



# Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for November 2012

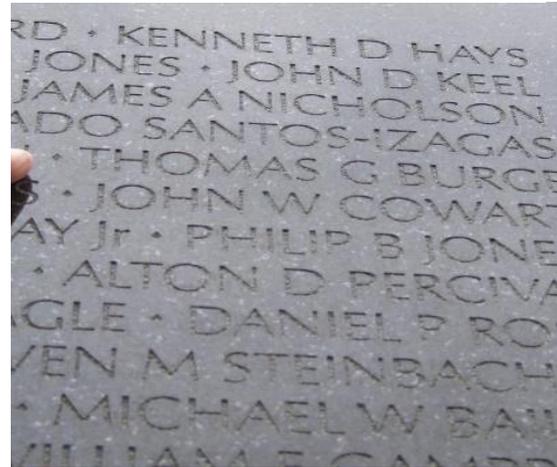


## Eight Days on the road will get you to W6-land

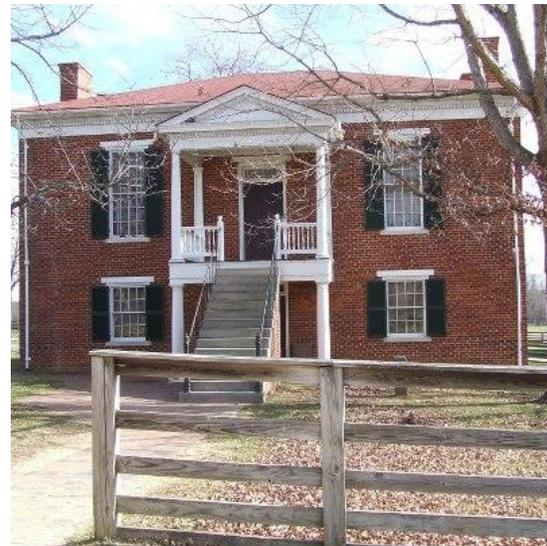
*A trip report from W1ZE/mobile*

On Friday the day after Thanksgiving, YL Donna and I headed out the driveway and down I-95 with old W1ZE/mobile packed full with our collective stuff which included my Yaesu FT-897D transceiver and two disassembled antennas to be installed at Donnas QTH in Poway, California.

On the way south I checked into the E-CARS net on 7.255 MHz in hopes maybe one of the old Maine gang would be listening but no one checked in while I was listening. Just as the sun was setting we pulled into a Holiday Inn in College Park, Maryland for the night. The next morning after breakfast we headed into downtown Washington, DC. We went to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam memorial, "the wall" and looked up our friend, classmate and high school class president USAF Capt. Tom Burge who was shot down over North Vietnam, a bit of a sad start to our trip.



We also spent a few hours in the American History Museum then headed out to Dulles airport to take in the Air & Space Museum, a must-see if you are in the DC area. That afternoon we headed over to Richmond, VA to have dinner and visit another old High School classmate and her husband, lots of hugs and kisses there. I did check into the 7255 net again several times on the way to Richmond. The next morning we said good bye to Mardi & Pete and headed off to North Carolina



We went to Appomattox Courthouse to see where the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia took

place at the end of the Civil War then on to Lexington, NC to visit with high school classmate number three and go out to dinner.

The following morning (Monday) we went to Asheville, NC to visit the Biltmore Estate, which included a very good BBQ lunch and a trip to the estate winery to do a little tasting and stock up for the long ride ahead.

The next day on the way to the gulf I listened to 7255 but signals from the northeast were weak or non-existent so I switched to 20 meters. I made a dozen QSOs around the country but none in Maine.

By Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> we were in Biloxi, Mississippi staying at a motel right on the waterfront next to a casino (great dinner buffet, all the crab legs I could eat). Donna did her radio operator training and learned CW at the USAF facility there in late 1961. Back then it was a sleepy southern town. Now it is the Las Vegas of the south. The next morning we headed into New Orleans and at 9:00am we were in the French Quarter having beignets and coffee at a Mississippi river waterfront café. We then wandered the streets of the French Quarter and did a little shopping. We took in the WWII museum, another must-see if you are in the Big Easy. At lunch on Magazine Street Donna got her oyster Po-Boy she had been waiting six days for.

That afternoon we arrived at the winter QTH of Al (W3ZD) and Pat Corderman. We had a nice visit over adult beverages then went out to a lovely small neighborhood restaurant in the Uptown/Garden district near Al's home. After dinner we checked out Al's station to see what he needed to get rolling in digital modes (PSK etc.). Al had everything except a USB to serial connector cable/interface. I told him where to get one and he should be all set to go.

