

CARC
Membership Meeting

Tuesday 25 August 2020 7:00 PM
NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

THE August 2020 MEETING WILL BE
CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE!

Program: DXing for Non-DXers

By Dave Jaksa, WØVX

AUGUST MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, August 25th, from 7 to approximately 8:30 p.m. The meeting will be conducted as a video conference using Zoom. Login instructions will be emailed to members the weekend prior to the meeting.



Our meeting will begin with a brief business meeting at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a presentation given by Dave Jaksa, WØVX, on "DXing for Non-DXers." Dave will take you from basic HF DX concepts to advanced techniques in under an hour.

"DXing for Non-DXers" provides an overview for the beginner and some pearls of wisdom for the advanced DXer. Topics covered include DXCC Country (Entity) definition, where to find DX, how to work it, your station equipment, working split, propagation, DX Clusters, how to get a QSL, and some advanced tips and techniques.

Dave Jaksa, WØVX, was first licensed as a Novice while in High School in suburban Chicago in early 1962. Two months later he upgraded to General and began chasing DX and contesting. In 1968, when Incentive Licensing became effective, he upgraded to Extra Class.

After finishing college in 1968 he took a job with Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. With the move from W9 land to Iowa the FCC gave him a new zero district call, WAØVDX.

In 1976 he dropped a couple of letters to get his current call, WØVX, which he has kept as Collins moved him to California in the mid 80's and to Texas in 1988.

From the beginning of his Ham Radio "career" Dave has been an active DXer and Contester. He was the co-founder of the Eastern Iowa DX Association in 1975 and served several terms as president of that organization. In Texas Dave served several terms as president of the Lone Star DX Association and is a past president of the Collins ARC. He is on the Mixed, CW, and Phone DXCC Honor Rolls with 359 Countries confirmed. He holds the 9 Band DXCC, WAZ, and 5 Band WAS awards.

Dave holds a BSEE degree from Rose Polytechnic Institute and an MBA degree from the University of Iowa. He is now retired after 31 years with Collins and lives in Garland with his XYL Judi, WØJJ. They have 3 married daughters and 6 grandchildren. Dave is currently very active on 160 through 6 meters.

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The August test was cancelled due to cloudy weather. The sirens are monitored by amateur radio operators and reports made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz. Siren testing occasionally uses the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) repeater at 145.430 MHz, which is designated as the backup repeater.

Crime Watch Patrol Jim Skinner WB0UNI participates in Richardson Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP). CWP members, after successful completion of Richardson Police Department Training, patrol their neighborhoods and report all suspicious activities to the Police Department.

FYI—Until further notice, masks are now required inside all Collins buildings. Also, a temperature check is required before entering the property. During busy hours there is a manned tent near the north gate where the temperature check is performed. During off hours, there is a place at the north gate for a self-check.

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|---|---|
| CARC OFFICERS | |
| PRESIDENT Frank Krizan KR1ZAN 214-563-6679 kr1zan@arrl.net | VICE-PRESIDENT Bill Swan K5MWC 972-529-3906 bill@swanshome.net |
| SECRETARY Jim Brown AF5MA 972.495.2209 jhsbrown@verizon.net | TREASURER Rohan Thomas KG5RCN 972.697.3512 Rohan7066@yahoo.com |
| ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN Kerry Weeks K5WKS 214-563-6679 weeks.kerry@gmail.com | WEBSITE MANAGER Mike Hollingsworth W5QH 972.571.6060 w5qh@arrl.net |
| STATION TRUSTEE Bob Kirby K3NT 214.478.3230 k3nt@arrl.net | NEWSLETTER EDITOR Jim Skinner WB0UNI 214.535.5264 wb0uni@arrl.net |
| MEMBERSHIP Bill Swan K5MWC 972-529-3906 bill@swanshome.net | N5CXX CLUB STATION 972.705.1349 461-290 |

VE SESSIONS

Collins Amateur Radio Club (CARC) Test sessions take place on fourth Tuesdays, immediately following the regular CARC monthly membership meeting (about 7:30 p.m.). The test sessions are held in Conference Room A of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center, at the Bush/Renner/Shiloh intersection in Richardson. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's best to register with the lead examiner, Kerry Weeks, at weeks.kerry@gmail.com or by phone at (214) 478-3230. **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Dallas tests are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

