



THE SIGNAL

Newsletter of the
Bella Vista area Radio Club

ARKANSAS' LARGEST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October 2023

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

(HAM 101 Workshop for Newcomers @ 6pm preceding meeting)

Club Calls: N5BVA / W5NX

Repeaters: 147.255 +offset, pl 162.2

Website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org

444.100 +offset, pl 162.2

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 3830 Roundtable

Sunday Afternoons

4 pm during CST

4:30 pm during CDT

3.830 MHz

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

Winslow – 147.315, +offset, pl 110.9

Huntsville – 443.625, +5 MHz, pl 97.4

Green Forest – 145.310, -offset, pl 103.5

NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023 @ 7PM
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY
3424 S. DOWNUM ROAD
SPRINGDALE, AR

OCTOBER MEETING INFO

HAM 101 WORKSHOP, 6 PM – This month BVRC Webmaster, former president, and BVRC General class license instructor Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L will be presenting the topic “Understanding and Using Antenna Analyzers”. Glenn will have different analyzers on hand to demonstrate how convenient – and sometimes vital – an antenna analyzer can be. A Q&A session will follow Glenn’s program. This will be very informative and helpful material geared for newcomers who are just getting into understanding antennas, SWR, resonance, etc. Come and join us!

OCTOBER MEETING, 7 PM – Many of our BVRC members have towers, and some are in the planning stages for a tower. Climbing towers can be very risky if you don’t know what you’re doing. Tower safety is paramount. Chuck Korzendorfer – KM5G has climbed towers for decades (including many BVRC members’ towers), and is one of our club’s utmost authorities in this area.

Chuck will be our featured speaker for the October meeting on the important topic of tower safety.

If you are planning on erecting a tower for your station, if you plan to upgrade your current antenna system on your existing tower, or if you’re contemplating about a new tower and need more information, this program is for you.

See you then!!!



DXCC

September Meeting Features DX Century Club Program

It was another great turnout by BVRC members for the September 2023 meeting, with especially our newcomer members learning about – and many becoming excited about beginning to participate in – the ARRL DXCC Program. The presenters for this month's program were Jay Bromley – W5JAY and Don Banta – K5DB. Like many of the veteran DX operators present this evening, Jay and Don have pursued DX for decades and have had garnered many rewarding experiences and memories from their endeavors.

Don began the program by admonishing the newcomers, "Many of you are having a huge amount of enjoyment in beginning your amateur radio journey, and have already added the dimensions of antennas, repeaters, repeater



nets, fox hunting, working amateur satellites, Parks on the Air, and other areas to your radio experiences. After tonight, you can add the DXCC Award Program to your ham radio portfolio and hopefully you will give it a 'test drive' and become hooked as many of us in the club have." Don also encouraged all the Technician license holders and those who are about to take their Technician exam to continue their journey by upgrading to General and also Amateur Extra, so they can enjoy the extended frequency privileges those licenses allow, and enable them to pursue the DXCC award as well as enjoying many other HF events and activities.



Great turnout for the September program

Don then shared the history of the DXCC award, which is the most prestigious award in amateur radio. He was hooked in pursuing DX at the age of 13 in 1969, when he made his first contact outside the US as a Novice operating CW with 75 watts and a small dipole antenna, working Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) for his first DX QSO on 15-meters.. Don said there is nothing like working stations all over the world and becoming an "amateur geographer" at the same time.

He also encouraged beginning hams, advising them if they presently do not have an amplifier but only 100-watt transceiver and a modest dipole or vertical antenna, they can still work the world and he presented his DX statistics on screen to prove it could be done. Don said the best way to begin working DX is to begin to familiarize yourself with the various callsign prefixes of other countries so that you know where they are and if you need them for your DXCC contact credits or not, giving examples of the many different foreign callsign prefixes that exist worldwide.

Jay then took center stage and did a stellar job in explaining to attendees the important aspects of HOW to work DX stations. He discussed propagation – the most important area of pursuing DX stations – and knowing how to use it to your advantage, such as greylining. He also shared some tools and websites that can be very advantageous to use in helping one know when propagation is good or not, such as Grid Tracker and Reverse Beacon Network.

He then showed a slide highlighting and saluting some of the BVRC members already in the DXCC program, and how well they are doing in their DX pursuits.

Jay then proceeded to explain the most important area in acquiring the DXCC award – getting confirmations after working a DX station. Confirmations are made in one of two ways: either by electronic confirmation or QSL card. He discussed the procedures to follow to get these confirmations verified by the ARRL and into your permanent DXCC record. He then explained how to begin using Logbook of the World and how to open an account. Jay also covered some of the other awards that can be obtained along the way while one is working on their DXCC award: Worked All States, Worked All Continents, Worked All Zones, etc. (Fortunately for us in NW Arkansas, Jay is an official ARRL Card Checker.)

Jay and Don hope that the presentation will be an encouragement to those not familiar in working DX, to begin the challenging – but fun – pursuits in this area of the hobby, to add with all the other great aspects that amateur radio offers.

Earlier in the meeting, one of the high points of the evening was when BVRC President Jan Hagan – WB5JAN presented Rick Pope – KG5MWG with two Certificates of Appreciation. Rick accepted the awards on behalf of two groups who manage the Sonic Drive-Ins in our area, extending all the way to Memphis. Sonic donated \$1000 in free drink coupons that were given to 25+ BVRC members who volunteered to assist our recent 2023 Field Day event.

We appreciate Rick very much, not only for acquiring the coupons but also for the stellar job he did with supplying the flyers and reference materials for an outstanding amateur radio/ARRL information table during BVRC Field Day 2023. Thanks Rick!!!

And!Another big 'thanks' to Tem-N5KWL for the great HAM 101 Workshop on repeaters! Tem brought a lot of equipment for live demonstrations, and his presentation was outstanding!

**Jan-WB5JAN presents Rick-KG5MWG
with the BVRC Certificates of Appreciation**



BOARD MEMBERS

President

Jan Hagan – WB5JAN
ianhagan51@gmail.com

Vice President

Joe Hott – W5AEN
joe.hott@gmail.com

Secretary

Dana Hill – W5DGH
dana.hill1979@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mark Whittlesey - WØKYZ
almarc11@yahoo.com

Technical Officer

Tem Moore – N5KWL
temmoore@gmail.com

Trustee

Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L
wb5l@arrl.net

Board Member At Large and Public Information Officer

Tom Northfell – W5XNA
w5xna@arrl.net



APPOINTED OFFICERS

VE Testing Committee

Chair: Don Cooper – KC7DC
don_c@hotmail.com

Elmer 911 Committee

Chair: Vinson Carter – WV5C
vinsoncarter@gmail.com

Nets Committee

Chair: Dana Widboom – KI5TGY
dcwidboom@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Chair: Tom Northfell – W5XNA
w5xna@arrl.net

Social Media Committee

Chair: Rebecca Garrett – N5REB
rebdgarrett@gmail.com

Webmaster

Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L
wb5l@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor

Don Banta – K5DB
arsk5db@gmail.com

From the Desk of the President



My wife and I have been traveling in the east, visiting the Colonial Triangle and the 18th century Williamsburg Colony in Virginia, Raleigh in North Carolina, and finally, Myrtle Beach and Charleston in South Carolina. We had a pretty full agenda for our summer vacation, so before we left, I wondered whether I should take along any amateur radio gear. I debated with myself – would I really have enough time for amateur radio, and did we have enough room with everything else we needed to pack for a long trip?

Of course, I convinced myself that there were bound to be opportunities to get on the air and I was sure I could find room for my portable equipment, so along came my Parks On The Air station including my trusty Wolf River Coil antenna. I even found space to include my screen door ground plane!

My first POTA activation for this trip was at K-1299, First Landing State Park in Virginia, the site of the first landing of the 17th century Jamestown colony. How fun to activate from a national park that combines the beauty of nature with historical significance. It was a nice way to enjoy a beautiful Virginia afternoon.

