NoGa News

North Georgia QRP Club
June 2007 Meeting

The June 2007 meeting was held on June 9 at the Wieuca Road Baptist Church, 2636 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. NoGa meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

By acclaimation**, Jim, W4PDZ,** was elected to conduct the proceedings. The following were present:

K2UFT, Dick
KB4KFT, Bill
KD4SGN, Mike
W4PDZ, Jim
KE6TI, Harold
KX4OM, Ted
W4BLB, Bobby
KI4IXR, Steve
AE4NY, Russ
K8EAB, Wey
KE4UMT, Dave
K4WX, Barry
K4RAB, Rick
N4TRB, Brian
WA4RDR, Jim

For those who couldn't make the meeting (vacations, world travel, to name two known-in-advance reasons), it was a lively one. New topics, new gear, and some new ideas that will no doubt be widely discussed among the membership.

Opening remarks - Jim, W4PDZ

Jim decided that the best way to get started was, well, let's get started...who's working on what? Who went to Dayton? Who went to the ARC hamfest?

First to respond, actually to none of the above, was Russ, AE4NY, who brought in an especially nice door prize, a 1978 ARRL Handbook, along with several other publications.

Jim, W4PDZ - Front and center

Jim, W4PDZ showed off a very nice K1 he is building for another ham who started it, but then decided he couldn't finish the job. This particular one is a 2-bander, 40 and 80, with the automatic tuner. (*Jim is an Elecraft builder, listed on the Elecraft web site - ed.*).

NoGa 80 meter weekly CW net report

Guy, AF4MN, the NoGa Tuesday night CW net control, was not at the meeting, and **Russ, AE4NY** posed a question to the group. There seems to be only two or three people checking into the net...Is there a reason why? **Wey, K8EAB** did check in in response to the "boatanchor challenge" posed a couple of weeks ago by **Jim, W4QO**, using his HW-8. The subject prompted a number of responses and a considerable amount of discussion.

Rick, K4RAB tossed out the idea of trying the net on 10 meters**.** We know, from having heard from several members, some simply can't put up an effective 80 meter antenna for various reasons. Russ mentioned the fact that we used to do a weekly net on 2 meters via two repeaters in Atlanta, but interest apparently died out on that. Ted, KX4OM made a pointed statement about the lack of a challenge in doing a 2 meter FM net, us being QRP aficianados...so, if we try 10 meters, why not try 10 meter SSB QRP, as well? That might get around the "RST, QTH, and Clear" comments regarding content heard at this meeting on the subject. Ted pointed out that this will likely be controversial, and all members reading the NoGa News who have an opinion should comment, and bring up other ideas, as well.

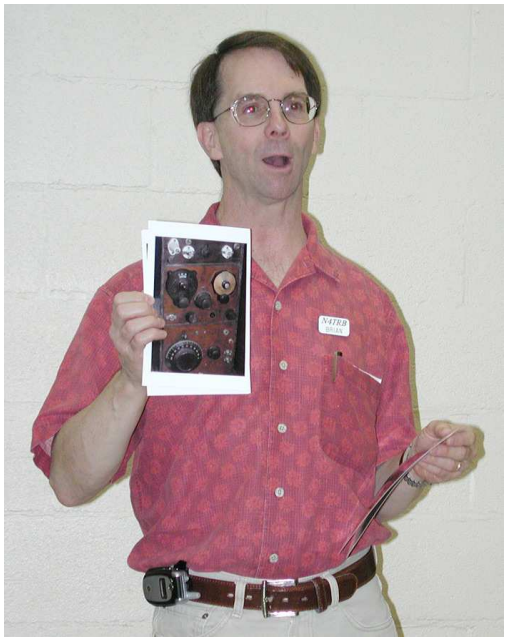
Member Reports

Mike, KD4SGN is playing with a neat gizmo that he brought in for show and tell. It's a low power, 433 mHz 19.2 kbps data link (he believes that it is an unlicensed application). He is building it to operate remote control QRP at a camp site, for example, where the rig could be located on a hilltop, with him being able to use the link from the tent (no long feedline). He mentioned that the company also makes a 900 MHz unit that transmits audio along with the data link. He's working on a design where a 74NC240 rig keys a QRP rig on 20 meters.

Dick, K2UFT mentioned an article in the ARRL news letter where 430 MHz interference with Air Force radar installations is being investigated.