Irving tests are held on the third Saturday of each month at 0900. Fifth and Main St. Contact Bill Revis, KF5BL 252-8015

McKinney VE test sessions are held at the Heard Museum the first Sunday of the month. The address is 1 Nature Place, McKinney TX. The time of the testing is 1430, ending no later than 1645. **Note: no tests given on holiday week-ends.**

Garland testing is held on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November, and begins at 1930 sharp. Location is Freeman Heights Baptist Church, 1120 N Garland Ave, Garland (between W Walnut and Buckingham Rd). Enter via the north driveway. A HUGE parking lot is located behind the church. Both the parking lot and the Fellowship Hall are located on the east side of the church building, with big signs by the entrance door. Contact Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH at 972.302.9992.

Plano testing is on the third Saturday of each month, 1300 hrs at Williams High School, 1717 17th St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

Richardson The Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) VE team hold license testing on the third Thursday of each month at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Beltline Rd. Testing begins at 1900 hrs in room 12. Enter through the Northern most door on the east side of the church building. For further information contact Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail rwkhamtest@gmail.com.

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The Prez Sez

with KR1ZAN



The Collins ARC Board of Directors held a Workshop Session on August 11, 2020, to begin discussions on the future of the Club. All members of the Board were in attendance via Zoom. The first item on the Agenda was consideration of the Purpose Statement as stated in the Club's Constitution.

The Statement of Purpose in Article II of the Constitution states:

"The CARC is established to:

1. Provide a pool of trained personnel for the purpose of providing emergency communications for the community.
2. Acquaint employees of the Company who are interested in amateur radio.
3. Encourage amateur communications with other Company facilities.
4. Provide training for both unlicensed and licensed persons in the field of amateur radio.
5. Operate a club amateur radio station.
6. Provide amateur radio station facilities for use by appropriately-licensed members.
7. Advance the state-of-the-art through the exchange of information provided by the varied expertise of club members.
8. Conduct club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio and the Company."

Our Purpose Statement was evaluated as to the actual performance and opportunities, and, compared to typical purpose statements of other amateur radio clubs, especially the other Collins Aerospace clubs. The Board agreed that a simpler Statement of Purpose would provide flexibility for varying goals and objectives, incorporate existing programs, and more easily adapt to long range plans.

After considerable discussion, a “straw-man” proposal for a new Statement of Purpose was proposed to read: “It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, promote radio knowledge, goodwill, and individual operating skills, and to conduct Club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio among our members and within the Corporation and the community.”

This proposal is subject to further discussion and input from Club members. To that end, the Board plans to conduct “hearings” for member input via Zoom in the near future. You may also submit comments to kr1zan@arrl.net at any time.

The Board, at its workshop, also began consideration of projects which had been previously approved but funding rescinded by the Board pending review. Many of these projects have been open action items for more than 3 years. The Board was pleased to have received from Bill Fell, KK5PB, the last known asset inventory conducted in 2006. It was felt that the inventory needed to be brought up to date as soon as possible. Jim Brown and Frank Krizan are going to start on this in the near future.

Relating to the inventory is the need to determine what assets are obsolete or excess, remove from the club station, and submit a list to members for approval of disposition. Removing unneeded equipment will free up space in the club station.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the Board took up two items: (1) The Board unanimously agreed to conduct regular Board of Directors meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. These will be at 7 p.m. via Zoom. These meetings will be open to members, who will be given the opportunity to comment. (2) Motion by Kerry Weeks, seconded by Jim Brown to reimburse Frank Krizan \$155.54 for the Club’s Zoom Pro subscription for fifteen months, expiring July 5, 2021. Motion was approved.

Bill Swan, K5MWC, and I will be participating in the North Texas Section Club’s Roundtable hosted by Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK, NTX Section Manager, and John Stratton, N5AUS, West Gulf Division Director, on Saturday, August 29th. We’ll have a report in next month’s SIGNALS. If you have questions regarding ARRL HQ, ARRL NTX or the West Gulf Division, or amateur radio regulations or advocacy, send them to me at kr1zan@arrl.net and I’ll attempt to get them answered by our hosts.

Be on the lookout for various surveys from the Board. We’re going to try to keep these simple — one or two questions. We need members’ inputs on various subjects.

73, Frank KR1ZAN

Vice President/Membership Chairman Report

The CARC is pleased to welcome Clarence Sebesta, K5YO, as a new member.

Clarence is an Extra Class License holder and ARRL member.

