



SQUELCH TALE



MERRYMEETING AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2016



Guess who has his work cut out to get his Hex Beam put back together. Yes, that is (was) a Hex Beam and yes that is George, K1GDI who is tangled up in it.



What would Wayne (Green) do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Wayne Green was a crackpot...but he was a great one.

For those of you who aren't as old as I am, Wayne Green, W2NSD, was not only the publisher of 73 Magazine, but also the founder of Byte and other PC magazines in the early days of personal computing. In 73, he would write these long, rambling editorials. Often, he would take the ARRL to task, criticizing what he thought to be some lunk-headed policy or another.

Just as often, he'd be encouraging hams to take up some new technology. He was, for example, one of the guys driving hams to set up repeater systems.

He would often exhort hams to get started in their own technology-related business. I remember one column where he urged hams to get involved in the home-security business. And, of course, when personal computers became popular, he wrote that hams should think about getting into that business. His reasoning was that our knowledge of electronics would stand us in good stead in those businesses.

Today, I think that he would be telling us to get more involved in with technologies like the Internet of Things, WiFi, or whatever other wireless technology is coming down the pike. "Wireless" is the key word here. These networking technologies are based on good, old radio, and who better to push these technologies forward than guys like us who understand radio.

This point was brought home to me last week as I was interviewing an executive of a wireless company for an article that I'm writing. He said to me that many of the companies he works with are taking a software-centric view to their wireless products. They simply use the reference designs provided by the wireless chip makers and expect those designs to work flawlessly in their products.

While they often do, he gave me an example where simply using the reference design was a colossal failure. In one case, he said, the company mounted the board inside a metal enclosure. Since the antenna was part of the printed-circuit board, the enclosure acted like a shield, and of course, the device

had little or no range.

He went on to say that he thought that there was a real shortage of experienced RF guys in the wireless industry. Does that sound like an opportunity to you? It does to me. So, I'm going to make like Wayne Green here and exhort all you guys to get out there and take advantage of it.

This is not only a business opportunity, but a way for amateur radio operators to fulfill a couple of the "purposes" of amateur radio, as set forth in Part 97.1 of the amateur radio regulations. Part 97.1(b) says that one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." According to Part 97.1(d), another purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts."

Let's do it!

When he's not ruminating on the latest wireless technologies, KB6NU likes to make use of some vintage wireless technologies by working CW on the HF bands. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides). If you have a comment or a question, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Tips for Beginning Net Control Operators

By Steve Bellner, W8TER, ARES E-Letter for January 20, 2016

Here in northwest Ohio, we have acquired many new hams and encourage them to operate as net control station (NCS) for various routine nets to gain them experience, providing us with a pool of competent net controllers in the event of an emergency/disaster. Here are some of the basic tips we convey to our novice net control stations for a smoothly running net:

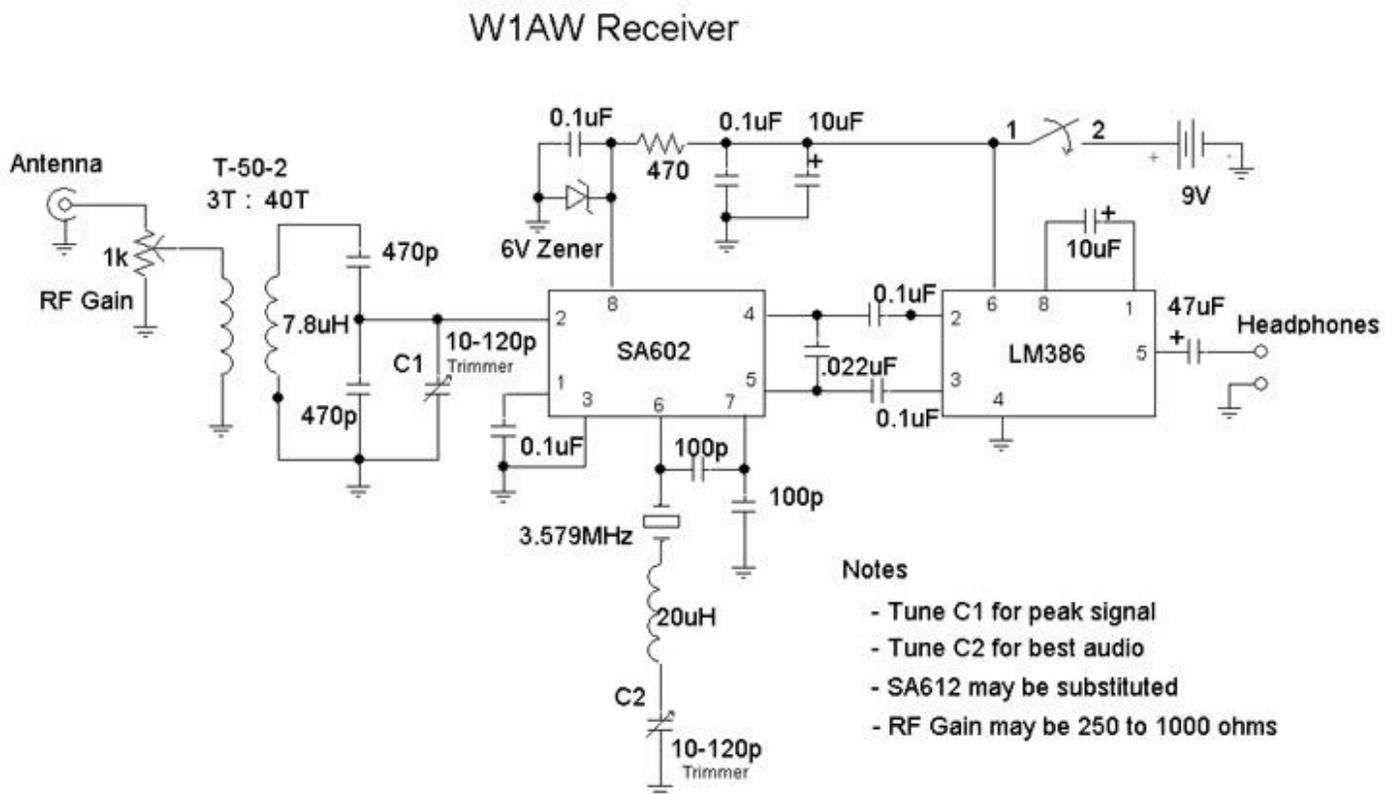
- Get a glass of water or something to drink.
- Make yourself comfortable. Sit in a good location with plenty of room on a desk or table to write.
- Have a good writing instrument and a back-up along with an extra piece of paper in case you need to jot down notes.
- Take your time; go at your own pace. Remember, you are in control of the net and the frequency.
- Don't worry about making mistakes; there are no mistakes to be made.
- To handle the crowd that is trying to check in, you will develop your own way.
- Stop stations from checking in ("Let's hold it for a minute") until you are caught up.
- Weak stations and stations who give their call signs too fast, are always a problem -- skip them at first. Go back later for repeats.
- Write your log as you see fit. You are the one that has to read it.
- Headphones are a good idea -- they help you focus on what you are hearing and help keep you from getting distracted.

