



# HARMONICS

1916

South Jersey Radio Association

2017



## Radio Sport aka Contests

John, W2FDJ, johnd152 at verizon dot net

### Member's activities

Please send your thoughts and ideas to me at johnd152@verizon.net for publication.

**Recent posted results - see arrl.org or CQ ARRL 2017 Sweepstakes, SSB (was November 18-20, 2017).**

This year there was significant participation by our members in the ARRL Sweepstakes contest. This is based on logs posted at ARRL filed listing South Jersey Radio Association as their club affiliation. At least 13 club members were on the air and perhaps more. K2AA was on the air again with at least eight members.

Now with logs due to ARRL within 5 days it is possible to quickly report on participants who filed logs with the league. Here is who filed using South Jersey Radio Association as their club affiliation.

### Single Op low power category:

KE2D, Bob, 44,640 points  
W2FDJ, John, 34,200 points  
K2WJL, Joe, 22,680 points  
KB2MMI, Bill, 22,570 points  
KF2Y, Paul, 1,380 points

### Multi-operator low power category:

K2AA, 19,584 points.  
Operators were:  
Bob, KE2D; Frank, AA2AW; Carol, K2BL; Mark, KD2JPW; Al, KD2LBT; Riz, KH7JO; Holden, KD2JPV and Ken, K2WB.

To my knowledge no club member achieved the Clean Sweep of 83 sections worked. I was missing 8 sections when the contest ended, which was the same count I was at with six hours left.

### CQ WW CW (was November 24-25, 2017)

The only logs filed on CQ WW for this contest were W2HUV, John and myself.

I look to hear your stories about the upcoming ARRL 160 and 10 meter contests.

Please send me your summary sheet so I will be able to list your claimed score.

John, W2FDJ, contests at sjra dot org

**Upcoming contests - see arrl.org or wa7bnm.com for rules and more details.**

### Every Tuesday only

Phone Fray 10:30PM-11PM (yes 30 minutes) (ten weeks -4 times a year)

### Every Wednesday only

CWops Mini-CWT test 9 to 10AM, 3 to 4PM, 9 to 10PM (three one hr sprints)

### Every Thursday only

NCCC Sprint 10:30 to 11PM (yes 30 minutes)

### ARRL RTTY Roundup (RTTY digital)

January 6 and 7, 2018 (Saturday 1PM to Sunday 7PM, EST)

### North American QSO Party (CW)

January 13 and 14, 2018 (Saturday 1PM to Sunday 1AM, EST)

(Continued on page 4)

## SOUTH JERSEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

HARMONICS is published monthly and is the official news letter of the South Jersey Radio Association. The SJRA was established on June 16, 1916 and has been meeting continuously since its inception. The club has been affiliated with the American Radio Relay League since 1920.

The SJRA meets each month on the fourth Wednesday, January through September; and usually the third Wednesday, October, November and December; in one of the Meeting Room of the Gibson House at 525 East Main Street, Marlton, NJ 08053. Visitors are always welcome at our general meetings. **“Our Meetings are Smoke Free”**

SJRA operates the K2AA Repeater (145.290 - PL 91.5) located in Medford, NJ and the K2UK Repeaters (146.865 and 442.350 - PL 131.8) located in Pine Hill, NJ. The repeaters are open for use without restriction to all licensed amateur operators.

There are currently over 100 SJRA members active in most all aspects of amateur radio. Membership is by application and is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Club dues are currently \$30/yr. for memberships, \$22.50/yr. for retired-person membership (62 plus 1 yr membership), and \$15/yr. for additional family members and student membership. Membership information is available on the SJRA website: [www.sjra.org](http://www.sjra.org) or from Alan Handley, K3WWT, 610-532-5407 Email: [sjra@sjra.org](mailto:sjra@sjra.org) SJRA's web page: [www.sjra.org](http://www.sjra.org)

SJRA VE Team: [ve@sjra.org](mailto:ve@sjra.org) is the SJRA/ARRL VUCC card checker

