
OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2023_0826

The computer started working at 0915 and the meeting started, led by Martin. He introduced Donald Burger and his knot presentation.

Basic Knots for Ham Radio Operators, by Donald Ray Burger, KG5PNF.
www.Burger.com will have the information on his website, specifically
<http://www.burger.com/knotdesc.htm>

Whipped Rope EMT sheers are available on Amazon and will cut most any rope you are using for HAM radio. For fixing the end of your rope, he recommends electrical tape. Super Glue if the tube is new, is great. Shrink Wrapping your rope is hit and miss when ordering the shrink wrap. Gorilla Glue works, but leaves messy ends. His favorite is a gas stove, alone, with no one else around. You need to have 4 plies of paper towels to insulate your hand from the heat when molding the end of the rope. Bic lighters with the longer tip "EZ Reach" version works great and can used out doors.

Basic knots easy to remember, tie, and to undue.

The basic knot is the basic overhand knot. It can be used as a stopper knot.

Double overhand knot adds one more loop to the overhand knot. It is larger and works better as a stopper knot. Untying, if you look at the know and there is a loop at the top side, you just pull down on the loop and it loosens.

A good connection knot is the Fisherman's Knot, that is using an overhead knot, and then you take the other rope and run it through the overhead knot and tie the other rope around the first rope and then tie another overhead knot.

Double Overhand Loop, you loop a rope and tie an overhead knot that leaves the rope with a steady loop in the rope length.

Slip Knot, make an overhand knot and run the short end through the knot and you have your slip knot.

Figure eight knot, make a loop, you make a loop, then cross the end around the rope and into the loop, and then you pull. You leave it loose when you tie it to see the 8

Double figure Eight you make a figure 8, then run another rope through the figure 8 and you follow the first rope through the original figure 8 and you end up with a Double Figure of 8 knot tying them all together as one knot. You're taking the end pieces to make the loops, tying two ropes together. It is stronger than the double overhand.

Taunt Line Hitch. Practice with a bottle. The taunt line hitch is 3 hitches. You go over with two hitches with another knot tied above it. We do a crossover, then make another loop towards the stationary object you are tying to, then you go over the two hitches and knot it on the outside of these hitches.

Trucker's Hitch. You tie a Bowline around the outside hold down, then the rope goes over the load, and you tie a slip knot, then go with the working end over the slip knot, run the rope again through the slip knot, and then tie down the working end, pull it tight and tie down the working end.

Anchor Bend. Drop the line through the hole, twice, loosely, then go across the drooping down area between the loops, and then to across again across the top of the first line and tighten up. Great for tying something for a throw bag.

Bowline Knot is not being discussed a lot... is called the "King of Knots".

Alpine Butterfly Loop. You need to watch the YouTube on this one, over, under, over, is the way this works. You start with your hand open, the short end near your thumb, then loop the rope over your hand for two times, making the first, second and third loop, then you grab the center loop and pull on it, and then follow the - over, under, over.

IT IS KNOTS THAT MAKES ROPES WORK. Geoffrey Budworth, [The Ultimate Book of Everyday Knots](#), 2012

Overhand Knot

Double Overhand Knot

Double Overhand Knot as Stopper

Fisherman's Knot

Double Oberhand Loop

Slip Knot

Figure Eight Knot

Double Figure Eight Knot

Taunt Line Hitch

Trucker's Hitch

Anchor Bend

Alpine Butterfly Loop

Martin W5XUK then took over at 1009 hours.

A YouTube Video was shown re: Build a 160/80 Meter Magnetic Loop Antenna – Part 1

There was a discussion after the YouTube about these types of antenna.

Martin then went to a discussion of Amateur TV. Audio, Luminance and RGB. Sony released their VCR with composite Video, that put all the signals together. Composite Video in the USA 525 lines vs. that which was different than the 625 lines of PAL in the EU

It costs about \$1k in the 80s, now is close to free, using a computer to convert to USA to PAL. He uses a 70CM antenna with a box putting out 5 watts, at 420 mHz, or so. He uses a cheap \$20 camera for the Demo. Going to transmit with the HAM radio transmission the picture degrades, but not bad. The picture is a little darker. He had an old analog handheld from the 1970s. It was a 70cm transmission. He has a 25 Watt transmitter that gets him close to 25 miles across Houston. There used to be a large amateur TV group in Houston. He is talking about using a repeater to broadcast TV. This generates a lot of heat since the duty cycle is continuous. Normal Radio is not over 30 minutes.

Mark WB5ANN talked about Vector Network Analyzer (\$50). NanoVNA Vector Network Analyzer. The one he brought is a 3" model, but others have larger screens. The one shown is touch screen, and has various types of display, scales and channels, SWRs and other information for tuning antennas. It will allow you to trim your antenna out in the field. He used it for 7 hours on a 6 band antenna, Butternut antenna. You plug it into the cord or small antenna that someone brought. Generally this does the type of work of an instrument that would cost \$1k. Easy to carry and if you make a small cardboard box for shade over the display, it is better in the sunlight. These are better if they are not open sided, so that stuff doesn't get into the electronics. If you are using it to tune, it has various settings on the instrument to help you get the correct settings on the antenna it is being used on. These are good when using a Smith Chart. He has a few mobile antennas that he used 5 or 6 different ones, that he used this instrument to check them out, and there was a huge variance in their quality, or lack thereof. So not buy the cheapest one. This one came from a company called NEW ELECTRIC. He has also bought dongles from there for tuning.

TRANSTAR app is available for free, and if you break down on the Freeway, there is a little wrecker ICON and if you punch it, they will send a wrecker that will tow you off the freeway for a full mile for FREE. Download the app. Make sure you stay inside your car. Your body will not take a car hit as well as the crush panels of your car will.

Lake Livingston Shelter 4 meeting tomorrow.

End of Meeting. 1115

Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN