture of the nice assorted test leads – imported by a nationally known electronic supply outfit. They look great –supple wire, bright color insulation, flexible vinyl boots, and just the right length for making miscellaneous tests on the experimenter's bench. But, here's the "rub" – or should I say "short" of it – the connections between the wire and the spring-loaded clip are made with a simple crimp - and a poor one, at best. This leads to a high resistance – a "shortage" of continuity! To make matters worse, the wire used wasn't tinned – simply stranded copper. No big deal, right? Yes – a very big deal, given the amount of greenish copper oxide already forming on these new leads.

The result: poor-quality, bargain basement equipment can, and will lead to wasted time and money,



frustration, and unpredictable results in your efforts. Whether it's carpentry, plumbing, or simply testing out a circuit for your next project, don't get pulled into the low-cost either spend a little extra on better quality or your own. Examples of good quality test leads may be found by referring to the Pomona catalog or their website: <u>http://www.pomonaelectronics.com/index</u>. There's no shortage of quality there. And so ends my <u>short story!</u> Until next time – here's wishing you and your families all the best during Passover and Easter. *73*,

Steve -WB2HPR

Join the Group Every Thursday Night at 9:00 PM





**** ECHOLINK ****



TH-D7 Antenna: One Solution

By Anthony A. Parise, WA3HRL

If you are like me, you often wonder what Kenwood had in mind when they put an SMA connector on the TH-D7. Not only the connector, but the terrible antenna that attaches to it. SMA connectors were never intended to be used in an environment where they are constantly changed, as the duty they get as an HT antenna connector. Real SMA connectors do not turn the center pin as you turn the outer shell, but a rubber duck antenna does, adding abrasion to the center conductor. Not only is it difficult to connect an external antenna to the 'D7, but any coax larger than RG-174 will put too much strain on the connector for comfort. People have been noticing that metal chips get embedded in the SMA insulator. Not an ideal situation. The antenna that comes with the 'D7 is also a disappointment. I didn't check it myself, but I understand that it resonates somewhere around 160 Mhz, pretty far out of the band. As many other people have testified, it seems to be an ineffective antenna.

Recently, at a hamfest, I found a BNC to SMA adapter that has a very substantial rubber support. It screws into the SMA antenna and allows you to connect either BNC antennas or BNC cables without worrying about breaking the connector. I use BNC's whenever I use RG-58U, so it was ideal for my situation. It can be left on the SMA connector, thus helping to prevent metal chips from forming. These adapters are made by Stephen, KC2BHO. Info (from him) appears below. I get no commissions for listing this, I'm just passing it along.

For a new antenna, I chose a Diamond RH 519. It looks good, like it belongs with the adapter. I actually measured the antenna resonance with an MFJ 259B (directly, not through the adapter) and found it resonates at about 146.5 Mhz, with an impedance close to 50 ohms resistive, and an SWR around 1.5 to 1. It seems to outperform the stock antenna, although I haven't performed any precise measurements. I plan to do some measurements with the antenna and adapter as soon as I get a test fixture made up to adapt an SMA connector to the MFJ 259B.

So there you have it, a decent performing antenna that looks good, and the ability to quickly change to an external cable. The cost? about \$40 for the antenna (mostly) and adapter. Maybe not the cheapest solution, but I'm very happy with it. http://www.wa3hrl.com/smabnc/

KC2BHO's info follows. Any questions, comments, etc., please contact him.

Do you have a need for a Quality sma-to-bnc antenna adapter that is custom made to fit your H.T. or scanner radio?

This adapter allows you to:

Quickly change your antennas to base, mobile or any different style use. Use the more popular and wider selection available of bnc antennas. Prevent chassis connector wear or from coming loose due to always having to change antennas.

Adapter features:

Gold contacts for best connection.

A low profile design with a rubber covering for a factory antenna look. The rubber base seals to the top of the radio with no spacers needed for moisture and dirt protection.

The base provides an excellent support for all your antenna applications. No need to remove to make any antenna changes.

Previewed in the Nov. 2000 Issue of QST magazine and the May 2000 Issue of CQ Magazine.

Go to the next page for a listing of adapters available for the numerous radios on the market.



