

THE

SIGNAL

Newsletter of the
Bella Vista Radio Club



Instagram



Vol. 1, No. 7 - October 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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Super Program Highlights

BVRC September Meeting

An excellent attendance of BVRC members experienced a most interesting, informative, and reflective program for the September 2018 meeting. This month it was our honor to host Suresh Bangalore – VU2COT, as he shared “9/11 and Amateur Radio in New York City”.



Suresh was commuting by train from his home across the Hudson River in New Jersey to the firm he worked at in lower Manhattan, when the Twin Towers were struck that day. He (as well as the other hundreds of thousands) had to walk 8 miles to get back home, as the power to the trains stopped. The next day, when some power had been restored, he returned to lower Manhattan to see if he could be of any help with recovery efforts.

Suresh said, “When something as horrendous as 9/11 happens, you do not rise to the occasion, you sink to your level of training, and that is when you find out what you know and how much quality training you have received.” What he basically meant by that statement is that hundreds of hams showed-up to help with whatever equipment and talents they possessed.

Suresh assisted with the recovery effort for many weeks on-and-off. He said the last person alive was pulled from the rubble on the 9th day.

“I was asked to help with rescue and logistics efforts, and I told them ‘I am a ham operator from India, my call is VU2COT, but I’m not sure if I can operate in the U.S. with my callsign’ “, Suresh said.

He said the coordinators told him, “Don’t worry about it! Just come and help!”

With all the confusion and bedlam that initially ensued, Suresh said that, overall, everything was handled in order and very well coordinated. 8-9 makeshift hospitals were setup around Ground Zero. He said the amateur operators’ duty was solely with the Red Cross, and helping them with tasks such as communications and getting supplies, beds, blankets, food, and medicine to the needed locales in the emergency areas.



Two main emergency repeaters were setup on top of the Chrysler Building and at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Suresh shared with us that the head ham coordinator did a stellar job. He was from San Francisco, and having experienced many emergency situations in the bay area and on the west coast during fires, flooding, and earthquakes, he was well prepared for an emergency of this magnitude.

Suresh wore an 18-year-old t-shirt during the presentation that he wore at Ground Zero during the 9/11 tragedy. He said he has kept that old t-shirt all these years and still wears it each year on 9/11 (you can see it in the pictures under his jacket). He concluded by saying, "I am very proud to have been able to help in the 9/11 efforts, and am proud to be an American." Suresh told us that he is securing a home in the north Arkansas area soon, and he plans on becoming a part of BVRC!



**PRESIDENT GLEN - WB5L
PRESENTS SURESH - VU2COT
WITH THE BVRC
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

***THE FASTEST GROWING
HAM CLUB IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS!***



**TOTAL MEMBERS: 78
TOTAL LICENSED HAMS: 72
TOTAL FAMILY VOTING MEMBERS: 67**

Thanks for your support! Get involved with Club activities!

NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, October 4, 2018 – 7:00 pm

Highland Christian Church

1500 Forest Hills Blvd.

Bella Vista, Arkansas

OCTOBER Program:**DIGITAL VHF/UHF OPERATION****by Tem Moore – N5KWL**

Tem is one of our area's foremost authorities on Digital and Repeater operation, with a wealth of knowledge to share with us. Don't miss it!

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

BVRC 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 Chair Positions:**Social Media Committee**

Jen Kessler, KG5WOC

Emergency Communications Committee

Chuck Healy, WØCEH

Lorrie Healy, N1RNI

V E Testing Committee

Glenn Kilpatrick, WB5L

Membership Committee

Ron Evans, K5XK

Newsletter Committee

Don Banta, K5DB



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

There a lot's going on with the Bella Vista Radio Club this month. The North West Arkansas Emergency Preparedness Fair will be held on September 29th. The Memorial KD5ZMK/W5FJ Pea Ridge Tailgate is Oct 6th. The Randy Griffith K5BOC Hamfest on Petit Jean Mountain is Oct 13th. The Boy Scout's Jamboree on the Air event is October 20th, and the Texoma Hamfest is Oct. 26th. All these events are listed on our website so take a look and participate in your choice of good ham radio related events.

