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NEXT BVRC

MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, September 6, 2018 – 7:00 pm Highland Christian Church 1500 Forest Hills Blvd. Bella Vista, Arkansas

September Program:

*9/11 and Amateur Radio in New York Presented by Suresh Bangalore -VU2COT

(Suresh was at the Twin Towers on 9/1) and has quite a story)

See <u>www.BellaVistaRadioClub.org</u> for the location, a Google Map, and more.

BWRG Officers:

President Glenn Kilpatrick, WB5L

Vice-President Chris Deibler, KG5SZQ

Secretary Wayne Patton, K5UNX

Treasurer Marc Whittlesey, WØKYZ

Technical Officer Steve Werner, K5SAW

Repeater/Club Call Trustee Fred Lemley, K5QBX

Appointed Cheir Positions:

Social Media Committee Jen Kesseler, KG5WOC

Emergency Communications Committee Chuck Healy, WØCEH Lorrie Healy, N1RNI

V & Testing Committee Glenn Kilpatrick, WB5L

Newsletter Committee Don Banta, K5DB





47 people were in attendance, as BVRC's own Secretary Wayne Patton – K5UNX presented the program for the August meeting of the BVRC, and a fine program it was: APRS 4 BEGINNERS.

Wayne knows his stuff when it comes to APRS as he has used and been involved with it for many years. Wayne shared that APRS was developed by Bob Bruninger in the 1980s.

Some of the terms that are used in the APRS vernacular are: APRS-IS: APRS Internet System, DIGIPEATER: A simplex repeater that does not use offset frequencies as conventional 2-meter repeaters do, i-GATE: Bridges RF with the Internet, and TNC: Terminal Node Controller.

Why use APRS? You can display a plethora of items on a map including stationary and moving objects, and you can send and receive "text" messages to and from stations.

There are four basic components needed to operate APRS: A radio, a TNC, a computer, and a GPS.



Wayne explained how to connect all the devices together in a way that results in a very inexpensive APRS system. You can go the economy route, or opt for a more expensive 2m radio that has already has all the elements built-in (ex: Kenwood TM-D710GA).

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Some resources Wayne passed along in case you are interested in using or investigating APRS further are:

mobilinkd.com download.mapstorage.org/maps

aprsdroid.org aprs.fi

Thanks for a very interesting program Wayne, and keep-up the great work as BVRC Secretary!

BVRC PRESIDENT GLENN - WBSL PRESENTS THE AUGUST PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO WAYNE - KSUNX.



Another highlight of this month's meeting was the long-awaited result of which BVRC club member would win one of the nicest door prizes BVRC will offer for probably quite a while – a Mosley TA-33 tri-band beam. The antenna was graciously donated by Dan-W5CG and his XYL Linda-KB7PNK.

The winners of the TA-33 were Chuck and Lorrie Healy – WØCEH and N1RNI. Here they are after the meeting preparing to transfer their spoils from Glenn's pickup to their van. CONGRATS Chuck and Lorrie!!!



From the Desk





The year is rolling along quickly! The North American QSO Party had the bands lit up this weekend and the RTTY Rookie Roundup will too. Who says we have dead bands? Get on the air! You might be surprised who you hear even at the solar minimum. Thunder storms is the only thing that keeps the radios off around the WB5L shack, and even then I have a "Storm" antenna for 2 meters, HI HI.

The Tour-de-Cure race for Diabetes is now in the books, and The Benton County Radio Operators Club, along with the Bella Vista Radio Club both participated providing communications for this great event. Also, the Joplin HamFest is coming next weekend August 24th. The new facilities for the Joplin HamFest should be interesting! Don't forget the Queen Whilemina HamFest on September 6th-7th!

At the last meeting, the Mosely TA-33 beam was won by Lorrie Healy, N1RNI. Chuck and Lorrie are our Emergency Communications Committee Chairman team, and I can't think of a better place for the new beam than their soon to be new hacienda in Bella Vista! Congrats to all the members who won some fantastic door prizes last month.

