

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023

THE SIGNAL

*Newsletter of the
Bella Vista area Radio Club*

*Arkansas' Largest
Ham Radio Club*



January 2023

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m.

Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA)

3424 S. Downum Road, Springdale AR

HAM 101 Q&A Session for Newcomers @ 6pm preceding meeting

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 BVRCL 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, JANUARY 12, 2023 @ 7PM
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY
3424 S. DOWNUM ROAD
SPRINGDALE, AR

JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

BVRC kicks-off the new year with our own Mark Whatley – K5XH from Fayetteville. Mark is a 60-year amateur radio veteran, with a vast knowledge of the hobby. Mark was among the student body operators at the Fayetteville High School Amateur Radio Club in the 60s. The Club call was K5TQC. He is the RTTY (Radio Teletype) guru of Arkansas, and places in the Top Ten of the annual ARRL RTTY Roundup practically every year.

Mark's home station setup includes a Flex 6600 transceiver with a Flex PGXL 1500 watt amplifier for HF, and an Icom 7100 for VHF/UHF. He runs several antennas, among them a Hygain TH-7 for 10, 15, and 20 meters, a Mosley 2-element 40-meter beam, and a dipole for 80-meters. Mark is also the proud owner of a vintage Henry 2K amplifier from the '70s era.

One area that Mark is incredibly knowledgeable in, is coax and antennas. Mark will be sharing with us the first of those two areas – "Coax Use and Coax Connectors".

Mark will be discussing the early history of transmission lines, the types of coax that are available today (particularly for new hams coming into the hobby), and their characteristics. He will explain the different layers of a piece of coax and what function they perform.

He will show the difference between a soldered connector and a crimp-on connectors, as well as all the other types of connectors, adapters, etc.

Don't miss this super presentation! See you then!

ATTENTION !!!

THE PERSONNEL OF OUR MEETING FACILITY – THE ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY (ALETA) – HAVE ADVISED US THAT THEY WILL BE USING OUR MEETING ROOM (THE MAIN CLASSROOM) FOR THE FIRST THURSDAY IN JANUARY.

THEREFORE, THE JANUARY BVRC MEETING WILL BE HELD (FOR THIS ONE TIME ONLY) ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF NEXT MONTH: JANUARY 12, 2023

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JAN. 12,
AND SEE YOU THEN.**

2022 BVRC CHRISTMAS AND AWARDS BANQUET

(Photos courtesy K5DB & K5XK)



Nearly 80 attendees were on hand for the annual BVRC Christmas and Awards banquet held at the club's new home at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy facility in Springdale on Thursday evening, December 1. The meal was outstanding consisting of the main course of lasagna, salad, and bread from Giral-di's in Fayetteville (and coordinated by BVRC's Hospitality Director Bill Durham – KG5ZCI, assisted by Alan Katz – KEØQFO). Members provided excellent side items and desserts which rounded-off the spectacular meal.

A special treat was provided by the Hope Quartet, a very talented foursome of ladies from the Bella Vista area. The quartet performs year round and had already had two previous engagements that day, but did a great job in visiting the BVRC festivities and treating us to great renditions of current and classic Christmas songs.

Outgoing BVRC President Tom Northfell-W5XNA called a short business meeting to order, which included the election for new President and Vice-President with Jan Hagan-WB5JAN and Joe Hott-W5AEN assuming their new positions unopposed. The other officers from 2022 chose to serve another term, also unopposed. Awards were then presented to individuals in the club who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for BVRC in 2022. Enjoy the photos, fun, and great ham radio fellowship on the following pages. You can also see the video of some of the banquet highlights on the Bella Vista area Radio Club YouTube Channel [here](#).



Attendees enjoying the Christmas feast



The Hope Quartet performs Christmas favorites



**Veteran member,
BVRC Membership Coordinator,
and MC for the evening
Ron Evans - K5XK begins the
awards ceremony**

The awards segment of the banquet featured the bestowing of several Special Service Awards and annual awards that were presented by the various officers of BVRC:



Vice-President Don Banta – K5DB presents Gregg Harrison – KF5WAP the Special Service Award for arranging and coordinating the marvelous meeting facility that BVRC now calls home.



Don-K5DB then presented a Special Service Award of Appreciation to Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Director Clint Scrivner for approving BVRC's use of the ALETA facility. Accepting the award for Clint is Shannon McCuin, ALETA Training Instructor and Coordinator, and also BVRC member KI5WUD!



President Tom Northfell – W5XNA presents Wayne Patton – K5UNX for his past service as BVRC Video Director and his immeasurable help during the pandemic.



BVRC Past President, Webmaster, and Repeater Trustee Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L presents Alan Katz – KEØQFO with the Volunteer of the Year Award for his many past years of wonderful service to the club.



President Tom Northfell – W5XNA presents the Special Service Award to new BVRC Video Coordinator Adnan Ademovic – KDØKCY for his already many hours in creating and editing great BVRC videos.



BVRC Secretary Dana Hill – W5DGH presents Treasurer Marc Whittlesey – WØKYZ with a Special Recognition Award and BVRC's eternal gratitude for Marc's 30 years in serving as BVRC Treasurer



BVRC Treasurer Marc Whittlesey – WØKYZ presents the BVRC Rookie of the Year Award to Robert Hill – K5NZV



BVRC VE Coordinator Don Cooper – KC7DC presents Mark Whitley – K5XH with the Elmer of the Year Award



The award for Best Program Presentation of the Year was given to Murray Harris -W5XH, presented by BVRC Elmer 911 Coordinator Vinson Carter – WV5C



THE BVRC HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

**was presented to a
shocked and well-deserving
President Tom Northfoll – W5XNA.
The award was given by
our MC of the evening, Ron Evans – K5XK**

BVRC OFFICERS

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Bella Vista Radio Club Celebrates 30 Year Anniversary

By Ron Evans – K5XK

Few would have thought the Bella Vista area Radio Club would one day be recognized as one of the oldest amateur radio clubs in the region, and now as Arkansas' largest amateur radio club. Initially organized as the Bella Vista Repeater Group in 1993, its initial focus was serving Benton County with a reliable, state of the art wide area 2-Meter repeater.

