THE CENTURION

"Voice of the 3905 Century Club"

November 2026 edition

by Yukon John, KL7JR (johnkl7jr@gmail.com)

Greetings 3905ers, boy do I have an exciting newsletter for you, thanks to all who submitted info! This month we learn of: The 50th Anniversary Awards by Rich, AC2MT our Awards Secretary; the war between LINUX and WINDOWS as told by Gene, W8NET; the 2026 Shoot Out results with Clark, KB0EL retaining TOP GUN; John, VA3YKT and I share some of our memorable Yukon experiences; Scott, WD0CDX tells us about himself, and how the club has inspired him; Peter, N2XTT relates some of his remote experiences and Dick, WK1J introduces his new antenna!

Have you ever wondered how Dick, WK1J living in a HOA community, has such a strong signal on the nets? We are about to find out in the Homebrewing section. Dick's idea sparked interest among some ham radio companies to together produce a new concept antenna and accessories for hams, especially our HOA dwellers. Imagine a pair of multi-band verticals converted to a horizontal dipole capable of handling 500 watts! Thanks Dick, for pushing the envelope!

Louis, WW7GBA frequents the 40m late nets and IDs as **"Whiskey Whiskey 7 God Bless America"**. Hearing that makes me proud to be an American living in the best country in the world. Thank you, Louis, for reminding us all of that!

Happy Thanksgiving all!

forwarded by Scott, WD0CDX… Mobile Big Guns Take Their Best Shot in Grand Forks, ND

by Debbie K9DBB, David AI4K, and Scott WD0CDX

The 3905 Century Club's annual Mobile Shootout once again brought friendly competition to the Eyeball, as mobile operators put their installations to the test. Five contestants participated in this year's competition in Grand Forks, North Dakota, bringing five different mobile stations to the firing line. The objective was simple: put each station under controlled conditions and find out which mobile installation could deliver the strongest signal. Simple in concept, perhaps, but as anyone who has spent time building an HF mobile station knows, getting a strong signal from a vehicle is anything but simple.

Vehicle construction, antenna selection and placement, grounding and bonding, installation quality, and numerous other factors can influence the performance of a mobile station. The Shootout provides an opportunity to compare those installations under the same basic conditions.

A Tradition More Than Two Decades Old

The Mobile Shootout started with the 2002 New Jersey Eyeball, when Tom Bates, AA1NZ, proposed the idea to Club President Bill Martin, WM4SG (SK). Tom served as Shootout Master through 2009, followed by Lon Martin, K0WJ, from 2010 through 2015. In 2019, both were named Shootout Masters Emeritus in recognition of their contributions. Over the years, the Shootout

has produced an interesting history of winning combinations. Past Top Guns have used everything from Hustlers and Hamsticks to Tarheels, Scorpions, and other screwdriver antennas, mounted on vehicles ranging from passenger cars and minivans to pickups and SUVs. That history set the stage for another round of friendly competition in Grand Forks.

The 2026 Shootout

The 2026 ND Eyeball Shootout was held on Saturday, September 19th. The 2026 course measured approximately 750 feet from the transmission point to the receiving location, with the terrain rising slightly toward the receiver. Five mobile stations took their turns on the course. Each contestant used a personal transmitter and antenna system. Transmitter output was standardized at 30 watts, with an inline wattmeter used to set the power level. The designated operating frequency was 7.268 MHz. Each contestant made three transmissions of approximately five seconds from the designated testing position; the average of each transmission was used to identify the final standings.

This was the receive end of the shootout course. 750 feet downrange from the Transmit line. Scott, WD0CDX and Dave, AI4K with the RX Loop Antenna, designed by Ben, AE4NT. Tripod and mast provided by Joe, KA0BMX.

More Than a Competition

Determining who earns the coveted Top Gun title is part of the fun. The event also recognizes the second- and third-place finishers as Big Gun and Son of a Gun, while the last-place contestant receives perhaps the most good-natured distinction of all: Pop Gun. But the real purpose of the Shootout extends beyond the standings. The goals are to have fun, learn more about improving mobile signals, and enjoy friendly competition.

Making this year's event possible was a volunteer crew that included Mike, KI0HA; Mark, KI0Y; Debbie, K9DBB; Dave, AI4K; and Scott, WD0CDX. From preparing and operating the course to keeping the competition moving, events such as the Mobile Shootout depend on club members willing to lend a hand. With five mobile stations lined up to see whose installation could put the biggest signal downrange, the 2026 Shootout once again answered that familiar question: Who are the mobile big guns, and who earned the right to be called Top Gun?

2026 Mobile Shootout Participants and Results

Name/Callsign	**Vehicle**	**Antenna**	**dBm**	**Place - Award**
Clark KB0EL	Honda Odyssey	Ham Stick – roof mount	**-54.1**	**1st – TOP GUN**
David WN1F	Ford F250	Hustler Super Coil – truck bed	**-54.6**	2nd – BIG GUN
Clay WA2JIM	VW Alltrack Golf	Tarheel – hitch mount	**-58.2**	3rd – SON OF A GUN
Craig VE3CMB	Toyota Rav 4	Hustler 40m Resonator – Lip mount on hatch back rear door	**-58.5**	4th – Place
Ben AE4NT	Tesla Model Y	Tarheel with Cap – hitch mount	**-64.8**	5th – POP GUN

These are the volunteers that ran the 2026 ND Eyeball Mobile Shootout. Left to right. WD0CDX Scott: KI0HA Michael, KI0Y Mark, AI4K Dave & K9DBB Debbie. Thanks for making this year's mobile shootout a success!

K9DBB

Mobile in ND

Confirming QSO With:		
KL7JR/M WA 3905 40m SSB Late Net		
Day	**Month**	**Year**
20-Sep-2026		
UTC	**MHz**	**Band**
04:12	7.218	40m
RST sent	**RST rcvd**	**Mode**
59	59	SSB

1 VIP pt - DX Bureau Mgr

Thanks for the QSL!

Yukon John, thanks for the WA contact! I was combo with AI4K

3905 Progessive Awards
40m SSB 100pt #3061
40m SSB 500pt #252
40m SSB 1000pt #631
40m SSB 2000pt #329

Wild Deuces:
Bakers Dozen SSB COA #3702

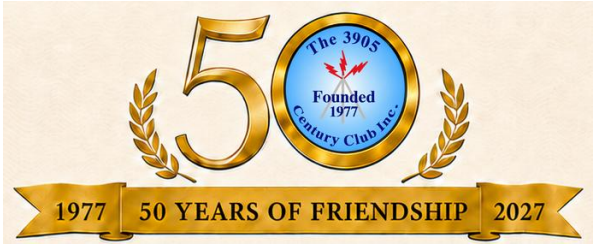
LoTW, QRZ, eQSL
Debbie Yarbrough

Grid: EM55cj
92 Elizabeth Dr

County: Tipton
Atoka, Tennessee

ITU:8
38004

CQ:4
USA



The 50th Anniversary Awards Are Coming

By Rich Walbert, AC2MT, Awards Secretary,
and the Awards Committee

The 3905 Century Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary on February 7, 2027, and five new awards will give members fresh reasons to get on the air! Approved by the Board of Directors, the 50th Anniversary Awards celebrate the friendships and on-air activity that have brought our club together since 1977. **The program is meant to offer something for everyone, from very easy goals to challenging accomplishments.** You can enjoy earning your first certificate or take on the longer pursuit of all five.

Qualifying contacts begin at **00:00 UTC January 1, 2027**. Applicants must hold a club 100-Point Certificate on any band or mode, and all qualifying contacts must be confirmed QSOs on eligible club awards nets. Now is the time to learn the program and plan your approach.

Five requirements and five award levels

You may complete the five qualifying requirements in any order. Your first completed requirement, once approved by your Area Awards Manager, earns the Basic Award. Each additional completed and approved requirement earns the next level: One Oak Leaf Cluster, Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Three Oak Leaf Clusters, and finally Four Oak Leaf Clusters and Crossed Swords. Each requirement and each award may be credited only once.

A separate application is provided for each qualifying requirement:

- **General Contacts:** Fifty unique call-sign/band/mode combinations on eligible club nets.

- **CW, PSK, or RTTY Contacts:** Fifty unique combinations on the club's CW, PSK, or RTTY nets.
- **Club Officers, VIPs, Master's Degree Award Holders, or Old-Timers:** Fifty unique combinations with stations meeting one or more of these categories.
- **Twelve Consecutive Months:** Fifty unique combinations each month for twelve consecutive months, totaling 600.
- **Founder's Day:** Five qualifying contacts on club nets held on February 7, 2027, local time.

