



THE SIGNAL

*Newsletter of the
Bella Vista Radio Club*



Instagram

February 2022



**Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m., Golden Corral, Rogers
2605 Pleasant Crossing Dr. (I-49, Exit 81)**

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 BVRC Weekly Net - Wednesdays @ 8 pm
- Wide Area Net - Wednesdays @ 9 pm on the
NWA Skywarn Linked System
 - Bentonville – 146.865, -offset, pl 103.5
 - Fayetteville – 147.315, +offset, pl 97.4
 - Huntsville – 443.625, +offset, pl 97.4
 - Green Forest – 146.310, -offset, pl 103.5

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

almarc11@yahoo.com

Public Information Officer

Open

Technical Officer

Tem Moore
N5KWL

temmoore@gmail.com

Repeater/Club Call Trustee

Glenn Kilpatrick
WB5L

wb5l@arrl.net

APPOINTED OFFICERS

ELMER 9-1-1

Vinson Carter
WV5C

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V E Testing

Don Cooper
KC7DC

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2-Meter Net Coordinator

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KG5SZQ

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Webmaster

Glenn Kilpatrick
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SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Clara Orvin
KI5HTX

orvinkids@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Don Banta
K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com

NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, February 3, 2022 @ 7pm
(Optional: Arrive 5:30-6 for meal preceding meeting)
GOLDEN CORRAL
2605 Pleasant Crossing Drive
(I-49, Exit 81)
Rogers, AR

FEBRUARY MEETING

BVRC VICE-PRESIDENT DON BANTA - K5DB, WILL TAKE THE PODIUM FOR OUR FEBRUARY MEETING, WITH A TOPIC THAT WILL ESPECIALLY INTRODUCE ANOTHER INTERESTING AND EXCITING ASPECT OF AMATEUR RADIO TO OUR NEWCOMERS TO THE HOBBY, "COMPETITIVE OPERATING 101".

DON WAS FIRST LICENSED IN 1969 WHEN HE ACQUIRED HIS NOVICE LICENSE WITH THE CALLSIGN WN5ZKE. HE HAS BEEN A HAM FOR 52 YEARS, AND THIS TOPIC HAS BEEN ONE OF HIS HAM PASSIONS FOR DECADES.

COMPETITIVE OPERATING HAS TAKEN HIM TO MANY PLACES AND ALLOWED HIM TO FORM CAMARADERIE WITH MANY WONDERFUL HAM OPERATORS OVER THE YEARS, WHICH HE WILL SHARE WITH YOU. YOU WILL FIND OUT THAT COMPETITIVE OPERATING IS NOT JUST CONTESTING...IT ALSO IS COMPETING WITH YOURSELF TO ACHIEVE NEW RADIO GOALS AND MAKE A BETTER QUALITY OPERATOR OUT OF YOU.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

BVRC KICKS-OFF 2022 WITH EXCELLENT PROGRAM ON NWA SKYWARN SYSTEM

Members of Bella Vista Radio Club were treated to the inaugural program for 2022, presented by BVRC club member Jon Williams – K5DVT from Huntsville. Jon is currently a junior at the University of Arkansas, majoring in Electrical Engineering. He is also the current President of the Amateur Radio Club of the University of Arkansas, club call W5YM. John began his radio experience in 2012, when his



call was KF5OQE. Shortly before he passed his General license exam, he acquired his grandfather's callsign, K5DVT. He now holds an Amateur Extra license.

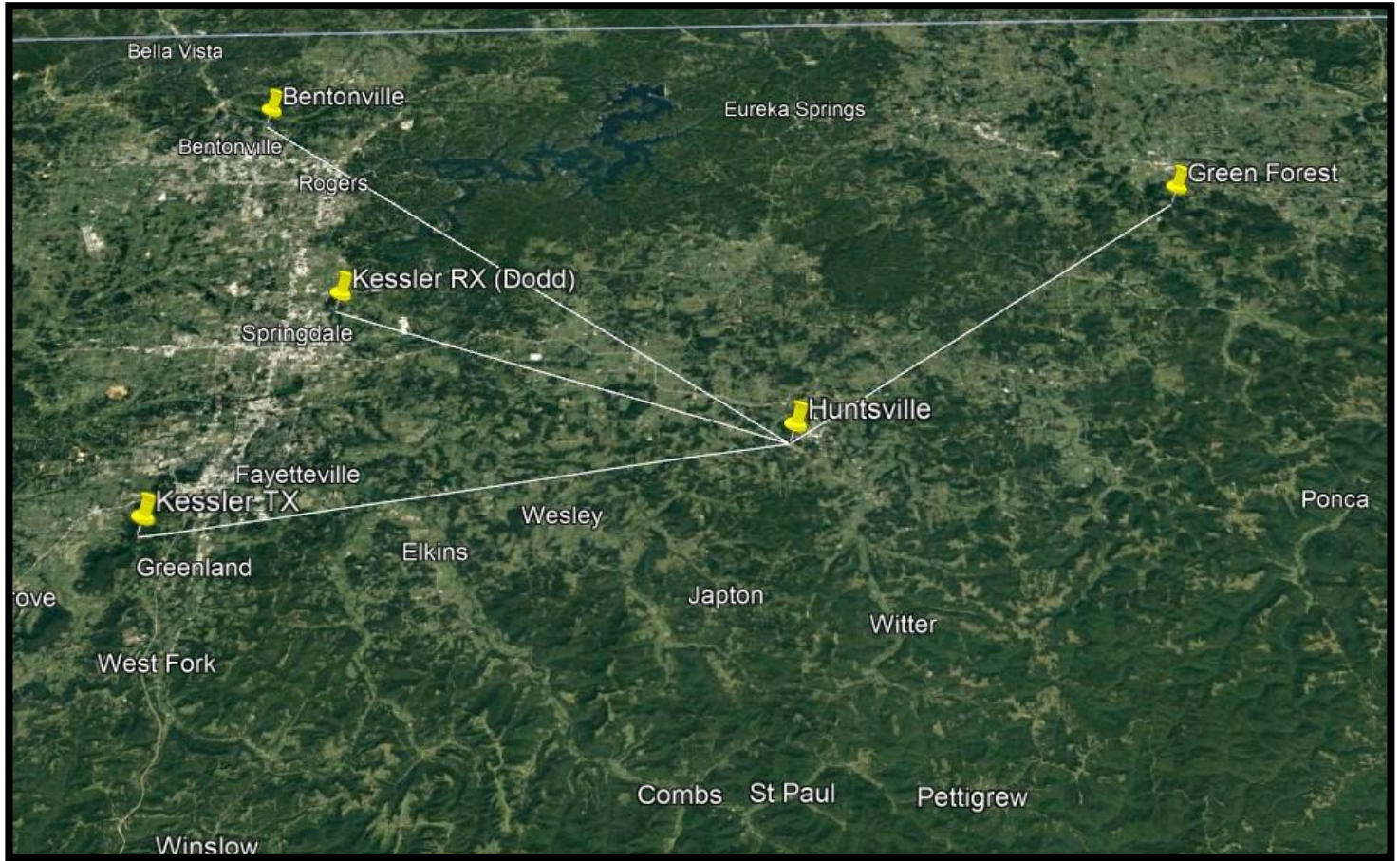
Over the years, Jon has become very engaged and knowledgeable in repeater operation and maintenance, which recently has culminated in him building, installing, configuring, and maintaining the Northwest Arkansas Skywarn Link System, which was the focus on his program for the January '22 meeting.

