DECEMBER 2022   Volume 11   Issue 12

VE3ERC-LUB

ERC   REPEATERS

UHF 444.700 + TONE: 131.8
UHF 444.700 + TONE: 123.0
VHF 147.390 + TONE: 123.0
VHF 147.255 + TONE: 131.8
EMERGENCY SIMPLEX: 146.550
UHF–IRLP node 2404,ECHOLINK VE3ERC-L
VHF– IRLP node 2403,ECHOLINK VE3ERC-R

**In an emergency, tune
Into our repeaters,
UHF 444.700 or
VHF 147.390 or
HF 3.755 LSB or
Simplex 146.550
For coordination and
assignments.**

Dwayne VE3CQQ wrote about his antenna:
With the high winds last night and ice storm today, the top of my VHF antenna snapped off. See attached pics. I was able to find the top section (fiberglass?) and might be able to salvage it... The wire is still dangling out the top of the remaining antenna. Unfortunately I can't get up there to take it down because the roof is icy.

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for December 2022

Have a Very Merry Christmas And May Your New Year Have Many New DX Contacts.

ERC Christmas Dinner

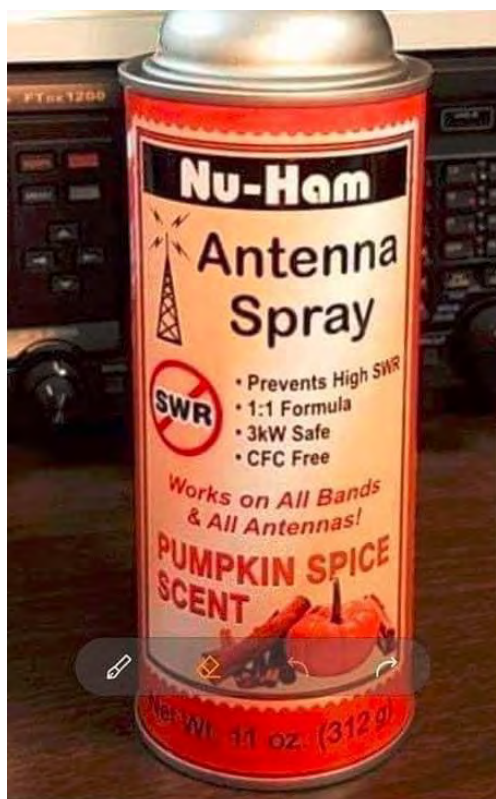Many thanks to Ted VE3TRQ and to Tony VE3DWI for the many pictures.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER

Do you have an article you'd like to submit? Or photos? Do you have any comments you'd like to make?

Perhaps you'd like to share a photo of your shack, a   special project you are working on or a special interest!

SEND THEM TO:

Bob bobve3ixx@gmail.com

(519-787-2279)

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

NOVEMBER 30 - BRIAN VA3DXK

DECEMBER 7 - CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 14 - BOB VE3IXX

DECEMBER 21 - TED VE3TRQ

DECEMBER 28 - BILL VA3QB

2023 JANUARY 4 - KIRK VA3KXS

JANUARY 11 - REG VE3RVH

JANUARY 18 - FRANK VA3FJM

JANUARY 25 - M E E T I N G

FEBRUARY 1 - TOM VE3DXQ

FEBRUARY 8 - TONY VE3DWI

Santa On The Air

Once again Frank VA3FJM (also the Vice President of the Elmira Radio Club) made his debut as Santa On The Air. Santa took to the airwaves on ONTARS to speak with both the young and the older youngsters. He answered questions about himself and his reindeer and took requests for presents under the tree.