The Bella Vista Radio Club is really becoming a top-notch organization. We are now not only an ARRL Affiliated club, we also have 501-C3 non-profit status. We are also looking into the ARRL insurance program for the club. Thanks to Mark, WØKYZ for all his work on these last two items. We are also looking into what we can possibly do to accommodate our many members in the Fayetteville/Springdale area, and farther south, for 2-Meters and up.

We have some great programs lined up for the monthly meetings, and of course don't forget the December Christmas meeting and dinner. December is the month of elections, so be thinking about how you can help! We need good officers and your club will continue to grow. Won't you join us as new officers for 2019? All of the club officers we have are very dedicated, and we are fortunate to have such a good group.

Most of all, I would like for you to enjoy the hobby, in whatever aspect you take a liking to. We should all be having fun with this great and varied hobby. Help get the word out; amateur radio is the best hobby in the world! Help out the newcomers when you can and promote the hobby to the young folks. Thank you so very much for allowing me to be a part of your Radio club.

73 – Glenn, WB5L

**BVRC Member
Spotlight****JEN KESSELER
KG5WOC**

This month, THE SIGNAL is pleased to feature for the first time a female club member who also does a FB job as BVRC's Social Media Director, Jen Kessler – KG5WOC. In the recent past Jen has served in the public school system, and that bears-out with her excellent talents in coordinating Bella Vista Radio Club on social media.

Jen herself is new to the amateur ranks, having acquired her license in December of 2017, but she is not new to the hobby itself, being the XYL of Will – K5ITM who was her predecessor and elmer. Will introduced her to the hobby, and in the near future their son, Luke, will be acquiring his Technician license.

Jen's personal enjoyment in amateur radio comes from participating in public service. Jen is presently involved with the Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief, as well as any BVRC related activities. She does a stellar job in promoting those events via social media.

Her and Will's station consists of a Kenwood TS-930S and TS-180S for HF, several VHF/UHF handi-talkies, and mobile.

It is truly a pleasure to have Jen, as well as all our FB YL operators and members, in BVRC. Keep up the great work, Jen! We appreciate you!

**HOW ABOUT GOING
ON A HAM CRUISE?**

The idea of taking a cruise isn't new, but how about the idea of taking a "Ham Cruise"? Well that's a novel twist, and perhaps a way to get what both you and your XYL would enjoy from a future vacation.

Debbie Rumfield, N5SDR, is known as "The Ham Cruise Lady." She and her husband (WD5X) have done what some say can no longer be done. They have arrangements with certain cruise lines and secured permissions with ship captains to operate onboard while the ship is at sea. What a cool way to travel and "be DX" at the same time!

The next Ham Cruise -- their 6th-- is January 12-19, 2019, embarking from Galveston sailing the Gulf of Mexico and The Bahamas with various ports of call. If interested, contact N5DSR at the following:

Debbie Rumfield, N5DSR
The Ham Cruise Lady
CLIA Certified Cruise Lines Counsellor
My Pin Money Travel, LLC
832-656-0731
www.qrz.com/db/n5dsr
<http://mypinmoneytravel.webs.com/>

For the Love of QRP

By Phil Wright – AF5XH

If you enjoy kit building and are ready for a challenge, there are a couple of interesting QRP cw kits available that may interest you. The first is a Hendricks product – the SMK-2. This radio is actually a modified version of the Tuna-Tin-Two (a built-from-scratch 40 meter transmitter popular in the 70's that was often mounted in an empty tuna fish container). It uses the ubiquitous NE602 IC mixer-oscillator, a crystal VFO, a couple of 2n2222A finals and an LM386 audio amplifier. The big (really big) difference is that all components are



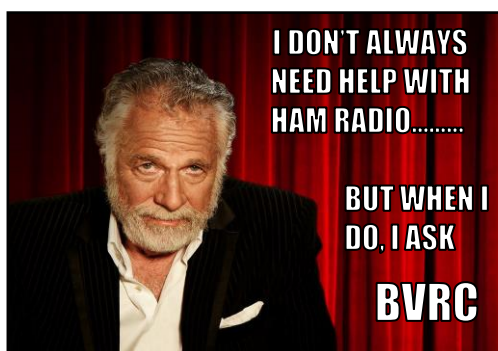
are surface mounted instead of through hole. Doug Hendricks-KI6DS says, "I thought it would be a good idea to have a cheap (around \$40) learning tool to get hams used to doing surface mount construction since that's the way virtually the whole electronic industry has gone and will inevitably become the technique of necessity for ham kits in the future." At least this kit uses the

"large" variety of SMD's. The NE602 looks very much like an engorged tick when mounted. The printed circuit board is 2.475" x 2.25". There are some 70 parts including a nice enclosure. If you are steady handed and like a challenge, give it a try. Info and the construction manual are available on line at Pacific Antenna.