See Page 44 for Part 2 AWARDS

MEMBER PROFILE

from Kirk, AA1NA President 3905 Century Club…
Here is a list of the Presidential awards from Dean for 2026:

Award or recognition	
20m SSB net-control recognition	Cary Altman, **KB0HV**
40m SSB net-control recognition	Mark Eberle, **KI0Y**
40m SSB Late net-control recognition	Ken Simmons, **K9TPT**
75m SSB Early net-control recognition	Denny Kelbaugh, **KB3ONN**

75m SSB Late and 160m SSB net-control recognition	Clark Ashworth, **KB0EL**
Appreciation for rapid Awards System work	Rich Walbert, **AC2MT**; Matt Taylor, **K2YS**; Johnny Allen, **KI4WCQ**; Tim Myers, **WA8MD**
Appreciation for service as 4th Area Director	Gary Slagle, **K9GWS**
Appreciation for service as Chairman of the Board	Clay Mayrose, **WA6LBU**
Appreciation for hosting the Eyeball	Mac McCracken, **W6PNY**—certificate signed by participants
Mobile of the Year	Craig McLoughlin, **VE3CMB**
Top Netter—most nets	Jeff McCulloch, **K4JEL**
Appreciation for past service	Ben Goldfarb, **AE4NT**
W1BML Ambassador Award	Kirk Frazier, **AA1NA**

K7MFG Memorial NCS of the Year Award — Mark Eberle, **KI0Y**

KD3FM Service Award — Joe St. Columbia, **N5MIG**

Hi Everyone!

It is an honor to begin serving as President of the 3905 Century Club. On Oct 1, 2026, I stepped from the Vice President's role into the presidency following Dean Davis's resignation. I look forward to working with you as we enjoy our club today and prepare for a very special anniversary year.

First, please join me in thanking Dean, KL7OR, for the time and energy he has devoted to our club as President and in the many other roles he has held. His leadership, together with the work of our volunteers, has helped move the club forward, including improvements to our nets, our website and awards system. We appreciate those accomplishments and the countless hours behind them. I am glad that Dean will remain involved as our immediate past president.

For those I have not yet met, I am **Kirk Frazier, AA1NA**, from Hattiesburg, MS. Away from the radio, I am a veterinarian at a small animal practice. I was a general practitioner for 25 plus years doing both small and large animals. The past twelve years my work has been only with small

animals, giving me time to have a great hobby like Amateur radio. I am blessed to practice with my son and daughter-in-law as well as two other fine veterinarians. On the air, you may hear me from home or checking in while traveling. Like many of you, I enjoy the challenge of making a great contact, but the friendships that grow along the way are what keep me coming back.

Serving as Vice President and working with our committees has given me a close look at how much this club depends on people willing to help. Every net takes someone's time and preparation, and every award represents work beyond the contacts in our logs. To everyone who gives a little extra to keep the club running, thank you. Your efforts make a difference to members every day.

My priorities are the things that bring us together: enjoyable nets, challenging awards, and friendly fellowship. I want a new station to feel welcome asking questions and a longtime member to keep finding reasons to get on the air. Supporting our net controllers and other volunteers, listening to members, and keeping everyone informed will be important parts of that work.

Our recent Eyeball in Grand Forks was a welcome reminder of the friendships behind the call signs. Spending time together in person adds something special to the voices we hear on the nets. My thanks to everyone who helped make that gathering possible. We also have an exciting year ahead. On February 7, 2027, the 3905 Century Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Our anniversary awards will give us fresh reasons to make contacts and take part throughout the year and beyond. I hope you will join the fun and invite another amateur to discover what our club has to offer.

Please share your ideas with me and with your Area Director. If you see something we can improve, let us know; if you have some time or a skill to offer, we will welcome your help. Thank you for your support as this new responsibility begins. I look forward to hearing you on the nets!

Best 73 from MS!

Kirk, AA1NA

from Marty, AG5T… Martin "Marty" was first licensed as a ham in 1989. He holds Master # 82 in the Century Club and thoroughly enjoys inviting DX stations to the nets. Several have checked in to date. Marty served as Net control station on many 3905 nets including digital nets and received an Ambassador Award for his efforts. Other hobbies of Marty are music, astronomy and genealogy. He is one of the famous amigos who bring WE4FUN to the nets.

from Jeff, K4JEL 4th Area Assistant Director…Jeff "Coach" was first licensed in 2019 and became a 3905 CCN member in 2021. Since then, Jeff has been on most of the club's SSB nets. This helped him attain his Master's Degree award #83 in 2025. Jeff also enjoys traveling to provide mobile and portable contacts on the nets. He's served as Late Net Coordinator and NCS'd a ton of nets. He also enjoys POTA and is Asst. Emergency Coordinator for ARES/AUXCOMM in New Hanover Co., NC. He is also one of the famous amigos who bring WE4FUN to the nets.

from Scott, WD0CDX…I was born in Norfolk, Nebraska - the hometown of Johnny Carson - a small community in the northeast corner of the state. Some of my best memories from those early years involve sitting in my grandfather's radio shack, fascinated by the hiss and crackle of signals arriving from across the country and around the world. Those formative experiences planted a seed that would eventually grow into a lifelong passion for Amateur Radio. I first met my future wife, Julie, in first grade.

QSL card of Clarence Davis, W0GHM. Scott's grandfather and elmer (SK 1984)

We were childhood friends throughout grade school, then drifted apart in high school and eventually went our separate ways. Life, as it has a way of doing, brought us back together in 2010, and we married in 2013. Julie has two grown daughters; I have a grown son and daughter from previous marriages. Together, we've been richly blessed with nine grandchildren who ensure that life is never short on noise - or joy.

My introduction to Amateur Radio came from my grandfather and Elmer, Clarence Davis - **W0GHM** (SK 1984). As a young boy, I would perch beside him in his shack, watching and listening as he worked old friends and made new ones across the bands. Clarence owned a local radio and television repair shop at a time when that was still a thriving trade, and he often brought home broken sets for me to disassemble. I became pretty handy with a soldering iron and developed a lifelong appreciation for "saving parts for future projects" — a philosophy that still guides my approach to the hobby today.

I earned my Novice license in 1977 at age 14, upgraded to General in 1978, and I still have the QSL card from my very first QSO — WB0YZV on October 29, 1977, on 7.135 MHz. In 1984, my grandfather traveled to Phoenix to visit family and took his YAESU FT-77 along for the trip. One evening, we had a QSO — him from that portable setup, me from home in Nebraska. It turned out to be the last time we ever spoke on the air. He was hospitalized the very next day and passed away shortly after. That FT-77 was left to me, and it is the very same radio many of you have heard on the 3905 Century Club nets. Shortly after my grandfather's passing, career demands took over and I hung up the mic for nearly forty years — though I always kept my license current. My professional life began in 1982 when I was hired by Ross Perot's company, Electronic Data Systems (EDS), right out of high school. That role launched me

into the world of Information Technology and set the stage for a long series of moves and travel assignments.

Over the years I lived in Texas (Plano and Houston), Massachusetts (Foxboro and North Attleborough), Connecticut (Shelton), Virginia (Reston), Pennsylvania (Macungie/Allentown), and eventually made my way back home to Lincoln, Nebraska. With that kind of lifestyle, setting up a permanent station never made much practical sense. My career evolved from application development into enterprise and solution architecture. In the final stretch before retirement — currently planned for 2028 — I shifted into cybersecurity, serving as Director of Vulnerability Management and later as Director of MSB (Make "Stuff" Better) Services, focusing on business process efficiency and automation. When I'm not in the shack, Julie and I love to travel — something made considerably easier now that she has retired from her career as a high school guidance counselor. We've built a wonderful collection of memories together: an Alaskan cruise, scenic driving trips to Eureka Springs (AR), Fredericksburg (TX), Myrtle Beach, Royal Gorge (CO), the Black Hills (SD), and Theodore Roosevelt National Park (ND).

A particular favorite was a music-themed road trip with stays in Nashville, New Orleans, and Austin — three cities that have no shortage of great sound. I should note that all of these adventures took place before I fully re-engaged with the hobby. Now I have a new mission: convincing Julie, my HOA (Honey Opposes Antennas), that a mobile antenna on the vehicle before our next road trip is an entirely reasonable idea… wish me luck! In early 2025, I attended the Lincoln Hamfest/ Nebraska State ARRL Convention with the intention of gently reconnecting with the hobby. My idea of "easing back in" involved purchasing a low-cost 53-foot end-fed long wire and tossing it across the roof. Later that fall, I added an LDG tuner and powered up the old FT-77 — only to discover it wouldn't transmit. It spent several months awaiting repair, but once it was back on the air in early 2026, I quickly made four contacts (mostly POTA activations) by the end of February.

Scott and Julie on their Alaska Cruise

Everything changed on March 3, 2026, when I literally stumbled onto the "**QSO Tsunami**" known as the 3905 Century Club 40m Early Net. I was hilariously underprepared — logging contacts on scrap paper, completely unfamiliar with NetLogger, QRZ, eQSL, LoTW, QuickQSL, or even 3905CCN.org. Despite that, the welcome I received was immediate and genuine, and everyone showed tremendous patience with the newcomer. I told Julie that being new on the net felt a lot like being "the pretty girl who just transferred to a new high school — every boy rushing over to talk to her." (ye ed- Scott, I doubt you'll find a friendlier bunch than the 3905 group!)

