North Shore ARC

North Shore Amateur Radio Club

UPCOMING MAY DATES

May 21st

Monthly club meeting

7pm start

Visit us on the web

www.ve3osh.com

North Shore ARC is a

Affiliated club

www.rac.ca

Behind The Mike

Hi Everyone!!

Here's Mays issue of the Club bulletin!! I hope you all enjoy the read. It seems the weather is slowly improving on us and spring is starting to finally show up.

Something interesting I found out between last months bulletin and this month is an article ARRL printed on the Boston marathon. As we all are aware, I'm sure, the Boston marathon was a tragedy. What we may not know is amateur radio played it's role at the marathon. Read the article below and see how HAM's played a role in this event. It's definitely worth the read

http://www.arrl.org/news/radio-amateurs-provide-communication-support-in-boston-marathon-bombings-updated

This months newsletter will be full of interesting articles, pictures from Hamfest back in April, and a brief article on our three wonderful repeaters and the crew who works on them.

Well that's all for me see you at the club meeting on May 21st at WhiteCliffe Terrace Retirement Residence at 1900hrs.

73's & 88's

Martha
va3sbd

Meet The Repeater Crew

This month we are going to do a behind the scenes on the group that keeps the clubs repeaters ticking. These guys work so hard on the repeaters and the projects associated with them that it seems only fair to give them a chance to shine and be in the spotlight. Without them our repeater may not work and we wouldn't have a chance to talk to each other or help out with the many different community service events we do around Durham Region. Our repeaters are the backbone of this club and is a vital part of not only our club but the many clubs found around the area.

The repeater committee consists of the following people, Ralph VE3CRK, Dave VE3GUD, Stan VE3FLW, Clint VA3KDK, Eric VA3SIK, Jeffrey VA3RTV, Mike VE3VCY, and last but definitely not least Bob VE3LLE

Ralph Day VE3CRK:

He is the big cheese, the big kahuna, the leader of the pack. Ralph is our repeater committee chairperson. A retired GM Employee he takes charge of the committee and keeps them in check with the repeater projects they have on the go and sees that it gets done in a timely fashion.

Dave Dell VE3GUD:

Dave is the lead technical person on the repeater committee. He works with Clint on all the repeater boards troubleshooting them and helping design the many different boards that keeps the repeaters functioning. Dave is a retired CBC employee and loves to keep his hands busy working on board designs and helping build them as well.

Stan Williams VE3FLW:

Stan is the North Shore ARC's repeater trustee. His main job is to be the liaison person between the club, WNYSORC (Western New York and Southern Ontario Repeater Council), and Industry Canada. If there's any problems with the repeaters and either of these two entities he's the one who represents the club in getting to the bottom of the problem

Clint Metcalf VA3KDK:

Clint is the embedded systems person. He works with Dave on the design of the boards and deals with the incorporating of microprocessor chips and anything dealing with embedded software. Clint holds a college diploma in networking and a formal education in electronics so this type of thing is right up his alley.

Eric Sikkenk VA3SIK:

Eric is our Linux guy. He knows and sleeps everything Linux. Eric has been a member of the North Shore ARC just coming up on 2 years now having passed the basic exam with a mark of 93%. He takes care of the computers up at the repeater site and secures them so tight making it impossible for anyone to breach through the security walls he has in place.

Jeffrey Golde VA3RTV:

Another new member to the repeater committee as well as a fairly new member to the club itself Jeffrey holds his basic with honours and helps out with the repeater projects where he can. He has a keen interest in 6 meters and looks forward to helping out there where he can.
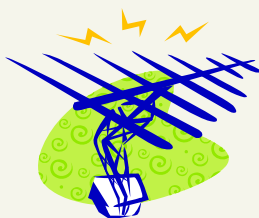
Meet The Repeater Crew

Mike Maclean VE3VCY:

Mike is our resident tower climber. He helped with the move of our repeater from the Orange Lodge on Shirley Rd down to our current location at Purple Woods Conservation Area. He holds his advance ticket as well as Morse Code and if anything needs to be mounted on the club tower he's the one who takes care of it.
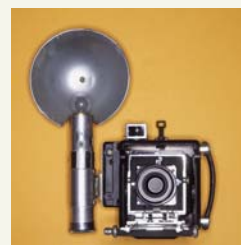
Bob Elston VE3LLE:

Bob is our repeater handyman. He takes care of all the small projects at the repeater site and anything else he can help out with. Bob helped build the workbench housed up at the repeater site for the repeater committee to use when it comes to testing any of the equipment and doing small repairs when needed. A retired Bell employee Bob helped with the original wiring of the repeater and generator shack at Purple Woods and loves taking care of small projects like that.

Well that's the entire repeater crew. For all the hard work they do for us and their love of the hobby next time you see them please feel free to thank them for all they do to help keep our backbone, our repeaters, on the air and when needed repaired and operating in a timely matter. Without them we would have no way to help out with the many different club events we do around Durham Region.
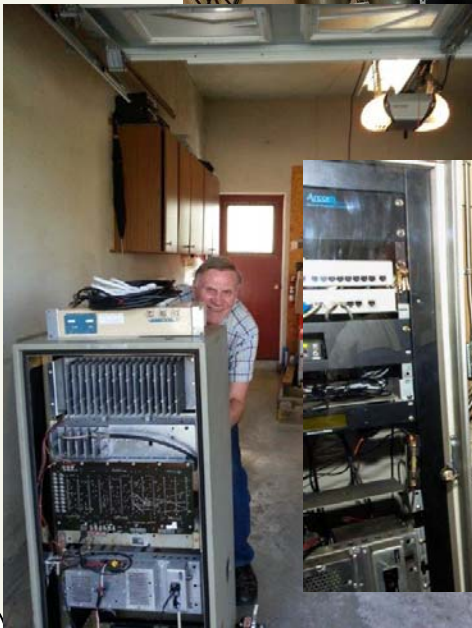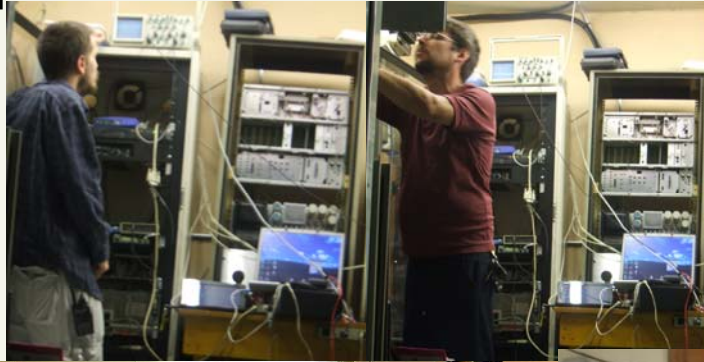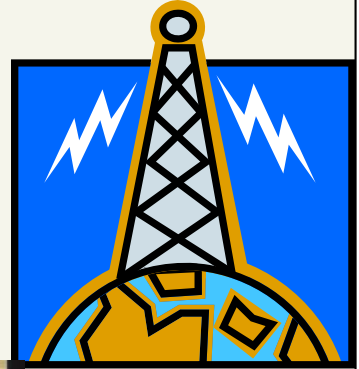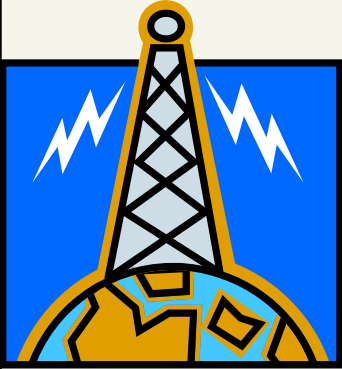
Photos

