



NoGa News

North Georgia QRP Club July 2007 Meeting

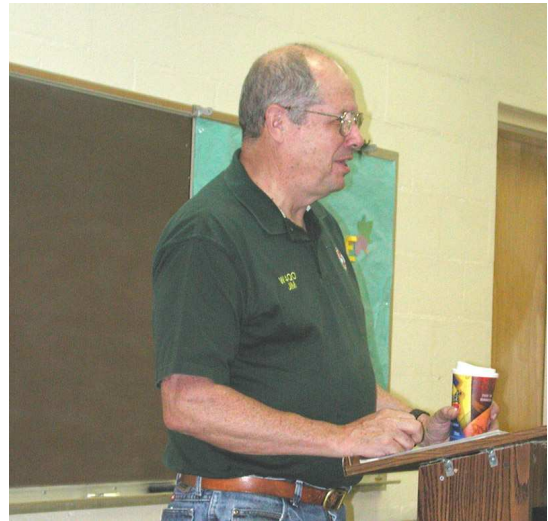
The July 2007 meeting was held on July 14 at the Wieuca Road Baptist Church, 2636 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. NoGa meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Jim Stafford, W4QO chaired the meeting. The following were present:

Norm, WA2ZXV	Russ, AE4NY
Guy, AF4MN	Pickett, AD4S
Mike, KF4UPO	Joe, W4JHR
Mike, KD4SGN	Brian, N4TRB
Ken, W4DU	Frank, WA4EWL
Phil, K4PGC	Dave, KE4UMT
Wey, K8EAB	Bobby, W4BLB
Harold, KE6TI	Arnold, KC4ZUA
Sam, AE4GX	Jim, W4PDZ
Mike, WO4WX	Jim, W4QO
Ted, KX4OM	Steve, KI4IXR
John, WB4GLJ	Rick, K4RAB
Bob, AA4CX	

Opening remarks - Jim, W4QO

We had a great turnout for the July NoGa meeting, 25 in attendance. Jim took the lead, as he had several items to be addressed, along with announcements of upcoming events. For those newer members who don't know Jim well yet, he is a long-time member of NoGa, past president of ARCI and currently is President of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League. Jim is still very involved in Four Days in May, a QRP symposium held in conjunction with the



Jim, W4QO in a familiar position - chairing a meeting

Dayton Hamfest. Jim asked for any announcements.

Norm, WA2ZXV made the first announcement regarding the GARS TechFest in January. While that is still several months off, it gives us plenty of time to prepare for any special presentations, etc. (*such as the one we did last year on Eagle CAD. -ed*) The TechFest is about showing people what we do as QRP-ers/builders; i.e., learning to do something different. **Russ, AE4NY** took the floor to mention our rally at Brookwood Park in October. We had a good time last year, with about 34 to 40 people showing up. There is a photo on the website. **Ken, W4DU** and **ARCI Vice President** called **Mike, KO4WX** to the podium for a special award presentation

and a gift for his exceptional service to ARCI as the Editor of **QRP Quarterly** for the last several years. The magazine has grown from 1,300 to over 2,300 subscribers over the last four years.



Mike, KO4WX and Ken, W4DU

Jim, W4QO asked if anyone operated QRP during Field Day. He said that you can go to the ARCI web site and look at the "milliWatt Field Day" claimed scores. Jim mentioned that "World Radio" magazine has a QRP column written by Richard Fisher, KI6SN. For \$70 a year, we can get a NoGa ad in the magazine, with 10 complimentary copies of the magazine. We could use those for door prizes. Jim moved that we do this, and **Ken, W4DU** seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. Jim also brought up the idea of NoGa club shirts and logos, showing off the nicely done NFARL golf shirt. The company he dealt with on those charges \$20 for the shirts, with club logo and member's name and call, and \$10 for hats. They do not charge a setup fee. Norm tossed out the idea of silkscreened tee shirts.

Jim and Ken initiated discussion of the upcoming Huntsville hamfest (August 18th

and 19th). The consensus is that, since several members of NoGa are also NFARL members, we can try to get adjacent tables, or share a table if need be.

