

# NORTH SHORE ARC



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[www.osha.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc](http://www.osha.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc)



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## From The Chair in the Shack:

Camp X on the air has had another successful year thanks to the hams who helped in putting the site together, operated and took down the equipment. Those who came to erect the tower and antennas even though they could not be there to operate were very much appreciated. This event serves well to show the public what amateur radio can do.

Unlike other years, this year featured a show on code along with a slide show of the photos of the camp from Bernie Sandbrook (SK). An attempt to show PSK31 in action was damped by the strong interference from the voice stations but the few words we copied were interesting to those who saw the display.

Throngs of visitors took in the vintage military vehicles, the modern exercise being conducted, the artifact display and the tearoom as well as visiting our amateur displays.

Ken VE3FIT and Stan VE3TW, two very experienced operators spent hours on 20 m gathering contacts. Since the other bands were quite variable, we were also happy to see Howie VE3TYQ raking in the contacts as the controller of the Trans-provincial net. Most operators who wanted to work H.F. got a chance during the weekend and gathered more points. Of note was Steve VA3TPS who worked 20 single handedly and did us proud. Ken VE3RMK worked the shift from 4 am and managed to pull some contacts from otherwise dead bands. Yours truly, working with the code display, got no contacts but had lots of fun talking up radio.

We had a couple of interested parties who may well end up as hams next year. All in all, it was a successful event for both the radio clubs and the historical society. Here are the participants as I remember them. If I have left someone out please yell at me and I'll make the correction with a huge apology.

### From SPARC

Ken VE3FIT                      Stan VE3TW  
AI VE3UIR                      Glenn VA3GAR

### From SPARC and NSARC (members of both)

Will VA3WEW    Howie VE3TYQ  
Ray VE3OUB    Mike VE3MBA  
Steve VA3TPS   Brian VA3BAH  
Gary VE3EPY   Peter VA3QW  
Jutta VA3HXB   Heiko VA3SYM

### From NSARC

Ken VE3RMK    Bernie VE3TMD  
Nick VE3VDH   Joe VE3VGJ  
Dave VE3GUD   Bob VE3LLE  
Larry VA3FHG   Doug VA3DCE

### From COBRA

Tom VE3LT

That's all except to encourage every ham that has an interest in field day to attend the SPARC meeting and volunteer to join their event.

73 de Pete

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## Get your station connected with Anderson PowerPole Connectors (Part 2)

Article written by Keith Carcasole VA3DRS President of Durham Radio Sales & Service Inc.

In part one of this two part series we described the popular Anderson Powerpole connector which is quickly becoming the quick disconnect of choice for DC power connections for hams and other hobbyists. It's low price, small size, high current handling, and ease of assembly have all contributed to its popularity.

In the second and final part of this article, we'll look at some ways these connectors are commonly used and some precautions you should consider when integrating these connectors in your applications.

**Warning:** Always use common sense when working around any power source. Always double-check your work BEFORE connecting power. Please read this entire article before you make any changes to your station as there are numerous hints, tips and precautions contained throughout the article that may influence the way you end up using these connectors.

Most hams will find that they can connect all of the DC gear in their shack through just one power bar. You can homebrew your own power distribution centre for your shack however it's probably a lot easier to simply buy one. Several manufacturers make power distribution bars so there's a good chance you'll be able to find a ready made one that suits your needs. Some even feature both Powerpole and traditional DC binding posts for greater versatility.

Figure 1 shows the MFJ-1129, a versatile DC outlet strip.



**Fig. 1. The MFJ-1129 features both switched and unswitched Powerpole and binding post connections.**

Powerpole connectors also work great in the car. A power bar like the one shown above probably won't fit in your vehicle. Most cars are so small these days that even the smallest power bar might be a problem.

It's probably best to make up your own wiring harness for the car. Simply run a heavy gauge red and black zip wire from the battery through the firewall (using a rubber grommet) to a convenient location under the dash. Before buying a grommet and drilling a hole through the firewall, you may want to check to see if there is an existing grommet you can use. It's not uncommon for car manufacturers to leave extra holes for accessories that you might not have. For years of trouble free service use automotive DC power cables which are made to tolerate higher temperatures, solvents and gasses. A fuse should be installed in the positive line near the battery and the power line to each device should be fused as well.