Here's a few of the many photos taken at Durham Region Hamfest. Please feel free to see the remainder of the ones taken at the FLICKR link below. If you have any photos from Hamfest and want the rest of the club to enjoy them too please send me the flickr slideshow link via email and I will include it in Junes newsletter.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/va3sbd/sets/72157633374162208/

Photos From Hamfest

Repeater Photos

The Members Post

Viewing Digital Modes without a Receiver

If you use an internet Software Defined Radio (SDR) receiver to receive digital signals, and Fldigi software to decode those signals, you can view real time transmissions in modes such as PSK-31, RTTY, and CW on your computer screen without purchasing anything.

To receive data

Select an online SDR receiver and configure it for data reception as follows:

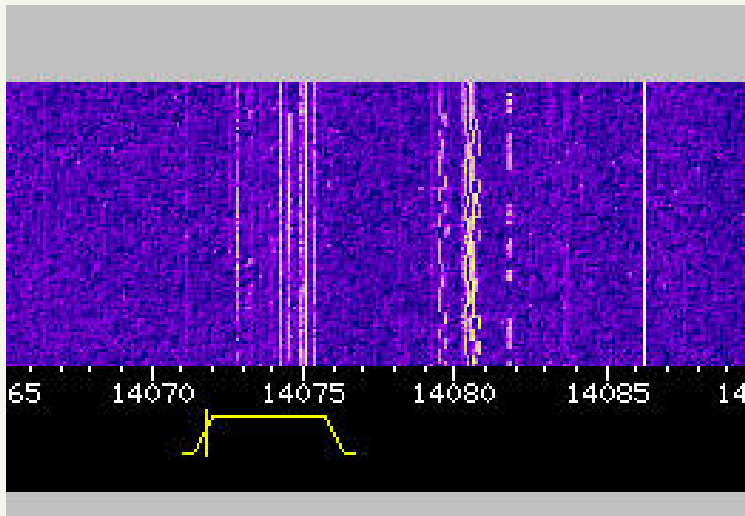Go to a site such as http://www.websdr.org/ that lists online SDR receiver sites.

Select a receiver site that will display one or more receivers in the lower portion of the HF bands such as 20 or 40 meters, for instance http://71.172.141.126:8901/ which is a group of soft rock receivers at Sea Girt, NJ.

Your PC must have a recent version of Java and Java Script running, which is normal.

Select a **Band**, for example 20 meters.

Select **USB** as the **Bandwidth**.

Click under the center of the group of frequencies on the waterfall that show the most digital signal activity, for example near 14.070 MHz USB.

Click and drag the edges of the yellow bandwidth display to widen it, and to include as many received signals as possible.

Adjust your PC volume to hear the received signals.

To install Fldigi

Install the latest version of Fldigi as follows:

Go to http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html and then click the **fldigi- x.x.x setup** file under **Windows Setup.**

Click **Run** to install the latest version of Fldigi. Answer any software installation questions as appropriate.
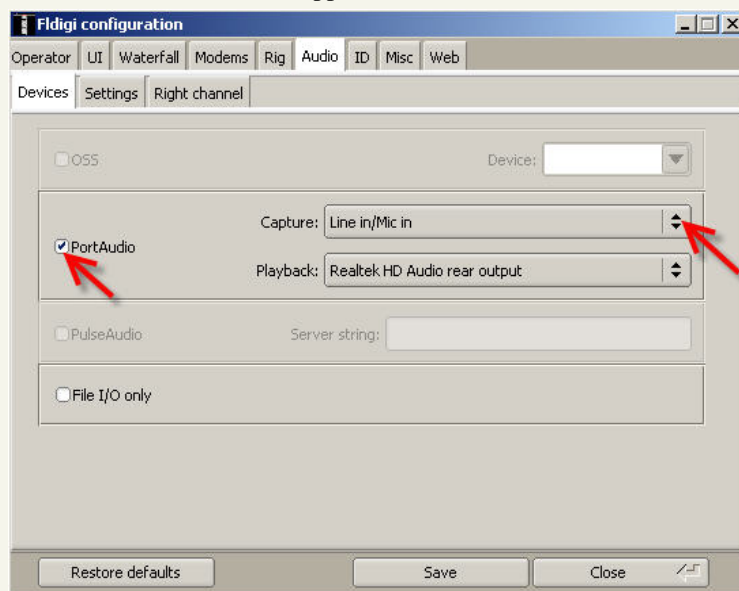
To configure Fldigi