Its history has very humble beginnings, largely with former members from the now-defunct Northwest Arkansas Amateur Radio Club which met in Springdale. Prior to the mid-90s, the NWA ARC operated several area repeaters, including 'the 147.030 machine,' located on the London Water Tower in Bella Vista.

Bill Davidson - WØJLY, long time member and now a Silent Key, in his recollections of this history of the club, said that maintenance and support for the .030 repeater from the NWA Club "always seemed to be lacking." As leadership changed, interest diminished in the club's sole Benton County repeater. Bill found himself all alone in trying to keep the machine on the air.

Looking for a more reliable option, Bella Vista retiree John Hansen - AB5UN formed the fledgling Bella Vista 'Repeater Group' with sixty supporters from Rogers, Bentonville and Bella Vista. \$3,000 was raised and a new repeater was soon launched on 147.255 MHz, located on one of the POA's many water towers. The Repeater Group was off and running. Its first president, Bill Wright - KC5GN (SK), was a good administrator and soon secured non-profit status for the club.

Eventually, AB5UN lost interest in the hobby, leaving Bill to shoulder total maintenance of the repeater, which was moved to the more centralized Trafalgar Water Tower. Bill, along with Glenn Allen - W5VCC (SK), worked to expand club membership, conducting licensing classes in Morse Code and electronics. These early classes yielded two dozen new hams.

One of the new club recruits was then Benton County deputy sheriff Ken Farmer - KD5UFY. Hugh - WAØTDQ, remembers that Ken would stop by WØJLY's after work, for CW practice. Ken eventually became Bella Vista Chief of Police and club Repeater Trustee. After Ken's retirement in 2016, Fred Lemley - K5QBX, was appointed repeater trustee. And when it became apparent the repeater needed to be relocated, Fred temporarily hosted the repeater at his QTH while an extensive search was made for a new permanent site. The solution was found in 2017, when the repeater was relocated to the K5SRS commercial tower just north of the AR/MO state line, across from the Jane, MO Walmart.

WØJLY remembers Repeater Group meetings were informal and held at area restaurants. He recalls only one Field Day during the early years. Under the presidency of Bob Femrite - KØSNG, the club resumed Field Day participation, generating a large number of contacts and high scores from portable stations operating CW, SSB, and Digital modes. Under the 2018 guidance of K5QBX, the tradition of demonstrating emergency communications capability during ARRL Field Day was revitalized.

Under the leadership of Ken Mummery - K6RLA, the club voted in 2016 to change its name to Bella Vista Radio Club, reflecting members' expanded interest in all areas of the hobby. In 2017, the club was rewarded by efforts of members Bob McIntire - AC5LX (SK), and Walt Gaspord - AF5XY (SK), as meetings were moved to new spacious facilities at the Highland Christian Church. WØJLY was recognized as 'Member Emeritus.' The first 'Ham of the Year' was awarded to Steve Werner, K5SAW, for his many contributions of time and technical expertise to area hams.

Also in 2017, Glenn Kilpatrick, WB5L, organized a new Volunteer Exam team. Later that year, Glenn was elected president. Meetings were moved to evening hours, and in 2018 "The Signal," a new monthly newsletter edited by Don

Banta - K5DB was launched. Glenn vastly improved the club website with new areas and aesthetic improvements. These efforts resulted in significant growth in membership. Today, the club is a diverse group of almost 200 licensed and prospective radio amateurs with varied interests. Membership is spread across Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington, Sebastian, McDonald, and Delaware counties in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Informally, the club is now referred to as the Bella Vista area Radio Club.

We salute Bill, John, Hugh, Bob, and so many other former members whose contributions we enjoy to this day.

To commemorate this milestone in BVRC's existence and operation, we have these thoughts from past and present BVRC officers:

Mark Whittlesey - WØKYZ, Treasurer: "The growth of the club over the past few years has been nothing short of astounding. At times it could be a real challenge for me to keep up with all the new membership forms, dues payments, the flood of emails, and recording ALL the information that went along with it. But seeing the club grow and the renewed interest in ham radio made it worthwhile. Sometimes, rapid growth can lead to the rapid rise of problems. Couple that with the Covid epidemic and the loss of our normal meeting location and you have the perfect storm. But the leadership has done an exemplary job of dealing with these problems as they have arisen. So we have a good history of leadership to help point us in the right direction for the future.

Much instruction and guidance is needed for many of our new hams to help them hit the ground running. We don't want to let new hams get frustrated with getting started and lose interest. So as many members as possible should step up to help with this. Some of this is already going on, but often we hear about this indirectly. Don - K5DB covers some of this in the newsletter. Reporting on this during the meetings would be helpful as well and would tend to encourage discussion and participation to foster more help for new hams. Having shack visits and allowing supervised operation as well as encouraging any new hams to take advantage of the SDR's scattered over the world to just listen on the bands should help jump-start them, and keep the interest levels high."