For two days on December 14 and 15 he proved that ham radio and Santa just go well together. Perhaps someday this will expand to putting a mobile rig on the sleigh.
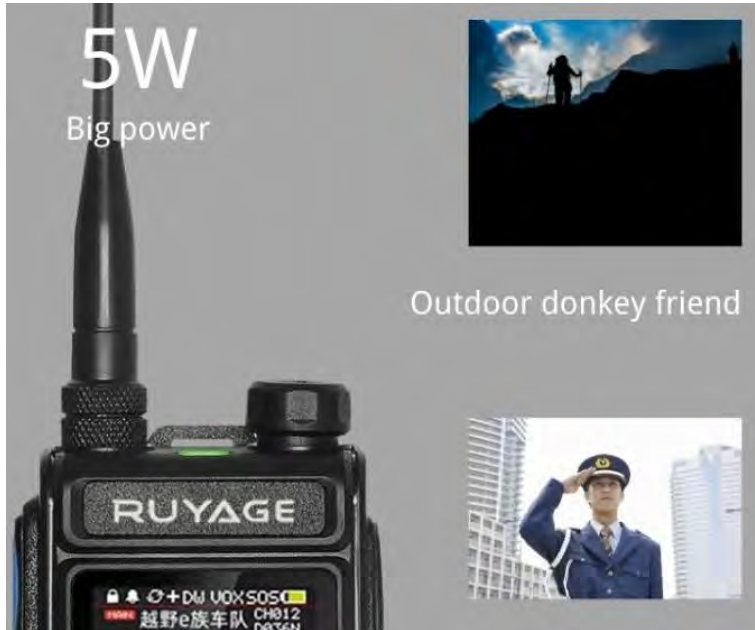
SCENES FROM CHRISTMAS PARTIES PAST

This is from 2014 and prominently shows Bill Graham VE3ETK-SK (holding the sheet of paper).
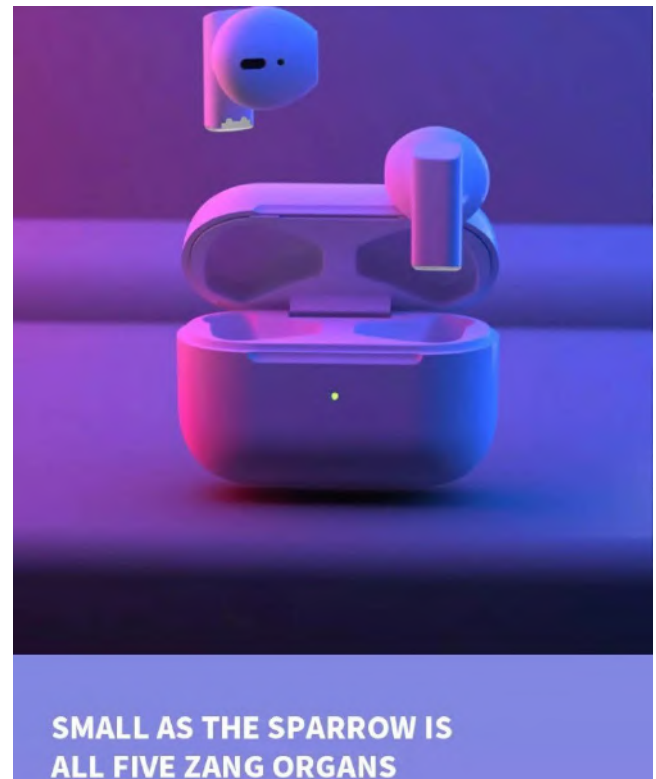
Humorous technical English Mistranslations
by Daniel Romila VE7LCG

I helped a friend buy some online products. I had to explain that many products are fine and the strange English presentation is just the result of a funny machine translation process. I collected some of these crazy mistranslations for this article.

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005004755304938.html?spm=a2g0o.product-list.0.0.6b307ccbiGubmR&algo_pvid=ef2571fa-705c-4144-813b-a21837be0c45&algo_exp_id=ef2571fa-705c-4144-813b-a21837be0c45-0&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A%2212000030350000098%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%40dis%21CAD%2191.72%2157.79%21%21%21%21%21%402103250d16658064372453998e6426%2112000030350000098%21sea&curPageLogUid=AMQbGlLsQ3dx

