

**Please support Handihams**

## Handiham Radio Camp 2011

*It's about the other 51 weeks in the year.*



It was our second year for Radio Camp at Camp Courage on Cedar Lake, near Maple Lake, Minnesota. In Minnesota, you are never far from a lake!

The annual Radio Camp sessions offer Handiham members a chance to enjoy almost a week of ham radio learning and fun in a wooded setting next to a crystal-clear lake.

This year we were able to give brand-new handheld radios to our newly-licensed Technicians, so you can be sure there was plenty of incentive to pass the exam when the VE team joined us at the end of the week.



It's "thumbs up" for Pauline, who passed her Tech at camp and soon received her new callsign, KDØPIX.

John Glass, NU6P, offered to buy Wouxun 2m/70cm radios for the new hams. Matt Arthur, KAØPQW, volunteered to produce audio tutorials on that radio for our blind hams. The completed series of four audio lessons is now available on handiham.org.

That's the thing about camp: It isn't just about the week when volunteers, campers, and supporters team up to make it happen. It's about going home after becoming part of a community of amateur radio operators and continuing to learn about radio, getting on the

air and staying in touch with your friends, and ultimately helping others to learn the art and science of ham radio!

Lucinda Moody, AB8WF, is an accomplished public service operator in her home state of Michigan. She shares her skills during camp week, teaching one on one and helping others to advance their operating skills. She realizes that it is not enough to simply help Handiham members learn enough to pass the licensing exams. To be successful, they must go home at the end of the week energized and eager to use their radio equipment and they must know how to use it.

We also know that there has to be an opportunity to get on the air, so our daily nets are always there, ready to welcome anyone, new ham or old timer. Net "wrangler" Susi, WA6DKS, makes sure the EchoLink, IRLP, and WIRES connected worldwide sessions run smoothly and that net control stations are ready to take charge. Net control Christoph, DF9WM/KB3PRN not only enjoys taking charge of the net but is now learning to use the HF remote base stations. Net control and participation training at Radio Camp sets the stage for getting on the air after camp.

When campers get home, they might need help getting equipment installed or meeting local hams. That is why we encourage our Handiham members to join a local radio club. Although we have a Handiham Radio Club that is open to any Handiham member, local clubs provide the opportunity to attend club programs on technology and oper-

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Lucinda, AB8WF, foreground, shows Bill, N6HBO, (left) and Ken, KB3LLA, (middle) how to use the screenreading computer to control the TS-480HX remote base station at Handiham Radio Camp.



**Two stations - Less waiting!  
No room for an antenna? No problem.  
Handiham member rig:  
The Handiham Remote Base stations  
are available 24/7 via the Internet.**



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**1-866-426-3442**

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ating, and support public service activities. Many clubs have a MAP, or Member Assistance Program and can help with at least some station projects.

Radio Camp helps to prepare our Handiham members to take their skills home with them and be good members of their local radio clubs. Daily VHF nets, tabletop exercises, participation in our own Handiham Radio Club meetings, a hidden transmitter hunt, and other common club functions all provide an opportunity to gain experience in a friendly non-judgmental environment.

Meanwhile, back at the local radio club, our Handiham members are encouraged to take responsibility. Sure, a person who uses a wheelchair might not be able to climb towers, but editing the club newsletter might be a possibility. Maybe a blind club member cannot read a print circuit diagram, but can teach a club's licensing class. Handiham members have served their local clubs in many capacities, but the important thing is that they continue a long tradition of taking good things home from Radio Camp!

## Spotlight on Volunteers: Dr. Dave Justis, KNØS



Dr. Dave Justis, KNØS, has been volunteering for Handihams since the late 1970's. This photo was taken in the storeroom at Handiham HQ, where he was foraging for some antennas to use for show-and-tell examples in his Extra Class Seminar at 2011 Radio Camp. His specialty? Darned near anything that needs doing or explaining, that's what! A true "Renaissance Man", Dr. Dave has an encyclopedic knowledge that extends across science, technology, and medicine. It falls to him to teach the advanced math of the Extra Class course at Radio Camp. His ability to build simple, effective tactile

models for his blind students and put complex electronics concepts into spoken words that light up the faces of his listeners with understanding... well, it's just plain amazing and fun to behold. **Now Dr. Dave has given us a challenge to raise \$5,000, which he will match.** As this newsletter goes to print, we are about 1/5 of the way there. Can you help? Designate a donation to Handihams, stating that it is for the "Dr. Dave Challenge". We will keep you posted in our weekly e-letter as to the progress of the fund. Be sure to put a note saying "Dr. Dave Challenge" somewhere in the envelope or on the note line of the check. If you donate online via [CourageCenter.org](http://CourageCenter.org) be sure to use the pull-down to designate to Handihams and then send an email letting us know you donated to the Dr. Dave fund: [hamradio@couragecenter.org](mailto:hamradio@couragecenter.org).