Chris Deibler, KG5SZQ has been doing a wonderful job as the control on the Wednesday 2 meter net. I've asked Chris to put together a schedule for NCS rotation for the weekly net on our repeater. So far we have Chris – KG5SZQ, Steve – K5SAW and myself WB5L as net control stations. If you would like to try your hand at being a net control operator, please contact Chris Deibler.

Enjoy this great newsletter that Don – K5DB does so well! We are blessed to have such talented folks in our club. It's always amazing to me what Amateur Radio does for the community, the nation and the whole planet! It's literally the "Best hobby in the World".

73! - Glenn, WB5L

KG5SZQ NAMED BVRC 2-METER NET CONTROL COORDINATOR

BVRC Vice-President Chris Deibler – KG5SZQ has been appointed the position of BVRC Net Control Station Coordinator for the weekly club net on the BVRC repeater. If you are interested in being a NCS for the Net on a rotating schedule, please contact Chris. He is in need of volunteers and would be happy hear from you! You can contact Chris at his e-mail address: <u>chris52@cox.net</u>.

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WØCEH/N1RNI – In connection with BVRC's EmComm reorganization, Chuck is meeting with various government officials. He and Lorrie are also making progress on their new home design and construction in the Highlands. They are also the proud new owners of a Mosley TA-33 tri-band beam from the BIG door prize drawing at the BVRC August meeting.

During this year's ARRL Field Day, Bella Vista resident Patricia Chavez stopped by our FDsite. The daughter of Stillman – K5UEI in Green Forest, Patricia asked for BVRC assistance in selling her Dad's Hallicrafters receiver on the club website. The vintage SX-88 now has a new home.

Don – **K5DB** had a blast working with K5XK and several other BVRC members, as well as seeing everyone who came to the K5A Special Event Station at Shiloh Museum in Springdale, and is now getting ready to again run mobile in the Kansas QSO Party the last weekend in August. He also participates as mobile in the Oklahoma and Missouri QSO Parties, as well as – of course – the Arkansas QSO Party.

Eric – W4ALW and Alicia recently moved to Bella Vista from Beaver Shores. Eric is anxious to getting back on the air and will need help with antennas and setting up his shack.

Gregg – KF5ZIM: Hooray! Gregg's new 68' Rohn tilt-over tower is up. Now for some DX antennas...

REMINDER: Everyone is invited to an informal weekly breakfast each Saturday morning at Duffer's Café in Bella Vista, beginning at 07:30 local. Duffer's is located at <u>638 W Lancashire Blvd</u>, in Bella Vista.

Glenn – WB5L: Our Prez has been accepted into Level 3 of "CW Academy," and will be tutored online via Skype beginning in September. Congrats, Glenn!

K5ITM & KG5WOC: Will & Jen's harmonic Luke is will be taking his Tech exam soon. Luke says Jen is hoping to take her General at the same time. We may have yet another "all ham family," soon!

KG5MWG – Rick has developed a unique method of displaying brochures for public display to prospective hams using a Lazy Susan. Look for a 'Show 'n Tell' soon.

KG5ANT – Frank: If you've noticed his big signal on 3820 recently, Frank is enjoying the fruits of several station upgrades. These include a new Elecraft P.A. and auto-tuner, plus a "Fan" dipole for 80/40/30 Meters.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James Johnson, Centerton – KD5RXI

Hank Kress, Rogers – K8KBW

BASEBALL AND HAN RADIO???!!!

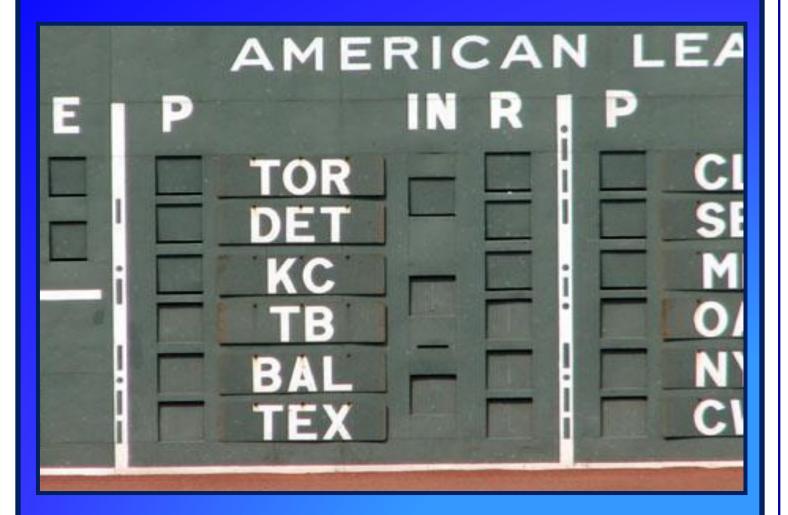
Ladies and Gentlemen, please allow THE SIGNAL to take you to the confines of Fenway Park in Boston, MA, home of the Boston Red Sox. We draw your attention to the famous "Green Monster" left field wall and Fenway Park scoreboard.