As I mentioned before, there are no mistakes, only experience. When you've finished the net that is what you will have. -- **Steve Bellner, W8TER, Maumee, Ohio**

The Simple W1AW Receiver

By WA1YIH & W1ZE

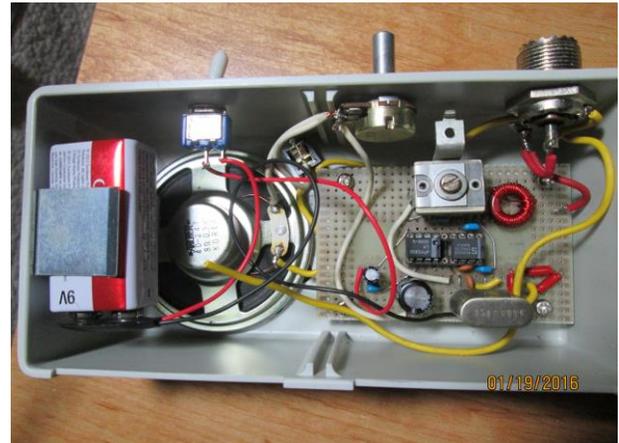
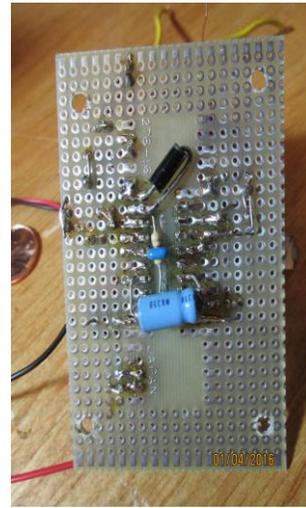
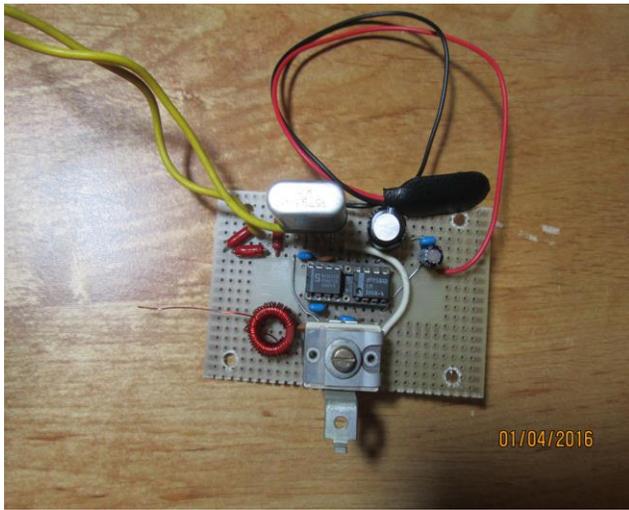
In November last year John Best Sr., WA1YIH and yours truly, Bruce, W1ZE were chatting on the KS1R two meter repeater when John said he was thinking of building a simple little receiver to copy the 80-meter CW broadcast from W1AW in Newington, CT. He wanted to build the simple 80 meter Ramsey kit but they no longer make it and do not supply any replacement parts for it. I said I remember a little direct conversion receiver project that was published in QST many years ago that used a 3.579 MHz TV color-burst crystal for an oscillator allowing reception of the 80-Meter W1AW CW transmissions. I told John I would try and find the info on it for him. A week later I found the schematic for the W1AW receiver on line and emailed it off to him.



K1CL via NewEnglandQRP.org

On January 20th John sent me the following via email:

Hi Bruce, I got it built and it works great! It's not pretty but very functional. Here are some pictures. Feel free to use them as you want. I also had an old GE tx. crystal on 3580! The color burst crystal works too but this was closer in freq.



With just a few parts you too can have fun with this simple DIY receiver project. Crystals are available at several parts suppliers but if you are in a jam I may be able to come up with a 3597 kHz crystal from my collection of old crystals in Maine. The other parts are also available from many online suppliers and good scrounging at flea markets.

Reception of the W1AW with this little receiver is very good, especially in the evening hours and with just a simple wire antenna. With it you can brush up on your CW coping skills and bulliten reception in CW.

73, WA1YIH & W1ZE

