



THE SIGNAL

Newsletter of the Bella Vista Radio Club

VOL. 3, NO. 2 MAY 2020

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

WEEKLY NETS:

3.830 kHz Roundtable - Sundays @ 4 pm

147.255 Repeater Net - Wednesdays @ 8 pm

Wide Area Net - Wednesdays @ 9 pm on the N5UFO NWA Linked Repeater System

Features In This Issue:

- * KC7DC's New Tower and Antenna!
- * How to Prepare for Emergencies As A Radio Amateur
- * Arkansas QSO Party Reminder/Invitation
- * Learn CW in 2020?
- * Field Day Coronavirus Info
- * ARRL Rookie Roundup
- * Why Join ARRL?

**BVRC
OFFICERS****President**

Tom Northfell

W5XNA

w5xna@arrl.net**Vice - President**

Don Banta

K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com**Secretary**

Wayne Patton

K5UNX

k5unx@arrl.net**Treasurer**

Marc Whittlesey

WØKYZ

almarcl1@yahoo.com**Public Information Officer**

Ron Evans

K5XK

qrzthedx@gmail.com**Technical Officer**

Tem Moore

N5KWL

temmoore@gmail.com**Repeater/Club Call Trustee**

Glenn Kilpatrick

WB5L

wb5l@arrl.net**APPOINTED
OFFICERS****Emergency Communications**

Open

ELMER 9-1-1

Paul Dixon

K5YH

k5yh@arrl.net**V E Testing**

Don Cooper

KC7DC

kc7dc@arrl.net**2-Meter Net Coordinator**

Chris Deibler

KG5SZQ

chris52@cox.net**Webmaster**

Glenn Kilpatrick

WB5L

wb5l@arrl.net**SIGNAL Editor**

Don Banta

K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com**NEXT BVRC
MONTHLY MEETING****THURSDAY - MAY 7, 2020 - 7 PM****BVRC YOU TUBE CHANNEL****MAY MEETING**

For the April meeting, BVRC hosted its first online meeting with an excellent turnout. The topic for the originally scheduled 'in person' April meeting was going to be a show & tell presentation, but we had to forego that schedule in lieu of the coronavirus issue. The alternate plan to conduct a virtual meeting resulted in a still excellent meeting.

Therefore, for the May virtual meeting the Show & Tell topic will again take the spotlight. Several BVRC members will 'take the floor' online with different items to share with the members, which should provide interesting information. Don - K5DB will then give a brief presentation on the upcoming Arkansas QSO Party, coming up on May 9.

Be sure & join us on the BVRC YouTube channel,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNVXFVXrXn294ML5xAMgi-w>,

at 7pm on Thursday evening, May 7.

SEE YOU THEN!!!!!!

BVRC CONVENES FOR FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING, APRIL 2020

For the first time in club history, and due to the coronavirus pandemic, BVRC hosted the club's first ever online meeting on Thursday evening, April 2. The regular club meeting at the Highland Christian Church was cancelled due to the virus outbreak, but very quick arrangements were made just a few days before the scheduled club meeting date to convene a virtual meeting.

Our speaker for this month was Kai Ganser – KEØQEJ, and Kai provided an excellent PowerPoint program entitled "Three Miles Per Hour – How An Avid Hiker Uses Ham Radio".

Kai is from the St. Louis area and began in radio with his dad when he was a teenager. Kai persisted and badgered his dad to purchase two Radio Shack CB walkie-talkies. They used these quite regularly during Kai's growing-up, and as he reached his older years, he began using CB for his passion – hiking. However, as time went on, Kai discovered there were great electronic "assistants" that he could use for fun, for information, and especially for safety. There was, however, a catch to be able to use these devices – he had to acquire an amateur radio license.

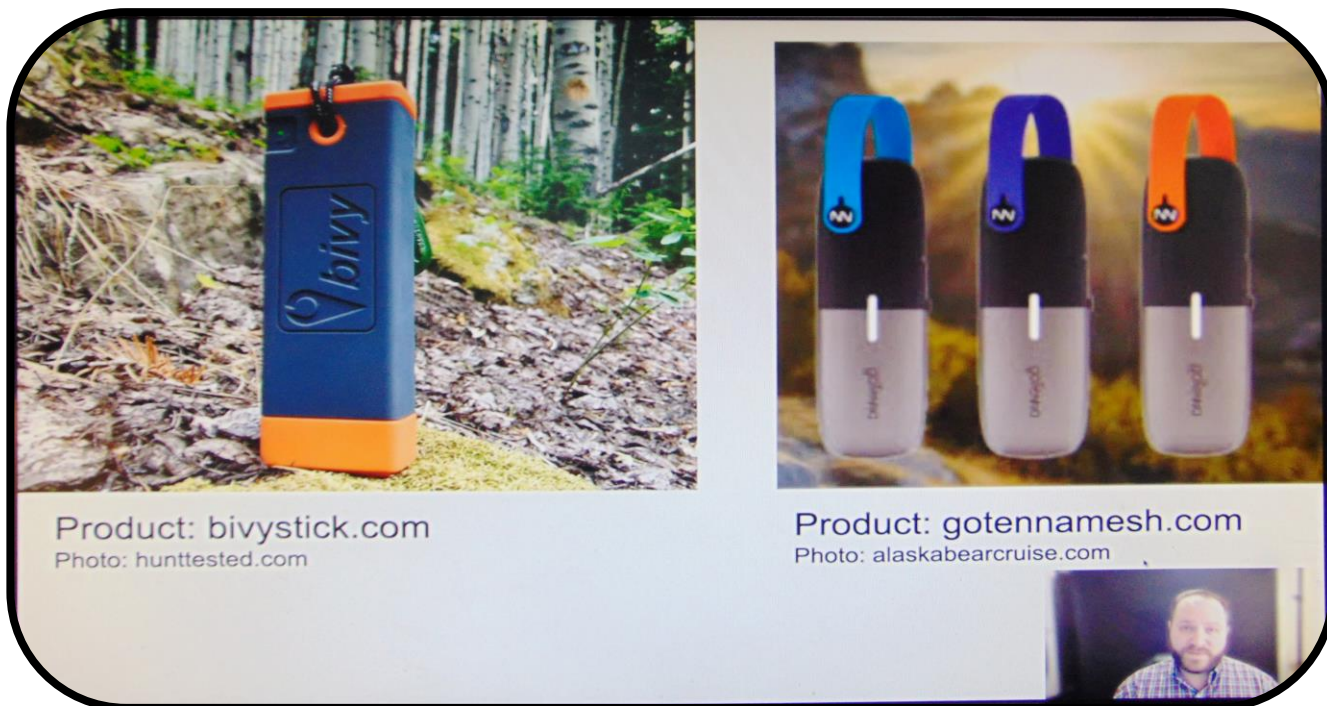
Kai did just that and is now a General class license holder, with a wealth of knowledge on combining hiking with amateur radio use.

