

THE SIGNAL



Newsletter of the Bella Vista area Radio Club



*Arkansas' Largest
Ham Radio Club*

December 2022

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m.
Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA)
3424 S. Downum Road, Springdale AR

Club Call: N5BVA • Repeater: 147.255 +offset, pl 162.2
Website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org

WEEKLY NETS:

- 3.830 KHz Roundtable
Sundays @ 4 pm during CST, 4:30 pm during CDT
- 147.255 BVRC Legacy Net - Wednesdays @ 8 pm
- Wide Area Net - Tuesdays @ 8 pm on the
WX5NAS Skywarn 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, DECEMBER 1, 2022 @ 7PM
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY
3424 S. DOWNUM ROAD
SPRINGDALE, AR

Bella Vista area Radio Club Annual Member's Christmas Dinner & Awards Banquet

Our meal will consist of the main entrée – lasagna & garlic bread – along with salad and dessert all furnished by BVRC and coordinated by BVRC Hospitality Director, Bill Durham – KG5ZCI (thanks, Bill!)

**Bring some of your ham radio items
you no longer use for door prizes!**

The Club will also be furnishing some nice and nifty door prizes for the Christmas season! **Grand door prize will be a new Yaesu FT-2900R 2-meter transceiver!**



BVRC EmComm Overview and Organizational Projections Highlight November Meeting



It was just shy of SRO at the Bella Vista area Radio Club November meeting as a record 62 members and guests were in attendance, the largest turnout since BVRC moved into its new meeting facilities at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Northwest last February.

They were not disappointed with the stellar program for this month, as the speaker was BVRC's new Emergency Communications Director, Chris Ebert – NAØD. Chris gave an outstanding program on the topic of emergency and public service communications as well as plans for training, certification, and operations for any and all members who have been waiting to sign-on to the newly rejuvenated club em-comm program.



Chris moved to the NW Arkansas area last spring from Mena, and assumed the position of Director of Operations for TV station KNWA. When Chris discovered that BVRC's EmComm Program was currently inactive, he immediately stepped forward and offered his services to revive the program. Chris' background and knowledge of amateur radio emergency communications is extensive and BVRC is very grateful to him to assume this position, and lead the club to new horizons in this area of amateur radio operation.

He first started in em-comm in 1995, has served as ARES public safety liaison to an ARES group while also serving as a firefighter, has been a Regional District Coordinator in Colorado for Region 9, District 5 (3-county area), is a former ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator for North Texas Section ARES, has coordinated numerous running events, triathlons, on-road bike competitions, and off-road bike competitions. He has also coordinated numerous Field Day events, Simulated Emergency Tests, and mock training, as well as managing em-comm crews, worked in aid stations, SAG vehicles, and extraction teams. Chris is AUXCOMM certified (when he was in Arizona) as well as multiple ICS certifications.



Chris - NAØD

Chris kicked-off the program by presenting different scenarios and querying the crowd as to the difference in them, whether they would fall into the emergency or public service communications categories. He then gave a brief history of ARES (the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, sponsored by the ARRL) and RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, a Federal government entity and is administered through local and state governments), as well as the nomenclature of the organizations.

He then discussed the other various organizations in em-comm including county and state government agencies, and Federal agencies such as the National Weather Service (Skywarn), FEMA, Homeland Security, and VOAD (Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster which would include the American Red Cross).

He then described the ICS (Incident Command System) which was created to help maintain continuity between all levels of government. Another entity is AUXCOMM, amateur radio auxiliary communications. Chris said that ham operators that participate in ICS or NIMS are trained in AUXCOMM.

Chris covered the procedure for FEMA and AUXCOMM training which includes different courses that can be taken on-line. He said that BVRC will be hosting overviews of these training classes in the near future. He said that even though there are hundreds of training classes, the 4 main ones that are definitely needed for any ham participating in em-comm to be certified in are IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800.

Chris then shared the links that interested individuals can go to, to enroll in these classes.

Chris said that staying current with training will enable you to be proficient in pre-planning for emergencies, such as:

- Traffic handling skills and documentation
- Coordinated frequency and mode designations
- Instructions and mission of the served agency
- Backups for backups backups
- Two is one, one is none

Chris emphasized that the most important element in emergency communications is **COMMITMENT**.

He stated that the main objectives of em-comm is the second word of the terminology: communications. Your goal – after your personal safety – is to pass messages to their intended recipients as clearly and as quickly as possible with no errors. You may be asked to deploy communications equipment in a dangerous environment. But, of course, your safety always comes first.

At the conclusion of the program, Chris shared some of the steps he would like to see implemented in BVRC:

- An active EmComm Roster
- Begin the training process for ICS and NIMS compliance
- Reach out to government agencies, other ham groups, and begin an MOU process (Memorandum of Understanding)
- Classes/training on go-kits, traffic handling, Net Control Station duties, and preparedness
- Discussion of ARES/RACES groups establishment – where does the Club fit in?
- Establish coordinators and points of contact

Thank you Chris for an extraordinary and outstanding program. We look forward to hearing good reports from you as BVRC members volunteer to participate in this worthy program, and reap the rewards of serving the public in this vital area.



BVRC OFFICERS

President

Tom Northfell - W5XNA

w5xna@arri.net

Vice – President

Don Banta - K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com

Secretary

Dana Hill - W5DGH

dana.hill1979@gmail.com

Treasurer

Marc Whittlesey - WØKYZ

almarc11@yahoo.com

Technical Officer

Tem Moore - N5KWL

temmoore@gmail.com

**Repeater &
Club Call Trustee**

Glenn Kilpatrick - WB5L

wb5l@arri.net

APPOINTED OFFICERS

VE Testing Coordinator

Don Cooper - KC7DC

don_c@hotmail.com

Elmer 9-1-1 Coordinator

Vinson Carter - WV5C

vinsoncarter@gmail.com

2-meter Net Coordinator

Ron Evans - K5XK

k5xk@arri.net

EmComm Director

Chris Ebert - NAØD

wpuc675@gmail.com

Webmaster

Glenn Kilpatrick - WB5L

wb5l@arri.net

Video Director

Adnan Ademovic - KDØKCY

kd0kcy@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Don Banta - K5DB

arsk5db@gmail.com



BVRC EmComm Program Has Commenced

The launching of BVRC's new EmComm (Emergency Communications) is now in full swing. At the November club meeting program hosted by BVRC's new Emergency Communications Director, Chris Ebert - NAØD, the club experienced the largest attendance of any meeting we have had since moving into our new facility. We have many members who, when they completed their BVRC membership application form, checked the "Emergency Communications" box indicating their interest in this area of amateur radio.