Jon first gave a brief history of repeaters in Arkansas – In 1974, there were 2. Today, in 2022, there are 344.

Jon first gave the Club a visual tour of the Mt. Kessler repeater site (147.315). He augmented the point that low SWR is, of course, desirable no matter the band or frequency concerned. But in repeater

operation, good performance depends not necessarily on low SWR, but low signal return loss.

He then proceeded describing the Dodd Mountain repeater. Jon said that for the time being and due to extenuating circumstances, when operating on the NWASRS and using the Kessler repeater, your transmit signal is received at Dodd Mountain and repeated through the Kessler machine.



At the Huntsville repeater site of the NWASRS, Jon told us that this was the first repeater that he put-up on his own in 2015. Its elevation is excellent, and he showed us a photo of the spectacular view from the top of the repeater tower.

He then proceeded to the Green Forest repeater (146.310), giving us a brief history of his experiences there, both solo and with Tem Moore – N5KWL.

Jon's tour of the NWASRS, concluded with the Bentonville repeater site, and recent history of the happenings there. Bentonville canvases the northern region of the link system coverage area.

Jon then related the process for acquiring authorization to construct a repeater site and get it on the air. This process must be approved by the Arkansas Repeater Council.

THANKS, JON, FOR AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM! WE APPRECIATE YOU!



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The new year has been a time of reflecting upon 2021 and looking forward to the possibilities and opportunities for the Bella Vista Radio Club in 2022.

I thought that BVRC should offer free lifetime memberships to members who have reached a certain age. We settled on a number that is familiar to all of us – 73!

I also asked Don – K5DB about the possibility of sending out yearly membership certificates. He agreed and immediately created a certificate. He then sent it to me and Marc – WØKYZ for our input. Marc suggested having a separate design for our life members. So, the final versions were a collaborative effort. BVRC now has an annual membership certificate that will be sent out yearly and a life membership certificate. VFB, gentlemen!

BVRC now has 2 VE testing sites (Bella Vista and Springdale). This will give testing candidates an opportunity to test at a location closer to their QTH. Don – KC7DC will continue to oversee the program as BVRC VE coordinator. Thanks to Don and the loyal VEs!

With the passing of Paul Dixon – K5YH, BVRC not only lost a great friend but also the coordinator of its Elmer 911 program (the program was Paul's brainchild and innovated by him). I am pleased to report that Vinson – WV5C has agreed to be the new coordinator. BVRC appreciates you, Vinson!

The club has also begun a BVRC Loaner/Donor Program, and you can view more information on the new program on page 15 of this newsletter.

FIELD DAY June 25-26, 2022 - This can (and should) be the most exciting, rewarding, bonding, and exhausting (but loads of fun) amateur radio event of the year. Let's make this happen! I have already reserved *Metfield Skills Park* in Bella Vista for that weekend.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome, valued, and appreciated. Contact me at w5xna@arrl.net or any of the other club officers. The Bella Vista Radio Club exists to serve amateur radio operators and the community.

73, and thanks for your membership!

Tom - W5XNA

BVRC INTRODUCES NEW LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!



Brand new for 2022: If you are 73 years of age or older you now qualify for BVRC's new Lifetime Membership. Contact BVRC Treasurer Marc – WØKYZ either at a club meeting or via e-mail almarc11@yahoo.com, and advise him that you have reached your 73rd birthday. From that time forward, your membership in BVRC **FREE**. Shortly after, you will receive a handsome Life Membership certificate via e-mail attachment, suitable for printing and framing.

Year #4 Begins for

THE SIGNAL



I would like to take this opportunity to thank BVRC for the privilege they accorded me three years ago to become Editor of the club's first official newsletter.

We now begin our 4th year in assembling a newsletter each month for you – our esteemed members – that hopefully brings useful information to you, Club news and features, some entertainment, and perhaps a grin from time to time. In this anniversary issue for Year 4, (and the return of The Signal from a 14-month hiatus) you'll find it jam-packed for you with extra features and informational articles.

Thanks so very much to the many of you who have sent e-mails to me and given me on-air 'kudos' in the past advising how much you enjoy The Signal. We sincerely appreciate your kind words.

However!!! – The most exciting aspect of this project for me is always when a Club member submits material to include in an issue. Club members enjoy nothing better than to read stories and articles authored by other club members! Please feel free to send me any ham radio write-up that you would like to share..... anytime!

As we begin our 4th year, we will endeavor to maintain quality features, information, and stories for you about our great club and our great hobby.

Vy 73! – Don, K5DB

ATTENTION NEWCOMER HAMS!

GET READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SSB ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP!!!

The ARRL Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at amateurs who have been licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April for SSB, August for RTTY, and December for CW).

The Rookie Roundup for SSB (microphone) this year is on April 10, 2022.

As we do for each year, several of our BVRC experienced operators will be welcoming you into their shacks to host this event. If you presently do not have HF privileges and/or do not have an HF station, you can still operate from one of the experienced operator's locations and enjoy & learn the fun world of HF! You will also learn the fun of logging contacts. (The experienced operator will be there as a Coach and control operator for you, but they are not allowed to operate or log...YOU will do the operating!)

You will be using a callsign chosen by your control operator, but if your station wins in one of the categories, you will win a certificate with your callsign on it:



If you were first licensed any of the years 2019-2022 – no matter which class of license you hold – you are eligible to participate! Several new BVRC hams have already signed-up for this fun event!

Our coaches for this year will be:

Don Cooper-KC7DC

Mark Whatley-K5XH

Glenn Kilpatrick-WB5L

Tom Northfell-W5XNA

Don Banta-K5DB

If you would like some real ham radio experience and fun, get on the sign-up list today! To sign-up, send an e-mail indicating your interest to participate to:

Don Banta – K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com

See you April 10!

Silent Keys In Memoriam

SINCE THE SIGNAL'S HIATUS IN OCTOBER OF 2020, WE HAVE LOST SEVERAL BVRC MEMBERS NEAR AND DEAR TO US. WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER AND SALUTE THESE FINE HAMS THAT MADE MANY OF OUR LIVES HAPPIER AND ENJOYABLE.

