Remsletter of the Bella Dista area Radio Club Arkansas' Largest Amateur Radio Club January 2024

Monthly Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## <u>WEEKLY NETS:</u>

**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 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 Legacy Net** 

BVRC 3830 Roundtable Sunday Afternoons 4 pm during CST 4:30 pm during CDT 3.830 MHz



Thursday, January 4, 2024 @ 7PM Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy 3424 S. Downum Road Springdale, AR

# **JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION**

HAM 101 Workshop, 6pm preceding monthly meeting – BVRC kicks-off the new year with BVRC Board and Leadership Team member Tom Northfell – W5XNA. Tom will be discussing the topic for our newcomers (and attending veterans) "Using DX Spotting Websites". We have had several queries on this subject and Tom will be sharing on how to use these websites as a valuable tool to work and confirm DX stations. Be sure and join us for Tom's great presentation!

<u>BVRC January meeting, 7pm</u> – BVRC welcomes Ward Silver – NØAX from St. Charles, MO (St. Louis). Ward will be appearing live and virtually, as he has a super-busy schedule (we had to schedule him 7 months ahead!). Ward has authored many amateur radio books of which two of his very popular ones are "Grounding and Bonding" which is now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition and "Ham Radio for Dummies", now in its 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Ward has a vast wealth of amateur radio knowledge from equipment to operating to antennas.

And speaking of antennas, Ward's topic for the evening will be on one of the currently hot antennas being sold and used by amateur operators, the End Fed Half Wave (EFHW).

Ward first became a ham in 1972 as a Novice with the callsign WNØGQP. Since then, amateur radio has taken him all over the world. He especially enjoys contesting and has operated with teams at many of the "big gun" stations around the U.S. He has been award the Bill Orr Technical Writing Award from the ARRL twice in 2003 and 2016. Join us for what should be an outstanding presentation by Ward. See you then!

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# BOARD MEMBERS

*President* Jan Hagan – WB5JAN <u>janhagan51@gmail.com</u>

Vice President Joe Hott – W5AEN joe.hott@gmail.com

*Secretary* Dana Hill – W5DGH <u>dana.hill1979@gmail.com</u>

**Treasurer** Mark Whittlesey - WØKYZ <u>almarc11@yahoo.com</u>

**Technical Officer** Tem Moore – N5KWL <u>temmoore@gmail.com</u>

**Trustee** *Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L* <u>wb5l@arrl.net</u>

**Board Member At Large and Public Information Officer** Tom Northfell – W5XNA <u>w5xna@arrl.net</u>



## APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chair: Don Cooper – KC7DC don\_c@hotmail.com

*Elmer 911 Committee* Chair: Vinson Carter – WV5C <u>vinsoncarter@gmail.com</u>

*Nets Committee* Chair: Dana Widboom – KI5TGY <u>dcwidboom@gmail.com</u>

*Membership Committee* Chair: Tom Northfell – W5XNA <u>w5xna@arrl.net</u>

*Social Media Committee* Chair: Rebecca Garrett – N5REB <u>rebdgarrett@gmail.com</u>

> *Webmaster* Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L <u>wb5l@arrl.net</u>

> > *Newsletter Editor* Don Banta – K5DB <u>arsk5db@gmail.com</u>

From the Desk of the President



## The Radio Amateur's Code

A timeless statement from 1928 about what an amateur radio operator should aspire to and whose time is now more than ever!

New radio amateurs to the hobby often remark how different our radio operations sound from other radio services, whether they be Citizen's Band and other public radio services, commercial radio operations or first responder radio operations.

Of course, many of these differences come from the necessities of the commercial and first responder services to be clear, direct and concise or from the free form operations that characterize other public radio services such as citizen's band. Nevertheless, amateur radio operations do follow a norm of operations that stem from an expectation of high-quality operating procedures.

This standard of operating has not developed by chance. Indeed, it was first promoted in 1928 in a document outlining a code of ideal amateur radio operations. Since then, amateur radio clubs and operators publish and revisit this code at least annually and in many cases throughout the year.

During our January 4th club meeting this year BVRC will be revisiting this code, and it will also be revisited throughout the year during our HAM 101 Workshops preceding our monthly meetings and Ham 101 net on Tuesday evenings.