Don Banta - K5DB, past VP, Signal Newsletter Editor: “BVRC reaches a historic moment in 2023, as we celebrate our 30th year. BVRC was incorporated on March 17, 1993, originally as the Bella Vista Repeater Group (BVRG). The above anniversary logo will appear on the banner of THE SIGNAL for each issue of 2023 and will also appear on BVRC’s website, to ensure that anyone reading SIGNAL issues or viewing the website will be made aware of this great accomplishment.

Since its founding, BVRC has maintained a top-notch level of providing informative monthly programs, helps (elmering), and activities to aid in enabling new and veteran hams alike in increasing their enjoyment of our great hobby. We continue to do that today, which has resulted in BVRC becoming the largest ham club in the state. This type of growth just doesn’t “happen”. Yes, the elected club officers and appointed chairpersons and coordinators do their part with programs and activities, but it is the “unsung heros” - YOU THE MEMBERS - who actually cause a phenomenon such as this to occur. THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.

As we announce the various club events this coming year to celebrate this milestone in BVRC’s history, be sure and mark your calendar to get involved with some - or all - of them!”

Jan Hagan - WB5JAN, President: “All special interest clubs like our own Bella Vista area Radio Club don’t enjoy the longevity our club has had over the past 30 years without three things being present as part of the culture of the club.

First, quality committed leadership - From the beginning right up to our current BVRC leadership there has been a commitment to providing the best possible amateur radio experience for all club members exploring all facets of the amateur radio experience.

Second, an open and welcoming spirit - BVRC activities are open to all radio amateurs in the Northwest Arkansas region and beyond. And, while we hope our fellow amateurs will find value in our club membership, we welcome all amateurs to explore the hobby in all its facets with us.

Third, an involved and active membership - Whether attending club meetings or programs, participating in club activities and events, or joining our community on our various HF and VHF nets, it is the involvement of our

members that makes our club sustainable.

In the future, I am hopeful that we will have a special club program “telling the story” of our club from the beginning right up to the present. I am certain you will be as fascinated as I with the journey our club has taken to get to today with all of you as members!”

Dana Hill - W5DGH, Secretary: “I’ve been a member for almost a year and I have seen the member count exponentially increase. I have thought about why this has happened, and I think it all goes back to basically one thing - the camaraderie and kindness of all the members. People who do not even know if they will really like the hobby want to give it a try. I think they find the hobby interesting, but they especially like the people in the club. Besides the fact that so many of the members “ooze” with intelligence and are interesting to talk to and be around, the members are so helpful and friendly. They give without being asked and serve as wonderful “elmers” for new members. There is a great space for the club to meet and the meetings always have value. Members are enthusiastic about the hobby and this enthusiasm rubs off on older and newer members alike. I am so blessed to be a part of BVRC, and I hope the club grows and continues on for many years to come.”

Joe Hott - W5AEN, Vice-President: “I find it incredible that our Bella Vista area Radio Club has not only grown exponentially over the past 30 years, but our group has flourished and added an essential value to the community and our great hobby of amateur radio! With now nearly 200 members, this club is active; and it doesn’t appear to be only a few doing the work for all. BVRC is a model of what “group effort” is all about. It has been heartening for me to participate in the last couple of years setting up (and taking down/cleaning up!) for Field Day! Our growth here in Northwest Arkansas is proof that amateur radio is not a dying, obsolete hobby but a current and progressive service to the community. I had the opportunity to witness that while assisting with communications for the Big and Little Sugar Gravel Big Race this past fall. And I am excited at the EMCOMM opportunities coming very soon! It is not “just talk”; BVRC represents ACTION!

I am humbled to have been asked to take the seat of Vice-President of BVRC in its 30th year. There is no way to replace our dependable and faithful Don Banta,

who has served arduously in this position over the past three years, but I will do my best! And thanks to all the officers who have managed to grow BVRC despite the pandemic we have endured!

Let us continue in the coming years representing the best of amateur radio!



WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS"

(from Florida Skip Magazine - 1959)

All copyrights acknowledged, but unknown

Contributed by Glenn Kilpatrick - WB5L

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS?" Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were: ALBERT S. HYMAN, Bob Almy, and Poogie Murray.

At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MU," using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO." They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became "**HAM**."

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. In 1911 ALBERT HYMAN chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator DAVID I. WALSH, a member of one of the committees hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis is that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through that they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM." That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

Nation-wide publicity associated station ""HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio an amateur is a "HAM."

Meet BVRC's New President and Vice-President

FOR 2023!



President Jan Hagan – WB5JAN

Jan joined BVRC just last January of 2022, but with his extensive background in leadership and administration he became an integral part of our club very quickly, assuming Net Control Station duties for the BVRC 2-meter Legacy Net and giving one of the outstanding program presentations in 2022.

After an absence from amateur radio for over thirty years, he recently rejoined the ranks with his new General license, WB5JAN. Like many others, time

for the hobby was taken over by career and family obligations and now in retirement, he has the time to renew his interest and involvement in amateur radio, photography, and RV travel with his XYL, Prudence. Jan hopes all three of his interests will merge seamlessly as he plans future trips to enjoy all of these interests.

Jan was born and raised in San Diego, California and his previous Advanced class call was KE6BY. He worked 2-meters on the wide coverage repeaters in the San Diego County mountains, using autopatch to stay in touch with family and friends. For HF he ran a Heathkit HW104 to a random wire hidden along a fence outside his apartment building.

Jan said he hopes to have a chance to work fellow BVRC members from time to time, from his modest radio shack in his storage room featuring a Yaesu FT-891 into a "MyAntennas" EFHW 80-10 sloper, up about forty feet off the ground for HF, as well as enjoying communicating with them on the weekly VHF/UHF repeater nets.