Welcome Clarence!

Current Membership - 51

Full Members - 31

Associate Members - 12

Life Members - 8

The most current roster is posted on the Members Only portion of our web site. If you need a member ID and password for the Members Only portion, you can contact Mike Hollingsworth at (C) 972-571-6060.

Secretary’s Report

28 July 2020

President Frank Krizan KR1ZAN called the meeting to order on-line via Zoom at 1912.

The following logged into the meeting:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Jared Anderson | KD0ZEK |
| Ron Andreatta | N0IQN |
| Brian Belcher | WA5M |
| Rod Blocksome | K0DAS |
| Jeff Box | WA5TCA |
| Jim Brown | AF5MA |
| Bob Coulbourne | W4FTD |
| Mark Dempsey | N5MD |
| Gene Duprey | K1GD |
| Alan Erickson | WB0OAV |
| John Galvin | N5TIM |
| Tom Hess | KD0HF |
| Bob Jones | W5BJ |
| Michael Ketchum | K5MDK |
| Mark Kovalan | K8XK |
| Frank Krizan | KR1ZAN |

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Tom McDermott | N5EG |
| John McFadden | K5TIP |
| Steve Phillips | K6JT |
| Larry Pinkston | K9HHK |
| Dick Reid | KK4OBI |
| Dick Sander | K5QY |
| Mike Schmit | WA9WCC |
| Clarence Sebesta | K5YO |
| Jim Skinner | WB0UNI |
| Charlie Snodgrass | KC0CD |
| Tim Snodgrass | KC0DN |
| Jim Stafford | W5DTG |
| Dennis Strouble | KW5DS |
| Bill Swan | K5MWC |
| Rohan Thomas | KG5RCN |
| Kerry Weeks | K5WKS |
| Terry Whaley | KE0RBX |
| Milton Withers | AD5XD |
| Joe Wolf | N5UIC |

The 35 attendees at this meeting appears to be a club record.

Officer and Committee Reports

President's Report, Vice President's Report, Activity Manager's Report and Secretary's Report were referenced as they appeared in the July newsletter and no changes noted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rohan Thomas KG5RCN provided a status of club funding.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Frank KR1ZAN announced a tentative schedule for a CARC Board meeting at 1900 on Tuesday, 11 August 2020.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1930, followed by a presentation on Modeling of Bent Dipoles, by Dick Reid, KK4OBI, from Iowa City, Iowa.

Activity Manager's Report



by Kerry Weeks, K5WKS

We've got a great program lined up for August — "DXing for Non-DXers" presented by our own Dave Jaksa, W0VX. I think you'll find this program very interesting and just the ticket to get you interested in working some DX.

Looking ahead, Tom Mc Dermott, N5EG, all the way from Medford, Oregon, will give a program in September on "SDR from DC to Daylight." Those of you who remember the old 442.8 repeater at Rockwell-Collins/Alcatel remember hearing Tom's call on the ID. Tom's program is an informative overview of what software-defined radio is and various applications for amateur radio.

Steve Coleman, WB4GHY, will be our speaker in October with lots of photos and tales of his travels to several far-away places where his work took him, and he was able to make use of massive antenna arrays. He will tell us what it's like to be the DX and handle major pile-ups.

November is our Annual Meeting, which includes election of officers for 2021. We will have a program in November, but we're waiting on confirmation from the speaker.

At this point, we're not sure if we're going to be able to have our annual December Christmas Dinner. With the distancing requirements of COVID-19, we wouldn't be able to enjoy the closeness and camaraderie of typical holiday gatherings. Who knows? — Maybe we'll do what some clubs have done and invite everyone to order in or prepare dinner at home and join together via Zoom for a "virtual" banquet. Might work? Send me your thoughts. My email and phone number are listed on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Also, as we start lining up speakers and programs for 2021, if you have ideas for programs, send them along. Every little bit helps.

CARC Net Report

by Frank KR1ZAN

The CARC Drive Home Net operates every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 6 p.m. on the CARC Repeater, 441.875 MHz, +5 MHz, PL=131.8 Hz). It operates every Tuesday, except the 4th Tuesday, when we have our regular monthly meeting.

Check-ins have been light, but we're continuing to see if this net will be an effective tool for member and area ham communications. Please join us if only for the log. Our net operates as an informal roundtable on which you may share news of information to other radio amateurs, offer items for buy/trade/sale, ask questions or just rag chew.