The next kit that is causing a stir among the low power boys and girls is the QCX 5-watt single band transceiver kit from QRP Labs. It's available for the 80, 60, 40, 30, 20, or 17-meter band. It boasts rotary encoded synthesized tuning, vfo A/B/Split, 7 element low pass filter, iambic keyer, CW decoder on a 16x2 LCD screen, S-Meter, 200 Hz CW filter, WSPR beacon, and built-in test equipment: voltmeter, RF power meter, frequency counter, & signal generator.



A lot of rig for the buck at \$49 dollars plus shipping. A 140+ page construction manual is available on line and is a delight to behold, equal to any of the Heathkit manuals from the old days. The down side of the kit: a small circuit board 4" x 3.2", inches, over 140 parts, four toroids and a bugger of a toroidal transformer (four coils, eight leads and 68 turns for the 80-meter version. No enclosure is included. If you get this kit, do the transformer first then everything else will easily fall into place. For what it's worth, this kit is on my workbench now. Just finished the second attempt at the transformer. Thankfully I have several 50-2 toroids in my junk box and at least 500 feet of #28 enameled wire. Happy winding!



A reminder once again, BVRC members, if you've been enjoying the articles and stories in THE SIGNAL, we're sure that many of you that have had some type of 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.

It's always exciting 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 story & photos to Don-K5DB at:

arask5db@gmail.com

THANKS & 73!

How Important Is An Amateur Radio Club And Its Members?

By Frank Majdan – KG5ANT

To answer that question and looking from my point of view *very important*, but you can make up your own mind (as Fox News says, we report you decide). I came into the hobby knowing that I wanted to be able to talk to someone in time of an emergency. With not background in ham radio I was under the impression that was a great reason. How to go about that was somewhat misguided. The person who tested me (three times) Became a great help to me and honored my direction. He is Larry Builderback (KD6IRI) and has moved on helping others get started. So, my first shack was as portable as you can get, a go box.



After joining The Bella Vista Radio Club, I made many friends and they are always willing to help when one needs help. I was one of those new people that surely needed help. My neighbor, Fred Lemley K5QBX, and Steve Werner K5SAW seemed to adopt me.

They analyzed my Hex antenna after it was not performing the way it should have. A new rotor was added along with a balun. Good job guys and thanks! My off center was replaced with a dipole I built and designed with Fred looking over my shoulder. I was now able to operate on 75/80 meters. Now, making friends gets you into conversations and becomes learning sessions plus, identifies what your next step is to improve your shack. In my case it was adding a 500 watt amplifier. An Elecraft KPA 500 was recommended and Fred and I did some research with full approval on the product.

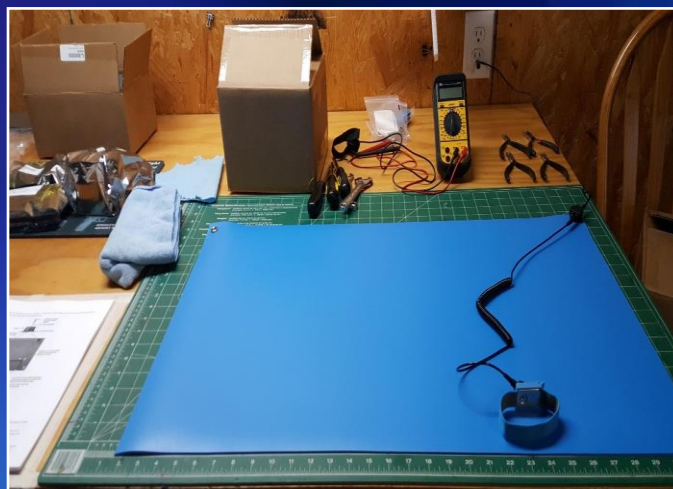
Now the challenge came – Fred brought up two points: (1) Elecraft has a sale going on with an automatic tuner KAT 500, and (2) you can save money if you build it, it comes as a kit. Why not? I did learn how to turn the radio on plus solder a PL259 connector onto a coax, what can go wrong? So it was onward to the Elecraft website and order the two kits. They were delivered in a few days.

