

THE SIGNAL

Newsletter of the Bella Vista Radio Club



Happy New Year
2019



Instagram

Vol. 1, No. 10 – January 2019

Weekly Nets: 3820 KHz Roundtable, Sundays @ 4 p.m. • 147.255 Repeater Net, Wednesdays @ 8 p.m.

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m., Highland Christian Church, 1500 Forest Hills Blvd, Bella Vista

Club Call: N5BVA • Repeater: 147.255 +offset, pl 162.2 • Website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org

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NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, January 3, 2019 – 7:00 pm
Highland Christian Church
1500 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas

JANUARY PROGRAM:

“The Thrill of DX – Being The Hunted”

by Bill Priakos – W5SJ

For Bill, W5SJ, the lure of amateur radio began at the age of 12 when a relative gave him a “crystal set” receiver kit. Then one summer, the teenager awoke in the middle of the night and contacted a distant (or DX) station in Honolulu. A QSO with New Zealand followed, and the ‘bug had bitten’ the 13-year-old Fort Smith lad. Soon after, his amateur radio hobby provided an opportunity to study in Japan, where he was able to “be the DX” when he operated from an American Air Force ‘MARS’ station. Bill was thoroughly hooked as a “DXer,” one who loves the pursuit of distant and sometimes very rare stations in remote corners of the globe.

W5SJ breathes ‘rare air’ in that he is one of the relatively few hams who has, as we say, “worked them all.” Bill has literally communicated with EVERY country in the world, and many more exotic ‘entities,’ like remote islands, the north and south Pole—and yes, even North Korea. Bill also knows the thrill of operating from 20 countries across four continents.

But Bill also operates very low power levels, as low as one watt, known as “QRP.”

Come hear this renowned DXCC ‘Honor Roll’ member tell of his exotic travels!

SEE www.BellaVistaRadioClub.org for location, map, and more!



Bella Vista Radio Club Celebrates 25 Years

From Ron – K5XK: Few would have thought the Bella Vista area radio club would one day be recognized as one of the oldest--and largest--amateur radio clubs in the region. Initially organized as the Bella Vista Repeater Group in 1993, its initial focus was serving Benton County with a reliable, state of the art, wide area 2-Meter repeater.

Its history has very humble beginnings, largely with former members from the now-defunct Northwest Arkansas Amateur Radio Club, meeting in Springdale. Prior to the mid-90s, the NWA ARC operated several area repeaters, including 'the 147.030 machine,' located on the London Water Tower in Bella Vista. Our questions of BVRC's genesis led us to another interesting visit with long time member Bill Davidson, WØJLY.

Bill explained that maintenance and support for the .030 repeater from the NWA Club "always seemed to be lacking." As leadership changed, interest diminished in the club's sole Benton County repeater. Bill found himself all alone in trying to keep the machine on the air.

Looking for a more reliable option, Bella Vista retiree John Hansen, AB5UN, formed the fledgling Bella Vista 'Repeater Group' with sixty supporters from Rogers, Bentonville and Bella Vista. \$3,000 was raised and a new repeater was soon launched on 147.255 MHz, located on an eastern POA water tower. The Repeater Group was off and running. Its first president, Bill Wright-KC5GN (SK), was a good administrator and soon secured non-profit status for

The new 147.255 repeater offered many computerized features, including an 'Auto Patch' telephone link and remote command signal strength reporting. But maintenance was still required, shared by Hansen and Davidson. As the government asserted increased control of the country's water towers, access to the radio shack became increasingly limited.

Eventually AB5UN lost interest in the hobby, leaving Bill to shoulder total maintenance of the repeater, which was moved to the more centralized Trafalgar Water Tower. Bill, along with Glenn Allen – W5VCC (SK), worked to expand club membership, conducting licensing classes in Morse Code and electronics. These early classes yielded two dozen new hams.

One of the new club recruits was then Benton County deputy sheriff Ken Farmer – KD5UFY. Hugh – WAØTDQ, remembers that Ken would stop by WØJLY's after work, for CW practice. Ken eventually became Bella Vista Chief of Police and club Repeater Trustee. After Ken's retirement in 2016, Fred Lemley – K5QBX, was appointed Repeater Trustee. And when it became apparent the repeater needed to be relocated, Fred temporarily hosted the repeater at his Highland's QTH while an extensive search was made for a new permanent site. The solution was found in 2017, when the repeater was relocated to the K5SRS commercial tower just north of the AR/MO state line, across from the Jane Walmart.

WØJLY remembers Repeater Group meetings were informal and held at area restaurants. He recalls only one Field Day during the early years. Under the presidency of Bob Femrite – KØSNG, the club resumed Field Day participation, generating a large number of contacts and high scores from portable stations operating CW, SSB, and Digital modes. Under the 2018 guidance of K5QBX, the tradition of demonstrating emergency communications capability during ARRL Field Day was revitalized.