Paul Dixon – K5YH



Paul was known for many, many years as KK5II, and changed to Extra Class call K5YH a few years before his passing. Paul was BVRC's Elmer 9-1-1 Chairperson and was instrumental in creating the department. Paul was the ham's ham. The best description of Paul was one of a *giver* and *helper*. He was always there when needed for just about anything – helping others with antenna/tower problems, VE testing, Field Day, portable operations, equipment donating to new hams, and the list is endless. Paul served in the Air Force as an electrical engineer working on communication towers during the Vietnam War in the Philippines and Germany. He was always cordial and always had a cheery disposition. He passed away May 20, 2021. He will be sorely missed by all those who knew him. RIP, Paul.

Steve Vandiver – AF5YM



Steve was a graduate of Canadian High School, United Electronics Institute, and West Texas A&M University where he earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees. He subsequently graduated from the FBI Academy and earned a US Department of Justice management certificate from the University of Southern California. He was admitted into a doctoral program at the University of Southern California.

During the Cold War, Steve specialized in Soviet matters and led a national multi-organizational foreign counterintelligence effort. Steve served as a Supervisory Special Agent of the FBI at organization headquarters in Washington, DC, lectured at the FBI Academy in Quantico, and at other US Intelligence Community schools.

He presented a fine program to BVRC in April, 2018 on Electromagnetic Pulse. He could always be heard on the 75-meter Sunday afternoon Roundtable, and always had great comments for the group. Steve passed away on Oct. 12, 2021. We will miss you, Steve.

Dan Lewis – W5CG



Dan proudly served his country for 20 years in the US Coast Guard as a radio airman. During his service, Dan moved his family to many interesting places, including Annette Island Alaska where he spent a year and a half in semi-isolated duty. While stationed in Memphis Tennessee he worked as an instructor for airman apprentice. Dan was also involved in reconnaissance missions during the Cuban Missile crisis while stationed in Florida. After his retirement from the Coast Guard, he moved his family to Fayetteville Arkansas. He attended the University of Arkansas where he earned his business degree. Dan was an avid enthusiast of all things related to technology, whether it was tinkering with his home computer or building his own ham radio. He passed away on July 12, 2021. RIP, Dan

BURC VE REPORT

from Don Cooper, KC7DC – BVRC VE Chair

January 8, 2022



Congratulations!

Dana Widboom – KI5TGY – Bella Vista – New Technician!

Andrew French – KI5TGZ – Decatur – New Technician!

Brian Strode – KI5SYT – West Fork – New General!

Test sessions are conducted each 2nd Saturday of the month, 2 pm, at:

•Bella Vista Fire Department Station #1, 103 Towncenter, Bella Vista AR
and

•Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, 118 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale AR

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



LOOKING FOR REMOTE TUNER

I am looking for a "remote tuner" the kind that is mounted on the antenna mast. I have been playing with slot antennas and have been impressed with the "Delta Slot antenna". I have made a couple of mono-banders and I next want to build an all-band Double Delta Slot antenna, which will require a mast mounted tuner.

The older remote tuners have a better reputation than the newer autotune models from MFJ. Most of the other new remote tuners are built to work with one specific Raio brand and model. That is why I am looking for an older model. I have found 1 or 2 on swap.qrz.com and have bought gear from that board before and had good luck. However, I would feel much better about buying one local so I can eyeball it before I drop the kind of cash these things sell for.

For anyone wanting to get in touch with me, please e-mail me at:

ki5duv@artcrossroads.net

Thanks, Bonner – KI5DUV



SKYWARN
WEATHER.GOV®

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning cause hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters nationwide. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Since its inception in the 1970s, SKYWARN® spotters, in addition to Doppler radar and improved satellite and computer model data, have enabled the National Weather Service to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. There can be no finer reward than to know that your efforts have given your family and neighbors the precious gift of time – minutes that can help save lives.

The NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, ham radio operators, EMS workers, public utility workers, and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are encouraged to become a spotter. Training is free and typically lasts about 2 hours. You'll learn the basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, the information to report and how to report it, and basic severe weather safety. If you would like to learn how to be a SKYWARN® storm spotter, you can enroll in a storm spotter class. The class lasts approximately 2 hours and is VERY interesting and informative.

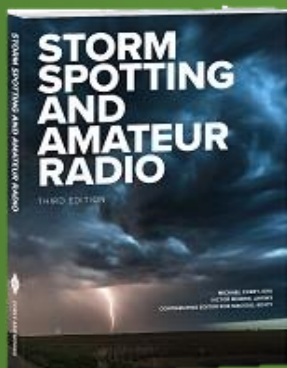
Spotter classes usually convene during the spring season at different venues in the NW Arkansas region, ***however due to continued Covid precautions, this year's class will be online.*** To enroll in the training class and become a storm spotter, use this link: <https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education/training/course/23> . Good luck on your training and have fun while learning how to be a successful spotter!

Remember:

“It's not the class of license that the amateur holds – but the class of amateur that holds the license.”

ADDITIONAL STORM SPOTTING RESOURCE

If you do decide to take the online NWS Storm Spotting course as described in the article on the preceding page, here is an additional and excellent resource that you can use and add to your amateur radio library:



Written by Michael Corey – K11U and Victor Morris – AH6WX, this book will supply you with all the information you need from the *practical* ham operator's point of view, the "brass tacks" of storm spotting. The book was first released in 2020 and is already in its 3rd edition. You will gain a plethora of information and knowledge to make you a first-class storm spotter.

This publication normally sells for \$22.95, but if you're an ARRL member, it is available for three dollars off, \$19.95. To order, use this link:

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/Storm-Spotting-and-Amateur-Radio-3rd-Edition/>

BVRC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

If you have a 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 VE TESTING EXPANDS



BVRC Chairman Don Cooper – KC7DC would like to announce the expansion of the BVRC VE testing team.

The testing schedule will remain the same – the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2 pm – with the addition of a 2nd testing team.

The two teams will be:

- BVRC VE Testing – Benton County
- BVRC VE Testing – Washington County

The two teams will conduct test sessions simultaneously on those respective Saturdays each month.

The purpose of this step forward is to facilitate and add convenience to testing candidates from the southern region of BVRC's coverage area, in that they will not have to travel the greater distance to Bella Vista to test. This should result in BVRC being able to help more persons in testing, in addition to introducing them to BVRC.

The two testing locations will be:

BENTON COUNTY

Bella Vista Fire Station #1

103 Towncenter

Bella Vista, AR

Testing team:

Don Cooper – KC7DC

Ryan Wolfe – KEØCZQ

Jessie Costulis – KG5YJV

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

118 W. Johnson Avenue

Springdale, AR

Testing team:

Vinson Carter – WV5C

Mark Whatley – K5XH

Tom Northfell – W5XNA

Don Banta – K5DB

Special note to all our members:

BVRC is always in need of additional Volunteer Examiners for amateur radio license testing. If you're interested in helping the Club as a VE, contact Chairman Don – KC7DC, at his e-mail address don_c@hotmail.com. Don will supply you with the information on how to become a Volunteer Examiner, after which you can pursue being certified, join the BVRC VE team, and begin helping others in testing to obtain their amateur license (like the VEs that helped us!).

