

FeedPoint

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

AUGUST 2020

ST JOHN VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION

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Watch for the Tesla coil to see where you can contribute to the

Mailing Address

SJVARA
Attn: Travis Devoe
3191 Aroostook Rd
Eagle Lake. ME 04739

SJVARA Monthly Newsletter

The purpose of this publication is to keep you updated on club events and news as well as everything new in ham radio. It includes thoughts and ideas from our club meetings and events as well as new tech and news in the amateur radio community.

If your not already subscribed,
email sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: newsletter



Photo of the Month

Attempting a Sat contact via SO-50.

To submit a photo, email it to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: photo of the month



Monthly Meeting Review

As the pandemic shows no sign of slowing and public gatherings are still discouraged, all club events are on hold. Please bear with us as we push through these uncertain times.

Don't forget to say hello to these new hams if you hear them on the air!

| Name | Call Sign |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Patrick Aldrich | KC1NHH |
| Brian Goff | KC1NHJ |
| Stacy Shaw | KC1NHK |
| Barrett Drost | KC1NHM |
| John Gibson | KC1NHN |
| Wade MacFarland | KC1NHI |
| Lucy Devoe | KC1NHL |

What's New With Amateur Radio

Lab599 Discovery TX-500 Ultra-compact transceiver

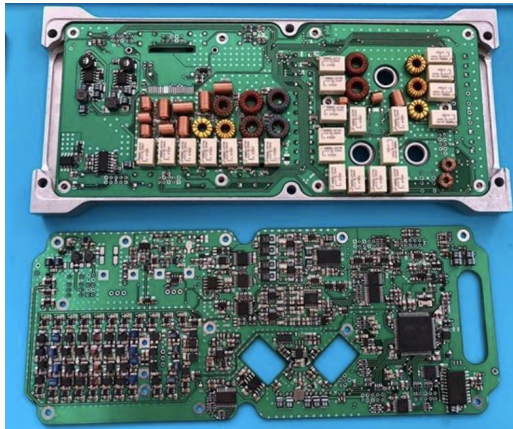
The new Lab599 Discovery TX-500 is tailored for adventure. Its small size allows it to be used in almost any location with no sacrifice on performance or features.

It covers 160-6 meters, all modes, with a maximum power output of 10w. It comes with true desktop-radio features, like auto-notch, noise reduction, and RX/TX EQ. The transceiver has a built-in fast pan-adpater, for easier search for new contacts and evaluation of band conditions wherever you are, at any time.

GENERAL FEATURES

- General 'receive' coverage 0.5 - 56.0 MHz
- All modes: SSB, CW, DIG, AM, FM
- High-performance 32-bit floating-point DSP
- Current drain as low as 100 mA in 'receive' mode (backlight on, preamp off, no signal)
- External power supply DC 9-15V, 1 to 2A typical in transmit
- High-contrast LCD with 256 * 128 px
- High-performance real-time panadapter (48 kHz wide)
- On-line firmware updates
- Tilted feet (rear), fold up for transportation
- Ultra-compact size 3.5" H * 8.1" W * 0.8" D
- Weight: 0.55 Kg (19,4 oz).

Check out the Lab599 Discovery at www.lab599.com



Club / Member Projects

Kw1a and I (kb1zpp) attempted a satellite contact via Saudisat 1C (SO-50) around the beginning of August. We attempted to contact a ham in Florida via the cube-sat satellite. Although we were

unsuccessful in making the contact we were successful in filling our stomachs full of food! We're going to tune and test and try again later this month.

Update (time of release):
Still no luck contacting SO-50.



To submit your project send an email to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: projects

Reader Submission

This section relies on you!

Do you have a new invention or idea you want to share?

Did you buy a new piece of gear you want to review, or just brag about?

Have a funny story or personal experience?

If you would like to put together a short write up about it, send it in!



If you would like to submit something, email it to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: reader submission



Upcoming Events

DMR Q&A

I will be hosting another Zoom meeting to go over any questions or concerns you may have about the platform or the hardware. Anything DMR related.

As of right now the plan is to have this meeting on the **12th of September**. I will send out an email to all club members, as well as posting the link to the club facebook. If your not on the club email list, let us know at the email below!



To submit an event, email the description, date, and other pertinent info to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: projects

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo!

If you missed it, an on demand version of the expo is still available to view. Check out the link below!

Check out the site below to get your FREE tickets and find out more!

www.qsotodayhamexpo.com

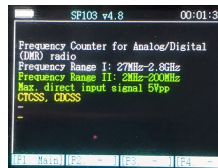
Quick Tips

Sticking with the same topic as last month, here is some more cheap test gear that, for all intents and purposes, works more than well enough for what we hams do. Both of these models can be had on Amazon for less than 55 bucks. Watch the model numbers though, as there are two different versions with different frequency ranges.



First up is the Surecom SF-104 Plus. This frequency counter covers 27 MHz all the way up to 3Ghz! It has an option to switch between analog and digital modes so it will correctly display a DMR or YSF frequency while in digital mode. It will also decode and display the CTCSS or DCS within the 2 meter and 70cm bands. It comes with an internal battery and a BNC

connector with an included 2 meter/70cm rubber duck. The four buttons on the front make operation a breeze. The power button is red and the other three buttons allow you to start and stop the receiver, access the menu, and display info about the counter. A bright 240 by 320 pixel display shows all the signal info quickly. Auto power off (programmable 1-9 min) will keep you from burning up the



battery. If you get it from Amazon it includes a charge brick, USB cable, antenna, and a mostly chinglish manual.