Under the leadership of Ken Mummery – K6RLA, the club voted in 2016 to change its name to Bella Vista 'Radio Club,' reflecting members' expanded interest in all areas of the hobby. In 2017, the club was rewarded by efforts of members Bob McIntire – AC5LX, and Walt Gaspord – AF5XY (SK), as meetings were moved to new spacious facilities at Highland Christian Church. WØJLY was recognized as 'Member Emeritus.' The first 'Ham of the Year' was awarded to Steve Werner, K5SAW, for his many contributions of time and technical expertise to area hams.

Also in 2017, Glenn Kilpatrick, WB5L, organized a new Volunteer Exam team. Later that year, Glenn was elected president. Meetings were moved to evening hours, and "The Signal," a new monthly newsletter edited by Don Banta, K5DB, was launched. These efforts resulted in significant growth in membership. Today, the club is a diverse group of more than 80 licensed and prospective radio amateurs with varied interests. Membership is spread across Benton, Carroll, Washington, Newton and McDonald counties, in Arkansas & Missouri. Twenty-five years later, these early club members continue to be active: Bob McIntire – AC5LX, Bill Davidson, – WØJLY, and former presidents Hugh Maddox – WAØTDQ, Vern Sidler – AA6AR, Bob Femrite – KØSNG, and Ken Mummery – K6RLA. We salute these and so many other former members whose contributions we enjoy to this day.

As we look to the future, we enthusiastically embrace a new beginning in 2019, as we continue to collectively enjoy and explore "The World's Best Hobby!"

(Photos of BVRC 'Member Emeritus', Bill Davidson – WØJLY. As of 9/12/'18, 97 years old, ham for 78 years, and active daily:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/RcpzDmeq96DJfBwb9>)

From Don – K5DB: BVRC reaches a milestone in 2019, as we celebrate our 25th year of existence. BVRC was incorporated on March 17, 1993, originally as the Bella Vista Repeater Group (BVRG). Technically, we're already in our 25th year, but since the club was not founded at the beginning of the calendar year, we are going to observe this anniversary during the 12 months of 2019. The above anniversary logo will appear on the banner of *THE SIGNAL* for each issue of 2019 and will also appear on BVRC's website, to ensure that anyone reading SIGNAL issues or viewing the website will be made aware of this great accomplishment.

Since its founding, BVRC has maintained a top-notch level of providing informative monthly programs, helps (elmering), and activities to aid in enabling new and veteran hams alike in increasing their enjoyment of our great hobby. We continue to do that today, which has resulted in BVRC being the largest and fastest-growing radio club in Northwest Arkansas. Several special events are in the works for this year, so stay tuned!

This type of growth just doesn't "happen". Yes, the club officers and appointed chairpersons do their part with programs and activities, but it is the "unsung heros" – YOU THE MEMBERS – who actually cause a phenomenon such as this to occur. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

As we announce the various club events this coming year to celebrate this milestone in BVRC's history, be sure and mark your calendar to get involved with some – or all – of them!



By Ron Evans – K5XK

N5SQV (SK) – "Louie" Metz, a longtime former BVRC member, became a Silent Key on 12/9/2018, at the age of 92. He had been living at the veterans' home in Winfield, KS, near Wichita. Marc – WØKYZ commented: *"I inherited the treasurer's job from Louie some years ago. He often had get-togethers at his home off Chelsea Road. He was active on HF as well as on our repeater and was a regular at club meetings. He loved Bella Vista and missed having a station after he and Peggy moved back to KS."*

N5KWL – Tem & XYL Nancy attended our December dinner meeting and joined afterward. Tem has been working FT-8 with his ICOM IC-7000, but needs help troubleshooting his OCF dipole. The Moores live on Beaver Lake east of Rogers, where Tem can be found when not scurrying up and down towers, maintaining his network of 7 mostly [UHF linked repeaters](#).

K5QBX – Fred is enjoying a new Elecraft K2 HF transceiver.

WØKYZ – KØIEI: Marc recently had an HF QSO on 40 Meters with former BVRC member Jim Bennett, KØIEI. Jim moved to Waco TX last year.

WD9AEN – Joe has been operating a lot of HF Mobile lately during his travels to/from IL and IN. He also reports that he has been introducing his 2 ½ year old grandson to Morse Code!

KF5ZIM: Gregg, the recipient of a Morse keyer/paddle combo at the December meeting, wasted no time and has been accepted into the online Morse Code "CW Academy" for 2019. Wayne/K5UNX & Glenn/WB5L are past Academy grads.