This is an updated list of the radio models that my adapters will fit: Yaesu: VX-5R, VX-6R, VX-7R, VX-2R, VX-1R, FT-50-R, FT-60-R, VX-10, VX-150, VX-110, VXA-100, VXA-120, VXA-700, VX-800, VX-170 (Mod) Icom: IC-T90A, IC-F50, IC-R5, IC-R2, IC-T8A, IC-T81A, IC-Q7A, IC-M1V Kenwood: TH-D7, TH-G71, TH-F6A, TH-59 Alinco: DJ-V5, DJ-X3, DJ-S40 Standard: C508A, C510A Radio Shack: HTX-200, HTX-400, HTX-245, HTX-420 Uniden: BCD-396T, ATLANTIS (Marine) Midland: G-11 (GMRS) *****

Part # BGA-76

Yaesu: VX-5R, VX-1R Icom: IC-Q7A, IC-M1V, IC-F50 Kenwood: TH-D7, TH-G71, TH-59 Alinco: DJ-V5 Standard: C508A, C510A Radio Shack: HTX-200, HTX-400, HTX-420 Uniden: BCD-396T, ATLANTIS (Marine) Part # BGA-77 Icom: IC-T90A, IC-T8A, IC-T81A, IC-R2, IC-R5 Radio Shack: HTX-245

Part # BGA-78 Yaesu: FT-50-R, VX-10, VXA-100, VX-800

Part # BGA-79 Yaesu: FT-60-R, VX-150, VX-110, VXA-120

 \rightarrow Part # BGA-80 Yaesu: VX-6R, VX-7R, VX-2R, VXA-700, VX-170 (Mod) Kenwood: TH-F6A, TH-K2AT \rightarrow Alinco: DJ-X3, DJ-S40

PRICE IS \$11.95 + \$1.50 S+H (One to unlimited) (Check or money order only) Discount available for multiple Orders – I.E. \$37.35 for three including S & H



Three Rednecks Hams were working up on an Antenna Tower -Cooter. Pete and KC.

As they start their descent Cooter slips, falls off the Tower and is killed instantly.

As the ambulance takes the body away, Pete says, "Well, damn, someone should go and tell his wife."

KC says, "OK, I'm pretty good at that sensitive stuff, I'll do it."

Two hours later, he comes back carrying Cooter's FT-2000 and a case of Budweiser.

Pete says, "Where did you get that beer & the radio, KC?" "Cooter's wife gave it to me," KC replies.

"That's unbelievable, you told the lady her husband is dead and she gave you a case of beer and a radio?"

"Well, not exactly", KC says. "When she answered the door, I said to her, 'You must be Cooter's widow'." She said, "You must be mistaken, I'm not a widow."....

Then I said "I'll bet you Cooter's FT 2000 and a case of Budweiser you are."

Rednecks Are Good At Sensitive Stuff.

The reason that the connector is made for each individual radio is that the bottom of the rubber base has a different recess distance for each individual radio. If you try to use it on another radio you will damage the adapter and very possibly damage your SMA connector on your radio. If you are interested send your order to:

STEPHEN G. GULYAS, KC2BHO 706 LALOR ST., TRENTON, N.J. 08610



Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Nets Meet

Each Wednesday Night at 7:30 PM on 145.17 Repeater

Tune in every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM on the 145.17/447.075 repeater for the Rensselaer County ARES/RACE Net. Our group also meets once a month at the Rensselaer County Public Safety Building located at 4000 Main Street, South Troy, N.Y.

IT'S YOUR RADIO and YOUR LICENSE "YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSMISSIONS FROM YOUR EQUIPMENT" "ADJUST YOUR TRANSMITTER SETTINGS FOR A "3" MINUTE TIMEOUT"

The "F" Series Connector

The "**F**" series connector is a type of RF connector commonly used for over the air terrestrial television, cable television and universally for satellite television and cable modems, and an-



tenna applications usually with RG-6/U cable or (in older installations) with RG-59/U cable. Normally these are used at 75 ohm characteristic impedance. 3/8-32 coupling thread is standard, but push-on designs are also available.

The F connector is inexpensive, yet has good 75-ohm impedance match up to 1 GHz. One reason for its low cost is that it uses the center wire of the coaxial cable as the pin of the male connector.



While lowering cost, this design drastically reduces the long-term reliability compared to other connectors, the copper wire being extremely prone to corrosion. The male connector body is typically crimped, or sometimes screwed, onto the exposed outer braid. Female connectors have a 3/8-32 thread. Most male connectors have a matching threaded connecting ring, though push-on versions are also available. Push-on F connector ends provide poor shielding against airborne signals (for example, a nearby TV transmitter will interfere with a CATV station).

Radio & Microphone Safety

We as Amateurs are responsible for good operating practice's and it begins with transmitter control. Ken Smith-WA2TQK had a good tip about using a piece of stretch elastic to hang your microphone from your visor. When you are finished transmitting the microphone, it just goes back in place and you don't have to worry about it ending up stuck transmitting between the seats. Another tip is they have plastic microphone clips that hook on the back of the mike so that you can hang them from the mirror or somewhere else on the dashboard.

