

THE SIGNAL

Newsletter of the
Bella Vista Radio Club



Vol. 1, No. 5 – August 2018



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, August 2, 2018 – 7:00 pm
Highland Christian Church
1500 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas**

August Program:

APRS For Beginners

By: Wayne Patton, K5UNX

See www.BellaVistaRadioClub.org
for the location, a Google Map,
and more.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



As we get into late July and August I've noticed 6 meters is doing well! What a great band, no longer do we have to worry about interfering with the neighbor's TV, Hi-Hi! The band is lit up with the CQ Worldwide VHF Contest as I am writing this letter. Don't miss the next BVRC Monthly meeting, where Wayne, K5UNX will present us with an "APRS for Beginners" program, and members get a chance to win a Mosley TA-33 tri-band beam, among other prizes. We have a generous base of area Ham Operators who are constantly blessing us with great door prizes. Don't forget the K5A Special event the club is sponsoring on August the 11th, at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale. We now have a new Emergency Communications Committee Chairman team of Chuck and Lorrie Healy, WØCEH and N1IRI. Chuck and Lorrie have provided terrific service in past experiences with Em-Com, and licensing new radio amateurs from the St. Louis area and other areas in which they have lived. Next I would like us to focus on the new Hams in the area, young or old. We have been talking about various programs that would benefit the new operators. Do you remember when you were first licensed? I can certainly recall those days of wonder and apprehension. Let's put our heads together and come up with a good solution to all the things a new Amateur Radio Operator might ask. I would also like to see some new Hams take interest in running net control. We should let these new and energetic folks experience calling the 2-meter net. Well that's about all for from Gobbler's Knob. Thank you for such a fantastic Amateur Radio Club! Get on the Air! Have some fun!

73! - Glenn

BVRC Officers:

President – Glenn Kilpatrick, WB5L

Secretary – Wayne Patton, K5UNX

Technical Officer – Steve Werner, K5SAW

Vice-President – Chris Deibler, KG5SZQ

Treasurer – Marc Whittlesey, WØKYZ

Repeater/Club Call Trustee – Fred Lemley, K5QBX

Public Information Officer – Temporarily Vacant, to be voted on

Board Member At Large – Ken Mummery – K6RLA

Appointed Chair Positions:

Social Media Committee – Jen Kessler, KG5WOC

Emergency Communication Committee - Chuck & Lorrie Healy, WØCEH & N1RNI

VE Testing Committee – Glenn Kilpatrick, WB5L

Newsletter Committee – Don Banta, K5DB

FINAL REMINDER!

BVRC Special Event Station

K5A

Saturday, August 11, 2018



Bella Vista Radio Club is partnering with the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History to join them in their 50th anniversary celebration with amateur radio via Special Event Station K5A on this special date. We will be operating from the General Store on the museum grounds (which is air conditioned).

Two stations will be in operation, SSB and CW.

***The address for the museum is:
118 West Johnson Avenue
Springdale, AR 72764***

K5A will go on the air from the SMOH General Store on Saturday, August 11, at 1300Z (8:00 am local time) and will conclude at 2300Z (6:00 pm local time).

All BVRC members are invited and encouraged to stop by and visit the station, and operate and/or log if you so choose.

For more information on the K5A event, contact Ron-K5XK at: k5xk@arri.net or Don-K5DB at: arsk5db@gmail.com.

Another Great Program and Turnout for the BVRC July Meeting!



BVRC was graced with a very informative and interesting July program, with a great presentation by Chris Hobbs – KD5RYO from Siloam Springs. Chris has lived in Siloam all his life and is one of the foremost local authorities on working through amateur radio satellites as he exhibited in his presentation of “Working The Birds”. In fact, his first ever QSO was with ARISS, the amateur station aboard the International Space Station.

Chris shared with us that who you contact via satellite depends on the orbit and the footprint of the satellite. He stated that dual band antennas work well for satellite use, and other items that will help you in your endeavor are: a compass, voice recorder, pen and paper, sturdy tripod, headphones, headlamp, and a watch (or clock).