This procedure is different for each computer. You need to configure the Sound Card tab in Fldigi so the output of your web browser connects to the input of Fldigi. Each computer sound system is different, and some laptops need to have their built-in microphone turned off to receive a clear signal.

Start **Fldigi**.

    The Fldigi main window appears.

Select **Configure** > **Sound Card**, and then click **Audio** > **Devices**

    The Audio Devices tab appears.

Check the **Port Audio** checkbox.

In the **Capture** section, click the up/down arrows to select your audio device or driver to capture. You may need to return to this step if no audio is displayed on the Fldigi main window waterfall.

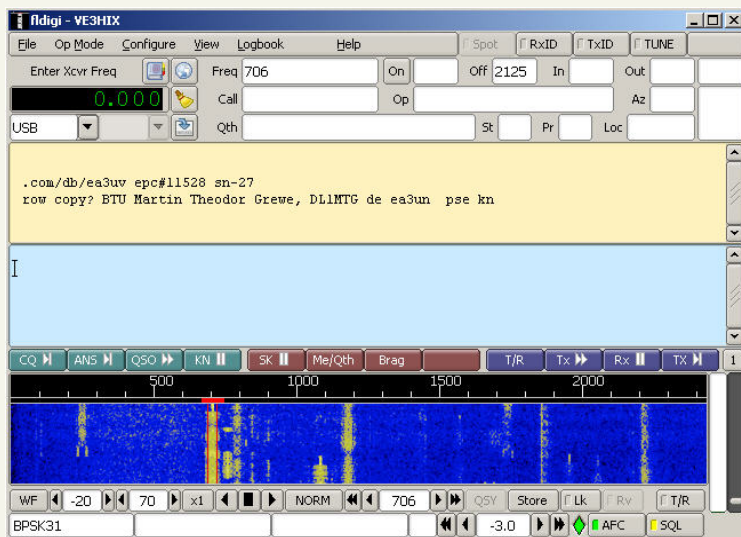Click **Save** to save your selections.

    The Fldigi main window appears.

To display PSK-31 signals

BPSK-31 is the default Operating Mode when Fldigi is installed.

Adjust the volume as necessary in the PC, PC sound system drivers, microphone sensitivity, online SDR receiver Volume control (on the web page), and, if necessary, the Fldigi main window Upper Signal Level and Level Range so that the Fldigi waterfall displays signals as follows:

    There is normally some volume shown in a green bar to the right of the waterfall (not shown here). Low volumes are preferrable to high volumes.

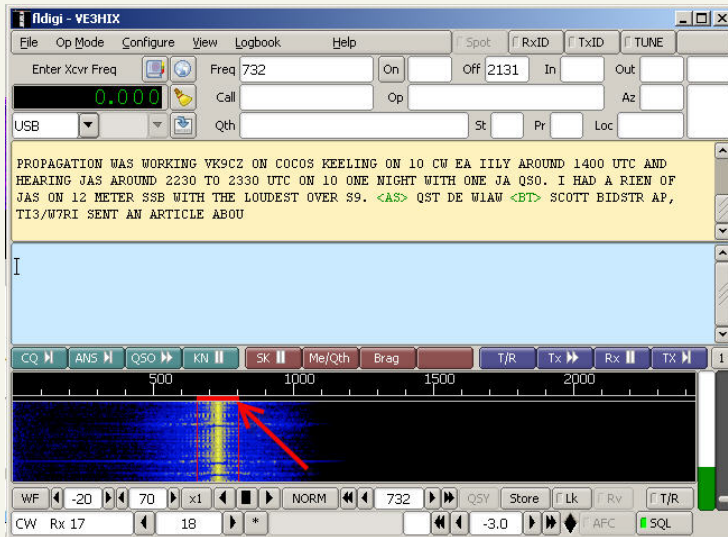Select **Op Mode** > **PSK** > **BPSK-31**.
Click and drag the red frequency selector bar over the desired signal. You will soon learn to recognize PSK-31
    signals.
    Decoded text should display in the yellow text window.
To display multiple signals, Click **View** > **Signal browser**, and then wait a few seconds