Ham's who use a handheld in the mobile with an auxiliary microphone should check to make sure that the plug is pushed all the way into the jack. If the plug pulls half way out of the jack, the radio will start transmitting a dead carrier and you will never know it until you see the transmit light on or you realize you haven't heard anyone on your radio.

Always shut your radio off when you leave your car.

How to fit 'F' connectors for Coax As published in "What Satellite TV" magazine.

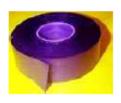






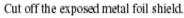








About 25mm from the end, use a knife to cut around the outer plastic covering. Be careful not to cut the braided copper wires inside! Pull off the plastic cover. Separate the braided copper wires then twist them together in a "pigtail".



Cut off the white plastic insulation to expose the inner wire core, leaving about 3mm of white plastic insulation. This reduces the risk of the braided copper wires touching the

Push the copper pigtail back over the outer sheath and screw an 'F' connector over it as far as it will go, holding it with a piece of cloth. Make sure that the inner wire core can not touch the braided copper wires. Cut off the exposed pigtail.

Use sharp cutters to cut the inner wire core to leave about 3mm exposed. Make this cut at a 45 degree angle to make a point. This makes it easier to push the wire into a connector without risk of damage or bending the wire. Be careful not to cut yourself on this sharp point!

Push-on adaptors are available. These screw into an 'F' connector to turn it into a push-on plug. Useful when you are using a sat finder meter and also as an LNB selector (see below).

Right-angle adaptors are available. These can be used where space is limited - such as behind a wall plate.

Outdoor 'F' connectors outside MUST be sealed to keep water out, otherwise it will run through the cable, damaging the inside of the LNB and the satellite receiver. Water runs VERY quickly through coaxial cable by "capillary action".

Be sure to use Self Amalgamating Tape. Cut off about four inches (100mm) and peel off the plastic backing.

Wrap the tape around the cable, just below the 'F' connector, stretching it strongly as you wrap in a spiral. Overlap by at least half the yidth of the tape so it bonds to itself. Continue to stretch and wrap it around the table then the 'F' connector all the way up to the body of the LNB

Local Club News

Albany Amateur Radio Association AARA **Annual Dinner 2007**

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE IN BY APRIL

1ST

The AARA Dinner is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Shaker Ridge Country Club, with cash bar opening at 6:00 PM. All area clubs are cordially invited to attend.

Dinner this year will cost \$31.00 per person. Choices for dinner are.

Prime Rib of Beef, Chicken Parmesan or Sea Bass

Our Guest Speaker will be Chief Steve Heider of the Town of Colonie Police Department

All area Amateur Radio operators and significant other are invited to attend for an evening of friendship and fun.

Please let Fred Fitte, WA2MMX know your meal choice as soon as possible and please pay by check made out to AARA and sent to Fred at the following address:

Frederick E. Fitte 14 Spartan Drive Valatie, New York 12184



New Friend TARA Meeting

The RVWARS club auction will be held during the regular meeting on the third Monday of March (19th). Club members from our club as well as neighboring clubs are urged to attend to both buy and sell good working ham radio equipment. Students from the current Boy Scout Tech. Class are also invited to attend the auction as they will soon be needing HF rigs as well as VHF/UHF rigs.

The 7:00 p.m. meeting and auction will be held at the RVWARS "Clu b h o u s e , " Noecker's Auto dealership, at the corner of Rt. 66 and Graham Avenue, Hudson, N.Y.

As in past years, Shelly - AA2Yand Wayne - K2WG will be the auctioneers. Both have requested that the " junk box" be left at home in the garage or attic and only actual Ham radio rigs and accessories be brought to the



See Back for Directions

TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248 Vice President: Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594 Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI......272-0112 Treasurer: Randy Stein, KL7TJZ.....

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REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

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EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

Ken Davis. KB2KFV..... 272-0112

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Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1292 Troy, New York, 12181-1292



Visit us on the Internet <u>At http://www.n2ty.org/</u>

Regular monthly Meeting Tuesday, March 20, 2007 7:30 p.m. Green Island Municipal Center Intersection of George St. & Hudson Ave.

Green Island, New York *Ample Parking* Parking Lot on Hudson Ave.

Troy's Full Service Repeaters 145.170/R 447.075/R

<u>N2TY-"TROY" NODE</u> DEPARTMENT:

Russ Greenman – WB2LXC

N2TY-BBS SYSOP:

Tim Roske, AA2WQ......489-4346

ATVET(ALB/TROY)VE TEAM: Gerry Murray,WA2IWW...482-8700

FIELD DAY 2007 CHAIRMEN:

Bill Eddy, NY2U..... 273-9248 Randy Stein, KL7TJZ..... Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150

VHF/UHF EQUIP. CHAIRMAN

Hollins Meaux, N2YQW...465-7678

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