Chris uses a Yaesu FT-60R, a tape measure antenna, and notebook equipped with gPredict software. He covered a list of how to actually work an FM satellite such as preparing your radio for doppler shift and transponder activation, know the upcoming passes, map-out the pass for your location, leave your squelch wide open, keep tuning your radio to compensate for doppler shift, etc.



A portion of the great attendance for the July meeting

To program your radio for satellite use Chris says to determine if you need to adjust for doppler, uplink, or downlink, set several frequencies in 5 kHz steps, and name those steps appropriately (SO-50+N, SO-50MID, etc).

He then discussed his basic procedure for contacting a satellite: Software needed to obtain the necessary data

of AOS (acquisition of signal), azimuth, maximum azimuth, etc., and how long the bird will be accessible.

You then prepare for the pass – Start with your AOS, MID, and EOS data, rate your working window, keep your compass away from large metal objects and structures, compile your polar data, work your antenna toward the azimuth, and move it over the satellite's path while tuning for doppler and listening for quieting.

A BIG FACTOR – *LISTEN* first and get your setting correct before transmitting.

A typical QSO through a satellite would consist of you giving your call, location (grid square) and mode of operation (usually "handheld"). Exchange signal reports with the station you are working, say "thanks", and move on so that other people can work through the satellite.

Active FM satellite types include SO-50 (most popular), AO-85, AO-92, and of course, the ISS (International Space Station). Chris reminded everyone that ham astronauts do work QSOs from the ISS, but it also has its own transponder as do the other satellites.

Other sources of information you can refer to:

amsat.org

work-sat.com

Get on the AMSAT or StarcommBB mailing lists.

Chris' PowerPoint presentation on the BVRC website



**BVRC President Glenn-WB5L presents Chris Hobbs-KD5RYO
with the July meeting Certificate of Appreciation**



Arkansas is home to many notable personages. It has given rise to famous music stars such as Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell, and Connie Smith. It is home to famous motion picture icons such as Mary Steenburgen and Billy Bob Thornton. In the world of sports, Brooks Robinson, Scottie Pippen, Lou Brock, Barry Switzer, and Sidney Moncrief hail from our great state. General Douglas MacArthur was born in Little Rock.

And in the world of amateur radio, Arkansas – and particularly northwest Arkansas – is also proud to be the home of one of the most prominent ham radio personalities in the world today: San Hutson – K5YY.

San, a retired MD who resides in Springdale, is world renown in amateur radio for his many decades of work in our hobby, and in particular the DX realm. Aside from possessing awards in DXCC (Honor Roll), WAZ, VUCC, etc., his many other accomplishments include:

CQ DX Hall of Fame - #21, 1983

DXAC Chairman, 1980-82 □ DXCC Mixed Mode: 375 entities, DXCC Phone: 372 entities (#1, W5) and DXCC CW: 352 entities.

You can see his myriads of accolades on his QRZ.com page, enter K5YY in the Query box.

Since 1970 he has been involved in, either singularly or as a part of numerous DXpedition teams, *25 operations from 50+ DXCC countries*, including the first to activate D6 (Comoros Islands) and FH (Mayotte) in 1976.

San has been a featured speaker at multiple DX conventions since 1970 including Dayton, New Orleans, many places in California, along east coast, Florida, and in Arkansas and surrounding states. He has held many ARRL positions, including Assistant Director-DX, DX Advisory Committee Chairman, DX article writer for QST, and many honorary positions.

Being an MD, San has also been physician to many entertainers in the past including Brenda Lee, Bobby Goldsboro, Cyd Charisse, The Lettermen and other entertainers from time to time. He has served as Senior Medical Consultant for Arkansas' Social Security Disability Determination for 9 years and the first Medical Director of BCBS Medicare division.

We are very fortunate to have such a DX authority in our midst, and a new member of BVRC! It is also a pleasure to visit with San whether it be for advice on DXing, technical talk, rigs, antennas, or just plain fellowship. With his vast worldwide experiences, he is a wealth of information that can be beneficial to any new or veteran radio amateur.

BVRC

Monthly Programs Needed!

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN PRESENTING A PROGRAM FOR AN UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING ON A RADIO RELATED TOPIC? OR, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ARRANGE AND COORDINATE OUR MONTHLY PROGRAMS? CONTACT GLENN, WB5L@ARRL.NET.

