



The QUARAE



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It Seems to Me

I think I am getting used to “In the time Covid19”. I am getting used to staying home. It is nice to order your groceries and just bring them in the house from the porch a couple of hours later. Luckily I know none of the fatalities (150,000 souls in just six months). My friends and relatives are still healthy. Wear a mask and stay some distance from other people. At first, we just stayed home and put puzzles together. We planted a garden. We hired some workmen to do improvements on our house. We binged watched series on Netflix. I read many books and the time went by. I listened to .61, but rarely made my presence known, just to keep up on the local ham news. Just lately we have ventured out to buy things we need, that we couldn't buy on Amazon or other places on-line. I still plan on upgrading some equipment in my ham shack and doing some antenna work, but I haven't found the time and the gumption to do it. I bought a new car and plan on putting a 2 meter mobile in it. I also have been listening to DMR radio. I listen to “talk group 91 World wide” which seems to have a lot of activity. I am disappointed the the Pennsylvania talk group and the West Pa talk group which hardly have any use. I try and keep busy, but take long naps during the day and stay up late hours surfing the internet. I pray and I hope we all do for a vaccine and an end to this virus. So what are you doing in this time of virus?

Securing PowerPole connectors

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In preparation for this year's Field Day, I made a bunch of cables with PowerPole connectors to

connect the solar panel, charge controller and batteries that I used. If you're not familiar with PowerPoles, you might want to check out some youtube videos. They're really great connectors, and have become the DC connector of choice for many hams.

When I make up PowerPole cables, I normally don't bother trying to secure the two halves together, especially if you're using some decently heavy gauge wire. They fit together pretty tightly, and don't come apart easily. Even so, I think securing them together is a good idea. You can buy a little roll pin to insert between the red and black housings that is supposed to prevent them from coming apart, but many folks complain that the pin has a tendency to fall out. This not only defeats the purpose, but could also damage your equipment.

Securing them is the right thing to do, though, and I recently came across some great suggestions on how to do this in the daily digest that I receive from the [Elecraft-KX mailing list](#). Here are the best tips from the thread, Securing Anderson Power Poles (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/topic/75060413>):

- Rudy K8SWD: You can thermally bond the red and black housings with a soldering iron like you



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting at Wagner
Road**

**Thursday August 6
7 PM- General Meeting
Program: TBA**

are making little welds on both sides. Permanent (mostly) but it works better than the roll pins. Just clean the tip really good before soldering!

- Dave K0CDA: [Anderson] also make connectors that are thermally bonded together in pairs. They do NOT come apart.

- Don W3FPR: I use a drop of Super Glue on the junction of the plastic pieces. Warning – that glue grabs quickly, so slide the 2 pieces only enough to start the assembly, then apply the drop of glue and quickly finish sliding them together. I have never had ones prepared like that come apart, and I don't use roll pins. I will say one more thing – use only the genuine APPs. I have seen some knockoffs that do not mate well.

- Greg KC9NRO: Take a hot soldering iron. Wipe the tip with sponge. Run the tip down both side of APP bonding the black and red sides together. Clean soldering iron tip and apply some solder to tip. That's how I roll. Never comes apart

- Mike AI4NS: PVC cement will soften the plastic enough to bond them together. You can also get plastic welding rods, such as Daindy Plastic Welding Rods Chuck a rod in a Dremel and weld them together. I have made plastic boxes and panels using this method.

- Jack WD4E: Snip the cotton end off a Q-tip, cutting at an angle. Insert into hole made for roll pin, cut off excess, save remainder of Q-tip for next requirement.

- Troy K4JDA: 2.5mm screws work well, stay in, and are easily removable.

I posted these suggestions to my [blog](#) and got a few more great suggestions:

- Tom KB8UUZ: Fat tooth picks also work great. Jam it in, break it off.

- Bruce N0NHP: I use MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) replacement to clean my circuit boards after soldering. A single drop of MEK on the junction

between the two halves of the PowerPole shell will fuse them. It can be broken with a sharp tap but not accidentally. It will set and dry in seconds and should be applied after the shell pieces are put together.

I think these are all great suggestions. I think that I'm going to try the cotton swab method. While reading them, another thought occurred to me. I haven't tried this yet, but I'm thinking a little drop of hot glue on the roll-pin hole might work, too.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to keep his PowerPoles together, he likes to teach ham radio classes and operate CW on the HF bands.

Amateur Radio Calendar

August 4 – Corry Ham Club Meeting

August 6 – RAE Club meeting

August 8 – Virtual Ham Expo. See <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/#>

August 8 - Maryland-DC QSO Party. See w3vpr.org/mdcqsop

August 11 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

August 13 – Union City Ham Club meeting

August 15 – VE Session

August 15 - North American SSB QSO Party. See www.ncjweb.com

August 16 - ARRL RTTY or Digital Rookie Roundup. See www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

August 22 - Hawaii QSO Party. See
www.hawaiiqso-party.org

August 22 - Ohio QSO Party. See
www.ohqp.org/index.php/rules

August 29 - W/VE Islands QSO Party. See
usislands.org/qso-party-rules

August 29 - Kentucky State Parks on the Air. See
k4msu.com/kypota

August 29 - Kansas QSO Party. See
ksqso-party.org/rules/KSQPRules2019.pdf