



President-Mark Hetherington - KF5KUW Vice-President-James Hunt - KI5DQ Secretary-Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF
 Treasurer-Sharon McEachern – KK5SM Trustee- Dr.Mike Durbin - K5MJJ

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club

K5FRC

Volume 1 Issue 7 - July 2023

JUNE 2023 K5FRC TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY 2023 K5FRC TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently, the club has a balance of \$4,434.18 in its checking account and a balance of \$224.09 in its savings account. Since our last club meeting, the club has had the following deposits and expenditures: A deposit of \$48 on 6-27-23 included two individual memberships of \$24 from Chris Entwistle and Wyndell Ferguson. WELCOME!!!

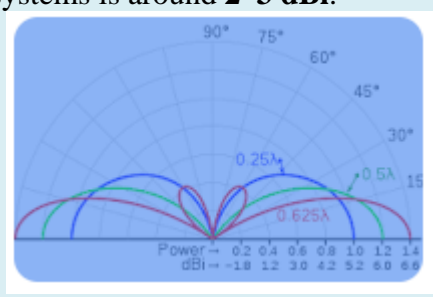
The club had 4 reimbursement expenditures from Summer Field Day. They are as follows:
 David and Rebecca Bruner-\$48.39
 Mike and Jody Lindsey-\$139.51
 Keith Mumaw-\$76.59 (yet to put check in his hand)
 Bob and DeeDee Yakel-\$173.65 (yet to put check in their hands)
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR EFFORTS!!!!

Reminder: If you need to renew your ARRL membership, you can do so through the club and the club will receive a commission from ARRL. I will have the forms at our next meeting.

73's
 Sharon
 KK5SM

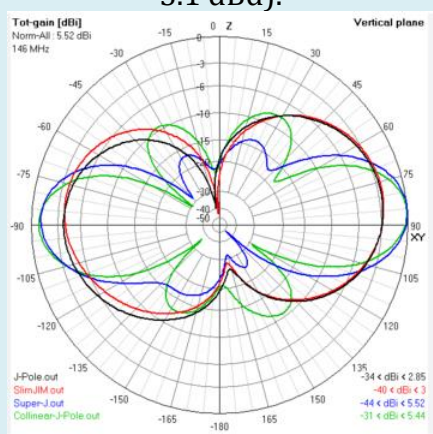
JUST SOME FUN INFO

The gain of actual quarter wave antennas with typical ground systems is around **2-3 dBi**.

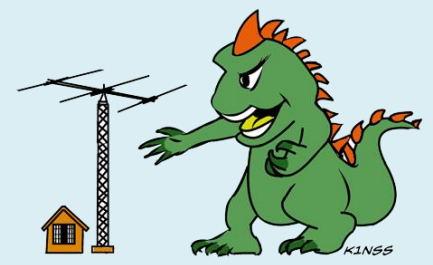


RADIATION PATTERN 360 DEGREES

The approximate gain in the H-plane of the Collinear J antenna is from **4.6 to 5.2 dBi** (2.4 dBd to 3.1 dBd).



NOTE ONE DRAWBACK TO THE J-POLE IS THAT IT IS NOT OMNI DIRECTIONAL



K5FRC REPEATERS

145.470 (100Hz tone; -600Khz offset)
C4FM or Analog; IRLP 3602;
ECHOLINK 143903

Tuesday Night Net 8:00 PM
 442.525 (100HZ TONE; +5.0 Mhz offset)
 C4FM or Analog;
 443.750 (100Hz tone; +5.0Mhz offset)
 C4FM or Analog;
 FCARC meets every third Saturday at 9:00 AM at the BOIS D' COWBOY CHURCH
 ZOOM sessions are held every Tuesday at 7:00 PM CST before the net on the 145.470 Mhz repeater. Website: www.k5frc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/K5FRC/
 Mark, KF5KUW is the administrator.
 Website: www.k5frc.org

President's Report

President's Report
July 2023

Field Day this year had a great club turnout at historic Lake Fannin, where we set up and operated from this beautiful place. We also were privileged to have in attendance our Fannin County Judge, Newt Cunningham (KI5YDF), our District Clerk April Gibbs, and the North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator/Assistant Section Manager ARRL Section Manager, Greg Evans (K5KTX). We also had visitors from other nearby counties, besides those from within our own Fannin County. Please forgive me if I didn't name someone who attended, as I would need to get that information from our club secretary, who has the sign-in sheet from the event.