THINK YOU'RE BUSY?

In addition to serving as Club President, Glenn / WB5L is also our "VEC," or Volunteer Exam team coordinator. "But wait, there's more!..." Glenn is also the Webmaster for BVRC's outstanding website, and he reminds everyone to check it frequently for updates. If anyone is looking to buy radios, antennas, towers or accessories, or would like to list items for sale, send your radio-related Classified Ad info to WB5L@arrl.net. The website has club email addresses, our latest newsletter, an .mp3 of the latest 75 Meter '3820 Roundtable,' order and PayPal links for BVRC Name Badges and other 'swag,' plus meeting minutes, a calendar of meetings, nets and hamfests...and so much more. Check out the BVRC Store [HERE!](#)



THE DISCONE ANTENNA

By Bob Rainbolt - WBØAUQ

This article describes design, build, and erecting a discone antenna for 40 meters (to operate 40 through 10).

Why an HF Discone? They provide a low-angle vertical radiation, great for DX work, and are naturally broad-banded. No tuner is required above the low cutoff frequency.

VHF/UHF Discone antennas have been common for many years and popular with scanner enthusiasts as a single antenna will cover all their favorite frequencies.

The military uses the monopole, similar to a discone (a cone sitting on top of an inverted cone), but those things are huge and out of my league.

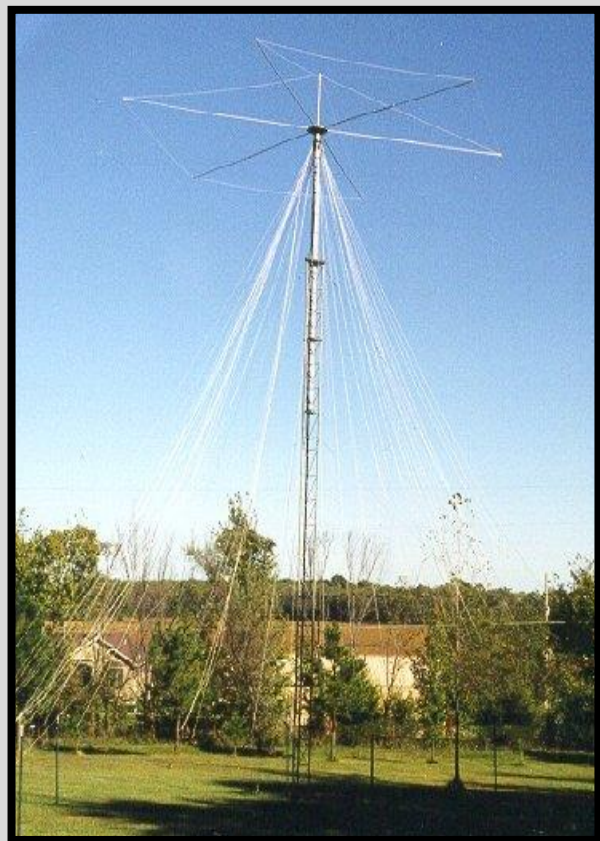
At the time that I wanted to build a discone for HF (1980s), I could find little information on

their design, especially down to 7 MHz. An older *Radio Handbook* described an antenna with lower cutoff of 14 MHz. The article included some design principles, so with a little deciphering and re-ciphering, we came up with something that might just work for lower cutoff frequency of 7 MHz.

The Nitty-Gritty:

I built the discone antenna with a cone of symmetrical dimension of 36 feet (height of cone, radial length, cone bottom diameter). I also decided it would be isolated from ground. That may or may not be of proper design but that's the way I did it, and it worked.

(Cont. next page)



Disc was 23' 7" diameter. Radials, 72 in number, were 36', #16 insulated copper. Cone diameter at bottom was 36' and about 48" above earth. Radials were soldered to a #8 bare copper at cone bottom. Eight steel fence posts were equally spaced in a 42' diameter circle to support the radials at bottom. Insulators provided insulation of the radial section from ground.