CHECK-INS:

JULY 21 - [4] KR1ZAN, Frank (NCS); K5MWC, Bill; WB0UNI, Jim; K5ANE, Kane.

JULY 28 - NO NET - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST 4 - [3] KR1ZAN, Frank (NCS); WB0UNI, Jim; K5MWC, Bill.

AUGUST 11 - [3] KR1ZAN, Frank (NCS); K5MWC, Bill; WB0UNI, Jim.



WB0UNI has been having some difficulties hitting the repeater with his HT. We've been suggesting a bigger antenna. His solution is shown above. That should do it!



Sporadic SIGNALS

...captured by

Frank KRIZAN

I got word from Charley Snodgrass, KC0CD, President of the Cedar Rapids' Collins Amateur Radio Club that the terrific storm that tore through Cedar Rapids on August 10th knocked out his power for 3 days, no phone service for 3 days and no internet for 5 days. A tree branch came into his house via a bedroom window. Lots of trees down. Everyone OK - Thank Goodness! Here's a news article that gives a good summary: <https://medium.com/@bjkap/its-worse-in-cedar-rapids-than-you-know-33b4c9b9c7fe>

Reading this article should make us all think about personal and family emergency preparedness. September is National Preparedness Month — read up on it at <https://www.ready.gov/september> A major item in any Preparedness Plan is communications, and amateur radio is a natural resource. See if you can convince more family members to get their ham license so families can stay in contact.

The winner of the Easter Egg Hunt in last month's issue of SIGNALS is Bill Fell, KK5PB. Congratulations, Bill. The Editor and I decided to place a hidden message in the

newsletter to see what kind of attention and response we'd get. This one had an Easter Egg icon (rather obvious). If you missed it, go back to the July issue and look around. There was no reply-by date, but we figured that a month would be enough time for everyone to read and respond. Be on the look-out in future issues for a "hidden message" and get your name in for another prize drawing.

"The Uncertain Future of Ham Radio" is the title of an IEEE Spectrum article by Julianne Pepitone that addresses a range of topics, from ARRL to spectrum allocation and ham radio demographics. The author interviewed both young and old radio amateurs to glean their individual perspectives on how to grow amateur radio and keep it alive for future generations.

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/wireless/the-uncertain-future-of-ham-radio> (from the ARRL Letter, July 16, 2020)

Congratulations to Samuel (Sam) Boren, N5TIP, (photo below-left) grandson of Liz (K5LIZ) and John (K5TIP) McFadden, **and to Adam Wright (KI5FJE)**, (photo below-right) son of Faith and Tom (NN2X) Wright on being offered positions of Apprentice Astronautical Engineer Trainee with Lamont Aerospace.



They will report to Doug Wilson, Chief Technology Officer on a part-time basis while attending school. As Apprentice Astronautical Engineer Trainees they will be performing analysis for spacecraft, missiles, rocket-propulsion systems, satellites, and other equipment operating beyond the Earth's atmosphere. You may remember meeting Adam and his family at the CARC Christmas dinner this past December. Sam has entertained several ham radio gatherings with violin performances.

Patrick, KJ5PMM, posted the following interesting PDF on the RWK Discussion Group that he found online. It's a rating matrix for almost every antenna configuration for cost and performance across all the different bands:

<https://www.hamfesters.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Stealth-Antenna-Guide.pdf>

The presentation is geared for HOAs and small lots, specifically for The Villages in Florida.

The European Space Agency (ESA) has released a new video, "How to get pictures from the International Space Station via Amateur Radio" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=HtC-BPcMruA&feature=emb_logo. The video features radio amateur David Honess, 2E0XDO (ex-M6DNT). An article on the same topic, "Pictures from space via ham radio," at <https://magpi.raspberrypi.org/artices/pictures-from-space-via-ham-radio> appeared last year in The MagPi, the Raspberry Pi magazine. (from the ARRL Letter, July 16, 2020)

Glen Zook K9STH of Richardson became a Silent Key (SK) on August 13, 2020. Glen's first job, following graduation from Georgia Tech with degrees in electrical engineering and business management, was with Collins Radio Company.

A handy tool for finding out what county an address is in: <https://www.mapdevelopers.com/what-county-am-i-in.php#> ... plus there are Tools for finding elevation and lat/lon for a given address ... there's, also, a number of useful drawing tools.

The first QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo! It was a tremendous success according to the creators. The next Expo has been scheduled for March 13-14, 2021 (put it on your calendar). Over 14,000 people attended the Expo during the live 2 days. In addition, 26,000 people registered, and many of those will be dropping by the Expo during the on-demand period which continues through September 9, 2020.

All speaker webinars and exhibit booth content will be available for anybody to view until September 9, 2020. So, if you missed a particular speaker or want to visit another booth, just go back to the Expo by going to <https://qsoto-day.vfairs.com>. Use only your email address to login.

Tim, K5RA, posted these comments on the RWK Discussion Group on Aug. 3rd: "I made the acquaintance of Metals Supermarkets this afternoon. They are in Plano, 1410 Summit Drive Unit 7. They are on the north side of Summit, and east of Avenue N and west of Stewart.

"You can check their web site for what they have. Aluminum, 304 stainless, mild steel, copper, bronze, ... in various sizes and shapes. It is not cheap. I paid about 41 cents plus tax for each inch of 0.75x1.00 6061T6 solid aluminum bar. If you need an odd piece for a project, they have a table of odd pieces marked 50% off. There was a 6x6 aluminum plate that would make a nice element-boom bracket. It's a lot closer than Garland Structural's, and you know what metal you are getting."

Saw K6JT, Steve Phillips, listed on the latest NTX National Traffic System monthly report with high scores for Station Activity and Public Service Honor Roll. Steve tells me that he maintains operation 3 nights a week where he is net control on the Texas Net, Region 5 Net, and Central

Area Net. If you'd like to know more about participating in the National Traffic System, contact the NTX Section Traffic Manager, Aaron Hulett, K8AMH, at k8amh@arrrl.net.

Michael, K5MSK, posted these comments in the Austin ARC SwapNet Newsletter of August 9th: "DEFCON 28 (a well-known hacker conference) is online this year and is FREE to attend online and view presentations. Of particular interest will be Ham Radio Village. Several talks and presentations related ham radio will be available. Ham Radio Village will use the Twitch platform for their presentations. <https://www.twitch.tv/hamradiovillage/> No login is needed to view these presentations (live or recorded).

"Some other DEFCON sessions, i.e. Aerospace Village (interesting stuff about satellites, etc.), will be held live and also recorded for later viewing. Some have already been recorded and are available immediately via YouTube. Visit <https://defcon.org/> for more information, schedule, and for links to join and attend sessions."

Also, in the Austin ARC SwapNet Newsletter Aug. 9th, Glen, WB4KTF, writes: "The RASA in Australia has prepared a very excellent Guide to AmateurRadio for new HAMS. It was written in Australia so the band frequencies and licensing are different from the US. Download Your Free Copy – <https://vkradioamateurs.org/welcome-to-ar-guidebook-for-newcomers/> "

The Garland Amateur Radio club has acquired a large amount of equipment and is now offering it for sale to other area clubs. Per the instructions at the top of their list "We feel the prices are fair, but we can be negotiable in some cases if you have a good argument. First email usually gets it so don't delay." Contact Lowell Allen KD5RFD at <lowell_allen@hotmail.com> with any questions or to make arrangements to buy any of the items left available. Please pay attention to the legend at the top of the list for some coding details. A complete list of equipment (radios, amplifiers, books, misc) is available at <https://garc-k5qhd.wixsite.com/main/equipment> If you find this list difficult to read, a PDF version is available on the Collins ARC web site (www.n5cxx.us). Look for the link (in Red) below the monthly meeting announcement. We plan to update this weekly. Note the Revision Date on the list.

Will Sunspot Cycle 25 be a 'Really Big Show'? — The ARRL August 14th Propagation Bulletin included some very useful links about predictions and a bit of nostalgia that brought back memories of SWLing in the late 1950s. Tad Cook, K7RA, writes:

"K9LA recently posted a survey of various solar cycle 25 predictions. Read it at http://k9la.us/Aug20_Cycle_25_Predictions.pdf. He also did a presentation at <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/> on the same subject. The material from that event will be up for a limited time, so catch it before it is gone on September 9. And Carl's Basic Concepts resource is always good for a review at http://k9la.us/html/basic_concepts.html.

