

## December 2018 Newsletter

### MERRY CHRISTMAS



I didn't get a lot of information on digital modes, however I did find out that the only Open Source software for Motorola and MMDVM DMR repeaters is developed in Lawrence, KS. Cort Buffington, NØMJS has authored the software and any serious python coders can check out his project on Github.

### Kansas DMR Repeater Listings

#### **UHF Repeaters**

Mission, KS	443.10 +5Mhz input (448.10) Color Code 1
Olathe, KS	442.10 +5Mhz input (447.10) Color Code 1
Russell, KS	442.475 +5Mhz input (447.475) Color Code 7
Minneapolis, KS	444.75 +5Mhz input (449.75) Color Code 1
Great Bend, KS	442.075 +5Mhz input (447.075) Color Code 1
Russell, KS	442.00 +5Mhz input (447.00) Color Code 1
Leavenworth, KS	442.35 +5Mhz input (447.35) Color Code 1
Lecompton, KS	444.825+ DMR
Lawrence, KS	443.800+ Analog/Multi-Mode Digital
Hays, KS	444.000+ DMR
Topeka, KS	443.625+ DMR
Manhattan, KS	443.750+ DMR
Hays, KS	444.6725+ Analog/Multi-Mode Digital
Pittsburg, KS	444.80 + DMR
Basehor, KS	442.000+ DMR

#### **VHF Repeaters**

Mission, KS	147.165 +600kHz input (147.765) Color code 1
Olathe, KS	145.23 -600kHz input (144.63) Color Code 1
Hays, KS	147.045 +600kHz input (147.645) Color Code 7
Minneapolis, KS	147.225 +600kHz input (147.825) Color Code 1
Pittsburg, KS	146.940- Analog/Multi-Mode Digital

courtesy Chuck Kraly, KØXM, Larry's List, August 23, 2018

## Kansas D-Star Repeaters

### VHF Repeaters

Louisburg, KS      145.1200 -600kHz input (145.520)  
 Minneapolis, KS    147.225 +600kHz Tone 162.2 input (147.825)

### UHF Repeaters

Topeka, KS            442.0250 +5MHz    (447.0250)  
 Olathe, Garmin Bldg 442.5250 +5MHz    (447.5250)  
 McPherson, KS      443.8500 +5MHz    (448.8500)  
 Minneapolis           444.7500 +5MHz    (449.7500)

## Yaesu System Fusion (C4FM) Repeaters

### VHF Repeaters

Beaumont, KS	145.1300	-0.6 MHz	156.7	
Osawatomie, KS	145.2500	-0.6 MHz	151.4	
Coffeyville, KS	146.6100	-0.6 MHz	91.5	
Hutchinson, KS	146.6700	-0.6 MHz		Partridge
Scott City, KS	146.7000	-0.6 MHz	141.3	
Pawnee Rock, KS	146.8350	-0.6 MHz	100.0	
Junction City, KS	146.8800	-0.6 MHz		
Overland Park, KS	146.9100	-0.6 MHz		
Pittsburg, KS	146.9400	-0.6 MHz	91.5	
Independence, KS	147.0150	+0.6 MHz	91.5	
Hays, KS	147.0450	+0.6 MHz	131.8	
Hutchinson, KS	147.1200	+0.6 MHz		
Minneapolis, KS	147.2250	+0.6 MHz	162.2	K-Link
McPherson, KS	147.3300	+0.6 MHz	162.2	
Ottawa, KS	147.3900	+0.6 MHz	88.5	

### UHF Repeaters

Louisburg, KS	442.1250	+5 MHz		
Wichita, KS	442.2500	+5 MHz	103.5	
Lawrence, KS	442.2750	+5 MHz		
Russell, KS	442.4750	+5 MHz	131.8	
Hillsboro, KS	442.5000	+5 MHz	162.2	K-Link
Shawnee, KS	442.6000	+5 MHz		
Olathe, KS	442.6250	+5 MHz	91.5	Sheridan Bridge
Pittsburg, KS	442.6750	+5 MHz	91.5	
Coffeyville, KS	442.8750	+5 MHz	91.5	
Hays, KS	443.6000	+5 MHz	100.0	
Hutchinson, KS	443.7250	+5 MHz		
Lawrence, KS	443.8000	+5 MHz	88.5	
McPherson, KS	443.8500	+5 MHz		
Great Bend, KS	444.1000	+5 MHz	100.0	
Ottawa, KS	444.1000	+5 MHz		

