



NoGa News

North Georgia QRP Club September 2007 Meeting

The September 2007 meeting was held on September 8 at the Wieuca Road Baptist Church, 2636 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. NoGa meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Norm, WA4ZXV chaired the meeting. The following were present:

Norm, WA4ZXV	Mike, KD4SGN
John, WB4GLJ	David, KB4UVV
Bobby, W4BLB	Brian, N4TRB
Guy, AF4MN	Mike, KF4UPO
Wey, K8EAB	Phil, K4PQC
Jack, K5FSE	Mike, KO4WX
Ken, W4DU	John, AB4GK
Ted, KX4OM	Bob, AA4CX
Dave, KU4MT	Dick, K2UFT
Bill, KB4KFT	Russ, AE4NY
Arnold, KC4ZVA	Rick, K4RAB

Opening remarks - Norm, WA4ZXV

Norm began by asking for a volunteer to act as chairman for the October antenna contest/operating event/picnic. Somehow, Phil got "volunteered". We will make up certificates for various "bests", as we did last year - 1st contact, most contacts, longest DX, best looking antenna, and, I think this time, oddest looking antenna, and probably some more. We need to bring a cook top for the grate, and the cost will be \$5 a person. Family and guests are invited.

Norm mentioned the GARS TechFest to be



Norm, Trying his best to control a rowdy bunch of QRPers

held in January at the same location as last year. (Yes, there will be chili). Dave, KB4UVV mentioned that the Alford Memorial Radio Club hamfest will be held in Lawrenceville on November 2nd and 3rd.

Norm asked for each person to introduce themselves by Name, Call, and QTH, as is the NoGa tradition. Normally, that's not a big deal, but this time, the group got a lot of laughs, when Arnold, KC4ZVA gave his QTH as "Jersey, Georgia". There really is a Jersey, Georgia, and it's southwest of Monroe and northwest of Social Circle. Your editor grew up in Winder, and played football against Monroe and Newton County back in the day, and he's never heard of Jersey, GA. Maybe it didn't exist "back in the day". Four guys later, Mike, KF4UPO gave his QTH as "New York, Georgia",

and things got completely out of hand. Nobody in the group said they were from Cairo (*that's "kay-row"*), Athens, Rome or other world-rekknowned cities or states, so we managed to finish the introductions without further incident.

Member Reports

Norm has been playing with antennas. He has erected two 80 and 40 meter crossed dipoles, stretched out to fit his yard. He has been doing NVIS experiments with them. This topic brought a lot of discussion regarding the cross-plane effects and the fact that both are connected to the tuner simultaneously (*I wrote it down, so I must have heard that -ed*). Norm experienced "flutter" on the NoGa 80m net Tuesday night, which most of the group ascribed to multipath signal distortion - direct wave, ground wave, reflections off structures, etc.

Arnold brought up some studies that have been done regarding the MUF (maximum usable frequency) for NVIS as being 4 MHz as a normal limit, but sometimes as high as 8 MHz.



Rick, K4RAB has put up a web site with photos and information on the K-2 form factor mini-PC that he brought to the June meeting.

Ken, W4DU has been working on one of the Rick Campbell, KK7B-designed R2-Pro receivers. He needs some additional parts from Kanga US, which as we go to print, may be problematic, as Kanga was flooded in the Ohio floods this month and has lost most of the small parts inventory.

Jack, K5FSE now has his first HF mobile rig. He had the rig, the wiring and the antenna professionally installed in his van, and all who saw the installation after the meeting agree that it is really remarkable. The rig is a Kenwood 480 200Watt version with D-Star, and Jack says it has "49 million functions." Unfortunately, Jack's home QTH took a lightning strike, and he lost his weather station and computer mother board.



Wey, K8EAB reports no projects underway, except waiting for his 5-band X-Beam.