WD0CDX shack- Icom IC-7300 (L), grandfather's Yaesu FT-77 (R) and a Heil Pro Set 7.

It didn't take long before I was fully hooked on both the hobby and the Century Club. I upgraded from the venerable FT-77 to an ICOM IC-7300 and hung a 130-foot 80-10 EFHW antenna from the house through a couple of trees. For the late nets, I picked up a Heil Pro 7 headset, which has become indispensable. The shack also proudly displays a custom-carved "WD0CDX" callsign plaque — a fitting touch from someone who enjoys working with his hands. SSB remains my preferred mode of operation. Looking ahead, I'm genuinely interested in revisiting CW and exploring some of the more modern digital modes.

Scott’s hand-built wet bar, wine racks and overhead cabinet constructed from 2x6 lumber without plans.

Away from the radio, I enjoy woodworking — and I mean that in the most improvisational sense possible. My signature project is a full wet bar, complete with wine racks and an overhead cabinet, built one winter to use up some leftover 2×6 lumber. There were no plans, no blueprints, and honestly not much of a clear vision when I started. I was "winging it," and I'm proud of how it turned out. I've also built simple furniture pieces and practical items — cutting boards, utility items — as gifts for our kids. That same spirit of improvisation — picking up the pieces of something old, working with what you have, and building something meaningful — feels very much at home in Amateur Radio as well. I don't expect my new fascination with Amateur Radio and the pursuit of 3905 Century Club awards to replace my love of travel, woodworking, or the other things that enrich my life — but I do see it becoming a central and productive activity when I fully retire in 2028.

The friendships I've already made on the nets, and the sheer joy of making contact with someone across the country or around the world, have reminded me of everything I loved about this hobby as a fourteen-year-old kid sitting in my grandfather's shack. To everyone in the 3905 Century Club who welcomed me back with open arms and remarkable patience — thank you. I look forward to many more QSOs and hopefully a few more awards along the way.

from Virgil, W9WWG…

Yukon, very nicely done on the Centurion. It indeed was a great Eyeball. It was my first and couldn't have experienced a greater time meeting all the folks. Thanks again, Virgil, W9WWG

from Mike, KU1V…
Absolutely, great job Yukon. 73, KU1V

from Deb K9DBB and Dave AI4K…
Great Job on the newsletter Yukon! D & D

from Michael "Sammy" KB1XP…
I've been a licensed Amateur Radio Operator since 1982, original callsign KA1MWK. After taking nearly 25 years off from the hobby, I'm slowly working my way back into Ham Radio. I enjoy making both Stateside and DX contacts and I've recently achieved my Worked All States award (finally!). I hope to hear you around the bands soon! Sammy is also one of the 4 famous Amigos bringing WE4FUN to the nets!

[ye ed- Last year Sammy invited me to run his powerful CT station remotely on 40 and 75m. I had a ball to say the least. It was interesting to experience radio conditions from the opposite side of the US. We are working on 160m remote for this year since that would be impossible from my RV Park! Thanks again Sammy. Much appreciated. Give KL7JR/p CT a call!]

from Peter, N2XTT 2nd Area Director…

Remote Operating Debut- KL7TAL in ALASKA

From my laptop in my basement, I have brought several states and clubs to the 3905 nets. Some clubs charge a fee to join their club, some do not. If I publish the free ones those will be unindated with requests. I do not need owners mad at me. Let them find out how it is done. The ones I have not gotten to use, made some excuses about switching, only for private groups, etc.

One wants me to get up for 15 days check in the Rooster net at 5:00 am. I would then be a member and I could operate the remote in Delaware. Most clubs charge from $20 to $30 per year. Free ones come and go (you can contact Peter for more detailed info).

Station upgrade, tower and TH7 beam install at KL7TAL

Alaska was broadcasted from the American Legion Post 28 in Anchorage, station **KL7TAL**. W6PNY had the best signal when he worked me as N2XTT/p AK! Check them out!
https://www.kl7tal.org/

I have yet to use Montana which I plan on using at the Eyeball as well. I am in the American Legion as a "Sons of the American Legion since 1941" or SAL member. My father was in the 1st World War as a corporal assigned to the 11th Field Artillery. They are noted as the last unit to fire a shot of the 1st World War. On the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour in 1918.

from John, VA3YKT Assistant DX Area Director…

Yukon, I'll be Back (ye ed- sounds familiar!)

The enigma of living in the Yukon is that it is a vast cold land, but it will leave you with warm memories that last a lifetime. I first moved there in the early 1950's when my father was posted to Whitehorse by the Royal Canadian Air Force. At that time the Whitehorse International Airport was a military installation carrying mostly military personnel servicing the Distant Early Warning line of radar stations. Most of my friends were the children of military organizations and the adults were always happy to share their time and stories with us. Many of the civilian adults had migrated to the north for reasons of their own and shared stories of trials and adventures that held us captivated.

One of the most interesting gentlemen was a man named John Moran, who had been a miner that had once worked in the huge dredges moiling for gold. He never described it as a happy experience as there was little pay, long hours, and long periods of loneliness.

Yukon Gold Dredge at Eureka Creek

He took a job as a postal worker on the Army Base in Whitehorse that serviced many of the smaller towns. As a friend of the family, he used to take my brother and I to Faro and Caribou Crossing delivering mail. Travel was on a one-lane gravel road, as was much of the Alaska highway at that time. Our favorite stop was the small First Nations community of Teslin. Here we filled the gas tank, and had a breakfast of hot coffee and a plate of flapjacks stacked eight high. I never made it through that mound of food. These travels were life lessons, that could never have been learned in the classroom.

I remember gazing on open fields watching herds of caribou travelling to their feeding ground. They were followed by coyote packs looking for their next easy meal. Bears were a constant, as they are now, and we knew better than to get out of the car when they were around. We quickly learned that moose in rutting season were not to be trifled with. Wild nature was not something to be toyed with and could be unforgiving if not respected.

Watson Lake Airport founded and built by the American Air Force

We came to the Yukon as ***Cheechakos*** (tenderfoots) and left as **Sourdoughs** (seasoned veterans) after a five-year posting, but for my brother and I the Yukon never left us, and we both knew we would be returning at some point in our lives. For me that opportunity came in 2011 when I accepted a position to teach an elementary program at the Johnson Elementary School in Watson Lake. Watson Lake is a small community known for an airport constructed by the US Army. It is made up of several Indigenous communities and of people from all over the world. There are English, French, Germans, and Australians as well as many from the United States who find Yukon living amenable to their adventurous natures.

Its most famous landmark is called the Signpost Forest. The story goes that one of the military personnel working on completing the Alaska Highway dug a hole in the ground, planted a post, and stuck two signs on it. One sign told how many miles to Whitehorse and the other the number of miles to the US border.

[ye ed: The Signpost Forest straddles the Alaska Highway in downtown Watson Lake. There are over 70,000 license plates and other signs on display. You can't miss it. In summer it is often packed with tourists!]

Signpost Forest in Watson Lake

Over the ensuing years that tradition continued to grow and travelers still stop and nail plates and handwritten notes when they pass through. Signs have been left at historic mile 635 since the 1940's and there are now over 70,000 signs posted in the forest. It has become a major tourist attraction for people going north or heading south.

I taught in the Yukon for seven years and one of the major perks for me happened at the end of the school term. At that point, my graduating class and I boarded buses and headed to all the major towns in the Yukon. It was a week-long event that had us visit sites such as Dawson City, Faro, Takini, Atlin, Whitehorse, Teslin, Carcross, Bennett Lake, and Tagish, before heading back to Watson Lake. We panned for gold and were allowed to keep it at Eureka Creek and fly fished in the great Stikine River. It was a wonderful adventure for all. Returning to Watson meant a reunion with parents, swimming, and fishing. The sad part is you cannot eat the fish you catch in Watson Lake. The lake has been contaminated in areas with munitions dumped by the Army and fuel that is still contained in 45-gallon drums now slowly leaking into the water. There are even the remnants of an abandoned plane that crashed into the lake, and even today children still stand on its semi-submerged wings. A clearer view of the plane can be seen by flying over it. Those years in the Yukon were wonderful. I have fond memories of taking my classes on nature walks around the Wye Lake. Their exuberance always made me smile.

John, VA3YKT at Lucky Lake

On weekends I would grab a metal detector and head to Lucky Lake. The small lake was a scene of notoriety. It was a favorite go-to area for US troops working on the highway to congregate on free evenings and weekends. The ladies provided conversation and companionship after an exhausting week. A lot of the troops left jacket buttons and a goodly amount of coinage for me to find. Despite its rich history, the lake itself is great for fishing Brown Trout.
After a day of metal detecting, it was always a pleasant drive to the Liard Hot Springs, where I could soak away the day's digging by immersing myself in water heated by volcanic activity. Life could not have been better. I lived and taught in the Yukon for seven years and retired at age 72. I consider that time as the best of my teaching career. In truth I learned more than I taught.