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005003197616104.html?spm=a2g0o.detail.1000014.3.6092133dA5W4Ce&gps-id=pcDetailBottomMoreOtherSeller&scm=1007.40050.281175.0&scm_id=1007.40050.281175.0&scm-url=1007.40050.281175.0&pvid=46054cfc-a46e-45f7-a49f-7a4cc21a6532&_t=gps-id:pcDetailBottomMoreOtherSeller,scm-url:1007.40050.281175.0,pvid:46054cfc-a46e-45f7-a49f-7a4cc21a6532,tpp_buckets:668%232846%238112%231997&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A%2212000024842320972%22%2C%22sceneId%22%3A%2230050%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%40dis%21CAD%2123.77%2123.77%21%21%21%21%21%402101d1af16658072657894231ec407%2112000024842320972%21rec

SMALL AS THE SPARROW IS
ALL FIVE ZANG ORGANS

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005004354514188.html?spm=a2g0o.detail.1000060.2.108
536ed5sBBk5&gps-
id=pcDetailBottomMoreThisSeller&scm=1007.13339.291025.0&scm_id=1007.13339.291025.0
&scm-url=1007.13339.291025.0&pvid=c7006d49-66f0-4f8f-bd83-cbe7dc6dc617&_t=gps-
id:pcDetailBottomMoreThisSeller,scm-url:1007.13339.291025.0,pvid:c7006d49-66f0-4f8f-
bd83-
cbe7dc6dc617,tpp_buckets:668%232846%238112%231997&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22
%3A%2212000028875899674%22%2C%22sceneId%22%3A%223339%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%
40dis%21CAD%21100.84%2163.52%21%21%21%21%21%4021032fa016658076202062764
e1280%2112000028875899674%21rec

In the add below I had to really scratch my head about the rope.

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/10050
03972602184.html?spm=a2g0o.productl
ist.0.0.656b3260BmQsje&algo_pvid=44
8bcefa-0c4d-42e0-b118-
0cd23c80a2e6&algo_exp_id=448bcefa-
0c4d-42e0-b118-0cd23c80a2e6-
13&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A
%2212000027606641403%22%7D&pdp
_npi=2%40dis%21CAD%2169.24%214
5.0%21%21%219.73%21%21%402103
18cf16658079379483834ecbd7%21120
00027606641403%21sea&curPageLogUi
d=19R2V0ZM429A

So it took me a while to understand what you are supposed to do with the rope:

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005004262638506.html?spm=a2g0o.productlist.0.0.7b284363bAh2f1&algo_pvid=ea135a79-3546-4b71-89a6-228b8d8e182d&algo_exp_id=ea135a79-3546-4b71-89a6-228b8d8e182d-15&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A%2212000028566372855%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%40dis%21CAD%2110.84%2172.05%21%21%21%21%21%402103250d16658094272764165e642b%2112000028566372855%21sea&curPageLogUid=cOFMf1xFpoqZ

Features:

The modern new electronic tube that completely surpasses the antique gallbladder, not only the HIFI performance, but also the charm which are very excellent.

I really do not get it about the "range" of a microphone (below). The add is selling micro-phones, not handhelds.

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005003434430873.html?spm=a2g0o.productlist.0.0.115f1e9aoiremQ&algo_pvid=11ffea14-6ffa-4b53-aaed-d7ca092b84b6&algo_exp_id=11ffea14-6ffa-4b53-aaed-d7ca092b84b6-0&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A%2212000025771158694%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%40dis%21CAD%212.72%211.94%21%21%213.78%21%21%402101e9cf16658098348852782e1c0b%2112000025771158694%21sea&curPageLogUid=g4bkoOV4T9Qv

There must be some translation error somewhere, because it is not possible to receive terrestrial TV signals with such an antenna and amplifier (not with any antenna and amplifier) from 3000 miles away (almost 4900 km):

Kebidumei TV Antenna 4K 8K 25DB High Gain HD TV DTV Box Digital EU Plug 3000 Miles Booster Active Indoor Aerial Flat Design

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/32950534712.html?spm=a2g0o.productlist.0.0.3c88667749Rv93&algo_pvid=85f97c16-a699-4663-88d1-dd2c61f08742&algo_exp_id=85f97c16-a699-4663-88d1-dd2c61f08742-3&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A%2212000027382285466%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%40dis%21CAD%219.45%217.56%21%21%21%21%21%4021031a5516658102193628100eb87f%212112000027382285466%21sea&curPageLogUid=nNOmkHHgVtgX

This would seem to be a translation error, but it's not; it's simply a scam.

2022 New High-speed External Hard Drive 500GB 1TB 2TB 4TB 8TB USB3.1 SSD 2.5 Inch Portable SSD 16TB Hard Disk for Laptop PS4

★★★★★ 4.9 ∨ 142 Reviews 2704 orders

C$ 11.39 C$ 75.91 -85%

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005004727396509.html?spm=a2g0o.productlist.0.0.23252b84rMi0ZX&algo_pvid=bc67edae-0768-4dc7-a1cd-56977f193fc6&algo_exp_id=bc67edae-0768-4dc7-a1cd-56977f193fc6-0&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A%2212000030249910390%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%40dis%21CAD%2175.91%2111.39%21%21%21%21%21%402101d68d16658086880595914e7f2e%2112000030249910390%21sea&curPageLogUid=G7SdoVmxKGet

Actually, there are not that many terabytes inside that small box. It is just a micro-SD card and a micro-SD card reader. Some buyers opened the box, shot video about it, and posted it on youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8DNubmPfL4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Yr6CaKstZw

_____

CORRESPONDANCE

**A VERY
HAPPY AND BLESSED**

Christmas

TO ALL

**Tony VE3DWI sent the following Christmas Poem:
"The Night Before Christmas"**

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
AND ALL THROUGH TWO-METERS,
NOT A SIGNAL WAS KEYING UP
ANY REPEATERS.

THE ANTENNAS REACHED UP
FROM THE TOWER, QUITE HIGH,
TO CATCH THE WEAK SIGNALS
THAT BOUNCED FROM THE SKY.

THE CHILDREN, ALL BASIC'S,
TOOK THEIR HT'S TO BED,
AND DREAMED OF THE DAY
THEY'D BE ADVANCED, INSTEAD.

MOM PUT ON HER HEADPHONES,
I PLUGGED IN THE KEY,
AND WE TUNED 40 METERS
FOR THAT RARE ZK3.

WHEN THE METER WAS PEGGED
BY A SIGNAL WITH POWER.
IT SMOKED A SMALL DIODE,
AND, I SWEAR, SHOOK THE TOWER.

MOM YANKED OFF HER PHONES,
AND WITH ALL SHE COULD MUSTER
LOGGED A SPOT OF THE SIGNAL
ON THE DX PACKETCLUSTER,

WHILE I RAN TO THE WINDOW
AND PEERED UP AT THE SKY,
TO SEE WHAT COULD GENERATE
RF THAT HIGH.

IT WAS WAY IN THE DISTANCE,
BUT THE MOON MADE IT GLEAM -
A FLYING SLEIGH,
WITH AN EIGHT ELEMENT BEAM,

AND A LITTLE OLD DRIVER
WHO LOOKED SLIGHTLY MEAN,
SO I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT
THAT IT MIGHT BE WAYNE GREEN.

BUT NO, IT WAS SANTA,
THE SANTA OF HAMS,
ON A MISSION THIS CHRISTMAS
TO CLEAN UP THE BANDS.

HE CIRCLED THE TOWER,
THEN STOPPED IN HIS TRACK,
AND HE SLID DOWN THE COAX
RIGHT INTO THE SHACK.

WHILE MOM AND I HID
BEHIND STACKS OF CQ,
THIS SANTA OF HAMMING
KNEW JUST WHAT TO DO.

HE CLEARED OFF THE SHACK DESK
OF PAPER AND PARTS,
AND FILLED OUT ALL MY LATE
QSLS, FOR A START.

HE RAN COPPER BRAID,
TOOK A STEEL ROD AND POUNDED
IT INTO THE EARTH
TILL THE STATION WAS GROUNDED.