K5XK – K5QBX – WA5BDU: Ron, Fred, and new BVRC member Nick had an interesting CW Roundtable QSO on 30 Meters on 11/26.

WA5BDU – W5KI: Nick & Steve attended their first BVRC meeting in November—and joined. Nick and XYL Roseann recently relocated to Bella Vista's Lake Brittany from Russellville, where Nick was a retired EE from ANO (Arkansas Nuclear One). Steve is a retired Air Force Lt Col, now living on a breathtaking hilltop between Beaver & Eureka Springs. Both Steve and Nick are longtime friends of Ron/K5XK, since they were teenage hams in the early 1960s—55 years!

KG5TOA – Rick, who gave our November presentation on Radio Astronomy, sustained a house fire in recent weeks.

WA0TDQ – Hugh reports that with deteriorating hearing at 94, he is still active on the air. But with 'keyboard to keyboard,' primarily using the PSK-31 digital mode.

K5UNX – Wayne successfully sorted-out SWR issues due to routing coax into his shack and reports marked improvement, especially at VHF/UHF. For local repeaters, Wayne uses a Dr. Ed Fong, WB6IQN, antenna design, acquired following Ed's Dec '17 program to BVRG on "The Dual Band J-Pole", based on his earlier QST article by the same name.

WØJLY – At 97, Bill continues to be very active on HF, saying he "reports in" to at least three Nets on 75 and 40 Meters, daily.

AC5LX – Bob turned 89 on Dec 21st, and despite health issues volunteers at Mercy Hospital in Rogers twice per week. Bob is also quite active daily on HF, and on our weekly local 2 Meter Net and the 3820 Roundtable.

AB5UN – former BVRG founder John Hansen, although inactive in the hobby, was consulted for this month's article on the early history of the Repeater Group. At age 88, he keeps his FCC license current, and his son is WB9O, nearing retirement in Geneva, IL. Interestingly, John told us the idea for 'the Bella Vista Bypass' was first proposed 20 years ago at Riordan Hall.

Saturday morning breakfast– all area members are invited to congregate for breakfast and 'eyeball QSOs' at Duffer's Café, 638 W Lancashire (Hwy 340) in Bella Vista, each Saturday morning. Discussion topics are engaging, and many problems are solved! Contact Bob Rainwater – WBØAUQ, per the roster, with questions or for more info.

We Need Your News! What's your latest radio-related endeavor? Studying for a license upgrade? Planning or using a new radio, antenna, or accessory? New operating mode, or...? Send your Member News today to: Ron, K5XK@arrl.net



BVRG

Membership Dues

Just a reminder from your club treasurer. For everyone wanting to keep their memberships current for the coming year, club dues can be paid in person at the monthly meetings or via PayPal using almarc11@yahoo.com as the address. Dues should be paid by March 31. If you pay in person at the meeting, please see me to make sure I have you noted in my spread sheet when you pay. Additional information is included on the club membership web pages. For further information, check this web address: <https://www.bellavistaradioclub.org/application.pdf>

Thanks! – Marc, WØKYZ

The following members do not need to pay for 2019 since they joined the club after July 1, 2018:

Cliff Bailey
Don Cooper
Bill Durham
Bill Edwards
Clayton Hornsby
James Johnson
Nick Kennedy

Henry Kress
Chase Laird
Tem Moore
Steve Norris
Rick Pope
Dennis Wareham
Mark Whatley



New General Class Question Pool To Be Released This Year

On July 1, 2019, a new Element 3 General Class question pool will take effect for examinations. If you are intending on acquiring your General license this coming new year, you'll have the first half of it to accomplish that. However after July 1, you will have to re-study the new question pool.

The current information for all license classes is

Technician Class Pool (Element 2) was effective July 1, 2018 and is valid until June 30, 2022

New General Class Pool (Element 3) will take effect July 1, 2019 and will be valid until June 30, 2023.

Current General Class Pool (Element 3) effective July 1, 2015 is only valid until June 30, 2019.

Amateur Extra Class Pool (Element 4) effective July 1, 2016 is valid until June 30, 2020.

(The examination fee will remain at \$15.00 for 2019.)

2019 IBVIRC Christmas and Awards Banquet

By Ron – K5XK

(Photos courtesy K5DB & K5UNX)

Great fellowship and a great turnout were experienced on Dec. 6 for the annual Bella Vista Radio Club's annual Christmas Dinner and Awards meeting. The event featured catering from Bubba's Bar-b-Que in Bella Vista. The food was excellent, not to mention the scrumptious desserts that were supplied mostly by those FB XYLs!!!