Most sports aficionados are very familiar with "The Green Monster", one of the famous landmarks in sports. But hey - take a closer look at the scoreboard...

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Notice the 2 white vertical lines - HOLY SMOKE, the scoreboard has Morse code on it !!!!



Reading from the top down, the left line reads "TAY" which stands for Thomas Austin Yawkey and the right line reads "JRY" which stands for Jean Remington Yawkey, former Red Sox team owners. Well, how about that?



Marc graduated from Iowa State University as an aerospace engineer and received a master's degree in engineering mechanics. He worked in nuclear power generation back east in New Jersey and New York for about 8 years. He then started an engineering services company along with two other partners which primarily serviced the auto companies and aircraft engine companies, providing computer aided structural, vibration, and thermal analyses. The last 12 years he worked were devoted to the space shuttle program in both the solid motors as well as the main engines.

Marc was originally licensed in 1961 as a novice and a year later as a general with the callsign WAØMFM. That ran out in 1972 and he was out of the hobby until 2007 when he became re-licensed as KC5NDC. Preferring a zero-call "for old times' sake", he applied for, and received his current call – WØKYZ

Marc discovered amateur radio somewhat by accident. He was very curious as to how radios worked, and especially wondered how vacuum tubes did their magic. He read many books to learn about the topic, and he says he can still remember that "eureka moment" when he finally figured out how a triode tube could amplify a signal. He built some very simple radios out of crystals and transistors and that is when he found out that he could build transmitters as well and *get on the air as a licensed amateur.*

Marc says he was fortunate in that the town he lived in had a local doctor who was a ham and he became Marc's elmer. The doc had a full Collins S-Line station (which made Marc drool), but Marc made do with a kitbuilt transmitter and receiver and still had a blast. The doctor provided lots of good advice to get him in getting started in the hobby, and got Marc involved with a local club and other amateurs his age.

Today, Marc's station is a far cry from his early station. His main transceiver is a Flex 5000 with an Icom 7000 for backup and VHF. His main antenna is a SteppIR DB-18 that operates from 40 through 6 meters and is on a crank-up tilt-over tower. He also has a Carolina Windom that will operate down to 160 meters. Other main components to be found in Marc's shack are an Ameritron AL-82 amplifier, a Palstar AT-auto tuner and a Heil PR-781 mic with an 8-band equalizer. The station is controlled from a desktop computer with a variety of software to make it all work.

Besides keeping everything going at home (sort of a hobby), Marc plays pickleball, the piano, builds and repairs computers, and travels when he and XYL Alice have the opportunity.

Marc has done, and continues to do, a FB job as Treasurer for the Bella Vista Radio Club.

THANKS MARC !!!

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K5A IN REVIEW By Ron – K5XK

Organizing Amateur Radio efforts to recognize organizations, events and historical commemorations is an interesting facet of our vast hobby. Earlier in the year, I noticed that Shiloh Museum of Ozarks History in downtown Springdale is commemorating its 50th Anniversary. Knowing that newsletter editor, Don Banta, K5DB, has an affinity for special event station operations, I forwarded the announcement and waited for a reaction. Don immediately replied "Let's do it!"



K5A Operating location: The General Store at the Shiloh Museum

Recently, Don traveled hundreds—perhaps thousands—of miles around Arkansas, setting up portable Special Event stations at seven of the state's eight National Parks, resulting in thousands of contacts, as part of ARRL's 'National Parks On the Air' yearlong special event.