Mast: I used two 20-foot sections of 4" schedule 80 PVC for the center mast. A PVC coupling glued between sections provided a sturdy support pole. We sawed off about 4 feet to reduce total length to 36 feet in order to place the bottom of the radials at desired height above ground.

Guys: Four earth anchors, evenly spaced in 42' diameter circle. Pole was guyed at 20' and 36' level with four guys at each level. Upper/lower guys tied with turnbuckles at anchors for tension adjustment. Each guy (steel cable) cut into non-resonant lengths via egg insulators and attached to the 4" PVC pole with fabricated clamps. More egg insulators and guy cable to fence posts supported the bottom radial circle.



Disc: The disc radiator consisted of six elements, constructed with telescoped tubing of 3/4" and 5/8" 6061 aluminum, each 6' in length, overlapped about 6". Each element tube was bolted to a 1/4" aluminum plate, 24" diameter. I used an inverted PVC pipe flange on top to attach aluminum plate and elements. A 1" 6-foot aluminum pipe sits on top of the flange with support wires running to end of each tube for support. All wires have slight tension to stabilize elements and eliminate droop. Distance from the top of cone to the disc was 14". This is a critical dimension and took me quite some time to arrive at that dimension. If I were to construct another, this would be reduced to between 12-13".

Radials: The cone consists of 72 #16 insulated copper wires, each 36' in length. They are soldered at top to a 1" copper band which is anchored to the 4" PVC pole. Radials terminate to a #8 bare copper wire running diameter of cone base. The #8 wire is positioned via egg insulators tied to eight equally-spaced steel fence posts around the base. Height above ground was about 4'. Why 72 radials?

Because I had a lot of #16 insulated copper wire and it seemed like a good round number. Before raising the antenna, the radials were bunched into six bundles of 12 wires each. After raising, each bunch was separated and terminated (soldered) to the #8 copper base wire.

We found that schedule 80 PVC is very heavy and difficult to raise! You need a nearby tree or another structure to tie a pulley(s) in order to raise up. We discovered that seven strong backs/weak minds plus a garden tractor could not raise the contraption without the elevated pulley, something to do with physics.

I used 50-ohm hardline to feed the discone as it was some 200 feet from the shack. A coaxial surge protector was installed just as the feedline entered the radial field, along with an 8' ground rod. A ferrite-bead choke was installed between hardline and RG-213 coax which then runs to top of antenna. Coax shield attaches to top of cone and center conductor runs up to the disc. Note that both the disc and cone are isolated from ground.

So, How Did It Work?

The discone was fairly flat (SWR < 2:1) across all bands 40 thru 10 meters. SWR was around 1.5 or less across 40 and 30, which was the desired result. It was a fantastic performer, and with no tuner.

Imagine when using a modern solid-state rig being able to QSY from 40 meters to 20 (or 30, 17, 15, 10) just by flipping your rig bandswitch, no tuning! Even when using a vintage tube rig, one just changed bands and retuned into a dummy load then switched to the antenna, with very little if any touch up.

At one time I was in Air Force MARS and successfully used the discone, through a tuner, on 3- and 4-meg military frequencies.

Want to operate 80 meters? Switch in an antenna tuner and SWR dropped below 2:1.

After some 10-plus years, a wind storm revealed an unsatisfactory glue job at the coupling and pole tilted to an awkward position. A small crew successfully lowered the antenna with only minor damage to the disc. With a bit of brain storming it was decided to cut the 4" PVC at the coupling and attach two sections of Rohn 25 to obtain the desired 36' height. We discovered a smaller crew could raise the antenna more easily than the heavy original.

The discone continued flawless operation for several more years, until another wind storm loosened the coax center conductor from the disc. Faced with lowering and re-raising, I just cut the guy wires and dropped the antenna with a large crash. The tower sections survived, remainder went to trash.

I had a lot of fun building, erecting, and using the discone. Over 200 countries were confirmed with this antenna. I seriously doubt we will have enough yard room to erect another, but one can dream.

Congratulations to **Paul-KK5II**, and new member **Mark-K5XH**, on recently achieving their DXCC Awards, and attended the Arkansas DX Association quarterly meeting last month in Fort Smith.