To display CW signals
Select **Op Mode** > **CW**.

Tune the SDR receiver to the center of a CW signal, and select **CW wide** as the **Bandwidth**.
    You should hear a clean CW signal.
Click and drag the red frequency selector bar over the desired signal.
    Decoded text should display in the yellow text window.

You can use a physical receiver instead of the online receiver. Connect your earphone jack through, for in-
stance, a 1/4" mono to 1/8" stereo adapter plug, and a 1/8" to 1/8" stereo cord to the microphone input of your
PC. Keep the audio of your receiver low.

If you use a transceiver connected as above, you can decode received traffic and also decode your own CW side tone to see how good your CW fist really is.

Cheers and good luck,
Bob Cowley VE3HIX

Announcements

#1 The Repeater Committee has brought to my attention and has asked that it be included in this newsletter that they are considering turning the input tones on for VE3OSH effective May 26th. This will be discussed at the club meeting on May 21st to see if there's any issues amongst the club members about turning the tones on. The reasoning for turning the tones on is to eliminate the possibility of the users of other repeaters or other signals from tripping ours. WNYSORC states *"Use of CTCSS is mandatory as a means to prevent users of co-channel repeaters from accessing the local repeater"* taken from http://www.wnysorc.org/areas.php
This means we cannot complain about coordination issues unless we are in compliance.

In preparation for the possibility of the tones being turned on, it is recommended that those who use the club repeater program the PL Tone of 156.7 Mhz into their radios so that they are prepared for May 26th if they do turn the tones on at that time. Output tone has been active since new repeater went on air for tone squelch usage to help eliminate inter-mod. The tone has also been published in the repeater directory for years.

The decision will be made following the meeting on May 21st by the repeater committee and if they are turned on there will be an announcement made for the week leading up to May 26th and the week following about the change made.

#2 The Durham Radio Flyer is on the back page. Keith pointed out it says the subscriber specials are till the 14th of the month; however, they will honour the specials until the 17th of the month just for us.

Dates To Remember

May 21st– Monthly Club meeting 7pm start
June 18th- Monthly Club meeting 7pm start
June 22nd&23rd- ARRL's Field Day
Aug 25th– Ride 4 United Way
Sept 21st– Pauls Dirty Enduro

Oct 6th– CIBC Run For the Cure
Oct 15th–Monthly Club meeting 7pm
Nov 19th-Monthly Club meeting 7pm
Dec 17th-NSARC Christmas Potluck
in lieu of a formal meeting

What's New at Durham Radio - May 6th, 2013

If you would like to receive our "What's New" mailing (about once every other month) along with subscriber only deals, visit our HOME PAGE and add your email address. (bottom right)

Important Announcements & Reminders

Celebrating 20 Years in Business - Durham Radio was founded back in 1993 and is one of the oldest stores of it's type in the entire country! Celebrate with us by subscribing to our **Flash Deals** and get in on special deals on the 20th of every month for the rest of the year!

