



THE SIGNAL

Newsletter of the Bella Vista Radio Club



June 2022



Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m.
Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA), Springdale

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 Legacy Net - Wednesdays @ 8 pm
- Wide Area Net - Tuesdays @ 8 pm on the
NWA Skywarn Link System
 - Bentonville – 146.865, -offset, pl 103.5
 - Fayetteville – 147.315, +offset, pl 97.4
 - Huntsville – 443.625, +offset, pl 97.4
 - Green Forest – 145.310, -offset, pl 103.5

NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022 @ 7PM
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY
3424 S. DOWNUM ROAD
SPRINGDALE, AR

The month of June brings a very special speaker to BVRC. – Emergency and public service communications will be in the spotlight for this month's meeting, as ARRL Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator J.M. Rowe – N5XFW will be our guest speaker. J.M. resides in Royal, AR, just west of Hot Springs.

J.M. is a retired paramedic. He started in public safety as a volunteer firefighter, which led to EMT school, which then led to paramedic school.

During this time he got involved in emergency management, which allows him to serve with the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management. He is responsible for all the State Auxiliary Communications efforts.

He has served as Arkansas Emergency Coordinator for several years, and has developed a very concise and coordinated state structure for all District Emergency Coordinators and Assistant Emergency Coordinators throughout the state. J.M.'s main mission in coming to us, is to explain the importance of emergency and public service communications, to encourage our members interested in EmComm, and also to help rejuvenate the BVRC EmComm program.

J.M. is married to Debby – KD5UPS, who is a retired UPS command pilot. When they are not RV-ing, J.M. can be found on the radio enjoying our hobby.

Field Day is on the BVRC schedule for the last weekend of June. With Field Day's main objective being the learning and practicing of setting-up a portable station which could be used in an emergency situation (as well as improving operating skills), what better time could we have J.M. visit us with his emergency communications presentation than now!

Don't miss this very important and informative meeting! CU there!



BVRC members were treated to a fun and excellent program, along with a special and informative announcement for its May 2022 meeting.

First, we were greeted by Steve Gibbs – K5OY, a BVRC and Noise Blankers Radio Group member. Steve announced and reminded everyone of the upcoming Arkansas QSO Party to be held May 21. NBRG is now the sponsor of the qso party, and is doing an excellent job coordinating the event. Steve reported that the ARQP was modifying and improving some of the individual features and rules of the event, the biggest change being Arkansas county designators going from a 4-letter abbreviation to a 3-letter. He also stated that new operating categories have been added to enhance participation and make the event more fun. He also said that NBRG is considering changing the multipliers from states/provinces to ARRL section for next year's event. That decision will be made later this year. Thanks Steve for a great forum! We're very pleased to have you as a BVRC member.



Steve Gibbs – K5OY

The main program presentation for this month then commenced with Gregg Harrison – KF5WAP and James Bennett – KA5DVS speaking on amateur radio kits and kit building. Gregg kicked-off the evening by saying that it was his dad who was the catalyst in getting him interested in kit building. From that point, Gregg's rudimentary beginnings have evolved into more challenging but fun kits. He has many years of kit building under his belt, and you could tell it from his great PowerPoint slides.



Gregg – KF5WAP

Gregg then went over some of the equipment needed for kit building:

- Bright work lamp
- Good multimeter
- Good soldering station
- Quality solder, flux, and tip cleaner
- Soldering wick (used to remove solder & correct errors when needed)
- Helping hands (a device/holder that serves as "another pair of hands")
- Long needle-nosed pliers
- Magnifying glass
- Heat sink (helps soldering to the circuit board without overheating the component being soldered)

Gregg then told the Club that the first step you need to take in building a kit, of course, is to decide what you want to build:

- CW QRP transceiver
- Antenna tuner
- SWR/Forward Power meter
- Low and/or High bandpass filters
- Key or keyer
- Antenna balun
- Dummy load
- And many others available



Gregg illustrates some of the fun radio and testing kits available on the market

Gregg also advised a very important piece of information: When choosing a kit, it is a good idea to look at other reviews by hams about the kit (eHam.com, etc.). This will help you determine if the kit will be worthwhile to build, if it has quality components, pros and cons of building the kit, and most importantly – if the instructions are easy to understand and follow.

Gregg and James set up an excellent display for the meeting attendees of the kits they have built, along with a display of the tools needed for successful kit building. The display was stellar, informative, and very educational. – Quality stuff!

James – KA5DVS then took center spotlight of this evening's double-portion program, with his superb presentation. Being the owner of a kit company, Pacific Antenna, James began his segment of the program by discussing the very interesting topics of where kits come from and how they get to your doorstep.

He explained how kits start from scratch. – A prototype is created, research and testing performed, and bugs are removed until the kit becomes a reality. He then discussed the commercialization process: Development of the kit, testing, documentation, revising when necessary, and customer support.



James – KA5DVS

James then augmented the most important area in kit building – soldering. Good solder joints are the key to successful kits. James provided slides of various soldering stations, advising that these are available at reasonable prices from Wal-Mart.com, Ebay, etc., or you can spend more money for a more advanced station with more soldering features and temperature control.