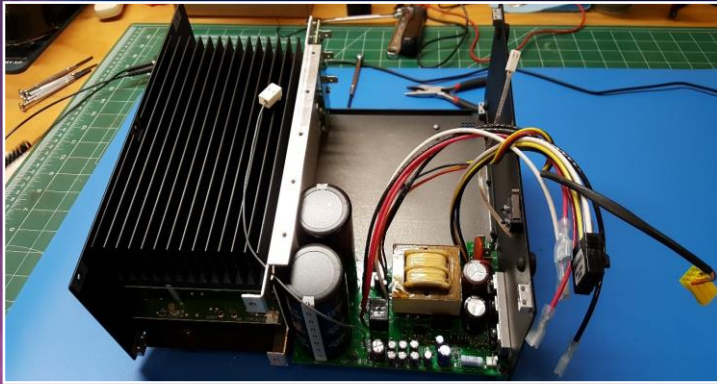
When the boxes arrived, I placed them on the workbench and thought, “What is in those boxes and what am I going to run into? But no matter what happens, I am ready for this!”

I completed an inventory of all the parts, Amplifier first and then the tuner.

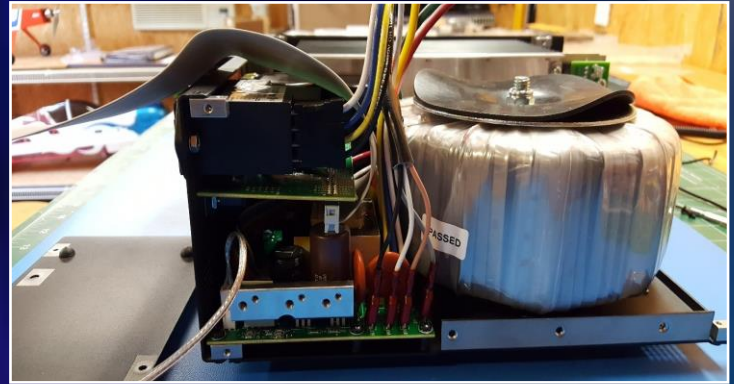


Preparing for the build I followed Elecraft recommendations of using a static dissipating work pad and a wrist strip with a series 1 megohm resistor.





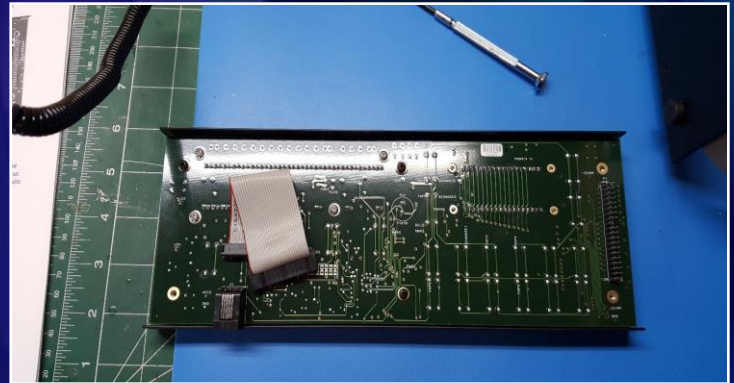
The RF Power Amplifier/ Low pass filter (PA/LPF) Module



Transformer / power supply module



Left and Right side with the rear panel and fan assembly



Front panel board



Front panel showing the LEDs and buttons through the front panel to operate the KPA-500



The unit was now completely assembled

And then came the moment for the drum roll and answer to the big question: "Does it work?"



Turned it on and it did not blow a fuse, there is hope!



Let me also add that after I started building the KPA-500 I had a visitor. You can't leave Fred-K5QBX out of a good build. With Fred there, it did save a LOT of time. What consumes the most time is digging-out the proper screw and size. Using the wrong size screw can cause big problems.



Fred had his dummy load, digital meter, and a flash light – in case the lights went out. After some exhausting testing we realized that the flashlight was not needed - yes, it worked!



The next day it was on to the Elecraft KAT-500 automatic tuner. The toroids, as you can see in the picture had to be tied down with nylon ties.



Notice when the rear panel was assembled, there are connections for three antennas.