The call now goes out to those of you who checked that box to join this vital function of our club and of our hobby. *If you missed this important meeting, you can view it in its entirety on the Bella Vista Radio Club YouTube Channel.*

If you are interested in:

- EmComm training
- EmComm exercises
- EmComm nets
- Serving county, state, and Federal agencies during times of communication failure
- Learn about how to prepare to help your community during a disaster
- Earn amateur radio EmComm certifications
- Learn, train, and participate in various EmComm activities (Ex: Skywarn®, storm spotting training, etc.)
- Have personal satisfaction in knowing you helped assist during communications outages, natural disasters, parades, public EmComm exhibits and/or demonstrations, bicycle races, walk-a-thons, etc.

then this is the program for you.

Sign-up today! Or, pose any questions you might have to Chris at:

E-mail: wrbk701@gmail.com

or give him a call at: 479 – 216 – 2690

From the Desk of the President



Greetings BVRC members, and welcome to the December 2022 issue of The Signal.

We welcome 7 new members this month to BVRC! (See page 12 of this issue)

We have had several milestones for the club recently:

- We survived the pandemic
- Our total membership has reached 194
- In the past 3 years our total membership grew by 123
- BVRC is now the largest amateur radio club in Arkansas
- We placed first in ARRL Field Day 2022 in the 3AC Division

I would like to pass along a very special thanks to Chris Ebert – NAØD for being the BVRC EmComm Committee Chair. His presentation at our November meeting on the roll-out of EmComm for our club and region was excellent, informative, and exciting.

Our January 2023 meeting will feature an excellent program on the DX Team Operation from Cayman Brac by experienced DXpeditioner Bill Priakos – W5SJ. You do not want to miss this presentation!

Our recent BVRC-related news and activities:

- Learning CW Class with K5DB (continuing)
- Fox hunting party on November 6 at Metfield Skills Park. Thanks, Vinson WV5C for organizing this fun and informative event.
- Weekly BVRC Breakfast
- Elmering by Don K5DB during the recent ARRL November PH Sweepstakes. Guest operators included Dana – W5DGH and her OM Robert – K5NZV Hill, and Mike – KF5RUO and YL Sofie – KI5WVD Calvi.
- BVRC Holiday Banquet (December 1)

Don't forget and participate in our BVRC nets. Information about the nets can be found on the BVRC website, click [here](#). These nets are especially beneficial for beginning Technicians to learn basic net protocol and how to conduct a QSO (contact).

Our upcoming BVRC calendar includes:

- BVRC Nomination Committee - in progress
- BVRC Holiday Banquet and Awards (December 1)
- BVRC 2023 Club Election (December 1)
- Monthly meeting (January 5)

If you have HF privileges and station capability, three really fun contests occur in December:

- ARRL 160 Meter (2-4))
- ARRL 10 Meter (10-11)
- ARRL Rookie Roundup CW (18)

We look forward to seeing everyone who signed-up for the BVRC Christmas and Awards Banquet! Along with some very nice door prizes, the following awards will be presented: Ham of the Year, Elmer of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Presenter of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and several Special Service awards. Also, the election of officers for the 2023 term will be voted on.

And now, my sincerest thanks:

Three years ago, my good friend Don – K5DB talked me into running for the President position. At the December meeting that year, we were elected to our current positions. A short time later, Don needed to take a very demanding job with the U.S. Postal Service and had to take a hiatus from club activities. Not too long after that, our meetings at the church were canceled due to the pandemic and we had to rely on virtual meetings for more than a year. It was a stressful time for everyone. However, many members pitched in and created videos or allowed me to come to their QTH and video them in their shack. Wayne Patton K5UNX did his magic and got these videos posted to YouTube every month. I (we) owe a *huge* debt of thanks to Wayne for keeping the club on life support!

Once the Covid restrictions eased, we still couldn't find a suitable and affordable venue for our in-person monthly meetings. Despite these setbacks, the club continued to retain most of its membership and even drew new members. We did manage to have a good Field Day 2021 thanks to Nick Kennedy – WA5BDU who coordinated the event with the help of some of amateur radio's finest operators.

Then came 2022. Don was back and so was The Signal. Our stellar website maintained by our stellar webmaster Glenn – WB5L continued to draw new members. The Facebook group remained active (thanks Ron – K5XK!), and the YouTube channel gave BVRC a virtual presence (thanks Adnan – KDØKCY!). Our VE sessions were back and at the Harps food stores corporate office thanks to Ryan Wolf – KEØCZQ. Things began to look up, but still no viable meeting venue.

Earlier this year, Don and I spent a whole day out and about NWA searching out possible meeting options. Everywhere we went, the meeting rooms were either too small and/or incredibly expensive. Then, Don and Gregg Harrison – KF5WAP had an opportunity to reconnect. Gregg was hoping that Don would teach a CW class. When Gregg was told that there was no place available for our club meetings or a CW class, he told Don that he was an instructor at NW ALETA, and he would talk with his boss regarding BVRC meeting at the training academy. In turn, this development also led to the Accelerated Technician Radio License Class last August. It has been said before, but bears saying again, "Thank you, Gregg, for making this happen for BVRC. You are appreciated more than you know."

The strength of the Bella Vista Radio Club has always been the involvement of the membership to volunteer, participate, help, recruit, and welcome the new and curious.

It has been an honor and privilege being a member of the BVRC Leadership Team. I will always look back on this time and my new friendships with fond memories. Thank you for your friendship and support.

