



GM Net News

Volume II

Editor: Rick WØPC

November Issue – 2009

Joel Chatman, N9HEI
Silent Key, passed on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009

Joel Hayes Chapman

Joel Hayes Chapman, 77, Greenfield, passed away on Oct. 10, 2009. He was born on Nov. 27, 1931, Liberty, KY to the late George R. and Eliza (Watson) Chapman.

Joel Hayes Chapman

Nov. 27, 1931 – Oct. 10, 2009



GREENFIELD – Joel Hayes Chapman, 77, of Greenfield, passed away on Oct. 10, 2009. He was born on Nov. 27, 1931, in Liberty, Ky., to the late George R. and Eliza (Watson) Chapman. He was a graduate of Anderson High School, Class of 1950. Joel was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of Park Chapel Christian Church in Greenfield; Fellowship F and AM Lodge 681 in Anderson; Murat Shrine; the Scottish Rite; Model "A" Restorers Club of Madison County; and Model "A" Ford Club of Indianapolis.

Joel drove children to Shriners' Hospitals in Cincinnati, Lexington and Chicago. Upon retiring from Delco Remy in Anderson after 37 years of employment, he taught people to read. He was a licensed pilot and loved to fish.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Joan (Willis) Chapman; son, Randy Chapman of Carmel; sister, Eugenia Beck of Hollywood, Fla.; sister-in-law, Irene Chapman of Anderson; and several nieces and nephews.

Joel was preceded in death by brothers, Raymond, Gene and Charles; and sisters, Mary Chapman, Nola Chapman, Bonnie (Girt) Allen and Pauline Brown.

Calling will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Seals Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 122 W. Staat St., Fortville. Masonic memorial rites will be held by Fellowship F and AM Lodge 681.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow at Gravel Lawn Cemetery near Fortville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made, through the funeral home, to the Shriners' Hospital.

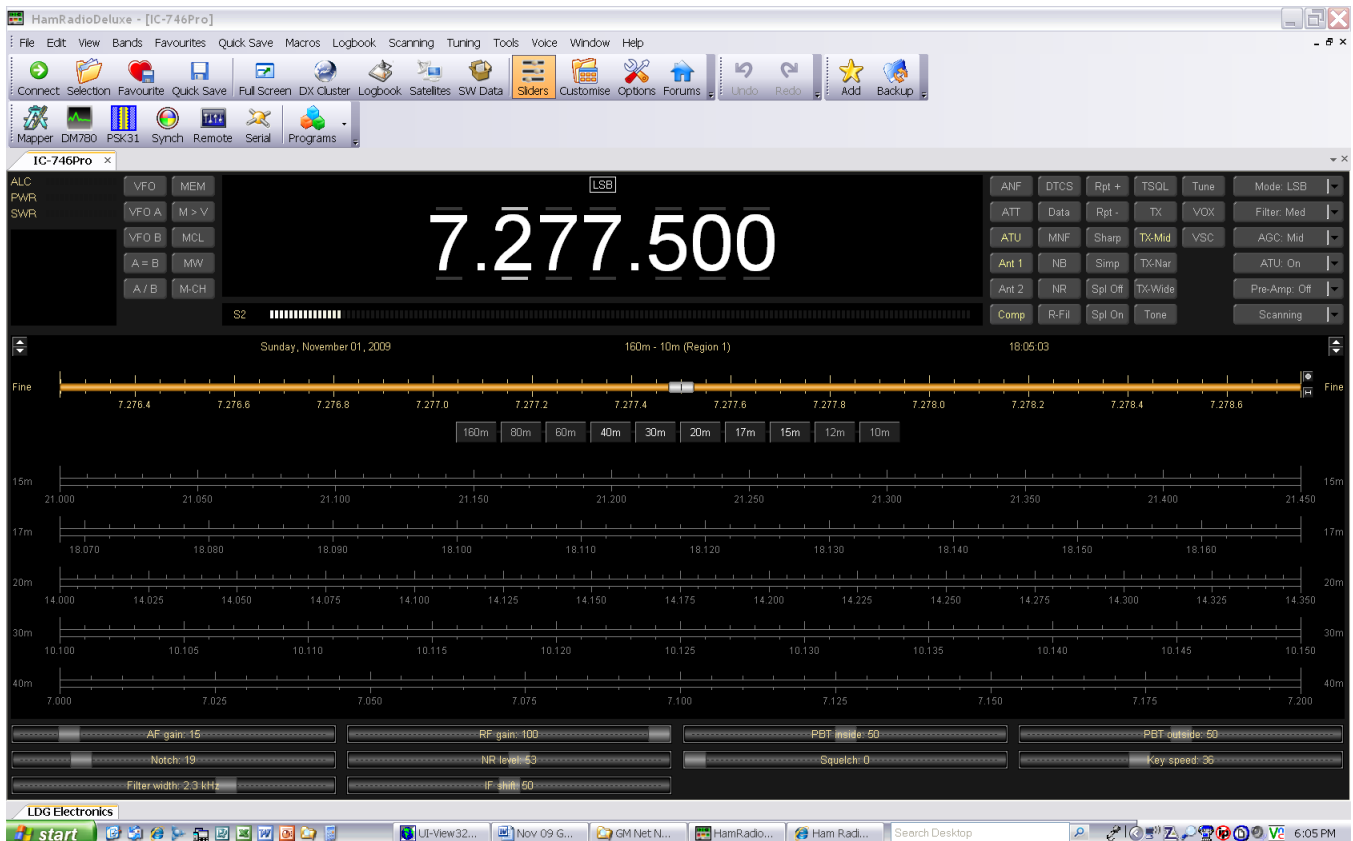
Limited to Stealth Operation?