BVRC recognized outstanding member contributions during the gala event:



The Club's top award, BVRC "Ham of the Year," was presented to Glenn – WB5L, for extraordinary service in 2018. In addition to serving as club President, Glenn served as Volunteer Exam Coordinator and Webmaster. Glenn also initiated numerous innovations, including the transition to evening monthly meetings, the addition of a club Constitution, a complete revision of the club's 1993 By-Laws, and accommodated PayPal online payments on the website for name badges, customized items, and payment of annual dues. Glenn is also credited with securing the prestigious "ARRL Affiliated Club" recognition.



A first time "MVP Award" was presented to Steve – K5SAW for continued outstanding service to BVRC and area hams, and for extraordinary efforts during the club's ARRL Field Day.



Another first-time recognition, the "President's Award," was presented to Fred/K5QBX for organization and execution of BVRC's 2018 Field Day, and for service as club Repeater Trustee.





A “Behind the Scenes Award” was given to Marc – WØKYZ for seven years of service as club Treasurer. In 2018, Marc also secured ‘501c3 non-profit status’ for the club, began accepting online dues via PayPal, and secured club liability insurance through the ‘ARRL Affiliated Club’ program.



The 2018 “Signal Award” went to Don – K5DB for creative and diligent publication of the new monthly newsletter, “The Signal.” Don also organized the annual Arkansas QSO Party and co-organized the BVRC special event station commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.



Special “VIP Award” honors went bestowed upon Gregg – KF5ZIM for extraordinary service providing club appreciation plaques for monthly speakers, as well as the designing and printing of a wide array of signage, custom club name badges, mouse pads, mugs, and other ‘swag’ items now available on the website. Gregg also was a major contributor of monthly door prizes throughout the year.





Club Membership coordinator Ron/K5XK received a Plaque of Appreciation, for his continuously excellent work in maintaining an accurate membership roster, doing a stellar job in helping K5DB with current BVRC member news and happenings, and co-coordinating the BVRC special event station from the Shiloh Museum.



Leadership Award items were presented to Glenn – WB5L, Fred – K5QBX, Mark – WØKYZ, Wayne – K5UNX, Don – K5DB, Ken – K6RLA, Steve – K5SAW, and Chris – KG5SZQ.

Net Control Appreciation awards went to K5SAW, KG5SZQ, Alan – KEØQFO, and WB5L, for the weekly 2 Meter Net. Moderators of the weekly 75 Meter '3820 Roundtable' were also recognized with custom club gear. These included Don – K5DB, Fred – K5QBX, Glenn – WB5L, and John – N5SU.

The club also recognized club member and prospective future radio amateur Randy Moll of Northwest Arkansas Newspapers with "Press Appreciation" recognition for news coverage and promotion of BVRC during the past year.

Lastly – but VERY importantly! – the Club presented Highland Christian Church with a Plaque of Appreciation for the use of their facilities for monthly meetings and VE test sessions. Bob – AC5LX, a member of HCC, made the presentation to the pastor and congregation on behalf of BVRC. Bob advised that the award was well-received and well-appreciated.

But the most fun part of the banquet – of course! – was the great food and fellowship between all the BVRC members. Enjoy the snapshots of those moments on the following page! :





BVRC – BVCTV VIDEO PROJECT UPDATE

The following is an update on the joint “BVRC – BVCTV Video Project.”

The goal is to video, to ‘air’ or telecast, and archive our monthly program presentations. In return, it is hoped that BVRC can assist with on-location video recording of selected special community events.

BVCTV (Bella Vista Community TV channel) is seen throughout Benton & Washington counties on COX Cable and AT&T U-Verse. Additionally, DVDs can be purchased at a nominal fee, and plans are to upload our videos to a BVRC channel on YouTube. This effort is spearheaded by Steve Little – AB9YN, who is the chief director at Community TV, which furnishes professional grade video equipment, with volunteer assistance from BVRC camera operators.

Here is Steve’s latest report:

Hi Guys,

AB9YN will be heard on the air again, soon. The holiday season has made extra demands.

- BVRC volunteers for the Club Video Project are Marc Whittlesey – WØKYZ, Bob Rainbolt – WBØAUQ, and Frank Majdan – K5FWM. They have been great!
- We have 4 shows ‘in the can,’ as we say.
- We are scheduling them to air beginning in January. Each show will run at a particular day/time each week for an entire month. (Stay tuned for details.)
- They will be uploaded to YouTube when they are aired.
- The volunteers so far have set-up the cameras, lights, and mics. They have also operated all the cameras (I have not run camera, at all). I know Marc could also edit the shows.
- I look back on the programs done so far and I think it is a real credit to the club that the programs are really good, varied and interesting viewing!
- Sorry for my absence lately. (My wife has had many medical problems like shingles, heart failure and pain.)

73 to all and Happy New Year!

Steve, AB9YN



LEARN CW IN 2019??