Joe Fisher, KC2TN, is the SJRA/ARRL WAS card checker

\*\*\*\*\*  
 ★ Harmonics is now available for SJRA members on the WEB in pdf ★  
 ★ format at: <http://www.sjra.org> ★  
 ★ South Jersey ARRL Section News is available on the WEB at: ★  
 ★ <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SNJ> ★  
 ★\*\*\*\*\*

### Officers

**President:** Ken Botterbrodt, K2WB  
**Vice Pres.:** Jon MacMillan, W2MC  
**Treasurer:** Roy Herman, WB2EOD  
**Rec. Sec:** Lou Priestley, N2HQL  
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Art Arnold, N2CPR  
 Matt Grohgans, N2IDW  
 Rick Lawn, W2JAZ  
 John Doran, W2FDJ  
 Tony Canuso, N2ATB  
 Burton Sampley, NJ2IT  
 Al Witner, N3AVT

### Committees:

**Historian:** Mark Walter, KD2JPW  
**Membership:** Alan Handley, K3WWT  
**Field Day:** Ken Botterbrodt, K2WB  
**Contests:** John Doran, W2FDJ  
**Repeater:** Joe Fisher, KC2TN  
**Programs:** Rick Lawn, W2JAZ  
**H&W:** Roy Herman, WB2EOD; and Dara Herman, KC2THQ  
**Awards:** Rick Lawn, W2JAZ  
**Hospitality:** Jean Priestley, KA2YKN  
**Nets:** John Fogleboch, WY2J  
**Publicity:** Vacant (Please Volunteer)  
**Picnic:** Vacant (Please Volunteer)  
**Ways & Means:** Ray Golley, N3RG  
**Property:** Jon MacMillan, W2MC  
**Web Site:** Ira Weinstein, W2IRA

### Harmonics Staff:

**Publisher/Editor:** Ted Groke, W2TAG  
**Alternate Editor:** Rick Stoneking, W2RDS  
**Circulation:** Jim Vecchiola, KR2T

### LOCAL WEEKLY NETS

|  |                   |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Monday   | K2AA, Medford     | 145.290 @ 8PM                            |
| Fusion on 2 <sup>ND</sup> & 4 <sup>TH</sup> Thurs.<br>and 2M SSB on 3 <sup>RD</sup> Thurs. | Various Locations | 145.290 @ 8PM, Fusion<br>144.270 MHz USB |

### Harmonics Deadline

Articles submitted for the next Harmonics will be accepted until Monday, January 8, 2018. Email: [ted.w2tag@gmail.com](mailto:ted.w2tag@gmail.com)

**SWAP SHOP** - For Sale/Wanted ads are free of charge and are accepted for Amateur Radio related items only. While ads are not restricted to SJRA members, there is only limited space available and members have priority for listings. No items will be accepted for inclusion in the Swap Shop from commercial vendors or traders. All ads must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the scheduled SJRA general meeting date.

**GENERAL ADVERTISING** - Limited commercial advertising is accepted on a space available basis. Annual advertising rates range from \$25/yr (Min 1/8 page) to \$200/yr (Full Page). Information is available from Ken Botterbrodt, K2WB.

## Meeting Minutes

### Minutes of Membership Meeting of Nov 15, 2017

The meeting was opened at 1932 by Jon, W2MC. The meeting was held at the Gibson House in Marlton, NJ. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed in Harmonics, motion WA2HJG, Second by WA2DUE. There was no treasurer's report due to his absence.

The Historian, Matt, KD2JPW stated several items were on display, notably gavels from the years SJRA won the Sweepstakes.

Health & Welfare- The mother of N3RG reportedly broke her shoulder.

Programs- W2JAZ: Tonight: KV2R and his experiences during the eclipse.: Dec- Christmas Party: Jan- Estate Sale: Feb: White elephant or meet & greet.

VE team: 1 upgrade, 2 new techs this month.

