



# THE SIGNAL

*Newsletter of the  
Bella Vista area Radio Club*

*Arkansas' Largest  
Amateur Radio Club*



**March 2023**

Monthly Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> 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 • Repeaters: VHF-147.255, UHF-444.100  
Website: [www.bellavistaradioclub.org](http://www.bellavistaradioclub.org)

## **WEEKLY NETS:**

### **BVRC Legacy Net**

**Wednesdays @ 7 pm on the  
BVRC Dual Linked Repeaters**

N5BVA/Bella Vista: 147.255, +offset, pl 162.2  
N5BVA/Springdale: 444.100, +5 MHz, pl 162.2

### **BVRC 3.830 KHz Roundtable**

**Sunday Afternoons  
4 pm during CST  
4:30 pm during CDT**

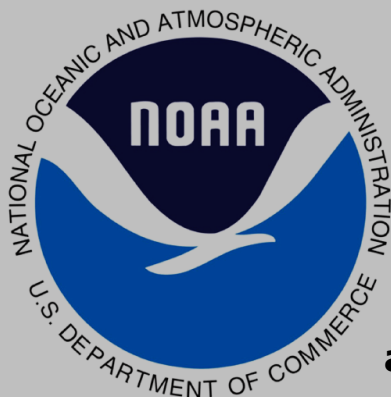
### **BVRC HAM 101 Net**

**Tuesdays @ 7 pm on the  
WX5NAS Skywarn Link System:**

Bentonville – 146.865, -offset, pl 103.5  
Fayetteville – 147.315, +offset, pl 97.4  
Huntsville – 443.625, +offset, pl 97.4  
Green Forest – 145.310, -offset, pl 103.5

# NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 @ 7PM  
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY  
3424 S. DOWNUM ROAD  
SPRINGDALE, AR



## MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

Bella Vista area Radio Club  
strives to supply its members  
and guests with the best possible  
monthly meeting programs,



topics, and speakers. The March program will be no exception, as we have a real treat lined-up for you. Ed Calianese from the National Weather Service office in Tulsa will be gracing us with his presence and his presentation on NOAA and the NWS Storm Spotter training program. Ed has been with the NWS for many years and has conducted hundreds of excellent storm spotting classes throughout NW Arkansas and NE Oklahoma. Spring is just around the corner and with it comes the annual severe weather season, where ham operators are an intricate part of communications and weather reporting. Ed will be supplying the Club with important information for those wishing to become certified storm spotters. Ed is a radio amateur himself, with callsign W5SVR.

This will be a hugely important program packed with vital information on how to deal with severe weather conditions, along with emergency preparedness. **DON'T MISS THIS GREAT MEETING WITH A GREAT SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER!!!**



# You Tube

## BVRC PROGRAMS ON YOU TUBE

In case you would like to see some of the great past programs that BVRC has hosted, they are available on the BVRC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BellaVistaRadioClub/videos>



*Remember when  
drug stores had  
tube testers?*





## BOARD MEMBERS

### President

Jan Hagan – WB5JAN  
[janhagan51@gmail.com](mailto:janhagan51@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Joe Hott – W5AEN  
[joe.hott@gmail.com](mailto:joe.hott@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Dana Hill – W5DGH  
[dana.hill1979@gmail.com](mailto:dana.hill1979@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Mark Whittlesey - WØKYZ  
[almarc11@yahoo.com](mailto:almarc11@yahoo.com)

### Technical Officer

Tem Moore – N5KWL  
[temmoore@gmail.com](mailto:temmoore@gmail.com)

### Trustee

Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L  
[wb5l@arrl.net](mailto:wb5l@arrl.net)

### Member At Large and Public Information Officer

Tom Northfell – W5XNA  
[w5xna@arrl.net](mailto:w5xna@arrl.net)



## APPOINTED OFFICERS

### VE Testing Committee

Chair: Don Cooper – KC7DC  
[don\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:don_c@hotmail.com)

### Elmer 911 Committee

Chair: Vinson Carter – WV5C  
[vinsoncarter@gmail.com](mailto:vinsoncarter@gmail.com)

### Nets Committee

Chair: Dana Widboom – KI5TGY  
[dcwidboom@yahoo.com](mailto:dcwidboom@yahoo.com)

### EmComm Committee

Chair: Chris Ebert - NAØD  
[wrbk701@gmail.com](mailto:wrbk701@gmail.com)

### Membership Committee

Chair: Tom Northfell – W5XNA  
[w5xna@arrl.net](mailto:w5xna@arrl.net)

### Social Media Committee

Chair: Rebecca Garrett – N5REB  
[rebdgarrett@gmail.com](mailto:rebdgarrett@gmail.com)

### Video Coordinator

Adnan Ademovic - KDØKCY  
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### Newsletter Editor

Don Banta – K5DB  
[arsk5db@gmail.com](mailto:arsk5db@gmail.com)



## *From the Desk of the President*

### Revisiting The Radio Amateur's Code

Our wonderful amateur radio hobby provides so many things to enrich our lives, a sense of accomplishment, a connection with others, and the joy and wonder of our radio signals moving electrons up a wire and out into the atmosphere to be captured by fellow amateurs across the country or around the world. However, this only works in a cooperative and courteous environment.

Amateur radio relies on a strong level of self-discipline in on-air operating to bring the joy and enrichment that our hobby can provide. It is through this understanding that documents such as the DX Code of Conduct" was developed as a practical check list for on-air behavior.

In 2008 John ON4UN (SK) and Mark ON4WW wrote a comprehensive document entitled "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur", a document aiming to become a universal guide for newcomers and old-timers alike on the subject of operating ethics and operating procedures.

In 2008 this document were accepted by the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council, as their official document regarding a proper code of conduct for amateur radio operators.

Here is the preamble to this document, 'The Radio Amateurs Code', first adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (SK), in 1928:

## *The Radio Amateur's Code*

The Radio Amateur is:

*CONSIDERATE*...He/She never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

*LOYAL*...He/She offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

*PROGRESSIVE*...He/She keeps his/her station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/Her operating practice is above reproach.

*FRIENDLY*...He/She operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

*BALANCED*...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

*PATRIOTIC*...His/Her station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

In case you would like to check out the complete document, here is a link to the IARU 'Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur' document:

<https://www.iaru-r1.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Eth-operating-IARU-ENGLISH-version3-2010-amended-2021.pdf>

73, and see you on the radio.