So, I wasn't surprised when Don immediately recognized a local Special Event in the making. Some of us are quite familiar with "SMOH," since our Ozark Wireless Society meets there for a monthly coffee klatch. The air-conditioned Old Country Store, *(Cont. next page)*





Mark-K5XH, Alan-KEØQFO, and Don-K5DB erect an antenna end elevator for one of the Carolina Windoms



The K5A antenna crew on Friday afternoon, Aug. 10, before "K5A Day"— L to R: Alan-KEØQFO, Paul-KK5II, Mark-K5XH, Ron-K5XK, Don-K5DB

along with an abundance of tall trees, would make a perfect setting for using the "K5A" special event call on Saturday, August 11th, 2018.

Don is well-known to the museum staff since his XYL Erma worked there prior to becoming a teacher in the Springdale School system. Outreach Coordinator Susan Young endorsed our proposal, and planning for a BVRC sponsored 50th Anniversary special event operation was underway.

I won't attempt to detail all the steps that went into making our major Special Event station a reality, but it is no small task. There are lots of pieces requiring coordination and approval from the event organization, clearing a date on everyone's calendars, securing a station location, determining electrical power availability, evaluating antennas, radio gear, operator & logger recruitment, getting the word out with online promotion on the BVRC website & nationally in QST magazine. In our case, we secured the very special "K5A" 1x1 callsign, arranged for banners & signage, arranged for PR material to display for the visiting public, etc. Amazingly, Don facilitated it all!



Wayne-K5UNX and Paul-KK5II take an operating break at Special Event Station K5A

Several of us gathered on Friday afternoon, prior to the Big Day, and hung a Carolina 80 Meter Windom antenna about 50' high in the trees and a 2nd Windom as an 'Inverted V,' using Don's portable 40-foot Army surplus mast & pulley kit. We returned very early Saturday morning to assemble the two stations. Fortunately the "Old Country Store" has 110 VAC, airconditioning, and makes a perfect radio 'shack.' The stations, operating on both CW and SSB, hit the airwaves at 0800 local for a day of promotion and enjoyment.

So very many BVRC members assisted as operators, loggers, and public greeters, it would be impossible to name them all. (*Cont. next page*)

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But kudos once again to: Don, Paul, Mark and Alan, for coming back to help with the Special Event. And a big thank you to members Bob/WBØAUQ, Wayne/K5UNX, Fred/K5QBX, Steve/K5SAW, and so many more.

Don's cousin & his XYL. John/W5OX & Sharon/WA5FOX, (aka "The Ox and The Fox!"), were quest ops from Harrison for a while. Other quests included Tom/W5XNA, president of Hogville ARC, Cliff/KM4ZRZ and friend from Eureka Springs, Ron's lifelong friend Steve/W5KI from Eureka, and part-time Bella Vista resident Dennis Wareham KØDKL & XYL. Mark/KAØPEB & XYL, who are relocating to NWA from SW Minnesota. stopped-in for housing recommendations and to say hello.

Overall, we estimated that 75 hams and members of the public came by to see what was going on and encourage the operators throughout the day.

Unfortunately, we are presently "at the bottom" of the 11 Year Sunspot Cycle, and HF propagation was poor on all amateur frequency bands. Despite our hard work and unrelenting CQs, we only netted 134 contacts. This is but a small fraction of what might ordinarily be expected. But the big benefit was much the same as with this year's Field Day. The increased public awareness of BVRC and Shiloh Museum of Ozark History was outstanding.

The Museum was ecstatic in its praise, amateur radio was elevated, and "A good time was had by all!"

(Editor's note: This entire success story of K5A would never have occurred had it not been the brainchild of Ron/K5XK, who discovered that this year was the 50th anniversary for the museum. Along with all his hard work in prepping and being our main spokesperson during the K5A operation, he enabled a CW station possible and to be on the air. And a dandy special event it was. Kudos to ya, Ron! – DB)

More K5A pics on the following pages!