20th Anniversary Special Offer for Durham Radio Customers from Tigertronics - Get a SLMOD for FREE with the purchase of any SLUSB. The SLMOD is a plug and play jumper chip that allows you to instantly configure your Tigertonics SLUSB TNC modem for your amateur transceiver. Not only is the SLUSB inexpensive, it's also easy to configure. The interface has a built-in sound card so you don't have to mess about with a whole bunch of cables to connect your transceiver to your computer's sound card. Please mention this offer when ordering by phone, in person or on line.

20th Anniversary Offer - Kenwood Swag - Receive a ball cap or water bottle when you purchase any Kenwood transceiver. While supplies last. you must mention this special offer when ordering! See them at the bottom of this message or click **here** to go to our web site.

Garmin $100 Mail in Rebate - Purchase a Zumo350LM and receive a $100 rebate from Garmin. Details on our product page HERE.

Smiths Falls Flea Market - Sat. May 11/13. We'll have lots of great specials at the show. Stop by and say hi!!! Why not let us save you the shipping. Just call us before store closing on May 10th and we'll bring along any item for you to purchase at the show. ** PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2013, WE WILL NOT BE BRINGING ALONG THE LARGE VARIETY WE NORMALLY DO TO HAMFESTS SO IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU CALL AHEAD TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT** Click HERE for show details.
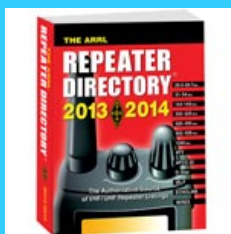
TS990S Availability - The next shipment of 990's are coming soon, however we recommend you pre-order to avoid having to wait for the following shipment as they are still in very limited distribution. Limited time offer FREE GIFTS with the purchase of a TS-990.

We're still lowering prices - check out the latest price reductions **HERE**.

New Products - New Products - New Products - New Products - New Products - New Products

Amateur Radio

2014 Repeater Books Now in Stock!

Choose from a pocket-sized or spiral bound desktop edition.

More Info

MFJ Tripod Antenna Stands

These portable and lightweight stands can hold antennas up to 100 lbs*. Three models to choose from.
MFJ1918 - 6' extended, 1" diameter
MFJ1918EX - as above but with a 9.5' telescoping mast
MFJ1919 - 7.8' extended, 1.4" diameter

*More Info

Radio Science for the Radio Amateur

Radio Science for the Radio Amateur explores and explains the often profound differences between science and technology, and dispels the notion that we know all there is to know about radio.

More Info

TMV71A Remote Installation Kit

The DFK3D has all the parts required for remote installation of the TMV71A.

More Info

Ham Radio for Arduino and Picaxe

Build all sorts of cool amateur products with inexpensive microcontroller platforms such as the popular open-source Arduino board and readily available parts and accessory boards.

More Info

SO239CAPR

Protect your SO-239 and "N" connectors with this easy-to-use weather cap.

More Info

Triple Microphone Mount

Perect for stations that use more than one mic. Clips and mics not included.

More Info

It's our 20th Anniversary and we're celebrating by offering our customers special "Flash Deals" on or about the 20th of each month for the rest of this year. Sign up for our "Flash Deals" by clicking HERE.

CB Radios

HD Stainless Spring

The DSS504 is stronger and more resitant to corrosion than other springs this size. Also new, model 30311 Aries light duty spring.

More Info

Heavy Duty Power CB Power Cord

The CB3AHD fits all of the most popular Cobra, Uniden and Galaxy CB Radios. Heavy gauge reduces voltage drop between radio and power source.

More Info

GPS

Garmin Trucker GPS Dezl 760LMT

Garmin's most advanced truck navigator, with never-before-seen features and a 7" screen - their largest display yet. Only dezl 760LMT has Active Lane Guidance to help you navigate interchanges. Provides caution alerts for many posted road restrictions based on your truck profile even when driving without a route. More Info

Weather Cap for Garmin 350LMT

Use this rubber weather cap to cover the connector pins. The cap is connected using 2 screws with washers. The kit also includes a rubber mini USB cover that is connected with 1 screw/washer. P/N GAR0101184303

More Info

HDTV

Channel Master TV Signal Booster

The CM3042 is a single output indoor amp with 13dB gain. It covers both the VHF and UHF bands and has a low signal to noise ratio.