When it comes to soldering, the solder itself is the key:

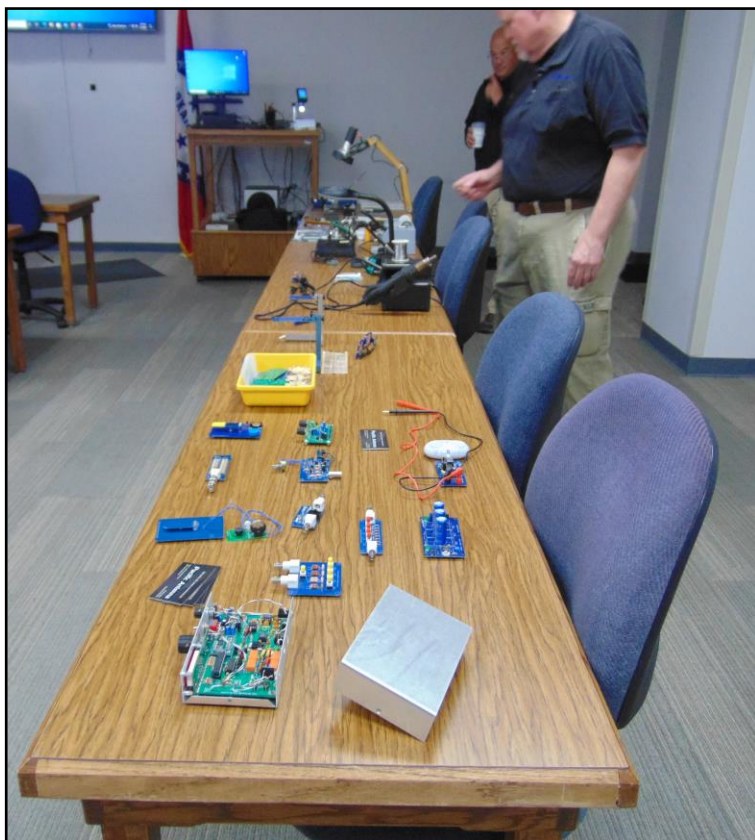
- Use good quality solder, preferable rosin core 60/40
- Keep your soldering tip clean
- Practice! (Discarded circuit boards are excellent to practice on)
- Have a good workspace (You don't have to have a large workspace for kit building)

James then spoke on kit building tools that can be used when a mistake is made, the most primary one being a solder wick. He presented photos of a "through hole" circuit board and a surface mount circuit board. He then shared

some excellent mini-videos showing how to properly mount components on each type of board in the pre-soldering step, and then various techniques of soldering and the correct way to solder the components. One of the videos was especially interesting, using a small hot air blower to liquify the solder when attaching a component to a surface mount circuit board.



James' workbench at home



In the photo at left, is the excellent display by James – KA5DVS and Gregg – KF5WAP of completed kits for all types of ham operation and testing, as well as the tools needed for successful kit building.

Thanks, James and Gregg, for an ultra-outstanding program!!!

It is great to know that we have members in BVRC that have a vast knowledge and experience in the world of ham radio kit building, and who are at your beckoned call if you ever need any help or advice in building ham radio and radio related kits.



BVRC President Tom Northfell – W5XNA, presents the BVRC Certificate of Appreciation to Gregg Harrison – KF5WAP and James Bennett – KA5DVS for their outstanding presentation on amateur radio kit building

BVRC OFFICERS

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EmComm Coordinator

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From The Desk of The President



Welcome - Welcome members to the June 2022 issue of The Signal - the monthly newsletter of the Bella Vista Radio Club, produced and edited by Don - K5DB.

Newsletter - If you participated in the ARRL Arkansas QSO Party or attended the Dayton Hamvention and have a story to tell and/or photos to share, please contact Don K5DB.

Membership - I want to express my thanks to all who have recently joined BVRC or have renewed your membership. At the time of this writing, the roster lists 147 current members. BVRC members are diverse in their areas of interest, but we share a common bond - the love and appreciation for amateur radio.

Congratulations to our Life Members. You have paid your dues!

Club Meetings - The May meeting had 50 attendees. I want to thank James Bennett KA5DVS (owner of Pacific Antenna - qrpkits.com) and Gregg Harrison KF5WAP for their excellent presentation on kit building. I can tell you from experience that these kits and the company's service are outstanding. Thanks gentlemen. VFB!

June Meeting - Our guest presenter will be JM Rowe N5XFW - ARRL Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator. The topic will be emergency and public service communications. It is sure to be interesting, informative, and timely. This is another presentation that you don't want to miss.

Looking ahead to the December meeting - We would like to have a big holiday banquet for the last meeting of the year. Stay tuned as we get closer to that date (December 1).

Congratulations - To all of those who have recently earned their Technician license or upgraded to General or Extra. Thanks to Don - KC7DC (BVRC VE Coordinator) and the loyal VE team members. VFB!

Wow! - At the May 2022 club meeting, Steve - K5SAW surprised everyone with his donation to BVRC of a Yaesu FT-991A transceiver. We have already identified several possible uses for this rig. Steve - we really appreciate you and your generous donation!

QST QST QST Field Day- ARRL 2022 Field Day- June 25-26:

The Bella Vista Radio Club's participation will again be at Metfield Skills Park in Bella Vista. We will have four stations: phone, CW, digital, and GOTA (Get on the Air). Some of us will get the ropes for the antennas up in the trees Friday afternoon at 1 pm (everyone is invited to join in). We will begin setting up the stations around 8 am Saturday morning. A BBQ and potluck is scheduled for 6 pm Saturday evening. A huge THANKS to Dr. Bill - KG5ZCI BVRC Hospitality Coordinator and Alan KEØQFO who has volunteered to be the grill Meister and also has donated the entree. VFB! Please thank these young men for going above and beyond to make the BVRC FD a success. I am sure that they would appreciate any support that our members could provide. I hope to see you there.