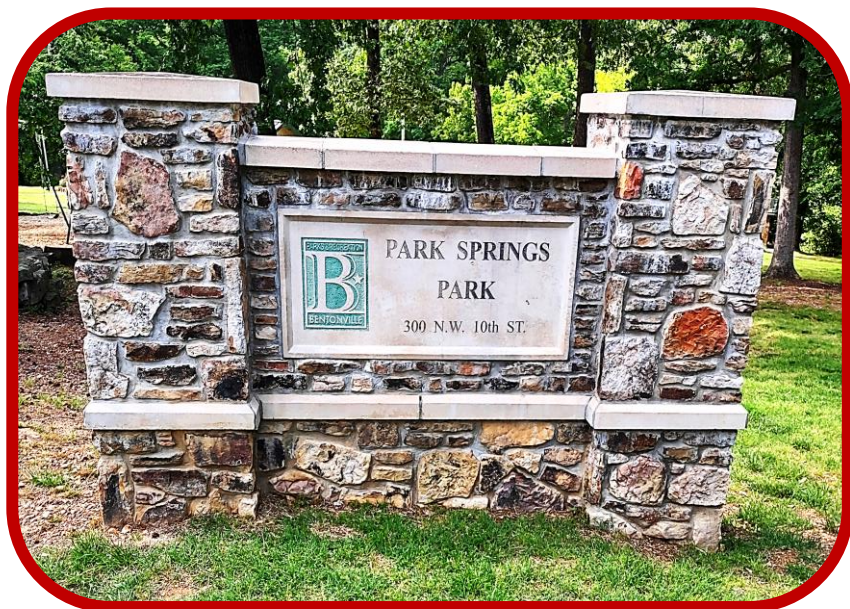
A pleasant surprise during my first activation was meeting other amateurs visiting the park who stopped by when they came across my portable operating station. It seems hams have a universal interest in talking about equipment, antennas and propagation as well as the weather!

At first, I was concerned that trying to bring my amateur gear with me on our trip would interfere with our vacation plans and somehow diminish our experience. This turned out to be far from the case. Discovering beautiful park settings to set up Parks On The Air operations in each state was fun for both my wife and I, and meeting other hams who would come up to introduce themselves and ask questions truly enriched our experience and made our vacation even more enjoyable.

There are so many avenues one can take to enjoy our wonderful hobby. Combining travel and our amateur radio hobby is certainly an avenue that allows us to experience beautiful new locations to operate from and the opportunity to meet many interesting new amateurs from other areas of the country.

Our vacation was enhanced because of my amateur radio hobby.

N5BVA PORTABLE SPECIAL EVENT STATION AT PARK SPRINGS PARK - BENTONVILLE!!!



BVRC members – Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 14, when the second of two N5BVA Special Event Stations will be activated from Park Springs Park to celebrate BVRC's 30th anniversary!

Date/Time: Saturday,
October 14
9:00am-7:00pm local time

Location: Park Springs Park
300 NW 10th St.
Bentonville, AR

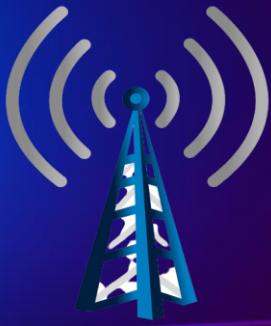
Two Stations will be on the air. One station will be using an 80-10 meter Windom dipole; the other station will be using BVRC's MA-5B mini-beam.

Miscellaneous info: Park Springs Park has a nice pavilion and AC mains, ***but no restrooms.*** (There are restrooms about 5 minutes away at eating establishments on Walton Blvd.) *No food or refreshments will be served* as this is a total operational event, but you are welcome to bring your own food, drinks, snacks, etc. if you wish. Eating establishments are nearby on Walton Blvd. The event will appear on the Special Event Station page in the October issue of QST, and can presently be viewed on the ARRL website, S/E/S page.

Objective: To allow attending BVRC members to operate, enjoy, and experience a Special Event Station and work the pileups, as there will be many stations calling. ***We especially extend an invitation to all club newcomers to come operate,*** as this will be a great experience for you who have not worked the HF bands very much, or not at all. We look forward to newcomers and veteran operators to have their turn at the rigs and have some ham radio fun as well as great fellowship, as we celebrate our 30th year.

SEE YOU OCTOBER 14!





WX5NAS SKYWARN LINK SYSTEM ADDS NEW REPEATER!

Great news for BVRC members, BVRC weekly net participants, and all other NW Arkansas hams.....

On September 14, WX5NAS SLS owner Jon Williams – K5DVT installed a new repeater on the Signal Mountain tower near Winslow and the Bobby Hopper tunnel on I-49. This repeater is now operational and is linked to the Kessler Mountain repeater in Fayetteville. This will greatly extend the receiving coverage area of Kessler to the south.

With this new repeater, hams in the extreme southern BVRC member areas of Crawford and Sebastian Counties (Winslow, Mountainburg, Van Buren, Fort Smith, etc.) should now be able to easily access the Kessler repeater. This will especially enable our members in these areas to be able to check-in to the weekly BVRC HAM 101 Net on Tuesday evenings!

The frequency for Winslow will be the same as Fayetteville – 147.315, positive offset – *except use 110.9 for the pl tone* (instead of 97.4 which is Fayetteville's tone...see the new repeater listings on page 1).

A HUGE thanks to Jon for this wonderful repeater addition!!!



▲ Jon-K5DVT installs the Winslow-Kessler link antenna

The main Winslow DB-224 repeater antenna is seen directly above Jon ▼





Welcome New BVRC Members!!!

Ron Aronica – KJ5CMV – Uniontown, AR

Brad Ponder – Fayetteville, AR

Charlotte Johnson – Fayetteville, AR

Duane Roy – KJ5CPH – Holiday Island, AR

BVRC VE REPORT

From Don Cooper – KC7DC
BVRC VE Coordinator
September 9, 2023



Congratulations!

Ron Aronica – KJ5CMV – Uniontown, AR
Passed both Technician and General!

Duane Roy – KJ5CPH – Holiday Island – New Technician!

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!*

LIFETIME
Big SUGAR
GRAVEL

PRESENTED BY  **mazda**

Volunteers Needed!

The annual Big Sugar Classic bicycle race will take place Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023. The starting line will be on the Bentonville square. The race is 100 miles long. Amateur radio will be the only supporting communication along the race route. Three volunteers are needed to help (and have rewarding fun) in participating in emergency communications during this all-day event.

Website: <https://www.bigsugarclassic.com/schedule-2/>

EmComm'ers, if you would like to help with this event and for more information, contact Tem Moore-N5KWL at: temmoore@gmail.com





BVRC VE TEST SESSION CHANGES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 2023

*From: Don Cooper – KC7DC, BVRC VE Testing Committee Chair/Bella Vista VE Liaison
and
Don Banta – K5DB, BVRC Springdale VE Liaison*

Due to scheduling conflicts, the normal BVRC VE Test Session day of the 2nd Saturday of each month will be changed for October and November 2023. The testing schedule for these months will be as follows:

**Bella Vista: Saturday, October 7, 2pm
Saturday, November 4, 2pm**

**Springdale: Saturday, October 7, 10am
Sunday, November 12, 10am**

The testing locations will remain the same for Fire Station #1 in Bella Vista and the Shiloh Museum in Springdale. The regular testing schedule of the 2nd Saturday of each month will resume in December (December 9).

These changes are also reflected on the VE Testing Location page of the ARRL website. Be sure and note these changes if you intend to test with BVRC during the months of October and November.

LATEST EDITION OF QST FEATURES ARTICLE BY BVRC MEMBER

QST

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT OR HAVEN'T NOTICED IT IN YOUR LATEST OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE OF QST, BVRC MEMBER NICK KENNEDY – WA5BDU IS THE AUTHOR OF ONE OF THE FEATURE ARTICLES IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE! THE ARTICLE ENTITLED "A 100 WATT DUMMY LOAD AND MORE", APPEARS ON PAGES 32-33 OF THE ISSUE.



Nick Kennedy – WA5BDU

A 100 W Dummy Load and More

Build this inexpensive homebrew dummy load that also includes a signal monitor port.

Nick Kennedy, WA5BDU

A dummy load is a useful accessory for your ham shack because it permits transmitter testing and troubleshooting without generating interference. Homebrewing a dummy load can be a simple task, but keeping reactance low through VHF while dissipating significant amounts of power may be a challenge.

For the last several years, flanged 50 Ω , 100 W thick-film resistors have been available for less than \$3 on auction websites. These resistors are suitable for use into the gigahertz range, and have a specified tolerance of 5% (2.5 Ω). This corresponds to a worst-case standing wave ratio (SWR) of 1.05:1. However, the units I've purchased are all within 1 Ω of 50 Ω (1.02:1 SWR). Figure 1 shows my homebrew dummy load with a 50 dB monitor port.

Building the Dummy Load

It doesn't get much simpler than a one-component project. However, you'll need a good heatsink to handle 100 W. Get one that's 1–2 inches thick and about the size of your hand. If you're operating a QRP transmitter, or even a 100 W transmitter at less than 100% duty cycle, the heatsink can be smaller. It should have a flat, smooth surface. Scrape off any old heat-transfer compound on the heatsink.

Position the 50 Ω load as close to the connector as possible for the best SWR performance. Working with your heatsink, drill and tap 4-40 or M3 mounting holes for the load on the top. For the connectors, do the same on the top or side of the heatsink. Apply a thin layer of heat-transfer compound to the bottom of the load before mounting it. The load input is a short,

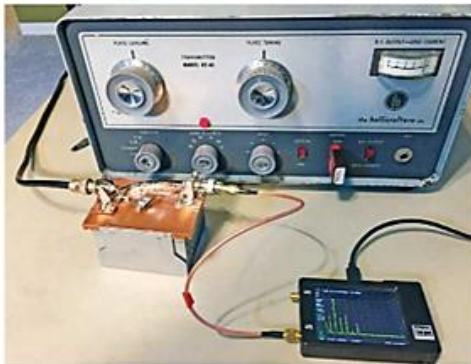


Figure 1 — WA5BDU's dummy load and 50 dB tap in use. (Nick Kennedy, WA5BDU, photo)

ribbon-like conductor that can be soldered directly to the RF input connector, if it's close enough. My goal was to provide a low SWR for 1.8–50 MHz transmitters, so the small mismatch between the load and connector (due to short lead lengths) isn't significant. However, if you want the load to look good into the VHF and/or UHF range, you'll need to provide a 50 Ω path from the connector to the load.

After assembly, test the load using your antenna analyzer, VNA, or SWR meter with your transmitter at low power. Assuming the SWR looks good, increase power while feeling the heatsink to ensure heating isn't a problem.

Adding a Monitor Port

The 50 dB tap was inspired by the June 2001 QST article, "Simple RF-Power Measurement," by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, and Bob Larkin, W7PUA, that included a 40 dB tap with a flat response up to 500 MHz. As more hams take advantage of inexpensive instruments that analyze small signals, there's a need to reduce a transmitter's output to a level that's safe for these instruments. A 50 dB monitor port will reduce a 100 W transmitter output to 1 mW, or 0 dBm. The 50 dB attenuation is accomplished with R2, R3, R4, and R5 in Figure 2.

NICK HAS HAD SEVERAL OTHER ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN QST IN YEARS PAST, AND WE EXTEND CONGRATS TO HIM ON LANDING ANOTHER ONE.

NICK FIRST EARNED HIS LICENSE IN 1962 AT AGE 13. HE HOLDS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, AND WORKED FOR 45 YEARS IN THE NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY. NICK ENJOYS ALL MODES, BUT ESPECIALLY CW. HE WAS OUR MODERATOR FOR THE HAM 101 WORKSHOP ON THE TOPIC OF CW IN AUGUST, AS WELL AS ONE OF OUR GREAT CW STATIONS OPS FOR FIELD DAY THIS YEAR. THANKS NICK!!!

BVRC Members:

**CELEBRATE
BELLA VISTA AREA RADIO CLUB'S
30TH BIRTHDAY WITH A
COMMEMORATIVE CLUB MUG!**



NEW



Embroidered Memories, official supplier of BVRC accessories (owned and operated by club members John and Kim – W5HB & KD5TVX), now has available the Bella Vista area Radio Club commemorative mug. This handsome mug includes the club's N5BVA commemorative QSL card on both sides, with your callsign opposite the handle.

The mug price is \$15.00, not including s&h.
(Can be delivered to club meetings free of charge.)
A great piece of memorabilia for years to come!

To order your mug, click [here](#).

**Attention all BVRC DXer members and other members interested in DXing!!
Make plans to attend the**



2023 Annual Convention
Saturday, Nov. 11, 9am – 4pm
Holiday Inn Express
Russellville, AR

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

**World Renowned Dxpeditioner and
Member of the 3YØJ Bouvet Island Team
Adrian Ciuperca – KO8SCA**



Adrian – KO8SCA

- Additional DX Topics & Speakers
- Noon Luncheon
- DXCC Card Checking
- ADXA Awards
- Door Prizes
- Hospitality Suite after meeting

*Registration information forthcoming,
but mark your calendar now to attend!*

BVRC VE TEAMS HONOR TESTING FACILITIES DURING MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

A large part of the success of Bella Vista area Radio Club's Volunteer Examiner amateur radio testing sessions has been due to the support and help that has been given them by the public service entities in Bella Vista – serving the northern portion of our membership region, and Springdale – serving the southern portion of our membership region.

In Bella Vista, the Bella Vista Fire Department has been a wonderful host in allowing BVRC to conduct its monthly VE sessions at Fire Station #1. Since July 2017, BVRC conducted its VE sessions at Highland Christian Church, where it also held its monthly meetings. When the Covid epidemic occurred, the church advised the club that it could no longer allow BVRC to conduct meetings or exam sessions due to health and safety concerns. During the Covid period, BVRC was given the privilege of holding its VE sessions by Harp's Food Stores General Offices in Springdale from January-October 2021. However, Harp's then went through a remodeling phase of their offices and had to discontinue our exam sessions. The BVRC VE team was once again searching for a facility to be able to continue license testing. It was at this time that BVRC VE Testing Committee Chair Don – KC7DC approached Bella Vista Fire Department who had no problem with allowing the VE team to begin testing at Station #1 in November 2021. The Bella Vista team has conducted monthly VE test sessions there since that time, and the team – as well as the club – is infinitely grateful for their help and support.

In January of 2022, BVRC elected to begin a second monthly VE testing session in Springdale to serve the residents of BVRC's southern membership area. The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History has maintained an excellent rapport with Ozark Wireless Society for over 20 years providing the General Store on the museum grounds as that club's meeting place. When approached about allowing BVRC to conduct monthly license testing they immediately welcomed us, and the first test session was held in February, 2022. The museum has since done an outstanding job of supporting the BVRC/Springdale team.

Because of the exceptional backing from these two establishments, the BVRC VE teams presented them both with a Certificate of Appreciation.....which they appreciated! THANK YOU SO MUCH BVFD and SMOH!!!!!!



Don-KC7DC presents the BVRC Certificate of Appreciation to the Bella Vista Fire Dept. (L to R: Captain Michael Harris, Don Cooper-BVRC, Battalion Chief Ronnie Crupper, and Engineer Avery Sharp)



Don-K5DB presents the BVRC Certificate of Appreciation to Tina Pfister, SMOH Administrative and General Store Manager

CW OPERATORS NEEDED FOR ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CLUB COMPETITION



For the first time in club history, Bella Vista area Radio Club will be submitting this year's individual CW Sweepstakes scores into a cumulative club score entry for BVRC.

The annual ARRL Sweepstakes is the 2nd largest amateur radio contest in North America (Field Day being the largest). It is so large that the modes of CW and SSB have their own weekends of operation. CW Sweepstakes takes place during the first full weekend in November, and CW Phone (SSB) occurs during the third weekend in November.

All interested experienced operators are asked to participate in the CW Sweepstakes and help BVRC submit a good club score.

If you intend on operating this year's CW Sweeps, combining your personal score with BVRC's aggregate score would be GREATLY appreciated! When you submit your score, simply list BVRC as your affiliated club.

The ARRL CW Sweepstakes will be held this year from:
2100 UTC Saturday, Nov. 4 – 0259 UTC Monday, Nov. 6

If you are planning on operating the 2023 ARRL CW Sweepstakes, please contact Chuck – KM5G at: ckorz@multi-craft.net by Oct. 3 so that you're callsign can be recorded and submitted to ARRL as a participating club member per Sweepstakes submission rules.

Thanks in advance for your help!