Wey, K8EAB bought a Hex-Beam by Traffie Technology, one of the 5-element ones. Someone mentioned that it looks like an old-fashioned clothsline. (*I checked the website, and it does indeed - ed.*)

Brian, N4TRB went on a company trip to Great Britain. While he was over there, he made a trip to the RSGB Museum in Potter's Bar. He brought back several large-format photos of various museum piece antique rigs, plus operating stations from several



Brian, N4TRB and RSGB Museum Photos

decades. Brian says that if you plan ahead and get reciprocal operating privileges, you can operate some of the equipment. At the museum, Brian heard of G6YL, the first YL in Great Britain. When he got back to the US, he found a QSL card of hers on eBay, and surprisingly, he was the only bidder. He has written the curator of the museum, G3WFM to see if they would like the card. Brian is also a member of the Crystal Set Society, and he submitted Russ's crystal set photo (*see the NoGa News for March 2007 - ed.*) to the Society's magazine. It appeared

in the current edition, which Brian passed around. He did some research and he found that that particular type of set sold at auction in 1998 for $378, at which point Russ said, "I'll take it!"

Steve, KI4IXR attended FDIM, his first time there, and he built the FD-1 transmitter. He says it seems to operate, and it produces a trace on his scope. Plugged into a 50 ohm dummy load, the rig is surprisingly strong in his receiver. Steve camped out for the first time in 30 years, at KOA, and he said there were many hams there. It was kind of muddy from the rain, but the tent had a floor, and fortunately, his XYL insisted on him taking a good air mattress. Three guys in an adjacent tent had some sort of beam set up, and Steve said the bought "everything" at the hamfest, and spent all night trying the rigs out.

Steve, KI4IXR and his FDIM Buildathon Transmitter

Dave, KE4UNT lives in a condo, and the "condo police" made him take down the wire he had put up from his balcony on the 5th floor to a tree. It was only #26 wire, but it was visible from the pool below. He has now attached a Hamstick mount to the railing. Dave got a TunaTin2 kit, and he's working on learning the code.

Russ, AE4NY mentioned that he has a Hustler mobile antenna set for sale with the higher-power (and wider bandwidth) coils for 80 through 10.

Rick, K4RAB brought a very interesting item. It's a K2-sized computer, with Debian Linux and Windows 2000 installed. The

Rick, K4RAB and his ham radio-dedicated minicomputer

computer has a 60GB 2.5" hard drive, several USB ports, and interestingly, a front panel-accessible Compact Flash port that is bootable. Rick got the unit from www.mini-box.com. The target market is car-based computers, so it's powered from 12 volts DC, which of course is ideal for ham use. (*Rick's looks like it has the M300m enclosure - ed.*) Also, the rig has four serial ports! Rick says it cost him

$350 to put the unit together, $115 of which was the motherboard. There is a tiny switching supply inside that provides the other needed voltages to run the machine. He also has an LCD screen that runs on 12 volts that he picked up a Microcenter for $99. The computer and display only draw an amp or two.

Jim, WA4RDR mentioned that Classic Supply, who are located behind the Jeep dealership on Peachtree Industrial Blvd. inside I-285 sells special cases for the car. They are a stainless steel supply company. Their military-style cases will fit a standard PC motherboard.

Ted, KX4OM has been building a 40m receiver for his 12 year-old grandson, Jamie, who is learning Morse code. Jamie and his mom currently live with Ted and XYL Sandy, K4EKF. Ted was surprised to hear Jamie repeating the "boot up" CW sent by the homebrew ELSIE LC meter one night. Jamie is now copying CW over the air from the 30m SKN Special Ted built a couple of years ago, sending the characters back on a homebrew code practice oscillator Ted built for him. So far Jamie can copy and send "elsie", "jamie", CQ, de, name and several other letters and words. He is also is now copying from the K7QO MP3 CW practice files on an old laptop in his bedroom. Jamie is a special education student at Hightower Trail Middle School near Ted's home in East Cobb. We just might see him at a NoGa meeting this summer.

Door Prizes and give-aways

We had the Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate, the 1978 ARRL Handbook that Russ brought in, along with some license manuals of various vintages. Rick brought a couple of 7-AH gel cells that had been removed from UPS supplies.

Harold, KE6TI brought in for everyone to take some SMT IC's that his company had discarded as excess. The two types were 78L05's in SOIC-8 packaging, and MC14015B analog multiplexers, in SOIC-16 packaging. These devices could be used for switching in signal circuits in homebrew rigs. (*See "The Minimalist" SSB transceiver on the kd1jv.org website. Steve Weber uses pin-compatible 74HC4053 devices for switching to use the mixers and IF for both transmit and receive. The 4015's have a higher "On" resistance, however, but are good to experiment with - ed.*)

NoGa June Meeting Group Photo

No Special Feature this month. Your editor has been as busy as a cat in the proverbial room full of rocking chairs, playing the role of both Mom and Dad for the last nine days while Sandy has been in Denver. However, there is one in the works, as soon as a certain hamshack passes inspection by the "victim's" XYL. So, with that, we'll wrap up the June edition of the NoGa News.
73,
Ted KX4OM