BVRC ANNOUNCES LOANER / DONOR PROGRAM

Tomorrow is the Arkansas QSO Party, and your transceiver won't turn on or the power supply is dead. I am sure one of the BVRC Elmers could help, but what if it needs to go back to the manufacturer? You could still work the contest if you could quickly find a backup.

What if you just upgraded to General and you want to purchase a rig, but undecided on which make, model, and features you want. What if you could "test drive" a rig for a few months to make a more informed decision while getting the feel for the HF bands?

One of the many benefits of being a member of an amateur radio club is the opportunity to be an Elmer or receive advice and help from an Elmer. BVRC has instituted a new club feature called The Loaner/Donor Program. This is an opportunity for members to "pay it forward" by donating equipment to the club. Under this program, members would have the opportunity to borrow an item or two for a specific period of time (similar to how libraries operate).

Helping our membership get and stay on the air is one of the missions of BVRC. We believe that this program would help our members do just that. BVRC already has several pieces of equipment ready to loan out. The current list appears below. Contact Tom-W5XNA or Don-K5DB if you would like to check-out an item:

(Items in Red are on loanout)

TYPE	MAKE	MODEL
2M Transceiver	Azden	PCS-4000
Antenna Analyzer	MFJ	MFJ-259B
Circular Polarized Yagi	Unknown	Unknown
CW - Audio CD Learn Code - 1	ARRL	2 CDs
CW - Audio CD Learn Code - 2	ARRL	2 CDs
Dual Band Transceiver	Kenwood	TM-D700A
Dual Band Vertical Antenna	Diamond	X50NA

TYPE	MAKE	MODEL
HF Transceiver	Kenwood	TS440-S
HF Transceiver	Kenwood	TS-430S
Iambic CW Paddle	Benchner	BY-2
Packet Communicator	Kantronics	3 Plus
Power Supply	Astron	RS 12A
Power Supply	Astron	SS-30M
Power Supply	Astron	RS 12 A
Variety of Tools		



TO ALL NEW MEMBERS OF BELLA VISTA RADIO CLUB:

Are you an ARRL Member?

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 \$49.00. This membership includes a subscription to QST, the icon pub-

location of amateur radio, which each month includes great articles about all facets of our hobby.

Along with QST coming to 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 joined 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! To see all the benefits of being an ARRL member, and to apply for membership, use this link:

<http://www.arrl.org/membership> .

VINSON CARTER - WV5C IS NAMED BVRC'S NEW ELMER 9-1-1 CHAIR

BVRC is happy and pleased to announce the appointment of Vinson Carter, WV5C, as Bella Vista Radio Club's new *ELMER 9-1-1* Chairperson!



Vinson is a Northwest Arkansas native. He has always been curious about amateur radio. He also enjoys other hobbies such as playing music, electronics, and making/tinkering. In early 2019, he read a report that piqued his interest concerning the upcoming FCC import ban on Baofeng UV-5R radios. He immediately bought a couple of them and quickly realized that he wanted to learn how to actually use them. He had mentioned getting a ham license to his brother-in-law, Jere (W5JRO), and convinced him to begin studying with a goal of taking the test that summer. Vinson and Jere both received their Technician tickets in July of 2019. Vinson's first call sign was KI5FPC, and he immediately applied for a vanity call - K5VCA. Vinson passed his General in January of 2019 and then his Amateur Extra in June 2020. He acquired the vanity WV5C in April 2021.

Vinson enjoys participating in local nets and has enjoyed having the opportunity to serve in the net control station rotation for the BVRC Wide-Area-Net for the past two years. He loves contesting and the friendships he has made with the many members of BVRC. Vinson is always looking forward to learning more about this great hobby.

If you don't know Vinson as yet, check him out in the newest video on the BVRC YouTube Channel, as he works a big pileup of stations during the N5A Special Event Station last year, commemorating the 185th Anniversary of Arkansas statehood. Click [here](#) to see the video.

Congratulations Vinson and thank you!!!