When you are hooked on ham radio as I am, you really can get down in the dumps when you can't have a station on the air. It seems like just about every area is plagued by CC&Rs all over the place that limit our antennas and towers. Even if you get a proper building permit and install a nice setup, you may get a new neighbor who doesn't see the beauty of your system. That happened to a dear friend here in Lake St. Louis, MO. His neighbor complained to the city to the point the city began issuing citations to my friend claiming his tower and antenna were in violation of his building permit. The complaints persisted to the point where the city quit hand delivering the citations and began mailing them daily. After over a hundred tickets had been accumulated, my friend Jay (KØJFI) decided he had enough and needed to get this case into a court for a real showdown. He discovered that most of the local lawyers didn't want to touch his case. Finally, he found one that would. Our local ham club put the call out to all members to show up in court and give support to Jay and his case. I'm happy to say the club tuned out in number and wasn't disappointed. The jury sided with Jay. There wasn't really any case for the city to prosecute because they didn't even have a copy of the building permit... the defendant did! They even had a picture of the yellow line the neighbor painted on the property line between the houses to warn my friend to keep his grass clippings off their property. All this goes to show you what a "Nut Case" can cause by complaining. My friend Jay was out a handsome sum paying for the legal defense. The nice part is that it set a precedence for the local cities going after hams that have legal building permits. Our local hams were so pleased with the results, we gave Jay's lawyer a plaque for being a "Friend of Ham Radio." It sure is nice to hear of a happy ending.

There are several of our GM group who now live in locations where it's difficult if not impossible to put up much of an antenna. I'm suggesting some possible solutions that still allow us to enjoy our hobby and keep the neighborhood vigilantes at bay.