“Personally I like the prediction that promises a repeat of the epic Cycle 19 of the late 1950s. I was a small child then, but my father had a low-band FM 2-way radio mounted in his company car, probably operating somewhere between 30-40 MHz judging from my hazy memory of the length of the bumper mounted whip antenna.

“We were in Reedley, California in the San Joaquin Valley, and he sold agricultural chemicals to farmers. He would use the radio to contact the office in Fresno, but at the peak of Cycle 19 local communications were often interrupted by skip from Texas and various states in the Midwest.

“From correspondence I've received from readers, I know there were many new teen-aged hams at that time, and many just assumed that the fantastic propagation of the day was normal. Many were disappointed by Cycle 20, which was when I got my Novice ticket.

“So I think we are due for another big cycle, although this is purely emotional, and I try to avoid the Gambler's Fallacy. That is the name of the logical fallacy in which when observing a random series of events such as when spinning a roulette wheel, if we keep seeing the ball land on red over and over, then we are due for black to come up. But with independent random events, one result cannot predict the next.”

Until next month, 73 de KR1ZAN

Amateur Radio (part 2)

By Vic Seeberger W7VSE (SK)

Here in Oregon, the Portland Amateur Radio Club (PARC) sponsors a yearly convention at Seaside, OR. Attending this get-together was real fun – getting to meet face-to-face with Hams you have talked to over the years. And they have various seminars and meetings that can be attended if you like.

I'd been going to this convention for several years and one day my telephone rang. It was a member of the PARC. He told me he was on the committee of the Radio Club, and that I had been recommended by several people, who said I was qualified, to give a seminar on Traffic Handling, and he wanted to know if I was interested in doing that. I told him I thought those people that recommended me were probably trying to get out of doing it themselves. He assured me that they were not. I told him I didn't think I was qualified to do a seminar, in fact, I wasn't sure I could even spell “seminar.”

After I got off the phone with him, I did some thinking about this. I came to the conclusion that it was a good idea for attracting more amateurs to help us on the traffic nets and someone should do it. So, I called him back on the phone and told him, if he still wanted me, I would take a crack at it. He told me to go for it, and he would put me on the roster of Seminars, and help in any way he could.

I spent the next month or so making notes and devising things that I should talk about, and by the time to go to the convention, I think I was ready. I had quite a list of things to discuss and my fingernails were bitten off up to my elbows worrying about it, but I was about as ready as I could get.

The seminar was posted as being from 11AM to Noon on a Saturday. About twenty or so people showed up. When we all got assembled, I told them part of the story above and I said that I didn't know everything about traffic handling, but with a session of questions and answers, maybe we could all learn something, including me. So we carried on for almost an hour and they had some questions that I could answer and some that I could not. I told them that I would contact ARRL HQ and resolve the questions for which we did not know the answers. Later, I did work some problems out.

When the meeting was over, I was thinking that I hadn't done a very good job, but several of the hams came up and patted me on the back and told me what a good job they thought I had done. I think they were just glad that I was doing it and not them, but it was very rewarding for me. Next year, we had two sessions, one on the Basics of handling message traffic on the NTS, and one hour on advanced traffic handling. After a couple more years, we went back to just one hour-long seminar. The idea worked and we did recruit some more Hams to the NTS.

Years later, I quit going to the conventions, and I received a lot of phone calls and letters, trying to get me to come back and do it some more. But, remember the saying, “all good things have to come to an end”.

One day at work, a man named Dave Phillips called the Airport Control Tower for some information and I talked to him a short while. One of the things he mentioned was that he was a retired Morse Telegrapher and Dispatcher for the Southern Pacific Railroad. I told him that I had worked a couple of years for Western Union and mentioned the Amateur Morse Telegraph net that we had got started on the ham bands. I mentioned the fact that a lot of retired Morse Telegraphers were checking into that net. A couple of years of so later, Dave called me on the phone and told me he was organizing a local Medford Chapter of the International Morse Telegraph Club and asked me if I would like to join. I was retired at the time, and told him yes. We got together and at the first meeting of the Chapter, elected all the officers, except one. We needed a secretary. To keep things rolling, I told them that I would fill in as secretary until they found someone else. I did that job for a couple of years or more. Finally Dave's wife, Beth Phillips took pity on me, and took the secretary's job. That got me off the hook.

Dave Phillips had an Amateur Radio license, WB7VSN. I asked him why he decided to become a Ham. He reminded me of what I had told him about the Morse Telegraph Radio Club on the air when he called the FAA Tower years ago.