Jan  
WB5JAN





# BVRC CW Academy Graduates Charter Class!



BVRC CWA first graduating class – Dave Mersky-K5TRT (left) and Vinson Carter – WV5C (right). (Gregg Harrison-K5GKH also graduated, but was not able to attend diploma presentations.)

An enjoyable time of learning international Morse code was experienced by all who attended the first BVRC CW Academy. The class officially began with 6, however 3 persons had to withdraw due to scheduling conflicts. Those 3 have re-enrolled in the second CWA class that will begin in April. The CWA will hold classes once per year, beginning in April, so as to avoid most of the major holidays and potential schedule conflicts. The 2023 class is full. If you wish to sign-up for 2024, contact Don-K5DB at:

[arsk5db@gmail.com](mailto:arsk5db@gmail.com)



Any club members 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 regular mail to the club treasurer Marc Whittlesey – WØKYZ, or via PayPal by using Marc's e-mail address:

[almarc11@yahoo.com](mailto:almarc11@yahoo.com)

**DUES SHOULD BE PAID BY MARCH 31**

And don't forget, BVRC memberships are also family memberships to include all other licensed family members living under the same roof, at no additional charge.

*Also note – BVRC Life Memberships are now available to any radio amateur age 73 or older. Just advise BVRC Treasurer Marc via e-mail or in person at one of our club meetings that you have reached 73 years of age. From that time forward, your BVRC membership is free.*

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

Additional information can be found on the BVRC website. If you need more info, click [here](#).



BVRC, along with many other radio clubs, has many opportunities for the Volunteer – Field Day setup and operation, repeater operation, HF operation, contesting, awards pursuit, elmering, emergency communications, public service radio operation, and many other rewarding areas. You are part of a volunteer organization...please consider what that means.

## Why Volunteer?

There are many motivations for why folks jump-in to help, even before being begged! You'll have to find your own motivation because using someone else's just won't last as long. Here are some advantages and enjoyments about being a volunteer:

### 1) You will gain something

By definition, volunteer work is unpaid, so the rewards you reap will be more emotional and maybe even spiritual. The advantages of volunteering include the opportunity to give back to your organization and feel useful, and to fill-in a gap in your personal life as well as intellectual stimulation and growth.

### 2) Personal growth

Volunteer work will reveal interests and skills to you that you probably never realized before. You might be pleasantly surprised by discovering that you are good at doing unexpected things. You will grow your confidence with each new challenge tackled and skill learned.

### 3) You might feel better!

Research studies have shown that volunteering, particularly by older adults, provides real health benefits. Physical activity and a positive outlook can also help reduce blood pressure and keep you from kicking the dog (or cat).

### 4) Credit for your service

For students and others who need community service hours, volunteer work is a particularly important and necessary commitment of time. Some high schools and colleges even offer class credit for community service hours.

Volunteers are the children of volunteers. Many of us grew up with volunteering. Being a volunteer doesn't just fill a present need, it's an investment in the future of our club and the community. BVRC can use you in many service areas that our club encompasses. Please join us in this endeavor to furnish our club with the best amateur radio experience it can have! Contact any club officer if you're interested in getting involved in one of the best ham radio clubs in the U.S.A. !



# FIELD DAY 2023

## Coming Soon



Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years have once again passed, with lasting memories of get-togethers with family and friends.

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

Prepare for what? For the biggest event in amateur radio. Yes, before you know it, it will be here: FIELD DAY 2023. In only about 4 months, "CQ FIELD DAY" will once again fill the airwaves, June 24-25.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR AN EXCITING 2023 FIELD DAY ADVENTURE WITH THE BELLA VISTA area RADIO CLUB!**

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

Remember, this is the largest amateur radio event in the United States and Canada, and only happens once a year.

So plan on coming and staying for a good length of time. With the station activity, fellowshipping with other club members, and just enjoying the "World of Field Day", the time will fly, and you'll have a ball!

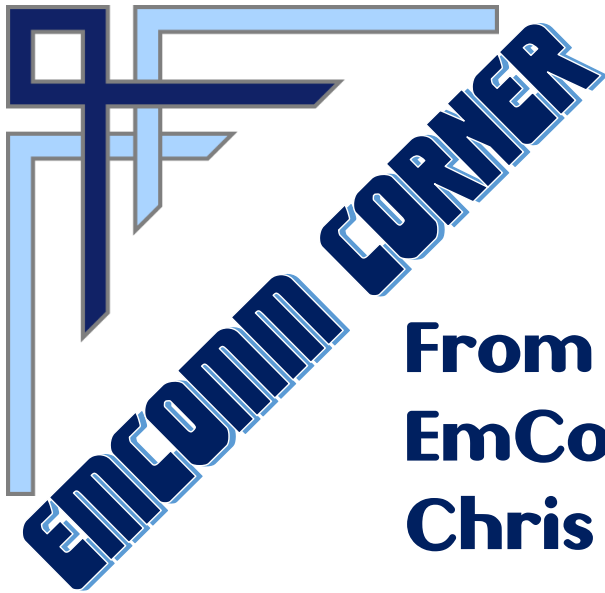
### **NEW THIS YEAR FOR BVRC FIELD DAY!**

The BVRC VE Testing Team will be on hand this year to conduct a special Field Day VE test session for all those wishing to test for their first ham license or license upgrade. The test session will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, June 24!

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

*Prepare now !*

*Field Day Cometh !*



## From BVRC EmComm Committee Chair Chris Ebert - NAØD

Welcome to the new EmComm Corner of The Signal! Here we will share interesting information for those interested in the EmComm portion of the amateur radio service, as well as tips to help you communicate in an emergency!

This month let's start out with our EmComm sign ups! – We have over 25 hams that have signed up so far and I thank you for that! While we continue to build this out, we did review the training requirements and who had what when signing up. A good number have some sort of Incident Command/National Incident Management System (ICS/NIMS) training and that is excellent! There are also a few of you that are interested and looking to begin. That is certainly commendable and thank you!

Most agencies require a basic skill set of training that can be completed at home, at your own pace. The training is hosted via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute. This training is designed to allow auxiliary communicators to function within the incident command system and unified command structure of incidents as they unfold across the US. The design was to get everyone on the same page, using the same language and infrastructure so agencies could seamlessly work together on both small and large scale incidents. Ham radio operators, as auxiliary communicators, are no different and we should also all be on the same page. This training helps you understand that, and they're free of charge!