Nets- John, WY2J Fusion net- Good Participation, usually 12/net. 2M FM is improving. SSB/Dig net was successful. The K2UK repeater must be moved by the end of the year.

DX report by Jack, N2VW: JW-SVALBARD- LA2US 6 months, Dec on: FY, French Guiana-TO2BC- March 2018: 6W Senegal-6W/ON4AVT Feb 2018: P2-Papua New Guinea- P29VXG 1-7 Feb 2018.

Contesting: by John W2FDJ: Jan 6-7; ARRL RTTY roundup: Jan 13-14 North American QSO Party CW: Jan 20-21 North American QSO Party Phone, also ARRL Jan VHF Contest: Feb 2-3, 10-10 Intl Winter 10M Phone: Feb 9-10 CQWW RTTY

WPX: Feb 16-17 ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW

Web Team: NJ2IT- All is well. John Hill- Can we get a fill in form?

Awards- W2JAZ- need all nominations by the end of this meeting.

Old/Unfinished business- FD scores are in, SJRA 1st in &A, 5th overall, 1st in NJ. KR2T reported 1425 to Voorhees police holiday fund from sale of items.

New Business- Christmas Party- Dec 20th, 7 PM. \$15 pp.

Submitted by Lou, N2HQL  
SJRA Rec. Sec..

Board minutes from 12/6 will appear in Jan Harmonics.

### List Your "For Sale" Ham Stuff in the SJRA Harmonics

Email Ted, W2TAG, with your listing:  
ted.w2tag at gmail dot com



*(Radio Sport aka Contests from page 1)*

**North American QSO Party (Phone)**

January 20 and 21 (Saturday 1PM to Sunday 1AM, EST)

**ARRL January VHF Contest (any mode)**

January 20 and 21 (Saturday 2PM to Sunday 11PM, EST)

**10-10 International Winter (Phone)**

February 2 and 3 (Friday 7PM to Sunday 7PM, EST)

**CQ WW RTTY WPX**

February 9 and 10, 2018 (Friday 7PM to Sunday 7PM, EST)

**ARRL Int DX Contest CW**

February 16 and 17, 2018 (Friday 7PM EST to Sun 7PM, EST)

**CQ 160 Meter Contest SSB**

February 23 and 24, 2018 (Friday 5PM to Sun 5PM, EST)

**North American QSO Party RTTY**

February 24 and 25, Saturday 1PM to Sunday 1AM, EST)

••••• Thanks much to Frank, AA2AW, who shares his recent experiences in getting his old beam and tower back in operation. See picture Frank provided.

John, W2FDJ

I was first licensed in 1982. I was active and enjoyed ham radio. After achieving the Advanced ticket (KD2EX) in 1985, I decided to get serious and put up a 15 foot roof tower with a full size Mosley TA-33. The roof tower was mounted on the back of my home on top of the second floor. Since the house is a three story Victorian, with a two-story extension off the back, you can't see the tower looking straight at the house. The antenna ends up being about eight feet above the peak of the house at a height of about 47 feet.

This worked great for a few years. I even got motivated to earn the Extra ticket. Then came a career change that would require more of my time. The end result was that Ham Radio took a back seat. I didn't get completely get out of the hobby, but just made a few contacts a year.

About eight years ago I noticed the rotor was not working any longer and guy wires were rusted through. So I had the tower and antenna taken down.

Three years ago I retired. One rainy day, while straightening up a room on the third floor (former shack), the old Kenwood 830 was just sitting there. I found an old dipole for 20M amongst my stuff, strung it up, plugged in the 830 and Eureka! -I was making contacts with this old radio and a dipole in my attic.

Looking at the tower stored in the backyard, I started to plan to re-erect it. It was in two sections. It has a five foot base with 4 legs and a ten foot top section. Since it is made of aluminum, it cleaned up well. I purchased a new bearing and reconditioned the Ham 4 rotor. The next task was to examine the TA-33 hanging off my basement ceiling. No problem there either. It cleaned up well after all these years.

