

CLUB MEETINGS 2023

MARCH 21, 2023

ARRIL 18, 2023

MAY 16, 2023

JUNE 20, 2023

JULY 18, 2023

AUG 15, 2023

SEP 19, 2023

OCT 17, 2023

NOV 21, 2023

FUTURE EVENTS

. HAM FEST/TAILGATE

APRIL 29, 2023 TRENTON

COMMUNITY CENTER

FIELD DAY JUNE 24-25,

2023 POSAIBLE LOCATION

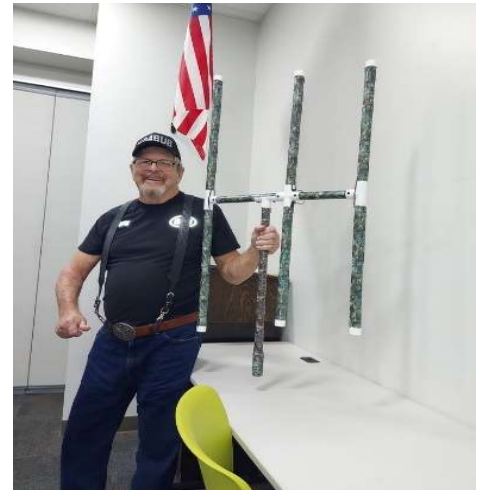
R&J FUEL STOP

CLUB NEWS

To help build a bond between the members, and anyone desiring to find out more about us we meet quarterly for a breakfast get-together. This is an informal time and club business is not discussed. Our next breakfast is tentatively scheduled for, April 1, 2023. We will be having breakfast at Bar-B-Que Bill's, located at 1901 N Young Blvd, Chiefland, Florida 32626.

We are currently in the final stages of our annual Ham Fest/Tailgate. This will be the 2nd annual event. This event will be held at the Trenton, FL Community Center. This venue is located at 214 SE 3rd Ave, Trenton, FL 32693.

Curtis (KO4BUB) with his 2Meter Yagi antenna, and Curtiss (KO4PZE) with his 2Mater Dipole antenna. Curtiss Peck does have a PDF file of the drawing for this antenna available for anyone to have. Email him at ko4pze@aol.com for a copy.



Curtis Townsend (KO4BUB)



Curtiss Peck (KO4PZE)

PREPARING FOR FIELD DAY 2023

OUR V/P FRED (KO4YOL) HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE LOCATION FOR THE FIELD DAY 2023 WILL BE THE R&J FUEL STOP IN BELL, FL. HE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING THAT WILL LAY OUT WHAT THE BUSINESS EXPECTS FROM US.

THIS WILL BE A GREAT LOCATION FOR US. THERE WILL BE NO COST TO THE CLUB FOR THE USE OF THE SPACE. THIS BUSINESS IS OPEN TWENTY-FOUR HOUR. THIS WILL GIVES US ACCESS TO RESTROOMS, DRINKS, AND SNACKS THE WHOLE TIME WE ARE OPERATING.

AS A



Comfort Design for Your Station.

Have you ever noticed that when you walk into a dark room, you instinctively reach for (and find) a wall switch to turn on the lights?

There is good reason for that. Many of the things we use in our daily lives have been designed to capitalize on our natural movements. This is commonly referred to as ergonomics, or simply comfort design. Applying comfort design to your station setup can enhance your operating experience and reduce fatigue and frustration. Here is how to get set up for maximum comfort and ease of use.

The Seat of Power.

Everything starts with your station chair. Be sure to get a comfortable office chair with arm rest and one that allows adjustment to the height and tilt. Many large office supply stores have models on display, for you to try, so you can find the one that fits your needs and budget.

As a companion piece to your chair, your desk is important, too. Most office desks are about 60 inches wide, and 30 inches deep, and 29 to 30 inches from the floor. You can expand the desktop by attaching a piece of plywood to it, allowing it to extend a foot or so from the back edge of the desk. Of course you want to use material that will support the weight of your gear. I would not recommend anything that ½ inch plywood. If you are not handy at carpentry, pre-made shelving options are available from home supply and you-build-it furniture stores.