Pawnee Rock, KS	444.3250	+5 MHz	
Olathe, KS	444.4000	+5 MHz	
Salina, KS	444.8750	+5 MHz	118.8
Hoisington, KS	444.9250	+5 MHz	100.0 Beaver

### Wires Capable Repeaters

#### VHF Repeaters

Osawatomie, KS	145.2500	-0.6 MHz	151.4
Junction City, KS	146.8800	-0.6 MHz	
Overland Park, KS	146.9100	-0.6 MHz	

#### UHF Repeaters

Wichita, KS	442.2500	+5 MHz	103.5
Shawnee, KS	442.6000	+5 MHz	
Topeka, KS	443.9250	+5 MHz	88.5
Great Bend, KS	444.1000	+5 MHz	100.0
Olathe, KS	444.4000	+5 MHz	
Salina, KS	444.8750	+5 MHz	118.5

Kansas D-Star, Yaesu System Fusion and Wires frequencies courtesy [Repeaterbook.com](http://Repeaterbook.com)



# S.A.T.E.R.N.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

<http://satern.ksarri.org/>

### Parsons AARC Looking to Reactivate

The Parsons Area Amateur Radio Club is making a diligent effort to reactivate after a period of dormancy. The club has a vibrant history dating back to 1975 when it was formed. I have rosters from the 70's and 80's with over 40 members. PAARC has been meeting since August and with the able assistance of member Bob Hoffman, AE0AQ, has established an excellent website with many useful and informative links at [parsonshamclub.com](http://parsonshamclub.com).

We are working toward putting a new DB-224 antenna on our repeater when we catch a break in the cold weather so that 146.685 with Tone of 91.5 will be on the air again. 6 members have been meeting on the first Monday night of each month at 7 PM at the Parsons Arboretum. Plans include VE testing, possible licensing class, participation in Field Day and other public venues. We are looking forward to having other area hams with a desire for ham radio fellowship and activity join us.

Rick Tucker  
WORT  
President

UPDATED September 5, 2017 22:29				
Days	Time	Mgr	Freq	Net Name
M, W, F	6:45AM	KB0PPQ	3920 KHz	Kansas Phone Net
Daily	7:00AM	WB0YWZ	3920 KHz	Kansas AM Weather Net
Sat, Sun	8:00AM	KB0PPQ	3920 KHz	Kansas Phone Net
Mon -Fri	12:30PM	KE0DL	7253.5 KHz	Central States Traffic Net
Daily	6:00PM	WB0YWZ	3920 KHz	Kansas Weather Net
Daily	6:30PM	KB0PPQ	3920 KHz	Kansas Sideband Net
Daily	7:00PM	NB0Z	3547 KHz	QKS CW NTS Traffic Net
Mon	7:30PM	WD0ESF	3547 KHz	QKS SS CW Traffic Net
Daily	10:00PM	NB0Z	3547 KHz	QKS CW NTS Traffic Net

### Links for Kansas Hams!

ARRL	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
ARRL KS Section News Page	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas">http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas</a>
ARRL Midwest Director's Newsletter	<a href="http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf">http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf</a>
Kansas Section Pages and KAR's	<a href="http://ksarrl.org">http://ksarrl.org</a>
W Mo-Kansas S. A. T. E. R. N.	<a href="http://www.salarmymokan.org">http://www.salarmymokan.org</a>
Kansas QSO Party	<a href="http://ksqsoparty.org">http://ksqsoparty.org</a>
Newton ARC	<a href="http://newtonarc.org">http://newtonarc.org</a>
Wichita ARC	<a href="http://www.warc1.org">http://www.warc1.org</a>
Ensor Museum	<a href="http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org">http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org</a>
Wheat State Wireless Association	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/WS0WA/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/WS0WA/</a>
Sand Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc	<a href="http://www.SandhillsARC.com">http://www.SandhillsARC.com</a>
Jarbalo Amateur Radio Association	<a href="http://jara.signaleer.us">http://jara.signaleer.us</a>

## Silent Keys

### Robert Eugene Harris, Jr., KDØZNZ



Robert Eugene Harris, Jr., 72, of Salina, passed away comfortably to his eternal Lord and Savior on October 19, 2018, at the Henry Hines Hospice Center in Wichita. He was born in Modesto, Calif., to Robert Eugene Harris Sr. and Imogene Maude (Barris) Harris on Dec. 1, 1945.