So he studied the book and got his ticket and had many happy hours talking with those old time Morse Operators that are mentioned elsewhere in my stories.

One year, the school system was putting on some movies of the early days of Railroading in Oregon at the Library at Jacksonville, Oregon. I got selected by the Club to set up a Morse station and demonstrate the Telegraph to some 5th graders from schools all over southern Oregon. I had a desk with a Morse sounder and key and a wire running to another room, We would send back and forth and the kids eyes would open wide when the sounder was clacking from the back room. I told them that could be a wire to anywhere, Washington, D.C. or Miami Florida. They were impressed.

I think we had about a thousand kids, in groups of 15 to 20 with 2 teachers as chaperons of each group. The following year we did it again and I think there were about 1200 kids that year. The groups of kids would watch the movie and then stop by my Morse demonstration desk. I would give them a short spiel about the history of Morse Telegraph. I didn't have the same speech for every group, but there was one part I repeated each time a group stopped by.

These kids were all fifth graders, and about 11 years old. I would tell them, "Samuel F.B. Morse invented the Morse code in 1844, I remember it well, I was there." The kids wouldn't blink an eye and they accepted what I'd said, but the teacher/chaperons would have trouble, trying to keep from laughing out loud. I remember one group, especially. After my speech, they lingered a few minutes and one of the little girls was standing right in front of my desk. I asked her if she thought that I was actually around in 1844? She looked puzzled, and you could almost see the wheels turning 'round in her head. Finally, she looked at me and said, "You're an OLD man, aren't you?" She still believed my story.

Medford's population has been increasing as the years go by. Years ago, they had to abandon a Sewer Treatment plant because it was too small to accommodate the larger amount of people. Some Railroad Clubs saw their chance and were able to obtain the site from the city and they made it a recreational park with miniature trains running on an oval track of about one-half mile in length. The train rides are free. We accept donations from the public We presently have five clubs at the park. The miniature railroad has trestles, overhead bridges, and a tunnel. It has grown into quite a popular place to take the kids, grandkids, and old folks to ride the small trains. They even have one train with a platform car on it. They can load a wheel chair on that car, lash it down securely, and give a thrill to people who otherwise would not be able to ride the little trains.

Just recently, they have constructed another smaller track for the little kids and the tiny engines are brightly painted with a large smiling face on the front and "Thomas the Train" on the side. The little kids fall in love with Thomas.

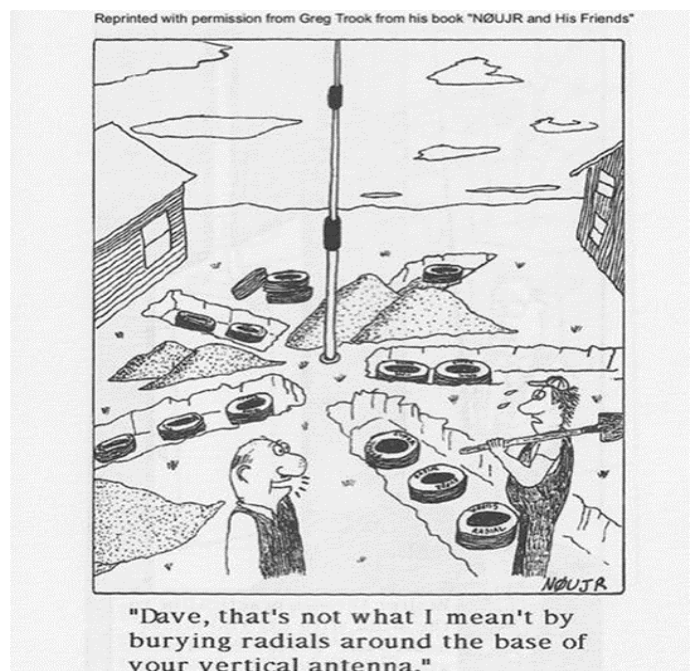
I belong to the Morse Telegraph Club, and we have built three Telegraph stations, about fifty yards apart, connected by Telegraph poles, with glass insulators, supporting 6 bare large copper wires that connect the three Telegraph stations. Just like the good old days, when, almost every communication job was handled by use of the Morse code. The park is open from 11AM to 3PM on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month from April through October. The public can come into any of the three stations, write a telegram, and it will be sent in the original Morse code on the telegraph wire to one of the other stations, and they can pick up their free telegram to take home. We also accept free telegrams for anywhere in the USA or Canada, and some other countries. I bring these telegrams home, and put them into the NTS on the Ham bands and they are delivered by telephone when they reach their destinations.