2ND NW ARKANSAS WINLINK GATEWAY OPERATIONAL



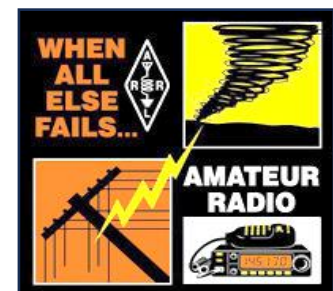
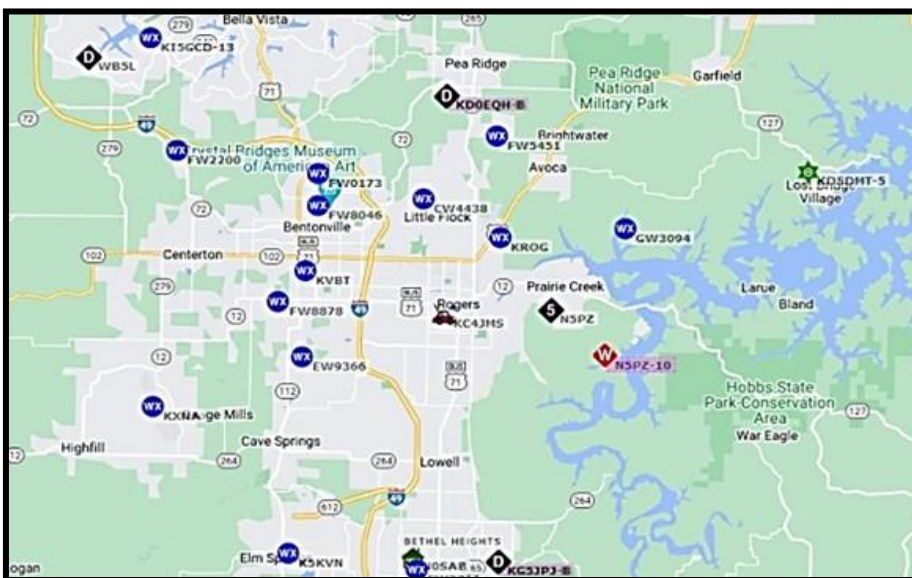
From Ryan McGuffin - N5PZ

Northwest Arkansas now has its second Winlink VHF packet gateway up and running in Rogers. We're excited about improving our local emergency communications infrastructure, aka EMCOMM, so we encourage you to open that Winlink software and test our local gateway.

```

RMS Packet 2.1.45.0 N5PZ-10
Settings Disconnect Link Logs Help
Port Stream Callsign Start Time Telnet Server
Packet Channel Events
[10] *** CONNECTED TO WB5L 2023/08/12 19:59:11
[10] [WL2K-5.0-B2FWIHJMS]
[10] :PQ: 74326147
[10] CMS via N5PZ >
[10] :FW: WB5L
[10] :PR: 19500324
[10] : N5PZ-10 DE WB5L/W (EM26TK)
[10] FF
[10] FQ
[10] *** DISCONNECTED
2023/08/12 19:59:30
Telnet Channel Events
Connected WB5L to CMS-SSL in 0.2 seconds.
[10] Connected 2023/08/12 19:59:13
[10] Callsign :
[10] :WB5L N5PZ
[10] :SQ: 32208372
[10] :SR: 46658362 147495000 0
[10] [WL2K-5.0-B2FWIHJMS]
[10] :PQ: 74326147
[10] CMS via N5PZ >
[10] :FW: WB5L
[10] [RMS Express-1.7.8.0-B2FHMS]
[10] :PR: 19500324
[10] : N5PZ-10 DE WB5L/W (EM26TK)
[10] FF
[10] FQ
*** Telnet link disconnected
[10] Disconnected WB5L 2023/08/12 19:59:35
  
```

If you're a new operator just entering the hobby or a seasoned Ham and curious about Winlink, be sure to check out the [Winlink](https://www.winlink.org) website to find out more about how you can send email using radio pathways when the internet is not present. All you need is a computer (old or new), an inexpensive soundcard or TNC, and your existing radio and antenna. We need your help to improve this together because...



Winlink Gateway: N5PZ-10,
147.495, FM Simplex,
n5pz.dx@gmail.com,
[n5pz@winlink.org](https://www.winlink.org)

THREE NW ARKANSAS AMATEURS CONDUCT 1296 MHZ QSOS!

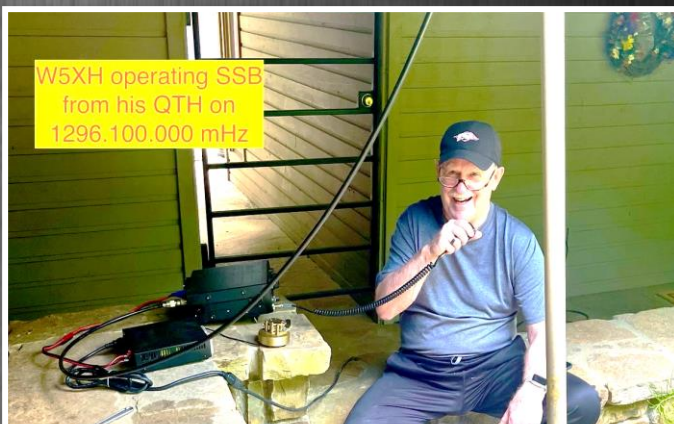
By Murray Harris – W5XH

During the afternoon of June 14, 2023, Bill – KG5ZCI went over to Dan – K5FXB’s QTH with his home-brew 1296 MHz Yagi and IC-9700, and I took my IC-9700 out to our carport and hooked it up to my Comet CYA-1216E 16 element Yagi. We then proceeded to have ourselves a QSO on 1296.100.000 MHz. This was a first for Bill, Dan, and me, as we had never worked that band before! Bill and I had tried once before from his QTH to my back deck, but there are too many trees, football stadiums, buildings, etc. for us to have a real QSO, although we could hear our faint signals.

But today from Dan’s QTH, we conducted SSB, FM, and AM contacts, and we would have had a CW contact if Bill had brought a paddle with him, hi hi. We had fairly weak S-3 signals, mainly because of the absorption of the RF from all of the trees that we had to go through in addition to the buildings at the U of A that we had to traverse.



KG5ZCI's homebrew 1296 mHz Yagi



W5XH operating SSB from his QTH on 1296.100.000 mHz



KG5ZCI operating SSB with K5FXB and W5XH on 1296.100.000 mHz using Bill's homebrew Yagi



IC-9700, Samlex PS, N3ZN paddle



We think that this is the first QSO in NW Arkansas between two septuagenarians and one octogenarian on 1296 MHz (LOL). Needless to say, we experienced no QRM during the contact. One of these days we will do this again and will choose two high places to work from so that we don't have to have our signals eaten up by the forest.

QSO details: 1296.100.000 MHz SSB, AM, & FM at 2035 UTC, 14 June 2023, signals 5/3.

BVRC VECP WALKS AWAY WITH 2ND PLACE GRAND PRIZE

Bella Vista area Radio Club Vice-President, Joe Hott – W5AEN, departed the recent Joplin hamfest as the proud winner of the 2nd Place Grand Prize drawing, the new model Yaesu dual-band FTM-200D transceiver. (The Grand Prize, a Yaesu FTDX-10, was won by Wayne – KB9ELS from Sidney, AR. So, the Arkies swiped the nice prizes from the “Show Me State” folks, hi hi.)

CONGRATS, JOE!



FM SPACE COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOUR VEHICLE

By Mike Schroeder - NØALJ

I have made some *exciting* contacts from my vehicle with my Yaesu FT-8900 dual band radio and a dual band 2m/70cm antenna on the hatchback mount on the rear of my car. There have been times where I have heard the International Space Station on 145.800 MHz making school contacts in the afternoon. I was once lucky enough to even talk to an astronaut on 2 Meter duplex - 145.800 MHz downlink and 144.49 MHz uplink!