Listening to Multiple SDRs

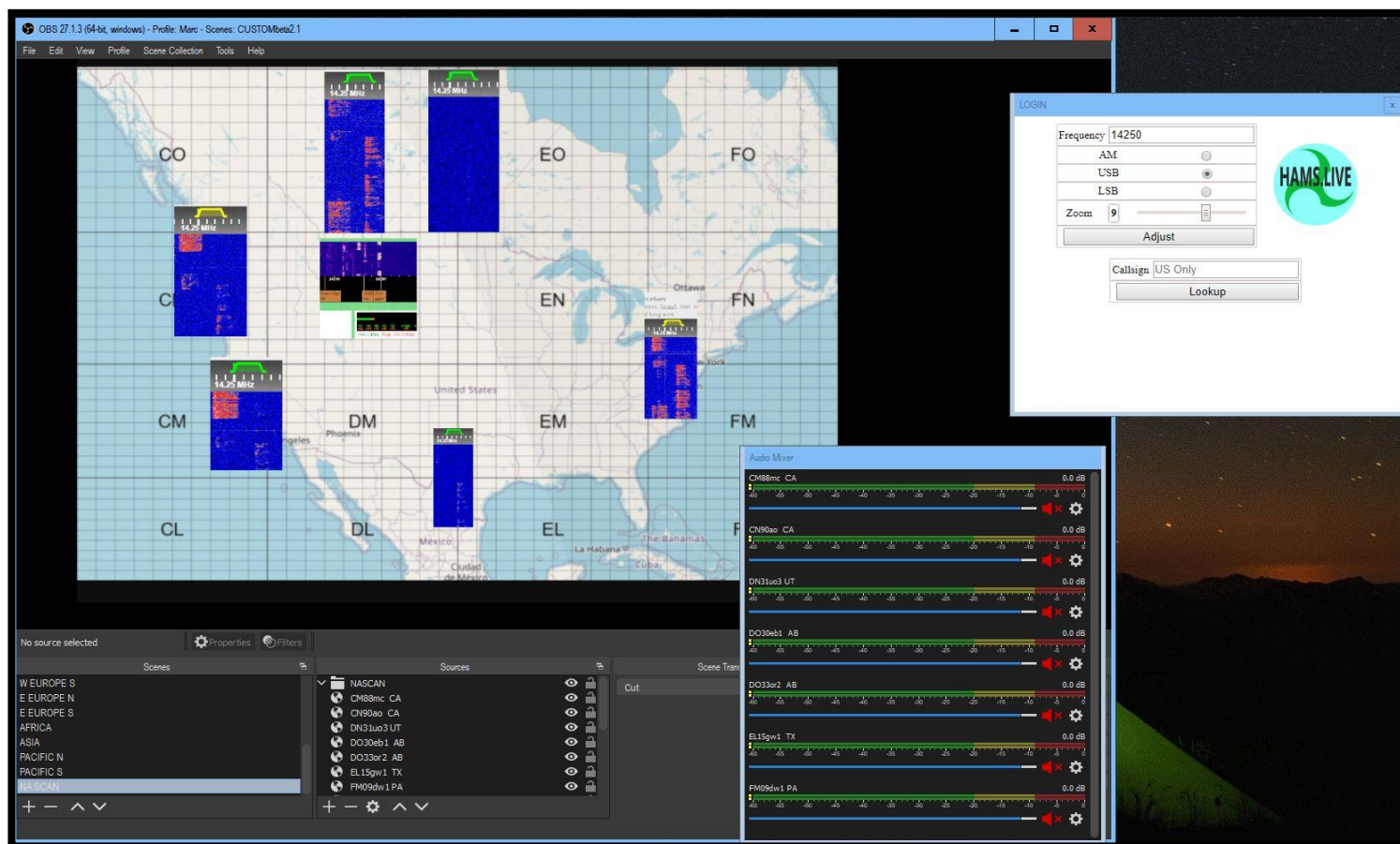
By Mark Whatley - WØKYZ

As you know, there are numerous software defined radio (SDR) listening stations all over the US as well as around the world. These can be accessed through a web browser. You have access to a radio control panel so you can select bands, adjust volume, and tune around as well as selecting the mode (USB/LSB, AM, etc). Most functions available on HF radios are present. They all have a waterfall displays so you can find signals quickly. Using a web browser works well if you happen to only need one SDR to hear the station(s) you can't hear directly. If, however, you need more than one SDR to hear all stations in a group (say a net), then using a web browser becomes somewhat cumbersome. It takes multiple key clicks to select the window you don't want to hear, mute that station, select the tab of the station you do want to hear, and then un-mute that station. Each SDR needs to be placed in the same frequency and mode. By the time you do all that, you will likely miss some of the transmission you are trying to hear. If you have more than 2 SDRs running, it gets even worse.

I have been running the Propagation Group roundtable on 17 meters for some time. On this band, it is very common for many stations to not hear all the others. I personally hate dead air. As luck would have it, we have a relatively new addition to the group (Robert, W5IUA, Springfield, MO) that is working on a solution to this that performs quite well. With this you can have as many SDRs running as you like and easily select which station you want to monitor using a simple audio control panel. A typical screen shot is shown. Robert is developing "HAMSLIVE" using a program called

(Continued next page)

"OBS Studio" that allows this. After you start OBS and login to "HAMSLIVE" you enter the frequency and mode, and it will start all the SDRs associated with whatever "Scene Selection" you have. A "Scene Selection" is a group of SDRs that you have previously collected that works for whatever group or net you may check into. To unmute a given SDR, you just click the red speaker in the audio control panel to listen. Robert has a bunch of Scenes already setup that he can send you to get you up and running quickly.



There is a learning curve to be able to set this all up and the OBS program takes some getting used to. Robert has a programmer working and will be issuing more complete instructions on how to set this all up in the near future. But if you want to give it a try, check out his QRZ page or visit <https://hams.live> . After registering there, send him an email to w5iua@hams.live first so he can approve your login ID to HAMSLIVE. At the moment it is all free, but there will be a small annual subscription fee after finishing the system that is still in development.

73 – Marc, WØKYZ

Hear ye, hear ye..... The Russellville Hamfest has been canceled



*From John Evans – WB5BHS,
of the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation in Russellville:*

The Russellville Hamfest scheduled for March 5th, 2022, has been canceled. The Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation is working towards having an outdoor tailgate or swap meet in the fall.

The daily number of new COVID-19 cases are on the rise every day. Many venue owners and operators are cautious about future bookings and engagements. Facility managers are in the "Wait and See" mode for their decisions.

This decision was not made lightly. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19, this was the only prudent decision that could have been made. Other amateur radio related events have already started canceling their 2022 plans. The latest was the International DX Association Convention in Visalia, California.

We are very sorry for any inconvenience.



BUY — SELL — TRADE

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, you can by joining the BVRC forums on the BVRC website, then list your item in the Classified Forums section. To register for the forums, contact Glenn – WB5L: wb5l@arrl.net. You can also send your information to Don – K5DB at: arsk5db@gmail.com for inclusion in the 'Equipment Corner' column of the next issue of The Signal.

DON'T FORGET OUR VHF/UHF WEEKLY NETS!

BELLA VISTA RADIO CLUB WEEKLY 2-METER NET

The BVRC weekly 2-meter net meets each Wednesday evening at 8pm local time on 147.255 / pl tone 162.2. You do NOT have to be a BVRC member to participate. All licensed amateurs are welcome to join us for on-the-air fellowship and good discussions. This is an excellent way for all new hams to become accustomed to operating protocol and procedure, and gain experience in operating through a repeater. Join-in on the fun!

WIDE-AREA NET

The Wide-Area Net meets each Wednesday evening at 9pm local time on the NW Arkansas Skywarn Linked System. All licensed operators in the NW Arkansas/SW Missouri/NE Oklahoma area have a standing invitation to join-in on great discussion topics, announcements of upcoming events, good ol' VHF/UHF fun, and sometimes very useful information. Hams from all over the area participate in this Net, and a good time is experienced by all each week. **NEW HAMPS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!** You can access the Linked System through any of 4 repeaters. (The list of the repeaters used in the Linked System are on page 1 of this issue of The Signal.) See you then!



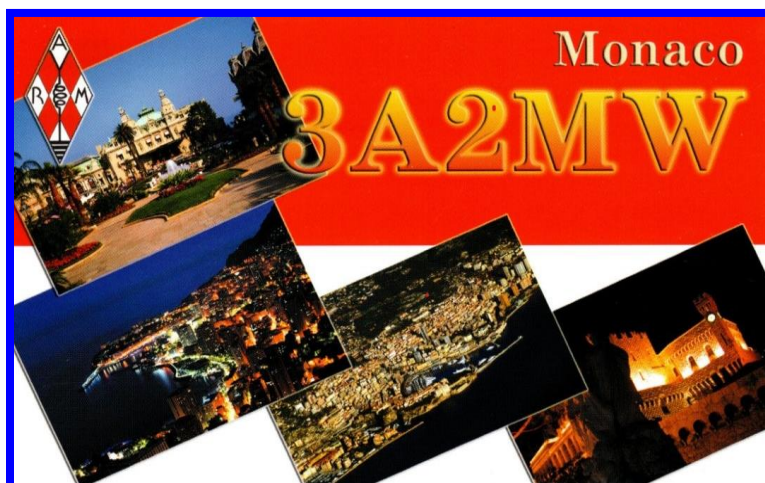
Quirious QSLs

Quirious QSLs is a monthly feature column of the signal. Each month, a BVRC member shares a couple of their QSL cards that are memorable or denote a special memory to them.