Jan, we welcome you to "The Desk of the President", we look forward to your leadership, and we thank you for your commitment to this very important role. God speed, and best wishes to you!!!

Joe is celebrating his 5th year as a BVRC member, joining the membership ranks in January of 2018. Joe has stepped forward many times in promoting BVRC with helping at Field Day, being a quality representative for the club while operating in several Arkansas QSO Parties, EmComm events, and other activities. Joe resides in Rogers.

He and his XYL, Mary Lou, moved to NW Arkansas from Illinois where Joe owned and operated three small-town funeral homes (Princeville, Wyoming, & Toulon), drove a school bus, and was a volunteer EMT-B for the local ambulance service in Princeville for many years. He also served as a weather spotter with a group of fellow hams in Peoria County. Joe also enjoys boating/fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren. In Illinois he held the call of WD9AEN. After being in the NW Arkansas area for several years, Joe was able to secure vanity callsign W5AEN, which he is very happy with (nice CW call too, Joe!



Vice-President Joe Hott – W5AEN

He was not active on HF for years, but now in retirement, he is enjoying participating in NPOTA, Field Day, and working remotely utilizing solar panels and a G5RV antenna strung from a 28' push-up pole. Joe says his current goal is to pass the Extra Class license exam! Joe also said that since he does have some extra time in retirement, he wanted to do more for BVRC, hence his stepping forward to service in the Vice-President's office.

Joe's home station consists of an Icom 7300 into a Carolina Windom. He also has a Yaesu FT-857D that he uses for VHF & UHF at home, and also as mobile when he travels. When traveling, he also uses the ATAS 120 with the 857. He also enjoys operating DMR.

Joe says amateur radio is truly the world's best hobby, and we think we have the world's best guy to work with President Jan in leading our club to an exciting 2023!



THE 'XH GUYS' STRIKE AGAIN!

The Signal featured a story several months ago on how Murray-W5XH and Mark-K5XH, literally by coincidence, were issued 5th Call Area callsigns with the same suffix - XH. That same coincidence was evident again at the recent BVRC Christmas and Awards Banquet when they were chosen to receive the Presenter and Elmer of the Year awards. Congratulations, guys – it couldn't have happened to a better pair!



From the Desk of the President

Happy New Year!

Bella Vista area Radio Club enjoyed many exciting activities and programs in 2022 that spanned the wide range of amateur radio interests of our fellow members. The plan for 2023 is to continue to explore the depth and range of all that our amateur radio hobby has to offer as we bring a slate of new activities and programs to our membership this year.

This exploration of the range of amateur radio interests reflects the culture of our club to welcome all in the amateur radio community to develop their knowledge, skills, and experiences in our hobby whether they are members of BVRC or not.

It is this welcoming nature that attracted me to the Bella Vista Radio Club. After an absence of 30 years away from the hobby, I was more than a little overwhelmed by the technology innovations and improvements in the hobby that I enjoyed in the past. I was hesitant to demonstrate my ignorance of the state of the art in the hobby to others.

Then I met several of the members of the Bella Vista Radio Club.

Rather than being made to feel like an outsider, both in terms of my current knowledge of the hobby or in knowing anyone in the local amateur radio community, I was welcomed to grow in the hobby and encouraged to meet others in the amateur community. I felt included from the beginning and found that I was universally welcomed at the very first BVRC event I attended. I've come to believe that it is this welcoming spirit, along with the interest in learning about the diverse activities in our modern amateur radio hobby, that define our BVRC community.

We will continue to welcome all amateur radio enthusiasts from all around Northwest Arkansas and the surrounding areas to join with us, whether a member of the Bella Vista Radio Club or not, to celebrate and explore with us the greatest hobby in the world!

73 and Happy New Year!

Jan

WB5JAN

THE “SHACK”

WHEN HAMS USE THE TERM “THE SHACK”, THEY ARE USING A SLANG TERM FOR A ROOM OR SOME OTHER STRUCTURE FOR HOUSING THEIR RADIO EQUIPMENT. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW WHERE THIS TERM ORIGINATED, HERE’S SOME TRIVIA INFORMATION FOR YOU.....

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF RADIO, EQUIPMENT WAS EXPERIMENTAL AND HOME BUILT. THE FIRST RADIO TRANSMITTERS USED A NOISY SPARK TO GENERATE RADIO WAVES AND WERE OFTEN HOUSED IN A GARAGE OR SHED. WHEN RADIO WAS FIRST ADOPTED BY THE U.S. NAVY, A SMALL WOODEN STRUCTURE PLACED ON DECK TO HOUSE THE SHIP’S RADIO EQUIPMENT, BECAME KNOWN AS THE “RADIO SHACK”. (NO WE’RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE FORMER NATIONAL CHAIN RADIO SHACK CORPORATION.) THE TERM STUCK AND WAS SOON ADOPTED BY MILITARY AND HOBBYIST ALIKE TO DESCRIBE ANY FORM OF RADIO ROOM.



BVRC WE REPORT



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



CONGRATULATIONS!!

*JERRY BOSEMAN – KB5UWK – BENTONVILLE
NEW AMATEUR EXTRA!*

*GREGG HARRISON – KF5WAP – GOSHEN
NEW GENERAL!*

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!***

10 – Meter FM

By Mike Schroeder – NØALJ

With us entering Cycle 25, I am getting excited about 10 meter FM again.

You see, I remember great 10-meter openings of the past and 10-meters became one of my favorite HF bands to work because it has the FM mode to offer! I once worked Germany simplex on 10 meter FM with only 5 Watts!