Please continue to support our newly elected leadership team.

A very heartfelt 73 to all of you,
Tom – W5XNA, BVRC President

BVRC VE REPORT

From Don Cooper – KC7DC, BVRC VE Coordinator
November 12, 2022



PASSED

Congratulations !!

**SCOTT NELSON – K15YUJ – BENTONVILLE
NEW TECHNICIAN!**

**MATTHEW WEST – K15YTN – SILOAM SPRINGS
NEW TECHNICIAN!**

**WENDELL OALS, JR. – K15VXZ – LOWELL
NEW AMATEUR EXTRA!**

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

- 10 am at Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale***
- 2 pm at Bella Vista Fire Station #1, 103 NE Towncenter, Bella Vista***

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

NewsFlash!**DXCC**

NW ARKANSAS HAS NEW CARD CHECKER!

David Norris – K5UZ, ARRL Delta Division Director has just announced that Jay Bromley – W5JAY has been selected as an ARRL QSL Card Checker for northwest Arkansas. Arkansas has three other card checkers that serve other areas of the state. However, with the evolution of the large ham population



Jay – W5JAY

in northwest Arkansas, the decision was made to service that need for our area and add another card checker to the Arkansas group.

Jay is a lifetime DXer, with decades of experience under his belt. He has acquired 9-band DXCC (and getting close to 10-band) and is on the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll with 335 countries confirmed out of the 340 entities on the current ARRL DXCC countries list. So, Jay is well qualified to serve in this capacity. We are pleased that one of our valued BVRC members has been selected to serve in this very important position.

Also, being a DXCC card checker does not restrict Jay to checking and certifying DX (foreign) QSL cards only. Jay is also authorized to check cards for stateside contacts for hams pursuing their Worked-All-States awards, and he additionally can check cards for the VUCC award (VHF/UHF Century Club). Jay said he looks forward to helping any and all NW Arkansas amateurs in checking and confirming their QSL cards.

If you would like to contact Jay to have any of your QSL cards checked, here is Jay's contact information:

E-mail: jayw5jay@gmail.com
Phone: 479 – 651 – 3928



Welcome New BVRC Members !

Ken Mills – N5EE – Gravette
Carol Wilson – KD6UOM – Bella Vista
Mack Perry – K15RFI – Springdale
Steve Gibbs – K5OY – Bentonville
Mark Parmer – NW5AR – Springdale
Randy Marion – NMØG – Fayetteville
Bernie Kennetz – Bentonville



BVRC members:

If you change to another callsign, e-mail address, physical address, phone #, etc., please let us know so that we can update those changes in our membership database, and stay in contact with you!

Send your updated contact information to:

info@bellavistaradioclub.org

Thanks for your help!



NW ARKANSAS HAS TWO NEW DIGITAL REPEATERS ON THE AIR !!!

From BVRC Technical Officer, Tem Moore – N5KWL

There are two new digital repeaters in northwest Arkansas. Both are located on Dodd Mountain in Springdale (sometimes called Fitzgerald Mtn).

One is a D-Star and one is a DMR. Both repeaters are dedicated to their modes meaning they are not mixed mode. The D-Star repeater is 442.525 + 5MHz. The call sign is KG5JPJ. Set your radio to rpt1 KG5JPJ B and rpt2 KG5JPJ G. D-Star has a fairly steep learning curve and there is a great deal of disinformation on the web. I will attempt to assist any ham who has D-Star capability in their radio, and who needs help with the programming. The repeater has a gateway and linked to Reflector 077A, the Arkansas statewide reflector. D-Star has good audio quality and will even report your signal back to you in message form on your radio.

The DMR repeater is on 444.700, +5 MHz. The repeater ID in Brandmeister is 310519. For DMR friendly hams please program your radios to use time slot 2 to the local talk group, NWA 31058 and time slot 1 for all the other talk groups you want to use. DMR is pretty cool because one repeater can support two separate conversations at one time, meaning it's multiple access. Once again, the learning curve is steep, but I will try to help any ham with their DMR radio programming also. I highly recommend the Anytone AT-D878UVli plus handheld radio for DMR. It's also a great analog radio. I hear that Bridgecom will give customers support on an Anytone purchased from them.

If you're in or around Eureka Springs there is a DMR/DStar mixed mode repeater on Hwy 23. The frequency is 443.425, +5 MHz. The DMR ID is 310523. The call sign is KG5JPK. The D-Star is also KG5JPK. Set rpt1 KG5JPK B and rpt2 KG5JPK G. This one is also linked to reflector 0077A Arkansas statewide full time. Since it's multimode, it can only support either D-Star or DMR at any given time.

Re-Discovering the 1.25 MHz Band (222 Meters)

By Mike Schroeder - NØALJ

Back in the 80's, I used to live out in the country in a place called Plentywood Farms located between Bentonville and Pea Ridge. I had a 50 FT. Rohn tower which, using a side mounting bracket, I had a Cushcraft 220 MHz Ringo vertical for FM. I was using a Kenwood TM-331A, a great radio with which I was able to work



Mark on the WC5I 224.88 MHz repeater in Fort Smith and Francis on the WA5VTW 224.600 MHz in Prairie Grove, Arkansas. These were the two closest 200 MHz repeaters to me back then. When there was band enhancement, I could work the N0IES 224.42 MHz Repeater in Branson, MO. which was also linked to a 2 meter Branson repeater which you could hear yourself come back on. In the early 90's, I met a young group of guys and gals known as the 220 Crew which put up local repeaters on 224.98 MHz in Springdale and 224.90 in Fayetteville and hung out on. They even had a portable Repeater ready to deploy on 224.90 MHz.