If you would like to share a one of your QSLs and accompanying story with the rest of the BVRC members, send a .jpg file of your card , along with a short story to Don-K5DB at: arsk5db@gmail.com

For this month, BVRC member Mark Whatley – K5XH has contributed two very interesting QSL cards:

3A, Monaco – Monaco is a sovereign city-state that lies on the French Riviera and is bordered by France on the north, east, and west. The principality's population is 38,682 residents, which makes its ham population VERY small. Thus, it is fairly rare to work on the ham bands, and most of the time difficult to contact as it has towering cliffs to its west and north, making signal propagation difficult most of the time. But it wasn't difficult for Mark on Mar. 1, 2016, when he worked Franco – 3A2MW on 20-meters CW. Mark is always 'ribbing' your Signal editor about this QSO/QSL and reminding him, "This is one country I have, that you don't." (Ha)



KH7, Baker Island – The DXpedition team that travelled to Baker in 2018 was commemorating the 81st anniversary of Amelia Earhart's disappearance on July 2, 1937, near Baker & Howland Islands. Baker Island lies about 1,920 miles southwest of Honolulu. It is a pinprick in the Pacific ocean, only covering less than a square mile, with a total coastline of 3 miles. Howland Island is its nearest neighbor, 42 miles to the northwest. It is very rare to contact, as it is uninhabited. It currently ranks #31 on the Most Wanted List. Mark made 3 QSOs with the team during late June and early July in 2018. He worked them once each on CW, FT8, and RTTY.

FIELD DAY 2022

COMING SOON



Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years have once again passed, and we have collected lasting memories of family and friends which will be with us forever.

The Winter Solstice has also come and gone. What does that mean to the dedicated ham? It means the days are once again getting longer and nights shorter. And yes, we still might have to endure some rough shots of winter, but *IT'S TIME TO PREPARE.*

Prepare for what? For the biggest annual event in amateur radio. Yes, before you know it, it will be here: FIELD DAY 2022. In only about 5 months, "CQ FIELD DAY" will once again fill the airwaves, June 25-26.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW
TO PARTICIPATE WITH BELLA
VISTA RADIO CLUB FOR
FIELD DAY 2022!!!**

Start thinking now about how you would like to be a part of this awesome event. Would you like to help with site set-up (exciting!) or take-down? Radios, antennas, power sources, accessories, etc. are all a part of the plan. Do you plan to operate SSB, CW, Digital?

Remember this is largest amateur radio event in the United States and it only happens once a year, so plan on coming and staying for a good length of time. With the station activity, visiting with other hams, and just enjoying the "World of Field Day", the time will fly, and you will have a ball!

If you plan to participate this year with BVRC and would like to lend a helping hand when the 4th weekend in June rolls around, watch for more information on the BVRC website and in *THE SIGNAL*. And, of course, FD coordinating plans will be discussed at future BVRC monthly meetings as FD weekend nears.

Prepare now!!!

Field Day cometh!!!

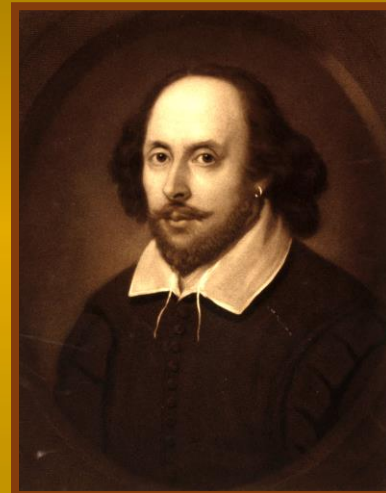


WELCOME NEW BVRC MEMBERS!

Jan Hagan
WB5JAN
Bella Vista

Dana Widboom
KI5TGY
Bella Vista

You don't have to be a writer or author like William "Bill" Shakespeare in order to write an article for The Signal. — In fact, we prefer articles without the words "thy", "whilst", "'tis" and "oft".



Working on a new kit or homebrew project? Have you recently received a rare or interesting QSL card? Or just have a cool photo (ham radio related) and/or some comments to share with other club members? Maybe you have acquired a new piece of equipment, or constructed a new antenna? Taken a trip focused around ham radio to share an amateur radio related experience? Why not write an article for The Signal? The article can be short or long, simple or elaborate. We're always looking for material for the BVRC newsletter and feedback from our readers goes a long way toward keeping the newsletter interesting. So why not give it try? Write an article and send it to the newsletter editor, and we'll get it in there! It's fun, and at the same time your contribution helps support BVRC and our hobby! Articles can be submitted electronically or on paper, whichever way you feel most comfortable with. Please include pictures too!!! As The Signal editor, I *particularly* look forward to putting a new issue together when I have material submitted by our club members. Hope to hear from you soon & 73!

(Send it in!)

I DON'T ALWAYS
NEED HELP
WITH HAM RADIO.....

BUT WHEN I
DO, I ASK

BVRC



Submit your material to:

Via e-mail: arsk5db@gmail.com

Via regular mail: Don Banta, K5DB
3407 Diana St.
Springdale, AR 72764

EMBROIDERED MEMORIES IS THE OFFICIAL SUPPLIER FOR ALL YOUR BVRC GEAR

John Robinson – W5HB, is not only one of BVRC's valued members, he's not only a great net controller on the Wednesday evening Wide Area Net, but he is also our supplier of BVRC merchandise. John and his XYL, Kim – KD5TVX, own and operate Embroidered Memories© which embroiders and prints products for individuals, businesses, clubs, schools, sports teams, and various organizations all over the world. They also have personalized products that ship every day.

And they really excel in amateur radio accoutrements: Callsign hats and visors, EmComm and Skywarn hats and visors, shirts, callsign etched glass blocks, metal tumblers, coffee mugs, amateur radio patches, **name badges (be sure and order your own BVRC name badge!)**, license plates, and many other items.

Embroidered Memories

Providing professional embroidery and printing services for every need

Click on the links below:

- Monogramming
- Monogrammed Hats & Visors
- Baby and Children's Items
- Holiday Items
- Wedding & Anniversary Items
- Business Logos & Uniforms
- Fishing Hats
- Blank Hats
- Patches

About Us

Embroidered Memories was formed in October of 2010 after Kim and John discovered that their custom embroidery and digitizing services were becoming ever increasingly popular.

Embroidered Memories embroiders and prints products for: individuals, businesses, clubs, schools, sports teams, and various organizations all over the world. We ship our personalized products out daily.

Our customers include: Boutiques, Amateur Radio operators and clubs, county fairs, 4-H clubs, construction businesses, oil field businesses, boy

We have asked John to be one of our program presenters at a future Club meeting, but in the meantime, be sure and visit their website to view all the great items that John now has available for BVRC. The URL for the website is: http://www.embroideredmemories.net/em_002.htm .

REMINDER: DON'T FORGET TO AVAIL YOURSELF OF THE MANY RESOURCES ON OUR GREAT BVRC WEBSITE!