Joda-KM5FY, was a presenter at the June ADXA meeting, delivering a talk about his and Mary's work assignment in Kuwait. Joda had many memorable experiences while operating from the Middle East as 9K2/KM5FY, from 1998-2002.

Frank-KG5ANT, is enjoying his new ICOM IC-7300 transceiver.

Glen-WB5L, is finalizing his refurbished HyGain TH-3 for placement on his tower on Bella Vista's "Gobbler's Knob."

Andy/KG5SEI and **Alan/KE0QFO**, both relatively new Generals, have new HF antennas and are now joining us on the Sunday afternoon 3820 Roundtable.

Alan-KE0QFO, is looking for a deal on a used tower, accessories, and antennas, to go with his new ICOM IC-7300.

Gregg-KF5ZIM, with help from new member Rick, KG5MWG, is putting finishing touches on his new tower and antenna project. Rick is available to assist other members with climbing or electrical projects. He has also agreed to do a "Station Grounding" program for us in the future.

Bob-WB0AUQ, is back on HF from his new QTH in Bella Vista, using a Cushcraft R-7 Vertical covering 40-10 Meters. Bob is still looking for other locals who would like to get together on Saturday mornings for breakfast or coffee.

Andy-KG5SEI, won the big door prize of the Cushcraft 6 Meter / 2 Meter / and 440 MHz triband yagi at the July meeting. The VHF/UHF tribander was donated by an anonymous club member.

Overheard during a BVRC repeater QSO: new member **Derek-KF5JRU**, and fellow new ham **Jeff-KG5JVW**, discovered on-air that they were in the same graduating class at Berryville High School in the 1980s. Earlier, both were at Field Day together, but had not seen one another since high school and did not recognize one another. K5XK sent Derek and Jeff photos of the other from F.D. so they could see how much younger each look today than when in H.S. J

Phil-AF5XH, has been unable to attend many club meetings due to health issues, but Phil has authored an interesting article for an upcoming issue of The Signal.

Jeffers Dodge-KK6LNC, is progressing with medical procedures; please keep Jeffers and Sonndra in your prayers.

Former BV Alderman and radio club member **Larry Wilson-KA6SUD**, continues to struggle with a brain injury following a stroke and fall two years ago, and is at Pinnacle Health & Rehab in Rogers. XYL **Carol-KD6UOM**, says Larry would appreciate visitors.

BVRC MEMBER'S CORNER

BVRC VE REPORT

JULY 14, 2018:

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Michael E. Osborne --- New Technician!

Derek Jones – KF5JRU --- New General!

Alan Katz – KE0QFO --- New General!

Dana Dixon – N0YJB --- New Extra!



**Test sessions are 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!**

THE UGLY BALUN (THAT WORKS!)

BY FRANK MAJDAN - KG5ANT

In Illustration 1 is a picture of my workbench with the “fixings” for a new antenna.

Steve – K5SAW and Fred – K5QBX helped me put it together.

We then raised and lowered it for adjustment and it was working fairly well, when both of them agreed that I needed an ugly balun (Illustrations 2 & 3). So they helped me construct a dandy homebrew. Thanks guys!



Illus. 1



Illus. 2



Illus. 3

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Bill Edwards – N5SG, Centerton

Mark Whatley – K5XH, Fayetteville

Rick Pope – KG5MWG, Tontitown

Chaise Laird – Farmington

Don Cooper – KC7DC, Bella Vista

Bill and Liz Edwards – N5SG & KC5GLP

As of 7/5/18: 76 members (including 70 licensed hams, 65 voting memberships)



A GREAT LITTLE MUSEUM RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACK YARD

By now, you should be well aware from the announcements at BVRC meetings, on-air announcements, e-mails, and notices in THE SIGNAL, about the upcoming Special Event Station K5A that will take place from 8a-6p on Saturday, May 11, from the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

Be sure and mark your calendar for that day, come by and operate, log, and visit! And...while you're there, if you've never toured the museum itself, *don't leave before you check it out.*

ADMISSION IS FREE!

SMOH is a regional history museum covering the Arkansas Ozarks. Programs, exhibits, and events relating to Ozark and Northwest Arkansas history are offered by the museum to the public. The museum has a large research library and the largest collection of historic images in all of Arkansas. The library is open to the public during regular museum hours. The geographic region covered by the museum includes the six counties of: Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton, and Washington.