BVRC President Tom Northfell – W5XNA opened-up the program with announcements. BVRC Public Information Officer Ron – K5XK then gave the introduction, and the show was on!



Kai covered a list of hiking supplies and equipment needed for a successful and safe hike. He shared the story of a couple that got lost for a week, because they had no tracking or communication devices or ability.

He then covered GPS and other tracking devices that are available on the market, but now that he is a ham operator, Kai really likes APRS!



He currently uses a Yaesu FT1XD handie-talkie because of the many features it has that fit his needs. He then explained the basic operation of APRS.



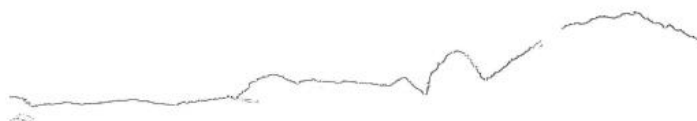
Kai also covered how using APRS during a hike is a HUGE advantage in search and rescue applications in the event a hiker becomes lost, injured, or incapacitated. He then shared some of the locations all over the U.S. that his fervor for hiking has taken him, which is considerable!

A huge “thanks” from all of us at BVRC to you, Kai, for an excellent presentation with excellent information that you related. It was a pleasure having you for our April program!

33 members attended the virtual meeting on the BVRC YouTube Channel. Great turnout, BVRC members, for our first virtual club meeting!

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY – THANK YOU WAYNE – K5UNX,
FOR YOUR TECHNICAL PROWESS IN MAKING OUR APRIL
MEETING POSSIBLE AND A SUCCESS...AND, AT SUCH SHORT
NOTICE!**

In conclusion, Kai has submitted to us a summary sheet, to help anyone interested in hiking and amateur radio to get started on the right foot in this aspect of the hobby:



Three Miles Per Hour

How an Avid Hiker Uses Ham Radio

Presentation Takeaways from Kai Gansner, KEØQEJ

Field Day Everyday

APRS HT's

Yaesu

VX-8R

FT1XDR

FT2DR

FT3DR

Kenwood

TH-D72

TH-D74

Some HT's work with APRS on DMR.

Ad Hoc

Baofeng, connected to an Android phone via either a plug in cable or Mobilinkd (serial via bluetooth) and Pocket Packet App

Fill-in Digipeater

Kenwood TM-D710GA

2m radio connected to a TNC

2m radio connected to a RaspberryPi with a TNC HAT, or software TNC like Direwolf or Xastir

Quick HT Tips >> not a full list

APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) operates on a 2m frequency of 144.390 simplex, with no tone or offset. It is packet data using AFSK AX.25 protocol at 1200bps.

- > Pathway Protocol for use while mobile (driving) or ultramobile (walking/hiking) is WIDE1-1, WIDE2-1
- > SSID is set for call sign dash seven, so KEØQEJ-7
- > Symbol is a person
- > Beacon TX interval of 3-10 min
 - o (smart beaconing algorithm optional)
- > Beacon Status Text should be set for your activity or general greeting with your QRG -- your A-Band frequency
- > Lock your HT from being bumped or pushed -- staying on frequency

APRS Features, Functions and Services

- > Radio-to-Radio, Radio to Digipeater, Radio or Digipeater to iGate
- > APRSIS -- internet system used to host APRS data online
- > Text messaging between radios, to cell phones, to Twitter, to Email
- > GPS Location, Altitude, Heading, Speed of yours and other stations
- > Track Back - location, direction, & distance - not 'breadcrumbs'
- > Position Comment of "EMERGENCY!" is an SOS - operator in trouble

Hiking Tips

- > Plan -- printed map, compass, water, food, shelter, fire, protection
- > Notify someone about your hiking plan (location, time-in, time-out)
- > Know Hunting Seasons and State Wildlife Codes
- > Wear pants (breathable & quick drying) treated w/ Permethrin
- > Gear/Clothing -- "Cotton Kills," try to wear quality synthetic fabric
- > Bug repellant 25% DEET or higher, Sunscreen, Full-brimmed hat
- > Trekking Poles -- stability, confidence, up/down assist, defense
- > Ease in -- you can't climb Everest without training
- > Enjoy your hike -- have fun, take your time, look around, be curious

ATTENTION ALL YOUNG BVRC MEMBERS!