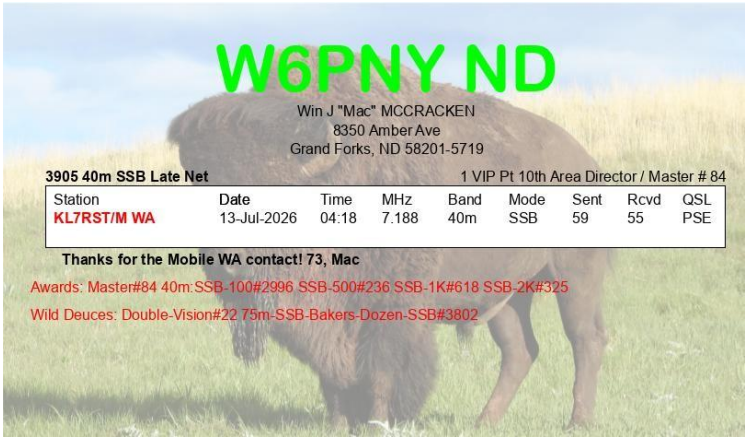
There are hardships that nobody reckons;
There are valleys unpeopled and still;
There's a land—oh, it beckons and beckons,
And I want to go back—and I will.

(Robert Service, "Under the Spell of the Yukon")

from Garrett KE5MUI…I became a Ham in 2007 because I always enjoyed seeing my father talking on the radios. My father (KE5J) became a Ham in 1966 and Ham Radio was always a wonderful hobby for him he loved it. My father passed in 2023. I always think of him when I talk on the radio. I graduated from Kingston High School in 2013 and joined the Navy and served 5 years (2013-2018). I was Honorably Discharged as a Master At Arms First Class. I served a two-year tour with the Coastal Riverine Force Group 2 Detachment Bahrain (CTF 56.11) from 2014-2016. I then served a two-year tour (2016-2018) on the USS Abraham Lincoln CVN-72 in Newport News, Virginia and Norfolk, Virginia.

I joined the Oklahoma Highway Patrol in 2020 and graduated from the 66th Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy. My father graduated from the 39th Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy in 1982 and retired in 2004. My grandfather graduated from the 9th Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy in 1946 and retired in 1969. I'm a 3rd generation Oklahoma Highway Patrolman.

I currently am using a Yaesu FT-890 and Kenwood TS-590S with an Alpha Delta DX-LB Plus Inverted V Antenna, Hustler 6BTV Antenna, and a Comet CHA-250HD Antenna. I also have a portable station, I use a ICOM 706MK2G with a Chelegance MC-750. In addition to Ham Radio, I also love fishing, camping and putting together small models of ships and submarines. Ham Radio is a wonderful hobby as there is a lot to learn and enjoy from it. 73.



from Yukon John KL7JR…

Yukon, My Utopia!

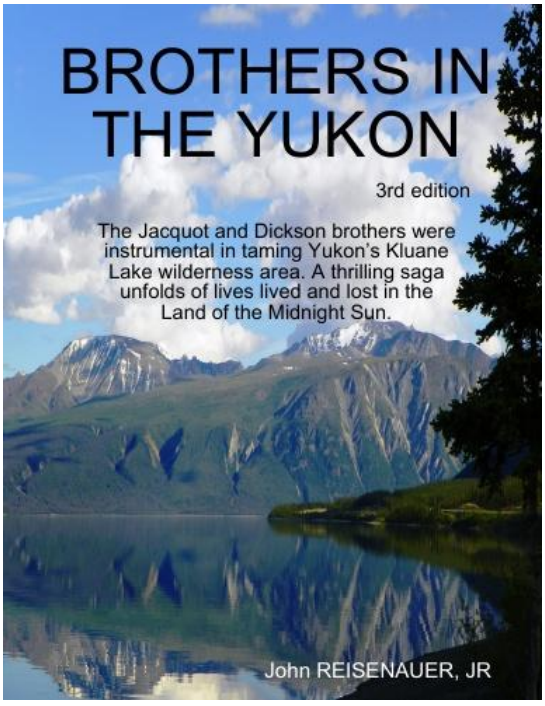
To me, the most beautiful lake I've ever seen is Yukon's Kluane Lake (pronounced clue ahh knee). I've fished, camped and operated HF from there many times over the years. I remember my first trip to Whitehorse in 1989 like it was yesterday. I had the privilege to operate from club **VY1DX** high on a hill overlooking Whitehorse. Riverdale was the name of the area. After I relocated to Anchorage in 1990, I had contest fever. I'd take the 450 mile (one way) scenic drive to Beaver Creek, Yukon for winter contesting several times. My Alaska ham buddies dubbed me "Yukon John". It was always 40 below too! If you didn't keep your vehicle running all day and night, the repair shop across the Alaska Highway would help you and you'd pay dearly! Oh, the Yukon River is emerald green and awesome to canoe on and fish. The river is grey by the time it enters Alaska due to the silt from all the glaciers that empty in to it.

There's gold, and it's haunting and haunting;
It's luring me on as of old;
Yet it isn't the gold that I'm wanting
So much as just finding the gold.
It's the great, big, broad land 'way up yonder,
It's the forests where silence has lease;
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,
It's the stillness that fills me with peace.

(Robert Service, "Under the Spell of the Yukon")

The Yukon is steeped with history from the nomad prehistoric people era to the famous Gold Rush and on through today. It is my utopia. Pictured is a derelict cabin still standing over 120 years on the south end of Yukon's Kluane Lake. I took this picture around 2010. The small community of Silver City (formerly Kluane), founded in the 1890's was composed of several cabins that were once a lumber mill, post office (closed in 1921), an RCMP post, a mink farm in 2015 and the construction base for the US Army building the Alaska Highway in 1941.

A nearby B&B is operated by some of the descendants of the Jacquot brothers of whom I wrote my first book, *Brothers in the Yukon.*



I researched the French brothers for 15 years on and off, and thoroughly enjoyed learning about them. The more I discovered about them, the more I had to know! I've been told by many of that family that I was an expert on their family history. The large island in Kluane Lake near Destruction Bay is named for the brothers. The manuscript is my best literary effort to date.

(the book is available at Yukon Archives in Whitehorse and many libraries throughout the Yukon and free of charge from ye ed in pdf form)

Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop

Spencer Glacier is Alaska's newest tourist destination. The Alaska Rail Road Whistle Stop started around 2009. Claire and I visited the glacier twice when we lived in Anchorage for the second time in 2010. It is awesome to get close to the ancient ice! Developed in partnership with the Chugach National Forest Service, the Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop is a remote wilderness area that is only accessible by train. It's also home to one of the most spectacular and visible glaciers along the Railbelt:

Spencer Glacier, a massive wall of ice cascading down the mountains to Spencer Lake. Spencer Glacier rises 3,500 feet in a stunning, natural ramp from a lake of royal-blue icebergs in the Chugach National Forest just 60 miles south of Anchorage. This ice-age setting is rugged and primeval—mile-high peaks, sheer headwalls towering over gravel outwash plains, astonishing waterfalls and braided rivers.

Ice cave on Spencer Glacier

The station area at the Whistle Stop includes a roofed shelter, restrooms, and the trailhead for a 1.3-mile well-maintained path to the Spencer Glacier overlook on the edge of Spencer Lake.

Disembarking the train, Whistle Stop passengers are greeted by a National Forest Service Ranger and offered a complimentary interpretive nature walk along the trail to the overlook. Alternatively, passengers are free to explore on their own, or take advantage of a variety of guided excursions offered at Spencer Glacier before catching the train back to civilization.

Overnighting is also an option: the Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop offers campsites as well a public use cabin (pics by KL7JR 2009).

from Gene, W8NET 8th Area Director…

A Real Case for Linux *NOW*

This is a gift of freedom. [*As my friend Kyle, W7KFR, reminds me "Beware of geeks bearing gifts." Sound advice – YMMV.*] Microsoft Windows-based PC's have the market. It's comfortable. You know it well. And Windows is bloated, inefficient, archaic, slow and unreliable. The Microsoft Windows Update is an abomination- especially for ham radio ops (ie-sound card and other drivers)

Windows 11 now is the vanguard of what it coming, the canary in the coal mine: Less control, less connectivity, more licensing per month, more reliance on OneDrive, less secure, etc. AND, Windows 12, which Microsoft shifted toward modular AI cloud integration under the 'Hudson Valley' Germanium platform in late 2024, will strangle you much more (update: Microsoft has delayed any new major changes indefinitely). Now, we have better options: Linux. Yes, I know – the prevailing (and incorrect) thought is "Linux is not yet ready for prime-time". ***NOW, THIS IS COMPLETELY FALSE!*** (this has been the case for a few years really). As an IT/networking guy since 1979, I have seen the evolution. It's stunning. OK, DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE...