It derives its name from the original name of Springdale which was "Shiloh" up until 1872.

This little museum has amassed numerous awards and accolades over the years. Just a few are:

Arkansas Museum Association 1982 Museum of the Year

Arkansas Museum Association 1991 Museum of the Year

American Association for State and Local History 1993 Award for Vanishing Northwest Arkansas Photo Project

Arkansas Museum Association 1995 Publication of the Year, Shiloh Scrapbook

Arkansas Museum Association 1997 Best Book of the Year, Shiloh Reflections

Arkansas Museum Association 2004 Museum of the Year, Budget more than \$200,000

Arkansas Museum Association 2005 Adult Educational Program of the Year, Hola, amigos! Historic Ozarks & Latin American Amigos

Arkansas Museum Association 2005 Publication of the Year, Shiloh Scrapbook

Arkansas Museum Association 2006 Adult & Family Educational Program of the Year, Shiloh Podcasts

Northwest Arkansas Citiscapes Metro Monthly 2007 Best Museum

Arkansas Museum Association 2007 Publication of the Year, Color the Ozarks

Northwest Arkansas Citiscapes Metro Monthly 2008 Best Museum

Arkansas Museum Association 2008 Adult/Family Educational Program of the Year, Shiloh Museum in iTunes U

Arkansas Museum Association 2008 Museum of the Year, Budget more than \$500,000

And, this is a *RADIO* event, right? Well, along with all the other wonderful artifacts and features the museum offers, they have a splendid radiotelegraph exhibit that is an enjoyment to all radio amateurs and their families who visit. Photos on next page...

(Exhibit photos
courtesy K5XK)

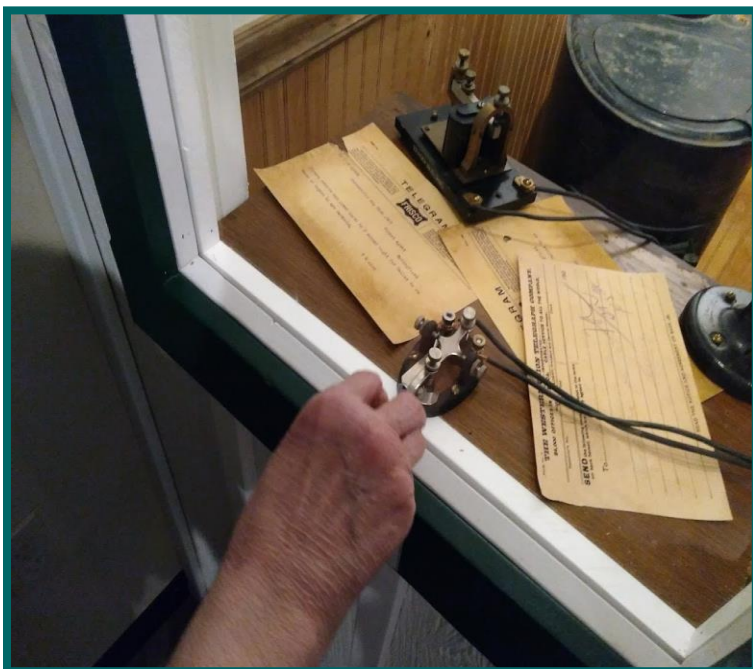


Photo courtesy
Shiloh Museum

← Our K5A operating QTH: The General Store on the museum grounds. (Yes, it is air conditioned.) We plan on having two Carolina Windom 80 dipoles in the air. There will be a SSB station and a CW station. This will only be for 10 operating hours on August 11, so don't miss it! Operate! Log! Have some FUN! You don't have to bring anything but your fabulous self!

As we say in CW lingo:

HPE C U THEN!!!