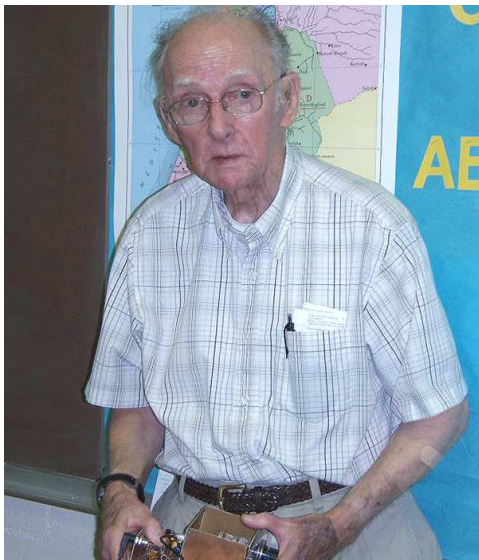
Guy, AF4MN, the NoGa Net Control, had been in Florida in August, and **Norm, Bobby,**

W4BLB, and **Sam, AE4GX** worked the net. During the week of the meeting, Guy moved the net frequency up to 3579, as it sounded like FSK of some type was on 3577 kHz.

Bobby, W4BLB was in St. Augustine, and he had fun putting up antennas on the balcony.

Dick, K2UFT had a lightning strike also, and he's been busy cleaning up from that. His Ft-1000's RS-232 no longer works. There is nothing in the chain except a DSL filter. His LVG tuner also got hit, but he was able to get it repaired for \$37. **Jack** mentioned that there is a PowerPoint presentation on lightning under the Alabama Section of the ARRL web site.

Russ, AE4NY brought in a large collection of QRP kits that he has built over the years.



Russ, AE4NY holding a transmitter that he built during one of the NoGa BBQ and Building Days.



Some of Russ's collection:

Starting at the left, front - a TunaTin-2; a very nice NoGaWaTT; a NoGaNaut in the yellow tin; a kit-homebrew key; the NoGa PiG/keyer; and an SW-40+. Back row - an 80m Vecronics pair in the 5-1/4" disk boxes; the 30m Vec's in the white-faced cases; the AE4NY very custom Guppy-WaTTa-PiG, with audio filter, W7ZOI-designed sidetone, and extra relay capability for receiver muting of almost any type. It is designed to work with any of Russ's transmitter-receiver separates, plus the SW-40+ and his IC-703 (even his HQ-129X). Next to it in the lunch box is a 20 meter Vecronics pair. On top of the disk boxes is a ZM-2 tuner, and the Building Day transmitter is partially visible in the very back.

Russ has been a ham since 1952, and he was a radio operator in the Army Air Corps in WWII.

Dave, KU4MT got his Extra and a new call. He has gotten his code speed up, and he hopes to make a contact at the October NoGa outing.

Bob, AA4CX said that Office Depot will help you make stick-on labels for projects. Bob said that a lot of folks with docks at Lake Lanier have had their dock power cables cut and stolen for the copper.

John, AB4GK said that the Huntsville hamfest was fun. According to Jack, John

almost bought a D-STAR.

Mike, KO4WX is not doing a lot of radio stuff. He bought a 10-foot MFJ stainless steel whip. He's going to Yosemite for a photo workshop.

Phil, K4PQC worked the Spartan Sprint, but no results yet. He says 20 meters was "screwy". He bought a hand-crank radio at RadioShack. The interesting thing is that it has bandsread, bandset and options to use the dynamo to charge cell phones. It puts out 5 Volts at 300 mA for charging batteries. On the subject of antenna tuners, Phil says he does not use one. He has not found one yet that has less than 2.5 dB attenuation. Phil's loop is less than 2:1 SWR on every band except 30 meters.

Brian, N4TRB finished the HiMite that he showed at last month's meeting. Brian did a super job on the paint and labeling.



Brian, N4TRB's HiMite

Dave, KB4UVV is interested in getting back into building. He ordered a NorCal marker generator kit, and he rebuilt his old cordless

Wahl IsoTemp soldering iron.