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For a background on the Radio Amateur's Code, the Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club has an excellent background statement about the Code's origin. It is reproduced below and then following that is the updated version of the Code that is currently published on the ARRL website:

### FROM THE SOUTHWEST MISSOURI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB:

"In 1928 Paul Segal, W9EEA, took it upon himself to write a short description of what he considered to be the ideal amateur radio operator. His vision was to strengthen to amateur radio community and provide a foundation for operators to build upon ethically. His code was first published in the ARRL Handbook for the Radio Amateur in 1928 right in the front introduction section.

Although he had hoped, little did he know this would become the very code that all amateur radio operators aspire to uphold to this day. Though no operator is perfect, it is the spirit of this code that reminds us all to be our very best and do anything we can with our hobby to help others. To be a visual and audible representation of the good in humanity and the things we can accomplish together with this great skill."

## FROM THE ARRL WEB SITE:

## 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.

 adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

# **BVRC VE REPORT**

From Don Cooper – KC7DC BVRC VE Coordinator November, 2023







MARY JANACEK - KFØOLR - BATTLEFIELD, MO - NEW TECHNICIAN! TODD ALLEN - KJ5DOZ - EUREKA SPRINGS, AR - NEW TECHNICIAN AND GENERAL! LYNN FREEMAN - KG5NYF - FAYETTEVILLE, AR - NEW GENERAL! BRENDAN NANGLE - KFØLXZ - DRURY, MO - NEW AMATEUR EXTRA! JAMES STRAWN - KFØONP - NEVADA, MO - NEW TECHNICIAN! JAMES BEVARD - KJ5DTA - SPRINGDALE - NEW TECHNICIAN! STEPHANIE BEVARD - KJ5DSZ - TONTITOWN - NEW TECHNICIAN! BRANDON BEVARD - KJ5DSF - DENTONVILLE - NEW GENERAL! JEFFREY BUSHEY - KJ5DSF - BENTONVILLE - NEW GENERAL! JIM VENSKE - KØVEN - SHELL KNOB, MO - NEW GENERAL! DUANE ROY - KJ5CPH - HOLIDAY ISLAND - NEW GENERAL!

Next month's test sessions:

- Jan. 13, 10 am Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale
- Jan. 13, 2 pm Bella Vista Public Library, 11 Dickens Place, Bella Vista

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



A reminder for everyone wanting to keep their BVRC memberships current for the coming year, the deadline for dues is March 31. The dues are \$15.00 per year (\$1.25 a month). If you have any immediate licensed family members living with you at your home domicile, you can include them as a Family Membership *at no extra charge*. You can renew your membership using any of these options:

• Personal check or money order to the BVRC Treasurer, Marc – WØKYZ via regular mail, payable to:

> Marc Whittlesey 1 Radcliffe Drive Bella Vista, AR 72714

- Via PayPal by using Marc's e-mail address: <u>almarc11@yahoo.com</u> After entering \$ amount, in the next section marked What is this for?, enter "BVRC membership renewal"
- Pay in person at a BVRC monthly meeting

Also note: If you are 73 years of age or older you now qualify for BVRC's Lifetime Membership. Contact Marc at the above e-mail address and when you advise him that you have reached your 73rd birthday, your membership in BVRC from that time forward is <u>FREE</u>. You will also receive a handsome BVRC Lifetime Member certificate suitable for framing.

The BVRC membership form and other important information is included on the BVRC website club membership page. To view the page, click <u>here</u>.

## THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



The 3<sup>rd</sup> BVRC CW Academy will begin Monday, April 1, 2024! If you are interested in learning and adding Morse code to your amateur radio experience, if you enjoy a classroom atmosphere, and if you would like to join other beginning students in learning the code, here is a "well ahead of time" heads-up for you to sign-up for the classes.

Here is the BVRC CWA info:

Event – Bella Vista area Radio Club CW Academy

Instructor/Coach – Don Banta – K5DB

Class Schedule – Classes will be held every two weeks on Monday evening. There will be 10 class sessions: April 1, April 15, April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, and August 5. (A virtual class orientation will be held Thursday, March 14.)

**Homework** – There will be homework assignments for each class.

Class Times – 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Class Objective – At the completion of the course, students will be able to send and receive all letters, numbers, mainly used punctuation marks, and prosigns at 5 words per minute. A handsome Certificate of Completion will be awarded to each student passing the final CW test and completing the course.