This is a unique band that has the propagational qualities of both 2-Mtrs and 70-Cmtrs, and is also very low interference. Just as 2-Meters has a national simplex calling frequency, the 220 band has its own national simplex calling frequency of 223.500 MHz. There is not quite as much activity on 220 MHz as 2 meter FM of course, but a whole new band to work and discover for me. In the late 1980's, UPS approached the FCC to re-allocate part of the 1.25 Meter band to the land mobile service. So in 1988, we lost a portion of the 1.25 Meter band because of the FCC reallocation of 220-222 MHz to private and federal government land mobile use leaving us to be able to still use 222 MHz to 225 MHz. But, the re-allocation proceeding took so long that UPS eventually pursued other means of meeting it's communications needs. The 1.25 meter band has pockets of widespread use across the United States mainly in New England and western states such as California, Arizona, Texas and Washington with more sporadic activity elsewhere. I loved my Kenwood TM-331A and was intrigued by this band till the day a nearby lightning strike took out my radio! I should have bought another immediately as a replacement at the time, as this fine radio is no longer available today.

Over the years, I moved from the country to town and setup new Ham Operation inside a

subdivision in Rogers. I would always think back to my 220 days, and I put 220 on my bucket list to re-discover again in the future. Well, this past summer, I made it a project to get back on the 220 MHz band again! These days, 220 MHz radios are harder to find, because the leading manufacturers don't market 220 MHz radios like they used to, although some do make a few mobiles and HT's. Enter China who comes to the rescue, to get me back on 220 MHz again. I found a brand new, in the box, AnyTone AT-588 220 MHz radio, from DNJ Radio shop on E-Bay, at the nice price \$149.00. And it is not just low power like some of the newer tri-band radios with 220 coverage.



The AnyTone operates in three power levels of 10 Watts / 25 Watts / 55 Watts. It is easy to program and operate, and seems to be a solid radio with great reviews. I am currently using it as my base station.

To start this project, I got on the air by building a 220 MHz ground plane out of coat hanger wire and a female SO-239 Coax Connector using the Bob Simpleton's Guide you can find here:

<https://draperhamradio.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/guide-to-quickie-quarter-wave-and-emergency-antennas.pdf>

I used a piece of Sched 40 PVC pipe to mount it and ran the coax up through the PVC pipe. I screwed the mast mounting bracket, I got from Lowes, to the side of a roof board and got it up as high as possible without the center element touching the roof. I got the SWR perfect when I was building the antenna and trimming it inside the house but after mounting it in the attic,

it went up slightly but was still under 1.5 to 1.



Today, being back on 220 MHz again, is a bit different, but actually better I think. The WA5VTW Repeater, and the 220 Crew Repeaters seem to be gone now.....but to my surprise, I learned that the Rogers/Lowell area now has a new 220 MHz Repeater! Thanks to Phil – W7UFO, it is the 224.660 MHz machine and this also is a great reason for me to once again get back on 220 MHz! He welcomed me and told me to use it and considers it as an open repeater. I can get into this repeater with no problem at 10 Watts, using my attic ground plane and AnyTone AT-588. I can receive the repeater at full scale from north Rogers. I also learned I could work this repeater with my old Kenwood TH-F6A Tri-Band HT which covers 220 MHz. This is using the Diamond SRH320A tri-band HT antenna as an improvement over the stock rubber duck antenna when I'm out and about on foot.

Sometimes I go walking out at Osage Park in Bentonville and I discovered I could work the Rogersr repeater on foot with my HT along Lake Bentonville. Mounted on my car, I have a hatchback NMO mobile antenna mount. Using my Kenwood HT, I run the Diamond CR320A Tri-Band Gain NMO Mobile Antenna.

On the morning of July 21, 2020 at about 7:00 am, I was able to work the 224.34 MHz KK5I Muskogee, OK. repeater and made my first contact into N.E. Oklahoma with only 10 Watts on my attic ground plane!!! I was receiving the repeater about 1-2 LED bars of signal and I worked Bob – W5RAB. He said I was coming in just fine and that he was in Bartlesville, OK, using the 224.26 MHz Bartlesville repeater. He told me that it was linked to the 224.34 MHz repeater in Muskogee along with the 223.94 MHz repeater in Big Cabin, OK. as part of a wide area 220 MHz linked system with 9 total repeaters that are all linked via the Allstar System.

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	CST	MHz	RST	MODE
N0ALJ	21	07	2022	7:10A	224.480	59	FM

He also told me that there was a Friday Night 220 MHz net, on this linked system, at 9:00 PM. So 220 MHz is still alive in NE Oklahoma! I even found an online petition seeking signatures to influence commercial radio equipment manufacturers to make more 220 radios. There N5VKN reported that N.E. Oklahoma used 223.64 MHz for FM simplex activity. Finally, the Nixa, MO. Ham Radio club has a 224.28 MHz repeater, and they link it up on the Thursday night Nixa Club Net that I can hear on the 145.39 MHz Granby, MO. repeater at 7:30 PM. I have heard a check-in on this net say they were on the 220 MHz side.

On the morning of July 23, 2020 at about 7:00 am, I was able to work the 224.76 MHz Repeater in Springfield, MO. (on a 300 FT tower) and the 224.28 MHz repeater in Clever, MO, both on my attic ground plane with only 10 watts! The Springfield, MO mega repeater is on top of a

300-foot. tower and it was coming in full scale! I often have band enhancement into NE Oklahoma or SW Missouri, and this is usually early in the mornings after an overnight “cool down” from a hot summer’s day. I have also seen enhancement in the nighttime from thunderstorms that move through, or from temperature inversion in the troposphere.. Recently, we had a Sunday evening thunderstorm come through and drop precious rain, cooling things down and I was able to work the 224.48 MHz Repeater in Keetonville, OK.. On the evening of Wednesday, July 27th 2022, a cool front came through to give us relief from the summer heatwave. I discovered a CARC Net at 8:30 pm that I was hearing on three different N.E. Oklahoma 220 repeaters simultaneously! I was able to check-in on the Muskogee 224.34 MHz repeater that I often hear. On the evening of Friday, 08/12/2022, I momentarily heard a QSO on the 224.400 Oklahoma City repeater which I believe was due to a Perseid meteor burn because it was during the 2022 Perseid meteor shower.