On the Air - BVRC Weekly nets (detailed information on the BVRC website)

Tuesdays - BVRC Wide Area Net 8 pm - NWA Skywarn Linked System

Wednesdays - BVRC Legacy Net 8 pm

Sundays - BVRC 75 Meter Round Table

BVRC Planning Calendar

ARRL Field Day (June 25 - 26)

K5DB CW Class (late summer TBD)

Accelerated Technician Class and VE Testing (The weekend of August 21-22)

BVRC Holiday Banquet and Awards (December 1)

Please contact me with any suggestions or concerns at w5xna@arrl.net and/or 479-530-0967

73 es gud DX,

Tom W5XNA
BVRC President





BVRC VE REPORT

From Don Cooper – KC7DC, BVRC VE Chair
May 14, 2022



Congratulations!!!

**Jeanne Harlan – KI5VJY – Springdale
New Technician !**

**Shilo Oliver – KI5VJF – Fayetteville
New Technician !**

**Larry Snodgrass – KI5VKG – Lincoln
New Technician !**

**Charles Stuttle II – KI5VNO – Fayetteville
New Technician !**

**Bill Conner – KI5VNN – Fayetteville
New Technician !**

**Donald Wood – KI5VIT – Bella Vista
New General !**

**Dale Locander – KI5TSF – Bella Vista
New General !**

***Test sessions are conducted each 2nd Saturday of the month
at 2 pm, at Bella Vista Fire Station #1 in Bella Vista,
and 10 am at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale***

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

WELCOME

NEW BVRC MEMBERS!!!

Karen Hope Ferris — K7EDU — Pea Ridge
Chris Ebert — NA0D — Fayetteville
Larry Snodgrass — KI5VKG - Lincoln

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The BVRC ARRL VE testing session at the *Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale* has changed its test session start time on the 2nd Saturday of each month from **2 pm to 10 am.**

The BVRC Bella Vista VE testing session at Bella Vista Fire Station #1 in Bella Vista will remain the same with the monthly test session beginning at 2 pm as usual.



BVRC NEEDS YOU!....

FOR FIELD DAY 2022!

We need volunteers to help with BVRCs biggest club event of the year. Some of the areas where help is needed are: setup, tear down, erect antennas, generators and fuel, snacks, drinks, ice chests with ice, etc.

Please contact Tom-W5XNA to assist in any of these and other areas: w5xna@arri.net

Special Announcements



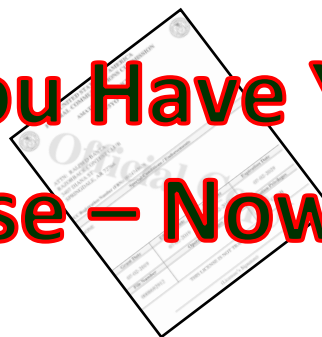
Bella Vista Radio Club has the pleasure to announce that Bill Durham – KG5ZCI is now our BVRC Hospitality Coordinator! Bill will be in charge of food and snacks at BVRC meetings and Field Day. Thank you so very much, Bill, for stepping forward and assisting with this very important area of Club operation. We appreciate you!

BVRC also is pleased to announce that long-time member Ron Evans – K5XK, and one of the backbones of BVRC for many years, has assumed the position of BVRC 2-meter Net Coordinator. Ron was in this position many years ago and did a stellar job, which we know he will continue today. Thanks so very much, Ron, for your service in this – another very important area of Club operation.

Mega Kudos to Bill and Ron!

To our new BVRC hams.....

You Have Your License – Now What?



Expand Your World – Talk around the world without the Internet or cell phones. Use your own “internet” when the “other one” is down. Send your voice, text, and pictures to unusual places, both near and far. Create your own network of ham radio friends and send instant text messages without cell phones. Meet awesome people from all over the U.S. and around the world, on the air and in person at ham radio events.

Explore Amateur Radio – Talk through satellites or with astronauts on board the International Space Station. Send messages in code – learn Morse code. Be a signal sleuth, “fox hunt” for hidden radio signals, and with GPS— GeoFox! Investigate the many new combined radio-internet communication techniques. Try a new sport – radiosport. Compete on-the-air for awards and fun! Send a message around the world using less electricity than a nightlight.

Put Radio to Work – Become a weather spotter and help your community prepare for weather events. Use amateur radio to control models, robots, or even drones. Support recovery efforts in emergencies. Earn badges and patches through Scouting programs and participate in worldwide radio events.

Get Help If Needed – If you wish to explore an area that is strange to you but looks interesting and exciting, go the BVRC website and click the “Elmer 911” tab. Then, complete the on-line form and submit. One of our many volunteer elmer/mentors will get in contact with you to help you get started!

BIELLA VISTA RADIO CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL ARKANSAS QSO PARTY

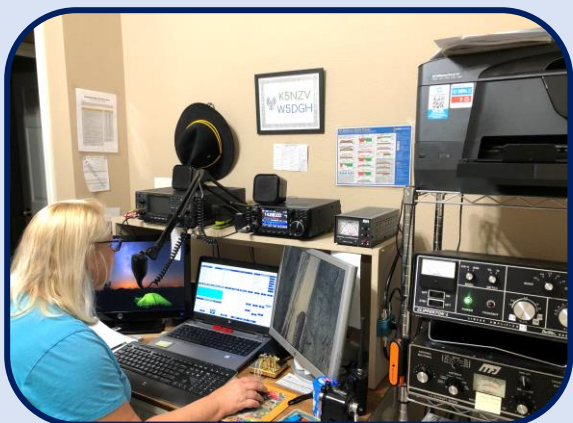
Several BVRC members experienced excitement and fun on the bands when they participated in the 2022 Arkansas QSO Party, on May 21. This annual event spotlights our great state in the amateur radio world, as hundreds of stations worldwide tune the airwaves for Arkansas ham stations.