In other business, **Norm, WA2ZXV** said that we need to start providing Ham Radio Outlet with attendance figures. As it turns out, they are asking for those because one person, who is a member of multiple organizations (not a NoGa member), won three of the gift certificates in 4 months. HRO became interested to determine if a club had such low turnout was the reason that one person won frequently, which is not the case at all. They have made the same request for the other ham clubs that they support.

Norm, WA2ZXV Reported on GARS' Field Day. The had an antenna shooting contest, and one of the guys with an air-launcher ("spud gun") won.

Joe, W4JHR gave a report on the status of NoGa kits. We are reordering parts for kits. Parts prices have gone up, and we will have to re-price the kits accordingly. He mentioned that we have sold over 600 NoGaWaTT power/SWR meters. Unfortunately, the individual meters we use are difficult to find.

NoGa Weekly Net

Guy, AF4MN reminded everyone that the net is Tuesday nights on 3577 kiloHertz, and we need more checkins.

Sam, AE4GX mentioned the upcoming Adventure Radio Society's "Flight of the Bumblebees" contest, to be held on Sunday, July 29. The contest is designed to get

folks out in the field. Those who apply for a Bumblebee number count as extra points.

Member Reports - Show and Tell

Dave, KE4UMT is still learning the code. He brought in his all-in-one key/code practice oscillator to demonstrate. He is also about to take his Extra Class exam.

Pickett, AD4S showed off a rotatable 5 GB USB memory unit that will work as a "hard drive" on modern computers. Some can even use these USB drives as boot devices, so that a complete Linux installation could be installed on the unit. Pickett uses it to carry a copy of his logging program with him (ACLog 3.0).

Russ, AE4NY brought in copies of Early Radio History magazines.

Jim, W4QO is hosting a demonstration of RTTY for several young people at his house on Saturday.

Mike, KO4WX brought in a couple of neat things. The first is an LED flashlight consisting of a clip-on that attaches to the business end of a 9-volt battery. Mike also set up his portable vertical antenna, which is essentially the coil and collapsible top whip of a W7MMA antenna, a modified Hustler mobile mast, and the W7MMA tripod base. Mike modified the Hustler mast, which is a tilt-over with a sliding sleeve over the joint, by drilling out the pivot pin and adding a more stable system of bolts and wing nuts to allow the mast to be separated into two sections. He also added a guying ring just below the coil. The longer W7MMA coil extension may



KO4WX portable vertical antenna

also be added to the antenna. The whole thing breaks down into a nice carrying size. *(Mike used this antenna at a NoGa field outing a couple of years back, and he also has a clamp arrangement for securing the base; he used it on top of a caboose. - ed)*

Sam, AE4X now lives in a condo. He is currently getting rid of a lot of stuff from storage rooms. Some of the items he has is 5 years of "QRP Quarterly", as well as a bunch of "The MilliWatter" and SPRAT magazines. Sam brought in two Harvey Wells Bandmasters (1 is a parts unit) that formerly belonged to our friend and former NoGa member Mike Branca, W3IRZ (SK). Pickett volunteered to put the units on eBay and provide the proceeds to the club.

Harold, KE6TI brought in several "clips" of surplus surface-mount Varactor diodes.

These are dual-diodes (common cathode connection) with a capacitance range for each diode of 24.5 pF at 8V and 43.0 at 2V, which is a useful range for homebrew VFOs. *(The SOT-23 package is small, but it can be hand-soldered fairly easily, as there are no closely-adjacent pins. -ed)*