*First and foremost, if you are ready to begin the training, you'll need to sign up for a Student ID (SID) on the FEMA website. The link is here: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID/register>*

BE SURE to write down or save your SID so you can enroll for classes.

*(Cont. next page)*

Then, you'll need to take 4 specific courses to really be ready for "it". They are:

- **IS-100 (Introduction to the Incident Command System)**  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c&lang=en>
- **IS-200 (Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response)**  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.c&lang=en>
- **IS-700 (Introduction to the National Incident Management System)**  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b&lang=en>
- **IS-800 (National Response Framework, An Introduction)**  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.d&lang=en>

These courses are designed to teach you the terminology, processes and why we do what we do, as well as where we can and do fit in. The courses can take up to 3 hours each so be sure to allot yourself time to do these as it is a commitment that is well worth it!

*At completion of each course, you will get a downloadable and printable certificate from FEMA. Save and print this out and be proud of it!*

As auxiliary communicators, we must constantly practice and be on the ready just in case. There are hams providing emergency communications daily across the US and world from hurricane nets to local disasters after weather. Hams are very integral to helping public safety agencies to collect important situational awareness information, weather spotting and communication relay. So, as a test, try participating in a net on emergency power. Start a generator, hook up a battery bank or whatever emergency power you may have and participate in the net using it. Do you have a Go KIT? Break it out and use it! Testing equipment and procedures is something that should be done as often as possible so use a net to test yourself. Does your equipment work? Better to know ahead of time!

As always, if you have any questions about the ICS courses or anything, send me an email or call! We want everyone who wants to participate to be successful! I can be found at [wrbk701@gmail.com](mailto:wrbk701@gmail.com) or 479-216-2690.

73!

Chris Ebert, NAØD  
BVRC EmComm Committee





## Bella Vista area Radio Club 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar of Educational & Operating Events 2023

(Mark your calendar and join us for as many events as you can!)

### Mar. 3 – 6:

WB5JAN & WB5L POTA Operation #1

Natural Falls State Park (Oklahoma) POTA #K-2796

Full information [here](#)

### April 16:

BVRC/ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP

Info on page 21 of the February *Signal* issue

Questions or more information, e-mail Don: [arsk5db@gmail.com](mailto:arsk5db@gmail.com)

### April 29:

N5BVA SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Two station portable operation from Elm Springs City Park

Full information [here](#)

### May 11 – 15:

WB5JAN & WB5L POTA Operation #2

Dam Site Lake Campground, Beaver Lake Wildlife Mgmt. Area POTA #K-7262

Reservations for campground:

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234651>

Questions or more information, e-mail [ianhagan51@gmail.com](mailto:ianhagan51@gmail.com) or [wb5l@arrrl.net](mailto:wb5l@arrrl.net)

### June 24 – 25:

ANNUAL BVRC FIELD DAY

Metfield Park, Bella Vista

**DON'T MISS THIS ONE!**

Information on this event forthcoming in future *Signal* issues.

### July 22 & 29:

Technician license class, ALETA in Springdale (Tom, W5XNA – Instructor)

Information on this event forthcoming in future *Signal* issues. Keep watching and tell your friends who would like to get their first ham license!

### August 19:

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual BVRC CW Roundup

Information will be in the August issue of *The Signal*

**SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

# BVRC Announces New Repeater Net



With the advent, and great success, of the BVRC Legacy Club Net now operating on BVRC's dual linked repeaters, the BVRC Net Task Force Group comprised of club leadership team members, has decided to repurpose the Tuesday evening Wide-Area-Net. This new transition is designed to further aid and assist not only all our members and other hams in the NW Arkansas region, *but especially newcomer hams to our hobby*. On Tuesday, Feb. 7, the Wide-Area-Net became The HAM 101 Net!

Everyone is invited to check-in with questions or issues regarding amateur radio, and a panel of veteran Elmer operators will be on hand to field those questions and help you with answers and solutions. This net will complement our HAM 101 meetings that precede the regular monthly club meetings.

Please enjoy brief summaries and net tips for new net participants on the following page. Join us on the nets! See you then!



Bella Vista area Radio Club has three different net experiences to offer our club members, guests and all fellow hams. Each of these has a unique “flavor” and serves a different purpose. We hope you might stop by for one, but stay for all three!

**BVRC 3830 ROUNDTABLE – Sundays at 4:00 pm Central Standard Time / 4:30 pm Central Daylight Time on 3.830 KHz on HF**

Our roundtable experience is always sure to be fun and interesting to say the least. This is a roundtable format where we go around the “table” and chat. Some choose to stick around and chat while others do a quick check in and out. Join the fun! All licensed amateur radio operators General Class and above (and their third-party guests) are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

**HAM 101 NET - Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Central Time on the WX5NAS Skywarn Link System (repeater frequencies on page 1 of this issue of The Signal)**

A great place for those new to Amateur Radio to ask questions and for operators at all experience levels to share knowledge and experience. The purpose of this net is to encourage ham operators to have fun and help one another with news and technical support. Newly licensed hams are especially welcome. Elmers, bring your skills and prepare to share them with the group. From radios to antennas, these topics and more are covered and explored. This is a great way to increase your ham radio knowledge and explore new areas of the hobby. We especially welcome newcomers to the club and amateur radio, so don't be shy; click the mic and say hello. Every ham is gladly welcomed!

**BVRC LEGACY CLUB NET – Wednesdays at 7:00 pm Central Time on the N5BVA Dual Linked Repeaters**

Our Legacy Club Net is our “on air” home to share club information and provide club members and other amateur radio operators a chance to meet on the air and discuss our weekly topic, practice proper net protocol and exchange information. The mission of this net is to disseminate information about and relating to our club and amateur radio while demonstrating and modeling best practices in amateur radio net communications. All licensed amateur radio operators are welcomed and encouraged to stop by and check in!