The first and most obvious is to setup a station using indoor or balcony antennas. I tried using the Bilal Isotron antenna and found that it actually worked... sort of. At best it performed like a mobile antenna. The manufacturer says it will handle a full kilowatt. I've never run more than 100 watts with mine. I had issues with RF feedback until I put a coaxial balun at the feedpoint. It worked pretty well but was limited to a single band. Next I tried using plan "B" a Yaesu ATAS-100 screwdriver with the base radial kit. It too needed the coaxial balun to curb the RF coming back. The nice part of that system was that it could be controlled directly via the front panel tune button. Just push the button and wait a minute or 2 for it to find the sweet spot. It actually work... also like a mobile installation but was slow to tune. The Yaesu screwdriver would tune from 40 meters up through 70 cm. That's pretty good range for a single small antenna. I ran at least one radial for 20, 15, and 10 meters. The base kit covered 6, 2 and 70 cm. I probably would have been satisfied with that solution if it wasn't for the S-9 noise level that developed. When the noise started, it covered a 4 block area... not just our condo complex. Since it's only a part time living quarters (Lake of the Ozarks) I haven't pursued the power company. Maybe next summer, I'll spend more time there and really solve the noise problem but until then, I'm going to plan "C." The next plan was to use my home station and remotely control it via the internet. It turned out to be fairly easy to do. Last winter during the 160 meter season, I checked into George's favorite 160 net on 1.895 MHz and heard one of the guys check in to the net from a hotel room. You couldn't tell any difference from his home station... because it was his home station. It sounded great. We quizzed him on how he did it, and found that he used "Ham Radio Deluxe" and "Skype" on his laptop PC. I had HRD on my laptop already and was familiar on using it as a CAT program to access my rig from my computer. All the controls were displayed on the screen so I could make all the necessary adjustments including band changes and antenna tune functions. After hearing about using HRD for Internet remote control, I got into the program's "Help" menu and found that it did a very good explanation of how to set it up. Boy, that Simon Brown, HB9DRV did a fantastic job on that program...and it's FREE to boot. I don't think

there is a modern rig that isn't covered in that program. If you haven't already taken a look at it, check out the website: <http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>.



The program even has voice readout making it nice for my tired eyes too. Actually the numbers on the display for frequency are larger than the one on my rig making it pretty nice to see too. After debugging my laptop connection at home, I tested the setup on the road. Operation from our lake condo turned out to be a real pleasure.... No noise and the use of a full size multi band antenna. My rig has inputs for 2 antennas so I can select from a Gap Titan vertical (10 – 80 meters) or an Alpha Delta 10 – 160 meter dipole. My Icom IC-764Pro will also go on 2 meters making it possible to stay in touch with my local friends and 2 meter net back home. That's a nice touch to round out the remote station. Ed, K8DSS is planning running his remote base from his Florida winter home. That's one sure way we will hear him from down south this winter... actually later this month.

You got a little spare time... wonder what it would be like to take a ride at the edge of Space?

Check out this short video file on the web: <http://propilotnews.com/2009/07/high-flight-really-high-flight.html>. It's an 11 minute video that's worth the time... no politics, no sex, no joke, just plain breath taking.

Our new technology: Sent by Wally, WB9M

GPS

A couple of weeks ago a friend told me that someone she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen.

The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

MOBILE PHONES

This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet... Etc...was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago.'

When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the lesson:

Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc.... And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.

Brain Teaser #1: contributed by Johnny, W4XKE

Joe and Richard decide to get together; so they start riding their bikes toward each other. They plan to meet halfway. Each is riding at 6 MPH. They live 36 miles apart. One of them has a pet carrier pigeon and it starts flying the instant the friends start traveling. The pigeon flies back and forth at 18 MPH between the 2 friends until the friends meet.

How many miles does the pigeon travel?

For your Web Browser:

Here is an interesting feature to add to your home PC... a ham radio tool bar. It's free. When you install it, it displays in your web browser ham radio related sites. It's pretty nice.