There was a lot going on this year at Field Day. The Fox Hunt was a huge success, and helped to teach how to track and locate an interfering source. We started building the j-Pole antennas we plan to donate to our local Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) throughout Fannin County. Alas, the heat got the better of those that were learning how to make these, so the unfinished parts went home with Bob Yakel (KG5KKE) and Duncan Berry (KG5NDO).

Dinner was wonderful, and we all had fantastic choices to tempt us with. Mike Lindsey (KD5UNY) was our grill master, cooking up our hot dogs and hamburgers that the club provided. We had all kinds of dishes and desserts that were shared by all. I was pleasantly surprised when I discovered the banana pudding my wife made for us was still in the refrigerator after almost everyone had gotten their initial plates filled. But word got out, and after dinner was done, there wasn't a trace of pudding in that huge pan my wife fixed it in.

The only complaint was the heat. Saturday it was really warm, but in the end it was bearable. Even for me with all my medical issues that makes me not handle the heat very well, I enjoyed myself. In fact, I was worried that I might not be able to stay the night because of the heat, but I did stay the course. I slept in front of the fan...Mike (K5MJD) went around checking everyone's temperature with an infrared thermometer, and making sure we were all adequately hydrating ourselves.

What didn't work very well was our propagation over Field Day. On Saturday, we were experiencing a significant solar storm that pretty much shut down most of the bands. It wasn't until later that evening the bands started opening back up, and we were able to make more contacts. Our total contacts were not a lot, but we did get a large number of sections throughout the US, but only a few in Canada. In fact, those areas we normally get every year were missing this year. Mike Durbin (K5MJD) even demonstrated using a key and made a CW contact (bonus points!), to add to our log.

Juneteenth, we had another club project. Ralph (KI5LVS), Sarah (KI5PZF), and I went to the TMC Bonham hospital, to clean up and weatherproof the coax on the roof to their beam and omni directional antennas. What we discovered was that the outside insulation of one coax was so rotted by the sun, when we moved the coax a section of it crumbled and fell off. Glad we had some electrical tape, so we wrapped it back up until we can get this section replaced. When we started examining the coax connectors on the lightning arrestors, we noticed corrosion on all 4 connectors, and decided to replace all the connectors. On some of the coax, we found that we had to remove several feet of coax because of the moisture that had gotten inside, and corroded both the shielding as well as the center conductors. We also noticed that the beam's SWR was being affected by how close to the roof it was, so we are making plans to raise it up higher on the tower section its mounted on. We wrapped up the

new connectors with electrical tape after we were done, and notified the hospital staff of the issues we found with the coax and beam antenna. We will need to go back and finish this up.

I normally enjoy waking up every morning with a cup of coffee, and playing with FT-8 on my radio on the 10-meter band. This band has been open so well that I frequently made contacts with Central and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. On several mornings, I had contacted several of the Indonesian islands, as well as some in the South Pacific. But lately, it seems that our sun has decided to treat us with a higher number of M class flares, and even a few X class flares. These not only impact the propagation and noise floor on the HF bands, but one of the X class flares was even measured impacting up into the 12 GHz band... I bet that messed up reception on some of the satellite TV signals, as well as GPS reception.

Weather around our county has been quite busy lately. The eastern and northeast sides of the county have had a significant amount of rain. I have seen pictures of rain gauges around Caddo National Grasslands showing 6 to 7 inches of rain in less than 24 hours. And these same areas have had several more storms blowing down limbs and trees, as well as adding to the rainfall totals. Here in the southwest part of the county, I measured a 53 mph wind gust before our power was knocked out for over 12 hours. Shortly after the power went out, we experienced a microburst where we had a downburst breaking off large limbs and breaking up trees. I lost several trees and lots of branches, and the county road I live on had several large tree branches broken onto and across the roadway.