Miscellaneous information – Students are encouraged to obtain their own CW key and code oscillator. If this is not possible, Don has some mini-key oscillators available for use during the course.

Students need to have a G-mail address.

The class will consist of 10 students. There are 5 slots remaining.

To sign-up – Contact Don at: arsk5db@gmail.com

# Welcome New BVRC Members!!! WELCOME

Hunter Fountain – KI5WUJ – Fayetteville Todd Allen – KJ5DOZ – Eureka Springs Jeffrey Bushey – KJ5DSF – Bentonville Brandon Bevard – KJ5DTB – Tontitown Stephanie Bevard – KJ5DSZ – Tontitown James Bevard – KJ5DTA – Springdale Thomas Harris – KG5ZTR – Elkins



BVRC Membership Coordinator & Public Information Officer Tom Northfell – W5XNA has announced that a new Technician license class has been scheduled! Tom will be the instructor for the class. If you are planning on acquiring your first ham license or have a friend/relative interested in obtaining their first license, here's your chance! Here's the main class information:

CLASS DATES: Saturday, February 3 and Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024

CLASS LOCATION: Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA) 3424 S. Downum Road Springdale, AR 72762

CLASS DURATION: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tom will announce in the near future when the sign-up period for the class begins. For more information, contact Tom at: <u>w5xna@arrl.net</u>



It was a fun and enjoyable evening on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 2023, as BVRC conducted its annual Christmas and Awards Banquet. Hospitality Coordinator Dr. Bill Durham – KG5ZCI along with assistance from Alan Katz – KEØQFO, Carol Wilson – W5CDW, and others provided a marvelous meal. It was a repeat performance from last year as excellent lasagna, salad, garlic bread and a wonderful plethora of desserts from BVRC members and spouses was the fare. And of course, what better place for the event than the fantastic gymnasium in the ALETA building furnished by Gregg Harrison – K5GKH and the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Northwest.



Also, a big THANKS goes to BVRC Secretary Dana Hill – W5DGH for furnishing the great holiday table trimmings.

ICOM supplied some great swag items (band plans, grid square maps, lanyards, cooling scarfs, and decals) that were placed at each attendee's chair, enabling everyone to go home with a memento of the occasion.

One of the special highlights of the evening was a recorded banquet welcome by current ARRL President and Arkansas native Rick Roderick – K5UR. Rick lauded BVRC for "hitting on all cylinders" in promoting the amateur radio growth in NW Arkansas and surrounding area, and encouraged the club to keep up the great work it is doing. At its conclusion, the video clip received a resounding round of applause. (Thanks Rick!!!)

Of course the main highlight of the evening was the presentation of the annual awards for Program Presenter of the Year, Elmer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and Ham of the Year.

(Your newsletter editor was shocked as I was kneeling in front of the podium taking pictures of the other award recipients for this newsletter when it was announced that I had received the Ham of the Year award. I am so very appreciative for the recognition, although there are MANY other members the award could have been given to. I have already created a special place on my shack wall for it, and there it will stay until I go to the "big DX station in the sky", hi hi.)

A very neat award presentation procedure was implemented by the BVRC Board, as last year's award winners presented this year's awards to the new recipients. BVRC President Jan Hagan – WB5JAN did a stellar job (as he always does!) as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

## Congratulations to this year's award winners!!!



BVRC President Jan Hagan — WB5JAN calls the annual banquet to order.



2022 BVRC Rookie of the Year Robert Hill – K5NZV (left) presents the 2023 Rookie of the Year Award to Dennis Tune – W5DM



2022 Presenter of the Year Murray Harris – W5XH (right) presents the 2023 Presenter of the Year award to Mark Whatley – K5XH



2022 Volunteer of the Year Alan Katz – KEØQFO (right) presents the 2023 Volunteer of the Year award to Dr. Bill Durham – KG5ZCI



2022 Elmer of the Year Mark Whatley – K5XH (left) presents the 2023 Elmer of the Year award to Jay Bromley – W5JAY





2022 Ham of the Year Tom Northfell – W5XNA (right) and BVRC President Jan Hagan – WB5JAN present the 2023 Ham of the Year award to Don Banta – K5DB



A very special moment occurred during the awards presentations when a Special Service Award was given posthumously to Laura Robinson, XYL of Silent Key Dennis Robinson-KA4AFE. Dennis was well known in NW Arkansas and an Elmer to many. He passed away earlier this year and will be sorely missed. Jon Williams – K5DVT presented the award to Laura.

