



# Shark's Teeth

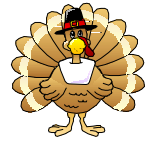


**Sporadic Ham Radio Club**  
PO Box 591 - Getzville, NY 14068  
www.k2fa.org

**November, 2001**



## Thanksgiving Issue



### President's Letter

**Dan Emblidge, W2HQ**

Congratulations Mr. Bucklaew! What an outstanding job you did this year coordinating JOTA. It came off without a hitch. The enthusiasm and exuberance of ALL the club members was a pleasure to see. 33 scouts, WOW! The day went by so fast. All of the scouts and their parents showed so much joy and interest, it was very gratifying to be a part of it.

Wow November 28th is fast approaching. I hope to make contact with all of you from Daytona Beach/Orlando while on vacation. Of course, our DX-Pedition coordinator (KA2KQP) will have all the necessary data pertaining to the UO-14 and AO-27 satellite passes between here and there. It will either be up on the WEB or hard copy available, I'm sure.

The www.k2fa.org page is looking good. Take a look at the Guest Log, we have a couple of nice comments there. Remember! Feedback, suggestions, comments.....

#### In this issue...

President's Letter .....	1
JOTA 2001 Report .....	1
Editorial .....	2
Dual Auroras .....	2
November ARRL Sweepstakes .....	2
From ARRL .....	2
Commando Solo .....	3
The Moxon Rectangle .....	4
Blast From The Past .....	4

Special Thanks to:

Mike Simon W2OP for the use of his FT-990 for JOTA  
David Stabley for cleaning up our shark. Looks great.  
Mike Bucklaew KA2KQP for all his help and support with the WEB page.

73 de W2HQ  
The Prez

### JOTA 2001 Report

**Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP**



Commander Frank Culbertson

We had a very successful Jamboree On The Air this year. We had 33 scouts ranging in age from 6 to 11 and their parents / leaders. Our statistics were:

- Countries - 5 (US, UK, Germany, Switzerland and Slovenia)
- States - 12 (AR, CA, CO, FL, IL, KS, KY, MA, NY, OH, PA and UT)
- Space Stations - 1



Brad and Eric at the PSK-31 station

Our scouts were able to make a HF SSB contact, send and receive a message in morse code, and view PSK-31 and APRS demos. We attempted to contact the International Space Station during our last session. We were able to hear Commander Frank Culbertson while he

was making scout contacts but we were unable to break the pile-up. During the following pass Eric was thrilled to be able to make contact and exchange few words.

Thanks to George (KB2ZHX), Pete (KF2U), and Dan (W2HQ) as well as our Webelos assistants Eric and George. Special thanks to Mike Simon (W2OP) for loaning us his rig for the day.

## Editorial

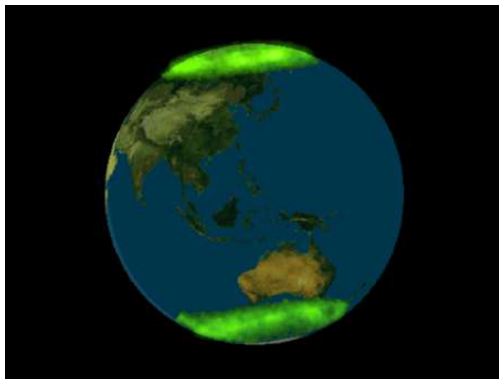
Well here is another newsletter. I hope everyone has been enjoying them. I've read that a newsletter is one of the most important things to keep people interested in a club. Even after putting it all together I still enjoy printing it out and reading it.

## Dual Auroras

from NASA

Last Sunday, Oct. 21st, a cloud of magnetized gas from the Sun (a "coronal mass ejection") swept past Earth and rocked our planet's magnetic field. Northern sky watchers were delighted as red and green lights rippled across the sky. It was the aurora borealis -- breaking out for the third time this month.

"The auroras were probably the most spectacular I have ever witnessed," says Ryan Kramer, an observer in North Dakota. "It was like being under a giant canopy. Northern Lights filled the sky -- including directly above and even within 30 degrees of the southern horizon."



Dual Auroras show by NASA's POES satellite 10/22/2001

## November ARRL Sweepstakes

**Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP**

I don't know about you but I sure don't want to come in last place again. CW Sweepstakes occurs on the first full weekend of November. This year it is November 3-5. SSB is November 17-19. The start time is 2100 UTC on Saturday. I'm willing to host the club for Sweepstakes this year. Let me know if you are willing. We will probably want to work the contest in shifts to be more competitive. We can use the same setup we had for JOTA. Dan will have to update our logging program for us.

Ham radio, snacks and friends. It doesn't get any better.

## From ARRL

### **Dayton Hamvention 2002 to Focus on Emergency Communications, Preparedness**

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 26, 2001--The theme of the 2002 Dayton Hamvention will be emergency communications and preparedness, the Hamvention Committee announced this week in a letter to vendors and exhibitors. Hamvention said it's expecting "record attendance" at its 51st event, May 17-19, 2002, at Dayton's Hara Arena. The annual event typically draws upwards of 30,000 amateurs.

"Hamvention expresses deep concern for the tragic events that occurred September 11, 2001, and the world events since," the letter said. "In order to show our support for Amateur Radio, we are going to emphasize emergency communications and preparedness as our theme for Hamvention 2002."

The Hamvention Committee said that it anticipates new Amateur Radio-related exhibitors as a result of its theme choice and would "limit the number of computer exhibitors at the show to only those who are related to Amateur Radio." According to the Hamvention Web site, there are some 550 indoor exhibit spaces, and exhibitors are "limited to Amateur Radio, electronic, and related items only."