Remember to always keep your handhelds charged up and ready to use, in case of more bad weather. We have needed to activate a Skywarn net several times, and once (again) we had to man the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) to facilitate communications because the county's radios were off the air. And I want to publicly thank Bob (KG5KKE) and Sharon (KK5SM), for their willingness to go over to the EOC in these inclement weather situations. I also want to thank those of you who are willing to assist us during these weather events, even if all you do is just check in and give us reports of what is happening at your location.

SECRETARY REPORT

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club Regular Meeting 17 June 2023

President Mark Hetherington called the meeting to order at 0905 and led the pledge. Bob Yakel led the invocation.

President Mark Hetherington started discussion of upcoming events and projects the club has in the works, with Field Day going to the end.

1. Bike Rally. October 7, 2023, will be the Autumn in Bonham Bike Rally. Mark shared a map of the proposed routes and rest stops. This event is being received well with cyclists, with lots of publicity in the bike community, and should continue to grow. There will be APRS radios in the "SAG Wagons" and the rest stop at the Lake Bois d'Arc Center will have live-stream video.

2. Interest is up, the students of recent classes that have taken the tests have all passed. A recent event at Dr. Cutler had radio and Emergency Preparedness. Guest Mr. Chris Entwistle attended and decided to check out the Fannin Club.
3. Field Day is next weekend. Discussion to follow reports.

Vice President James Hunt reports on band activities and for the FD will have torch, tubing cutter for antenna construction. Asked for propane torches. Several members volunteered to bring a propane torch.

Secretary Sarah Richardson remarks on publicity for the club with the local media is going well. The minutes of the meeting are in the newsletter Dr. Mike. Mike Jeter moved to accept the minutes; James Hunt seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Sharon McEachern welcomed guest Jolinda McCombs, invited by Mike Warren. Treasurers report in newsletter. Checking balance is \$4,824.32. Donations toward building the J-Pole add an additional \$300.00. Thank you, Bill Purcell, Keith & Marti Mumaw, & Jo Dahlin. Big win on the tax exemption card being completed.

Trustee Dr. Mike Durbin is at College Station reminiscing. He and the Mrs. met there two years prior but are celebrating their 54 years together.

BUSINESS to take care of

TMC-Bonham Hospital. June 19 at 0700: to repair the emergency communication set up. Basically, to repair water infiltration on the connectors and cabling. Mike L. reminded us to bring ID. The hospital needs help with emergency communications and wanting it as well. Mark informed us that RACES used to answer directly to the Governor but now is under the Texas Department of Emergency Management.

Repeater at Ivanhoe: noise when wind is more than a breeze, or the weather is happening. Possible connector on the antenna or weathering in the cables. James suggested a possible loose element on the antenna. Weather and time will affect the schedule for repair.

Skywarn – the NWS listens to FCARC. This past weather event (June 15 into the 16th) we changed up operation. Mark was monitoring Grayson as the weather was heading from W to E, rotation with 1.5-1.75 inch hale. Sharon ran Net Control from home, with Bob Y. at the EOC. Mark reported that the cells were slow-moving and almost parked, but one following another with minimal dissipation. At Van Alstyne radar indicated 101 mph winds. Bob Y reported that NWS guy was listening on 443.750 and commenting. Jeff Jones was working in Sherman and reported that the apartment fire they responded to caught a lot of wind as they were getting there.

FIELD DAY – Mark H reporting over 60 invitations have been sent to the political and Fire Departments of the county. They will be looking for the best of how we operate. The Fox Hunt has a prize of a radio, Sharon is putting out the challenge. The purpose of the Fox Hunt will be to track down the interference on the

repeater. Meal Committee: Jody L. advised us hamburgers and hotdogs, chips, tea, and water will be provided. We need to “potluck” suitable side dishes and desserts. (Suggestion was corn on the cob and baked beans). Note: the weather is going to be HOT. The Lodge is a historic building, we cannot do ANYTHING to deface the building. There is no open fire, so grill will be gas/propane. Raffle tickets will be available. Keith M. is going to send Mark the materials list for the J-Pole antenna. Equipment: there will be three (3) radios operating, the club’s, Mike’s, James’ and three laptops for logging. Our objective is to be ON THE AIR at 1200, so we need to be there to set up at 0930 or earlier.

Dustin made the motion to adjourn; Keith M. seconded, motion passed, and meeting was adjourned.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

10July2023
James Hunt - KI5DQ
Vice-President and Safety Officer

Spring Time safety tips and awareness.