By Don – K5DB



In THE SIGNAL a couple of months ago, I wrote an article concerning the subject of CW as an admonition to all our readers who do not know or use CW, to consider learning this great mode. I spent the time in writing that article in hopes it would spur some enthusiasm in those who have thought about possibly learning it. If you were not a subscriber at that time and would like to read the article, you can view it by going to the BVRC website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org, click the NEWLETTERS tab on the left, then click the November Newsletter tab. It begins on page 13.

So, I would like to ask you once again to indulge me for a second installment about learning CW. Please understand I am not trying to ram CW down our readers' throats...not at all. I just am attempting to illustrate to all our non-CW hams what they're missing. With that being said, this will be my last writing on this subject for a while, but I would like to ask you to enjoy it, and I hope it inspires you to take the plunge...it's January and now could be a fresh start in making it one of your goals for the new year! 73! – Don, K5DB.....

As everyone knows, back in “ancient” times, all hams had to learn Morse code to obtain an amateur license. That all ended in February 2007, when the FCC dropped the Morse requirement for all classes of amateur licensing, resulting in an influx of new folks – with CW more or less unknown to them – into the ranks of amateur radio.

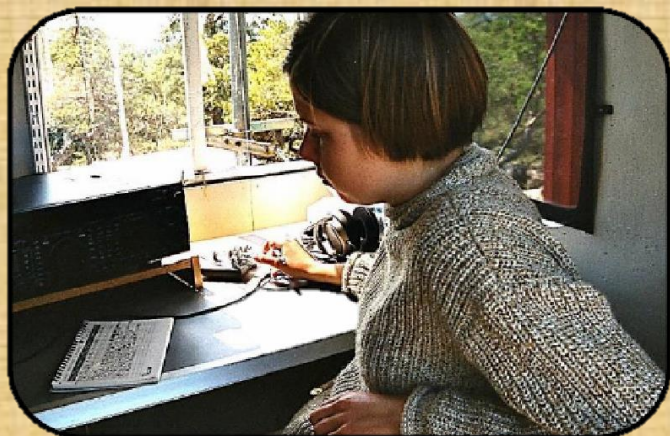
CW was dying.....or so many thought!!!! That was 12 years ago folks and I have news for you: CW on the HF bands was, and is, FAR from dead. It has experienced ongoing use on the bands not only by old timers but in fact, by many who, free of the *required burden* of learning the code, have discovered how much fun and how useful it can be to implement on the air.

You might say, “Well Don, now just how do you know that? Do you have anything to substantiate that there are *that* many newcomer no-code hams that have learned it and are using it?”

Absolutely! I have first-hand proof in my logbook– I have heard it live on-air, during the ARRL CW Sweepstakes contest!!!

When you participate in Sweepstakes, the information you exchange with the stations you work consists of a sequential serial #, your operating class for the contest, your callsign, your

your ARRL section, and..... ***the last 2 digits of the year you were first licensed.*** While operating during the contest, I have worked more stations than you can imagine that have sent me "07" through "18" denoting they were first licensed from 2007 to current. This means that they have learned the code on their own!!! Now, you may say "Yeah, right.... they're using a code reader and keyboard for sending and receiving. True, some of them might, but I've heard code long enough that I can distinguish when it's being manually send by a paddle or straight key, or if it's being sent by software. I am thrilled each time I work one of them during Sweeps. Either that's the case, or I've worked an entire slew of centenarian+ hams!!!



So, how has this come to pass? Why is this archaic mode of communication, a mode that has been a deterrent and/or stumbling block to so many, still around? But most noticeable of all, how is this mode now seeing such a continued and even surging popularity on the ham bands?

Well first, learning the code gives you a sense of personal accomplishment in knowing that compared to the population of this sphere we live on, persons who know and use the code are an infinitesimally small percentage. But second, how about the mode of CW itself? Did you happen to read the article in the December 2013 issue of QST entitled, "How Much 'PUNCH' Can You Get from Different Modes"?

This article illustrates how the digital modes (of which CW is the oldest and most primitive) are

much more effective than the voice modes, especially when the bands become very busy or propagation deteriorates.

For example, compared to SSB voice transmission, CW has nearly a **17-dB advantage** on the air. That's due largely to a more efficient duty cycle on transmission. How much is a 17-dB advantage? Simply put, the average 100-watt transceiver and depending upon band conditions, it will account for roughly somewhere between a **30- and 60-fold increase in signal strength!** (See the tables in that QST article.)

You say, "Ok, but how will this really help *me* ?... and will it be worth the trouble of learning the code?" More than likely.....yes. As with anything else in life, you reap what you sow: Anything you get out of something depends on how much time and effort you want to put into it, and the amount of impetus you have.