<http://www.haminfo.co.uk/>

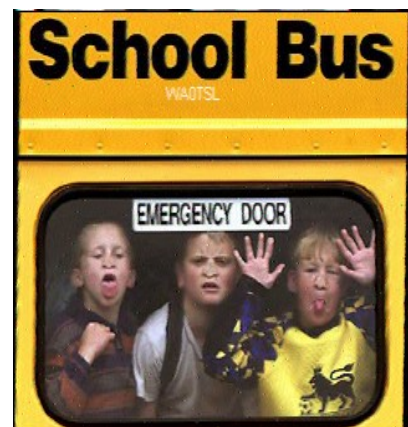


The screenshot shows the HamInfoBar website with a blue header and a navigation menu. Below the header is a banner for the HamInfoBar toolbar, which includes a laptop icon and the text "HamInfoBar Free Ham Radio & SWL Toolbar". Below the banner is a section titled "Following a small download you will have immediate access to a wealth of ham radio information." This section features a browser toolbar with various icons and a search bar. Below the toolbar are three boxes: "System Requirements" (listing Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/Vista and Firefox), "Windows" (listing Internet Explorer), and "Windows/Mac/Linux" (listing Firefox 1.0.1+). Each box has a "Download Toolbar" button.

Brain Teaser #2: contributed by Johnny, W4XKE

You're a school principal and you need to transport 2,000 kids to an event. Each school bus carries 98 children. **How many school buses do you need to transport all the kids?**

- A) 18
- B) 20.4
- C) 23
- D) 21



Wasp Spray

I have a friend who is a receptionist in a church in a high risk area who was concerned about someone coming into the office on Monday to rob them when they were counting the collection. She asked the local police department about using pepper spray and they recommended to her that she get a can of wasp spray instead. The wasp spray, they told her, can shoot up to twenty feet away and is a lot more accurate, while with the pepper spray they have to get too close to you and could overpower you. The wasp spray temporarily blinds an attacker until they get to the hospital for an antidote. She keeps a can on her desk in the office and it doesn't attract attention from people like a can of pepper spray would. She also keeps one nearby at home for home protection. You could also keep it in your car and it would be legal. I Thought this was interesting and it might be of use to lots of ladies... Pass it on

Brain Teaser #3: contributed by Johnny, W4XKE

A 120 conductor cable has been laid underground between two buildings located 3 miles apart.

Unfortunately after the cable was laid it was discovered that the individual wires are not labeled. There is no visual way of knowing which wire is which and thus connections at either end are not immediately possible.

You are a technician and your boss has asked you to identify and label the wires at both ends without ripping it all up. You have no transport and only a battery and light bulb to test continuity. You do have tape and pen for labeling the wires.

What is the shortest distance in miles you will need to walk to correctly identify and label each wire?

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Ans: Brain Teaser #1: The pigeon flew 54 Miles... un-huh (18 mph for 3 hours). That must have been too easy, haha.

Ans: Brain Teaser #2: Even though the arithmetic comes out that way, you can't drive .4 of a bus... you'll need 21 buses! Hahaha

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RFI: From the September 2009 ARRL OO Summary (Thanks Joe, W8DCQ)

A constant carrier was reported on 14030 for some time, went off and then returned for a time. It ceased before the source could be located. K6TD offered this advice regarding signals on 14030 and bears checking out, "this could well be a carrier emitted by an Ethernet switch. It's not un-common for un-shielded computer boxes around the home to emit this carrier, if they use Ethernet. On local (NorCal) lists, every so often, someone will complain about a carrier on 14030, and ask if anyone else hears it. Several go check, and sure enough they do as well. This goes on for awhile, till someone points out it's a common carrier frequency emitted by Ethernet devices. Of course, since so many Hams can hear it, it's assumed to NOT be local.

Hallelujah: The solar flux hit 82.3 on Tuesday Oct. 27th, the highest recording yet since the first observed "new cycle sunspot" in January 2008, which was the "official" visual start of Sunspot Cycle 24. There is hope for us afterall. We've already seen an improvement on the 40 meter net. It sure makes it easier to wait your turn when you can hear the rest of the guys making their transmission. Turn on and tune in to 7.2775 MHz.

Ans: Brain Teaser #3: Answer: 6 miles

At one end label a wire "A". Then join two wires and label them both "B", then tie three (not already joined) wires together and call them each "C"....continue until all the wires are joined together in groups of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc....for a 120 strand cable. NOTES that the largest group will have 15 wires.

Now walk to the other end.