Robert was a friend to everyone and even had a special pup friend named Samantha. He loved watching football as his sport of choice. You would think he would like OU the best, but he was an avid Green Bay Packers fan. He was a welder throughout his life, retiring in 2013. His greatest hobby was CB radios and he was an amateur ham operator.

He was a member of the Lindsborg Blue Lodge 397 since 1980, where he had been Past Master three times. He was a member of the Scottish Rite and a member of India Temple Shrine, Okla., for five years before transferring to Isis Temple, Salina, in 1985. He was a member there for 33 years.

He leaves his wife of 31 years, Linda Harris, of the home; daughter, Audra, of Salina; son, Richard (Shannon), of Edmond, Okla.; sister, Barbara Schmidt (Henry), of Glendale Heights, Ill.; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Steve, of Yukon, Okla.

Robert's memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at Ryan Mortuary, Salina.

A sincere thank you to the staff at Pinnacle Park Rehabilitation Center for his care since becoming a resident in 2017. He expressed a great love for his caregivers. He loved to tell them about his hobbies and life, and he bragged about his family. He was well loved and created a special bond with each one of them.

A special thank you to the Henry Hines Hospice Center for their care, dignity and respect that was shown to him during the final hours of his life.

<http://www.ryanmortuary.com/obits/2018/har81019.html>

### Larry E. Means, WAØTYN



Larry E. Means,  
WAØTYN

Larry E. Means Mt. Hope, KS - Larry E. Means, 67, loving husband, dad, and grandfather, passed away on Friday, December 7, 2018. He was born and raised near Lawrence, KS. He attended Lawrence High School and the University of Kansas and then Electronic School in Kansas City. He was an Assistant Chief Engineer for KAKE-TV in Wichita, KS. for over 40 years. He is survived by his Mother; Pauline Davis of Mt. Hope, KS. Sons; Patrick Means of Lawrence, KS., David Means of Stockton, KS., and Daughter; Stephanie and husband Boon Lee of Olathe, KS. 4 Grandchildren; Ethan and Kaelyn Means, and Matthew and Parker Lee. Visitation with family present will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Wulf-Ast Mortuary in Mt. Hope, KS. Funeral Services will be on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Mt.

Hope, KS. Interment will follow in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Lawrence, KS. at 3 p.m.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/larry-means-obituary?pid=190956446>

## Get On Board to ARRL Hamvention With the Hamradio Bus

With a tour bus company on board this year, lets go to Hamvention. Leaving the #ArkCity Kansas area on May 15 and returning May 21, the cost is currently estimated.

Estimated prices are based on a minimum of 30 passengers. With 40 or more passengers, prices will be reduced. We want to confirm 30 or more interested by December 31st. Then the tour company will release confirmed pricing and open up the reservation process.

This is a sight-seeing tour with hotels and some meals included.

#Hamradio is on board with wifi hotspots for Allstar, DMR, and Dstar included. Bring your analog and digital walkie-talkies.

The itinerary includes:

### ***Day 1-2***

Travel to Xenia OH

(Sightseeing along way thru St. Louis MO & Indianapolis IN as budgeted)

### ***Days 3-5***

HamFest 2019 – Xenia OH

Event Schedule, May 17-19, 2019

### ***Day 6-7***

Travel Home to Arkansas City KS

(Sightseeing along way thru Louisville KY & St Louis MO as budgeted)

Included in the cost:

- Roundtrip transportation from Arkansas City KS in a deluxe, late model, air-conditioned Prevost motorcoach along with a courteous and professional driver
- Christian Tours tour director for the duration of the tour
- 6 night's quality hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling / one piece per passenger
- Meals included: 6 Continental Breakfasts Plus 3 Additional Meals

**30 Passengers – ESTIMATED Price Per Person:  
Double \$ 1595 - \$1695**

A \$350 group deposit is required to book the tour. The deposit can be applied as payment toward a reservation. The deposit is refundable until 120 days prior to the departure date. An individual deposit of \$350 is due with each individual's reservations. Final payment is due 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation penalties will begin 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation insurance is recommended. Information brochures about optional tour interruption-cancellation insurance are available.