GLENN KILPATRICK – WB5L, WEBMASTER



✱ **MEETING INFO**

✱ **DX INFO**

✱ **SIGNAL N/L ARCHIVES**

✱ **CONTEST INFO**

✱ **VE TESTING INFO**

✱ **EVENTS INFO**

✱ **AREA EVENT CALENDAR**

✱ **ELMER 9-1-1 HELP**

✱ **AREA NET INFO**

✱ **FORUMS**



**FIELD
DAY
2022**



Job Posting: BVRC Field Day Chair

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 25-26, 2022.

Details: The Chair will organize and oversee individual Station Captains for 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 Chairperson you will have an experienced and willing team of Club members 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 to BVRC President Tom Northfell – W5XNA at: w5xna@arri.net or Vice-President Don Banta – K5DB at arsk5db@gmail.com .

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A reminder for everyone wanting to keep their BVRC memberships current for the coming year, club dues can be paid in person at the monthly meetings, cash or personal check via snail mail to the club treasurer Marc-WØKYZ, or via PayPal by using Marc's e-mail address: almarc11@yahoo.com. *Dues should be paid by March 31.*

Also remember that BVRC memberships are "family memberships," to include all other licensed family members living under the same roof, at no additional charge.

In addition, BVRC lifetime memberships are now available to any ham operator 73 years or older. Just advise Treasurer Marc via e-mail or in person at one of the BVRC meetings that you have reached 73 years of age. From that time forward, your membership to BVRC is free.

If you wish to pay in person at the meeting, please see BVRC Treasurer Marc - WØKYZ to make sure he has you noted on his membership roster when you pay.

Additional information is included on the club membership web pages. For further information, check this web address:

<https://bellavistaradioclub.org/membership/>



THE LARGEST
AND FASTEST GROWING
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
IN ARKANSAS!

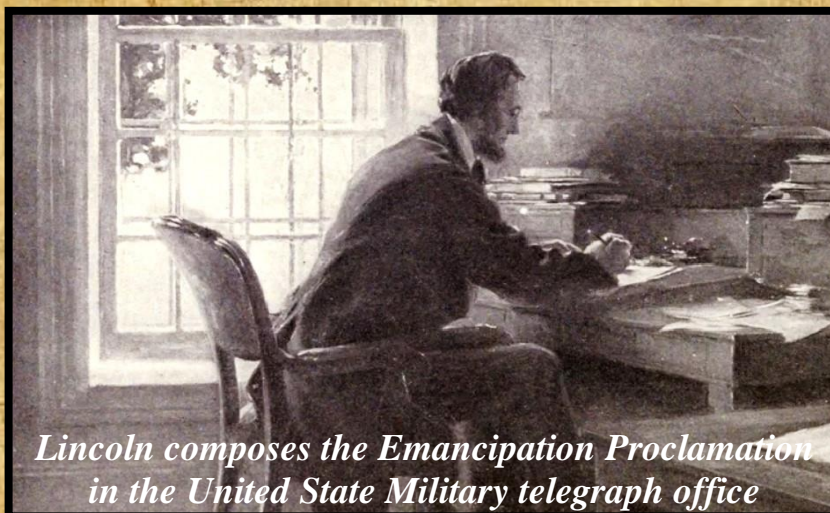
(162 members and counting)

*Thanks for your support!
Get involved
with Club activities!*

**Monthly Programs
Needed!**

Would you be interested in presenting a program for an upcoming monthly meeting on a radio related topic? BVRC would love for you to share your topic with us at a monthly meeting. Contact Tom-W5XNA at w5xna@arri.net or Don-K5DB at arsk5db@gmail.com to schedule your program. We'll be excited to hear from you!

CW History



*Lincoln composes the Emancipation Proclamation
in the United State Military telegraph office*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE TELEGRAPH

From Don – K5DB: I've always enjoyed researching combined history and radio related topics. February is the birth month of Abraham Lincoln. Enjoy this interesting information concerning our 16th president, and his use of the telegraph during the Civil War.

The two main factors that Lincoln knew would enable him to win the war were: 1) Efficient transportation and 2) Communication.

One of the sayings of professional soldiers is "Amateurs talk tactics; professionals talk logistics." President Lincoln self-taught himself on these two main principles and augmented these important concepts during his presidency and the war. Lincoln looked at the road network and the rail network, and the ability to organize and utilize infrastructure.

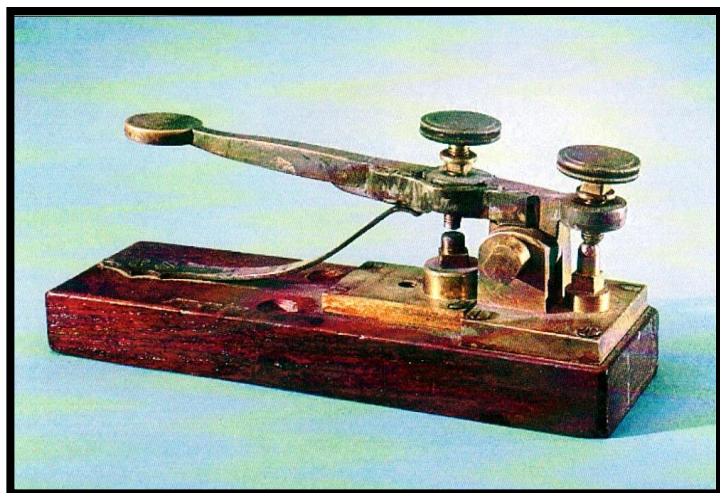
He realized that by enlarging the U.S.'s rail system, it would help him win the war. Railroads were quick, reliable, and all-weather. They enabled forces,



Union infantrymen guarding the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, west of Alexandria, VA

ammunition, and supplies to be transported or translocated very efficiently. For example, transporting 12,000 troops, weapons, and supplies over hundreds of miles would take 2 months by road, but only 6 days by rail. When the Civil War commenced, the United States' rail system consisted of 22,000 miles of track. During the war, 4,000 miles were added. Advantage: Lincoln.

The second paramount element that Lincoln utilized was *communication*. He wanted fast, direct information during battles. So, he innovated with the new technology of the day – he used the telegraph to keep him informed.



Civil War telegraph key

With the telegraph, he could get up-to-the-minute reports from the battlefield. The telegraph “brought the battlefield” closer to Washington, D.C. It decreased the time and space between the Commander-in-Chief and the battlefield commanders.

Abraham Lincoln embraced technology. If speed and tempo could be a weapon, if speed in making decisions could be a weapon, a huge element in accomplishing these goals was *the telegraph*. This enabled him to formulate the best strategy from the best intelligence.

In essence, the White House telegraph office became the first Presidential Situation Room! Lincoln had a cot set-up in the telegraph office, so he could take naps in-between reading reports from the battlefield.