Connect one quick disconnect to the main supply line for every device you intend to install. I recommend that you add at least one spare quick disconnect. Even if you only occasionally bring your HF radio with you on road trips, why not have a

separate connector available for it? You might find yourself installing the HF rig in the car more often if it's convenient to do it.

For the do-it-yourselfer, Anderson offers brackets that you can use to make your own customized power panel for your home or vehicle. (or anywhere else for that matter)

Figure 2 shows the bracket. There's not much to it and it doesn't cost a lot either. The diagram shows four Powerpole connectors, however the mount can also accommodate just two connectors in the standard ham configuration. Maybe you could use one of these to run power to your work bench or other location where power might be used outside the shack.

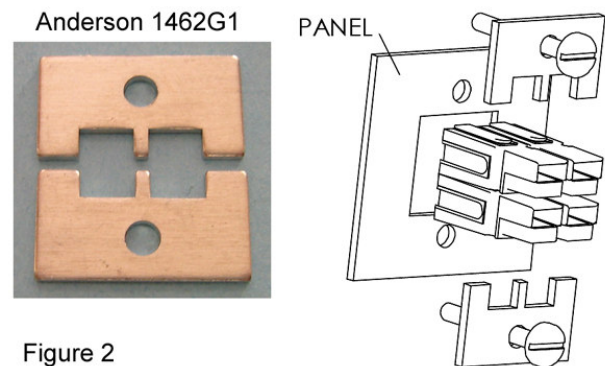


Figure 2

If you are determined to make your own power distribution bar there is an article a <http://www.qsl.net/wd4bis/connect.htm> that will give you some ideas on how you might approach this.

Now it's time to look at some of the precautions you should take before getting started.

Notice in Figure 1 that each outlet is separately fused. This is both a blessing and a curse. With each device fused separately, there's less of a chance that one device can take down your whole station. This is definitely an advantage if the station is used in a critical application. The problem with this arrangement is that it adds another fuse to the system and this can reduce the voltage supplied to your transceiver.

Experienced hams know that you can easily squeak out a few extra watts from most gear by simply eliminating the voltage drop between the power source and the transceiver. It's not that uncommon to lose up to a volt by having too many small fuses along with a long undersized power cable run.

Voltage drop affects the output of ham transceivers because output transistors and (power modules) are almost always directly connected to the DC power line with absolutely no regulation so the more voltage the output section sees, the more output you'll get.

If there's a fuse in your radio's power line and one in the power bar, make one of them a higher value and make the other the proper rating for the device. The bigger fuse should be of a size

that does not exceed the maximum rating of your power bar or power source but should be small enough to blow if the power wires short out.

Some hams feel that the Powerpole connectors pull apart too easily. There are a couple of easy ways to keep in-line quick disconnects together. Anderson makes an inexpensive and reusable device called a blok-lok which fits over a connect pair. You can easily accomplish the same thing with a tie wrap but you'll have to cut it off when you want to disconnect.



For those of you who like to keep an emergency kit, you may want to consider buying or making up some adapters to go from other commonly used power connections to the new Anderson standard. An adapter to go from the old trailer plug standard and a trusty lighter plug with a Powerpole end would come in handy from time to time. Some retailers are selling ready-made adapters for your convenience or you can make your own.

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While hunting for the headwaters of a water-feature in the hallway of the house I had the time to reflect on how easy it is to get distracted from the goal, or to get side-tracked by something else. By the way, my house isn't supposed to have a water-feature. Finding leaks in a water system is one thing. Having to open up walls and remove sound (and water) absorbing insulation is another. Is it better to stop the leak(s) quickly or open up the wall with an eye to easing the re-closing of said wall? An age-old question I'm sure. Events don't always lend themselves to careful consideration, but that doesn't relieve us of the requirement to think. There are a lot of things I would like to do this summer radio-

wise. I have to remember to not get distracted from the goal and to do my due-diligence on the planning side of things. My goal is to have fun with my Rig and learn at the same time. Have a safe and happy summer. I teach Wednesday evenings, but I'll try to check-in to the net when I have the chance and if I get my rig up to the cottage I'll look for you on ONTARS or the T-P Net.

Your humble scribe.  
Ken  
VE3RMK

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**Please take note that this month's advertising feature is for July-August.** HOWEVER, Keith at Durham Radio has told me that if you mention the Ad in the NSARC Bulletin for June they will honour the prices listed in June. Not bad eh?