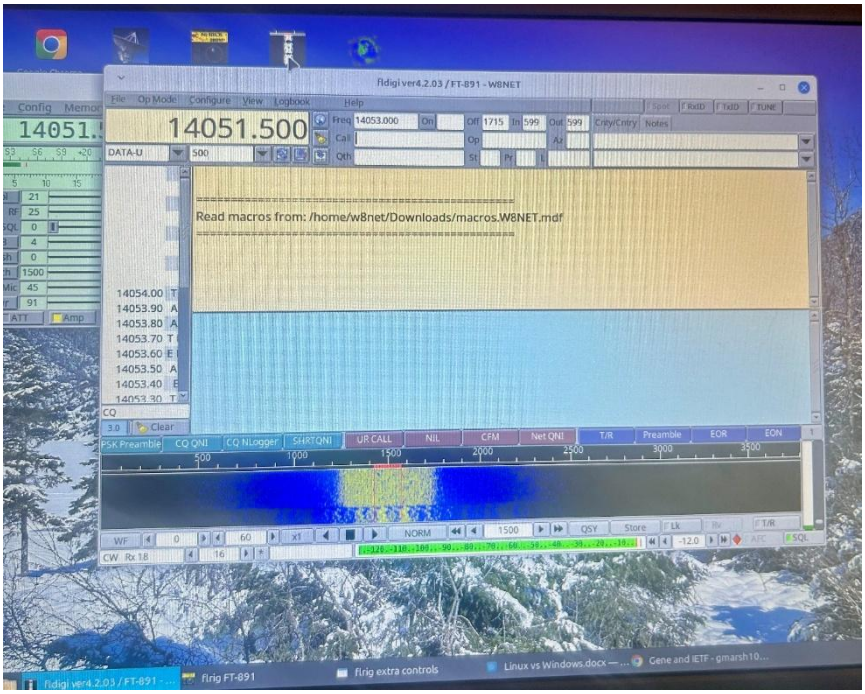
A Brief, and I Mean BRIEF, History of PC Operating Systems

I will not bore you with history of the other 1980's PC operating systems (like MS-DOS, DR-DOS, PC-DOS, CP/M, Concurrent CP/M, NeXT OS, Amiga OS, etc). Just be aware that we had 2 viable options after the pre-GUI (Graphical User Interface) explosion: Microsoft Windows and Apple Lisa/Macintosh. Microsoft did an incredible job about marketing to the masses. It was based on the CPM/DOS model, and it was very stable, if not a

good performer. But, it had useful real-world software. Also, Windows worked on cheaper hardware – and the manufacturers were booming.

Apple Macintosh (previously "Lisa") was a cool, faster computer setup. They used the Motorola 68000 chipset. REALLY FAST for that time. However, minimal real-world applications. All Mac's had a special integrated chip, the "IWM". Their operating system was keyed to that chip. Only Apple hardware would work. So, what was the IWM? – The Integrated Woz Machine. At first, it was designed by Steve Wozniak in 1978 for the Apple II computer FLOPPY DISK DRIVE CONTROLLER! Then, Apple did the same for all Apple computers – for a while.

Both Microsoft and Apple had completely propriety KERNELS. What is a kernel? A kernel is the core program at the center of a computer's operating system. For many years, Microsoft and Apple were building their own. Microsoft still does, and that is a problem. Microsoft tried to build a better kernel (with architectural concepts derived from Digital Equipment Corporation's VMS, brought over by Dave Cutler in 1988), alongside design elements from Digital Research and Wang Labs technology, others), but they still had a huge market for their old software. So, they built in hooks to make the new operating system (Windows NT – "New Technology" - released in 1993) work with old software. And they built new software on the same new, hodge-podge kernel. AND Windows Desktop (XP, 8, Vista, 10, 11) and their server software (2000, 2003, 2010, etc) were/are based on the same NT-line kernel. Microsoft OS products still have pieces of old code from 1996 originating from the Windows NT 4.0 architecture rewrite. Their kernel is bloated and very inefficient. Apple had the same issues. They were being dragged down



with a handicapped kernel – and the IWM – and the worst: a culture of "control".

Along Comes BSD and Linux

Shift to Cal-Berkeley. The Unix-based operating system shifted the landscape dramatically between 1977 and 1992. This period saw the Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD) transition from a research add-on to an independent operating system.

1977–1984: The Birth of BSD

- 1977**:** UC Berkeley grad student Bill Joy releases the first Berkeley Software Distribution (1BSD) as an add-on for AT&T's Unix Sixth Edition on a DEC PDP-11.
- 1978**:** 2BSD introduces the text editors *ex* and *vi*, which become Unix standards.
- 1980: 3BSD supports virtual memory, prompting DARPA to fund Berkeley for network development.
- 1983: 4.2BSD implements the TCP/IP stack, establishing the foundational architecture of the modern internet.

1985–1991: The Quest for Unencumbered Code

- Corporate Conflict**:** AT&T increases licensing fees for proprietary Unix, restricting academic sharing.
- 1989**:** Berkeley releases Networking Release 1 (Net/1), isolating their network code from AT&T ownership.
- 1991**:** Berkeley scrubs almost all AT&T code to release Net/2, a nearly complete operating system.
- William Jolitz**:** He writes the missing 6 files for Net/2 to create 386BSD, porting it to Intel 80386 PC processors. THIS WAS MASSIVE.

1991–1992: The Emergence of Linux

- Linus Torvalds**:** Frustrated by the licensing restrictions of Minix (created by Andrew Tanenbaum), he begins a hobby project on an Intel 386 PC.
- September 1991**:** Torvalds releases Linux version 0.01 to an FTP server, containing roughly 10,000 lines of code.
- Early 1992**:** Torvalds adopts the GNU General Public License (GPL) for version 0.12, ensuring the software remains free and legally merging the standalone kernel with Richard Stallman's GNU components.
- System Integration: Linux combines its kernel with existing GNU project utilities to form a complete, usable operating system.

1992: The Convergence and the Lawsuit

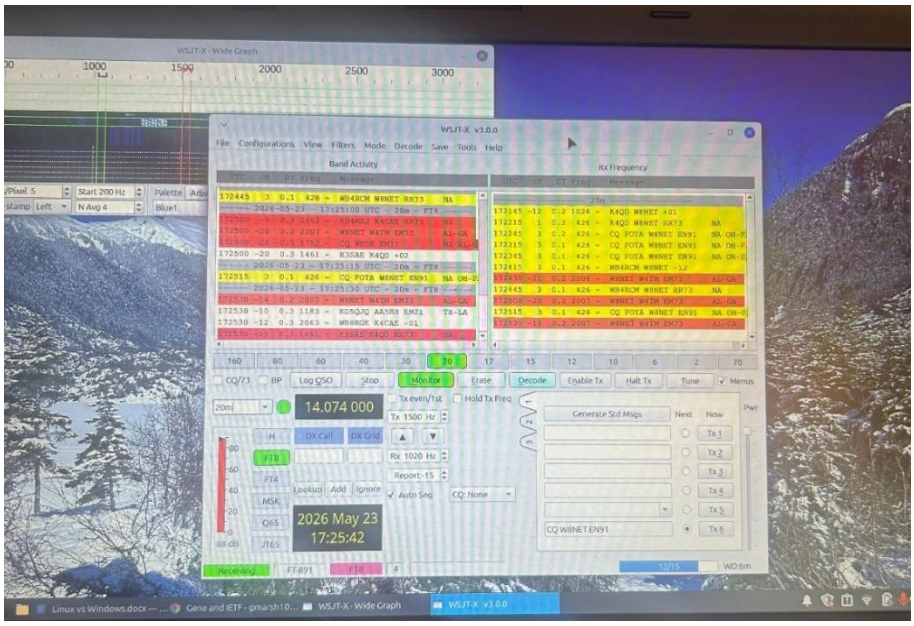
- The Lawsuit**:** AT&T's Unix System Laboratories (USL) sues Berkeley and BSDi over alleged trade secrets in Net/2, a legal battle settled in 1994 by Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise, which required minor code alterations but heavily stalled BSD's market entry.
- Chilling Effect**:** The legal battle stalls BSD development and scares commercial adopters away from 386BSD.
- Linux Ascendancy**:** Free from legal disputes, Linux gains MASSIVE development momentum during its first full year.

After 1992, MANY observers, companies, universities, governments and tech weenies (your author) were watching CLOSELY the rapid developments from the BSD/Linux camp… including Microsoft and Apple. And IBM. And Oracle. And a newcomer who was drowning in debt (initially, before going public in 2004): Google. And many more.

Microsoft looked at it for their new server platform. They decided to bolster Windows NT instead. We still have (in part) NT in 10 and 11.