My plan was to put the tower up one day and the antenna up another. I purchased a climbing harness to be safe. The tower went up in two sections. Using a 32 foot ladder, my friend and I slid the base up the ladder pulling it up with a rope from the roof. We mounted the base to the roof with eight, 2 inch lag screws. Next came the 10 foot section. It came up the same way. Lifting the top section, one guy on each side was the hairy part. We had to lift it from the bottom, up five feet and slip it on the base.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Meeting Minutes from page 4)*

We then secured it with 16 bolts and nuts.

With the safety harness on I proceeded up the tower. At the top looking down, I decided I didn't feel safe or comfortable.

Since the XYL didn't want me climbing up there in the first place, she had already Google searched for a professional ham tower climber. She came up with John, AA1K, in Delaware. I contacted John and found he could do the antenna installation that week.

John came out a few days later. I had the TA-33 assembled on a picnic table in the back yard. John put on his antenna analyzer that showed the antenna was working as designed, which was good news. However, his recommendation was that we should disassemble it and pull it up to the roof in sections and reassemble it up there. That's what we did.

He spent most of the day on the tower. I didn't have to go on the roof at all. He was very thorough and did an excellent job, checking and rechecking everything as he proceeded.

The system works fine now. In the CQ

WW contest a few weeks ago, within a few hours, I logged 70 DX contacts. Although my wallet is much lighter now, it was worth it.

This spring I retired the Kenwood 830 and replaced it with a new Kenwood 590.



Frank Longbottom, AA2AW



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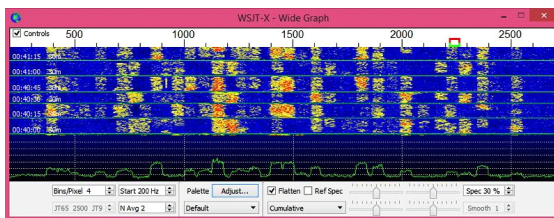
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## FT-8: I'm Not Really Feeling the Magic

Dan, KB6NU, cwgeek at kb6nu dot com

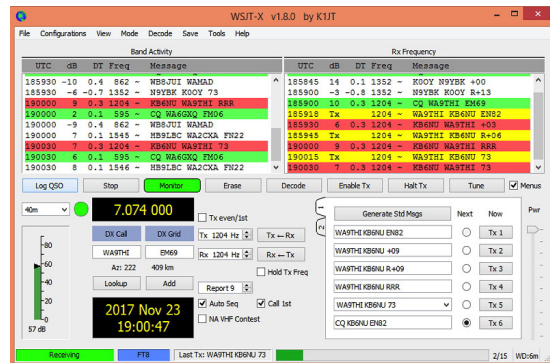
Partly out of curiosity and partly because Jeff, KE9V, shamed me into it, I setup my Signalink interface, downloaded WSJT-X from <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>, and started operating FT-8, the latest “shiny object” (as the ARRL dubbed it) from the K1JT team. As you probably know, this mode has really caught on with the digital crowd, and the waterfall is chock full of FT-8 signals. Part of the reason for this is that it has some of the characteristics of JT-65, but is not as excruciatingly slow.



A waterfall display generated by WSJT-X at 7:30 pm, 11/23/17.

Over the past couple of days, I've made 32 QSOs, including a couple of DX contacts. It's been fun to try something new, but to be honest, I'm not really feeling the magic.

Part of it is that I don't feel like I'm really doing anything. I downloaded the software, plugged in my digital interface, fooled around with the settings a bit, and then, the computer started making contacts. I have to click a few on-screen controls to make contacts, but even that's a step that could be easily programmed in by the WSJT-X developers. (In fact, I wonder why they haven't done that already!)



WSJT-X screenshot. The sequence of transmissions in the Rx Frequency window comprises a contact.

Take a look at the screenshot above to see how a typical contact happens. When a CQ appears in the “Band Activity” window, you double click on it. When you do this, the software begins listening for signals on that frequency. In this case, I double-clicked on the CQ by WA9THI. When I double-clicked on the CQ, the program began decoding signals on that frequency and display the transmissions in the “Rx Frequency” window.