Will-K5ITM with his son Luke, visit with Ron-K5XK during the K5A operation



The K5A Inverted-V Carolina Windom





Greeting/announcement of K5A placed at museum visitor desk



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Steve-K5SAW sporting his spiffy Hawaiian shirt during the K5A operation



John-W5OX makes a contact on the SSB station with Wayne-K5UNX logging



Mark-K5XH makes another ham happy with a CW QSO with K5A as Ron-K5XH monitors



Bob-WBØAUQ on the K5A SSB station as Paul-KK5II runs the logging program



Museum main entrance

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Don-K5DB along with XYL Erma, Sharon-WA5FOX, and John-W5OX at the K5A SSB station



Fred-K5QBX finishes up a chat with Ron-K5XK preparing for his turn at operating K5A



K5A STATISTICS	
U.S. States:	37
Canadian Provinces:	2
DX Stations:	3
TOTAL QSOs:	134

Brass pounder Ron-K5XK makes another QSO on the K5A CW station





WWV and WWVH COULD BE GOING OFF THE AIR



FROM DON-K5DB: Please read this article from QRZnow.com <u>http://qrznow.com/nist-fy-2019-budget-would-eliminate-wwv-and-wwvh/</u>. I have submitted e-mails to the White House, both of our U.S. Senators and Congressman. If you feel compelled to write to them as well, it will behoove all of us to band together to save these radio stations. I have submitted the following:

Dear [Mr. President] [Senator Boozman] [Senator Cotton] [Congressman Womack]:

I have just learned that the President's new proposed budget is going to include cuts to the NIST – the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which includes removing the funding for time stations WWV and WWVH.

I am an Extra Class amateur radio operator, and next year will have held my ham license for 50 years. During that time WWV has been a mainstay for me, as well as hundreds of thousands of ham operators over the decades of WWV and WWVH's existence. Ham operators also depend on WWV for determining propagation on different frequency bands. In addition, cellphones and Atomic clocks recalibrate themselves every 24 hours from the WWV signal.

I am definitely for balancing the budget and cutting needless, wasteful programs, but these two time stations are NOT in that category.

If you have the wherewithal to have an impact on this item of the budget, I beseech you to please help keep WWV and WWVH on the air. They are a national landmark of the airwaves, just as Mount Rushmore, the Washington Monument, and all the other entities that represent our great country. Many amateur radio public service activities and schedules, as well as the overall hobby itself, depend on accurate time. Please, sir, help keep these time stations from going silent.

Thank you for your attention, and hopefully positive impact, in saving these two vital radio stations.



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Many amateur radio operators like to display their call letters on their "mobile station." All our states now issue Amateur Radio Operator (ARO) license plates. Fees vary widely from state to state, from free to over \$50.00 per year.

The ARRL web site <u>http://www.arrl.org/amateur-license-plate-information</u> provides ARO license plate information for each state (although some are not up to date). You should consult your state's motor vehicle department for particulars.

I had ARO plates on my vehicles when we lived in Kansas and of course wanted to replace them with Arkansas plates. The following describes my experience with accomplishing this. Perhaps some of this information will be helpful for those who desire to do the same:

We moved into the Bella Vista area from Kansas in December 2017. Arkansas requires one to register their vehicles within 30 days of establishing residence. Kansas allows one to purchase the same Amateur Radio Operator (ARO) license plate for more than one vehicle if they are classified differently (i.e., car and truck). A classification decal is affixed to the plate (actually, no decal for a car, an "M12" or "M18" for a pickup). At one time it was a simple procedure to visit the County Treasurer's office with a copy of your ham license and order an amateur radio license plate, even two of them. Then, Kansas changed to a new computer system and all that changed. With the new computer system advising the county employee that one cannot order two plates with the same call letters one must somehow convince the employee to please call Topeka and ask how it is to be done. This always works. They issue a temporary plate, you pay the \$2.00 ARO fee and a small amount for postage and the plate is mailed to your home address. The State trusts you to destroy the temporary plate.

So, I assumed things work similarly in Arkansas. But, upon visiting their web site, https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/specialty-plates/details/amateur-radio-license-plate, it is quite as simple. Documentation is about the same, you need a copy of your ham license for each license plate application, as well as proof of insurance and paid personal property tax on the vehicle.

