

HF Radio Training Session at W5KID Aboard USS Kidd

On Saturday February 12, 2022, three of our newer club members attended a training session about HF radio at our W5KID club station. Jon Reise (WA9JBR) and John Krupsky (WA5MLF) arranged two 2-hour sessions to provide some experience with HF radio operations.

Jon and John described the station's radio components and their interconnections, including the antenna system and the computer that is used for logging and digital mode contacts. The basics of voice and digital operation on the HF bands were discussed and demonstrated, followed by supervision of each student in making radio contacts.



Joe Roppolo (K5ROP) attended the morning session (10:00 am to noon). After the orientation session, Joe enjoyed an extended voice conversation with one of Jon's friends in the Chicago area. Joe also observed several FT8 contacts made by Jon.



Erik Herrmann, Sr. (N5KON) and Erik Herrmann, II (K5EDH) attended the afternoon session (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm). After their orientation session, they enjoyed a bunch of quick voice contacts as the receiving end of a typical W5KID pile-up.

All three participants are scheduled for exams to upgrade their licenses.



All the day's contacts were on the 20 m band. 42 voice contacts spanned the following 18 states: FL, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NH, NY, OH, PA, TN, WI, WV. The North Carolina contact with AE4WX was from the Battleship North Carolina. Our 7 FT8 contacts included: AZ, IL, MA, MN, NM, OH and Puerto Rico.

We greatly appreciate the computer and widescreen monitor that Dan Lott (KF5TQN) donated to our club for use at the USS KIDD. They form a significant upgrade to the computing components that served the club for many years to log our contacts. The new computer continues the logging function and performs very well in running digital mode programs. We also greatly appreciate the Icom IC7300 transceiver and the Acom 600S linear amplifier donated by Tom Harrell (KE5LVQ). These have greatly enhanced our station's performance.

We are glad that everyone enjoyed the session at the USS KIDD and look forward to future sessions like this one for other members who have not yet had the opportunity to operate on the HF bands. If you would like to experience HF operation on phone or FT8, contact John Krupsky (WA5MLF) or Jon Reise (WA9JBR). Our next regularly scheduled activity onboard the USS KIDD will be on March 29 in honor of Vietnam Veterans Day.

73,

John WA5MLF