The FM segment of the 10-meter band is at the top of the band starting at 29.5 MHz and does require a General Class or higher license to operate. The main calling frequency is 29.600 MHz with secondary of 29.500 MHz. Repeaters are found at 29.200 MHz, 29.400 MHz, 29.600 MHz and 29.680 MHz.

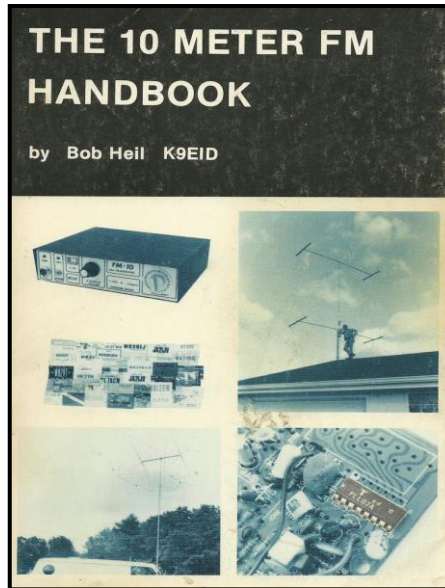
Most of man-made noise is amplitude modulated so it will not pass through an FM receiver. This makes for a superior mode of operation for high quality audio and a squelch control to keep the receiver quiet instead of constant background noise (a nice

change for HF operation). Like 2-meters, you get to work simplex and through FM repeaters. You may even work a DX contact with Europe through a repeater on the East Coast. Many HF rigs offer FM mode and you can also buy FM/AM only 10-meter transceivers at a very low cost like the Anytone 10 Meter Smart transceiver. A couple of available sources to purchase this radio are:

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/AnyTone-Smart-10-Meter-Mobile-Radio/115751401>

<https://www.amazon.com/AnyTone-Smart-Meter-Radio-Truck/dp/B08X1QK36T>

In 1980, a great book came out all about this mode of operation called "The 10 Meter FM Handbook" and was written by well-known Bob Heil – K9EID, of Heil Sound Company.



Bob's book featured plans for a Bazooka dipole antenna (see photo) made out of RG58/U coax and 300 ohm twin lead or open line. There was also a fantastic antenna article that came out in the May 1981 issue of 73 Magazine that was titled The "No Antennas" Antenna written by Jacquelyn J. Schoewe – WA9BBX. This was about a coaxial dipole antenna that was her apartment dweller solution to problems with pesky landlords. The coaxial dipole is an antenna that easy to make, low cost, works great in an attic, is broad banded, maximum legal power can be used, features a built in balun from construction (eliminating feeder line radiation), greatly attenuated harmonics lessening TVI problems and is very low noise. It also offers a slight amount of gain over a

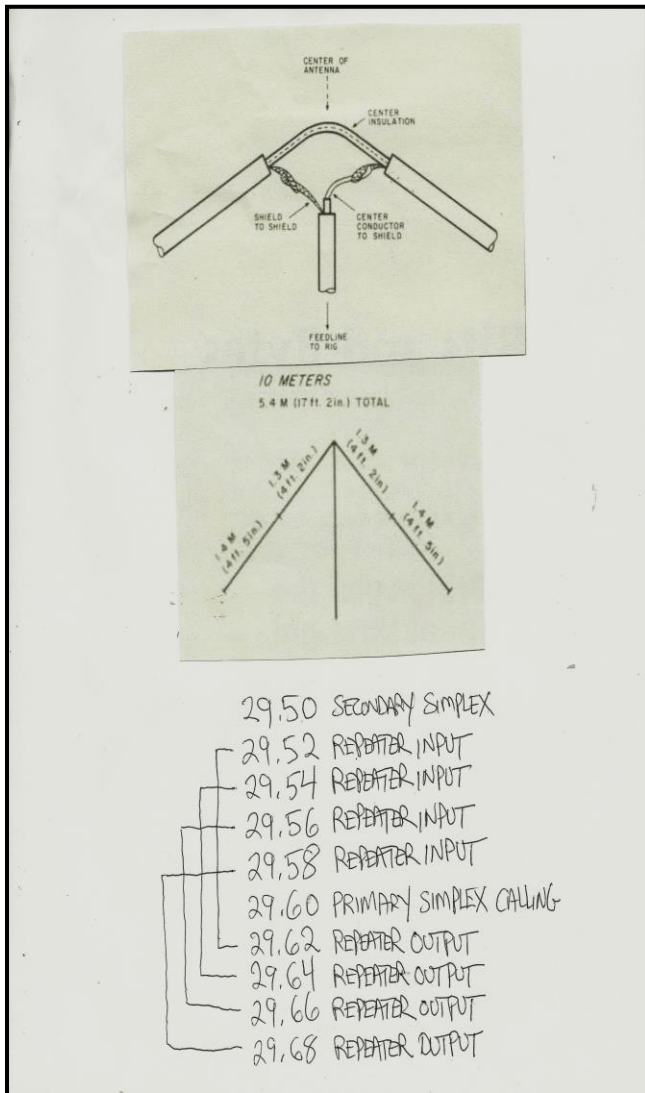
conventional dipole.

I built the 10 meter coaxial dipole and it fits easily into my attic with the rafters offering natural support of an Inverted Vee configuration. With some pruning adjustments, I was able to obtain a perfect SWR across the entire 10-meter band without a tuner!



Begin construction of the "No Antennas" Antenna coaxial dipole by removing 1" of vinyl jacket (1/2 " each side of center) at the center of the antenna. Cut the shield in the center all the way around the coax using care not to cut the dielectric or the center conductor.