### Want more Handiham World?

Handiham World is published each Wednesday in a FREE weekly e-letter format. Subscribe to the email version by sending a request to [wa0tda@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tda@arrl.net).

Read your weekly Handiham World on line at [www.handiham.org](http://www.handiham.org).

Listen to your Handiham World on line each week at [www.handiham.org](http://www.handiham.org).

Subscribe to the Handiham World as a free audio podcast at the iTunes store. Just search for "handiham" on iTunes.



## Handiham Net Update - Fall/Winter 2011/2012

**Daytime Echolink Net:** Daily at 11:00 CST (17:00 UTC) on "HANDIHAM" node 494492, IRLP node 9008, WIRES 1427. **Evening Echolink Net:** Wednesdays at 19:30 CST (01:30 UTC) on the same nodes as the daily net. *The Echolink nets are also on several repeater systems, including the 145.45 NØBVE repeater in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.*

**SSB Net:** Now that band conditions are improving, let me know what suggestions you have for an HF net. Call 1-763-520-0511 or email [wa0tda@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tda@arrl.net). Thanks from Pat, WAØTDA.

**Friday CW Net:** 7.112 MHz CW from 09:00 to 12:00 EST, plus time to wrap up the last contact. This is a Handiham informal slow speed CW net. Look for Paul, W8IRT. You may email Paul at [w8irt@aol.com](mailto:w8irt@aol.com) with your ideas and signal reports.

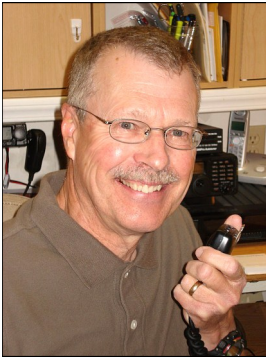
*You need not be a Handiham member - all are welcome.*

**ATOM stands for Audible Transmitter Output Monitor. ATOM is a friendly device that produces an audible pitch related to how much power your transmitter is sending to your antenna.**

Blind hams are always interested in audible devices that can help them monitor station parameters and assess the performance of their equipment. The ATOM is a small, affordable device that produces an audio tone relative to transmitter RF output. It was featured in a "With the Handihams" article in the April, 2011 Worldradio Magazine. The article is "An Audible Transmitter Output Monitor with a Stealth Antenna" by Mike Keithly, KJ6CBW, who can be contacted via the information on the ATOM product website or **650-386-6286**.

<http://blind-ham-products.com/atom/atom.htm>





## What got you started in radio?

by Patrick Tice, WAØTDA, Handiham Manager

When I think about that question, I recall a little crystal radio kit that my dad bought for me. It had a plastic housing to make it look like a real table radio, except that it was smaller and had only a single earpiece. And of course it "magically" took a radio signal right out of the airwaves and turned it into music without any electricity at all! It was one of several crystal diode radios that I had as a kid. Another memorable one was made up in a round plastic ball that was supposed to be a satellite. There was a tuning control that consisted of a slug-tuned coil. The brass screw from the ferrite slug extended out of the top of the "satellite" like some sort of antenna. It had a little rubber cap on it to serve as a grip, so that the coil could be tuned more easily. The real antenna was a piece of bell wire with an alligator clip at the end. That allowed you to connect the radio to something conductive that might hopefully act as a better antenna and bring in a local AM station. Of course today the term "satellite radio" means something completely different!

When I was a teenager, my dad bought me a Knight-Kit Span Master two tube regenerative receiver. It was not my brightest moment in radio when the kit manual called for putting "spaghetti" over some of the bare wire leads during assembly and I went down to the kitchen cabinet to find this apparently necessary but odd ingredient for a radio. Dad straightened me out on that and we ended up using the insulating tubing that was actually already provided by Knight-Kit. The Span Master worked when it was finished, so I installed it in the vinyl-covered wooden cabinet that came with it and ran a wire out of my bedroom window to serve as an antenna. The circuit might not seem like much, since it had only two vacuum tubes, but it turned out to be light-years ahead of the crystal radios. One important feature was a speaker, so I didn't have to use headphones. The tuning knob was connected directly to a variable capacitor, but there was a helpful "bandspread" knob connected to a second capacitor so that fine tuning was possible without pulleys and dial strings. Furthermore, the radio had a band switch and covered not only the AM broadcast band but also several short-wave bands. In spite of the two tube design, a fair amount of gain could be had from the simple regenerative circuit. It was also possible to hear Morse code and even something that was new and mysterious back then: SSB. You had to be patient and careful tuning it in, though. It was more fun to listen to far off short-wave stations and find out what was happening all around the world.

I consider the Span Master to have been the radio that really got me interested in getting my amateur radio Novice license. Today we can still find electronic kits, and who knows? One of those kits might spark the interest of a future engineer, scientist, or teacher! Consider an electronic kit as a gift for your child or the grandkids, making it age-appropriate, of course. Then make it a parent-child project to assemble it and make it work. You will both have fun, and open the door to STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. At the Courage Center Handiham System we believe that people with disabilities will benefit by earning their amateur radio licenses. STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math knowledge can be the bridge to a better job, more independence in daily life skills, and so much more. **Call 1-866-426-3442 to join or support our work.**

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Listen to fascinating shortwave broadcasts from all your favorite AM and stations—on a receiver you assemble yourself! The Fun-to-Build Span Master is far and away the leader in its class. The superb precision circuit pulls in stations from the far corners of the world on any of controls usually found only on more costly receivers and is attractive styling is a real impressive addition to any room.

Continuous tuning from 545 to 30 mc lets you hear short waves direct from Hawaii, from Mexico, South Africa, London and other cities. 100 to 40,000 cycles per second—many more—can start here. Bandspread feature gives you precise tuning over headphones terminals and speaker (switch) for music listening. A listing of foreign broadcasting stations is included for handy reference.

The clearly written step-by-step instruction manual also includes the International Morse Code as an aid in learning to receive government, postal stations and Ham messages. Perforated cabinet has perforated white lattice and satin-chrome control panel. With 16 parts, tubes, wire and other PL115 special to bonus antenna kit included at 1¢. Size: 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" x 1 1/2". For operation from 110-120 volts, 60 cycle AC. Ship. wt. 1 1/2 lbs.

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**BY X 259P. Kit Only... ONLY \$23.96**

**OUTDOOR ANTENNA KIT** includes 50 feet of antenna wire, 25 feet of lead-in, insulators, standard, etc. Ship. wt. 1 1/2 lbs. **NET 1.03**

**50' X 100P. .... NET 1.03**

**DUAL HEADSET** With 10 pins for headphones with 18 ft. cable. **NET 2.08**

**THIS CHART SHOWS YOU THE RADIO SERVICES**

Image: Here is the Knight-Kit Span Master as shown in a 1962 Allied Radio catalog. You could get the outdoor antenna kit for only 1 cent more, but the radio itself cost \$25.95.



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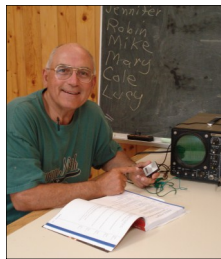
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## Value!



That's what we are always trying to deliver to our Handiham members. In these challenging times, we still offer radio camps, thanks to volunteer instructors like Bill Vokac, K9BV, pictured. Our two Internet remote base stations are available to Handiham members every day, as are on line audio licensing classes.

Please give what you can, as we need you to help keep the Handiham program strong! We really need your help.

**Here's why:** Courage Center is being forced to concentrate more of its remaining philanthropy on rehabilitation services. This means that programs such as ours are being funded less by Courage Center and more by the Handiham endowment fund. We need to build our Handiham endowment fund and cover current costs in order to keep operating. The endowment fund helps keep our Handiham budget independent of the overall Courage Center budget.

**When you donate to build the endowment, you help make our services more secure far into the future.**

Another way to help is to remember us in your estate plans. Be sure the designee in your estate plan is "Handihams." If you are gifting to our program, please designate your gifts to "Handihams," so that the Handiham program will be the recipient.

The enclosed envelope is included for your convenience in supporting the Handiham System with your gifts. If you wish to renew your membership or order study materials, please call 1-866-426-3442 toll-free or email: [hamradio@couragecenter.org](mailto:hamradio@couragecenter.org).