During the great meal, banquet attendees were treated to Christmas dining music along with (of course!) great ham visiting and fellowship.

The most important note of the evening was during the business meeting when the announcement was made by President Jan on behalf of the BVRC Board of Directors that, with the approval of the membership, they had collectively agreed to serve another term in their respective offices for 2024. A motion on this proposal was brought to the floor, and was unanimously accepted.

## We therefore salute the BVRC 2024 Board of Directors:

- President Jan Hagan for his outstanding administrating of meetings and activities
- Vice-President Joe Hott for his excellent pre-meeting coordination and door prizes MC
- Secretary Dana Hill for her quality input at leadership meetings and great club minutes
- Treasurer Marc Whittlesey for, after many years, his faithful continuance as treasurer
- Technical Officer Tem Moore for his fantastic maintaining of the repeaters and elmering many newcomers to the club, especially in the area of VHF/UHF
- Board Member At Large Tom Northfell for the stellar duties he performs with the many "hats" he wears for the club, as well as his undying commitment for club growth
- N5BVA trustee and BVRC webmaster Glenn Kilpatrick for the club's incredible website

You are appreciated !!!!!!!!!!



# **2023 BVRC 30th ANNIVERSARY WORKED ALL STATES AWARD**

Congratulations to these BURC members who have worked the fifty states during BURC's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 2023!

**#1 Michael Kemper – W5KMK** 

- #2 Jan Hagan WB5JAN
- **#3 James Wood N5ZMX**
- #4 Mark Whatley K5XH
- #5 Mike Calvi KF5RUO

#6 Tom Thibeault – KN4SLP #7 Don Cooper – KC7DC

**#8** Dennis Tune – W9DCT

- #9 Mark Sutherland K5DXR #10 Bill Durham – KG5ZCI #11 Luke Williams – AE5AU #12 Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L #13 Robert Hill – K5NZV #14 Nick Kennedy – WA5BDU
  - #15 Joe Dunn WA5JD





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# INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR Radio Union Concludes World Radio Conference 2023

The International Amateur Radio Union concluded its annual World Radio Conference 2023 Friday, December 8. The conference was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Most of the issues on the docket focused on UHF frequencies, and you can read the details of the WRC-23 docket items by clicking <u>here</u>.

Whenever you acquire (or if you've already acquired) either the Worked-All-Continents award or the Five Band Worked-All-Continents award, even though you apply for the award through the ARRL (and you also must be an ARRL member to do so), you will notice that the award is not issued by the ARRL – it is issued by the IARU, of which ARRL is a member.

The IARU is an international confederation of national organizations that allows a forum for common matters of concern to amateur radio operators worldwide, and collectively represents matters to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The International Amateur Radio Union was founded in 1925 and, as of July 2021, it is composed of 172 national member societies.

Regionally speaking, Arkansas DX Association President Joel Harrison – W5ZN is also the current Secretary of the IARU. With Joel (from Searcy) as IARU Secretary and Rick Roderick – K5UR (from Little Rock) as ARRL President, the state of Arkansas is well represented in the national and international amateur radio administrative ranks.

Before beginning his return trip to Arkansas from WRC-23 Joel commented, "While not a direct impact to HF DXing, it is important to note amateur radio's strong defense of our frequency allocations on a global basis from commercial interest attempts to weaken our positions. ARRL is <u>THE</u> major supporter and leader of these efforts through its direct financial support of IARU's work and also the work performed by ARRL's technical and administrative staff. This is but one important reason your ARRL membership matters!"

BVRC has two gangbuster programs to kickoff 2024, the January program with famous amateur radio author and authority on many radio topics, Ward Silver – NØAX, who will be appearing to the club virtually, followed by what promises to be a stellar presentation in February by Joel Harrison – W5ZN, who is also an ARRL Past President. Joel will be visiting us in person. Don't miss these two spectacular programs!