Chuck Korzendorfer – KM5G, one of the Club's foremost contesters, operated around 10 hours of the event, and amassed 471 contacts. He was very happy to work fellow Arkansas stations WR5P, WA5BDU, K5VR, WA5SOG, W5KI, W5YO, K9OZ, and K5CM on CW. He worked several of them on multiple bands.

Another CW aficionado, Nick Kennedy – WA5BDU, made 148 QSOs and a whopping 45 multipliers. He did this with 100 watts and a 135' inverted-L for 80 & 40 meters, and an 88' dipole for 20 & 15. He worked many of the Arkansas stations as Chuck did, in addition to W5DGH and W5KPE.

Husband Robert Hill – K5NZV and wife Dana Hill – W5DGH had a high ol' time with Robert scoring 100 contacts, 28 states, and 2 Canadian provinces. Dana tallied 79 QSOs, working 29 states, 1 Canadian province, and the bonus station – WR5P! They would have racked-up more contacts, but had dear friends visit them over the weekend, and had to devote time to them. They did, however, have a great time.

Congrats to all of you for a great turnout and a great operating!



**Dana
W5DGH**

**Robert
K5NZV**



**Chuck
KM5G**

**Nick
WA5BDU**





FIELD DAY: Urban Myths & Legends

Each year, a sort of "fever" sets-in before and during the annual ARRL Field Day event. The excitement causes some of the oddest assumptions to occur:

FAQ's:

Who sponsors the Amateur Radio Field Day?

Field Day is organized and sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, a national membership association for amateur radio operators.

When is Field Day and how long does it last?

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. If you set-up before the start of the event, your end time is 1800 UTC Sunday, a 24-hour duration.

Why is the general public allowed to operate amateur radio transceivers during Field Day?

They aren't. – Only operators who are licensed in the amateur radio service are allowed to serve as control operator of any radio at Field Day within the privileges of their individual license. However, the public are honored guests and are certainly allowed to manipulate the radio controls under the watchful eye of their GOTA coach who is the control operator of that radio.

DEBUNKING THE MYTHS:

"There is no 15-minute-on-band rule for Field Day."

TRUE. – When posed this question, the ARRL responded with several comments including:

- "The rule requiring a station to stay on a band for 15 minutes once it has made a contact was removed long ago."
- "Don't fall into the trap of trying to impose generally accepted contest rules on Field Day. Field Day is an operating event that traditional contesting rules don't necessarily apply to."
- "Bear in mind that 90% of the Field Day participants have no clue what a 15-minute or 6-band change rule is about. To them, they try 10-meter SSB. They make a couple of local QSOs, then discover that 10-meters isn't open. Is there really a valid reason for making them stare at the transmitter for 15 minutes before moving to another band?" Essentially the message is: *Relax* - It's Field Day.....not Sweepstakes."

"The FCC allows exceptions to its rules for Field Day."

MYTH – FALSE (YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. – OF COURSE NOT.) – FCC rules Part 97 apply 24/7, all year long.

"Field Day operators inherit the frequency privileges of the call sign trustee and/or licensee."

MYTH - FALSE – FCC rules are not exempted for Field Day.

From Section §97.3.13 – "Control operator: An amateur operator designated by the licensee of a station to be responsible for the transmissions from that station to assure compliance with the FCC Rules." Field Day Operators are Control Operators of the station they are sitting in front of.

Sub-paragraph 'b' – "A station may only be operated in the manner and to the extent permitted by the privileges authorized for the class of operator license held by the control operator."

In other words, each control operator can only operate on frequencies they are personally licensed for. You don't inherit Extra privileges if you are a General working at any station, unless the at-your-side control operator of your station is an Extra and is watching over you. So, to address the next statement.....

"I am a Technician and operating the radio while the person running the log is an Extra so I can use Extra Frequencies."

TRUE – SURE, WHY NOT. – Just agree between the two of you that the logger is the control operator, but that you will be operating the radio. He/she is there to keep you in compliance with FCC rules and Extra Class privileges by monitoring your operation. However - if this Extra Class logger gets up to take a break, you are obligated not to transmit outside your license class privileges until he/she gets back.

"The ARRL Field Day rules don't talk about "Control Operators".

MYTH - FALSE. – ARRL Field Day Rule 4.1.1.3 – "As per FCC rules, a station must have a valid control operator present if operating beyond the license privileges of the participant using the station."

"During Field Day, the Control Operator must sign portable by appending /P to the call sign for CW or Digital, or say 'Portable' after the call on SSB."

MYTH – FALSE. – This rule was changed over thirty years ago. You do not need to sign as portable for Field Day.

"I brought the radio, and I am an Extra. So, ALL operators, Extra or not, have Extra privileges."

MYTH – FALSE. – Privileges travel with the control operator....not the owner of the radio.

"The ARRL rule 7.3.13.2.2 which states 'To qualify for the GOTA bonus, there must be a designated GOTA coach present and supervising the GOTA station at all times it is being operated,' means one and only one person can be the GOTA coach for the entire Field Day."

