

The Doctor Is In

On-Air Training
Idaho Falls Bishops' Storehouse
2016-04-27

Welcome

Good evening to the net. I have just one reminder for this evening. There will be an exam session this Saturday, April 30, at 9:00 am in room 558 of the Creek building on the EITC campus. Exams of all license classes will be offered. If you are upgrading, bring a copy of your FCC license. You can find instructions for downloading and printing a copy of your FCC at RexburgHams.org/links. You'll also need \$14, a pen and pencil, and two forms of identification. Are there any questions about this exam session?

As a reminder, if you are study for the Amateur Extra exam, the current question pool expires on June 30 of this year. After that, you'll need to study a new set of questions.

Introduction

The Internet is a marvelous tool. It and the many applications that use it disseminate information, have definitely made education much more readily available. That applies to the amateur radio community, too.

I stumbled across a resource this past week that I want to share with you. Many of you probably subscribe to the ARRL's QST magazine. Those that do are probably familiar with the monthly article by Joel Hallas W1ZR entitled "The Doctor Is In". Joel responds each month to two or three questions from readers. These are usually technical in nature. This month's article found Joel responding to questions about a wire antenna that covers 12, 17 and 30 meters and measuring peak envelope power out of an amplifier. Usually I find the questions are so far removed from what I'm working on that I often skim the questions and ignore the answers.

Well, this month the ARRL expanded its presence on the Internet just a little further by starting a podcast featuring Joel. The podcast shares the same name as Joel's magazine article, "The Doctor Is In". I've been getting emails about it as you have too if you're an ARRL member. But I'm not much of a podcaster. Occasionally I'll listen to a CW feed, but in my lifetime I can count on less than two hands the number of podcasts I've listened to.

Last Saturday, that all changed. I decided to see what all this "The Doctor Is In" hubbub was about. So I downloaded one of the episodes and let 'er play while I drove to Rigby.

Resources

Hooked! I was really impressed. The topic was applicable. The dialog was easy to understand. The jargon was kept to a minimum or explained very well. I think all hams, whether you're a technician or an amateur extra, would get some benefit from it. So far, there are two episodes released. Well, three actually, but the first is simply a one minute promotional spot.

The first real episode aired on April 7 and the topic is HF Vertical Antennas. Joel talks about what is so magical about a 43' vertical, how verticals compare to dipoles, and discusses how many radials you should have. The podcast is about 20 minutes long.

The second episode aired on April 21 and the topic is "Is it true that CW gets through when nothing else does?" The basis of the discussion does revolve around Morse code, but I learned something about signal-to-noise ratios, mode bandwidths, and other things. The second podcast is about 15 minutes long.

You can listen to these on an IOS or Android smartphone or from a web page. I'll leave the smartphone instructions to your teenage children or grandkids, but I will tell you how to get to them from the web.

Open your favorite Internet browser—Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer or whatever—and navigate to the following website: blubrry.com, bravo lima uniform bravo romeo romeo yankee. It's blueberry without any letter "E", echo.

In the Blueberry search box, type ARRL and hit enter. My search returned three results. Click on the second or third one entitled "ARRL The Doctor is In". That will take you to the page with the three episodes. Episodes are scheduled to be released every two weeks. If so, the next is due to be released on May 5. I can hardly wait.

Are there any questions about these podcasts or how to find them on the web?

Closing

Short and hopefully sweet tonight. Thank you all for being this evening. This is N7TMS, back to net control.