HE TIGHTENED LOOSE FITTINGS,
RESOLDERED CONNECTIONS,
CRANKED DOWN MODULATION,
INSTALLED LIGHTNING PROTECTION.

HE NEUTRALIZED TUBES
IN MY LINEAR AMP...
(NEVER WORKED RIGHT BEFORE –
NOW IT WORKS LIKE A CHAMP).

A NEW LOW-PASS FILTER
CLEANED UP THE TV.
HE CORRECTED THE SETTINGS
IN MY TNC.

HE REPAIRED THE COMPUTER
THAT WOULDN'T COMPUTE,
AND HE BACKED UP THE HARD DRIVE
AND GOT IT TO BOOT.

THEN, HE REACHED REALLY DEEP
IN THE BAG THAT HE BROUGHT,
AND HE PULLED OUT A BIG BOX.
"A NEW RIG?" I THOUGHT!

"A NEW KENWOOD? AN ICOM?
A YAESU, FOR ME?
AN ELECRAFT, TEN-TEC
OR FLEX, COULD IT BE!"
(IF HE THOUGHT I'D BEEN BAD
IT MIGHT BE QRP!)

YES! THE ULTIMATE STATION!
HOW COULD I DESERVE THIS?
COULD IT BE ALL THOSE WEEKENDS
I WORKED PUBLIC SERVICE?

HE HOOKED IT ALL UP
AND IN RECORD TIME, QUICKLY
WORKED 100 COUNTRIES,
ALL DOWN ON 160.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY.
IT WAS MY CALL HE SENT.
BUT THE CARDS AND THE POSTAGE
WILL COST A MONTH'S RENT!

HE MADE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS,
AND LEFT A CARD BY THE KEY:
"TO BILL, FROM SANTA CLAUS.
SEVENTY-THREE."

THEN HE GRABBED HIS HT,
LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE,
PUNCHED A CODE ON THE PAD,
AND WAS GONE - NO GOOD BYE.

I RAN BACK TO THE STATION,
AND THE PILE UP WAS BIG.
BUT A CARD FROM ST. NICK
WOULD BE WORTH MY NEW RIG.

OH, TOO LATE, FOR HIS FINAL
CAME OVER THE AIR.
IT WAS COPIED ALL OVER.
IT WAS HEARD EVERYWHERE.

THE HAM'S SANTA EXCLAIMED
WHAT AN OLD HAM EXPECTS:
"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL,
AND TO ALL, GOOD DX."

Tony also sent the following:

On Christmas Eve morning, December 24, 2022, the Alexander Grimeton Friendship Association, in southern Sweden will be on the air sending out a special Christmas message to the world.

The event will begin at 08:30 CET (07:30 UTC) with the startup and tuning of the Alexanderson alternator transmitter through Grimeton Radio Station, call sign SAQ. The transmission will begin at 09:00 CET (08:00 UTC) with the 98-year-old 200 kW Alexanderson alternator on 17.2 kHz CW.

Grimeton Radio Station, SK6SAQ, will be QRV (ready) on the following frequencies:

3.535 MHz CW
7.035 MHz CW
14.035 MHz CW
3.755 MHz SSB
7.140 MHz SSB

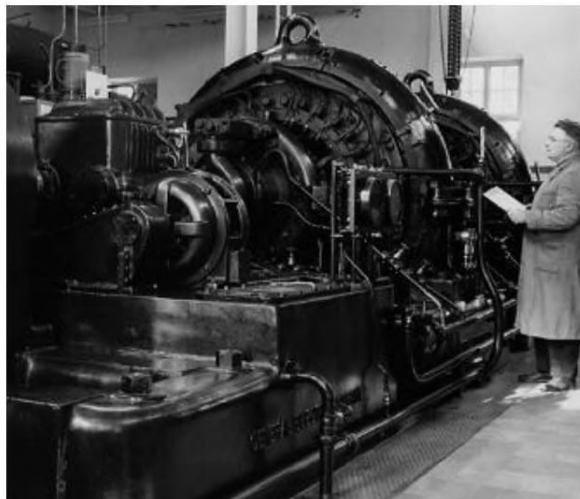QSL reports can be sent to SK6SAQ via email at info@alexander.n.se.