If you are in grades K – 12, here is a message from Robb-K2MZ who communicated this to our BVRC President Tom-W5XNA:



Great news from the Long Island CW Club.

We will be starting Round 2 of the Kids CW classes on May 6th. If you know any kids grades K-12 that want to join please let me know.

I need the following info:

Kids name, age, grade, state, parents name email and cell phone.

We are graduating 47 kids to the intermediate class this week!

Thanks,

Robb Zarges, K2MZ

k2mz@yahoo.com

508-831-8248

The CW Club's website can be found at:

<https://longislandcwclub.org/>

(BVRC member Clara – KI5HTX has been participating in Round 1!)

From the Desk of the President



I hope that everyone is healthy and in good spirits. It is some comfort to know that at a time of required isolation we have a hobby that allows us to maintain connections while honoring social distancing.

... _ ... _ ... _ QST QST QST

Do you want to get more involved with the Bella Vista Radio Club? We want you to be a part of our team. The BVRC is looking for interested members to join our committees. We want and need you to support YOUR club.

We currently have a need of a public information officer, social media coordinator, monthly program coordinator, emergency communications coordinator, and hospitality coordinator. However, if you see another need, please let us know. It would be ideal to have several participants in each committee to help share the load. If you volunteer for any area of need/committee, we will help you be successful. Also, please help us brainstorm how to take BVRC to the next level of service to the amateur radio community.

I would like to see the monthly BVRC calendar filled with radio-related opportunities. For example, why couldn't we have a weekly beginners CW class via Zoom or Skype? BVRC has several CW operators with years of experience that could teach the class. How about a weekly slow speed on air CW QSO practice? We probably need a tech net started ASAP. The BVRC Saturday breakfast has been cancelled until further notice. Why not a Saturday morning breakfast net? We need to hear more of our youth on the air and being the NCS. Any licensed parents or grandparents willing to get this going? Let's fill the calendar!

For those who are presently in BVRC leadership positions or have volunteered in the past - you are the difference makers. There would be no BVRC without your service and dedication.

Thank you and very 73 – Tom, W5XNA

BVRC ACCELERATED TECHNICIAN CLASS

CANCELLED

For the time being, the accelerated Technician license class originally scheduled for April 25 & 26 in Siloam Springs has been cancelled due to the current coronavirus crisis. With our priority on social safety, we will reschedule the class when feasible, hopefully in the near future. Meanwhile, keep an eye out for updates on this class in The Signal.



BVRC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

If you have desire and knowledge in emergency communications and would like to apply your talents to this position, BVRC would welcome your help. Anyone that is interested in this department chair position, please contact any of the BVRC officers, whose contact information appears on page two of this issue of *The Signal*.



BVRC SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

BVRC is also anticipating someone in our vast and accomplished consortium of club members who would enjoy maintaining our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram websites, to enlist their services in this very important Club position.

Your volunteering would not go unnoticed and will be extremely appreciated by all of us in BVRC!!! Contact a BVRC officer at their e-mail address listed on page two of this *Signal* issue.

K5DVT – Jon operated Special Event callsign “K9V” in late March. The station was to generate activity in connection with the Corona Virus while so many hams are confined to their shacks.

K8KBW – Hank, now our most Senior Member, will celebrate his 97th Birthday on May 11th. In addition to his radio hobby, Hank is a former Big Band musician and still enjoys entertaining on the keyboards. Happy Birthday, Hank!

KØPR – New member Phil & XYL Debi continue their move to Beaver Lake from Pittsburg, KS, where he is also a member of the very active [SE Kansas Radio Club](#), club call KØSEK.

K5DVT – Jon now has a 6 Meter FM Repeater on the air: 53.030 (-1.7MHz offset), with a 100W transmitter atop Dodd (Fitzgerald) Mtn, east of Springdale/Bethel Heights. To access it w/vertically polarized antennas the PL is 97.4; or w/a horizontal ant, use a different PL tone (88.5). It is connected to Allstar and normally connected to 7 other repeaters in NJ, TN, TX, OK, and KY. John welcomes your use, and signal reports!

KC7DC – Don’s new tower and SteppIR yagi are up! (Photos elsewhere in this month’s newsletter.)

K5VR – Stan normally operates ‘mobile CW’ during his daily commute to/from work in Rogers, but lately has worked some surprising DX on 12/10 and even 6 Meters using harmonics from his HF [LPDA](#).

K15DJP – Scott has been DX’ing on 17 Meters, working into “4X” (Israel) and “ZD8” (Ascension Island, as well as maintaining contact with his Elmer in Memphis.

K5YY – For those impatient with HF propagation at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, San suggests reviewing his December 1985 QST article, “The Dr’s Cure for the Sunspot Blues.” In the article, San describes the joys of DX’ing the 2M/432 MHz bands using CW & SSB. The article is archived & still available to download by ARRL members via the ARRL Website.