More Info

Tech Tip - Say Buh-Bye to Cable

If you have been thinking about dropping cable and switching to a TV antenna, you might be tempted to call the cable guy to cancel before you even set up your new TV antenna system. This might seem like a great idea for people who don't spend a great deal of time in front of the TV in the summer however you may later discover that a TV antenna may not work in your area. We recommend that you call us first before saying goodbye to the cable guy. 905-665-5466

Miscellaneous

More SMA RF Adapters

The 407816 is a double male adapter.

The 407822 is SMA Male to Mini UHF Female

See all SMA adapters HERE

Revolutionary Spotlight!

C. Crane does it again! This time they have released a high-efficiency LED spotlight. Extremely long battery life on common "AA" batteries. You'll throw out your old bulky spotlight as soon as you get one of these. More Info
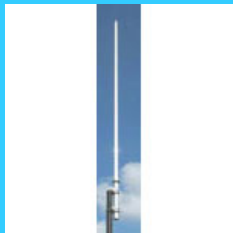
Subscriber Specials

Subscriber-Only Hidden Link Deals

Order directly from the hidden links below or mention these offers when shopping in person or when you phone in your order. **All items (including the subscriber-only specials) are subject to availability and may be limited to stock on hand.** Sale ends May 14th at midnight.

2.4GHz Omni Base Antenna

The Comet GP243 features a low SWR from 2.4 - 2.5GHz and an extremely high gain omnidirectional pattern with 3 degree downtilt for long range point-to-multipoint applications. More Info

Reg. Price: $ 139.95
Subscriber Special: $98.20

SCS Modem with Pactor 3 License

This modem allows you to use your HF marine or Amateur transceiver to send and receive emails while on the open seas. USB interface for simple connection to your PC. Also controls frequency of most transceivers. More Info

Reg. Price: $1149 .95
Subscriber Special: $ 1054.98

Hands On Radio Experiments

The collection covers a wealth of topics designed to educate today's radio experimenters, and inspire others who want to learn what makes their radios work.

More Info

Reg. Price: $19.95
Subscriber Special: $14.98

Triple Magnet Deal

The MFJ-336M has enough holding power to support large mobile antennas like the EX510BNMO. Includes coax and connector.

More Info

Reg. Price: $49.95
Subscriber Special: $36.20

20th Anniversary Special Offer - Free Kenwood Ball Cap or Water Bottle
Get a cap or water bottle when you purchase any Kenwood transceiver. Add one of the items below to your cart before checking out. If you phone in your order or visit in person remember to ask for your free item.

Kenwood Water Bottle

This uninsulated water bottle is made of aluminum and features a no-leak cap that locks in place to prevent spills.

More Info

Kenwood Baseball Cap

The Kenwood name is embedded in the fabric itself. Kenwood is also clearly written in white on the rear closure.

More Info

Follow us on Social Media

Our Facebook Page - Click **here** to visit our Facebook page and "Like" us to get in on one day only deals.

Follow Us on Twitter! - **We will be offering crazy one-day "Tweet Deals" from time to time for our Twitter followers so...SIGN UP NOW at www.twitter.com/durhamradio   DON'T MISS OUT!**

Do You Hate Social Media But Still Want Deals? - This list might suit you better. "Subscriber Only Specials" are great but you only get them once every month or two. What if you could get in on deals on our one-of-a-kind, overstocks, B-stock, discontinued items and more as soon as they are available. Now you can with our "Flash Deals" delivered right to your in box from the folks you trust at Durham Radio. Click **HERE** to sign up.

Our Current Specials!

Our Web Site Sale Items

What's New Archive