MYTH – FALSE. – The wording of the rule does not suggest one single person as GOTA coach, only that there always be a coach supervising the GOTA station when it is operating. Nonetheless, some folks read it as one person. To clarify this issue, the ARRL stated, "There can be multiple GOTA coaches but there must be at least one present at the station at all times it is in operation. Additionally, and of course, the operator must stay in compliance with the GOTA coach's license class privileges."



*The largest and fastest growing
amateur radio club in Northwest
Arkansas..... We're glad you're a
part of it! Thank You !!!*

TECH TIPS

By Steve Werner – K5SAW

CONNECTING DEVICES TO A TRANSMITTER KEYING LINE

There are devices you might want to connect to your transmitter that are controlled with the PTT (push to talk) control such as amplifiers, TR (transmit/receive) relays, On-The-Air signs, etc. Most all transmitters will have a “keying line” connection to control these devices, but this connection might go by different names depending on the manufacturer. For example, ICOM calls it a “Send” line, Kenwood calls it a “Control Relay on the Remote Connector”, and Yaesu calls it a “TX Ground on the Linear Jack”. Most of these keying line interfaces function by shorting the electrical connection to ground when the PTT is pressed, but it is possible on some transmitters to configure the keying line to output a voltage when the PTT is pressed. This Tech Tip will focus on the more common method of using the keying line to short a control signal to ground when the PTT is pressed.

Many older transmitters had a relay on the keying line that closed when the PTT was pressed, but most modern transmitters use a solid-state device (transistor or mosfet) that turns on when the PTT is pressed. In either case, a voltage on the keying line will be pulled to ground (i.e. shorted to ground) when the PTT is pressed. An external device that is to be controlled will provide a control voltage to the keying line, and this external device will be activated when the control voltage is pulled to ground by the transmitter keying line when the PTT is pressed.

It is very important that the voltage and current ratings on the transmitter keying line NOT be exceeded by the external devices that are connected to the keying line, and the maximum values will be listed in the owner’s manual for the transmitter. For example, the send jack (i.e. keying line) on the ICOM IC-7300 can handle a maximum of +16 Volts and a maximum of 500 milliAmps (mA) current sink on the keying line. Older linear amplifiers like a Heathkit SB-200 might have a control line voltage of -120 Volts DC, and this would almost certainly destroy most modern radios with a solid-state keying circuit if it were connected “directly” to the keying line.

Most all devices that are controlled with the keying line will be connected with a standard RCA connector as used on many audio stereo systems, but the connector on the radio transmitter might use RCA jacks or other jacks such as a DIN or mini-DIN connector. See Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1. RCA style connectors.



Figure 1. RCA style connectors.

Before connecting any device to the keying line on the transmitter, you should measure the control voltage and the current required to activate the device. Measure the control voltage with a multimeter in voltage mode and measure the control current with the multimeter in current. The current measurement will activate the device just as the keying line would do on the transmitter. See figures 3 and 4.



Figure 3. Measure the control voltage with a multimeter in voltage mode. In this case, the control voltage is +13.29V. Also, check that the voltage polarity matches your transmitter specifications.

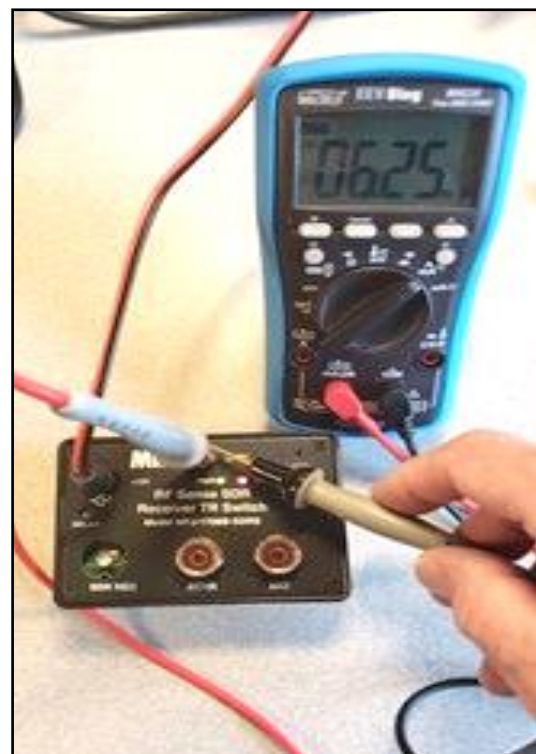


Figure 4. Measure the control current with the multimeter in current mode. In this case, the control current is 6.25 mA. Note the device is activated as indicated by the red LED.

The device measured in figures 3 and 4 (MFJ 1708 TR Switch) could easily be controlled directly by the keying line on most radios since both voltage and current are well below the typical maximum values as found in the owner's manual.

What if you wanted to simultaneously control multiple devices from the keying line on the transmitter such as a TR switch and a linear amplifier? It is a very bad idea to directly connect multiple devices “directly” to the keying line on the transmitter. The devices connected may have different control voltages and control currents which could result in damage to the devices, inadvertent keying of the devices, or unnecessary current flow between devices. There are certainly many commercially available buffers and power sequencers available to solve this problem with multiple devices on the keying line, but they tend to be expensive and possibly over-kill for your needs.

In this article, we will focus on a simple diode circuit that can be used if all the control voltages are below the maximum voltage for your transmitter and if the sum of all the control currents is below the maximum current for your transmitter.