The Tulsa Ham Radio Club webpage shows all the following 220 MHz repeaters in NE Oklahoma and SE Kansas with ALLSTAR links:

224.38 MHz Tulsa,OK.

224.48 MHz Keetonville,OK.

224.26 MHz Bartlesville,OK.

224.18 MHz Leonard,OK.

223.94 MHz Big Cabin,OK.

224.68 MHz Skiatook,OK.

224.78 MHz Depew,OK.

224.52 MHz Coffeyville,KS.

I programmed 220 MHz repeater frequencies, into my AnyTone AT-588, and put it into scan mode to listen for both band openings and local activity on the Rogers repeater or 223.500 MHz simplex. I am looking forward to learning more about 220 MHz repeaters, activity, and working FM simplex contacts. Sometimes I get TV Skip from Oklahoma City and will have to listen for any Oklahoma City Repeaters then. The ARRL Repeater Directory also shows a KJ6TQ-R 224.100 MHz repeater In Branson, MO which I am trying to confirm reception. Because this project has been a success, I want to one day upgrade my attic ground plane to the Diamond F142A, which is a 6 foot DC grounded base antenna with double 5/8 wave phased element 5.5 db gain on what I consider one of my favorite ham bands. These are currently my favorite frequencies of interest in memory:

223.50 MHz National Simplex
224.28 Clever, MO.
224.66 MHz Rogers, AR.
223.94 Big Cabin, OK.

224.34 MHz Muskogee, OK
224.76 MHz Springfield, MO.
224.48 Keetonville, OK.

73 and hope to C U on the 222 MHz band sometime! – Mike, NØALJ



HO HO HO, to all of you
merry BVRC members!

If you signed-up, be sure and mark your
calendar for the annual Bella
Vista area Radio Club Member's
Christmas and Awards Banquet, Thurs.
evening, Dec. 1 at 7pm. Lots of
food, fun, & ham radio
fellowship, as well as
really nice door prizes!
C U there and 73!



**BELLA VISTA AREA
RADIO CLUB
GARNERS
NATIONAL 1ST
PLACE FOR 2022
ARRL
FIELD DAY!**

A milestone has occurred.....

For the first time in the Club's history, BVRC won national first place in the 3A(Commercial) Division for FD 2022. BVRC scored 1,589 total QSOs and 6,622 total points for the first place finish. The next club in the standings nearest to BVRC was over 2500 points less.

Congratulations to all Club participants on the three stations, and everyone who assisted in FD operations for making this one of the all-time best BVRC Field Days!



**BVRC MEMBERS
PARTICIPATE IN
ARRL 2022
SIDEBAND
SWEEPSTAKES**

Robert Hill – K5NZV, Dana Hill – W5DGH, and Sophie Calvi – KI5WVD joined Don Banta – K5DB at his shack to participate in the 2022 Single-Sideband Sweepstakes competition during the weekend of Nov. 19-20. The group made a total of 1,115 QSOs and worked all 84 ARRL sections during the event. This was a first time for the three operators to participate in a competitive operating HF event, and they all learned the protocol VERY quickly and did a stellar job. If you would like to see them in operation, click [here](#).



We Haven't Forgotten You, Ladies! – The YLRL

There are a number of different subsets to the hobby of amateur radio. Many ham radio operators are interested in one subset in particular, while others are interested in and participate in them all.

Amateurs may like to talk to operators in other countries. They may like to contest where they contact as many other stations as they can in a certain amount of time, following a certain criteria. Some amateurs like to go on DXpeditions to strange or rare places where they set up their radio station and talk to as many other hams as possible while they are there. Still others are big grid square or U.S. county collectors. Many hams prefer providing emergency communications in times of disasters.

There is one other subset of amateur radio – the YL, or Young Lady. In amateur radio, a female is a "Young Lady" no matter what her age. A married YL is termed an "XYL" (Extra Young Lady). Any man is an "Old Man", or OM, again despite his age. The largest organization for YL ham operators in the world is the Young Ladies Radio League, Inc. (YLRL) which exists to encourage and assist YLs throughout the world to become an active, licensed amateur radio operator.



Organized in 1939, the YLRL is a nonprofit organization of women amateur radio licensees. Their website states, "82 years after that fateful question of "are there any YLs out there?", the answer is a resounding "YES" – the YLs are out there and active! Ethel Smith started an organization that has outlasted its founding mothers, but is still going strong with members all over the world. Though none of the original 12 founding mothers are longer with us, there is at least one member who has earned 65 years of continuous membership and another with 64. A handful of members have 50-55 years of continuous membership as well."

continuous membership and another with 64. A handful of members have 50-55 years of continuous membership as well.”

The YLRL encourages and assists YLs throughout the world to enter into the Amateur Radio Service. There are a variety of interests to offer licensed YLs: Traffic Handling, Public Service, ARES, Contests, Awards, DX, etc., on AM, CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, AMTOR, Packet and Satellite. Of course, there are the infinite benefits derived from just plain gal-to-gal rag-chewing and the resulting friendships.

OMs Can Participate Too! –OMs can also be involved with the YLs and YLRL. While OMs do not have voting rights, they may become a subscriber to their by monthly newsletter, YL-Harmonics, if they do not have a licensed YL in the family. OMs can earn many of the certificates given by the Young Ladies' Radio League Inc., including the YL-Worked All States (for working a YL in each of the 50 states), YL-DXCC (for working YLs in 100 different countries), YL Century Club or YLCC (for working 100 different YLs anywhere) and YL-Worked All Continents (for working a YL on each continent).



(Editor's note: One of the prominent YLRL members is Ann – WA1S. I have had the pleasure of working Ann many times in years past on the GERATOL Extra Class 75-meter Worked All States Net when she resided in New Hampshire. She has now moved to Florida. I also had the great pleasure in 2000 of working the K5K Kingman Reef DXpedition team of which Ann was a member. She is a super nice person, a GREAT DXer (DXCC #1) and operator, and always willing to help out with a QSO. She is one of many great operators in the YLRL. – Don, K5DB)

The YLRL also provides two scholarships of \$2000 and one of \$1000 each year. The scholarships are granted to “worthy Young Ladies for continuing their education, with preference given to those in the academic study of communications and electronics or related arts and sciences” as according to the YLRL by-laws. A ham license is mandatory as well as other requirements (see the YLRL website).