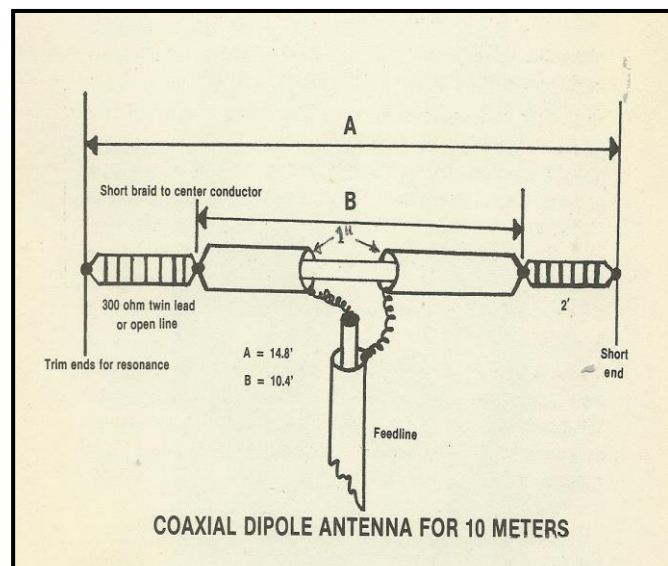
Next cut two lengths of coax, each 4 FT. 5 IN. long. Then removed 1 IN. of vinyl jacket from all four ends, fold back the shield, removed center insulation and twist shield and center conductor together as before. This forms the end sections of the antenna. Attach one of these end sections to one end of the matching section by twisting



together the prepared ends and soldering. In the same manner, solder the remaining end section to the other end of the matching section. The final step is to attach the feedline (see feed point photo). Any random length of coax will do but it must be of the same type of RG58/U coax used for construction of the antenna. Remove about 1 IN. of vinyl jacket from the end of the feedline, fold back the shield and remove center insulation.

Form two leads with the shield and center conductor. At the feed point of the antenna, connect the feedline by

soldering the feedline center conductor to one of the feed point leads. Then solder the feedline shield to the remaining feed point lead. Waterproof with silicone sealer if not mounted in an attic. After erecting the antenna, check SWR and trim the ends if needed. Be sure to twist the ends of the antenna as before (shield to center conductor) then re-check SWR. Due to interaction of the antenna with hidden wiring in walls, a considerable amount may have to be trimmed from each end equally.



Using the Anytone SMART radio, and a coaxial dipole in the attic, is a very low cost way for any apartment dweller Ham to get on 10 meter FM!

73, Mike – NØALJ

Here, here! This is a special announcement for all loyal BVRC subjects and members.....



To celebrate BVRC's 30th anniversary, the club will be on the air with, not one but two, Special Event Stations. Your past President Tom-W5XNA and past Vice-President Don-K5DB will be coordinating these stations.

There will be a spring Special Event Station and a fall Special Event Station.

The spring Special Event Station has already been arranged. The details are:

NAME: N5BVA Spring Special Event Station
DATE: Saturday, April 29, 2023
PLACE: Elm Springs City Park
289 Jayroe Ave.
Elm Springs, AR 72728



The Elm Springs spring operation will be a good warm-up for ARRL Field Day in June. Restrooms are available in the park. There are nearby eating facilities in Springdale and Tontitown, or you can bring your own food/snacks. All BVRC members and/or their guests are encouraged to attend either, or both, special events. MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND, HAVE FUN, AND OPERATE!

For the fall N5BVA Special Event Station, we are seeking a facility that will hopefully be in the Bentonville area. We are currently in contact with Bentonville Parks & Recreation on several options and are currently awaiting their reply. As soon as the fall operating site is secured, you will see it here in The Signal.

Also, we will have information for you on two upcoming POTA operations coordinated by President Jan-WB5JAN and Club Call Trustee Glenn-WB5L in next month's Signal issue. LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES FOR YOU IN BVRC'S ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF 2023!



WELCOME NEW BVRC MEMBERS!

Timothy Hagquist – N5TEH – Siloam Springs

Allen Bryant – KG5FUA – Bella Vista



TORNADO Season COMING UP Again

By Don – K5DB

Tornadoes — destructive, violently spinning vortices of air extending from high within severe thunderstorms to the surface of the earth — are more common in the United States than anywhere else on the planet. They are particularly prevalent in the area known as “Tornado Alley,” where the proper ingredients come together: a combination of warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico pulled northward by storm systems dragging strong continental cold air from Canada. While Arkansas is not normally included on maps of the infamous Tornado Alley, which is usually considered to stretch from north Texas northward through Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska, our state has suffered many devastating tornado outbreaks.

In January 1999, Arkansas recorded the most tornadoes on any individual January day in any state (fifty-six on January 21, 1999); the most tornadoes in the month of January; and the largest single outbreak ever to strike the state. Another fairly recent outbreak was on March 1, 1997, which resulted in twenty-five Arkansas fatalities. The deadliest outbreak in Arkansas history, however, occurred on March 21, 1952.

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, about 622 tornadoes in Arkansas killed thirty-nine people, injured approximately 540, and caused more than \$650 million in damage. Notable tornadoes during this period include a historic February 5, 2008, strike in which an EF-4 tornado tore a 123-mile-long path through seven counties in north-central Arkansas, killing twelve, injuring at least 140, and damaging or destroying 880 homes and 100 businesses. This path set an Arkansas record for length: Clinton (Van Buren County) and Atkins (Pope County) were among those suffering severe damage, while a second, shorter tornado devastated the town of Gassville (Baxter County).