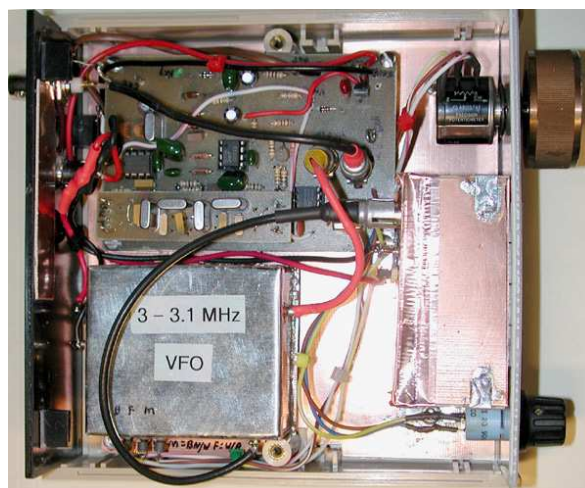
Phil, K4PGC brought in a pair of Yaesu FT-817 transceivers. He had the first one die on him, so he bought another. Subsequently, he took the first one apart and discovered the bad parts. Both now work, and he uses them for Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) operations. *(See <http://hflink.com/automaticlinkeestablishment/> for a description. -ed)*



**NoGa July Meeting Group Photo
Phil shows off his FT-817's**

Ted, KX4OM showed off the 40m receiver that he built for his grandson. It is based on the K1SWL SW-40+, using CAD-produced PC boards for the VFO and the receiver. He decided to go with this rig rather than the homebrew "Popcorn" receiver because he finally got the VFO to work right, and the Popcorn's VFO still has "issues". The 4-pole Cohn-type crystal filter was modified

to provide about 1 kHz bandwidth so Jamie can hear more of the sounds of the band. Ted also modified the AF bandwidth of the audio amp for the same reason. The BFO signal at 4 MHz is positioned on the skirt of the crystal filter for very good single-signal performance. The VFO and DL4YHF-designed counter use feedthrough caps for power, and brass tubing for coaxial cable feed through, with the shields soldered. The rig covers the lower 100 kHz of the 40m band. With the digital readout, a 10-turn pot is used for tuning.

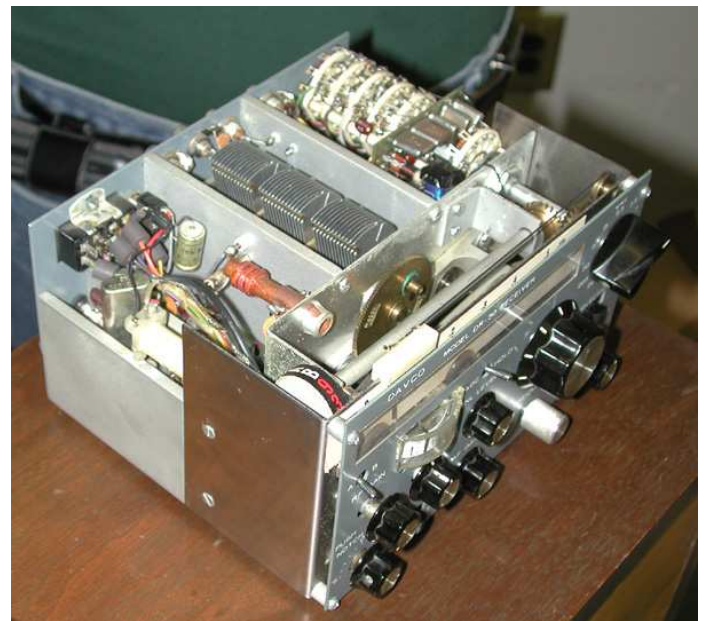


KX4OM-built 40m Superhet

Ted also conducted a briefing on the twelfth-wave coaxial transformer to convert a long run of low-loss RG-6U to 50 ohms, and he showed one made from RG-6U and RG-58U for 10 meters. He homebrewed connectors using F-double female connectors soldered to PC-board mount

(with standoff legs) BNC females.
"Solder-It" for steel was used with a Harbor Freight pencil torch.

Ken, W4DU brought in a receiver belonging to the Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV. The unit is a Davco DR-30, and George used it at Dayton this year, working 10 states and France.



The Davco DR-30 - beautiful design and workmanship. The reduction gearing is amazing.



Next month we hope to have a special feature on a construction technique that may be new to many of us. With that, we'll sign off for this month's NoGa News and hope to see a good crowd at the August meeting.
73,
Ted KX4OM

W4DU and G3RJV's Davco-DR-30