Figure 5 shows the schematic for the passive diode circuit to connect multiple devices to your transmitter keying line. The diodes between the devices and the transmitter keying line prevent current from flowing from one device to another since the diode will only allow current to flow in the direction of the arrow. When the transmitter keying line is shorted to ground from the PTT button push, all the devices will be activated by allowing current flow through the diodes into the ground on the transmitter.

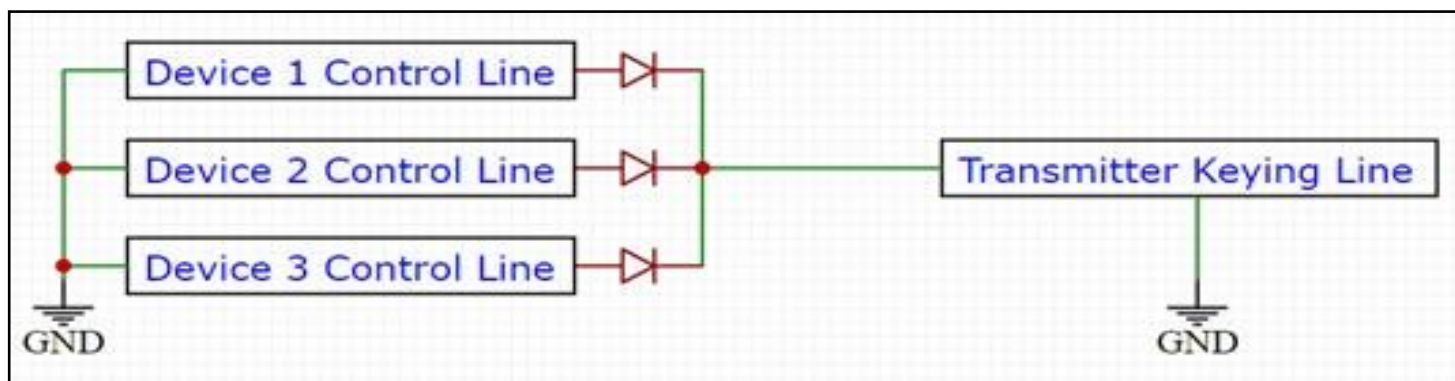


Figure 5. Schematic for the multi-device keying line circuit.

The circuit in figure 5 can be built in a very simple enclosure as shown in figures 6 and 7.



Figure 6. Keying line interface for multiple devices in an Altoids tin. The red lead connects to the transmitter keying line, and the yellow leads connect to the controlled devices.



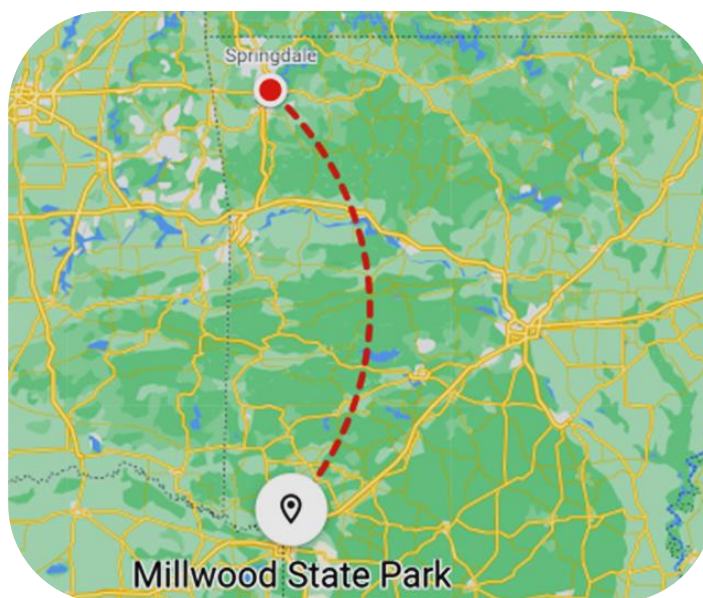
Figure 7. Internal wiring for a keying line interface. Note the striped ends of the diodes are connected to the transmitter keying line connector. Additional connectors and diodes could be added to control additional devices from the keying line..

In a future article, we will discuss controlling devices that exceed the voltage and current ratings on the transmitter keying line as well as many homemade solutions for keying external devices (relays, transistor, mosfets, and microcontrollers).

BVRC MEMBERS PARTICIPATE WITH PORTABLE STATION IN 2022 ARKANSAS QSO PARTY

By Ron-K5XK and Don-K5DB
(Photos by K5XK & K5DB)

Several BVRC members are also members of the Razorback Contest Club. On May 21, they ventured 5 hours south to “LA” (that’s Lower Arkansas for non-natives) to activate a unique spot for the 2022 Arkansas QSO Party. A tiny area of Lake Millwood State Park qualifies as the convergence of four counties and a unique 4-point multiplier for this annual event.



The group used SSB and CW stations simultaneously to make hundreds of coast-to-coast and DX contacts from the 4-County Line as they spread goodwill around the globe.

They operated most of the day in the club tent, avoiding potential aggravation from mosquitos and gnats. However, toward the end of the day radar indicated possible heavy rain and strong wind coming into the area, at which time they decided to brave the insects, break-down the tent, and move under the pavilion at the lake overlook. Thankfully, a good application of insect repellent coupled with the mosquitos hardly bothering them at all, made for a good conclusion to the day’s operation.



