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Lube and Goop Up Them Parts

By Denny N8UDL

Next time you are putting up that new beam, vertical, or whatever with lots of sliding together aluminum parts. Yes those aluminum parts that slide together and clamp with some type of clamp to keep it tuned, and from falling out. Now what happens to those parts 5 years from now when you want to take them apart or just tune them. You go up and loosen the clamp and find that you can't pull the element out due to oxidation and corrosion of the parts fusing together.

I have found that a little preparation with new parts goes a long way when it comes to servicing those expensive or hard to replace parts on your tower. When putting new parts together use a coating of ILSCO DE-OX and it will make things come apart nice and easy in the future when you want to take something apart. This is the stuff we have to use on aluminum wire doing electrical work to keep

the aluminum wire from oxidizing in the meter base and main breaker in the panel. I like the IlSCO brand because it is just like Vaseline, except for green in color, and easy to wipe off your hands. Some other brands of DeOx is black and gritty, and makes cleanup a mess.



Figure 1: DE-OX Front



Figure 2: DE-OX Back

Another thing I do with U bolts and other bolts and nuts, is I spray them with LPS #3, a heavy duty spray on lube. Than I cover the hardware with good old Vaseline. A bit messy to do, but in the future when you want to get something apart, the bolts and nuts will come apart without damage, and can be used over again. We all know how those U bolts for rotators are not just a stock item in your local hardware, so preserving them when you put them up, pays off many times over.



If your tower has the nuts welded in the neck for holding a mast pipe, and you are using a rotator, remove the bolts and fill the nut with Vaseline and wrap with electrical tape. Five years down the road when you want to use that bolt to hold up the mast pipe to work on the rotator, you remove the tape and can screw the bolt in with your fingers. The Vaseline will still be in there. I have seen many towers with the bolt rusted in the neck, and unusable due to it being so rusted it would either break off or someone else already broke it off.

Upcoming Event

After more than a year of Covid shutdown, we are finally ready to resume our quarterly in-person meetings. Here are the details:

Time: August 14, 11:30 AM

Place: We will meet at our house at 71 Whitefriars Dr, Akron, Oh 44319. The first ten here can enjoy a pontoon-boat ride to Picks at PLX, 530 Portage Lakes Drive. In case of bad weather, we will go in convoy to the restaurant. Anyone lost or late can call me at 330-697-5425.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND UNLESS YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED!

Please RSVP by 11 August via email, W8MV@arrl.net. Hope to see you on the 14th - Mel W8MV



Ragchew

Don't forget the monthly ragchew at Tim's Tavern at Noon on the last Wednesday of the month. The address is 3323 Parkway Street NW, Canton Ohio 44708. All are invited. For you information that is July 28, August 25, September 29,

27 October, and 24 November for the next quarter. Add these dates to your calendar.

Local Dues

The first of August 2021 was the beginning of the QCWA Chapter 21 fiscal year. If you have not already done so, please pay your local dues at the next meeting or rag-chew.



Some Local Hamfests

Check to make sure event has not been canceled due to the 2019 COVID Pandemic.

08/07/2021 – 2021 Columbus Hamfest

Location: Grove City, OH

Sponsor: Aladdine Shrine Audio Unit

Website: <http://columbushamfest.com>

08/07/2021 - MOVARC HAMFEST

Location: Bidwell, OH

Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club

08/15/2021 - WARA Tailgate Swap Meet

Location: Warren, OH

Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://w8vtd.com>

08/28/2021 - Cincinnati HamfestSM

Location: Owensville, OH

Sponsor: Milford ARC

Website: <http://CincinnatiHamfest.org>

08/29/2021 – W3PIE 72nd Annual Gabfest

Location: Uniontown, PA



Sponcer: Uniontown Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w3pie.org>

08/29/2021 – Skyview Radio Society Swap N Shop

Location: Kensington, PA

Sponsor: Skyview Radio Society

Website: <http://skyviewradio.net>

09/12/2021 - Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

Website: <http://www.findlayradioclub.org/hamfest>

09/12/2021 – Butler County Amateur Radio Association Swapfest 2021

Location: Butler, PA

Sponsor: Butler County (PA) Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://w3udx.org>

09/18/2021 - Miami County Swap Meet

Location: Troy, OH

Sponsor: Miami County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w8fw.org>

09/18/2021 - Mound Amateur Radio Assoc. Swap Meet

Location: Miamisburg, OH

Sponsor: MARA

Website: <http://W8DYY.ORG>

09/26/2021 – Cleveland Hamfest

Location: Berea, OH

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

Website: <http://www.hac.org>

10/02/2021 - 10th Annual Vette City Hamfest, ARRL Great Lakes Division

Convention Location: Bowling Green , KY

Sponsor: Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://ky4bg.com>

10/09/2021 - Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club (NWOARC) Hamfest

Location: Westminster, OH

Sponsor: NWOARC, Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club Website:

<http://www.nwoarc.com>

10/31/2021 – Massillon (Ohio) Hamfest

Location: Green, OH

Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w8np.org>

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Website: <http://w8np.org>

11/06/2021 - GARC Hamfest

Location: Georgetown, OH

Sponsor: Grant Amateur Radio Club

12/04/2021 - FCARC WinterFest

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

Keep On Zooming

Mel Vye plans to discontinue the regularly scheduled Wednesday Zoom meetings that he started during the pandemic. If anyone would like to continue the Zoom meetings, feel free to do that. If you need help contact Mel Vye for details. If you do not have zoom installed



Figure 3: Zoom Tablet

on your device go to <https://zoom.us/download> to download the app for your device. If you have not gotten Zoom notification in the past and would like them, notify me at N8PZL@arrl.net and I will add you to the QCWA 21 Google Group.

Newsletter Restart

This is intended to be the second newsletter following the pandemic. This will get us back to receiving a newsletter before the quarterly meetings. Next newsletter will be published on or before 15 October 2021. As always I am looking for articles.