IARU President Tim Ellam – VE6SH, thanks Barry Lewis – G4SJH, for his success in leading IARU's work on AI 9.1b. Looking on is (I-r) WRC-23 SWG4B7 Chair Dale Hughes – VK1DSH, IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad – LA2RR, Tim Ellam – VE6SH, Barry Lewis – G4SJH, and IARU Secretary Joel Harrison – W5ZN



# Inis month's featured country: Aves Island Primary Callsign Prefixes: YVØ, YWØ, YXØ

Besides Navassa and Desecheo Islands, Aves Island is one of the fairly rare islands in the Caribbean. It is a Venezuelan possession in the Caribbean and is manned by the Venezuelan Navy. The island is VERY small measuring only 1,230 feet in length and never more than 160 feet in width. It only rises 13 feet above sea level on a calm day. There is a scientific research station on the island which has been constructed on above-ground supports due to the island being totally submerged during hurricanes. For some time the island has been in danger of eroding altogether, and Venezuelan authorities are considering ways to protect it, along with the territorial claims to the Caribbean Sea which radiate from Isla de Aves. The impact of Hurricane Allen in the 1980 Atlantic hurricane season divided it into two parts, but accretions of coral have subsequently reunited it.

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Location of Aves Island

The official name of Aves Island is "Isla de Aves", Spanish for "Birds Island". In recent decades, the island has been the subject of numerous territorial disputes between Venezuela and the Netherlands, Great Britain, and the neighboring island of Dominica.

The island was most likely discovered by Avaro Sanzze in 1584, though it was not settled. It was subsequently claimed for Great Britain, Spain, Portugal and

and the Netherlands. Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the inhabitants of the Dutch islands Saint Eustatius and Saba regularly visited Aves to collect turtle and bird eggs.

In the world of amateur radio, it almost goes without saying that since the population of Aves Island consists only of military and scientific personnel, the only way you're going to work this DX entity (as is the case with many islands throughout the world) is if a DXpedition goes there.

Since the turn of the century (and before as well) several DXpedition teams have gone to Aves Island and activated it. The Venezuelan Navy has to provide transportation to this semi-rare entity, and between that and hurricane damage, this entity is still high on the Club Log Most Wanted Countries list, currently sitting at #10.

According to my research, the last DXpedition to the island was in 2016. Although currently there is no DXpedition scheduled to Aves in 2024,





hopefully one might come into fruition in the next few years. This will be an exciting time for all of us in NW Arkansas, since Aves Island is in our hemisphere meaning that we won't have to battle the European or Japan "iron curtains" as badly as when a DXpedition is in the other hemisphere. When that day comes, Aves Island will be a handsome addition to your personal DX countries list. In my opinion, the best DXpedition website that keeps track of upcoming operations is: <u>https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html</u>. I have used this website for 20 years and Bill Feidt – NG3K has done a more than stellar job in keeping the information on his website current and the information correct. It's an outstanding website. There is also a link to this website off the BVRC website, click the "On The Air/Announced DX Operations" tab.

Keep watching for when the next DXpedition to Aves fires-up and get out there and work 'em!

## QSL cards and photos from past Aves Island DXpeditions:





# My Aves Island QSL from the 2007 DXpedition ►











Bella Vista area Radio Club is the largest amateur radio club in the state of Arkansas, with 210+ members. One of the main reasons for this is the participation of club members in the many different activities and operations that BVRC conducts throughout each year.

When members participate in our activities (and many times bring a guest), this generates interest in non-hams in our club, but especially in getting their own ham license and beginning their journey in our exciting hobby.

If you have never attended a BVRC activity, make plans in 2024 to do so! You won't regret it, to be sure. You'll also gain knowledge and experience from joining-in on the events, but most of all you'll have fun!

BVRC has several events in the works for 2024. Although A few of the dates have not as yet been set, below is a schedule of what's on the horizon for this year. Mark your calendar and join us!!! Information on each activity will appear on the BVRC website and in The Signal as each event draws near:

- Sometime in the Spring Possible train mobile operation on the M&A Railroad
- Feb. 3 and Feb. 10 BVRC Technician license class (See pg. 9 of this issue of The Signal)
- This spring after the Technician class (TBD) BVRC General license class
- Beginning April 1 BVRC CW Academy (See pg. 2 of this issue of The Signal)
- April 21 ARRL SSB Rookie Roundup (If you've been licensed 3 years or less, join us!)
- May 18 Arkansas QSO Party (Possible multi-op teams?)
- June 22-23 ARRL Field Day
- August 17 BVRC Annual CW Roundup
- Sometime in the Fall (TBD) W5NX Special Event Station from Mount Magazine

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