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**TIPS FOR NEW NET PARTICIPANTS**

♦ **Net Control** is in charge and control at all times. These are directed nets. When joining a more formal net, you are likely to hear the phrase, “directed net.” This means that one operator is in charge of the net, and this person is the net control station (NCS). The NCS is sort of a traffic cop for the net, directing who does what and when. The NCS gets the net started, keeps it orderly, manages net activities, and closes the net down when finished. They'll take check-ins near the start of the net and periodically thereafter. Listen closely to what Net Control is asking for. Whether it is the Elmer 911 Talking Tech Net or the BVRC Legacy Club Net, Net Control will want specific information from you when you check in. They'll tell you what they're looking for and in what format. (Cont. next page)



### TIPS FOR NEW NET PARTICIPANTS (Cont.)

♦ **Check-ins** to our weekly nets are usually a one-turn affair: you check in, and you are called once for comments. If you wish to make additional comments later, great! Please wait for the next round of check-ins and ask for a re-check.

♦ **When checking in**, please state if you have traffic for the net. What constitutes traffic? If you have something specific to announce to the participants of the net, when you check in, indicate "with traffic" or "with an announcement" or similar. Net Control will often call stations with traffic first so that their announcement can get out early on during the net. Stations who check in with no traffic would still be called to make other comments when it's their turn. Checking in with no traffic does not mean you do not want to be called to make comments.

♦ **Some stations** wish to make their presence known (get on the check-in list) without being called later for comments. These are called *for the count only* check-ins. If this is you, announce "for the count only" after you give your call and other requested information at check in.

♦ **When checking in** to a net on our analog repeaters, key your microphone, wait 1-2 seconds for the repeaters to synchronize, then call "N5BVA" and unkey and listen for a couple seconds. If you don't hear any signs of other stations the moment you unkey, continue your check-in. For example: "November-Five-Bravo-Victor-Alpha....this is Kilo-India-5-Xray-Yankee-Zulu, Pat in Rogers." Done correctly by all parties this greatly reduces doubling and tripling during check-ins. Remember, with our linked repeater systems, pause a second or two after keying your microphone to allow the repeaters to link-up and broadcast simultaneously. This prevents your first word(s) from being truncated (cut-off). Always use military (also called NATO) phonetics when first checking-in. It really helps. You can find the phonetics list [here](#).

*The BVRC on-air presence should be a model of good amateur radio practice.  
REMEMBER - Folks are listening and evaluating!*

By following these guidelines, you will have an enjoyable time on the nets along with all other net participants. Have fun, and we're looking forward to hearing you check in! See you then!



# BVRC VE REPORT



From Don Cooper – KC7DC, BVRC VE Coordinator  
February 11, 2022



## Congratulations!

Michael Bridges – KI5ZTP – Rogers – New Technician!  
Leslie Ford – KI5ZRX – Springdale – New Technician!  
Mike Harrell II – KI5ZTC – Prairie Grove – New Technician!  
Fred Fanning – KI5WVN – Bentonville – New General!  
Scott Nelson – KI5YUJ – Bentonville – New General!  
Andy French – KI5TGZ – Decatur – New General!  
Jesse Gilmore – KA1VRY – Pittsburg, KS  
New Amateur Extra!

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

- ***10 am at Shiloh Museum,  
118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale***

***and***

- ***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!***



## A Salute to BVRC's Net Control Stations

Without Net Control Stations, there wouldn't be any nets to participate in and enjoy.

Net Controllers must be willing to devote their time and talent to a commitment of being dependable and trustworthy when it is their turn as a NCS. They must possess a spirit of cordiality, while at the same time maintaining total responsibility and authority in providing a smooth running net.

BVRC is blessed with just these type individuals as is evidenced each time a club net convenes. The Signal would like to acknowledge below these dedicated individuals who selflessly serve the club as Net Controllers.

We would also like to welcome new Net Controllers Dennis Tune – W9DCT and Mike Calvi – KF5RUO to the NCS ranks! We also want to thank Vinson Carter – WV5C for his past years of service as a NCS and hope that he can return soon. We salute these, and all our other fine Net Control Stations, for your service:

### *BVRC Legacy Net*

**Dana Widboom – KI5TGY (BVRC Nets Committee Chair)**

**Jan Hagan – WB5JAN**

**Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L**

**Tom Thibeault – KN4SLP**

**Robert Hill – K5NZV**

**Dana Hill – W5DGH**

### *HAM 101 Net*

**John Robinson – W5HB**

**Tom Northfell – W5XNA**

**Dennis Tune – W9DCT**

**Mike Calvi – KF5RUO**

### *Sunday 3830 Roundtable*

**John Bryant – N5SU**

**Mark Whatley – K5XH**

**Tom Northfell – W5XNA**





## **THE QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO RETURNS MARCH 25-26, 2023 WITH THE THEME "NEW AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE – NOW WHAT?"**

LOS ANGELES, CA – The amateur radio hobby is alive and well and coming to the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo on March 25–26th, 2023 with the theme: “New amateur radio license – now what?”. While the general public may not be aware that the hobby of amateur radio is not only alive and well, it’s bigger and better than it ever was. Many new amateur radio licensees may not know what opportunities for fun and growth exist in the hobby once they leave their exam session with their new license in hand. The goal of the Expo is to get more ham radio licensees on the air and involved in the hobby.

This 6th QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will showcase, through a weekend of presentations with live video questions and answers, the wide range of ham radio activities, technology, and communities that exist, not only in North America, but around the world. “Amateur radio is now like the traditional circus of old, with the traditional communications activities in the bigtop’s three rings, but now with a midway of a thousand tents, each containing a unique and interesting ham radio activity”, said Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, QSO Today podcaster and creator of the Expo.

The Expo is presented on the vFairs virtual convention platform that creates virtual spaces and lounges for attendee interaction, a presentation auditorium with multiple simultaneous speaker tracks, and opportunities to interact through video, audio, and text chat with sponsors and exhibitors. Every new edition of the Expo features new interactive features to enhance participation and educational benefit to amateur radio operators who want to try something new, or learn more about something in the hobby that interests them.

This time the Expo will introduce match-making between attendees who need amateur radio mentoring and potential mentors who match skills, expertise, and the location of hams needing help.

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will return on Friday Evening, March 24th at 6:00 PM PDT (8 PM Central Daylight Time), with the show's opening and includes live shows by distinguished ham radio podcasters and YouTubers. Interactive spaces and lounges are open for a continuous 48 hours over the weekend. Presentations begin at 8:00 AM PDT, Saturday morning, March 25th, 2023. After the weekend, all of the presentations are available for 30 days to ticket holders. Tickets are on sale now at a cost of \$15.00 each at [qsotoday.vfairs.com/en/registration-form](https://qsotoday.vfairs.com/en/registration-form)

For more information, go to the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo website at: <https://qsotodayhamexpo.com>.