**The contingent from the Razorback Contest Club – W5YO, from left to right:
Jere Orvin – W5JRO, Tom Northfell – W5XNA, Clara Orvin – KI5HTX, Don Banta – K5DB,
Vinson Carter – WV5C, and Ron Evans – K5XK**

They ran two Yaesu FT-450Ds at 80-90 watts, feeding two Carolina Windom-80 dipoles. The tall pines of southern Arkansas enabled them to hang the antennas at around 70'. The positive predictions of upcoming sunspot cycle #25 were evident. Although 10-meters was somewhat sparse, 15-meters had fair activity, with 80, 40, and 20-meters yielding the most QSOs. Overall propagation was excellent to North America and Europe. They were especially excited to work many Arkansas stations!

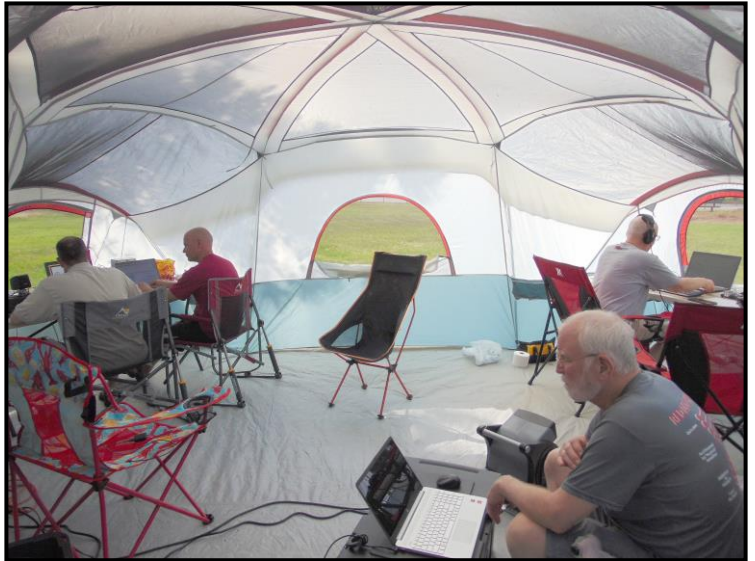
Their totals included: 2,423 QSOs, 49 states, 4 Canadian provinces, 4 DX, 13 Arkansas counties, and 321,436 points. If you think you would enjoy the thrill of competitive operating, or want more information on RCC, contact the group's organizer, Don – K5DB (at arsk5db@gmail.com). Enjoy our pictures and see how much fun it can be in travelling to a distant locale, keeping your station operating and set-up skills sharp, then have a ball operating portable!



**The RCC ARQP team with Millwood Lake
in the background**



W5YO / Portable

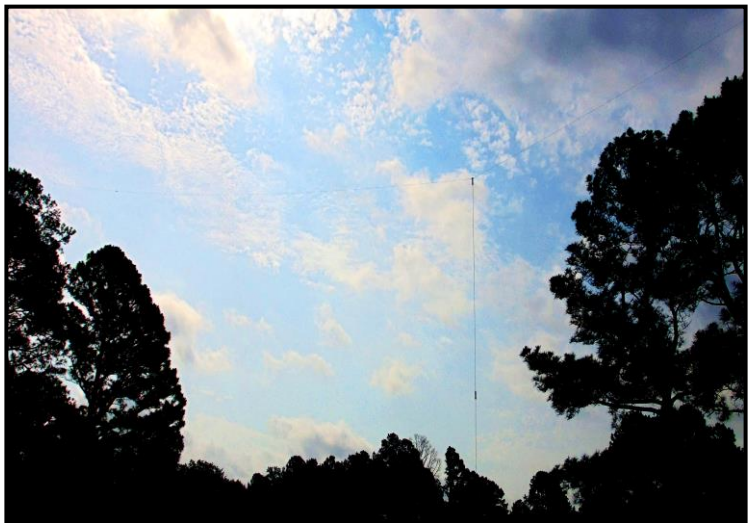


**Left: SSB station
(Tom – W5XNA, foreground, intermittently monitoring spots and weather conditions)**

Right: CW station



**It's antenna shooter time –
up go the Windoms!**



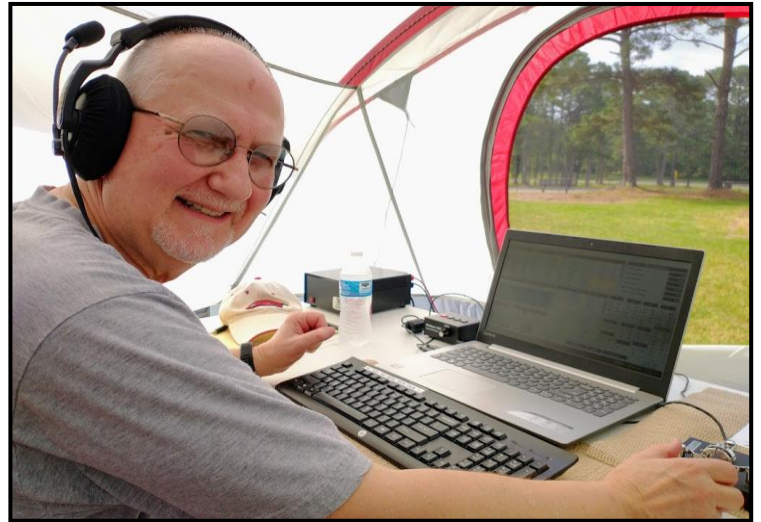
SSB station Windom – south side



Vinson-WV5C and Clara-KI5HTX getting the logging software ready



**Vinson – WV5C at the mike,
with Jere – W5JRO logging the Q's**



Ron – K5XK racks-up another CW contact



**BVRC President Tom – W5XNA made many
contacts on both the SSB and CW modes,
making a phone QSO here with K5XK logging**