The event will also be live streamed on the Alexander SAQ Grimeton Friendship Association YouTube Channel. https://youtu.be/MJXhbE1bDOk

The Alexanderson alternator transmitter is the only remaining example of early pre-electronic radio transmitter technology. The station, built in 1922 - 1924, has been preserved as a historical site. From the 1920s through the 1940s, it was used to transmit telegram traffic by Morse code to North America and throughout the world during World War II.

More information about the December 24 Christmas Eve event and the transmitter can be found at the Grimeton Radio Station website. https://alexander.n.se/en/
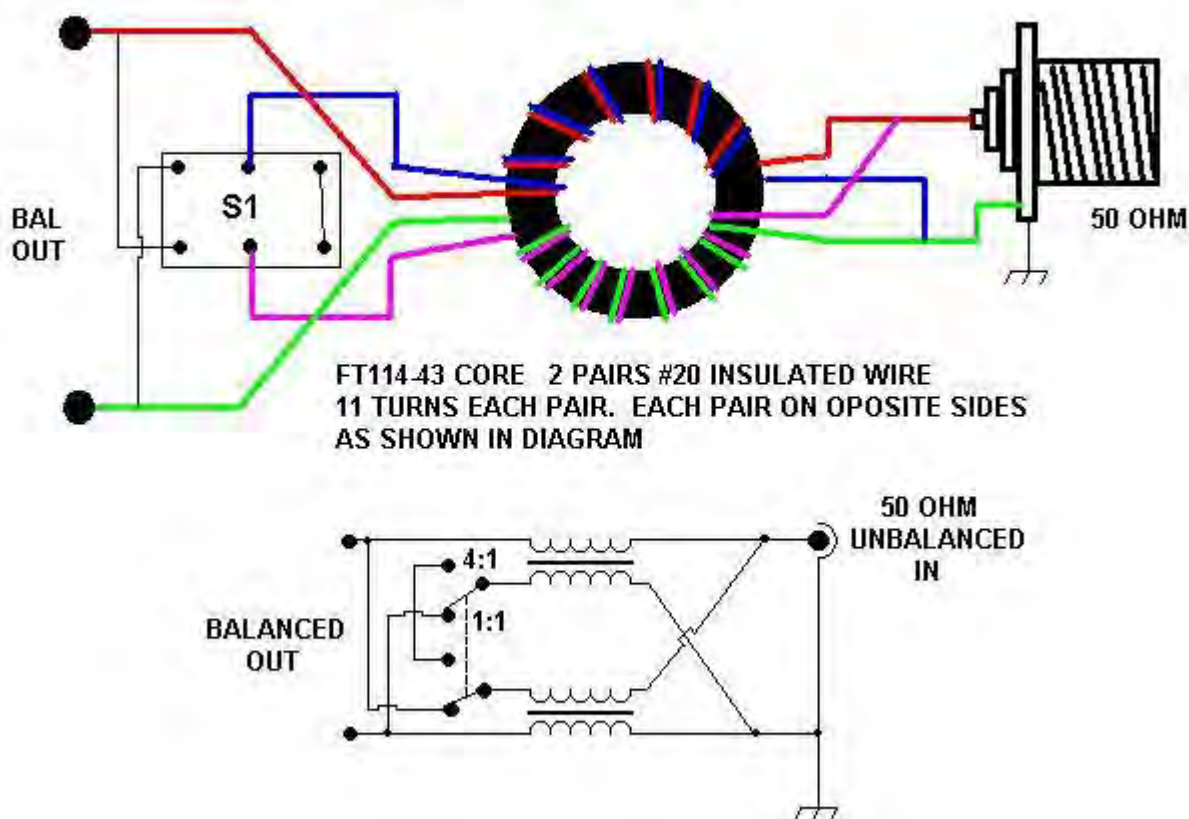
Thanks to Mike VE3MKX for sending the following article:

KC8AON's QRP PROJECTS

COMPACT SWITCHABLE BALUN
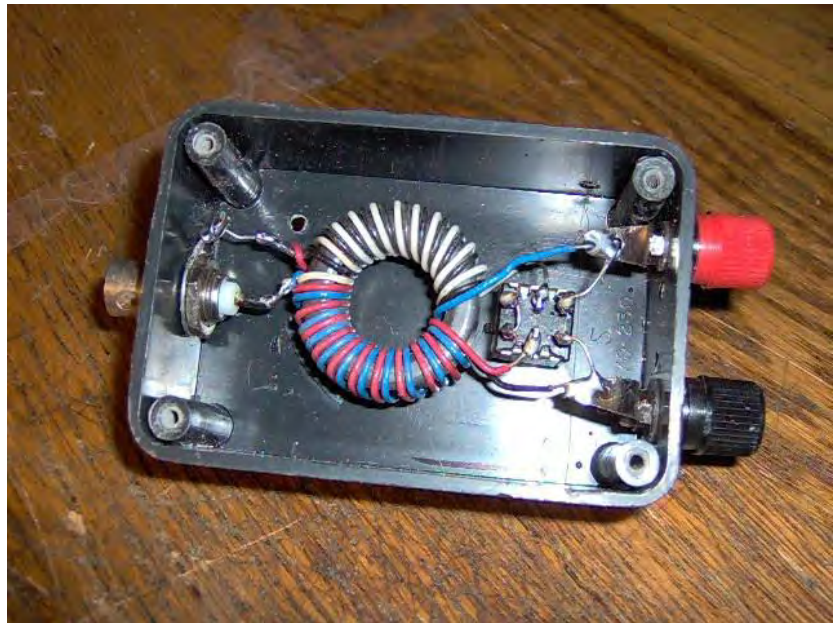

A SWITCHABLE 1:1 - 4:1 BALUN

QRP TO 25 WATT, 4:1 - 1:1 SWITCHABLE BALUN

BAL OUT   S1   FT114-43 CORE   2 PAIRS #20 INSULATED WIRE 11 TURNS EACH PAIR. EACH PAIR ON OPOSITE SIDES AS SHOWN IN DIAGRAM   50 OHM