**WELCOME  
NEW BVRC  
MEMBERS!!!**

**Christopher Johnson – KI5ZJT – Bentonville**

**David Whelan - KI5WOT – Springdale**

**Terry Fitzgerald – Bella Vista**

# God Made Ham Radio Operators

God said, "I need somebody to get up before dawn and work the grey line propagation for far away DX. Someone to turn on the HF radio, eat dinner by the glow of the vacuum tubes, and then go to town and stay past midnight to help and advise others at a ham club meeting." So, God made a ham radio operator.

God said, "I need somebody with a strong grip. Strong enough to lift a 75 pound "boat anchor", yet gentle enough to adjust the settings on a brand new solid state rig. Somebody to pass emergency communications traffic during national disasters, help fellow radio operators raise antennas in the bitter cold, and wipe beads of sweat away during sweltering Field Day exercises." So, God made a ham radio operator.

God said "I need somebody that can shape a piece of aluminum pipe into a radio antenna, then climb a hundred feet in the air and hang it. Someone who can use a sardine can to house a low power transmitter, resurrect a 50 year old receiver and build something useful out of the scraps found in the junk box. Someone who, during November Sweepstakes, will operate non-stop, and make hundreds of contacts around these great United States...but will stop to explain the rules to a newcomer." So, God made a ham radio operator.

God had to have somebody willing to work long hours assisting with community events, someone who will "elmer" new hams, help them pass their FCC exams, and help jump start them in the hobby. Someone who will lead the caravan to the hamfest then buy everyone a cup of coffee when they arrive. So, God made a ham radio operator.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to tension guy wires and dig tower base,s yet gentle enough to tune in a distant signal. Someone who is careful enough to check a frequency for use before transmitting, and who will lend a fellow ham a piece of equipment when in need. Someone who will stop what he's doing and fill out a QSL card, put a stamp on it, and mail it the next day because the fellow on the receiving end needs it for an award." So, God made a ham radio operator.

"Somebody who'll be open to innovation and new technology...remembering traditions and history but not stuck in the past. Somebody to check QSL cards for others, self-police frequencies, lead radio clubs, and isn't afraid to share what he or she has learned. Somebody who'll set up a portable station in a remote location so others may have the excitement of making a contact. Someone who understands the excitement and allure of radio: communicating over the air!"

*So, God made a ham radio operator.*



# AM STEREO DXING WITH THE MEDUCI MW-2A

BY MIKE SCHROEDER – NØALJ

I am a Ham who grew up with AM radio. I have great memories of listening to TOP 40 Hits on such great AM radio giants as 890 WLS Chicago, 1090 KAAV Little Rock and 1500 WLAC Nashville. In 1989, I bought a new Chevy Blazer and it had an in-dash Delco stereo and featured a totally new concept to me known as AM Stereo.



I loved to explore the AM band at night, on this radio, and enjoy music in a whole new way. Radio Shack then came out with the TM-152 AM Stereo tuner, that you could add on to your home stereo system like their 8-track tape deck and others. I just had to get one!



AM stereo was a concept that was initially adopted by many commercial AM broadcasters in the mid to late 1980's. But a decline soon began due to a lack of commitment in manufacturing receivers and the growing exodus of music stations moving from the AM band over to the FM band. Today AM radio is more news and talk but there are some AM music stations still around. I will never forget the debut of FM radio because my first car, a 72 Chevy Nova, had only a Delco AM radio in the dash. I went to WalMart and bought a KRACO AM to FM converter and used to listen to Dan Hentschel on K106 FM Top 40 hits.

Currently there are some AM stations committed to carrying the torch of AM Stereo and one company that I have found that is committed to still marketing an AM Stereo receiver! I discovered the Meduci MW-2A PLL AM C-QuAM Stereo Tuner while on the internet. I was researching lists of current remaining AM Stereo stations like 1210 KGYN 5 States Talker and 1170 KYET Golden Valley, Arizona playing Country music to name a few.



Meduci is a company in Boyertown, PA. and is devoted to 100% customer satisfaction. I am impressed with their customer service and they have lots of great reviews. I was really glad to find my Meduci MW-2A tuner because it's features are definitely a step up my Realistic TM-152 AM Stereo Tuner. I really like how this tuner has an LED digital frequency readout, an LED signal meter, a continuous tuning knob, a nice operating manual, a wide/narrow selectivity switch, a Stereo/Mono mode switch, A Stereo LED indicator and a power switch in the rear. On the back of the tuner are also RCA jacks for connecting to your stereo system.

My Bose Wave Radio happens to have auxiliary Left/Right input jacks for this connection but the user must supply his own audio cable. The tuner also features audio notch filters and an NRSC switch that enables audio de-emphasis circuitry. The digital frequency readout and signal strength meter are great features for AM DX'ing!



Another great feature is how this tuner requires the use of an external Indoor tunable AM Loop Antenna. The customer must supply his own loop antenna and then plug it into the antenna jack on the back of the receiver using a shielded coaxial antenna cable. Choices of compatible loop antennas include: The TERK Technologies Audiovox AM Advantage 1000, Kaito AN-200, Tecsun AN-200 and Grundig An-200.

The loop antenna then can be positioned to bring in the strongest signal first and then boosted even further because of the loop's built in pre-selector variable capacitor for signal peaking. The Meduci MW-2A comes with the antenna coaxial cable and 12 VDC wall mounted power adapter. For a loop antenna, I have both the Kaito AN-200 and Grundig AN-200 and they both work equally well. The Meduci MW-2A is a precision audio component that uses the MC13028AD AM Stereo Integrated Circuit Chip for high fidelity audio and is pre-built in a very nice case with rubber feet. I was able to mail order my Meduci MW-2A via a purchase invoice sent to me by email and I purchased using PayPal Credit.

If you become interested in AM stereo as I have, here are some links that you can view and research the Meduci on:

<http://meduci.com>

[amstereo@meduci.com](mailto:amstereo@meduci.com)

73 – Mike, NØALJ



### National Weather Service Storm Spotting Classes Now Forming

In case you cannot attend the BVRC March 2 meeting with our featured speaker, Ed Calianese from the NWS office in Tulsa, but you are still interested in signing-up for a storm spotter class, you can do that by clicking [here](#). The schedule will be adding more classes as the spring progresses, so if you don't find one that will work for you, keep monitoring the schedule for new class additions.