WA5BDU – Nick continues to add new DXCC countries, and even some ‘Top Band’ (160M) contacts with his 80-10M EFHW antenna.

W5XH – When not exercising his new ‘SPE Expert’ HF amp, Murray stays busy digitizing his decades old, sizeable 35mm film slide collection.

K5XH – The “other XH,” Mark stays busy with RTTY Contests, making several hundred Qs in both the NAQP and WPX Contests. He is also continuing to refurbish a HyGain TH-7 HF triband yagi. Mark also surprised us recently after programming his ICOM IC-7000 and checking into the [WAN](#), marking his first UHF appearance in decades.

K5SAW – Steve reports that Smith 2-Way has sold the tower that hosts the BVRC 2 Meter Repeater. The new owner is [American Tower](#), a Fortune 500 “investment trust and owner-operator of wireless and broadcast communications infrastructure in several countries worldwide.”

N5KWL – Tem notes RepeaterBook.com now identifies his Point 12 Beaver Lake QTH and repeater location as “Camp War Eagle / Spring Valley.” Tem also commends Jerry Clark, of Clark Communications, for the use of his tall tower which hosts the 442.950 repeater. The Bentonville / Miller Church Road machine has outstanding coverage as part of the NWA Link System. (BTW, Jerry frequently listens to our nets – and may be a prospective ham!)

BVRC MEMBERS CORNER



**By Ron Evans – K5XK
Public Information Officer**

W5AEN – Joe has a new 3 element 6M Yagi, waiting for the “E’s Season” on the Magic Band. He also acquired K5XK’s 50’ tower & antenna rotator, as Ron prepares to move to a new QTH.

K15IGD – Garu os a new member with a new General class license, focusing on portable QRP HF options, with a new YAESU [FT-891](#) transceiver.

K15EQO – Molly is more active lately, checking into the Wide Area Net at 9 on Wednesdays, using her HT. Welcome, Molly!

K5UNX – While work travel is restricted, Wayne has uploaded more videos of past Club programs to the new [YouTube Channel](#), and pioneering our efforts with virtual meetings. After struggling to make contact with Japanese stations, Wayne was recently surprised to have been called by “JA.”

K5SAW – Steve’s sister has purchased a home from a Kansas DXer and the property came with a tall tower and HF antennas. Steve is studying “remote” operation possibilities!

K5DB – Don was recently interviewed by Eric – 4Z1UG for the [QSO Today](#) podcast, which just went online on April 25. Otherwise, Don continues to fill-in new DX countries when not busy organizing the Arkansas QSO Party for May 9-10.

Please send your news and activity reports to k5xk@bellavistaradioclub.org !

BVRC Member Hank Kress – K8KBW

By Ron Evans – K5XK

Hank Kress will be 97 on May 11th and is the same age as Queen Elizabeth. K8KBW joined BVRC in 2018 after relocating from his native Detroit area to Apple Blossom Retirement Community, in Rogers. Hank has been an ‘8th Call District’ ham for almost a century and is referred to as a ‘Renaissance Man’ by his family, due to his many talents and accomplishments. For instance, Hank operated a successful marine dealership, and during the lean winter months, converted the business to a toy store. Hank is also a Big Band musician and continues to entertain family and friends with his keyboard skills. Many of us remember his beautifully crafted ‘homebrew’ HF amplifier he proudly displayed for “show ‘n tell” at an earlier club meeting. *Happy Birthday, Hank!!!* You are living proof that amateur radio truly is a “Hobby for Life!”



K8KBW in his younger days



Hank working on his beam antenna - 2009



BVRC WEEKLY NET REPORTS



BVRC Wednesday Night Net – N5BVA Repeater

BVRC Wide-Area-Net – NW Arkansas Link System

March 25, 2020

NCS: KG5SZQ – Chris

Check-ins (16)

KDØULQ – Sean
KEØQFO – Alan
KCØDX – Ed
KG5YJV – Jeff
K5DB – Don
ACØQU – Bill
K15DUV – Bonner
K5ANW – Darrell
N5LML – Randy
K5UNX – Wayne
WB5L – Glenn
K5XK – Ron
AB5UN – John
KG6HSD – James
W5AEN – Joe

April 8, 2020

NCS: KEØQFO – Alan

Check-ins (9)

W5HB – John
AB5UN – John
K5SAW – Steve
K5UNX – Wayne
KCØDX – Ed
ACØQU – Bill
K5DB – Don
K5ANW – Darrell

April 1, 2020

NCS: WB5L – Glenn

Check-ins: (14)

KØETA – Sheila
ACØQU – Bill
K15EQL – Faith
W5HB – John
KG5SZQ – Chris
KCØDX – Ed
KEØQFO – Alan
K5DB – Don
K5UNX – Wayne
K5XK – Ron
K5ANW – Darrell
KM6RQI – Kevin
KG6HSD – James

April 15, 2020

NCS: KG5SZQ – Glenn

Check-ins: (14)

K15EQL – Faith
KCØDX – Ed
K5DB – Don
KG6HSD – James
WB5L – Glenn
K5SAW – Steve
AB5UN – John
K6RLA – Ken
W5HB – John
KEØQFO – Alan
WØRT – Rick
W4FCW – Jimmy

March 25, 2020

NCS: K5XK – Ron

Check-ins: (18)