*An Early Booking Discount is available!!* When a reservation and deposit are received at least 95 days prior to departure, a 2% discount will be applied. If full balance is paid at least 95 days prior to departure AND all payments are made using cash, check or money order (NO Credit Cards), a 5% discount will be applied.

E-Mail [Lloyd Colston, KC5FM](mailto:Lloyd.Colston@kc5fm.com) to Register

Also at <http://kc5fm.blogspot.com/2018/11/get-on-board-to-hamvention-arrrl-with.html>

## ARRL Midwest Director Roderick K. Blocksome KØDAS

The ARRL Midwest Division December 2018 Newsletter is now available on the Division's Web page. Here's the direct link:

<http://www.arrrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf>

This link always takes you to the current month's newsletter. If this month's newsletter doesn't open, try refreshing the page or clearing your browser's cache, in case your browser is loading a copy of a previous newsletter. Previous newsletters are available at:

<http://www.arrrlmidwest.org/newsletter.html>

Highlights this month are:

- Kansas State University ARC - W0QQQ
- Comments on League Happenings
- ARRL Board Appointed Committees
- Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions
- Midwest Division Special Event Stations

Thanks and 73's,  
ARRL Midwest Division Director:  
Roderick K Blocksome, KØDAS  
[k0das@arrrl.org](mailto:k0das@arrrl.org)



Supporting Our Veterans - Honorably Discharged  
S\*M\*A\*R\*T - Special Military Active Retired Travel Club

*KCONDG Sherwin  
or SARG; EX-K102 1960 to 1987  
or TOP, 1SG ; Army USAR, Retired 1951 to 1987 --- final discharge 1994*

God Bless those who have served this great country AMERICA  
Proud Military Veteran

SEEING THE COUNTRY WE DEFEND  
SHERWIN & DOROTHY STIELOW



## ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service



Complete list of ECs and a printable State ARES map <http://ksarri.org/ares/>

<http://ksarri.org/ares/alphaks.php/>

<http://ksarri.org/distks.php>

### AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

### MONTHLY EC REPORT

**◆ Zone 4A – Brian KCØBS**

#### NOVEMBER MONTHLY ARES REPORT TO DEC & SEC

Total of ACTIVE ARES members: 150 +0

Local Net Name: Johnson County ARES

Emergency Coordinator = Brian Short KC0BS 913-638-7373

Alternate Emergency Coordinator, Recruiting = Jim Andera K0NK 913-884-6613

#### Assistant Emergency Coordinators:

Herb Fiddick - ECS Liaison

George McCarville WB0CNK - Training, Drills

Matt May KC4WCG - IDs, MECC

Bill Gery KA2FNK - Recruiting, Technology

Darren Martin N0MZW - Net Manager

Brad Kelsey KU0FAN – Membership

Jesse Gonzalez KE0ECS – CERT

Chuck Simpson K0NUG - Rapid Response

Jim Andera K0NK - KCHEART

#### NTS liaison is maintained with the KS SSB Net:

Jim Andera K0NK

Terry Reim WA0DTH

George McCarville WB0CNK

Jim Cordill KI0BK

Debbie Britain AB0UY

Rich Britain N0ENO

Wretha Galeener KC0HHO

Net Sessions: 41

QNI: 334

QTC: 0

4 nets = 2 Meter Voice

4 nets = 2 Meter SATERN Voice

4 nets = CW

4 nets = 6 Meter

4 nets = 2 Meter Voice Simplex

4 nets = PSK 31 SATERN

4 nets = APRS Packet

5 nets = 70CM

4 nets = 1.25 Meter

4 nets = SATERN 80 meter SSB

Report prepared by:

Darren Martin NOMZW

Johnson County Kansas

◆ **Zone 6A, E & G – Rod KØEQH**

Kansas ARES Zone 6A, E & G Net Report

Total Nets.....4

Total QNI.....25

Stations participating: ACØE, NØOXQ, NØKQX, NØOMC, KGØVA, WBØQYA, KØEQH

**Sand Hills ARC Christmas Dinner**

The Sand Hills ARC annual Christmas dinner/meeting was held Saturday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at the Ward's Cafe in Garden City. 12 were in attendance. Fine food and fellowship. Had a number of nice prizes for our drawing.