This requires storing an independent transmit frequency or "Odd Split." Refer to your radio's manual for instructions on how to program this into your radio's memory. On my Yaesu FT-8900, the display will feature the "-+" indicator on "Odd Splits." The International Space Station also features a Crossband Repeater on board. To work this will require another "Odd Split" of a 437.800

MHz downlink and 145.990 MHz uplink. You must also program a CTCSS tone of 67Hz on the transmit uplink. It pays to also program this into your radio for the chance to work an astronaut as they periodically appear on the Crossband Repeater for you to work them. When they are not present, it's like working an FM Crossband Repeater in Outer Space giving you great coverage area! Listen

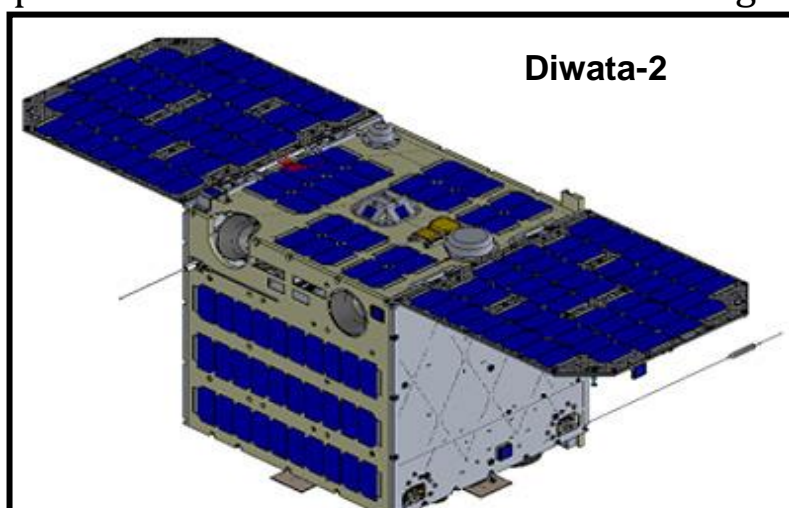
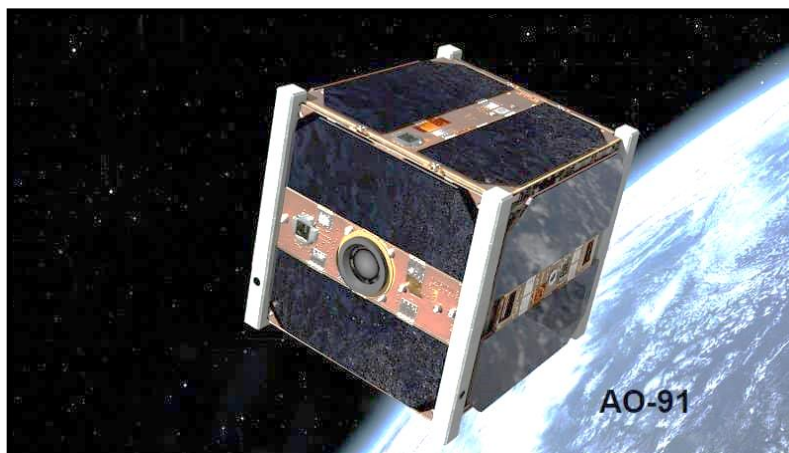
carefully and do not call CQ, be courteous and let others share the pass. Let other QSO's finish and make brief contact(s). Either announce your call with grid square or acknowledge a station you hear for contact. Use Phonetics and use only the minimum power required. It is even possible to work the Crossband Repeater using an HT with only 5 watts. Rare or portable stations take priority. Passes are only about 10 minutes long from your vehicle. Remember you will experience the doppler effect on your receive as the space station moves further away from you. Carefully and do not call CQ, be courteous and let others share the pass. Let other QSO's finish and make brief contact(s).

At the time of this writing, there are a couple of Hamsat satellites in orbit that you can also program into your radio which are also FM crossband repeaters. If you program all these frequencies into memory, you can put your radio into scan mode along with your local ground FM simplex and repeater frequencies. Then you

won't even have to worry about satellite tracking (unless you want to) to catch all the action. Again, passes are only about 10 minutes long from your vehicle.

The first is a United States amateur radio satellite 1U Cubesat built by AMSAT-NA known as **Amsat AO-91** (RadFxSat/Fox-1B). It was launched into orbit on November 18th, 2017. Program your "Odd Split" of 145.96 MHz downlink and 435.25 MHz uplink with a CTCSS tone of 67Hz. I remember the surprise I had working a station up on the east coast, on the AO-91 satellite, while actually driving home from one of our BVRC club meetings! Then I have also made contacts, during my lunch break, at work from my car too. Due to battery status, please do not attempt to access while in eclipse. Eclipses occur when the Earth blocks sunlight from reaching the satellite.

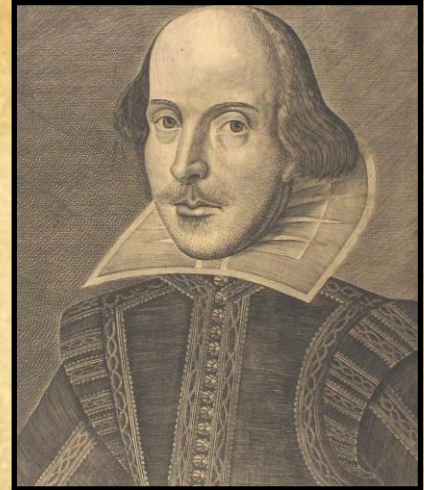
The second satellite, PO-101 (**Diwata-2**), is a 123 pound satellite built in the Philippines by PHL Microsat, a consortium of students and engineers. It was launched into orbit on October 29th, 2018. Since it is activated by schedule, it may be heard less frequently.



Program your "Odd Split" of 145.900 MHz downlink and 437.500 uplink with a CTCSS tone of 141.3 Hz. This satellite has a schedule of two modes of operation - either as an FM repeater or APRS digipeater. I have not yet worked this satellite, but I am waiting for my chance to. See the following link for operating schedule information: <https://twitter.com/Diwata2PH>

73! – Mike, NØALJ

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



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

Submit your material to:

Via e-mail: arsk5db@gmail.com

Via regular mail: Don Banta, K5DB

3407 Diana St.

Springdale, AR 72764

QSL Cards – Printing, Storing, Organizing, and Displaying

By Don – K5DB

If you work a lot of HF and are involved with pursuing awards (WAS, DXCC, etc.) or just good ol' rag chewing, and in this modern electronic age even if you use LotW (Logbook of the World), e-QSL, or QRZ.com for some of your electronic contact confirmations, it is inevitable that – ***sooner or later, you're going to have to deal with hard copy QSL cards.***

There are several reasons for this:

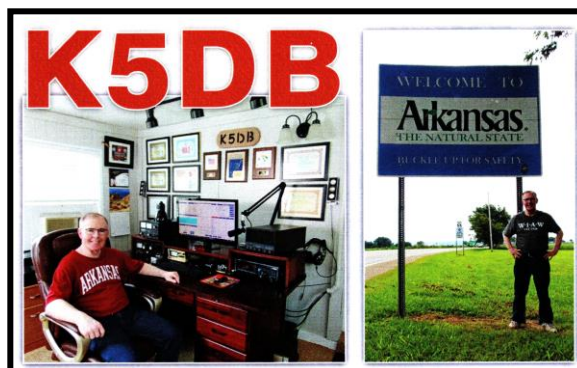
- There are many operators out there who still detest computers, electronic logging, and electronic QSO confirmations. They still enjoy 'the old fashioned way' of exchanging and collecting QSL cards. (And actually, what's wrong with that?)
- If you work a considerable amount of DX stations, you'll find that there are *still* many locations in the world that have limited – or even no – internet service. This is the case with various 3rd-world countries and some remote islands. These operators are forced to *still use* QSL cards.
- Short Wave Listeners (also known as SWLs) still exist and use QSLs to confirm reception of a station in a particular country, state, or county they need for their SWL confirmations. You may receive one of these from time to time.

So, don't be surprised if you receive QSL cards, asking for *your* QSL.

As far as your own personal QSL is concerned, there are many QSL printing freeware programs and templates out there that you can download and print your own. The only drawback to this is that unless you choose a design that is very simple and does not include color pictures or elaborate graphics, you're probably going to spend more than your comfortable with on printer ink as well as considering the wear-and-tear on your printer. In that case, you may want to opt for a commercial QSL printer.

There are many of these that advertise in each monthly issue of QST, or you can find them on the web using your search engine (some of the more popular commercial printers these days are UX5UO in Ukraine, KB3IFH QSLs, and Cheap QSLs). They usually offer many designs and layouts at a reasonable cost, which will enable you to choose one within your price range. Just as with any other type of product, the fancier the card you want, the more the printing cost will be. The bottom line is how much you are going to use QSLs.

If you're just starting out and don't think you'll use QSLs as much as electronic confirmations, printing them on your own printer might be the route to start with, remembering you can always go with a commercial printer if you wish. It's a matter of personal preference, of course.