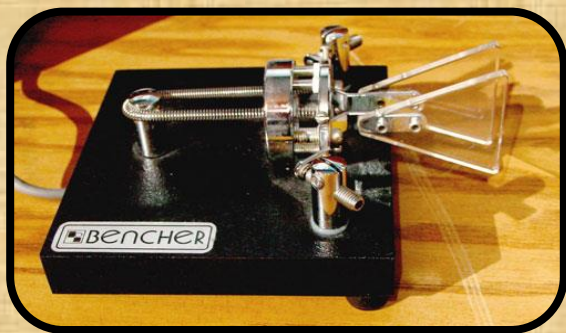
If all you want to do is talk thru FM repeaters, there's of course no reason to pursue learning CW. On the other hand, if you're aroused at the prospect of making contact with other hams all over the world, or having loads of fun in making lots of QSOs in a contest, or desiring to pursue the DXCC, WAS, WAC, etc. awards, or having a good ol' code ragchew, then CW will offer you great advantages over those who don't or won't use it.



So let's say that up to now in this article, I have "whetted your appetite". How do you start learning CW? It's easy! All you have to do is devote a few minutes a day for the approximate span of a couple of months or so to learn the code, then apply it by practicing it on the air. It's really that simple.

To begin the process of learning CW, you can acquire one of the computer-based code teaching programs such as the Koch method. These programs will teach you the alphabet, numbers, and a few punctuation marks and operational signals (ex: period, comma, slash, BT, AR, etc.). For more information, look at these several websites: www.ac6v.com/morseprograms.htm, www.lcwo.net, and www.arrl.org/learning-morse-code. That's one method...

Now our esteemed BVRC President Glenn-WB5L has just recently completed his CW curriculum in **CW Academy**. I asked Glenn to give me some information on this avenue of learning CW and he kindly obliged me with some goooooood information:



The group that sponsors CW Academy is called the CW Ops. You can visit their website at : <https://cwops.org/>.

The classes themselves can be investigated on the CW ACADEMY page on their website: <https://cwops.org/cw-academy-2/>.

There are 3 classes available:

Level 1 is for beginners and operators whose code speed is 10 wpm or less. Meetings are held online only.

Level 2 is for intermediate, operators who know Morse and can operate comfortably at speeds between 11 and 15 wpm. Meetings are held online and on-the-air.

Level 3 is for advanced, operators who can operate at speeds between 16 and 20 wpm. Meetings are held online and on-the-air.

CW Academy training and mentoring for beginners and those with Morse Code experience needing help are offered three times a year, in two-month increments: Jan-Feb, Apr-May, Sep-Oct, so register early! Glenn advised that he personally recommends this course to anyone interested and that it really helped him.



So, going on into the future, let's say you have now learned the code, made a practice contact with a club member (which is an excellent thing to do), and now you are ready to make an actual contact on the air with someone you do not know. With CW, it's either all or none. There is no such thing as "partial CW". The best way is to jump-in with both feet!

Personally, I would suggest first listening and tuning the FISTS frequencies which are + or -, 50 MHz up from the bottom of the U.S. CW band (ex: 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050. See www.fists.org). Tune until you hear someone sending at a speed of which you can copy them with 70-80% accuracy. They may be calling "CQ" at which time you can answer them as soon as they cease transmitting and begin listening for an

answer (Ex: CQ CQ CQ DE K5DB K5DB.....CQ CQ CQ DE K5DB K5DB K). Or, they may already be in QSO with another station, in which case you can practice copying them until they finish with the other station, then you can give them a call (Ex: W5ABC DE K5DB K5DB K).

Ok, they answer you...now you're hooked-up with them in the beginning of a QSO. What are you going to say, and how are you going to say it?

The following CW dialog is an example of what might be said during a routine QSO with another station. (Explanations of the CW abbreviations used in this simulated CW QSO appear in **bracketed bold print**. Also, the operational symbol BT (BREAK) is used a lot in CW. It is sent as one character with no pause in between characters, no two separate characters. BT in CW denotes a break (or pause) between thoughts, topics, or information categories that you are sending to the other station. BT is not necessary, but usually very helpful for the receiving station:)

W5ABC DE **[FROM]** K5DB. TNX FER **[THANKS FOR]** CALL**[CALLING ME]** BT **[BREAK]** UR **[YOUR]** RST **[SIGNAL STRENGTH]** IS 579 579 BT **[BREAK]** NAME IS DON DON BT **[BREAK]** QTH **[YOUR LOCATION]** IS SPRINGDALE, AR SPRINGDALE, AR BT **[BREAK]** HW CPY? **[HOW COPY?]** W5ABC DE K5DB K **[OVER – YOUR TURN TO TRANSMIT]**

The other station will then send you back this same type of information. With this introductory phase of the QSO complete, the conversation from that point can go anywhere with any subject – your current weather conditions/temperature, what county you're in, what kind of rig and antenna you're using, your hobbies, etc.