K5DB – Don
K5DXR – Mark
K5UNX – Wayne
K5VCA – Vinson
K5XH – Mark
K5XNA – John
KB5UWK – Jerry
K15DUU – Dallas
K15DUV – Bonner
K15EQO – Molly
N5KWL – Tem
N5LML – Randy
N5SQY – Rob
W5HB – John
W5XNA – Tom
W5ZQI – Shane
WB5L – Glenn

April 8, 2020

NCS: K5DB – Don

Check-ins: (16)

K5DVT – Jon
K5VCA – Vinson
KG5YJV – Jeff
KG5ZCI – Bill
KG6HSD – James
K15CXH – Susan
K05DUU – Dallas
KØSRM – Scott
KW5ARC – Ryan
N5SQY – Rob
W4LEM – Bob
W5HB – John
W5XNA – Tom
W5ZQI – Shane
WB5L – Glenn

April 1, 2020

NCS: K5VCA – Vinson

Check-ins: (19)

K5DB – Don
K5DVT – Jon
K5UNX – Wayne
K5VCA – Vinson
K5XK – Ron
K5XNA – John
KEØQFO – Alan
KG5ZCI – Bill
KG6HSD – James
K15CPT – Daniel
K15DJP – Scott
K15EQO – Molly
KW5SVB – Scotty
N5SQY – Rob
W5HB – John
W5XNA – Tom
W5ZQI – Shane
WB5L – Glenn

April 15, 2020

NCS: W5HB – John

Check-ins (13):

K5DB – Don
K5DVT – Jon
K5FXB – Dan
K5UNX – Wayne
K5VCA – Vinson
KC5MWG – Rick
KC7DQY – Paul
K15EQO – Molly
N5SQY – Rob
W5HB – John
W5XNA – Tom
WB5L – Glenn

BVRC VE REPORT

April 11, 2020

THIS MONTH'S VE TEST SESSION
CANCELLED DUE TO
CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK

A 3D white figure is standing next to large, red, 3D block letters that spell out the word "Welcome". The figure is positioned between the 'W' and the 'e', with its arms outstretched as if welcoming someone. The letters are thick and have a slight shadow underneath them.

NEW BURC MEMBERS!

PHILIP MORGAN — KG5TUD — FAYETTEVILLE

ROB SHERTZER — N5SQY — PRAIRIE GROVE

KC7DC Sports New Tower and Antenna!

Don Cooper – KC7DC, who is also BVRV's ARRL Volunteer Examiner Liaison and does a fantastic job with our monthly test sessions, just completed his antenna/tower project at his home QTH. Don has been working on the project since last summer, and it is a quality installation.

He now has a SteppIr DB18 which is a 3-element beam on an 18' boom, incorporating 3 elements on 20m through 6m, and 2 elements on 40 and 30 meters. It sits atop a 48' Heights aluminum tower that folds-over at 45'.

Don tells us, "I've been working on this since last summer with help from Alan – KEØQFO and Marc – WØKYZ. I got it on the air just in time for the ARRL DX SSB contest on March 7. This was my first contest. Working barefoot with my IC7300, I logged 14 countries in just a few hours."

Congrats on the new antenna, Don, and we're sure there's more fun and adventures to come!!!



BVRC and RCC Members Compete in ARRL 2020 SSB Rookie Roundup



Three relatively new hams that are members of both Bella Vista Radio Club and the Razorback Contest Club operated in the Multi-Operator category during the annual ARRL Single Sideband Rookie Roundup, on April 19 from the RCC club station, W5YO, at the QTH of Don – K5DB.

Clara Orvin – KI5HTX, Jere Orvin – KI5FPD, and Vinson Carter – K5VCA combined for a fun and exciting afternoon, with a particularly good score to boot. (Don was the control operator and elmer/coach during the event.)

The three operators rotated between manning the mic, computer logging, and cheering each other on! In the 6-hour contest period they acquired a final score of 8,056 points in making 172 QSOs. They worked 33 states, 4 Canadian provinces, and 1 DX station.

BVRC reminds all new operators that we will repeat this event next year, and [hopefully] with the coronavirus issue behind us by that time, we encourage you to participate with us! Don't miss it next year!

Check-out Clara's operating video on the BVRC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHaFx2bO6Ng>



Vinson – K5VCA



Jere – KI5FPD



Clara – KI5HTX



FINAL REMINDER: Arkansas QSO Party – May 9



Each year on the 2nd Saturday in May, the state of Arkansas takes center stage in the amateur radio world, as hams from all over the globe tune the bands to make a QSO with one of the fine hams in our great state.

Whether non-Arkansas stations are pursuing their Worked-All-States award, needing a particular county or counties, or just enjoying operating in our annual event, they know that Arkansas is a fairly rare state to be found and worked, no matter if they are a stateside or DX operator. So, they will be scanning the bands for Arkansas stations.

Each year The Razorback Contest Club is pleased to sponsor the lone event that spotlights Arkansas in the amateur radio world: The Annual Arkansas QSO Party. Year 'round, *RCC* is constantly working on “talking-up” the ARQP, keeping all national journals and major ham radio websites updated on our event, and maintaining the ARQP website.

Even though it *is technically* a contest, non-contesters return each year to enjoy meeting new friends while operating in our annual event, at their own pace and convenience. If you've never operated in an Arkansas QSO Party, give it a try this year! For returning participants.....see you on the bands!!!