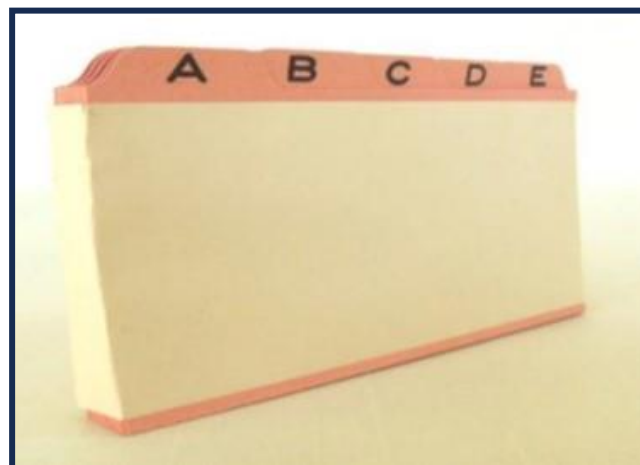


Personally, I use 2 types of cards – a budget card and a picture card – and use them in two different ways. 1) If a county hunter wants my card (they have thousands), he/she probably isn't that interested in how elaborate my card is – they just want the confirmation. Their cards are usually not fancy or decorated either, because they are saving money on printing costs (can't fault them for that). So I send them a budget card. 2) If I receive a very nice QSL from another station, or if I am sending my QSL to a station that I really need a confirmation from them on, or sending my card to a DX station, they get a picture card. When the DX station receives my glossy picture QSL, it will hopefully impress upon them that I thought enough of them to send them a nice card, and this will increase my chances of getting a return card from them. (These are just my QSLing preferences and opinions, of course. It's up to you how to handle your own QSLing.)

After you begin exchanging QSLs, you will eventually begin amassing your own collection of return QSLs from the other stations. What to do when that time comes? There are many ways to store and/or organize your cards, and those ways are just like the cards – it depends on how you want to do it and what you want to spend.

THE GOOD OL' SHOE BOX – I used these for many, many years. They work and they're cheap. You probably have some empty shoeboxes laying around right now.

I then purchased a packet of numerical card dividers for U.S. QSL filing (I file my U.S. cards by call district) and alphabetical dividers for my DX cards (I file my DX cards in alpha-numeric order...much easier to find a particular card that I might need to review later). Again, how you file your cards is up to you. A shoe box will usually hold hundreds of standard sized QSL cards (usually 3½" x 5½" or close to that). Make sure the dimensions of the dividers are a little less narrow and a little less tall than your shoe box dimensions, and you're in business.



CARD FILE BOX OR CABINET – You may instead want to opt for a custom cardboard file box, plastic file box, or a wooden or metal office card file cabinet with the # of drawers of your choosing in which to store your cards.

Or if you wish, you can spiffy-up the shack a bit and show-off some of them to visitors with QSL displays, or do a little of both. There are many QSL display options just as there are storage options.

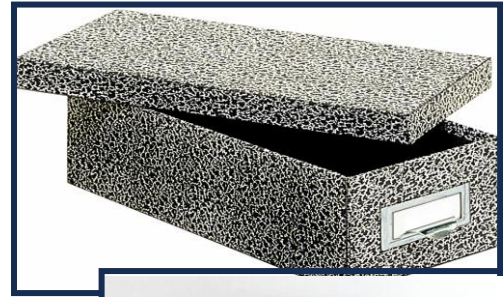
One simple and inexpensive way to use a good ol' cork board and push pins. Another option would be to purchase 20-card plastic displays or 3-ring binder displays, which are available through several sources (<https://www.qslprotect.com/> and <http://www.hamstuff.com/> are a couple of them. See the pictures at below right).

Or, you can go all-out and purchase or build an ornate, perpetual QSL display using grooved mini shelving (See picture below).



Hard copy QSLs have, and will always be, a lasting legacy in amateur radio. Even with the newer method of electronic confirmations which are faster and cheaper to confirm a contact, hard copy QSLs are still used and are great conversation pieces to share with hams and non-hams alike, and are lasting keepsakes.

You do, however, need a good method and system to keep them arranged, and however you decide in the quest for organizing, storing, and/or displaying your QSL cards, we hope that this article has been helpful to you.



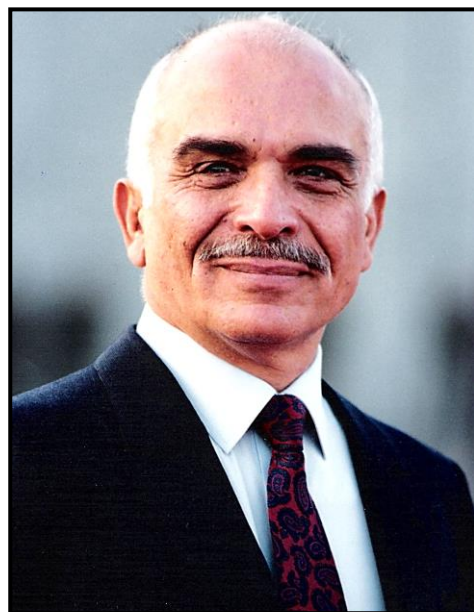
THE MOST FAMOUS HAM OF ALL

When the question arises, "Who is the most famous radio amateur of all?", the answer to that question could have as many answers as asking what the best antenna is. However, most major amateur radio organizations, periodicals, and straw polls usually result in what is probably the credible answer to that question: His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, callsign JY1. "JY" designating the callsign prefix for the country of Jordan, and "1" designating he was NUMBER 1 in Jordan; hence King Hussein had the only callsign on the ham bands *without a suffix*.

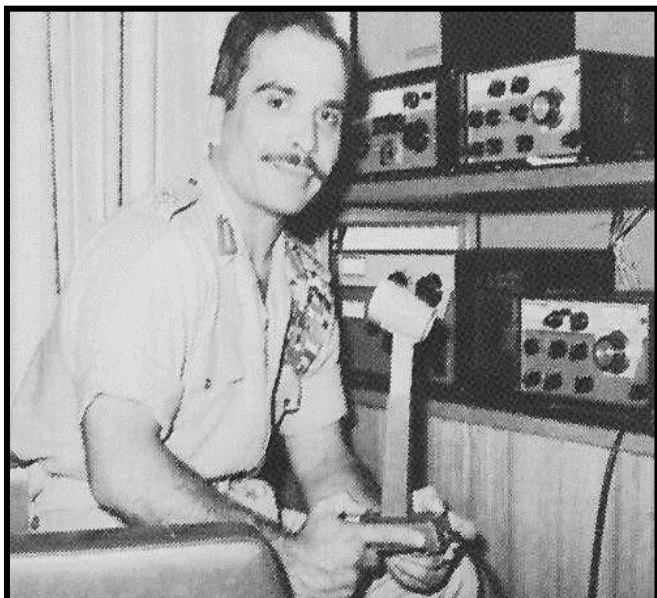
And, it wasn't only his royalty that made him famous. Many celebrities - those that have passed on and those that are still with us - have held ham licenses: Chet Atkins, Marlon Brando, Sen. Barry Goldwater, Ronnie Milsap, Walter Cronkite, Howard Hughes, Tim Allen, and the list goes on. But, most of these individuals operated in, and were involved with, the hobby on a very casual basis. *Unlike other celebrities, King Hussein was an avid amateur radio operator.* He absolutely loved the hobby and did many positive things in promoting it, not only in his home country of Jordan but internationally as well.

When King Hussein died of cancer in 1999 at age 63, he was the Middle East's longest-reigning ruler. He'd been Jordan's king for 47 years, taking the throne when he was just a teenager. The admiration and respect that he received from many of the heads of state in the Middle East area was evident at his funeral, as many of them peacefully sat down beside each other (some at odds with each other in the Middle East theatre) because of the high regard they held for him. Hussein had earned a reputation as a catalyst for peace and as a conciliator in the Middle East. U.S. President Bill Clinton also attended the funeral.

Hussein was a life member of the ARRL. At that time, ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner - K1ZZ, called him "An enthusiastic radio amateur whose support was invaluable to us in obtaining new amateur bands at the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference."



His Majesty King Hussein - JY1



"Jordan's support of the Amateur Service was much in evidence at the conference that fall, and was a crucial element in our success," Sumner said. The WARC-79 resulted in amateur radio's gaining the 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands." That same year, JY1 was featured in the film, *The World of Amateur Radio*.

Hussein regarded his 1983 contact with famous U.S. astronaut Owen Garriott – W5LFL, on board Space Shuttle Columbia, as a high point in his amateur radio activity. You can hear this historic QSO by clicking [here](#).

