

## SEPTEMBER MEETING - THURSDAY, 9/5 AT 7 PM

Hamburg Memorial Youth Center

200 Prospect Ave., Hamburg

## New STARS Online Flea Market

By Don Niles, K2PMC

Page 1

## Team K2A Tops Competition for 13 Colonies Event

By Don Niles, K2PMC

Page 2

## An Update on Band Conditions and FT8

By Gerry Maira, KA2MGE

Page 4

## New STARS Online Flea Market

By Don Niles, K2PMC

STARS has added a feature to our web site that should be of interest to all members. It is the STARS Flea Market. The Flea Market can be used to advertise items you may want to buy, sell, or give away. If there is a particular item you may be looking for you can use the Wanted section. To buy, sell or post in the Flea Market will require a simple registration and you are good to go.

Another feature that should be of interest is the ability to set up Polls. If a member is interested in knowing what others think about a particular amateur radio topic that member can establish his/her own Poll.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

To access the Flea Market, go to <https://www.wb2elw.net> and click on the logo shown at right.

Feedback, whether positive or negative is always appreciated.



## Corrections

If ewe sea sum thing wee did knot get rite, let-  
tuce no:

[wb2elw@twc.com](mailto:wb2elw@twc.com)

## 13 Colonies Special Event, 2019

By Don Niles, K2PMC

The 13 Colonies Event runs from July 1 to July 8 each year. Each of the 13 original colonies is designated a special event call sign from K2A (NY) to K2M (PA). The object of the event is for stations to contact the 13 colony stations to receive various certificates which are really well done. Each state has a team of operators (around 12 or so) who operate all modes on all bands. The colony teams have a little contest among themselves to see which team garners the most contacts during the event. This year my team, K2A, was fortunate to top the other 12 colony teams in the competition. It was the first time K2A has finished first.

For our efforts we received a nice plaque, suitable for hanging. Attached is a picture of a 13 Colony Clean Sweep certificate and also the plaque that I received as a member of the winning team.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

**THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT GROUP PRESENTS THE 11TH ANNUAL:**  
*4th Of July Week - 13 Colonies Special Event*  
**JULY 1ST - JULY 7TH, 2019**

K2A - NY.  
K2B - VA.  
K2C - RI.  
K2D - CT.  
K2E - DE.  
K2F - MD.  
K2G - GA.



**OLDE FORT TICONDEROGA, NY. - 1777**  
 (Fully Restored in 1909 With Original Period Cannon)

BUILT BY THE FRENCH, OCCUPIED BY THE AMERICANS & CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH.

K2H - MA.  
K2I - NJ.  
K2J - NC.  
K2K - NH.  
K2L - SC.  
K2M - PA.  
K2NUS  
  
 Manager's Bonus Station

**CONTACTS**  
  
**13**  
*All 13 Colony States Clean Sweep*

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ARS: **KU2US** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS 4TH OF JULY WEEK CELEBRATION HONORING THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONY STATES & THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR NATION IN 1776

  
 WM3PEN



  
 GB13COL

**73'**  


REN VILLONE-KU2US: MANAGER: *Ren Villone*

**13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT**  
**JULY 1ST TO JULY 7TH, 2019**



**Presents:**

**TOP STATE OPERATORS AWARD**



**K2A / NEW YORK**  
**16,092 CONTACTS**

**DON NILES - K2PMC**

Editor's Note - Congratulations Don and the K2A team!

## An Update on Band Conditions and FT8

By Gerry Maira, KA2MGE

I thought I would follow up on my article from last month about 20 meters. Who knows, maybe this will develop into a regular DX column. Note: All times shown are local time, and all my observations are based on FT8 operation. It's very possible that conditions are good enough for SSB or CW contacts as well if you have a well equipped station and good antennas. I have one antenna for all bands; a dipole cut for 40 meters and fed with 450 ohm twin lead. It's up about 25' at the ends and 20' at the center. It passes between cable TV lines and under powerlines that feed the 3 storey buildings to the west of the antenna. The antenna itself runs NE-SW. I run 100 watts on FT8 (and FT4) when I'm DX'ing.