If you have any questions concerning the ARQP, e-mail the QSO party chairman, Don – K5DB at his address: arsk5db@gmail.com

**Get all the info you need at:
www.arkqp.com**



FIELD DAY



*(Note: The following is contingent on whether 2020 ARRL Field Day is held, due to the coronavirus issue.
However, we need to be prepared in the event that it is convened.)*

Job Posting: BVRC Field Day Chairman

Duties & Responsibilities: Plan, organize, and execute the collection of people, material, and equipment for the Bella Vista Radio Club's participation in the annual ARRL Field Day exercise on June 27-28, 2020

Details: The FD Chairman will use the pavilion and facilities at Metfield Park in Bella Vista (tentative) for the Field Day site. The Chairman will organize and oversee individual Station Captains of the different mode stations, transportation of equipment to and from the site, power generation for the duration of the event, solicit and secure a food coordinator, task someone with scheduling media and elected official visits, and provide overall leadership and decision making during the course of the event. Strong interpersonal and communications skills are a plus. Familiarity with project management or spreadsheets to track material & resources is helpful.

Experience needed: None. As Chairman you, will have an experienced and willing team of hams & XYL's eager to provide guidance, encouragement, and help. Individual Station Captain's will be responsible for definition, assembly, and operations of the stations.

Application can be made directly to BVRC President Tom Northfell – W5XNA at: w5xna@arri.net, or any of the BVRC officers.



ADDITIONAL FIELD DAY INFORMATION FROM THE ARRL

(See our latest information on Field Day - [A Time To Adapt](http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt) at this link:
<http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt>)

With 2020 ARRL Field Day – one of the biggest events on the Amateur Radio calendar – just about 8 weeks away, ARRL officials are monitoring this situation with the coronavirus very closely and paying close attention to all of the information and guidance being offered by the CDC's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

At its core, Field Day is a local event and an opportunity for local amateur radio clubs to showcase the skills, science, and technologies that make radio communication such a wonderful hobby and a valuable public service. Since the impact of the coronavirus outbreak has been very different in different parts of the country, we recommend that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day be in regular contact with their local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities. This also offers an opportunity for amateur radio clubs to bolster or re-establish their relationships with local and state public health and emergency management officials.

Because of the unique circumstances presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new. Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year - use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with our current circumstances.

Local club officials are the most appropriate people to be making decisions about their specific Field Day programs. We are all concerned about protecting the health and safety of those participating in or attending Field Day activities, and so we trust local club officials to take the appropriate steps to monitor local conditions and make decisions in the best interest of their communities.

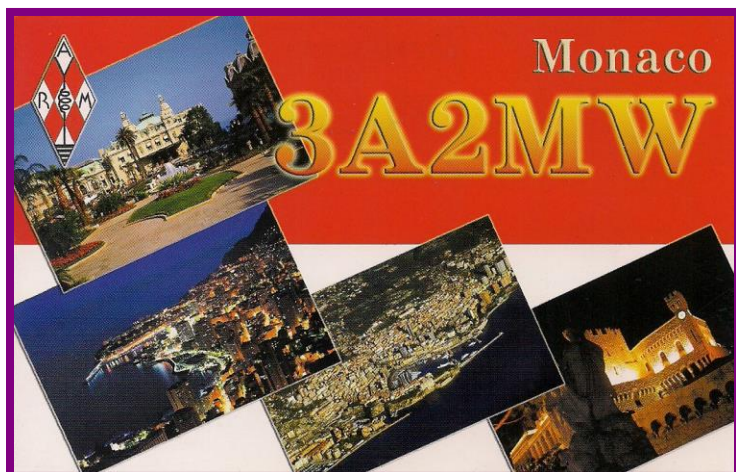
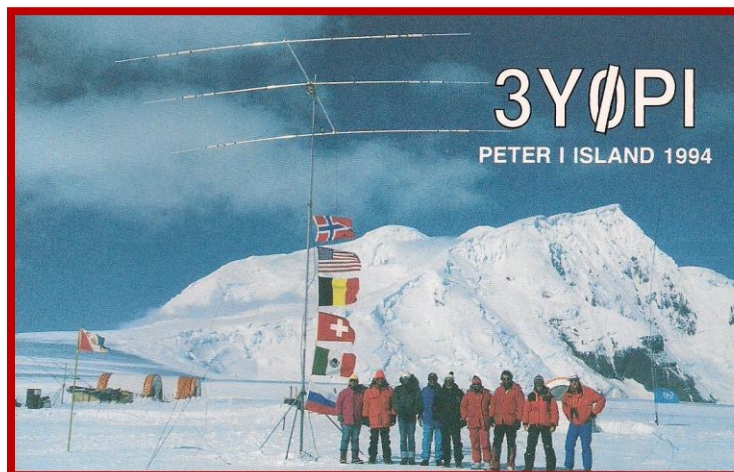
ARRL officials strongly believe that following the guidelines of local, state and national health care professionals will help ensure everyone's safety in the coming weeks and months.