## Alinco DJV5EH VHF/UHF plus WIDE RX



- Alphanumeric display, up to 6 characters
  - 200 memory channels plus two call chan
  - Full VHF + UHF amateur band coverage
  - Expandable receive range, (76 ~ 999 MHz) includes wide FM capability and cellular band
  - Up to 6 watts output, 3 output settings
  - CTCSS encode and decode, DTMF squelch and 4 different European tone bursts
  - Accepts up to 13.8 VDC direct input
  - 4 scan modes, 5 scan banks
  - Input voltage display w/over voltage warn
  - MARS/CAP capability
  - Autodial memories
  - Automatic high temp protection feature
- Eight different tuning steps  
- Split-band operation capability  
- 2.2 (W) x 3.8 (H) x 1.5 (D) inches

**Reg: \$399.00**  
**Sale \$329.00**

**20% off all in stock, regularly priced Alinco accessories. No Radio purchase necessary!**

## Pyramid 80A Power Supply PS-86KX



- Fully Regulated, Low Ripple
- Rack Mountable Chassis
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- Crowbar Over-Voltage Protection
- Electronic Overload Protection with Auto-Reset
- Short Circuit & Thermal protection
- Built-In Cooling Fan
- 3 Prong Grounded AC Plug
- Heavy Duty Cabinet & Heatsink
- 4 Roller Casters
- OUTPUT: 13.8V DC
- 80 AMP CONSTANT - 85 AMP SURGE
- Weight 25.6 kg
- Dimensions: 18.9" (W) x 6.9" (H) 13.3" (D)

**\$699.00**

**10% of ALL in-stock Cushcraft Products**

## An Inexpensive Power Supply for Your Station.



**13.8V @ 20 Amps**  
**ONLY \$139.95!**

With a footprint smaller than a sheet of paper and weighing in at just 4 pounds, the PS28 doesn't take up much space and is easily transportable. Operate on 120 or 240VAC. Features over voltage protection and quiet internal cooling fan. Supplies enough current to run a 100W HF rig.

## The Most Versatile Recorder You 'll Ever Own!

There's still nothing as easy and inexpensive to use for long recordings as a cassette tape. The VersaCorder records up to four hours on one side of a regular 120 min. cassette tape or a 110 min. tape if you use the 6-event timer to eliminate commercial breaks.



**Reg. \$169.00**  
**Sale \$119.00**

It's perfect for recording and playing back talk shows, important telephone calls, QSO's and meetings. You have the option to select between quarter speed recording for voice, and regular speed for music and playback of regular tapes.

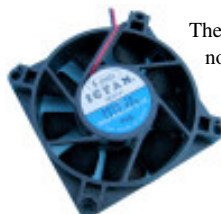
A pull-out handle and built-in microphone add to the VersaCorder's versatility for portable use. To record a radio show while you're away, just connect the VersaCorder to the earphone jack of any radio, set the timer, and press the record button.

The built-in, high quality speaker allows you to listen while you record or you can turn the volume off for silent recording. A special tri-plug patch cord is included for use with the new CCRadio plus or any other radio. You can also make a decent recording right from your radio's speaker to the VersaCorder's built-in microphone. Another incredible feature of the VersaCorder is Voice Activation. Voice Activated recording is ideal for recording telephone calls or meetings where there may be pauses in a conversation.

The tape will stop until it hears a sound, thereby saving tape and playback time. With the optional Telephone Patch Cord, you can record directly from the telephone.

Runs on (4) optional "C" batteries or the included AC adapter.  
Weight: 2 lbs. 6 ozs. Size: 10" W x 2.625" H x 6.5" D.

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**40mm - \$5.95 80mm - \$7.95 120mm - \$9.95**

## Garmin's Newest GPS Receivers C320 and C330

The C-series offers all of the functions of a premium in-dash system at a fraction of the cost. These sub-compact, full-featured GPS receivers are so small you can even suction cup them to your windshield! Both models feature a touchscreen interface, with automatic route calculation to any destination and turn-by-turn voice-prompted directions along the way. Selecting a destination is straightforward and requires only a limited amount of input from the user. GPS pricing changes frequently. Please call the store or visit our web site for current pricing.



**All items subject to availability. Sale pricing ends August 31st, 2005**

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