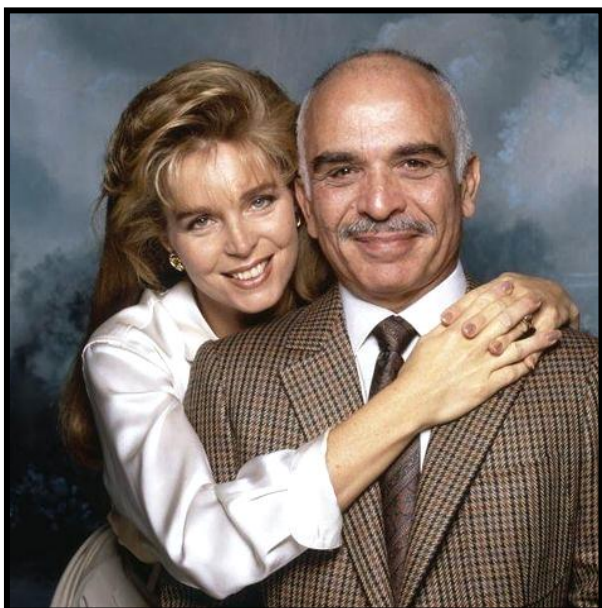
Hussein's friend Bruce "Blackie" Blackburn, W4TA/JY9BB, of St. Petersburg, Florida, called him "one of the world's most respected amateurs" and recounted many stories about King Hussein as a person and an avid amateur radio operator. "He was a wonderful guy, interested in everything and everyone," he said.

King Hussein promoted amateur radio to the hilt in Jordan and saw to it that amateur radio classes were instituted in elementary schools. King Hussein also dropped in on meetings of the Royal Jordan Radio Amateur Society in Amman. King Hussein also was involved with the early satellite experiments.

During the latter part of his life, he spent several months operating from the U.S. while seeking cancer treatment at Minnesota's Mayo Clinic. A QSO with JY1 was considered by many hams to be both an honor and a privilege. His elegant QSL card was prized. AMSAT Area Coordinator Bruce Paige – KK5DO in Houston, worked JY1 during this time period. "That was a very exciting moment for me," he said.



The much sought after JY1 QSL card



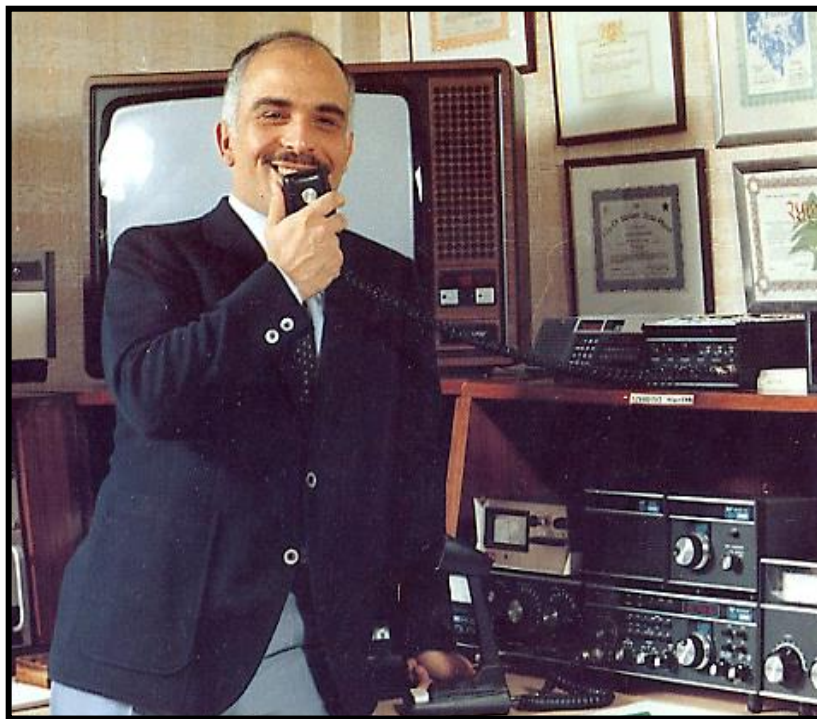
King Hussein – JY1 and Queen Noor – JY1NH

Pat Kilroy – WD8LAQ, says he enjoyed a three-minute contact on 20-meters with King Hussein in the fall of 1995. "JY1 was traveling aeronautical mobile, enroute to the United Nations. He insisted on me addressing him simply as 'Hussein'," he said. "In one of the oldest traditions in amateur radio, Hussein upheld that this kinship transverses not only age and nationality, but also between citizen and head of state.

With all the radios on the market during King Hussein's era – Heathkit, Hammarlund, Hallicrafters, Ten-Tec, Collins, etc. (and Kenwood was coming on), King Hussein was a “Drake man”.

In his earlier days, he ran the Drake twins (T-4XB transmitter and R-4B receiver) with the Drake L-4B linear amplifier and MN-2000 antenna tuner. (See photo on preceding page, top left.)

He later upgraded to the Drake TR-7 transceiver with the RV75 remote VFO, and the L-7 linear amplifier, which were the last units R.L. Drake manufactured before fading away. (The TR-7 was an excellent transceiver.)



Needless to say, when JY1 went on the air an almost immediate and massive pileup followed. Nevertheless, King Hussein would take a little extra time, when he could, to have a very quick QSO. When you heard him on the air, he literally acted like “one of the guys”. He never disclosed who he was or what he was. His normal exchange was usually, “.....[station being worked], thank you very much for the call. You are 5 by 9. My name is Hussein, and I am located just northwest of the capital city of Amman. So back to you, [other station's callsign] this is Juliet-Yankee-Number One.....”

If you would like to see a short video clip of King Hussein operating, a Jordanian girls school amateur radio class, and comments by King Hussein, click [here](#) (please excuse the video quality, as the clip is from an old VHS video cartridge recording, but is at least distinguishable).

All members of the Jordanian royal family automatically have amateur radio privileges in Jordan. The King's son, Prince Abdullah, succeeded his father to the throne. At the time of his death, the new king did not appear to have a call sign, although the following royal family members did (all of their licenses have now lapsed):

King Hussein's widow--the American-born Queen Noor – JY1NH

King Hussein's brother, the former Crown Prince Hassan – JY2HT.

His cousin, Prince Raad – JY2RZ, is a former chairman of the Royal Jordan Radio Amateur Society.



The RJRAS headquarters in Amman now house the radio equipment King Hussein used as a memorial in memory of His late Majesty.

It is now over two decades since his passing, but many of us will always remember:

Juliet Yankee Number One





This month's featured country:

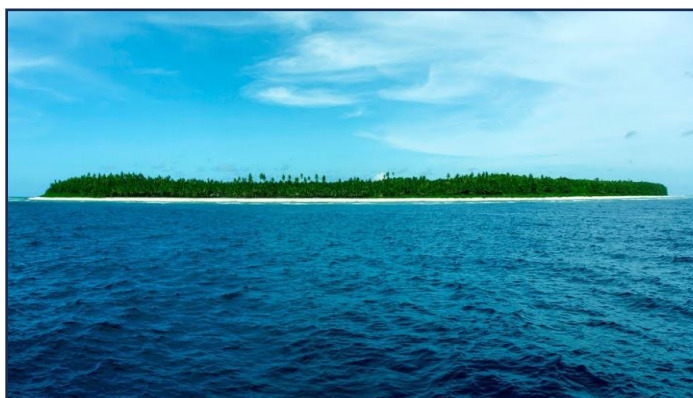


Swains Island

Primary Callsign Prefix: KH8

Swains Island is an atoll in the Tokelau chain of islands in the southern Pacific Ocean. Although culturally belonging to Tokelau, politically, it is a territory of United States of America. It has variously been known as Olosenga Island, Olohega Island, Quiros Island, Gente Hermosa Island and Jennings Island throughout its history. The island has a land area of 1.4 sq. mi., or 372.5 acres, with a central lagoon that accounts for 0.45 sq. mi., has a maximum depth of 40 feet, and contains algae and fish. Nearly all of the island is filled with coconut palms. Privately owned by the family of Eli Hutchinson Jennings since 1856, Swains Island was used as a copra (the white meat of the coconut) plantation until 1967. It has not been permanently inhabited since 2008 but has often been visited by members of the Jennings family, scientific researchers, and amateur radio operators.