RR Park also has various railroad cars that can be visited. They are standard size rolling stock that have been restored. There is a Caboose, a Flanger (snow-removal car), boxcars, to name a couple, and several others. There is a Railroad Museum, and a building where the public can operate the little model trains and see many other things. They sell snow-cones, hot dogs and other goodies.

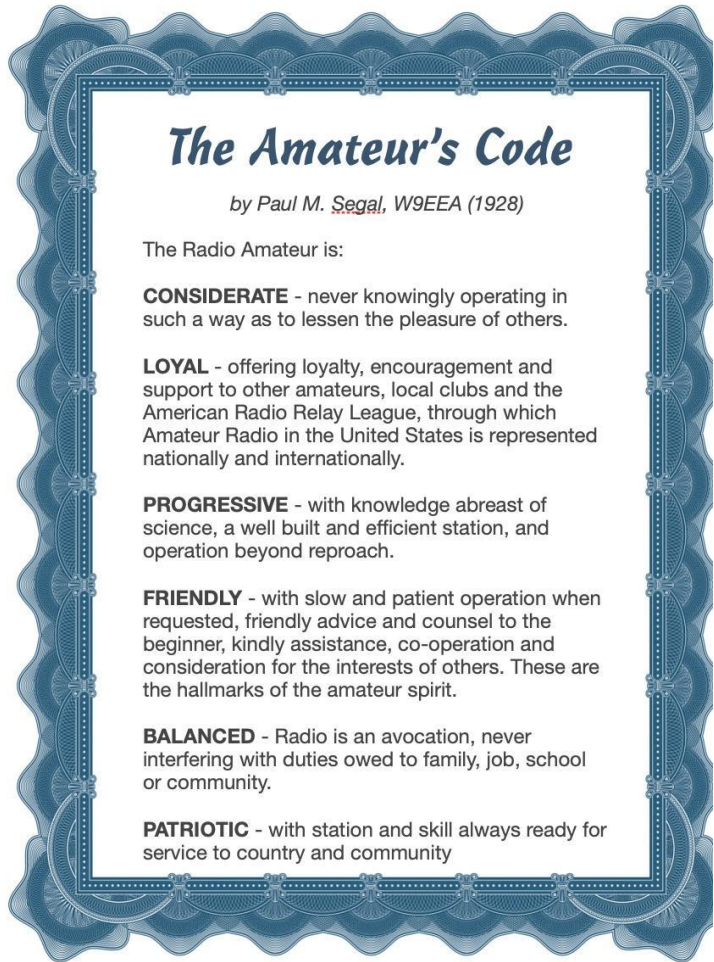
But the old Original Morse code operators are getting to be extremely rare. We are considering a change of our three stations over to the International Morse code and perhaps recruit some Amateurs to keep the three stations running. Most of the public would not realize the difference. It would still be Morse code. The mode that is used to handle the messages is not as important as the message itself. But it remains to be seen if we will be able to continue our presence at the park.

Time will tell.

(Contributed by Steve Phillips)



Upcoming Events



| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Daily | DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz |
| Daily | DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz |
| Daily | Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com |
| 1st Wednesday | Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz. |
| 2nd Wednesday | ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 12-14 | September VHF. Objective: For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf . |
| 12-13 | EME – 2.3 GHz and Up —Work as many amateur stations as possible via earth-moon-earth path on authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. From 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest |
| 19-20 | 10 GHz & Up – Round 2. The objective of 10 GHz and Up is for North American amateurs work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. Details at http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up . |

OCTOBER

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 10-11 | EME - 50 to 1296 MHz —Objective: To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. Full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). Details at http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest . |
| 19-23 | School Club Roundup —Objective: To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event. Details at http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup |



Richardson, Texas

Mail Station 461-290

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



Richardson, Texas

CLUB STATION

(972) 705-1349

N5CXX REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input

131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

N5CXX-1 PACKET BBS COL Node

145.05 MHz

N5CXX-N1, NRCXX-N2 & N5CXX-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Membership Meeting

Tuesday 25 August 2020 **7:00 PM**

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

THE August 2020 MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE!

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 11 September 2020 ←←←