**Sand Hills ARC News  
Garden City, Lakin and Scott City Repeaters Linked**

The Sand Hills ARC repeaters in Garden City, 146.910-, PL141.3 and Scott City, 146.700-, PL141.3 are now linked along with the NØOMC repeater in Lakin, 146.985-, PL156.7. Good coverage! Thanks to Dale, NØKQX, and Dean, NØOMC!

Rod  
KØEQH

## WSJT-X 2.0, New FT-8 and MSK144 Will Be World-Wide Standard January 1

For FT-8 users or those that wish to start getting involved in that popular mode of digital operations, the full release of version 2.0 is available starting today. See the link below for download information and release notes.

<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>

The important thing to note is that 2.0 is not compatible with previous versions. All FT-8 users should plan on updating immediately and the hope is that all users will be upgraded to the new version by Jan 1, 2019.

The link above has full information about the new version and it's features.

Have fun.

Herb Fiddick, NZØF  
[hfiddick@gmail.com](mailto:hfiddick@gmail.com)



### Tom's Key Strokes - WØEAJ

Denver, Co. Displaced Kansas Neighbor  
and very gud friend!

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[radio@daileyservices.com](mailto:radio@daileyservices.com)



### EZ Way tower

The "EZ Way".... Sort of. <http://kg4ojt.com/files/EZ-Way/EZ-WayBrochure.pdf>

The EZ Way brand towers were once quite prolific in the USA and other places. Made in Tampa, FL, they were among the first to be "crank up" AND "fold over", and utilized a ground anchor system ("Wonder Ground Post") that looked like a piece of steel drill-stem pipe with 'bomb fins"... Most installations could be accomplished by simply drilling a hole in the ground, stuffing the vertical mount into it (fins first), then filling in the hole. The company literature even said you didn't need anything else. In most places, I suppose this was accurate, but if you happen to live in Wyoming, Colorado, Kitty Hawk NC, OR anyplace that has "theatrical" winds, you WILL need some concrete, and guys are recommended as well. The several models were all STEEL and came in 40, 50, 60, 70, & 85 foot heights; my friend Hunter KØGFY, has one of the 85 footers and we got it all erected in two weekends (one was for the hole & concrete – but that's another story).

This one took a bit longer, what with digging the hole with a tractor-mounted auger\* (and some human ballast), finishing up the digging with a clamshell post-hole digging tool, welding cross-pieces (made of iron fence-post) across the underground part of the support mast to keep the mast from turning, rigging up a relatively temporary setup for keeping the support mast perfectly



vertical, mixing & pouring the 10 bags of SAKRETE into the hole and square form atop the ground (next time, I'll use a cement mixer – doing it by hand in a wheelbarrow is HARD!), and all the small things you forgot to do, like bringing ALL the tools you'll need for a given task. NOTE: Murphy's Laws of Tool Requirements is: **The tools required for a given task will be "n" tools – the tools brought to the task site (typically in excess of 500 feet in distance) will be "n-1" tools.**

\*Attaching & mounting the RHINO auger on the back of my tractor is somewhat like attempting to mount a Five Hundred Pound Noodle... remembering that it is trying to EAT your hands and fingers as it demonstrates Mass x Velocity.

Now, because I live in the country, some 3.9 miles away from the closest "town", I don't have to worry about a lot of things that city-dwellers do; for instance, engineering drawings, technical figures, engineering specifications, setbacks from the neighbor's property... that sort of stuff. That said, what I DID have to concern myself with were such things as our non-infrequent high winds (60 to as high as 100 mph gusts when we have a frontal passage), and dirt that resembles Pendergast Concrete on Brush Creek- i.e. HARD, HARD, HARD Concrete. Worse, is that about 18" down, you hit CLAY, and it's dry TOO. After I had the hole down about 3 feet, I poured it full of water and let it sit for 2 days, thinking the dirt would absorb the water and loosen it up – NYAHHHHhhh, wrong! With a hole that was about 12" in diameter, and 3 feet deep, the water level dropped only 2" overnight – So I used the "drop, spin, & pull" method – get the auger turning FAST, drop it in the hole (for a bit of a "bite"), spin it a bit, then retract it UP out of the hole (still turning fast), causing it to spit the mud OUT beyond the hole... repeat. Ultimately, I got the hole 4 feet deep, and that worked.