Apple was intrigued. They believed (and rightly so), that their VALUE was the "Presentation Layer", not the "kernel". Following Steve Jobs' return via the acquisition of NeXT in 1997, after a few years of finding the best "kernel", they chose a FreeBSD-based kernel, combined with NeXT's Mach

microkerne, to form the open-source 'Darwin' foundation. Macintosh with Mac OS X [launched in March 2001] was the fastest mass retail PC's in the world. And, they were stable. THEN, they tried a hand in a "microBSD" or "microLINUX". This is the iPhone operating system, Ios, unveiled in 2007.



THIS DECISION MADE APPLE A $380B+/YR (exceeding $3 Trillion market cap) COMPANY.

Another company saw what was happening. Google decided to focus on Linux because it is open-source, highly scalable, and allows their engineers full access to the source code to rewrite core components. Historically, their server software infrastructure began with roots in Red Hat Linux and later incorporated elements of Debian Linux. Now, they have 2 flavors: their custom Linux server OS (NO name); and gLinux (ALL of the corporate PC's use gLinux, which they migrated to from Goobuntu in 2018).
Then - building on top of the Linux kernel originally developed by Android Inc. before Google bought it in 2005 - Google developed Android OS, based on Linux. (BTW: who now uses a Microsoft phone?) Oh, ChromeOS is Linux, too [introduced in 2011, built on Gentoo Linux and later Debian bases].

THIS DECISION MADE ALPHABET (GOOGLE) A $300B+/YR COMPANY.

And, IBM got it. They licensed AT&T UNIX core, got the GNU-licensed tools from Linux, and developed Enhanced AIX (releasing AIX 5L in 2001 with

native Linux affinity features). IBM Deep Blue (from chess fame) runs on AIX.

So, you don't know Linux (or a derivative)?

- Almost all of the AI computers run a flavor of Linux (mostly Ubuntu Server).
- Almost all data center/cloud computing services, like AWS.
- Almost all CGI/animation software (like RenderMan - PIXAR/ILM).
- Raspberry Pi.
- Android.
- Chrome laptops.
- All Apple products.
- MOST Smart TVs.
- MOST Smart appliances.
- ALL VoIP phones.
- Cisco routers (retail thru commercial).
- Most WiFi routers.
- ALL real firewalls (Windows Firewall is a joke).

[This is very similar to a skit in the movie, "Kentucky Fried Movie". Skit: "Science Series #5: Zinc Oxide and You". But, I digress...]

"But, I heard Microsoft Windows also does AI?" Well, yes… sort of:
"Microsoft Windows and AI: Common for local development and

Engineers using tools like Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) to run Linux-based AI software."

Yep. It's LINUX! So, why UNIX (then Linux)?

AT&T/Bell Labs developed UNIX for a switching system (like for phone calls and data lines). It was designed to be great for communications. It had to be multitasking, multi-threading, parallel processing and secure. They succeeded. UNIX/LINUX/BSD *ARE* THE INTERNET.

For a geek, the choice between Linux and Windows comes down to control, efficiency, and philosophy. While Windows treats the user as a consumer, Linux treats the user as an administrator.

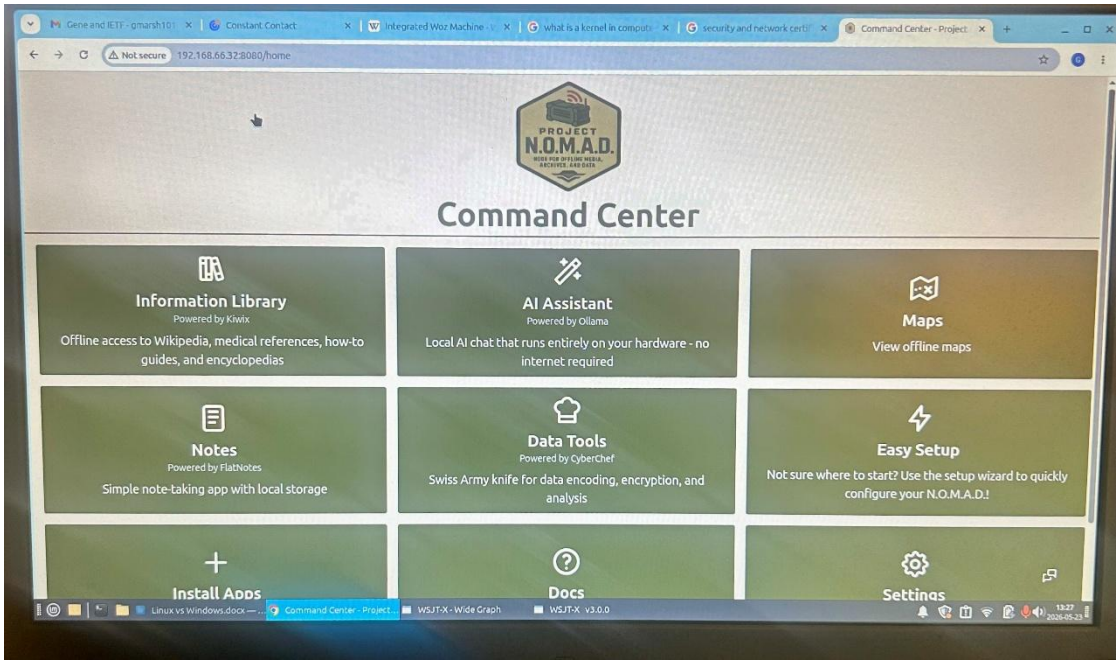
Here is why geeks overwhelmingly prefer Linux over Windows.

1. Absolute Control and Customization

- No Restrictions: You can modify or replace any part of the operating system.
- Custom Environments: You choose your own Desktop Environment (like KDE or GNOME) or lightweight window managers (like i3 or Hyprland).
- No Forced Updates: Linux never forces a reboot or installs updates without your explicit permission.

2. Powerful Command Line Interface (CLI)

- Native Package



Management: Install, update, and remove software instantly using tools like *apt*, *Pacman*, or *dnf* instead of hunting for *.exe* installers on websites.

- Automation: Every system task can be scripted using Bash/Perl or Python to automate repetitive workflows.
- SSH Integration: Headless server management via terminal is native, fast, and seamless.

3. Efficiency and Resource Management

- Lightweight: Linux idle RAM usage can be as low as 500MB, whereas Windows often consumes 4GB+ just sitting at the desktop.
- No Bloatware: Linux distros do not come pre-installed with games, telemetry tools, or intrusive advertising.
- Hardware Longevity: Linux can revive 15-year-old+ laptops that Windows 11 deems "unsupported."

4. Open Source and Privacy

- Code Transparency: Anyone can inspect the Linux source code to verify security and privacy.
- Zero Telemetry: Linux does not track your search queries, app usage, or keystrokes to sell targeted ads.
- True Ownership: You own the software; it does not phone home to a corporate mother ship.

5. The Ultimate Development Environment

- Native Tools: Compilers, interpreters, Docker, Git, and web servers run native with zero virtualization overhead.
- Production Parity: Because most internet servers run on Linux, developing on Linux means your local code behaves exactly like it will in production.

That’s Great… For Geeks. But Why Me NOW, Joe User?

Great question. The answer is MATURITY. More than 30 years of development and breadth-of-apps makes it a VERY VIABLE option. It is time. And it’s free, faster, more secure and very stable.

Most “flavors” of Linux are fine. But, for my tastes, you have 2 great “newbie” options, and 2 great “geek” options (well, really many more geek options):

- Newbie #1: Lubuntu Linux – This is a FANTASTIC implementation. VERY easy to set up and configure. Very “lightweight”, easy on the CPU.
- Newbie #2: Linux Mint – Very similar to Lubuntu, but has a few more tools (like the gcc+ compiler and others) installed (I use Mint for my everyday tasks – it’s flawless).
- Geek #1: Debian Linux – One of the big “branches” of Linux, including Lubuntu and Mint. VERY thorough implementation.
- Geek #2: OpenSUSE Linux – A branch from another family of Linux, Slackware. Very polished. It’s the development arm of a commercial Linux offering: SUSE. I used OpenSUSE for hardened DoD-grade firewalls. One of my firewalls was installed in 2008. It was retired in 2021, without a single break or incident. 13+ years in IT is unheard of – except for HARDENED LINUX! *(As a former CIO/CSO for multiple companies, a Senior Director at Diebold, and a DoD contractor holding 5 IT patents, I’ve seen corporate software cycles crash and burn repeatedly. A 13-year uptime isn’t luck; it’s the mathematical reality of an open, unencumbered kernel.)*

You will have a *small* learning curve for Linux. The Linux windows interface is intuitive – VERY similar to Windows 10. AND, Linux has MANY alternate windows flavors. But, some nomenclature is different. For example: No COM ports; they are TTY ports. Remember: wording differs, function does not. The great thing now is how easy it is to get great help (Google, AI assistance, YouTube, etc).