# NEWCOMERS: BVRC Is Here For You!

If you're new to BVRC and amateur radio, there are many of us who know EXACTLY what you're going through:

- What do I do now?
- How do I program my HT?
- How do I make a contact?
- What is FT8 all about?
- What's the best coax to use?
- What is APRS?
- What is a "hamfest"?
- What does "greyline" mean?
- What kind of radio should I get?
- Where can I find the repeater frequencies?
- Can I buy a decent HF radio on a budget?
- What kind of logging software should I use?
- What are these strange calls I'm hearing?
- Should I use just a VHF, or dual band, radio?
- How do I get involved with EmComm?
- How do I ground my station?
- What kind of antenna should I use?
- I have high SWR – what can I do?
- How do I learn Morse code?
- How can I learn about propagation?
- How do I operate on a Net?
- What are radials?
- How do I become a Storm Spotter?
- What is UTC?

Many of us have "been there and done that". That is why BVRC has several experienced hams that are here to guide and help you avoid some of the "walls" that you might run up against when learning the ins-and-outs of the hobby. And.....even if you're not new to ham radio and are in a quandary about something, *we're here for you too!* With BVRC, you have several resources that are available to you that will assist you in understanding what amateur radio is and how it works, and they're all out there waiting on your call for help!

- **ELMER 911** – This is an exclusive service for BVRC members, and in particular, our newcomers. You can pose a question 24/7 through ELMER 911. All you have to do is go to the ELMER 911 page on the BVRC website, then go to the ELMER 911 tab: <https://bellavistaradioclub.org/elmer-911/>. You will see a form that you can complete that describes your question or issue. Complete the form, then click "SEND". Our ELMER 911 Coordinator will then assign your question to one of our team of Elmers who will contact you via e-mail. You should get your answer in 12-24 hours, and sometimes sooner.
- **HAM 101 In-Person Meetings** – Just before each regular BVRC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the ALETA facility, come join us for the HAM 101 sessions, beginning at 6:00 pm. These sessions are designed specifically with newcomers in mind, so you can bring your questions, have those questions answered by our experienced Elmer hams present, and also learn more about the hobby from the Q&As of other participating newcomers. We've had very good turnouts from this new feature on each BVRC meeting night. Our ELMER 911 feature is, of course, ultra-convenient. But if you'd rather enjoy the fun and excitement of in-person newcomer get-togethers, you can join-in with the monthly HAM 101 sessions, or you can join on-air newcomer gatherings each week on the BVRC HAM 101 Net. *Experienced hams are welcome to these sessions, anytime.*
- **BVRC HAM 101 Net** – Get your questions answered or issues resolved (as well as gaining on-air experience!) by joining us on our weekly HAM 101 Net. This net resembles the in-person HAM 101 monthly meetings, except it occurs on-air. A panel of Elmers will be on hand to field any questions or issues you might have. It's a fun on-air experience that you'll really enjoy and also learn net operation protocol in case you're unfamiliar with nets – a great learning experience! This net takes place on the WX5NAS Skywarn Link System. You can find the repeater that is closest to you and it's operating frequency, offset, and PL tone on page 1 of this newsletter. *Experienced hams are also encouraged to join us. You're welcome anytime!*

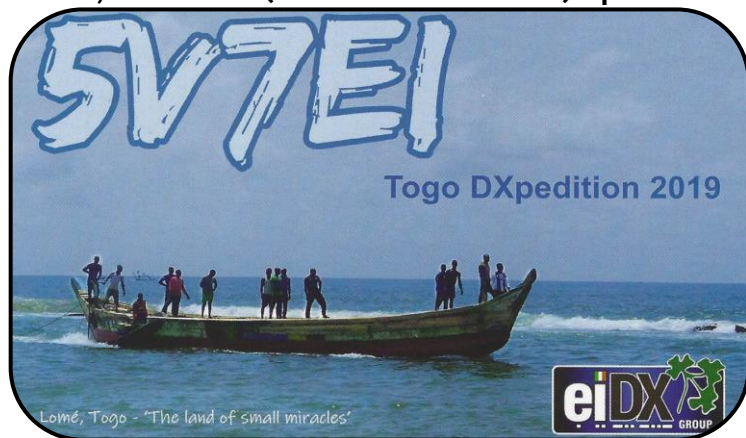
So, take advantage of all these opportunities when you need help with something (experienced operators, too!) Send-in your question via the website, and also join us at the monthly in-person newcomer meetings and on the HAM 101 Net. Even if you may not have a question, join us anyway! BVRC has your back!





*Editor's note: Have you ever thought about what is involved with the logistics, planning, execution, and hard work of a DXpedition? The locations that DXpeditions go to? The cost of a DXpedition? Whether you're a DX enthusiast or not, you will find this article very informative and entertaining. Enjoy.....*

DXpeditions are planned, coordinated, and organized journeys – sometimes by a solo operator but most times by a team of experienced operators – to give hams worldwide the opportunity (many times a *rare* opportunity) to contact that location for amateur radio award credit. There are several awards sponsored by different ham radio organizations on contacting many foreign countries, the most famous and prevalent being the DXCC (DX Century Club) sponsored by the ARRL, the WAZ (Worked-All-Zones) sponsored by CQ magazine, and others.



The base level of the DXCC requires the contacting and confirmation of a minimum of 100 geographical entities, as defined by the ARRL in the DXCC rules.

An "entity" for radio award purposes is any location that is either politically or physically remote (or both) from other jurisdictions/locations. For example, even though Alaska and Hawaii are politically part

of the United States, they are separate DX entities (physically separate). Small countries, even ones surrounded by larger ones – such as Vatican City – count.

Other entities include transnational organizations such as the International Telecommunications Union and the several locations of the United Nations (New York City, Timor, etc). These are within their host countries but have distinct ITU prefixes.