Now the KPA / KAT 500 is installed along with my new Icom 7300.

After it was all wired up, I had it working, but it was time to call-in the big guns, Steve K5SAW and Fred K5QBX. They arrived and made some program changes that will make operating the 7300 easier. Steve changed one of the wires to insure some safety factors. Then they added some extra wire to my CW key to make a better fit on the shelf. They made sure everything was operating as it should be. THANKS GUYS!!!

I would have *never* taken on a build like this, without having knowledgeable people to lean on. As Fred put it, after his 35 years in the hobby, he is still learning. As for Steve, he feels the same and loves to jump into some type of build, especially antennas.

For me another question comes up, what can I build next??????



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 .



W9DTJ - Derek Jones has a new call! (ex-KF5JRU)

K5XH - Mark continues to enjoy his new FLEX SDR radio in "SO2R" mode (Single Operator 2 Radios).

W5LNI - Kudos to John and XYL Fran who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

K5DB - Don participated as a mobile station during the Kansas QSO Party in August, operating special event call "NØT" from 27 counties and amassing 1,085 contacts, while traveling 815 miles.

AB5DD - This is the new call of Dana / ex-NØYJB.

W4ALW - Eric & Alicia are progressing toward relocating from Beaver Shores to the Bella Vista Highlands.

WØJLY - Another salute to Bill, our 'Member Emeritus' on his achievement of his 97th birthday and being a ham for an amazing 78 years!

K5XK - Ron is pleased to welcome Nick Kennedy, WA5BDU, to Bella Vista. Nick is a lifelong friend from the early 1960s. Nick and his XYL are moving to NW Arkansas to be closer to harmonics. He is recently retired from Arkansas Nuclear One near Russellville, where he was an active member of ARVARF, the club that hosts the annual Russellville Hamfest each spring.

WELCOME NEW BVRC MEMBER!

Chase Laird – KI5BQJ

BVRC VE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 8, 2018:

Congratulations!!!

Ivan Huffmaster, KG5SPC --- New General!



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!



Welcome To Alcatraz



By Don - K5DB



From July 27-30, 2008, my XYL-Erma and myself along with our youngest daughter, took vacation trip to California. So, the story I'm relating observes roughly the recent 10th anniversary of when we visited there. We visited Sequoia, King's Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks, and personally I told them I could not go out there without also visiting Alcatraz Island. After all, it's the #1 tourist attraction in San Francisco! We had to purchase ferry tickets at least three months ahead, they were backed-up that far. Well, the day came when we finally disembarked onto the Alcatraz dock.

We toured the grounds, stopped at the cells of Robert Stroud (The Birdman of Alcatraz), Al Capone, the Anglin Brothers, and Frank Morris. (Morris and the Anglin Brothers staged the 1962 escape that is still more or less a mystery today.) We then came to the front of the complex where prisoners were first admitted to the penitentiary as they arrived from the mainland. They were required to go through security procedures, strip down, preliminary physical examination, metal detectors, etc. The admission room guards kept an overall watch for the prison, along with the guards in the watch towers.



Upon closely viewing the guard admissions room *and to my amazement*, I spotted the object a little to the right of center in the picture below:



That object was a Heathkit TX-1 Apache transmitter. I have researched for years why it was there but never had any luck in finding out. I suspect it was for backup communication in case the primary system failed. At any rate, it appears amateur radio played *some* type of role at Alcatraz!



CALLSIGNOLOGY

THE SCIENCE OF CALLSIGNS

Amateur radio call signs are in the international series, and are issued by a nation's telecommunications agency in conjunction with the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union). They normally consist of a PREFIX which could be one, two or three letters, a NUMBER which usually denotes a geographical area, and a SUFFIX which consists of 1, 2, or 3 letters.

In the United States, all callsigns begin with A, K, N, or W. The term "2x3 formatted callsign" means the callsign has a 2-letter prefix, a number, and a 3-letter suffix. It usually denotes the callsign that the licensee was issued when they acquired their first license. Example: KA5ABC, WD4XYZ. The same is true with older 1x3 callsigns, Example: WØABC.

There are also callsigns that are specially granted to holders of certain license classes, if the callsign is available and they choose to be issued those callsigns by the FCC to replace their current one when they upgrade their license (or, they can opt to retain their original callsign if they so choose). An example of these would be Advanced Class license holders (the Advanced class exam has not been administered and the license not issued since its deletion in 2000, but these license holders of course retain their full operating privileges) who have 2x2 formatted callsigns. Examples: KD2AB, KX9ZZ.