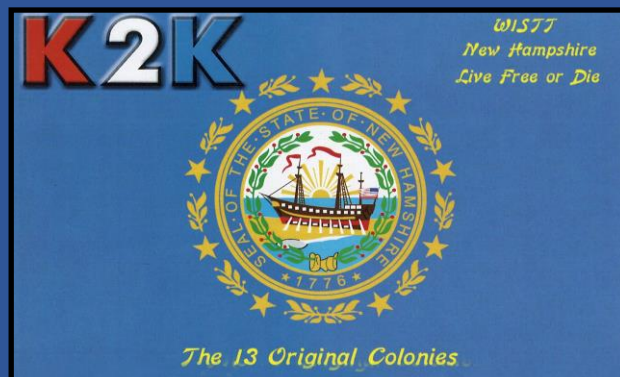
SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS COMMEMORATE, EDUCATE, IMPROVE SKILLS

by Don — K5DB

Many amateurs enjoy traffic nets, DXing, contesting, working states and counties, emergency communication preparedness, assisting in public events, and many other areas. And...many amateurs enjoy the twist of working Special Event Stations.

Special Event Stations offer us the opportunity to collect QSLs and/or certificates that observe or commemorate local, national, and international events. You can quickly construct a 3-ring binder with a very interesting plethora of Special Event Station QSO confirmations, and show-off your collection to the family and friends. Even people who are uninterested in or ignorant to amateur radio, find Special Event Station QSLs and certificates interesting. And, who knows...there's always the chance your collection will spark an interest in them for our hobby.

Probably the best reason for the operation of Special Event Stations is that they are educational. For example, in November of 2013 November Special Event Station W4D was on the air from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. If you happened to miss-out in working that station, then you probably do not know that they were celebrating the 520th anniversary of the discovery of the island by Christopher Columbus. When Columbus landed on the island on Nov. 19, 1493 he named it San Juan Batista in honor of St. John the Baptist, a name that was later changed to Puerto Rico (rich port).



In June of 2016, a group of us from various NW Arkansas radio clubs participated in the activation of Special Event Station K5A, commemorating the 180th Anniversary of Arkansas Statehood. We could not believe the pileups we experienced! SES chasers, WAS (Worked-All-States) award pursuers, and DX stations alike were all wanting to work us. Over that weekend, we made 1,636 QSOs, worked all 50 states, 7 of the 11 Canadian provinces, and 23 DX countries.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
50 YEARS 1968-2018

Special Event Station
K5A
Springdale, Arkansas
Washington County • Grid EM26

73!

QSL Mgr - K5DB

Bella Vista Radio Club
% Don Banta, K5DB
3407 Diana St.
Springdale, AR 72764
U.S.A.

Confirming QSO With	DATE			UTC	MHz	RS(T)	Mode 2-Way	QSL
	Month	Day	Year					

And speaking of the callsign K5A, don't forget that on Saturday, August 11th, BVRC will be activating its own Special Event Station, using K5A, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History. The final reminder on this event appears on page 4 of this issue of THE SIGNAL. If you've never operated a Special Event Station where everybody is **LOOKING FOR YOU**, don't miss this super fun event. We already have the QSL ready to go (at left). Be sure to come by and operate!

Again, when you work Special Event Stations, it is very educational. If you ever decide to activate a Special Event Station and if you do it right, there is an element of work involved, but it's fun work. Putting a Special Event Station on the air is not like contesting. It can at times, get a little fast-paced, but most of the time it is very easy-going and you will meet many interesting people as they call you to work your Special Event.

So how do you find a Special Event Station? One of the easiest ways is to consult the ARRL website. The URL is: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>. Special Event Stations can observe, commemorate or celebrate just about anything: from holiday celebrations/observances, to historical events, to local, area, and/or state festivals, fairs, etc. Anything of interest!

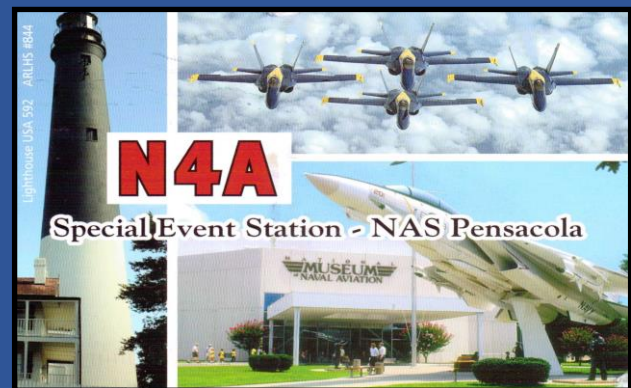


As stated earlier, you may wish to organize and operate your own Special Event Station sometime. It can be a lot of fun and very rewarding. If you would like to pursue an activity such as this, here's a quick checklist of what you would need to do:

First (and obviously), choose your event. Some research will be involved in this. You will probably have to visit your local library or search the web for historical timelines and dates of the event you wish to observe/commemorate.