Whether you be a male or female amateur, if you ever converse with a potential female candidate to enter the amateur radio ranks, don't forget to mention that after they obtain their license and get on the air, one of the great organizations that will help to further the enjoyment of their new hobby is the YLRL.

All the info they (or you) need is on the YLRL website: <https://ylrl.net/>

THE DX CODE OF CONDUCT

By Don – K5DB



Ed. note: This article deals with a phenomena that is occurring more and more...unfortunately. Usually when I am moved to compose an article, I endeavor to deal with the positive aspects of our hobby. However, I must jump on the other side of the fence for this one, but only momentarily, in an effort to transform a negative topic into a beneficial one. Even though some of it does deal with the negative aspects of the subject, they are brought out to put a positive spin on, at the conclusion. I also know this hasn't been noticed by me alone:

Years ago, I read a story about an avid DX-er, Jim – K9JV. Jim was attempting to work a station in Papua New Guinea and one in Malaysia (both countries are to the north of Australia). The pileups were large, inconsiderate, and unruly. While it is the right of the DX station to try and regulate the pileup, it is also the responsibility of those trying to work the DX station to conduct themselves in a professional manner as much as possible. In his story, Jim pointed out that several stations continued to throw-out their calls, even though the DX station was asking for a repeat on a particular partial callsign that they heard, which wasn't even close to those of the apathetic perpetrators.

This actually is ridiculous! K9JV was furious (and I can relate to him being upset) when the DX station was sending on CW "K9?V", and a KØ, a VE and a W2 station kept plaguing the airwaves with their calls. I had a similar experience years ago that I never will forget, when I was trying to work A71MA in Qatar. I was one of hundreds competing in the pileup, and the Qatar station suddenly began sending "K5D?" He meant yours truly of course, yet I was obliterated by a W3 station, and no...it wasn't a "W3D-something". I could have accepted that, except that the W3 station didn't even have an "D" in their callsign! I was still lucky, as I did get through to, and work, the Qatar station the following night.

What causes this kind of behavior? Are people truly that stupid and/or discourteous? I do not truly know the answer to that question, of course.

But I think part of the problem may lay in the way that I think DX is encountered today. At the risk of sounding like a crotchety, ill-tempered old coot, in the days of old we used to find DX by turning and turning the ol' VFO dial, and listening for it. You tuned the band up and down, back and forth, straining your ears to find that DX signal. If you were lucky, you were able to hear them, work them, and you were good to go, happy, and thrilled. Or, you listened for a pileup and located the station they were all calling, determined if you needed him, and then you joined the fray. But in essence YOU had to locate the DX station yourself, either by tuning or by locating the target station of a pileup.

With the now existent "computer era", things have gotten immensely easier, but sometimes with less than desirable outcomes.

Allow me to explain with this scenario:

A ham turns the VFO. They find and hear – for example, we'll use a DXpedition that just concluded – TYØRU. They work him. Then, proud of their accomplishment, they post TYØRU to the internet (in the days of old, the packet cluster), wishing to share the bounty. Immediately, on the computer screens of amateurs all over the world comes the info that TYØRU has appeared on 21.029 MHz, CW.

Nowadays, with the myriad of the logging and rig control programs available, an operator can just point and click with his mouse and "viola!" there they are, on TYØRU's frequency.

I think the problem is that many operators don't even pause to listen and see if they can actually hear TYØRU. Or maybe they can hear him, but it's only a marginal copy at best. In fact, they hear him so marginally that if they were tuning across the band on their own, *they wouldn't even be able to tell that it was in fact TYØRU in the first place* – but hey!!! Their computers tell them that he's there, right?

So, what do they do? They begin to throw-out their call in the hopes that somehow he'll magically get louder and that they'll be heard in return. In many cases they can't even tell that he's working split! So they call right on the listening frequency, which then invokes the ensuing tumult of "Ups" and "LIDs" and other expletives I won't mention being sent (this is a family club newsletter). It gets to be one big frustrating mess. And this doesn't even take into account the zoo that can occur if some quack who literally enjoys jamming DX operations gets involved. So what should be done about this? The *simple solution* is to closely and completely adhere to the "DX Code of Conduct" – that's what.

The DX Code of Conduct was formulated by Randy Johnson W6SJ (SK):



- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's callsign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station, nor anyone calling and will never tune-up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make the contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect

The long-and-the-short-of-it is this: Just because you have wonderful electronic tools at your command, does not release you from your responsibility of showing integrity and cordiality to other hams.

I have always done my best to abide by this code. Not only in DX pileups, but in net and general operation as well.

If all radio amateurs would follow this code, life on the bands would be much more pleasant.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR THOSE COLD WINTER NIGHTS OF 2022-2023: THE GERATOL NET



Let me preface this article by saying to all of our readers that even though this article is mainly geared for those who hold an Amateur Extra Class license, if you are presently a Technician or General license holder, keep reading! This article is written to supply interesting information to our readers who currently hold an Extra license, but even more so to encourage our Techs and Generals to grab a copy of the General Class and/or Extra Class license manual(s) or HamStudy.org, and begin studying to obtain your own Extra license! After you digest the information to follow, you will understand more about the GERATOL Net, the reason the Net was birthed in 1971-72, why it operates in the Extra Class portion of the 80-meter band, and how much fun and rewarding it can be. There are many advantages of holding an Extra license, and being able to operate on the Geratol Net is one of them.

If you have never worked all of the 50 United States (or even if you have) and you have the capability and license privileges of operating in the Extra Class phone sub-band of 75 meters, here's a dandy activity that will definitely keep you occupied for the remainder of the 2022-23 winter and early spring season, and is loads of fun. Not only will you be working toward a Worked-All-States award, but you will be doing so in the Extra Class portion of 75-meters which is actually the phone sub-band of 80 meters. It is a challenge, but it is NOT impossible. I have done it many times, and it has been very enjoyable and rewarding.