Another example would be the specially formatted callsigns issued to Amateur Extra Class license holders, which would be either a 1x2, 2x1, or Alpha-2x2 callsign. Examples: W1AW, N7ZZ, AE6B, NO7X, AG5YH, AC1BO, etc.

With the advent of the Vanity callsign program, operators can now at any time apply for a callsign of their choosing to replace their current callsign, provided the desired callsign is available and it corresponds with their current class of license. Both U.S. and foreign callsigns, no matter what the format, can be followed by a further suffix after the normal callsign to indicate the station is operating under special conditions: /P for portable, /M for mobile, /MM for maritime mobile, or /AM for aeronautical mobile.

This formatting changes outside the U.S. For example in Australia and its other sovereignties, call signs are structured with a 2-letter prefix, a number (which identifies the geographical area), and a 2 or 3 letter suffix. The number following the prefix is normally a single number (0 to 9). Examples: VK4ABC, V17XX.

Some countries' prefixes, such as Namibia, consist of a letter followed by a number. Hence, in the hypothetical Namibia call sign, V51XX – the prefix is V5, the number is 1, and the suffix is XX. Others may start with a reverse-type format – a number followed by a letter. For example, Jamaican call signs begin with 6Y, such as 6Y5B.

When operating with reciprocal agreements under the jurisdiction of a foreign government, an identifying station prepends the call sign with the country prefix and number of the district/territory from which the operation is occurring. For example, W4/G3ABC would denote a licensed amateur from Great Britain who is operating in the fourth call district of the United States, HC8/W8ABC would denote a licensed amateur from the United States who is operating on the Galapagos Islands, etc.

Occasionally, special call signs are issued in the amateur radio service for temporary use to commemorate special events. Examples include VO1S (VO1 as a Dominion of Newfoundland call sign prefix, S to commemorate Marconi's first trans-Atlantic message, a single-character Morse code "S" sent from Cornwall, England to Signal Hill, St. John's in 1901) and GB90MGY (GB as a Great Britain call sign prefix, 90 and MGY to commemorate the 90th anniversary of historic 1912 radio distress calls from MGY, the Marconi station aboard the famed White Star luxury liner RMS Titanic).

In the United States, special event stations occur quite often during all times of the year and commemorate, celebrate or denote events, places of interest, historical commemorations, etc., on a local, regional or national level. Special event station callsigns are in the 1x1 format. Examples: K5A, W9R, N7S, etc.

A couple of websites showing all international callsign prefixes and other valuable information can be found at: <http://www.ac6v.com/prefixes.htm#A> and <http://www.arrl.org/international-call-sign-series>

Strays.....



From Don – K5DB: During the Claremore, OK hamfest last April, it was a pleasure to meet-up once again with my good friends Connie & Pam Marshall – K5CM and N5KW – from Muskogee. they and I have a lot in common when it comes to QSO parties, as he is the Chairman of the Oklahoma QSO Party as I am for Arkansas. We also help-out each other each year, with me running mobile in the OKQP and they run in the ARQP.



**K5CM and N5KW
with their super mobile station**



**K5CM and N5KK with yet another
1st Place NC QSO Party award**

They also have a daughter, Melissa – N5KK, who lives in North Carolina, who they visit each year and Connie and Melissa run mobile in the NCQP. Connie and Pam also participate in many other state QSO parties during the year.

Connie and Pam are great folks, and great operators! After we pass through this coming winter of 2018-2019 and next spring rolls around, don't forget to have some fun and operate in the Oklahoma QSO Party on March 9-10 (<http://www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm>) and the Arkansas QSO Party on May 11 (<http://www.arkqp.com/>).

THE SIGNAL newsletter is published monthly for members of the Bella Vista Radio Club. BVRC disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy or the content of articles published herein. The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors. BVRC neither necessarily endorses nor opposes said opinions, brand names, products, businesses, organizations, etc. Submission of any amateur radio related articles is encouraged and welcomed. Submit your article to the editor: Don Banta-K5DB, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764 (or E-mail to: arsk5db@gmail.com) for publication in THE SIGNAL. The deadline for articles is the 10th of each month.