Using a (battery and light bulb) it is now possible, for example, to find the wire that wasn't joined to any of the others. It is similarly possible to find which wires are in a pair, which is joined in a group of 3, etc. Each time a group is found the technician should label it with the letter for the group, so the single wire is labeled 'a', the pair are each labeled "A", etc....this now matches the other end.....the letters will go up to "O". Now take "A", "B", up to "O" and join them together in a group and label each one with "15", so we have cable "A15", "B15", "C15", up to "O15". Take the second and last "B" wire and join it with a remaining "C", "D", up to "O" and label these each "14" so we have "B14", "C14", up to "O14". Repeat this until at the end there will be a single "O" cabled labeled "O1".

Now walk to the other end.

Now untie all the old connections and identify the group labeled "1", "2", "3" ... "15" at which point each wire at each end has a unique classification.

Net Preamble

This is (your call), today's net control. This net is composed of employees and retirees of the General Motors Corporation .

This net meets daily on this frequency for the purpose of getting better acquainted, expanding our knowledge, and improving our operating techniques. We promote friendship among participants in many locations who have many talents and have or have had a variety of work assignments. The General Motors nets are international in scope on some bands, and visitors are always welcome to check in. Please stay carefully tuned to net control at all times. This is (your call) (working for or retired from) (your) Division in (your city), (state). My home QTH is (where you live). My name is (your name) and we will now take check-ins, one at a time, please.

Net Closing

Are there any late check-ins for the net? (pause for late check-ins). Is there any further business for the net? (pause for any further business) Having no further business, we will close the net at this time. This net is composed of General Motors employees, retirees, and visitors. We meet each day, Monday through Saturday, on or about this frequency, at (1700z or 1800z). Thank you for your participation and please return often. This is (your call) now closing the net. 73 and Good Afternoon.

November 2009 - GM Net Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2 WB8M	3 WY8I	4 WD9AIH	5 KC8JLC	6 W0PC	7 K8VW	
8	9 WA8IHI	10 N8XLS	11 KB9VF	12 WB9YUR	13 K8VW	14 WY8I	
15	16 WB8M	17 WD9AIH	18 KC8JLC	19 N8XLS	20 W0PC	21 KB9VF	
22	23 WB8M	24 WB9YUR	25 WY8I	26 KB9VF	27 WD9AIH	28 K8VW	
29	30 WA8IHI	Notes: (Walter), at 1615z on 14.277 + or - 5 kc. evening nets, anymore.				Schedule with DF4IZ No Sunday afternoon or Thursday	

December 2009 - GM Net Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:		1 N8XLS	2 W0PC	3 K8VW	4 KB9VF	5 KC8JLC
6	7 WB9YUR	8 K1RAY	9 WD9AIH	10 WA8IHI	11 WY8I	12 W0PC
13	14 K8VW	15 N8XLS	16 W0PC	17 KC8JLC	18 WD9AIH	19 KB9VF
20	21 WY8I	22 K1RAY	23 WA8IHI	24 WB9YUR	25 KB9VF	26 K8VW
27	28 W0PC	29 N8XLS	30 KC8JLC	31 WB9YUR	Notes: Schedule with DF4IZ (Walter) at 1615z on 14.277 + or - 5 kc. No Sunday afternoon or Thursday evening nets, anymore.	

Give Your Generator Some Space: By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the same folks that bring you WWV, publish a monthly newsletter called NIST Tech Beat. Here's an item from the 10/6/09 issue of NIST Tech Beat that will be of interest to radio amateurs:

To subdue the steaming heat of hurricanes or to thaw out during a blizzard, gasoline-powered, portable generators are a lifeline during weather emergencies when homes are cut off without electricity. But these generators emit poisonous carbon monoxide—a single generator can produce a hundred times more of the colorless, odorless gas than a modern car's exhaust. New research from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) shows that to prevent potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, users may need to keep generators farther from the house than previously believed—perhaps as much as 25 feet.