At the 2001 Hamvention, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP (right), presented a plaque to Dayton Hamvention General Chairman Jim Graver, KB8PSO, in recognition of the 50th Hamvention. Speaking on behalf of DARA and the Hamvention Committee, Graver thanked ARRL for its efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio.

The committee said plans for Hamvention 2002 are well under way and interest appears "stronger than ever." Hamvention is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. The general chairman for a third year is Jim Graver, KB8PSO.

## Commando Solo

**Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP**

The current operations in Afghanistan continue to get most of our attention. One aspect that may be of interest to hams is the "Commando Solo" missions flown by the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

*From the 193rd's web-site:*

Commando Solo conducts psychological operations and civil affairs broadcast missions in the standard AM, FM, HF, TV, and military communications bands. Missions are flown at maximum altitudes possible to ensure optimum propagation patterns. The EC-130 flies during either day or night scenarios with equal success, and is air refuelable. A typical mission consists of a single-ship orbit which is offset from the desired target audience. The targets may be either military or civilian personnel.

Secondary missions include command and control communications countermeasures (C3CM) and limited intelligence gathering.

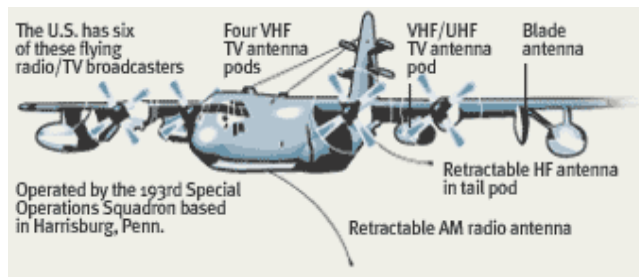
**Air Force Features:** Highly specialized modifications have been made to the latest version of the EC-130 (Commando Solo). Included in these modifications are enhanced navigation systems, self-protection equipment, and the capability of broadcasting color television on a multitude of

worldwide standards throughout the TV VHF/UHF ranges.

**Air Force (ANG) Inventory:** 6 - All flown by 193rd Special Operations Wing.

**Air Force Background:** Air National Guard EC-130 aircraft flown by the 193rd Special Operations Group were deployed to both Saudi Arabia and Turkey in support of Desert Storm. Their missions included broadcasts of "Voice of the Gulf", and other programs intended to convince Iraqi soldiers to surrender. Their "preparation of the battlefield" helped to minimize both enemy and friendly casualties by contributing to the massive Iraqi defections and surrenders.

The EC-130 was originally modified using the mission electronic equipment from the EC-121 aircraft, known at the time as Coronet Solo. Soon after the 193rd SOG received its EC-130's, the unit participated in the rescue of U.S. citizens in Operation Urgent Fury in 1983, acting as an airborne radio station informing those people on Grenada of the U.S. military action.



EC-130

Volant Solo, as the mission was now known, was instrumental in the success of coordinated psychological operations (PSYOP) in Operation Just Cause in 1989, again broadcasting throughout the initial phases of the operation to help end the Noriega regime.

Most recently, in 1994, Commando Solo was utilized to broadcast radio and television messages to the citizens and leaders of Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. The EC-130's of the 193rd deployed very early in the operation, highlighting the importance of PSYOP in avoiding military and civilian casualties. President Aristide himself was featured in the

broadcasts, which contributed significantly to the orderly transition from military rule to democracy.

In 1990 the 193rd joined the newly formed Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and has been designated Commando Solo, with no change in mission. This one-of-a-kind aircraft is consistently improving its capabilities. The next few years should see continued enhancements to the EC-130 and its worldwide missions.

I think Dan should try to borrow one of these for Field Day. It covers from 450 KHz to 350 MHz.

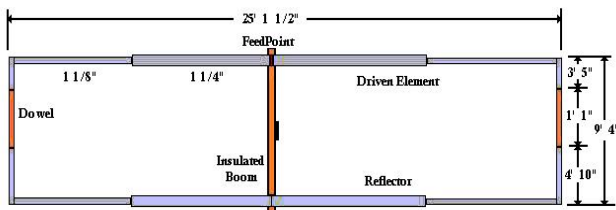
## The Moxon Rectangle

Pete Vetter, KF2U

While surfing the Cebik site in search of the perfect antenna, curiosity made me click on the Moxon Rectangle. The text described a pair of bent opposing dipoles. The broad SWR curve, 50-Ohm feed, and 6DB forward gain was nice. But the part that made me build one was the calculated F/B of 50DB!

My first stop for antenna parts was, of course, the pool store. Feeling just a little foolish, I left with my four shiny new 16' skimmer poles. These are a great bargain at \$13.00. They are made of extruded aluminum and are plenty strong for what I needed. Both at 8' in length, the outer tubing is 1.25" and the inner is 1.125". They telescope a little bit loosely. So where I joined them on the antenna, I wrapped the smaller piece in aluminum flashing. It snugged it right up.

### 20 Meter Moxon Rectangle



The feedpoint insulator is a 1' length of dowel fastened with stainless steel screws. The elements are all pop-riveted together with aluminum rivets. The corners are 1" copper elbows. The 1.125 tubing fits

perfectly and is also riveted for a strong corner. For the side insulators I used 3/4" plastic conduit with stainless steel screws.

The antenna is very light. The boom is a 10' piece of 2" PVC pipe. The elements are secured with U-clamps to a piece of thick plastic. This hangs from the boom with U-clamps also.

So how does it work? I don't know yet. It's still in pieces on the cellar floor. Part two to follow.....out .-.-.

## Blast From The Past

Pete Vetter, KF2U

I found this in the 1957 ARRL handbook. Some things never change, I guess....

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