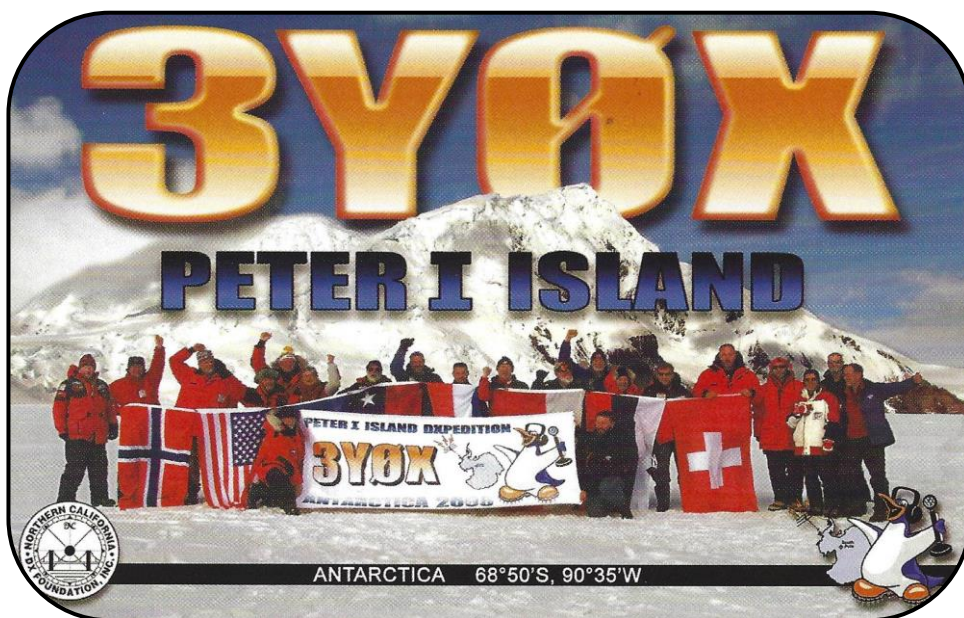
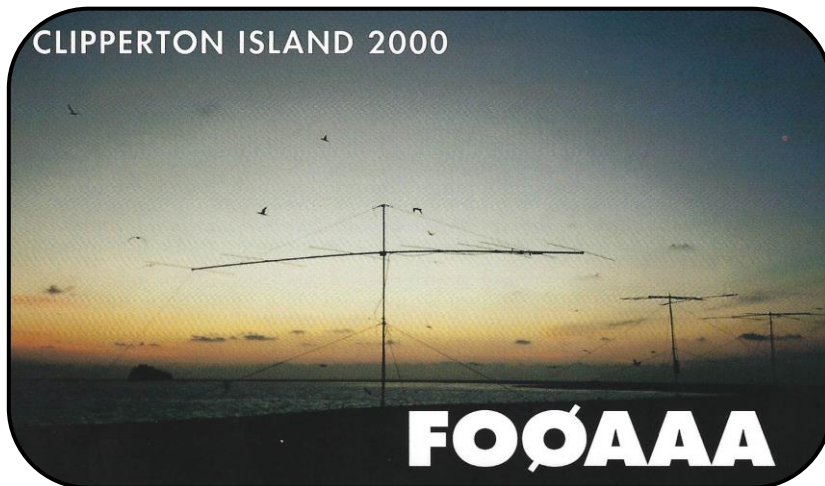


For example, the United Nations in New York City has an amateur radio station within its confines, 4U1UN. However, is not the United States. It is its own entity. Also, a few areas of historic or special status are included, such as Sardinia, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Antarctica, and Western Sahara.

In addition to licensing and survival issues, DXpedition participants devote much attention to the equipment they use.

In an extremely rare location for a popular awards program like DXCC, thousands of stations may be calling the DXpedition at a at any one time (known as a 'pile-up'). Therefore, DXpedition members will aim to use high power and gain antennas on as many bands as practical, in order to achieve a strong signal worldwide and keep control of the inevitable pileups that occur. Operators may also receive and transmit on different frequencies, called 'split operation', in order to be heard by distant stations without interference to their signal from the pileup. This can also help the operation to make a very large number of contacts with parts of the planet that are unfavorable propagation from the DXpedition site. For smaller operations to remote locations, smaller radios which run off a 12v DC power supply and antenna systems which are more easily transported are favored over larger and more difficult to transport equipment. However, generators are usually used because of the power requirements for amplifiers and the ease of refueling versus recharging a battery.

CLIPPERTON ISLAND 2000



When the individual or group arrives at the DXpedition destination, they must set up their station and get on the air. DXpeditions are usually group affairs since the desire is to make as many contacts as possible from the location. Round-the-clock operations on multiple HF bands simultaneously are typical, which necessitates a group activity.

Most DXpeditions now use the Internet to upload logs, allowing quick confirmation of questionable contacts, and for QSL cards (formal confirmation). This use of electronic log uploading and e-confirmations has made the process considerably easier.

Some amateurs operate from locations while they are on holiday, where there are few resident operators. These operations are often more leisurely affairs. Nonetheless, the operator will seek to make as many contacts as possible in the operating time available, with the result that contacts are often extremely brief, limited just to an exchange of signal reports and callsigns.

Many DXpeditions are organized around various radio contests that occur throughout the year. This is often done so that the DXpedition station can gain an advantage in contests and maximize the number of contacts that they make during the DXpedition, since the radio bands are the most active during contests.

If you are trying to add rare or hard-to-get countries to your DXCC "QSL trophy case", DXpeditions will drastically help you in that quest. Some of the best resources you can use to keep-up with current DXpeditions are: NG3K's website

operated by Bill Feidt/NG3K:

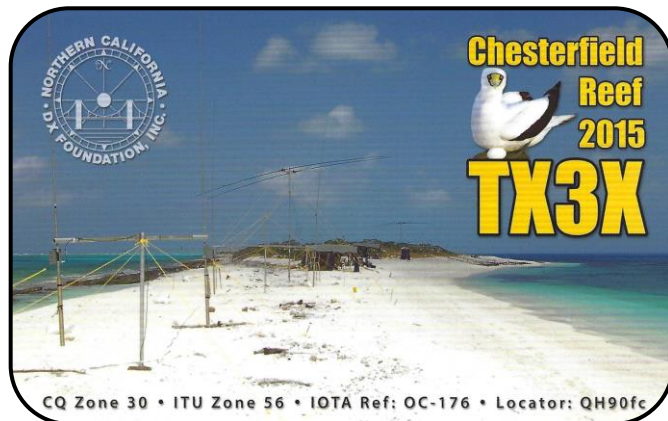
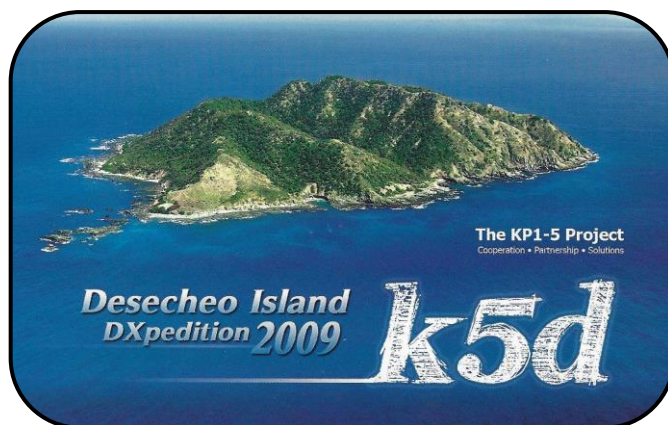
<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Also, the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin at <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>.