You can ALSO dual (or more) boot Linux + Windows! One of my laptops boots Linux Mint, Ubuntu Server and Windows 10. All three have a “common folder”: easy to move stuff around. OH, BY THE WAY: In Linux, you can use Windows software by “virtualization” like VirtualBox or WINE. MOST Windows apps

work very well on Linux. And, most times it works faster than native Windows!

JUMP IN – THE WATER IS FINE! *PEACE!*

P.S.: This article was written on a 14 year-old Lenovo ThinkPad T510 (beautiful!), i7, 8GB RAM, 500GB SSD HD with Linux Mint and LibreWriter. It's FAST!

Gene Marsh, W8NET
CIO/CSO of the Davis Eye Center (retired), GIAC+, CNE, CompTIA Security+ and Networking+, Cisco CCNA and CCIE, SANS Fellow (retired), DoD Security & Networking contractor, ICANN Fellow (retired), IETF Member (retired), ASAP, PDQ, FYI, OMG, IMO, JK, TBD, TU, VIP, FAQ, ROI, Major Geek (NOT retired). BTN… NVM!
More useless info…

"Gene Marsh was a prominent advocate and researcher in the late 1990s, primarily known for his work on the IPv4 Multicast Address Space and his involvement in the early days of ICANN and Top-Level Domains (TLDs).

A breakdown of his involvement includes:

- IETF & IANA Contributions**:** Gene Marsh was a key figure in managing the IPv4 Multicast Address Space Registry. His early work helped outline and assign the address blocks used for internetwork and local network control. He also did work on SMNP, SNMPv2 and RMON with Marshall Rose.
- ICANN and Domain Naming**:** During the late 1990s, he advocated for alternative root servers and the expansion of the Domain Name System. He was an active participant in early Internet governance debates, raising concerns about opening up Top Level Domains (TLDs) alongside legacy registries.
- Corporate Involvement**:** In addition to his internet protocols research, Marsh worked as a Senior Network Marketing Manager and Director at Diebold Incorporated, CIO/CSO of several companies, a DoD contractor and headed his own company, anycastNET Inc., and holds 5 IT-related patents." – from Google; it has to be right… *RIGHT?* ;)

from Dick, WK1J…

A Tarheel Dual Screwdriver Meets the HOA

My last two years

With the passing of my wife, in May 2024, I chose to stay in my home, located on seven acres, and shared on three sides by 450 acres of preserved forest. Room to experiment with antennas, no man-made noise, however, was becoming increasingly hard to maintain.

At the urging of my two daughters, I took the plunge and downsized into condo living. Purchased (October 16, 2025) a small condominium with attached 2-car garage in the north part of Manchester, NH. During this time, I was off the air. The question, “How do I get back on the air?” HOA regulations were a challenge. No antennas allowed.

During the winter, I started a plan to address what I wanted to do with ham radio at this stage of my life, 85. I quickly realized my present equipment was no longer capable of what I planned to do. A wish list started and was refined as I began my search.

Rig: needed to be small, portable, able to connect remotely and serve as a base station, installed for mobile use, or connect from anywhere. Goal, 500W fixed and mobile/portable. Antenna(s): had to be stealth, easy to deploy, resonant on all bands, modes, and frequencies, 80-10M, handle “key down” 500W SSB/CW, 250W digital for contesting.

My Search Starts:

I attended the Dayton Hamvention while visiting my sister and family in Columbus, Ohio.

Tarheel Designs: I met Robert Young, owner of Tarheel Designs. Asked if he would ever develop an antenna for HOA hams.

He pointed to the Dual HOA dipole. Shown for the first time at Dayton. Using two Little Tarheel Pro screwdrivers and covering 40-10M, handling 500W

SSB/CW and 250W digital. Controlled by a rocker switch which is used to raise and lower the antenna close to resonance by listening to the signal peak in volume. **A candidate! More to come.**

JT Communications: I looked at the TuneMatic controllers for various screwdriver antennas. The TuneMatic works by raising the screwdriver, while watching the SWR on an antenna analyzer set to a frequency. Once at resonance, you turned a knob to a memory position and stored the frequency, turn count of the screwdriver motor coils. This had to be repeated for all bands and frequencies you used. **A candidate! More to come.**

In talking with Jim, the owner of JT Communications. He and Robert had been in touch regarding Robert's new Dual HOA dipole and the request from many TuneMatic users to have a radio interface so all they had to do was hit the radio's tune button.

FlexRadio: The new Aurora line of radios, featuring a built-in 3:1 antenna tuner and 500W amplifier, capable of 80% efficiency, all in one small light-weight package. It would replace my FTdx500MP, Ameritron 1306 Amp, and MFJ tuner.

Post Dayton: I remained in touch with both Robert and Jim. Finally, the Tarheel Dual HOA Dipole 80-10M, 500W SSB/CW and 250W digital, based on the new **Tarheel 75 Pro**. And from JT Communications, new TuneMatic DUO Auto (with radio interface) and the TM DUO (no interface) completed!

> ***Important Note*: The Tarheel Dual HOA dipole and TM with radio interface can be used with any radio. Over 40 radio interfaces now (Oct/1/2026).**

Let Us Build the WK1J Station:

The Aurora AU-520 (two spectral capture units) and Maestro ordered and arrived in June 2026. The Tarheel Dual HOA Dipole arrived in July along with the new TuneMatic DUO Auto including the FlexRadio Aurora interface.

Construction Phase: I converted a small spare bedroom into my radio/office room, re-wired it (almost as expensive as the radio!) with several 12A dedicated, "conditioned lines" (filtering for dirty electricity, EMI, Common Mode, etc.), outside, after the mains meter and before entering the condo; ran 2 gigabit fiber optic cabling throughout the condo. The plan is to use any of

the FlexRadio SmartSDR software clients (Maestro, PC Laptop, iPad or iPhone) anywhere in the house, anytime and control everything in the radio room.

Side Note: I checked into my first CC net from my iPhone, sitting in my living room and made 4 contacts on the 40M early net. The iPhone MIC was a little "thin," no lag!!! Great for Hotel/Road/Remote, access to the Station.

With that completed, I installed two antennas in the rafters (25 ft.) of my 2-car garage. A 40M inverted Vee dipole with a Palomar Engineers Balun/Mini-Choker Line Isolator.

Note: All coaxes are Messi & Paoloni, Sahara Ultraflex 7. The Sahara coax covering is for a high-temperature environment. The temperature in the uninsulated garage rafters in summer will be hot. The ultraflex, as its name implies, is very flexible as I had to route it in and around tight-fitting spaces.

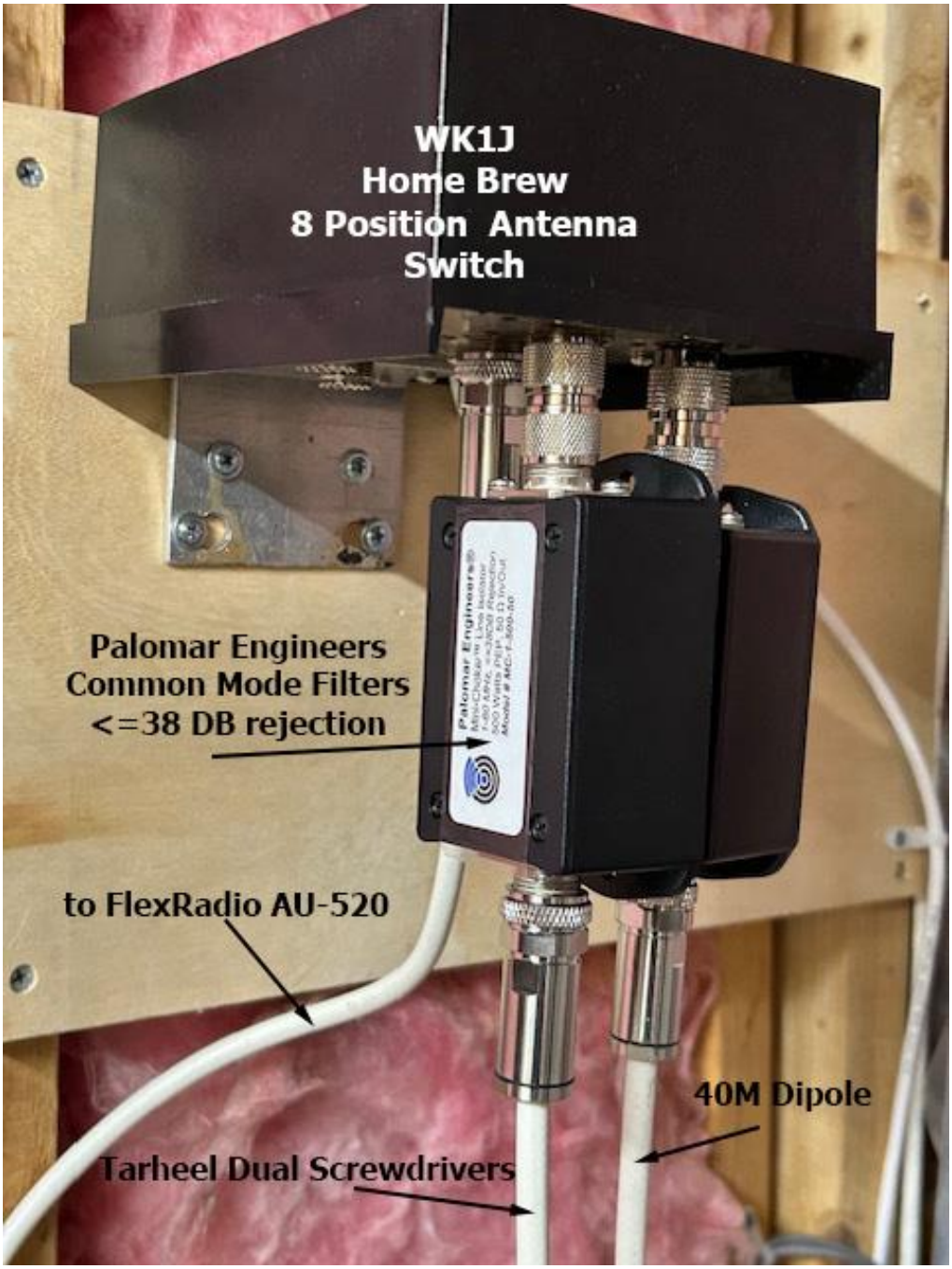
The Dual Tarheel HOA antenna and TuneMatic DUO Auto; unpacking.