Other large outbreaks in the twenty-first century occurred on December 18, 2002, May 16, 2003, and November 27, 2005. And while hurricanes usually bring only heavy rain to the state, on September 24, 2005, the remnants of Hurricane Rita spawned seventeen tornadoes that moved from southeast to northwest—an unusual state of affairs. While the average Arkansas tornado is on the ground less than a mile, tornadoes in this outbreak reached path lengths of 75 miles, with others of over 20 miles.

In April and May 2011, 62 tornadoes were reported, killing at least eleven people. On April 25 and 26, 2011, 25 tornadoes touched down, the most deadly of which struck Vilonia (Faulkner County) on April 25, killing four; this tornado had a path length of more than

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In April and May 2011, 62 tornadoes were reported, killing at least eleven people. On April 25 and 26, 2011, 25 tornadoes touched down, the most deadly of which struck Vilonia (Faulkner County) on April 25, killing four; this tornado had a path length of more than fifty miles. On May 25, 2011, a 47-mile path tornado tore through Johnson and Franklin counties.

The state's fatality rates are also far higher than expected for a state with relatively low population density. From 1950 to 2006, the state ranked fourteenth in both number of tornadoes (1,407) and tornadoes per 1,000 square miles (26.6); it ranked second in the number of fatalities per 100,000 people (13.9), behind Mississippi (19.2). Counts from the Storm Prediction Center may not tell the entire Arkansas tornado story. Many researchers consider this tornado count far lower than the actual number due to Arkansas's rural nature (low population densities) and conditions that make seeing and counting tornadoes difficult (hills, trees, and low cloud decks). If the number of tornadoes counted in more

populated areas of the state were extrapolated across the entire area, Arkansas would likely be depicted on maps along with the more well-known Tornado Alley states.

While April suffers the most tornadoes on average (291), late fall and winter tornadoes are not at all uncommon in Arkansas. The state also suffers many night tornadoes, in part due to early sunsets during the winter; this factor could also contribute to the state's fatality rate. Tornadoes in Arkansas occur primarily between the hours of 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Considering all the preceding information and statistics on Arkansas tornado activity, the need for amateur radio storm spotters is at a premium, and in northwest Arkansas specifically. Our region of the state already has many fine individuals who do a stellar job in storm spotting, but more are always needed and welcomed – you can't have too much coverage from the field.

Northwest Arkansas is fortunate to be in the jurisdiction of the National Weather Service office in Tulsa. Due to NWS/Tulsa's proximity to "tornado alley" they have one of the best tracking/reporting stations in the nation. They are also in constant need of trained storm spotters to aid them in their collection of information and data when a severe storm event occurs in our area.

This year once again, Ed Calianese from the National Weather Service office in Tulsa will hold many storm spotter classes for northeast Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas. If you want more information on attending a class, here is the link to go to (*Note: This link has not been as yet updated for 2023 and currently reflects the 2022 schedule of last spring, but it should be updated with the 2023 classes schedule and information very soon...*) :

https://www.weather.gov/tsa/spotter_training

Information on the Skywarn spotter programs can be found here: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/>

In closing let's discuss weather radios and NOAA weather radio stations.....



Yes, we now live in an age of amazing technology. We have social media, internet, cell phones, etc. And, as far as severe weather alerts and warnings, most people these days rely primarily on their cell phone, and why not? There are hundreds of weather apps out there to choose from, with features that you can tailor to your specific needs. Most newer HTs have a weather band feature. However, as remote as the odds may be, what if something happened that took out the cell tower infrastructure? What if you forgot to charge your cell phone battery, it goes dead on you, and then the power goes out? What if you left your cell phone in your vehicle or some other part of the house and forgot to place it on your bedside nightstand, and a tornado has touched down in your area? What would you do then for a weather alert?

Actually, when it comes to *you* – an amateur radio operator – and weather alerts, for piece of mind of having a device in your home that is absolutely dependable, truly *wireless*, and offers a good deal of personal convenience, have you thought about using a **NOAA weather radio** in your kitchen, den, bedroom, or other important locale in your home domicile?



Most NOAA weather radios come with battery backup in case of a power main failure, and also equipped with S.A.M.E. (Same Area Message Encoder) which is a feature that you can program your weather radio to receive advisories, watches, and /or warnings for your specific county, thus eliminating receiving alerts for other counties which may not apply to your area.

Most NOAA weather radios also have the capability of receiving standard broadcast AM and FM stations.

Have you ever stopped and thought about NOAA weather radio stations all over the U.S. and what it takes to make them available for your receiving convenience?

All NOAA weather radio stations operate on one of seven frequencies in the VHF Public Service Band, 162.400 – 162.550 MHz, collectively known as 'the weather band'. All NOAA stations transmit at 1000W output power, FM. When an advisory, watch, and/or warning is warranted, the station sends a 1050 Hz tone which activates all weather radios within its coverage area which trips the alarm on the radio. If your cellphone alarm isn't loud enough or powerful enough to awaken you in the middle of the night, your weather radio alarm IS.

Personally, I've had a weather radio on my bedroom dresser for many, many years. It has really helped-out the XYL and myself many times. It has become an old friend. Again, cellphones and computers are ok, but as long as you keep fresh backup batteries (usually AA or AAA) in your weather radio, it will never fail you.