2023 SKYWARN Schedule

The National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN Program is now complete.

<https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>

Your NWS certificates are good for 2 years.

The K5FRC 145.470- and 442.525+ repeaters have SKYWARN nets during inclement weather events. They have direct link to the NWS.

Treasure Island Expedition, K5E – 5-6May2023

What is this.... Much rain in June and July 😊.

The event is postponed TBA.

On the Air Activities

The 10 meter band continues to be excellent opportunities for the technician class, 28.300 to 28.500.

Daisy Chaining electrical power strips - is it safe?

Plugging a surge protector into another surge protector, also known as Daisy Chaining, can pose several dangers and is not safe.

Please review your home, radio-shack and work areas to identify daisy chaining instances. Please contact an electrician - issues that you cannot correct yourself.

Here are some of the risks involved:

Surge protectors have a maximum capacity or load they can handle. By plugging one surge protector into another, you increase the potential for exceeding their combined capacity.

This can lead to overheating, melting of wires, and even electrical fires. Each surge protector is designed to handle a specific level of electrical surge or spike.

When you connect one surge protector to another, you may compromise their ability to provide adequate protection.

This is because the energy from a power surge may not be properly absorbed or dissipated, leaving your connected devices vulnerable to damage.

Daisy chaining surge protectors can result in increased resistance and voltage drop.

With each additional connection, the voltage supplied to your devices may decrease, affecting their performance and potentially causing damage.

If a fault or problem occurs, it can be challenging to identify the specific surge protector that is causing the issue.

This can complicate troubleshooting and increase the risk of electrical hazards.

Daisy chaining surge protectors is against NEC electrical codes and regulations.

It is important to follow these guidelines to ensure the safety of your electrical system and comply with local regulations