I laid 4 ft x 8 ft pieces of underlayment plywood over some of the rafters to serve as flooring for the ladder needed to raise the Tarheel antenna in place.

The TuneMatic control cables installed on each screwdriver and 4 turns in chokes. Coax from the common feed point, choked and a Palomar Engineers mini-choker line isolator installed.

Exiting the garage the feedlines and coax go into the Utility room (Furnace, Electrical Panel and Hot Water Tank) which abuts the radio/office wall. They

connect to a home brew 8 position antenna switch, controlled over the internet from FlexRadio. Each line choked again.



The Operating position with everything installed.

[Since 2008, the original Tarheel Antennas have been built in St. Joseph, MO.

https://www.tarheelantennas.com/

If you have experience with either a Tarheel or Little Tarheel antenna, please tell us about it. A special thanks to Dick, WK1J for this wonderfully prepared antenna article!]

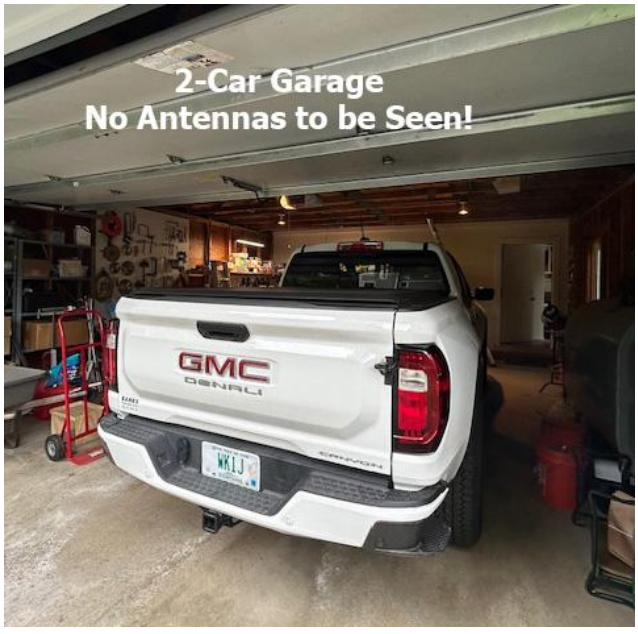
The Operating position with everything installed.

The TuneMatic DUO Auto closeup showing control for the Tarheel Dual HOA dipole 125 ft away. Hitting tune on the Aurora causes the TM to read the radio frequency/mode and send the antennas to their proper step count. Resonant, all bands and modes. NO QRM for the neighbors!! Worst case SWR, 80M/3.500 low-end of band is 1.9:1. Below, turns count of 443 for 3.500Mhz.

This was and continues to be a very satisfying project. Using the RBN (Reverse Beacon Network), 15 beacons reported hearing WK1J at 33 to 59+ signal covering 360 degrees from my QTH, all from a “compromised antenna” system. The Tarheel outperforms the 40M dipole, used as a comparison test antenna. Last step is to install my 2 phased LoG (Loop-on-Ground) receive antennas outside.

In Conclusion:

If you read this far, congratulations! I hope it was informative. Again, just my approach, or “another way to skin the HOA cat.” I would be interested to hear of other approaches. The more we share the more we help others.



Another Project? I am thinking (dangerous!!), take what I learned and…Could there be a GMC Truck, Flex Aurora, and 500W mobile? Cheers!

73 Dick, WK1J

GEAR FOR SALE

Your gear you don’t use could be listed here. Meanwhile as 160m season approaches us, try this easy to build 160m antenna that worked great for me!

(page 11 of Dec. 2022 Centurion)
https://www.3905ccn.org/files/telegraph/Telegraph-2022-12.pdf

Part 2 AWARDS…cont'd from page 7

Read the full requirements before you plan.

Please read the entire 50th Anniversary Awards requirements carefully before deciding how to pursue all five awards. The rules affect which contacts you can use, how you allocate them among requirements, and the order in which you may wish to submit applications. This article introduces the program; the complete requirements provide the details you need to plan it well.

A qualifying combination consists of a call sign, band, and mode. Working the same station on 40-meter SSB and 75-meter SSB gives you two different combinations. Working that station again on 40-meter SSB on another date does not create a new combination. Mobile or portable designations do not make it a different call sign.

Combinations must be unique across all five awards, including all twelve months of the monthly requirement. The five Founder's Day contacts are the exception and may also count toward the other qualifying requirements. The monthly requirement therefore needs 600 unique combinations across its twelve months; repeating the same 50 combinations each month will not satisfy it.

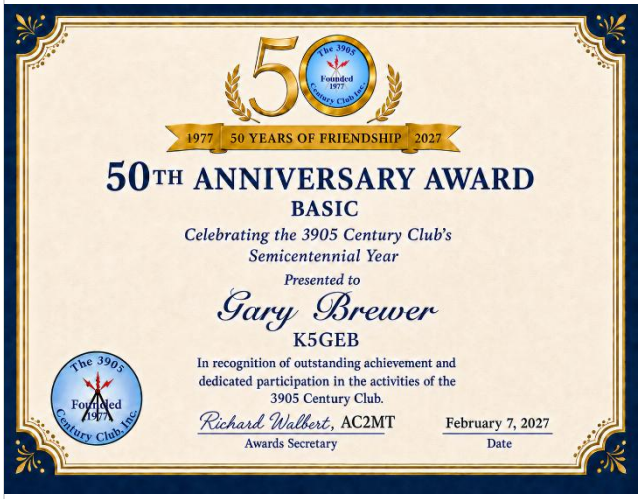
Think about how to allocate your contacts before submitting an application. A CW contact with a VIP, for example, could qualify for several categories, but ordinarily you must choose where to credit that combination. Consider reserving combinations for the more specific requirements and using other eligible contacts for General Contacts. Keeping one master log will help you track confirmations and avoid claiming the same combination twice.

If you hope to complete the monthly requirement as early as possible, plan to begin in January and keep up with it each month. Also mark **February 7, 2027**, on your calendar for the Founder's Day contacts. Exploring additional bands and modes can expand your pool of unique combinations while introducing you to more of our nets and members.

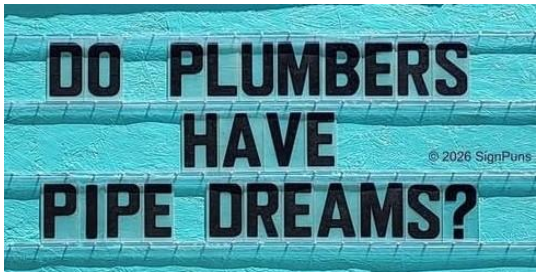
Get ready to join the celebration

Watch the Awards section of **3905ccn.org** for the complete requirements, applications, and certificate previews. Read the full package, follow the published submission and fee instructions, and ask your Area Awards Manager or the Awards Secretary about anything unclear before committing contacts to an application.

Choose the level of challenge that suits you, enjoy each award along the way, and join us on the nets. Let's make our anniversary a year of good contacts, new friendships, and enjoyable challenges!

Basic Award	Four Oak Leaf Clusters and Crossed Swords
	

Certificate previews with a sample recipient shown.



….parting shot from N2XTT

73, Until next month, John, KL7JR