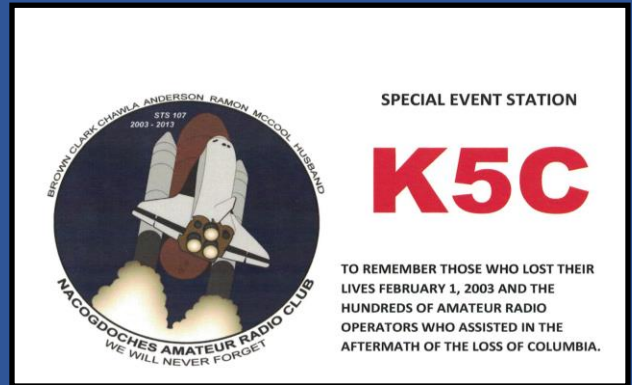
As you search for and find an event for your S/E station, be sure and collect all the information you can about it, along with the timeline information. If you're going to put a S/E event station on the air, you'll want to be knowledgeable about your topic. You'll probably get several on-air questions. You will then need to construct hard-copy documentation for the stations that work you, as written confirmation that they did work you. This would be in the form of either a QSL card or a certificate, or both if you wish.

If a QSL, you can either create and print your own on card stock (make sure you have the correct average QSL dimensions), or engage one of the many quality QSL card commercial printers that you can find in the classified section of each month's QST, or search the internet. Make sure you when you enter the QSL information when you complete the Special Event Station listing, that a S.A.S.E (Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope) is required for the requesting station to receive the card back from you. Most stations who search for and work Special Event Stations do not mind at all to include a SASE when they mail their card to you, and it will save you on postage costs.



If you prefer to issue a certificate, you can create/construct a handsome "Master Template" certificate with pictures, data, information, etc. about your event (if you use pictures off the internet, make sure you use non-copyrighted photos, or get permission for copyrighted from the copyright owner). You can then use the master certificate template to fill-out the names and callsigns of the stations that request a certificate via e-mail and send it to them as an e-mail attachment. They can print it on their own printer (yes they will be printing it with their ink at their cost, but they would be spending that same money for the cost of a manila envelope plus return postage for you to send them a hard-copy certificate anyway). This saves postage costs for them, and certificate printing, buying card stock, and postage costs for you. You can also print or have your certificates commercially printed and issue via regular mail, of course.

You will now need to choose and request to be assigned a 1x1 callsign for your Special Event Station. The best place to do this is: www.arrl.org/special-event-callsigns. Not only will the ARRL secure the callsign for you (if it is not already taken), but you can also ask them to list your event in the corresponding monthly issue of QST for the month your event will take place. Be sure and secure your callsign *at least 6 months* before you conduct your event to ensure you get the callsign you want.



Approximately 2 weeks before the event, contact QRZ.com. Have them transfer the editing privileges for the webpage for your S/E station (make sure you give them its callsign). You can then edit the page with all applicable information: The title of your S/E station (ex: Special Event Station W5D. Commemorating the 108th anniversary of the discovery of diamonds in Arkansas), information/history supporting the event, information on how to obtain QSL or certificate, etc. You can save a lot of on-air time by doing this. Then when you are on-air with your S/E callsign, all you need say (unless you would be answering specific questions about the event) is “full information is available on QRZ.com.” After you have accomplished these tasks, you should be ready to go when your SES date rolls around.

Special Event Stations are a unique and very interesting aspect of amateur radio. They are educational, promote the hobby, increase your skillset of operating, and definitely make an “out of the ordinary” contact for other stations. But the most important facet of Special Event Stations, as it should be, is that they are fun!



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