The next morning we headed west on I-10 in the direction of San Antonio, Texas. I made one 20 meter QSO with VP1MMM but after that I started making 2-meter contacts on 146.52 simplex. I had a three-way mobile to mobile roundtable QSO just west of Beaumont with two hams on their way to work (oil refinery workers – go figure). Shortly

after ending the two meter QSOs I got a cell phone call from Al who said he went over to his local Radio Shack store and got the necessary USB/serial adaptor -interface cable, connected it to his laptop and soundcard interface module, made his first PSK31 QSO.

Later that afternoon we arrived in downtown San Antonio and checked into the motel. We then drove about five blocks over to the River Walk near the Alamo. The sun was setting and it was still about 78 degrees. The walkway and river boats were all lit for the holidays making a stroll along the river very pleasant. By the Houston Street overcrossing there was a very nice Mexican restraint with patio overlooking the river. We had dinner there along with a few Margaritas while watching the boats go by and listened to the Mariachis serenade us.

The next morning we had a shortly visit with another old High School classmate (Donnas old High School BF) for coffer. He was unable to make our class reunion last October because he is a full-time caretaker for his invalid wife. We again got lots of hugs from a good friend.

From there we continued west on I-10 to west Texas then took a detour northwest to Pecos in the oil fields for the evening. The next morning we were one of the first people at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. What a great first visit for the both of us.

That Saturday we spent our last evening on the road in Tucson, Arizona. At 1:00 pm Sunday (December 2<sup>nd</sup>) we pulled into Donnas' QTH in Poway, California.

Thanks to those of you that listened for me on 40 and 20 meters. Maybe we'll have better luck hooking up on the return trip in early May.

**73 & Happy New Year,  
Bruce, WIZE**



The 2013 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 26, 2013 through 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 27, 2013. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: setup emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.  
<http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php>

Next Club Meeting:  
January 31, 2013  
Red Cross Building  
Community Way  
Topsham, Me  
ARES/CERT 6:00 pm  
Regular Mtg 7:00 pm



\*\*\*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\*\*\*

ARES/CERT NET

MONDAYS @ 7:30 PM

147.210 100HZ PL



UTDRFSPACEETAERCPAH  
SRCESBBURJICEOUQGTG  
EEUMA EFSGTEHLSSZRSK  
ATSONLSTLTSEHCBRTNI  
YSTTNDUISKTCGMOCIO  
L  
SAOE EENNDURNILUKUIL  
LMWRTNWABAARGDENCTA  
AKEINUINFHASONITOAW  
UCRGAWZTZGCRWDCZACA  
NUEJAGEEEAPOEXEGXIT  
ABNKRVBNNLONDAMJWNT  
MEUDBDMNRNASYIFHRUO  
ITTIOSEALPHADELTA  
M  
NTONCRASPQLODLAMPMS  
IEBESTGAUREHCNEBFOC  
MRRTAOUTBACKERDJBCI  
YRULRKQTDOCNILASQLN  
TFTAUQEANNETNAPAGAO  
FLDBGMVDFARALLONXTR  
IEFSOIDTBONGOTIESIT  
NKGCS SCINORTREGITGN  
VIBROPLEXGEOCHRONIA  
HJFASTRONHEILSOUNDK

ALINCO  
ALPHA DELTA  
AMERITRON

AARL PRODUCTS  
ARTSCI  
ASTRON  
AUSTIN ANTENNAS  
AVMAP  
BENCHER  
BELDEN  
BETTER RF  
BONGO TIES  
BUCK MASTER  
BUTEL  
COAX WRAP  
COBRA ANTENNAS  
COMET  
CREATE  
CUSHCRAFT  
DAIWA  
DAVIS RF  
DEKA  
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS  
EZ HANG  
FARALLON  
GAP ANTENNA  
GEOCHRON  
HEILSOUND  
ICOM  
INETLABS  
KENWOOD  
KILLAWATT  
KANTRONICS

MALDOL  
MFJ  
MIRAGE  
NCG  
NIFTYMINIMANUELS  
OUTBACKER  
REMOTERIG  
RFSPACE  
SCANNERSTUFF  
SGC  
SOS  
STECA  
SUNWIZE  
TIGERTRONICS  
TURBOTUNER  
UNIDEN  
USTOWER  
VIBROPLEX  
YAESU