The version of counter I decided to pick up was the McBazel SF-103 (I thought I was getting a breakfast sandwich). This version does everything that the Surecom does but extends the frequency coverage down to 2 MHz while only sacrificing a few MHz on the top end, it tops out at 2.8 GHz. The display is set up a little different but does the exact same thing. As I'm mostly using this to detect 10 MHz reference signals I chose this version, which as I said, goes down much farther than the 104. As with the SF-104, the SF-103 has a BNC connector which will also take a scope probe quite well. Just be sure not to overdrive the front end, max signal input is 5v peak to peak.

~kb1zpp.



If you would like to submit your tips or tricks, email them to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: just the tip

Send Us Your
Tips & Tricks
Hacks & Mods



Swap / Buy / Sell

The SJVARA is looking for donations for their club event trailer and "go box"

Any gear you would like to donate or let us borrow would be greatly appreciated.

Swap Buy Sell



We need gear to fill this section! If you have anything to sell or give away, are looking for something to buy, or just looking to see what's out there let us know!

ISO
**Free
Trade**



To get your gear listed or to list what your in search of email sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: swap buy sell

Random Stuff

You'll find anything unrelated or off topic here.

"You'll never sit outside the same way again with this heated camping chair"



Check out <https://www.awesomeinventions.com/heated-camping-chair/> for more info!



If you would like to submit your random stuff, email it to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: uh, that's random



A Few Words From KB6NU

FCC proposes new fees for amateur radio licenses

August 27, 2020 by Dan kb6nu

I cadged this off QRZ.Com, but am requesting the permission of the author, Michelle Bradley, KU3N, founder of REC Networks.

On Wednesday, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270 which implements portions of the Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act of 2018 (or RAY BAUM'S Act), which gives the FCC statutory authority to collect application fees. As a part of the Act, the FCC is required to switch from a fee structure mandated by Congress 20 years ago to a new cost-based system. This change will result in some fees being reduced and in some cases, such as the Amateur Radio Service, new fees are being added.

Proposed new fees for Amateur Radio and reduction in GMRS fees

Section 8 of the RAY BAUM'S Act does not provide any kind of statutory exemption for filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service, which, historically has had no filing fees. Citing the costs involved in the automated processes, routine maintenance of the Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) and limited instances where staff needs to be involved in the application process, the FCC is proposing an across-the-board fee of \$50 for new and modified licenses in the personal radio services, which includes Amateur Radio and the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS). For GMRS, this is a reduction of the current \$70 fee. The FCC also proposes these fees for license renewals and requests for vanity call signs, the latter which had its filing fee eliminated several years ago. The FCC is proposing to still not charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes on amateur or GMRS applications. Amateur Radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees under Section 9 of the RAY BAUM'S Act.

Commenting on the changes

Once the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, filing deadlines for comments and reply comments will be established. Those dates will be announced by the FCC in a separate Public Notice. Comments will be accepted in the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System under proceeding 20-270.

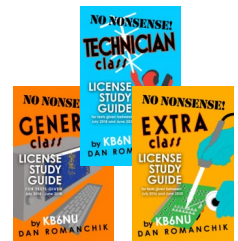
A copy of the NPRM, which includes the proposed fee structures, can be found here.

The RAY BAUM'S Act is part of Public Law 115-141 and can be found in this PDF document starting on page 734 (Division P). The relevant part of the law starts on Page 736, under Section 8.

Link to full article at REC Networks, which also discusses fee changes for commercial broadcast radio can be found at <https://recnet.com/node/3182>

Check out Dan's website for [study guides](#), (Tech guide is free!) ham shack gear recommendations, and a daily blog.

www.kb6nu.com



Info / Links

Fort Kent Repeater - 146.640- 100hz

Eagle Lake Repeater - 146.715- 100hz

Echolink Node - Not working

Facebook - www.facebook.com/sjvara

Website - www.sjvara.com

[Google Drive](#)

Exam Study Guides - www.kb6nu.com/study-guides

Flash Cards and Practice Exams - www.hamstudy.org

Online Meeting App - In Progress - Soon to be Zoom

Affiliates

Aroostook Amateur Radio Association

www.k1fs.org

Maine Amateur Radio Foundation

www.mar.foundation

Amateur Radio Relay League

www.arrl.org

Can Am Crown

www.can-am-crown.net

Membership Payment Links



Snail Mail

SJVARA

Attn: Carl Pelletier

22 Municipal Drive

Fort Kent, ME 04743

The **SJVARA** is a membership of hams with the similar interest of promoting radio knowledge as well as advancing the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community. Monthly meetings are held in Fort Kent but membership spans the entire valley and more.

Check out the club [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for other info or events.

Mailing Address

SJVARA

Attn: Travis Devoe
3191 Aroostook Rd
Eagle Lake. ME 04739



Why Become An

Amateur Radio Operator?

“Ham” radio is a fun, exciting hobby that allows you to talk to the world using different technologies and modes of transmission. It’s also a great way to meet people in your area with the same hobbies or interests, and exchange information and experiences.

Officer Contact List

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------|
| Club Email | sjvarafk@gmail.com | N1SJV |
| President | Travis Devoe coolman1987us@gmail.com | KB1ZPP |
| Vice President | Derrick Ouellette kw1a@arrl.net | KW1A |
| Treasurer | Carl Pelletier cjpmail211@gmail.com | N1EVO |