I visited the DMV office in Rogers (on a Tuesday, having been advised not to go there on Monday due to long lines). Tuesday lines are also very long. I found the Benton County employees very friendly, as one expects in Arkansas. Upon inquiry of obtaining my call letters on three different vehicles and a short conference between several of the clerks, a call to Little Rock was placed. Yes, indeed, they could issue my call letters for a car, truck, and motorhome! Except, they gave me three temporary plates and three application forms to take with me to fill out and send to the Little Rock Department of Finance and Administration.

The forms were fairly simple to complete. A copy of my ham license was attached to each form and mailed to Little Rock in early January 2018. I had been advised that ham plates are ordered only once per month, so it might be six weeks before the plates were received.

(Cont. next page)

I did not inquire of the Rogers' DMV office as to how Arkansas differentiates license plates with identical wording (WBØAUQ), but assumed it would be similar to Kansas, the car with no sticker, truck with "12M" or similar, and the motorhome with "RV" sticker. At this point I still had doubts that three plates would be issued.

In late March, I called Little Rock to inquire when the WBØAUQ plates might be received. (They use the license plate contents as a reference number.) A very nice lady advised she would check and get back to me. Later in that week I received a letter from Little Rock advising me the WBØAUQ plate was ready and I could send my check for \$4.39 postage for each plate and they would be mailed out. I immediately sent my check for \$13.17.

In early April, I called Little Rock again to inquire when the WBØAUQ plates might be received. A very nice lady advised she had only one license plate, my check was incorrect amount and had not been cashed, thus reason the plate had not been mailed. She then discovered that indeed, the order was for three plates, they made an error in ordering only one. She would order two additional plates immediately and I should receive three plates very soon. I was so happy to hear they were going to make three plates that I did not think to inquire what would appear on each one.

In mid-June I once again called Little Rock to inquire when the WBØAUQ plates might be received. Again, a very nice lady advised that she found the three plates had not been shipped but would do so today. The plates were received in only a few days. No, I had not become upset with Arkansas DMV as experience in Kansas had taught me that anything connected with any level of government takes time and not to be surprised with comedies of error. And, I was so happy that I would receive WBØAUQ plate for three vehicles.

So, what do the new plates look like? I was surprised, but not shocked how Arkansas does it: WB0AUQ, WB0AUQ1, WB0AUQ2, see below:



Now, all the ham call plates seen for the Zerodistrict states (KS, MO, CO, IA, NE, ND, SD, MN) correctly use the slash-zero (\emptyset). I had used the \emptyset on all the forms and I suspect they were forwarded along the order path as such. It had not occurred to me that the Arkansas plate factory would not have the \emptyset in their alphabet and would use a normal numeral 0 instead.

I have not discussed the "Ø" with the DMV folks, I'm just happy to have received my three ARO plates.

Some interesting trivia learned along the way of this exercise:

***Arkansas first started issuing vehicle license plates in 1911.

***Arkansas' first amateur radio plate was issued in 1954.

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Hey BVRC members, if you've been enjoying the articles and stories in THE SIGNAL, I'm sure there are a LOT of you that have had <u>some</u> ham radio related experience along those same lines during a vacation trip, around the house, or around town.

Don't think for a minute that your story would be "boring". Send it to us! Interesting stories – short or long – go a long way in making the newsletter interesting, because they are coming from folks that we know and interact with in the club.

I always get excited when a club member sends-in an article to place in the newsletter! We already have had quite a few submit some really good ones, with more to come! Jump on the bandwagon with us and send 'em in! We look forward to hearing about and including any and all interesting radio related stories from you.

Send your short story/article/pics to Don at:

arsk5db@gmail.com



DON'T FORGET, IF YOU HAVE ANY RADIO RELATED ITEMS THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, LOOKING TO PURCHASE, ITEMS FOR SALE, OR PERHAPS MAKE A TRADE, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BELLA VISTA RADIO CLUB WEBSITE'S *CLASSIFIED ADS* SECTION. FOR ANY ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIST, CONTACT WEBMASTER GLENN - WB5L AT: <u>WB5L@ARRL.NET</u>

RadioShack M-Sat Sam - Spm

Need a quick part or electronics item? The Vaughn family *still* operates local Radio Shack stores in Rogers and Fayetteville, with convenient hours!

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