Then, I clicked on “Enable TX” and the program began the contact sequence, sending “WA9THI KB6NU EN82.” EN82 is my grid designator. This is shown as the first yellow line in the Rx Frequency window. The transmissions that I sent are highlighted in yellow. The transmissions sent by WA9THI are highlighted in red.

The sequence of transmissions shown there comprise a complete contact, and that whole process takes less than two minutes. And, once WA9THI received my first transmission, the sequence is all automatic. You just sit there and watch the two computers talk to one another.

(Continued on page 7)

*(Not Really Feeling the F8 Magic from page 6)*

While I can certainly appreciate the thought and the work that went into the design of the protocol and programming to implement it, sitting and watching the computers talk to one another just doesn't excite me. On the other hand, if you're one of those guys who wants to make contacts, but doesn't really want to talk to anyone, than this is the mode for you!

Here are a few more notes about FT-8 operation:

- ◆ Not surprisingly, synchronizing your computer with the other stations computer is very important. To do that, you need to get your computer to use the network time protocol (NTP). I failed to do this when I first installed WSJT-X, and while my waterfall was full of FT-8 signals, WSJT-X just wouldn't decode them.
- ◆ I got my PC laptop to talk ntp by installing Meinberg NTP software (<http://www.ntp.org/ntpfaq/NTP-s-def.htm>). Once I did that, WSJT-X magically started decoding transmissions.
- ◆ Most of the cool guys seem to be using Meinberg NTP, but there are other options. One of the guys in our club is using a program called Dimension 4, for example.
- ◆ Apparently, you don't have to limit your power output as you would with PSK-31. At first, I set my output power to 10 W. I had a bit of success at 10 W, but I expected more. When I asked on Twitter how much power other guys were using, most of them said that they

were using more than that.

- ◆ For the last couple of sessions, I've been setting my output power to 25 W, and I've been having more success. I've now worked several Europeans on 30m.
- ◆ Even at 25 W, my signal reports are more often than not not as good as the signal reports I'm handing out. I haven't figured this one out yet. This doesn't happen to me when I'm operating CW, so I don't think it's my antenna.
- ◆ When I'm operating, I write down the calls of stations I've contacted. The reason for this is that while WSJT-X does have a logging function, it doesn't have a log window, so unless you have a great memory, you could end up working guys two or three times a session. That's probably not a big deal since contacts are so quick, but I'd rather avoid doing that if I can.
- ◆ WSJT-X works "split." While most contacts take place on the same frequency, a station can call you anywhere in the passband of your receiver and WSJT-X will decoded the signal and begin a contact. This threw me the first time or two that this happened, and I tried to change my transmit frequency to match the other station's. In doing so, I messed up the sequence. I now just let the contact proceed normally, and it works out great.
- ◆ When I work the other digital modes, I set my IC-746PRO to the USB-D mode. In this mode, the receive passband is narrower than for

*(Continued on page 8)*



*(President's Message from page 8)*

so that we can make corrections to our database. This will insure that Harmonics and other important club information will continue to go you.

Congratulations to all that participated in Field Day 2017. The SJRA took 1st place in the 7A category. It took a lot of hard work, but the result was well worth the effort. Field Day 2018 will be here before we know it, let me know if you want to help.

The SJRA email list has been running for a couple of years. This is a great way to reach out to all of the members of the club if you have a question or an item for sale. This service is only available to members of the SJRA and will be the only way to receive harmonics by email. If we have your email address you will be receiving an email from sjra-members-request@mailman.qth.net inviting you to join the list or you can join by going to <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/sjra-members>. Remember to include your Callsign with your name.

To send an email to the list, just send it to [sjra-members@mailman.qth.net](mailto:sjra-members@mailman.qth.net) and it will go to all of the SJRA members automatically. Remember sending an email will require using the email address in which you receive emails from the list.