Curious QSLs

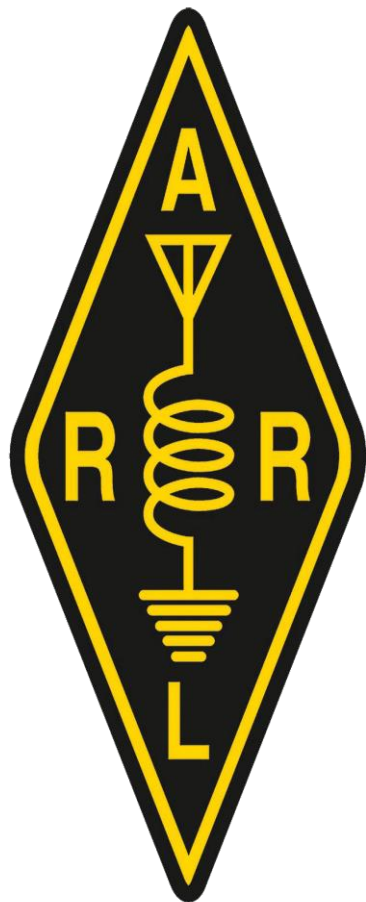
From his many decades in amateur radio, Mark Whatley – K5XH has amassed a respectable QSL card collection. Mark resides in Fayetteville and is one of the foremost hams in our area, as well as being one of the foremost RTTY hams in Arkansas and the U.S.! We asked Mark to share a couple of his more memorable QSLs for this month's issue of *The Signal*, along with his stories concerning the QSLs and why these particular cards in his collection are meaningful to him. Mark obliged us, and we're very appreciative that he did! THANKS MARK!

For our newcomers to the Club and to the hobby, let these QSL cards and the stories behind them be an inspiration to you to experience the excitement of working rare and exotic locations, so that one day soon you can share your cards and stories!

3YØPI-Peter I Island – Heard Island is a volcanic, frost covered island in the Antarctic region. It is among one of the most remote places on earth and, of course, uninhabited. Ham DXpedition teams go there, but not every often. Only three Peter I Island DXpeditions have occurred in the past 30 or so years: 1994, 2006, and 2016. So, the opportunity to work the island doesn't come around very often. Mark says he was shocked when he worked the team that year, as he was only running 100 watts with a wire antenna! ANYTHING is possible on ham radio!



3A2MW-Monaco – Mark worked Franco Lucioni who lives in Monte Carlo, Monaco several years ago. Mark told me, "This one is really special because I actually have a card from a country that K5DB doesn't have!" (LOL) Which is true..... If you ever hear Monaco on the bands, you'd better give it your best shot to work them because they're not on the air very much at all. Monaco is a tiny country at the base of a huge mountain on the southern coast of France, on the shores of the Mediterranean. It's tough for us in North America to hear them due its geographical location.



Why Join the 160,000+ Members of ARRL?

BVRC is an ARRL affiliated club with over half of the membership as members of the American Radio Relay League. However, we also have members who have not joined.

The yearly membership fee for the ARRL is \$49.99. This membership includes a subscription to QST, the icon publication of amateur radio which each month includes great articles about all facets of our hobby.

Along with QST being in your mailbox each month, as an ARRL member you will enjoy these great benefits:

- ON THE AIR – A digital subscription that is also available to members. On the Air is geared to new hams coming into the hobby with loads of articles to help get them started on the right foot.
- ARCHIVE and PERIODICAL SEARCH – Members have access to search for QST articles 1915-2011, and indexes for ARRL's QEX, NCJ, and Ham Radio publications.
- FREE LICENSE RENEWAL – When it comes time to renew or modify your license, ARRL will process your renewal/modification (if you wish to forego doing it yourself via the FCC Universal Licensing System) for free as a member.
- OUTGOING QSL SERVICE – If the need arises for you to exchange QSL cards with a foreign ham, as a member, ARRL can serve as your mail carrier and handle your overseas QSLing chores. *The savings in postage you accumulate through this service alone can pay your membership dues many times over.*
- YOUR LEGAL ADVOCATE - ARRL supports legislation in Washington, D.C. that preserves and protects access to existing amateur radio frequencies as a natural resource for the enjoyment of all hams. As a member, you contribute to the efforts to preserve our privileges.
- MANY OTHER BENEFITS – When you join ARRL you can avail yourself to becoming involved in a plethora of other activities that ARRL offers such as: continuing education, regulatory information branch, public relations, ARRL Field Organization, ARRL sponsored contests, operating awards, ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), hamfests and conventions, the VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) Program, and many other ARRL member features.

*If you haven't as yet, give it a try with a year's membership. – You'll be glad you did!
Ask any of the BVRC members who are also ARRL members!*

How to Prepare For an Emergency As A Ham Radio Operator



Getting acquainted with emergency organizations for ham radio is fine, but it's only a start. You need to take the necessary steps to prepare yourself so that when the time comes, you're ready to contribute. Preparation means making sure that you know four things:

- Who to work with
- Where to find EmComm groups on the air
- What gear to have on hand
- How to be of service



Who to work with for ham radio emergency aid

First, become familiar with the leaders in your ARRL section; then get acquainted with the local team leaders and members.

The call signs of the local clubs and stations operating from governmental emergency operations centers (EOC) are valuable to have at your fingertips in times of emergencies. The best way to get familiar with these call signs (and make your call sign familiar to them) is to

Checking in to weekly nets takes little time and reinforces your awareness of who else in your area is participating. If you have the time, attending meetings and other functions such as EOC open houses and work parties also helps members put faces with the call signs. Building personal relationships pays off when a real emergency comes along.



Before making up your go kit, consider what mission(s) you may be attempting. A personal checklist is a good starting point. You can find a generic checklist in the [ARES Field Resources Manual](#).