For live, on-air updates of where and when DX countries and DXpeditions are operating, go to:

<http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/> or

<http://www.dxwatch.com/>.



## YAESU DONATES NEW RADIOS TO ARRL TO INSPIRE VISITORS AND YOUNG HAMS

There are two new Yaesu transceivers in use at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. They arrived via a generous donation from Yaesu USA. The company has donated an FTDX101MP and FTDX10, both HF/50 MHz transceivers. In arranging the donation, Yaesu Vice President, Sales and Credit Gary Doshay, KN6APR, urged that the radios be used by ARRL "to educate and assist your visitors and especially young enthusiasts for ham radio."

The FTDX101MP has been put into service at the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial ARRL Station, W1AW. ARRL members and visitors come year-round to tour the station and operate the equipment, most of which has been donated by generous manufacturers over the years. "The radio is already receiving a lot of attention from visitors," said W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. "Some of our recent guests have included students and scouting groups who have enjoyed trying the new radio -- adding to the overall 'wow' factor of the station. We're grateful to Yaesu for this new addition to W1AW."

The FTDX10 has been installed in the new ARRL Radio Lab, W1HQ, where it will contribute to the station's ongoing role in the development of innovative amateur radio station design and function. The ARRL stations will benefit significantly from the donations of Yaesu's highly capable rigs. It demonstrates the important partnership ARRL has with amateur radio manufacturers.



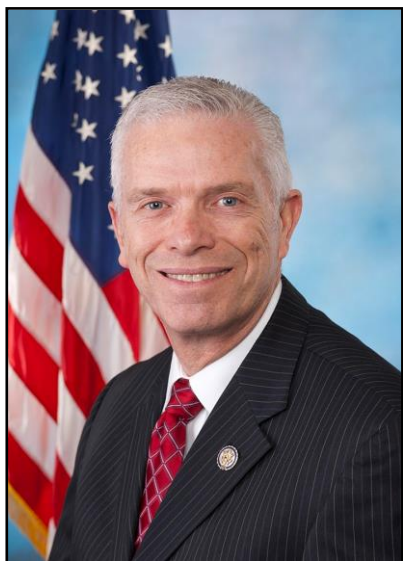


# CONGRESS INTRODUCES TWO BILLS TO ENHANCE HAM RADIO EXPERIENCE

From hamradioprep.com

Contributed by: Michael Kemper – W5KMK

The US House of Representatives will have at least two proposals related to amateur radio to review in the 2023-2024 session. The bills introduced focus on improving antenna restrictions and HF digital operations.



**Ohio Congressman  
Bill Johnson**



**Arizona Congresswoman  
Debbie Lesko**

Congressman Bill Johnson of Ohio sponsors HR-9670, the “Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.” The bill attempts to take on private land use restrictions and covenants. The bill’s intro reads, “...amateur stations have been shown to be frequently and increasingly precluded” by these unreasonable rules.

Changes included in HR-9670 include allowing antennas shorter than 1 meter, antennas part of a flagpole, and wire antennas. You can read the entire HR-9670 bill at the ARRL website [here](https://www.arrl.org/legislation/hr-9670), and track progress on congress.gov.

Arizona Congresswoman Debbie Lesko sponsors HR-9664, focused on digital symbol rates for HF. Representative Lesko says it is to “eliminate the current Symbol Rate Limit set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and replace it with a 2.8 kilohertz (kHz) bandwidth limit. The bill brings regulations up to speed with modern technology advances in amateur radio.”

If you support these changes, consider letting your congressional representative know. You can find contact information at <https://www.congress.gov/members>.



Strays from  
10 Years Ago....

By Don-K5DB

# W5T TRAIN MOBILE



It's already been 10 years ago, for several consecutive years in that time period, when each year informal groups of us would gain permission from the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad weekend excursion train to use their caboose to operate our Special Event Station – W5T(Train). You possibly have worked mobile amateur stations in their vehicle many times. You may have worked a few Maritime Mobile (boat) stations, and perhaps you've even worked an Aeronautical Mobile (plane) amateur station. But have you ever worked a ham station that was *TRAIN MOBILE*? We usually operated one station sharing the modes between SSB and CW. We used battery power with mobile whips for antennas. Most of our contacts were in North America, but on occasion we would work Europe, South America, and Australia – with a mobile whip and 90 watts! The roof of the all-steel (1943) caboose made for an excellent ground plane!

It was a blast to hear the replies of the stations we were working: "Train Mobile? You've got to be kidding!" – "And you're *in motion*? Unbelievable!" – "You're the first freaking train mobile I've ever worked!" – "I just heard the horn in the background!" It was always an annual Saturday of HUGE fun and excitement. Enjoy these photos of the good ol' train mobile days on the A&MRR.....



Mark Parmer-NW5AR, Scott Anderson-K5SAA, and Joe Dunn-WA5JD mounting the antennas (2013)



Scott-K5SAA on SSB,  
Vic Rozeboom-N5CS logging



Ron – K5XK, working  
Slovenia on 20m CW.



Don – K5DB, works a  
CW QSO from W5T.





John – W5OX thrills another QSO recipient with a W5T SSB contact (2014)



Taking a break in Van Buren for the engine to switch ends, and head back for NW Arkansas. The crew for this year was Vic-N5CS, Scott-K5SAA, John-W5OX, Jeff-KK5OEF, and Don-K5DB



## THE LARGEST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN ARKANSAS!

(200 members and counting)



*You're a part of it! Thanks for your support! Get involved in club activities!*

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