*Strength shown in mountain air by WØEAJ*



Yes, I mentioned using a mixer (which I did NOT have). It took till the 3<sup>rd</sup>. bag before I figured out that you mix Sakrete and water AS YOU GO. Pouring in the bag of "stuff", THEN adding water is a bad idea, as is pouring in the water, and adding the "stuff". Old hands at this sort of thing are laughing as they read this, but hey... I'm an electronics guy; I'm not a hod carrier, okay? According to Home Depot's [sic] calculation table, plus my personal "wiggle factor", the total of 10 bags came out perfectly, which in ham radio is always observed as a TOTAL ACCIDENT.... Right? Of course, I also picked a day when it was about 102F in the shade to accomplish this event. I let the concrete cure for a week – I suppose that's overkill, considering our Summertime SUN (the UV at 6,320 msl is pretty high) and heat, but I was in no hurry. When ready, we tore the form off of the concrete base and all was ready to go

Using my trusty "Orange Crush" Kubota diesel tractor, and a Harbor-Fright [sic] tie-down strap, run around one of the tower legs, I lifted the tower up, to be able to affix the securing bolts & nuts to the support mast. See, there's a heavy-duty steel hinge with two 1/2" holes, welded on top of the support mast—a mounting strap on the tower it'self, is about 1 1/2" x 8" x 1/4" thick, again with

two 1/2" holes, and it's the mating of these two points that effects the "tilt over" function. Finding the "balance point" I wanted to lift it from (to make it easier to mate the holes) was ...er... interesting. You'd think it wouldn't make a lot of difference on a 25' long steel structure, but as the old axiom says "an inch is as good as a mile", and a BIG balance beam works like a small one – it just rotates slower!

As I learned as a kid on the farm, "hydraulics are so much easier than muscles" – especially when you're doing something by yourself! The reason the tie-down is at the FAR END of the bucket, is to prevent the bucket from hitting the tower as it lifts (and the angle changes)... plus those metal fence-posts mark where my septic tank is, and driving over that area is NOT ADVISED. Oh, and the mast may LOOK like it's not straight, but actually, it's the induced parallax caused by the angle of the cellphone camera. Ultimately, the hoisting effort paid off, and the two grade-5 bolts and nylock nuts went together, and the tower was "cranked up" into position, ONLY TO DISCOVER that the two welded pin guides did NOT align with the bracket on the bottom –see, there is welded bracket on the bottom of the mast, with it's "ears" spaced about an inch further apart than the tower base. The base has tubular pin-guides welded on the bottom of the two tower tubes, through which a 12" long 5/16" diameter pin (or bolt, in my case) goes through. This holds the tower bottom STILL, as the winch cable alone would allow significant movement of the tower bottom, thereby prevented by the securing bolt (pin). What to do?

As the tower-bottom, and it's pin-guides fall about an inch below the bracket (with holes), that's way beyond what can be "adjusted" by my trusty sledgehammer, but as it turned out,. the pin... threaded between the "ears" of the securing clamp, DID go on the other side of the tower legs and provides a firm and tight hold, similar to what was intended. All of the pieces involved are original, and show no signs of replacement, so I can only imagine that the tower left the factory in Tampa, that way... I'll bet the previous owner/original purchaser was NOT pleased. It might also explain why it was given to my friend KBØOLF, and why he gave it to me, in trade for a drop-down trailer hitch.



Now to "restring the violin" – Lucky for me, a good friend had given me a couple of tubs of antenna "stuff", and in there was 100 feet of steel cable, EXACTLY THE CORRECT SIZE FOR RESTRINGING THE TOWER WINCHES. As previously mentioned, there is one winch (and cable) for the "tilt over" mechanism, and another winch, cable, and latch for the "crank up" mechanism. The cable on it looked okay, but common sense told me to replace it all, which I did, in addition to "slushing" the cables (a US Navy task, performed by lower-rated men, as punishment for "whatever" – Mix a bucket of grease with powdered graphite and apply liberally to the cable, as it is pulled through your hands – yes, "theoretically" the gloves you wore would prevent cable-wire "fishhooks" from tearing the skin from your bones, but in practice, you suffered anyway, getting "unintentional tattoos" in the process. "See Mom, I DID learn a skill in

the Navy!!!" SO... my tower is recabled, as is the tilting mechanism. Now to attach the Ham II rotor and grow some aluminum from it.

More to follow... dit dit