What goes into a go kit varies from ham to ham, but every kit should contain the following essentials:

- **Nonperishable food:** During an emergency, you won't know when your next meal will arrive. Remove the uncertainty by having your own food (the kind that doesn't require refrigeration). If you bring canned food, don't forget the can opener!
- **Appropriate clothing:** If you get too cold, you'll want a jacket nearby; if you get too hot, you'll want to exchange your current clothing for something more lightweight. Preparation allows flexibility.
- **Radios and equipment:** Don't forget to bring all the equipment you may need: radios, antennas, and power supplies. Make sure everything is lightweight, flexible, and easy to set up.
- **References:** You need lists of operating frequencies, as well as phone lists — a personal phone list and a list of emergency-related telephone numbers.



How to prepare your home for emergency communications on ham radio

You may not need a formal go kit if you operate from home, but you still need to prepare for emergencies such as an extended power outage or the failure of your main antenna.

Your primary concern is emergency power. Most modern radios aren't very battery friendly, drawing more than 1 amp even when they're just receiving. You'll need a generator to power them during any extended power outage. If you have a home generator, make sure that you can connect to it safely and that it can adequately power the AC circuits in your radio shack.

If you don't have a generator, you may be able to use another backup power source: Most radios with a DC power supply can run from an automobile battery. Getting power from your car to your radio isn't always easy, however. Decide which radios you want to operate from your car and investigate how you can power and connect an antenna to each of them.

How to be of service in emergency communications

Knowing the procedures to follow is the most important part of personal preparedness. Whatever your experience and background are, you have to know the specific details of working with your emergency organizations. If you don't, you won't be prepared to contribute when you show-up on the air from home or at a disaster site.



Do everyone a favor — including yourself — by spending a little time getting trained in the necessary procedures and techniques.

Your local EmComm organization has plenty of training opportunities and training nets for practice. Participating in public-service activities, such as acting as a race-course checkpoint in a fun run, bicycle race, or as a parade coordinator, is really good practice and it exercises your radio equipment as well.

(By the way, you'll make good friends at these exercises who can teach you a lot.)



LEARN CW IN 2020??

By Don – K5DB



Editor's note: This is a reprint from a Signal issue of about a year ago, but I would like to include it in this issue for our new hams that have joined BVRC since that time and possibly missed it.

So, for those of you who have previously seen it, please indulge me as I offer-up this second release about learning CW for our new ham members.

With the new digital modes coming-out, I am thoroughly enjoying one of them – FT8. But don't forget the mainstay modes of SSB, CW, and RTTY are still alive and well! Of course, CW testing is no longer required to obtain any of the amateur licenses in today's world, but there are many new hams who have still learned the code because of the sheer fun and enjoyment in using it. I learned it 51 years ago when I was 13 years old and I have loved it to this day. Perhaps you're one of the new hams who would like to do what I did, and take the plunge?

We're coming into May and you still have over half the year in making the learning of CW as one of your goals for 2020!

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.....at least that's what many thought!!!!

That was 13 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 on their own 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 "19" 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 sent 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.



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 planet we live on, persons who know and use the code are an *infinitesimally small* percentage. But second, how about the mode of CW itself? An article in the December 2013 issue of QST entitled, "How Much 'PUNCH' Can You Get from Different Modes" denotes some very interesting statistics.

The 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!

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 choose to do is talk thru FM repeaters (which is fine, of course!), there's 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, having loads of fun in making lots of QSOs in a contest, desiring to pursue the DXCC, WAS, WAC, etc. awards, or having a good ol' code ragchew, then CW will offer you great advantages and fun times over those who don't, or won't, use it.



So, let's say that up to now in this article, I have possibly "whetted your appetite" a little. 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 basics of 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...

Or better yet.....

Two *really excellent* sources in which you can enroll in *code classes* can be found at these links:

<https://longislandcwclub.org/>
<https://cwops.org/cw-academy/>

Either of these organizations are excellent choices to begin learning the code.



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 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.

You can view the Q-Signals list at this website:

<https://www.qsl.net/w5www/qcode.html>



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 FT8, RTTY, and PSK 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 or 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 really 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 simply lies in using the wrong method and/or not approaching learning the code with a positive mindset.

So, allow me to exhort you to consider learning CW as a goal for the remainder of 2020. 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 on-air code practice broadcasts or on-line code practice files that can be found on the ARRL website. Here are the links for the on-air schedule and the files:

<http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-qst-source>

<http://www.arrl.org/code-transmissions>

<http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-files>

ENJOY AND BEST WISHES IN LEARNING THE CODE!!!



ELMER 9-1-1 CAN HELP YOU!!!

This is an entry from the Elmer Forum on the BVRC website from Scott – KI5DJP:

Kudos to the 911 Elmers!

by KI5DJP » Fri Apr 17, 2020 5:04 pm

A couple of them have helped me in getting my CAT control cable settings setup on my radio and also how to use Fox and Hound in the FT8 contest mode.

Nice to have multiple Elmers!

If you need radio help, fill out the Elmer 911 contact forum. I received 4-5 emails in a couple of hours offering help. Each one held a piece of the puzzle to solve my issues.

73 to all, Scott

If you need help with just about any amateur radio issue or problem you're having, follow Scott's advice and click the Elmer 9-1-1 tab then complete the Elmer 9-1-1 form. You'll get help as quickly as possible from one or more of the 35 Elmers that we have standing by for you! *(Thanks for the kind words, Scott!)*

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