**Clara – K15HTX handled many pileups on SSB
(she can do it, too!)**



Don – K5DB takes his turn at the CW station



W5YO/P after moving to the pavilion



REMINDER: 2ND ANNUAL BVRC CW ROUNDUP



Date: Saturday, July 16, 2022

Time Period: 0000 – 0100 UTC (7pm – 8pm local time)

Frequency: 3.540 – 3.560 kHz

Operating classes: **CLASS A** – BVRC member – Experienced CW operator
CLASS B – Newcomer or newer CW operator (BVRC member or non-member)
CLASS C – Non-BVRC member – Experienced CW operator
CLASS D – Listeners who copy and log only, with the use of FL Digi, code readers, etc.

CQing: Send "CQ CWR CQ CWR"

Exchange: Signal report (including operating class) / QTH (your location) / name

Example: If you are a newer CW operator and you are in QSO with K5XYZ whose signal is readable, their signal strength is registering a '7' on your S-meter and their signal tone is good, your callsign is W5ABC, you live in Bentonville, and your name is Albert, you would send something along the lines of:

K5XYZ DE W5ABC (K5XYZ this is W5ABC) $\overline{\text{BT}}$ (break)

RST IS 579 B 579 B $\overline{\text{BT}}$

QTH IS BENTONVILLE, AR BENTONVILLE, AR $\overline{\text{BT}}$

NAME IS ALBERT ALBERT $\overline{\text{BT}}$

HW CPY? (How did you copy my transmission?)

K5XYZ DE W5ABC K (Over)

The other station would then reply with their information using the same format. After the exchanges are completed, short informal remarks can be made during the QSO if desired, after which the contact would end with something along the lines of:

TNX FER QSO (thanks for the QSO)

GL ES 73 (Good luck and best wishes)

K5XYZ DE W5ABC $\overline{\text{SK}}$ (end of contact)

Description of event: *This 1-hour event is not a contest.* Rather, it is a celebration of our area newcomers, that have learned CW, returners to the mode of CW, and listeners. It is also intended to enable our veteran CW operators to enjoy helping the newcomers in making CW contacts. There are no points scored, and no results or standings posted. **You do NOT have to be a member of BVRC to participate.**

A handsome certificate will be issued to each participant submitting a log entry from the event.

Send logs no later than Saturday, July 23, to Don Banta – K5DB:

Regular mail log: Don Banta
 3407 Diana St.
 Springdale, AR 72764

Electronic log: arsk5db@gmail.com
 Attach file: [call].log

With BVRC being graced with a visit from the ARRL Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator for our June meeting, we would like to share this article with you as a prelude to the June program.

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 be a regular participant in nets and exercises.

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.)

WELCOME TO ALCATRAZ



It's been quite a few years back, but allow me to share with you about when my XYL-Erma and myself along with our youngest daughter, took a vacation trip to California. We visited Sequoia, King's Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks. I had also previously told them I could not go out there without also visiting Alcatraz Island. After all, it's the #1 tourist attraction in San Francisco! We had to purchase ferry tickets at least three months ahead, they were backed-up that far. The July



day was a typical one for the area – overcast and cold. The temp was in the upper 40s that morning. I remembered what Mark Twain had said, “The coldest winter I ever spent, was a summer in San Francisco.” He wasn't kidding. We boarded the cruise boat at Fisherman's Wharf around 9 am, and we were off. It was a cold 20 minute trip across San Francisco Bay to the island. We finally arrived and disembarked. We toured the grounds then went into the main



prison building where our first stop was the cell of Robert Stroud, “The Birdman of Alcatraz”. Actually, Stroud did all of his experiments and discoveries with canaries and the treatment of their diseases, when he was at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, KS. When he was transferred to Alcatraz, he was not given the extra privileges that he had enjoyed in Kansas as all Alcatraz prisoners were strictly treated equally as to what personal belongings were allowed in their cells. It is ironically humorous to note that even though Stroud was not allowed his birds here, the name ‘Alcatraz’ means “large bird”. In essence, it could be called “Bird Island”.

Next on the tour was the cell of Al Capone, sometimes known by the nickname "Scarface". He was an American gangster and businessman who attained notoriety during the Prohibition era as the co-founder and boss of the Chicago Outfit. His seven-year reign as a crime boss ended when he went to prison in Atlanta at the age of 33 in 1932, then was transferred to Alcatraz in 1934. Of course the highlight of the cell tour were the cells of Frank Morris, and brothers John and Clarence Anglin, the three inmates who planned and successfully executed the famous escape from the island on June 11, 1962. They were never seen or heard from again, and the mystery of what

happened to them remains one of the biggest mysteries of the 20th century, ranking alongside Amelia Earhart's disappearance.



Communications station and front prisoner entrance

the guard admissions room – and to my amazement – I spotted the object a little to the right of center in the photo above.

That object was a Heathkit TX-1 Apache transmitter. I have researched for years why it was there but never had any luck in finding any information. I suspect it was for backup communication in case the primary systems failed. You can imagine my excitement when I discovered a piece of ham gear at this facility. At any rate, it appears amateur radio played some type of role at Alcatraz!



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