When positioning your desk in the room, you will want to access the back of the desk, where all the wires and cables are. An easy way to do this is place friction-reducing skid pads, under

desk before you load the equipment. These allow you to slide heavy furniture across a floor with minimal effort. Rollers or casters are good too but be sure use the locking type so the desk doesn't move around while you are operating.

Laying Out Your Operating Position

Generally, things that you touch often should be placed within easy reach, and things that are touched less frequently need to be reachable with minimal effort, or without bumping other things on the desk. Monitors and meters need to be placed so they can be seen at a glance, without straining your neck.

Most hams want to showcase their transceiver when building their station. All too often, a new ham will place the transceiver on a shelf above the desk at about-



eye level, making it the central focus of the layout for any visitors or photographs. But it quickly becomes apparent that this is not a convenient for what is probably the most-used piece of equipment in the station. Extending your arm to tune the main dial can quickly cause fatigue.

A better option is to locate the transceiver so that the heel of your hand can rest naturally on the desk while your fingers manipulate the dial. This way, all the transceiver controls are within easy reach. Most transceivers have adjustable front legs or bail to tilt the radio up for easy viewing.

If you use a computer for logging and other applications while operating, it is best to have the radio to the left or right of center, with the computer monitor directly in front of you. Place video monitors so that you can view them comfortably while looking straight ahead.

I have seen situations where video monitors are put on the top shelf so the operator must strain their neck, looking up. This can cause neck pain or injury that can last for weeks.

Amplifiers and antenna matching networks don't require much attention unless you change bands, so these can be placed on an upper shelf within easy reach, so you can adjust the controls when needed. Of course, the ultimate desire is to have an amplifier that does not require tuning.

If you are fortunate enough to have multiple antennas at your location, then you will need some switching devices. These should be positioned where you can easily reach them and see at a glance which antenna is in line. Being on the wrong antenna not only cause you to miss a contact, but could cause you serious damage to your equipment. .

Using automatic antenna switching eliminates one more thing to monitor while operating. This is especially helpful if you like to participate in contests.

Rotator control boxes receive the same attention as antenna switches; place them within reach and view. There are also PC-controlled rotator options available.

Power supplies do not require attention other than turning them on and off, so they can be placed high on a shelf, or even on the floor under the desk.

Shining a Light

Careful planning of the placement of lights can make a big difference. Lights mounted under shelves can illuminate equipment without shining glaring light in your eyes. Consider desk lamps, floor lamps, and other styles of ambient lighting in the room. Exposure to harsh light for several hours can create fatigue or even headaches. I have found it helpful to install a light behind the equipment to make it easier to see and identify ports when making connections

between devices.

The Right Mic

Many people like the idea of a desk mic, especially if it a matching accessory for your brand of radio. A desk mic poses two issues. However, one problem is that it generally has a short stand, which makes you have to bend your head down to speak into the mic. The other is that it takes up valuable space on the desk, especially, if you are using a computer keyboard. A microphone mounted on an adjustable boom is better than a desk mic, because you can adjust it perfectly for your height and distance from your desk, and you can quickly swing it out of your way if necessary. I prefer a headset with an attached boom mic, which allows me to talk into the mic no matter which way my head is facing. A footswitch is a great accessory for operating with a microphone because it frees your hands while transmitting. To prevent the footswitch from "walking away" when using it, I use double-sided type to secure it to the floor.

Business on the Back Side

The back side of your operating desk deserves some attention. It's uncomfortable when you have to reach up, under, or around to make connections at the back of your station's components, so access to the back of desk is important. So is neatness. Having wires labeled and dressed make it easier locate things. Months or years can pass between the times you find it necessary to work on connections on the back of the radio. It is difficult to remember how you did something so long ago, so you may want to keep a small notebook with operating manuals and diagrams, so you can quickly reference the many cables and connections in your station.

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Upcoming Events Ideas

Field day is rapidly approaching, an idea has been proposed to do a "Park on the Air" type event. This would be a great practice run for field day and give us as a club a better understanding what we to do.

Another idea will involve community outreach. For us as a club to grow we need to be more involved with the community. There will be an event on April 8th, that would work well with this. This event has a cost of \$30.00. We will need to discuss this at the March meeting.

Time to think about recycling our old ham radio magazines. This too could be a great outreach opportunity.