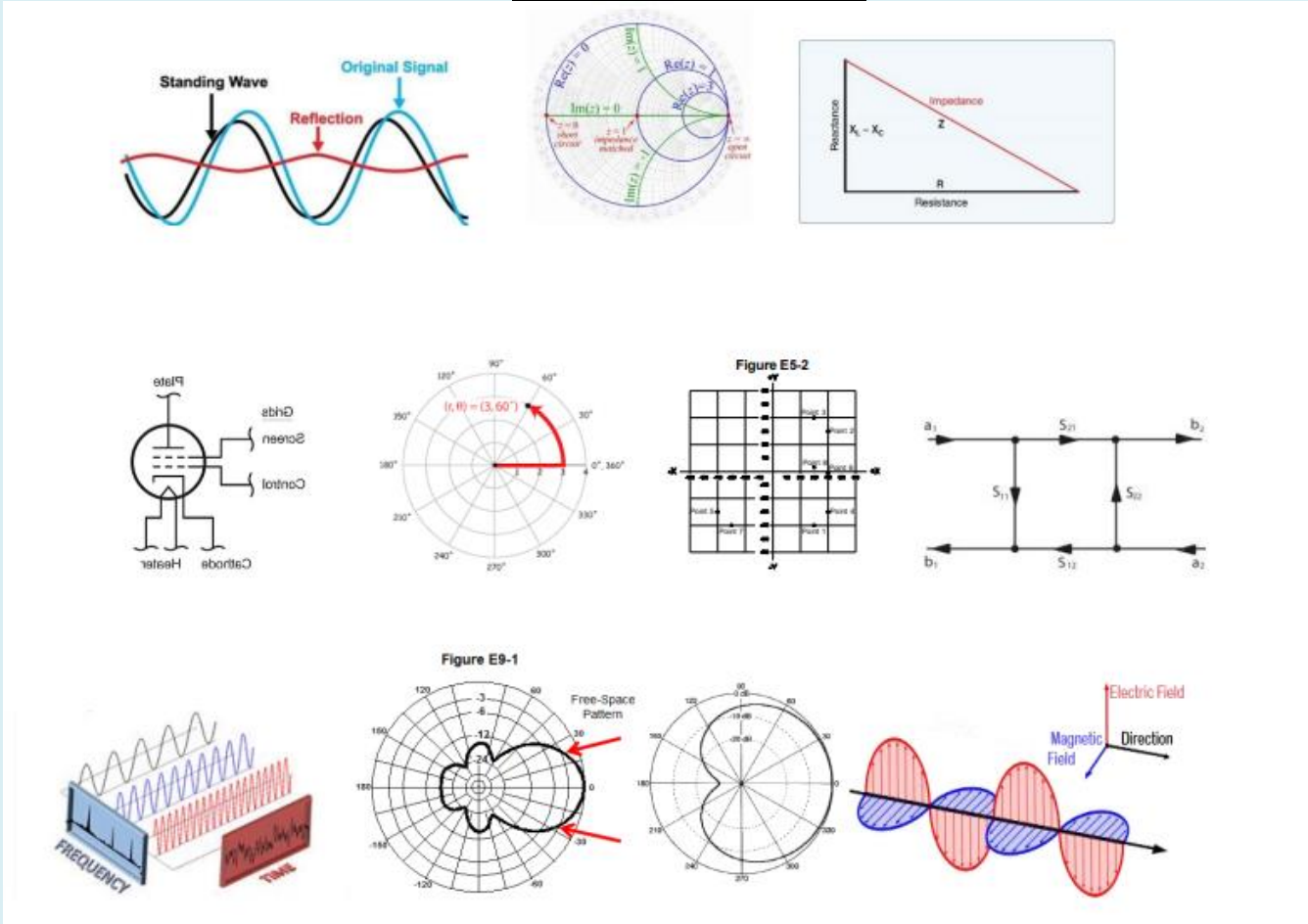


Thanks n 73,
James
KI5DQ

Trustees' report
 Simple report *All systems are up and operational*

NOW FOR TRUSTEE FUN INFO

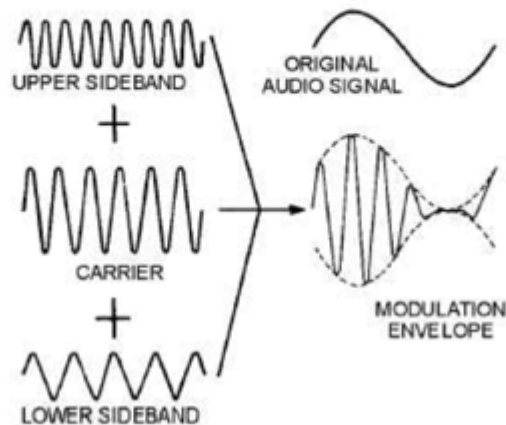
EXTRA CLASS REVIEW



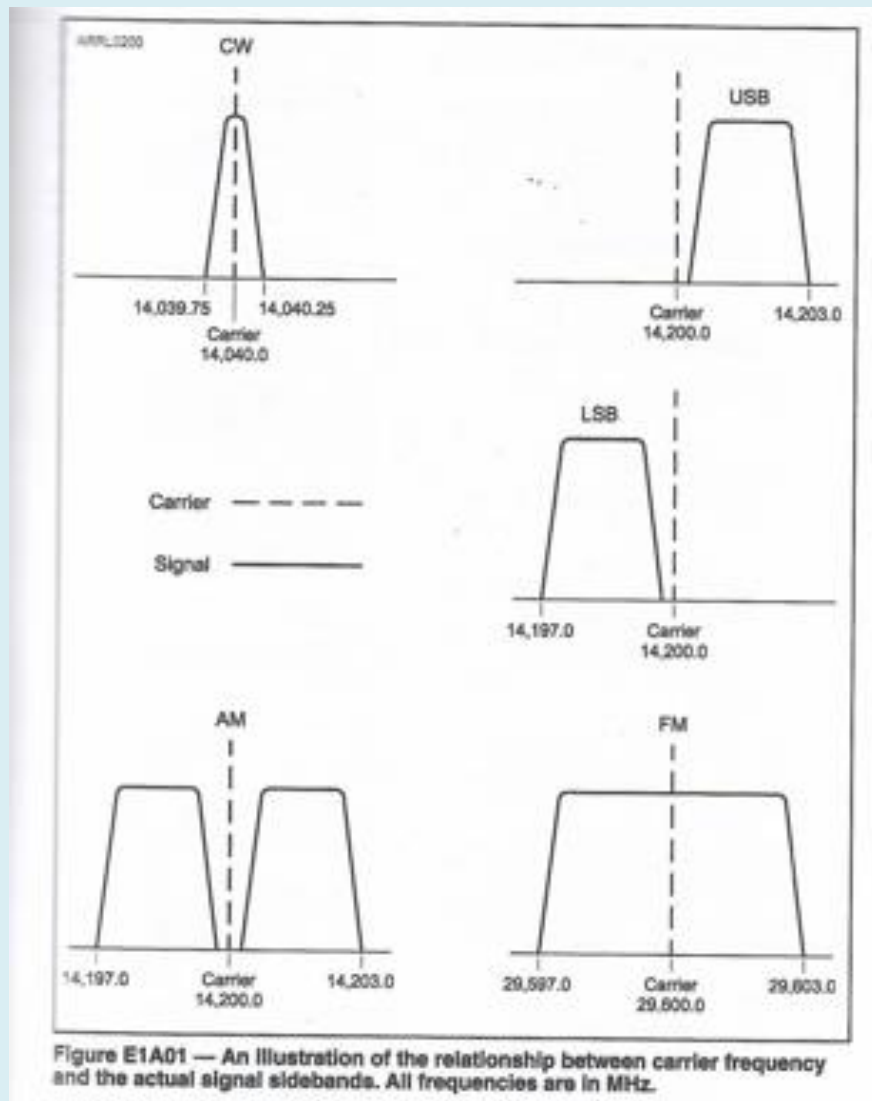
SOME TRIVIA FUN WHILE I AM DOING THE EXTRA CLASS TRAINING

THINGS TO PONDER...

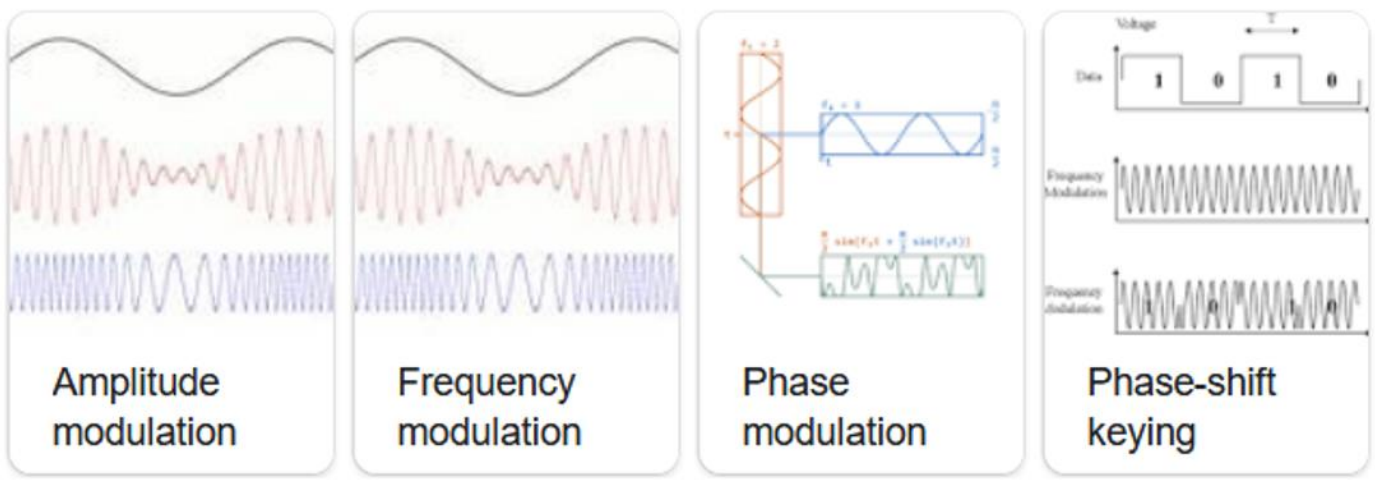
AM MODULATION



The use of AM within amateur radio was relatively widespread in the early to mid 1960s on the HF bands as single sideband transceivers were still something of a novelty. As SSB became the mode of preference for ham radio operation on the HF bands, the use of AM declined in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It was sometimes used for local contacts on 160 metres and sometimes 80 metres.



What are the different types of modulation



73 de K5MJD