First, about the Net's name – GERATOL. This does not refer to the old Geritol tonic as many misconstrue it as just that, nor does it suggest that the Net members are a bunch of old-timer, decrepit operators. On the contrary! The Net members are composed of operators of all ages. GERATOL is actually an acronym which stands for **G**reetings **E**xtra **R**adio **A**mateurs **T**ired of **O**perating **L**ately.

I have been a member of the GERATOL Net since 2008. I had the pleasure of serving as Net Control Station Coordinator for 5 years, and just recently 'took up the torch' again, and currently serve as the Friday night net control station. You will not find a more cordial, friendly, and helpful group of hams anywhere on the bands.

This year the GERATOL Net celebrates its 50th year anniversary.

The story of how the GERATOL Net began is very interesting. – How was it formed? Why was it formed? What is its purpose?

Here is what happened:

“The FCC is going to open up the 75-meter Extra Class sub-band to Advanced Class operators!!!”

That was the topic of conversation between John-WØNL and Hank-K2DS on the evening of September 28, 1971. The lack of activity by U.S. Extra Class operators in the exclusive (at that time) 3800-3825 KHz Extra Class sub-band was the issue. John and Hank decided that working all the 50 states, within that sub-band only, would provide the needed incentive to increase the activity.....and the GERATOL Net was born.

Harry-W3ZM and others developed guidelines, adding sport to the already challenging feat. One idea was to restrict contacts toward a “WAS”, to a 2-letter suffix callsign format. U.S., Canadian, and Caribbean operators who were authorized those frequencies were welcomed to join the group. The word quickly spread, and the fraternal group could always be found somewhere within the Extra Class 75-meter sub-band.

The ARRL Communications Department was asked to assist with the development of the unique 2-letter WAS (Worked-All-States) award, in addition to the ARRL family of WAS awards. Rules for obtaining the serialized WAS award were published on page 88 of the February 1972 issue of QST.

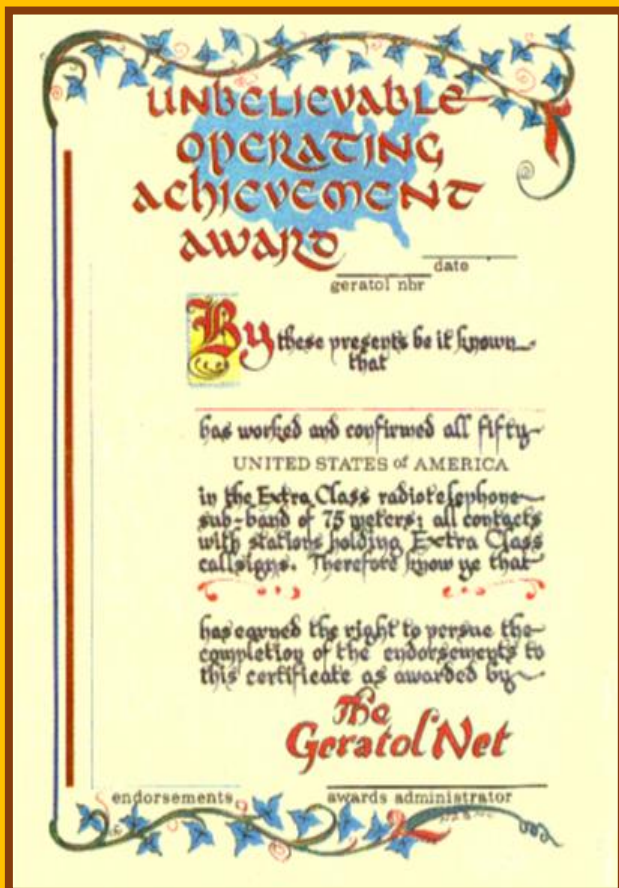
During the fall of 1972, the FCC did allow Advanced class operators to expand into the 3800-3825 KHz sub-band. *However!....the FCC's band usage review had shown a LARGE increase in Extra Class operator usage within that sub-band. Consequently, the FCC rewarded Extra Class operators with a NEW exclusive sub-band: 3775-3800 KHz. (So, Extra Class operators, whether you know it or not, the 75-meter Extra Class phone sub-band that you have available for your enjoyment today, is largely due to the efforts of the GERATOL Net.)*

In 1984, the FCC again reallocated the Extra Class sub-band to 3.750-3.775 KHz, at which time the Net moved its operating frequency to 3.768 KHz. Then, on December 15, 2006 the FCC once again reallocated the Extra Class sub-band to 3.600-3.700 KHz. Today, the GERATOL Net enjoys its home on 3.668 KHz.

"Sounds kind of interesting. How do I join?"

Now, if you do get fully bitten by the 'GERATOL bug' as I did many years ago, you will have many follow-up questions as there are many, many other areas that the Net envelopes. Those questions can probably be answered in the FAQs section of the Net's website. (More on that in a moment.) But to cover the very basic requirement to join, *all you have to do is participate.*

When you first begin operating on the Net, you will be working toward obtaining the Geratol Unbelievable Operating Achievement Award, which the Net refers to as "The Basic Award".



This award is HUGE. It measures roughly 12 x 20 inches and makes a very handsome addition to any shack's wall awards.

To achieve the Basic Award, you must work and confirm an operator in each of the 50 states that holds an Amateur Extra class formatted callsign. What this means is the station you work in each of the 50 states has to possess a callsign that is *only* issued to an Extra class license holder.

There are 4 categories of these:

- The 1x2 callsign – Example: W1AB, NØLW, K5DB, etc.
- The 2x1 callsign – Example: WB5L, NA9L, KX8P, NL7S, AH6Y, etc.
- The 2x2-Alpha Extra class callsign – Example: AA7KT, AE1SW, AG9HP, etc.
- The 2x2 KH6 (Hawaii) and KL7 (Alaska) Extra Class callsign – Example: KH6YF, KL7IC, etc.