Up to half of the incidents of non-fatal carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning reported in the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons involved generators run within 7 feet of the home, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Carbon monoxide can enter a house through a number of airflow paths, such as a door or window left open to accommodate the extension cord that brings power from the generator into the house. While some guidance recommends 10 feet from open windows as a safe operating distance, NIST researcher Steven Emmerich says the “safe” operating distance depends on the house, the weather conditions and the unit. A generator's carbon monoxide output is usually higher than an automobile's, he says, because most generators do not have the sophisticated emission controls that cars do.

“People need to be aware that generators are potentially deadly and they need to educate themselves on proper use,” Emmerich says. With funding from CDC, NIST researchers are gathering reliable data to support future CDC guidance.

NIST building researchers simulated multiple scenarios of a portable generator operating outside of a one-story house, using both a test structure and two different computer models—the NIST-developed CONTAM indoor air quality model and a computational fluid dynamics model.

The simulations included factors that could be controlled by humans, such as generator location, exhaust direction and window-opening size, and environmental factors such as wind, temperature and house dimensions. In the simulations the generator was placed at various distances from the house and tested under different weather conditions.

“We found that for the house modeled in this study,” researcher Leon Wang says, “a generator position 15 feet away from open windows was not far enough to prevent carbon monoxide entry into the house.”

Winds perpendicular to the open window resulted in more carbon monoxide entry than winds at an angle, and lower wind speeds generally allowed more carbon monoxide in the house. “Slow, stagnant wind seems to be the worst case because it leads to the carbon monoxide lingering by the windows,” Wang explains. Researchers determined that placing the generator outside of the airflow recirculation regions near the open windows reduced carbon monoxide entry.

(Continued)

Give Your Generator Some Space (Continued)

In the next phase of the study NIST will model a two-story house that researchers believe will interact with the wind differently. NIST researchers also have worked with the Consumer Product Safety Commission on related work. (See: "NIST to Study Hazards of Portable Gasoline-Powered Generators," NIST Tech Beat, March 5, 2008.)

The generator study can be downloaded at <http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/build09/PDF/b09009.pdf>.

* L. Wang and S.J. Emmerich. Modeling the Effects of Outdoor Gasoline Powered Generator Use on Indoor Carbon Monoxide Exposures. (NIST Technical Note 1637,) 2009.

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A screenshot of a Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor advertisement. The background is light blue. At the top left, the word "Windows" is written in a large, orange, sans-serif font. Below it, on the left, is a small image of a laptop displaying the Windows 7 logo. To the right of the image, the text reads: "Is your PC ready for Windows 7?" in blue. Below that, in black, it says: "You may be able to run Windows 7 on your current PC. Download the free Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor to do a quick check and find out".

Maybe you don't need that new computer... how about upgrading the operating system to Windows 7. It sounds scary considering past experiences. Here is the website where you can download the FREE Update Advisor that checks your system to see if it can be upgraded.

[http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=1b544e90-7659-4bd9-9e51-2497c146af15&displaylang=en)

[FamilyID=1b544e90-7659-4bd9-9e51-2497c146af15&displaylang=en](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=1b544e90-7659-4bd9-9e51-2497c146af15&displaylang=en). I've had several reports from friends that are really surprised on how well it runs on older systems. They say it takes a little longer to install but the old machine runs fine with Windows 7. I'll probably upgrade my "Vista" boxes to Windows 7 pretty soon. Vista is a real memory hog...but once you install all the service packs and other patches... Vista runs ok. I've even made my Vista machine run all the ham programs including PSK-31, RTTY and my contest software (N1MM). I'll keep you posted on my trials. 73 de WØPC (Rick)

Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor (from the Microsoft Website listed above)

Brief Description:

Download and run the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor to see if your PC is ready for Windows 7. It scans your hardware, devices, and installed programs for known compatibility issues, gives you guidance on how to resolve potential issues found, and recommends what to do before you upgrade.

2010 Net Controls

If you can help us out with taking a slot for net control on our daily 40 meter net, contact George, KB9VF (kb9vf@comcast.net). He has been doing a wonderful job of keeping our calendar up to date. Count me in George. 73 de WØPC (Rick)