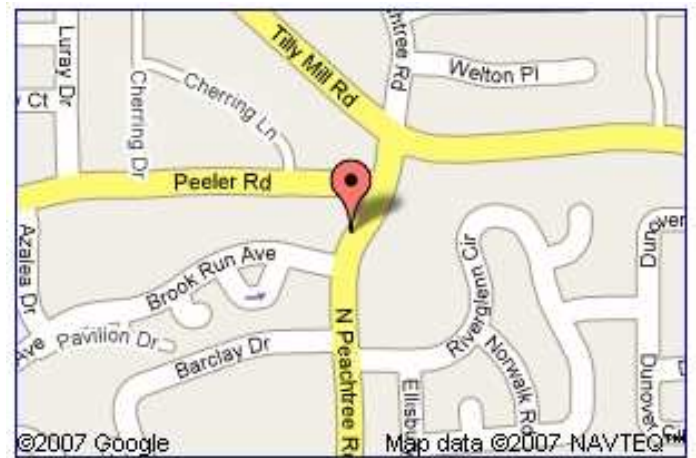
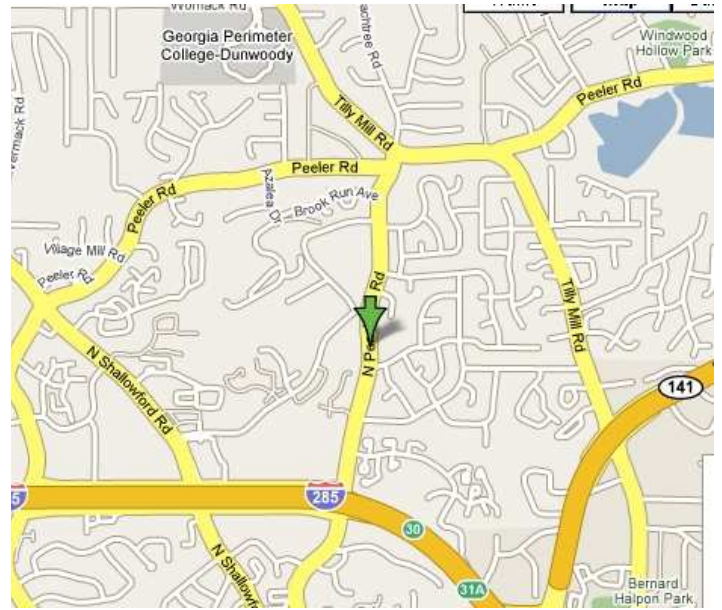
Mike, KD4SGN has been working on his "low-end" Software Defined Radio. His 2-band SoftRock 30/40 comes with 3 crystals, runs CW, PSK31 and has a 60 kHz swing. The board and kit cost \$32, and the connectors and case cost as much. Mike says it has 20 or 30 SMD components. The SoftRock comes in 40/80, 40/30 and 20/17 versions; they are designed such that the coils work two bands.



Mike, KD4SGN's SoftRock SDR

Arnold, KC4ZVA Is working on a program for the Strange Antenna Challenge. He is looking for stories on wierd antenna "urban legends". He's tinkering with NVIS; just setting up and seeing what happens.

John, WB4GLJ has been too busy to do much, but he's been reading a book on Nicolai Tesla. John brought in a stunning Heathkit Model CR-4 crystal set.



Brook Run Park 4770 No. Peachtree Rd.

**October 13 - 10:00 a.m.
\$5 per person for the picnic**

John, WB4GLJ's Heathkit CR-4 Crystal Set

Don't forget, the October Meeting is October 13th, and we will be at Brook Run Park, 4770 No. Peachtree Rd. Bring an antenna and compete in the "shootout" (or "weird-out"). Bring QRP stuff to operate and show off.

That's it for this edition of the NoGa News.
See you next month.

73,
Ted, KX4OM