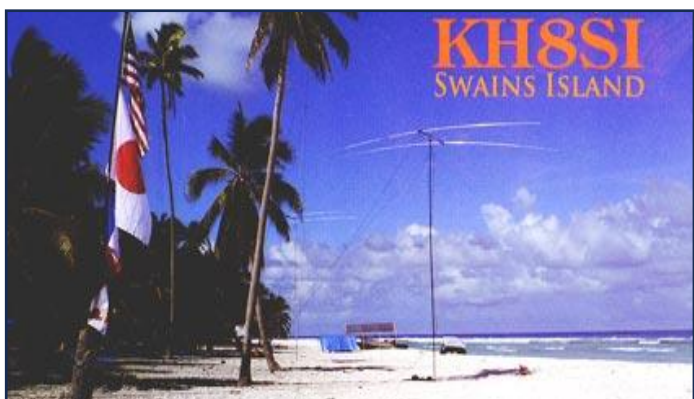
Captain William L. Hudson of the USS Peacock saw the island on 1 February 1841, during the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838–42. He claimed to have learned about the island's location from a certain Captain Swain of Nantucket Island, MA. After discovering the island, Hudson resolved to call it Swain's Island (the apostrophe was later dropped).



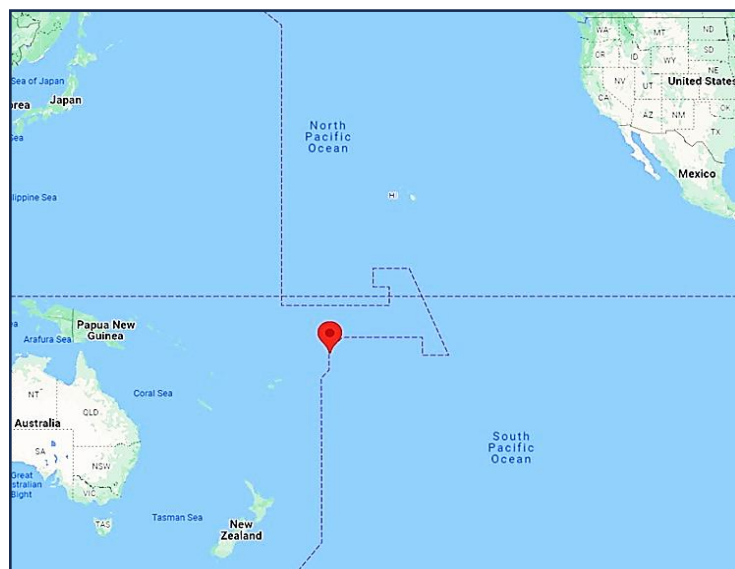
Swains Island on approach



Swains Island lagoon



KH8SI 2006 DXpedition QSL card



Location of Swains Island

In the amateur radio world, Swains Island was first "discovered" as a possible amateur radio "entity" for American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Award purposes by Kan Mizoguchi JA1BK in 2005. He led a ham radio DXpedition there in 2005, however, the ARRL did not accept it for credit. Eventually the ARRL decided to approve Swains Island as a new "entity" based on the separation distance between it and American Samoa. Once accepted, Kan-JA1BK led another DXpedition to the island using the callsign **KH8SI** which did qualify as the first valid operation. The five man team made 16,390 contacts. You can see the YouTube video of this DXpedition in two parts:

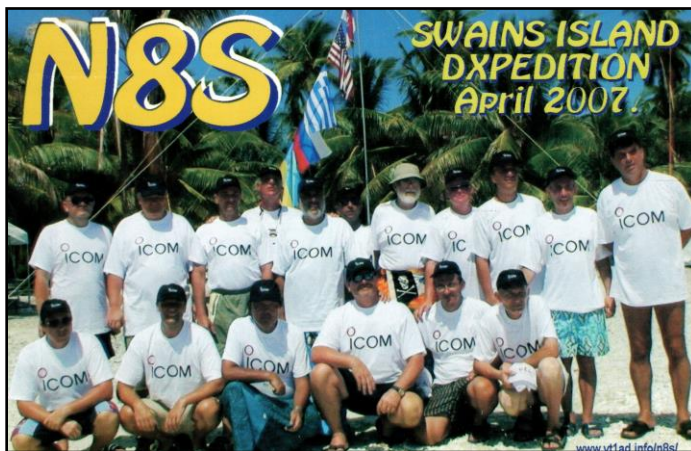
[PART 1](#)

[PART 2](#)

Due to its remoteness, Swains Island is considered a separate amateur radio "entity" and several visits have been made by ham operators. The 2007 amateur radio "DXpedition", with call sign N8S, made more than 117,000 contacts worldwide. This set a new world record

for a DXpedition using generator power and tents for living accommodations, which was later broken by the 2012 DXpedition to Malpelo Island

In 2012, Swains Island hosted the DXpedition NH8S; this group arrived on September 5, 2012 and departed on September 19, 2012. A total of 105,391 radio contacts were made. This is the last DXpedition that has been made to the island.



Front and back of my N8S DXpedition 2007 QSL card (I'm going to get them on the other bands and modes this next time around!)



DXpedition ALERT! :

For the first time in 11 years, uninhabited Swains Island will be activated again by an international 10-man team consisting of members from Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States. The target operating dates are October 4 – 17, 2023. *So, this is just around the corner and will be your chance to work A RARE ONE!* They will be on all HF bands operating SSB, CW, FT8, and RTTY. **They will be using the callsign W8S.** Watch for them on the various DX spotting websites.

SWAINS ISLAND DXPEDITION
4-17, April 2007.
IOTA: OC-200 (11°05'S 171°05'W)
Zone: CQ-32 ITU-62 WW Grid: AH48kw

C		To Radio:	K5DB	RS-T
N8S confirms the following QSO(s):				
Date	Time	Band	Mode	RST
11-04-2007	03:43	20m	CW	599
14-04-2007	11:38	40m	CW	599

Swains island is unusual as the atoll is an unbroken circle of land and as such it features a lagoon closed off from the sea. The fate of such a lagoon depends on the amount of rain. No rain: it dries up; some rain: it changes into a small, strongly saltwater lake; lots of rain: it changes into a freshwater lake. The latter has happened here.

TNX for the QSO's 73's Hrane, YT1AD

QSL Prof. Dr Hrane Milošević 36206 Vitanovac, Serbia QSO verified by

Grateful Thanks to:

L21JZ QSL PRINT
http://www.l21jz.com
QSL created YU1DX

Here is a segment of the team's comments from DXNews.com:

“The DXpedition to Swains Island will take place in the autumn of 2023. The governmental ship Manu’atela is booked for our trip. We will arrive on Swains Island the 4th of October and will depart the 17th of October, 2023. Due to Covid and the global economic situation, our costs have increased considerably compared to 2020, when we had to cancel. The total cost has increased to 125,000 Euro (\$136,000) and we therefore ask you to increase your donation as well! In the meantime, we have been working on another antenna setup, focusing on the higher bands. We are preparing VDA’s for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters. We will have 2 additional radios active. With 6 stations running we can make more QSO’s and give more DXers an All Time New One. Our camps will be separated by approximately 500 meters, which will allow us to operate on some bands with 2 stations simultaneously.”

BVRC 30th ANNIVERSARY WORKED ALL STATES AWARD RECIPIENTSTHUS FAR



#1 Michael Kemper – W5KMK

#5 Mike Calvi – KF5RUO

#2 Jan Hagan – WB5JAN

#6 Tom Thibeault – KN4SLP

#3 James Wood – N5ZMX

#7 Don Cooper – KC7DC

#4 Mark Whatley – K5XH

#8 Dennis Tune – W9DCT

#9 Mark Sutherland – K5DXR

If you have HF privileges and an HF rig, join these club members on the BVRC 30th Anniversary award Worked All States list and acquire your WAS! The deadline for working all 50 states is Dec. 31, 2023. Award rules and guidelines are available from Don – K5DB: arsk5db@gmail.com Go work 'em!



ARKANSAS' FASTEST GROWING AND LARGEST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - THANKS TO YOU!

THE SIGNAL newsletter is published monthly for members of the Bella Vista Radio Club. BVRC disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy or the content of articles published herein. The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors. BVRC neither necessarily endorses nor opposes said opinions, brand names, products, businesses, organizations, etc. Submission of any amateur radio related articles is encouraged and welcomed. Submit your article to the editor: Don Banta-K5DB, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764 (or E-mail to: arsk5db@gmail.com) for publication in THE SIGNAL. The deadline for articles is the 10th of each month.