Something important to consider during a CW QSO (or any mode for that matter): *Remember that whatever you say or send is going out for the entire world to hear.* So, don't say anything that

that you wouldn't want to see on a billboard along I-49 or plastered on Facebook.

*In the preceding dialog, notice there is a **Q-signal** included: “**QTH**”. Q-signals are used more or less for all modes, but especially CW, RTTY, and PSK. Q-signals are a kind of “ham shorthand”. Instead of sending a lengthy word, thought, or phrase, all you do is send a particular combination of 3 letters beginning with “Q”, which stands for that phrase, thus saving extra time and effort. In this case, QTH means “my location”. There are many Q-signals. I don't even know all of them, but I know the most used ones.*

As a special feature of this month's SIGNAL, we have listed the more popular Q-signals for your information and reference should you wish to copy and paste them over to a document for retaining and printing. (See page XX.)

Getting back to our topic, if you become interested in working DX, you'll discover as you become more proficient in CW that it is much easier to work DX stations during pileups than on SSB, with PSK and/or RTTY falling somewhere in-between.

By the way, if you ever make a humorous statement that you want to accentuate with a chuckle, at the end of the statement (such as LOL in texting lingo), send: HI HI **[HA HA in CW]**.

So, what do you think? Are you going to give it a try? If it is something that grabs your fancy and that feeds a passion in you for working DX, contests, casual rag chews; if it is important enough to you to justify exerting some time and effort in learning it; and especially to develop a unique on-air conversational skill, the world of CW can be challenging, but also fun and gratifying.

To be cordial but frank, over the years I've heard hams come-up with endless excuses for not learning CW. They say they “...have tried and

just can't learn it", when actually their inability lies simply in using the wrong method, or not approaching learning the code in a serious or correct way.

As we begin a new year and as we make our new year's resolutions, allow me to exhort you to consider making learning CW a goal for 2019. It's up to you, of course. But the pleasure and pride you'll gain will certainly be worth the effort. You'll see.....if you'll just give it a try.



After you learn the code and start using it on-air, to keep your code speed up or to improve on it, there's no better way to do so than with W1AW code practice broadcasts. The W1AW schedule appears in each issue of QST, but since we're discussing the subject of learning CW, we're including it as a one-time addition to this issue of THE SIGNAL. *ENJOY AND GOOD LUCK!!!*

W1AW CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Pacific	Mtn	Cent	East	UTC	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
6 am	7 am	8 am	9 am	1300z		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	2300z	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	0200z	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code

Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7½, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm.

Code practice text is from the pages of QST magazine, the ARRL's membership journal. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. For example, "Text is from November 2010 QST, pages 9 and 81," indicates that the practice session's plain text is from the article on page 9 and its mixed number/letter groups are from page 81.

It's always best to copy W1AW live and on-air when you can, but for your convenience you can copy code practice anytime online. Go to: <http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-files>.

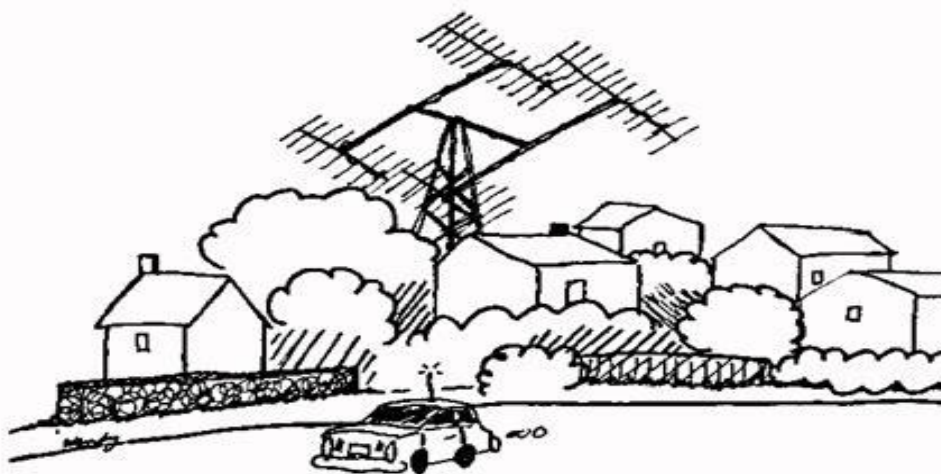
The Annual



QSO Party

N5BVA will be Co-Bonus Station For This Year's 2019 Arkansas QSO Party !!!