BALANCED OUT   4:1   1:1   50 OHM UNBALANCED IN

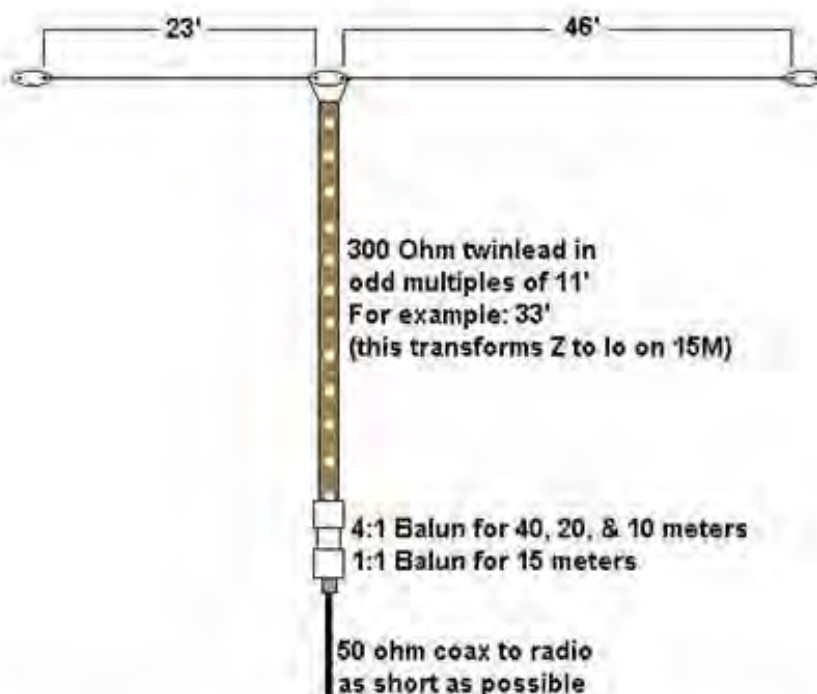## WITH THIS BALUN YOU CAN SWITCH RATIOS AT THE FLIP OF A SWITCH

I have been experimenting with an off center fed dipole for for field operation, and the antenna called for a 4:1 balun on most bands, and a 1:1 balun on 15 meters. Not wanting to take the time to physically switch baluns, I thought it would be nice to have a balun that could change ratio at the flip of a switch. So I did a bit of web searching and saw the switchable ratio balun on the Elecraft website and figured thats exactly what I need. So I looked in my ever growing junkbox to see what I had on hand to see if I could build one from scratch. I located an FT114-43 toroid and a roll of multi colored insulated #20 wire, a small plastic box with BNC connector already installed from a previous project and a mini DPDT toggle switch, and finally a

couple of binding posts - everything I needed for a switchable ratio balun of my own. So here's what I ended up with and it has proved to be a useful field accessory in my jump bag. The diagram above pretty much explains how to wire it up and the photo below will give you an idea of what the finished product looks like in case you decide to build your own.

Below is a diagram of the antenna I have been experimenting with that the balun was built for just in case you may want to build it too. I haven't exactly got my FD3 antenna trimmed to where the SWR is low on all bands yet, but the switchable balun will make it much easier to do that now !

Off Center Fed Dipole for 4 Bands - No Tuner
"FD3 Antenna"

23'   46'

300 Ohm twinlead in odd multiples of 11'
For example: 33'
(this transforms Z to lo on 15M)

4:1 Balun for 40, 20, & 10 meters
1:1 Balun for 15 meters

50 ohm coax to radio
as short as possible

The FD3 antenna is an Off Center Fed Dipole that will work 40, 20 & 10 meters with a 4:1 balun, and 15 meters by using a 1:1 balun and 300 ohm line in odd multiples of 11' (1/4 wave on 15M). It will also work 30, 17, & 12 meters with a tuner.

All Keyed Up by

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Two Issues in Learning Morse Code

On the Long Island CW Club's mailing list, someone posted a link to a blog post by Shin, JA1NUT, Two Issues in Morse Code Learning. JA1NUT is a great operator, so his advice is well worth taking.0

The first issue is whether or not learning code using software is a good idea. Shin writes, "I would question if it is the best or the only way to learn it. Learning through software may help people a lot to remember all characters in Morse code in the beginning. After that step, is software learning ideal way or not, I wonder."

I agree with JA1NUT that using software to get started is fine, but at some point, you have to wean yourself off of whatever software you're using and get on the air. I think you'll get faster quicker if you do. Just bite the bullet and do it. After all, the point of learning the code is to make on-air contacts, isn't it?

The second issue is whether or not it's a good idea to advise new operators to copy words. Shin is not so sure that it is. He writes:

I guess advising that way [learn to copy words instead of characters], the senior operators are not conscious of what's going on in reception process. We are taking the meaning of the message at every moment. When we copy a part of the word being sent, we subconsciously try to read the latter part of the word. We guess what word should follow in the context. Reading a sentence or even a whole message, we are guessing what to come next from the context. It is done almost unconsciously.

I say something similar in my blog post, Another perspective on copying CW in your head. I think what's going on is more complicated that copying words, and aside from some simple, common words, I don't copy words in my head.

In another blog post, Become a CW head case, I repeat some advice from the Malta Amateur Radio League. They write,

Listen for meaning. The goal is to learn to listen to the code as you would to the spoken spoken word. Eventually the sound will trigger your consciousness just as the spoken word does.
I end that second blog post with this paragraph:

I know a lot of this advice is kind of nebulous. Much of it is anecdotal, and as I said before, what works for one person may not work for another. I know you're all probably tired of hearing this, but the best advice, whether it be for learning the code, learning to copy code faster, or learning to copy in one's head is to just keep practicing. It's just like any skill whether it be bowling or woodworking or playing a musical instrument, you gotta work at it.