There is one thing I do not want you to be confused about –

To participate in the GERATOL Net, **YOU DO NOT have to possess one of the above type of callsigns.** Whether you have an Extra class formatted callsign or not does not matter. If you have a 1 x 3 callsign (W5ABC, N5XYZ, KØDEF, ect.) or a 2 x 3 callsign (KEØBQR, WB5ANK, etc.), the only requirement is that you hold an Extra class license as the Net does operate exclusively in the Extra class portion of 75-meters. The stations you work in each state for the Basic Award, however, DO have to possess a callsign of one of the above categories.

Also, you DO NOT have to work all your states *on the Net only*. The Net is just there as an aide in helping you work the states. The only requirement for the Basic Award is that you work all 50 states with Extra formatted calls in the Extra class portion of 75-meters. So, make sure you and the station you work mark the frequency on your QSL cards to four places (ex: 3.668 KHz).

When you receive your Unbelievable Operating Achievement Worked All States Award, that award will have a serialized number on it, and that number becomes your Geratol #. You can then continue to enjoy many more hours on the Net, by pursuing many of the various other awards and endorsements that the Net offers.

Yes, it is challenging, but it is NOT impossible, and it's a lot of fun. I did it many years ago, and had a ball doing it. My Geratol # is 2207. I also achieved the GERATOL Net Director's Award for working a minimum of 100 GERATOL numbers, after achieving and receiving my number. I have currently worked over 1500 numbers.

"I bet you have to have an amplifier to accomplish such a feat on 75-meters, especially the hard to get states like in New England, the west coast, and Alaska and Hawaii?"

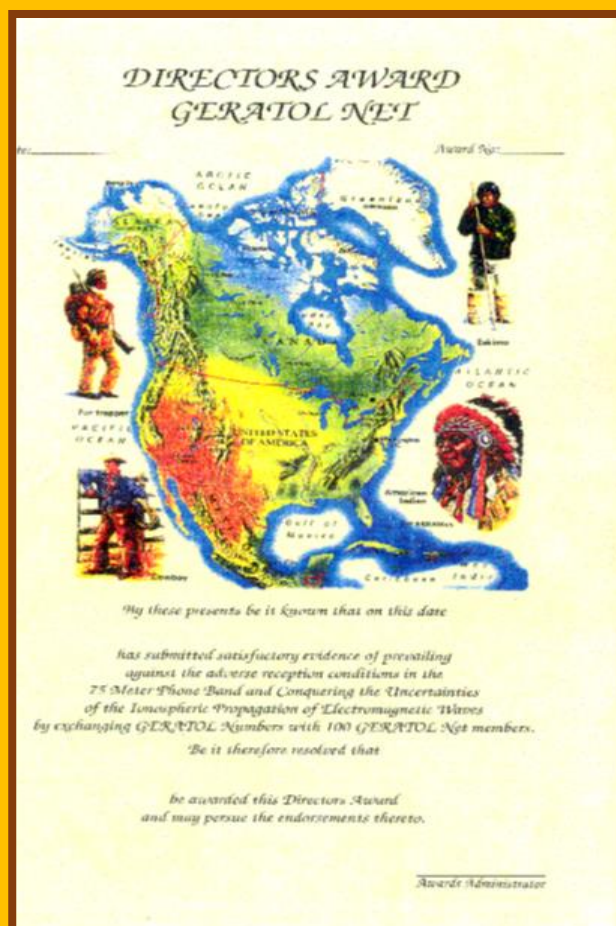
Naturally, amplifiers are helpful, but no – you do not need an amp, not at all. It is a little more of a challenge without an amplifier, but there are hundreds of GERATOL members who have done just that and worked all the states without one. Yes, I personally did use an amplifier to acquire my award, but guess what? After I achieved the Basic Award, I turned right around, turned the power output of my Ten-Tec transceiver down to 5 watts (that I had for my main radio at the time) and acquired an endorsement to my Basic Award by working all the 50 states again – QRP! Remember the two big words when it comes to working any station on any band, mode, or net with any rig: *propagation and conditions.*

The Net operates on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) which is the worldwide international time on the ham bands. The Net begins promptly each night of the week, 7 days a week, at 0100 UTC. This is 7pm local time during Standard time hours, and 8pm during Daylight time hours. *The Net operates from Oct. 1 – April 30 each year. The Net closes during May through September due to poor conditions on the 75-meter band.*

To begin your quest, tune the Net's frequency on 3.668 KHz at 0100 UTC. You may hear a small casual gathering of the Net participants prior to the start of that evening's session but at 0100, the Net begins. The Net's NCS (Net Control Station) for that evening will read the Net preamble which will describe to you how the Net operates. Listen to the instructions and check-in. That's all there is to it. You'll probably work 10-20 states your first night!

All this, and additional information about the awards and endorsements can be found at: www.geratol.net.

If you want to take the boredom out of the upcoming cold Ozark winter evenings, give it a try! The GERATOL Net is tough to beat.



As we near the Christmas season and the conclusion of 2022, we would like to keep with tradition as we have each year of this newsletter and conclude this issue of The Signal with the following, from the 1947 motion picture "The Bishop's Wife" (modified for amateur radio):

The Empty Stocking

*Tonight, I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking:
Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry. A
blazing star hung over a stable and wise men came with
birthday gifts. We haven't forgotten that night down
through the centuries. We celebrate it with stars on
Christmas trees, with the sound of bells, with carols, and
with gifts.....but especially with gifts. You give me a new
set of headphones; I give you a new dual band HT. Aunt
Martha has always wanted a food processor and Uncle
Henry can do with a new IC-7300. We forget no one, adult
or child. And all the stockings are filled. - All that is.except one.*

*And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger.
It's His birthday we're celebrating, you know. Let us never forget that*

*Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for most. And then let each of us put in their
share - lovingkindness, warm hearts, and a stretched-out hand of tolerance. All the
shining gifts that make peace on earth.*

***Have a Merry Christmas, and a blessed and
prosperous 2023. - Don-K5DB, editor***

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.