For the first time in the history of the Arkansas QSO Party, BVRC's club station N5BVA will be on the air as one of the two Co-Bonus Stations for the 2019 event. This is a great honor to have N5BVA join the ARQP, and a very exciting addition to the yearly event that puts Arkansas in the ham radio spotlight and on the ham radio map worldwide. Keep an eye on THE SIGNAL and the BVRC website. Then, keep an ear to the weekly club 2-meter net and the weekly 3820 Roundtable, for more information on N5BVA's operation during the 2019 ARQP, how to sign-up, etc.



"Ok Joe, I'm on Maple Street.....Now, which one is your house?"

Q-SIGNALS

<u>SIGNAL</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>SIGNAL</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
QCX	What is your full callsign?	QSO	Can you communicate with ____?
QRA	What is the name of your station?	QSV	Shall I send a series of V's?
QRB	How far are you from my station?	QSX	Will you listen to (call) on (freq.)MHz?
QRG	Will you tell me my exact frequency?	QSY	Shall I change to another frequency?
QRL	Is this frequency busy?	QTH	What is your position/location?
QRM	Are you being interfered with?	QTR	What is the correct time?
QRN	Are you troubled by static?		
QRO	Shall I increase power?	<u>TRAFFIC NET SIGNALS:</u>	
QRP	Shall I decrease power?	QNA*	Answer in pre-arranged order.
QRQ	Shall I send faster?	QNB*	Act as relay between ____ and ____.
QRS	Shall I send slower?	QNC	All Net stations copy. I have a msg.
QRT	Shall I stop sending/transmitting?	QNE*	Entire Net...standby.
QRU	Do you have anything for me?	QNF	Net is free (not controlled).
QRV	Are you ready?	QNI	Net stations, report in.
QRX	Do you want me to wait?	QNK*	Transmit messages for ____ to ____.
QRZ	Who is calling me?	QNN	Net Control Station is (callsign).
QSA	What is the strength of my signals?	QNO	Station is leaving the Net.
QSB	Are my signals fading?	QNU*	The Net has traffic for you-standby.
QSD	Is my sending defective?	QNY*	Shift to (freq.) and pass traffic.
QSK	Can you hear me between signals?	QNZ*	Zero-beat your signal with mine.
QSL	Can you acknowledge receipt?	*For use by Net Control Station only.	

BVRC VE REPORT

December 8, 2018



CONGRATULATIONS!

Daniel Easter – KI5CPT – New Technician!



Test sessions are conducted each 2nd Saturday of the month, 2 pm, at the Highland Christian Church in Bella Vista

Help promote the availability of the Club's monthly test sessions. Tell your friends and acquaintances!

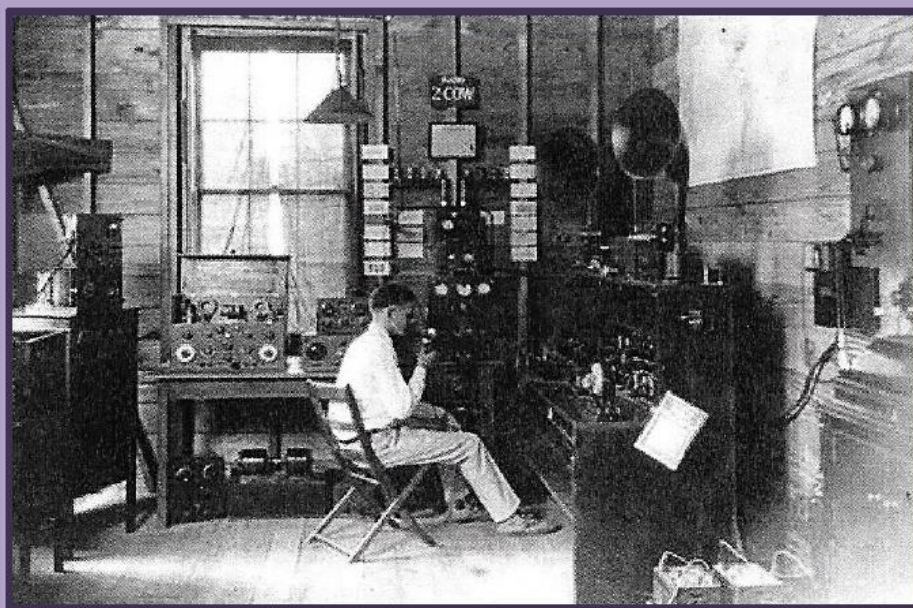
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Tem & Nancy Moore
N5KWL & N5UFO

Very Vintage Ham Radio

How about a great (and in very good condition) photo of the way it was way, way, way “back in the day”?

The classy shack of amateur station 2COW, circa 1927.



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