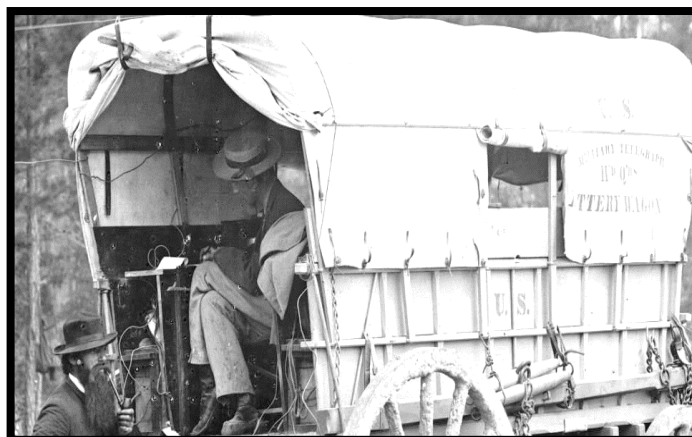
Over the course of the war, Lincoln issued over 1,000 commands using the telegraph network.

To conclude this article, I would like to share some additional information with you from Robert McNamara. Mr. McNamara is a history expert and former magazine journalist. He was Amazon.com's first-ever history editor and has bylines in New York, the Chicago Tribune, and other national outlets:

President Abraham Lincoln used the telegraph extensively during the Civil War and was known to spend many hours in a small telegraph office set up in the War Department building near the White House.

Lincoln's telegrams to generals in the field were a turning point in military history, as they marked the first time a commander-in-chief could communicate, practically in real time, with his commanders.

And, as Lincoln was always a skillful politician, he recognized the great value of the telegraph in spreading information from the army in the field to the public in the North. In at least one instance, Lincoln personally interceded to make sure a newspaperman had access to telegraph lines so a dispatch about action in Virginia could appear in the New York Tribune.



Military Telegraph System wagon

Besides having an immediate influence on the actions of the Union Army, the telegrams sent by Lincoln also provide a fascinating record of his wartime leadership. The texts of his telegrams, some of which he wrote out for the transmitting clerks, still exist in the National Archives and have been used by researchers and historians.

Lincoln's Interest in Technology

Lincoln was self-educated and always highly inquisitive. And, like many people of his era, he had a keen interest in emerging technology. He followed the news of new inventions. And he was the only American president to obtain a patent, for a device *he designed* to assist riverboats to cross sandbars.

When the telegraph changed communication in America in the 1840s, Lincoln would certainly have read about those advances. It's likely he knew about the wonders of the telegraph from newspaper articles he read in Illinois before any telegraph wires had reached that far west.

When the telegraph started to become common through the settled parts of the nation, including his native Illinois, Lincoln would have had some contact with the technology. As a lawyer working for railroad companies, Lincoln would have been a sender and receiver of telegraph messages.

One of the men who would serve as a government telegraph operator during the Civil War, Charles Tinker, had done the same job in civilian life at a hotel in Pekin, Illinois. He later recalled that in the spring of 1857, he chanced to meet Lincoln who was in town on business related to his legal practice.

Tinker recalled that Lincoln had watched him sending messages by tapping the telegraph key and writing down incoming messages he converted from Morse code. Lincoln asked him to explain how the apparatus worked. Tinker recalled going into considerable detail, describing even the batteries and electrical coils as Lincoln listened intently.

During the campaign of 1860, Lincoln learned he had won the Republican nomination and later the presidency via telegraph messages which arrived in his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. So, by the time he moved to Washington to take up residence in the White House he was not only aware of how the telegraph worked, but he recognized its great usefulness as a communication tool.



Charles Tinker

The Military Telegraph System

Four telegraph operators were recruited for government service in late April 1861, soon after the attack on Fort Sumter. The men had been employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and were enlisted because Andrew Carnegie, the future industrialist, was an executive of the railroad who had been pressed into government service and ordered to create a military telegraph network.



David Homer Bates

One of the young telegraph operators, David Homer Bates, wrote a fascinating memoir, [*Lincoln In the Telegraph Office*](#), decades later.

Lincoln In the Telegraph Office

For the first year of the Civil War, Lincoln was barely involved with the military's telegraph office. But in the late spring of 1862 he began to use the telegraph to give orders to his officers. The Army of the Potomac was becoming bogged down during General George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign in Virginia, Lincoln's frustration with his commander may have moved him to establish faster communication with the front.

During the summer of 1862 Lincoln took up the habit he followed for the rest of the war: he would often visit the War Department telegraph office, spending long hours sending dispatches and waiting for responses.

Lincoln developed a warm rapport with the young telegraph operators. And he found the telegraph office a useful retreat from the much busier White House. One of his constant complaints about the White House was that job seekers and various political figures wanting favors would descend upon him. In the telegraph office he could hide away and concentrate on the serious business of conducting the war.

According to David Homer Bates, Lincoln wrote the original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation at a desk in the telegraph office in 1862. The relatively secluded space gave him solitude to gather his thoughts. He would spend entire afternoons drafting one of the most historic documents of his presidency.

The Telegraph Influenced Lincoln's Style of Command

While Lincoln was able to communicate fairly quickly with his generals, his use of communication was not always a happy experience. He began to feel that General George McClellan was not always being open and honest with him. And the nature of McClellan's telegrams may have led to the crisis of confidence that led Lincoln to relieve him of command following the Battle of Antietam.

By contrast, Lincoln seemed to have a good rapport via telegram with General Ulysses S. Grant. Once Grant was in command of the army, Lincoln communicated with him extensively via telegraph. Lincoln trusted Grant's messages, and he found that orders sent to Grant were followed.

The Civil War had to be won of course, on the battlefield. But the telegraph – especially the way it was used by President Lincoln – did have an effect on the outcome.



McClellan



Grant

LAUGHTER.....



The Lighter Side

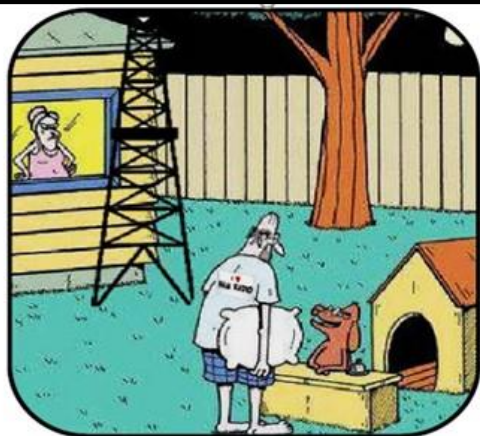
One day, it occurred to an avid ham operator who was very precise and methodical-minded in his way of doing things, that he had been using the radio too much as of late. He remembered his dear wife and how she had been working hard and doing the daily duties around the house, while he had been setting on his backside enjoying the bands.

Guilt suddenly rushed over him, and he felt really bad about this. Upon his realization, he went straight to his busy wife who was in the kitchen:

Ham: "Hey dear, I just realized I really need to pitch-in around here with you. Is there anything I can do to help you?"

Wife: "Well thank you very much honey, and yes... I sure could use some help. Take this bag of potatoes, peel half of them, and put them in the big pot to cook."

He did →



Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?



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.