I want to wish everyone and their families a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Until next year! 73  
de Ken BY1/K2WB

### Items for Sale

50 Foot Free Standing Tower (not heavy duty). Tower is on the ground in two pieces that bolt together at the 30 foot level. \$100.

*All proceeds from the sale of this item will be donated to SJRA.*

Contact Ted, W2TAG  
Tabernacle, NJ  
ted.w2tag at gmail dot com  
(609) 268-8460

### Test Session Report for November 8, 2017

The SJRA would like to congratulate the following on their recent Amateur Radio licensing achievements:

*(Please note: Test Session Reports are published in Harmonics the month after the test session so we can publish passing technicians newly assigned call.)*

Michael Sycz, KD2OPL  
2136 Carriage Ln  
Atco, NJ 08004  
Passed Tech

Paul Overn, KE0PBR  
17815 Gayle Drive  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
Passed Tech

Mark R Muncie, K2POL  
605A Country Club Parkway  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
Passed Extra

|         | Tech | General | Extra | Total |
|---------|------|---------|-------|-------|
| To Date | 133  | 56      | 34    | 223   |



Spring Jacket is \$51 (S,M,L,XL),  
plus \$2 per each size larger  
see Joe, KC2TN

## Open Letter to Officers and BOD dtd, November 20, 2017

Please be advised that I intend to resign as Editor, SJRA Harmonics after I deliver the December issue of Harmonics in 2019. So the Officers and Directors of SJRA have the next 25 months to find a replacement. That issue will give me more than 20 years as Harmonics editor. I think that's more than enough time for anyone to provide this service to the club. It's time to give someone else the opportunity of serving as the Editor of SJRA Harmonics. Thank you and 73,

Ted, W2TAG

## SJRA Membership Renewal Begins January 1st, 2018.

It's time to renew your SJRA membership.

Current dues are:

- ◆ \$30.00 for Full Membership
- ◆ \$22.50 for Seniors 65 years of age or older (must have been Full Membership for at least one year to qualify)
- ◆ \$15.00 for each additional family member
- ◆ \$15.00 Students.

Please make checks payable to "South Jersey Radio Association" and send them to:

Roy Herman  
19 Bryce Road  
Voorhees, NJ 08043

We also accept PayPal. Please send payment to dues@sjra.org (please include an extra \$1 to cover PayPal Fee)

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## SJRA Jackets, Shirts, Hats

Order NOW - Next order going in soon!



Spring Jacket is \$51 (S,M,L,XL), Fall Jacket is \$58 (S,M,L,XL),  
Shirts are \$28 (S,M,L,XL), Hats are \$25 (one size fits all)  
Name and Call Sign embroidery included....Larger sizes slightly more!  
Email Joe, KC2TN, with orders or additional info: kc2tn at comcast dot net

### Amateur Radio FCC License Testing

The SJRA sponsors *FREE* Amateur Radio FCC License testing on the second Wednesday of each month. The location is: 443 Commerce Lane, Suite 5, West Berlin, NJ 08091. Registration is at 7:00 PM and testing begins at 7:30PM. Walk-ins are accepted.

VE team members can be reached at VE at SJRA dot org. A calendar and more information can be found on the SJRA web site.

**December Meeting:**

Is the **third** Wednesday, December 20, 2017

The meeting commences promptly at 7:30PM in the first floor Meeting Room of the Gibson House on Main Street, Marlton, NJ 08053. Guests are always welcome.

**Program For December:**

Christmas/Holiday Party and Awards Presentations.

**SJRA Member January Birthdays**

Ted Dean, KD2ARD; Joe Fisher, KC2TN; Robert Kernish, KD2ADL; Jack Mays, WA2HJG; Al Witner, N3AVT.

Health and Welfare Co-chairpersons: Roy, WB2EOD and Dara, KC2THQ

**January Meeting:**

Is the **fourth** Wednesday, January 24, 2018

*Happy Holidays from the  
SJRA Officers and Board of Directors*

**First Class Mail**

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