In our area, the NOAA weather radio stations are:

FAYETTEVILLE – WXJ52 – 162.475

SPRINGDALE – WNG694 – 162.400

FORT SMITH – WXJ50 – 162.550

HARRISON – WXN92 – 162.525

SPRINGFIELD, MO – WXN28 – 162.500

Here where I live in Springdale, WNG694 is the newest of the NW Arkansas NOAA stations, having gone on the air around 10 years ago. WNG694 is located on Carlock Mountain in northeast Springdale, and has an excellent coverage area which includes Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington counties, AR, and Barry and McDonald counties, MO. I can also receive Fort Smith, Harrison, and Springfield with no problem on my dresser mounted weather radio.

WXJ52's (Fayetteville) tower is near Winslow and serves Washington, Crawford, Madison, Johnson, and Franklin counties with an excellent signal as well.

But, here's the bottom line on NOAA weather radio stations:

Your tax dollars run and maintain these weather radio stations.....why not use them?!

Finally, there are hundreds of NOAA weather radios on the market, but I will suggest to you two of them that I have used over the years, have performed excellently, and are nominally priced:

- First Alert – Has nice audio quality. Averages around \$45.00.

- Midland WR-400 - Has all the features of the First Alert. Audio quality not quite as good, but is very dependable. Averages around \$70.00.

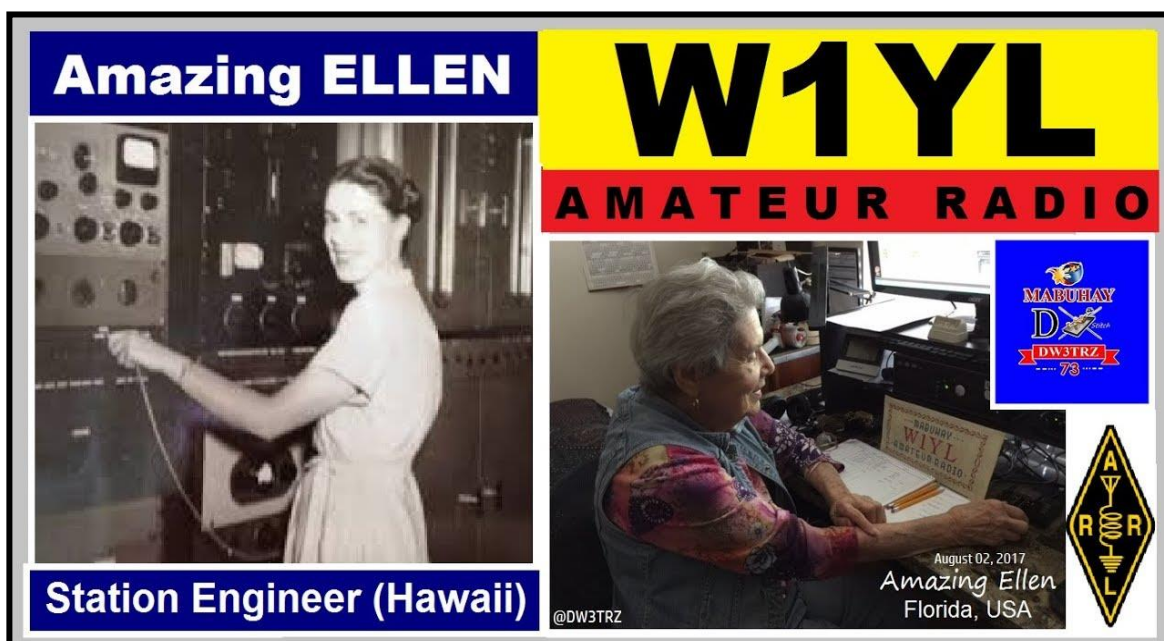


YL AMATEUR RADIO PIONEER

ELLEN WHITE – W1YL

SILENT KEY

CQ Magazine Amateur Radio Hall of Fame member Ellen White – W1YL, passed away in early November at the age of 95. If the title “Grande Dame of amateur radio” could be applied to a US ham operator, it would have to be awarded to Ellen who had nearly 80 years in the hobby. She was also an avid DXer. White spent many years working on the ARRL staff, where she rose to the position of Deputy Communications Manager and served as QST magazine’s DX Editor. According to longtime friend Chip Margelli – K7JA, White “learned Morse code in high school in the 1940s as a ‘war course’ in service to her country, and (with the encouragement of her husband Bob, with whom she eloped in 1945) she went on to become a professional radio engineer, in a field utterly dominated by men.”



White was also a major figure in contesting, instrumental in the founding of “Murphy’s Marauders (the predecessor of today’s Yankee Clipper Contest Club) and the Florida Contest Group. Thank you Ellen, for your decades of service to our great hobby. RIP. - - You can hear an interview of several years ago with Ellen on the podcast *QSO Today*, by clicking [here](#), then click the “Listen To Podcast” tab.



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BELLA VISTA area RADIO CLUB:

Are you an ARRL Member?

Why join the 160,000 members of ARRL?

BVRC is an ARRL affiliated club with over half of the membership as members of the American Radio Relay League. However, we also have members who have not joined. The yearly membership fee for the ARRL is \$49.00. This membership includes a subscription to QST, the icon pub-

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

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

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

If you haven't joined yet, give it a try with a year's membership. You'll be glad you did! Ask any of the BVRC members who are also ARRL members! To see all the benefits of being an ARRL member, and to apply for membership, use this link:

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



MONTHLY PROGRAMS NEEDED!

Would you be interested in presenting a program for an upcoming monthly meeting on a radio related topic? Or would you like to help arrange and coordinate our monthly programs?

Contact:

Jan-WB5JAN: janhagan51@gmail.com or Joe – W5AEN: joe.hott@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



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

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

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

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

<https://www.bellavistaradioclub.org/application.pdf>

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