Subject Kx3:

Hints for a fun Kx3 experience by Ve7OsK:

- Take all batteries out and use external power only. Club consensus is the damage which could occur would be disastrous.
- All knobs and buttons are multi-functional so read the manual to understand this methodology first.
- Plan your antenna, as this is a QRP or low power rig, so antenna is everything.
- This is an excellent rig for CW and probably other digital modes.
- A netbook or tablet is useful to have the manual handy for the first while.

My experience using the Kx3 by Ve7OsK:

- I use the radio mostly with CW on 10 meters for participating in the 20Under20 club. I built a dipole with an old Aspirin bottle and some automotive wire, which is strung up near the ceiling. I tested it with the MFJ antenna tuner and shortened it until I got the best standing wave ratio (SWR). I found that keeping the wire away from the metal in the gyproc allowed me to get a longer wire and a better SWR.
- I found the controls are fairly easy to figure out except when entering numeric digits; the seven, eight, and nine buttons are actually knobs and I did not figure that out right away. There are scads of buttons to play with, many of which have on screen help associated with them. The manual describes all of this, and the important thing to glean from the manual is how to use the menu system, and how to use the multi-function aspect of the buttons.
- I attached a straight key for using morse code (CW). At first the key only made local beeps and did not acutally transmit. A quick look in the manual and a menu setting fixed that within a couple minutes. I found the built in CW decoder which displays on the front screen is not useful.
- I downloaded and installed the Kx3 utilities, which are useful when you have a computer handy as the USB cable is right there in the kit. This opened up some better options for use with CW in the form of programable macro keys. CW is displayed on the computer in a much larger window, making it easier to follow, but the decoding still is lacking and my cell phone does a better job.
- I bought a USB sound card, and the right angle adapter, to allow me to grab the Q and not-Q signals for manipulation with a software defined radio. I used HDSDR and recorded several sessions, so that I could review them. This led me to experimentation with SDR and a whole other bunch of (virtual) buttons and knobs.

Thanks for reading, and I am looking forward to your experience ve7osk