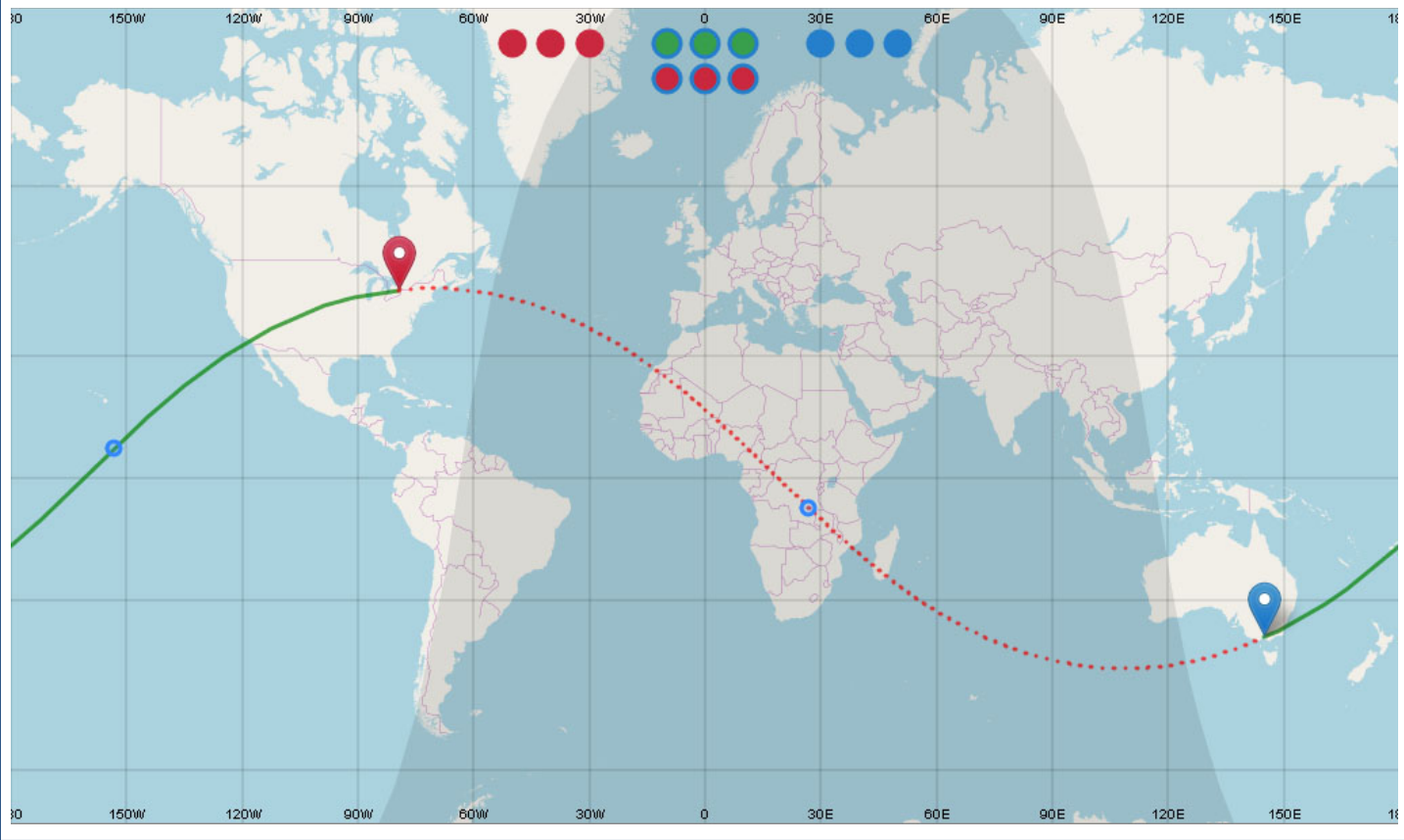
The favorable conditions in the morning on 20 that I wrote about last month seem to be disappearing lately but every day is different and you never know what you might hear between 6am and 9am. 40 meters has become the "hot" band in the morning now. Here too, conditions change from day to day but signals are stronger and propagation is better than on 20. Short path propagation across the Pacific can start as early as 5-6am and it's gone by 9am. VK and ZL can be worked any morning but JA only on better days.

On Aug. 30th, I was listening to FT8 at 6pm on 40 and I was very surprised to hear VK7AC from Tasmania calling CQ. A few minutes later he was in the log. Signal reports were -20 dB for me and -16 dB for him. Half an hour later at 6:30pm, I had an easy contact with VK3EW in Melbourne, which is very close to Tasmania. Signal reports were -11 dB for me and -15 dB for him. I wondered what was going on so I took a look at VOACAP Online. The "sunlight map" from VOACAP on page 5 shows the world at 6:15pm that day as well as the short path (green line) and long path (red dotted line) signal paths from Toronto to Melbourne. Toronto is the closest location to Buffalo I could choose for this model. A short path contact would have been impossible because the entire path was in daylight. For long path though, I had 1.5 hours of daylight before sunset and Melbourne had its sunrise 1.5 hours earlier. The rest of the area was in darkness. Conditions were good enough though to allow the 2 long path QSO's, with the distance to Melbourne at 14,750 miles (short path is 10,110 miles). I'm sure all this is nothing surprising to long-time big gun DX'ers but working the Pacific by long path on a low band like 40 was something new for me. I think we can only expect both the early morning short path and late day long path openings on the low bands to improve as we approach the winter solstice on Dec. 22nd.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

Sunspot numbers are low or nonexistent? The high bands are dead you say? Who cares! With low band propagation as good as this, and useable with a station like mine, I'm happy to take advantage of it and make the most of it. It's just going to get better as we get into the winter. I'm sure I'll even have some luck with this antenna on 80 as conditions improve. What's nice about FT8 besides good performance in poor conditions is that you can check propagation by just calling CQ or working another U.S. station and watching the PSK Reporter website to see where you're being heard, complete with a signal report, at monitoring stations around the world.



Need a 1 Farad Capacitor?

I was very surprised to see these at a Best Buy store recently. I've always read in textbooks that a 1 Farad capacitor would be impractical to build and would be of no use - unless you drive around with your subwoofers blasting loud enough to shake half a city block. Then it will help ease the strain on your car's electrical system. This thing is 32" long x 3" diameter.



