

THE SIGNAL

A tall radio tower with multiple horizontal cross-arms and antennas, positioned behind the word 'SIGNAL' in the title.

Newsletter of the
Bella Vista area Radio Club

**Arkansas' Largest
Amateur Radio Club**

- BVRC Members POTA Adventures
- BVRC Award Winning Members
- Mt. Magazine Special
Event Station Announcement
- BVRC Annual
CW Roundup Announcement
- VEC celebrates
40th Anniversary
- Anderson PowerPole connectors
- Callsignology
- What is CW?
- DXCC Den – Peter 1 Island



September 2024

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

(Repeater Nets)

(Contesting & Special Events)

Repeaters: 147.255 +.600 khz offset, pl 162.2

444.100 + 5 mhz offset, pl 162.2

Website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org

WEEKLY NETS:

BVRC HAM 101 Net
Tuesdays @ 7 pm on the
WX5NAS Skywarn Link System:

Bentonville - 146.865, -offset, pl 103.5
 Springdale - 147.315, +offset, pl 97.4
 Fayetteville - 147.315, +offset, pl 110.9
 Huntsville - 443.625, +5 MHz, pl 97.4
 Green Forest - 145.310, -offset, pl

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



NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING



Thursday, August 29, 2024 @ 7pm
Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy
3424 S. Downum Road
Springdale, AR

September Meeting Information

Notice: Due to a scheduling conflict, the BVRC September meeting will be held on Thursday evening, August 29. Please note this date change.

HAM 101 Workshop, 6pm preceding monthly meeting – BVRC's Technical Officer Tem Moore – N5KWL hosts this month's Workshop with the topic "FM Repeater Operation". Tem has years and countless thousands of hours of experience in VHF/UHF repeater operation. He has installed countless repeaters all over Arkansas and owns and operates the N5KWL linked system here in NW Arkansas. Come and soak-in Tem's vast wealth of knowledge in repeater operation!

BVRC September meeting (August 29), 7pm – BVRC valued member Gregg Harrison – K5GKH hosted a Ham 101 Workshop on the new mode of JS8Call last February. There was a huge turnout for the workshop, and so much interest has been generated with this new mode that Gregg will be presenting this program again, but this time to the entire BVRC membership for our main September meeting. If you missed Gregg's February program, here's your chance to gain information on this very popular and new digital mode.

Don't miss it, and see you then!

BOARD MEMBERS

President

Jan Hagan – WB5JAN
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Vice President

Joe Hott – W5AEN
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Dana Hill – W5DGH
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Technical Officer

Tem Moore – N5KWL
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N5BVA Trustee

Roger Dickey – KJ4QIS
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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

Education & Elmer 911 Committee

Chair: Vinson Carter – WV5C
vinsoncarter@gmail.com

Nets Committee

Chair: Dana Widboom – KI5TGY
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Membership Committee

Chair: Tom Northfell – W5XNA
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Social Media Committee

Chair: Rebecca Garrett – N5REB
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Webmaster

Roger Dickey – KJ4QIS
dickeyr@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Don Banta – K5DB
arask5db@gmail.com

August Meeting Features Excellent Program on RTTY

BVRC members did not disappoint (once again!) for the August 2024 meeting as they showed their excitement for amateur radio and BVRC with another packed house.

This month, our featured speaker was BVRC member Mark Whatley – K5XH from Fayetteville. Mark is a veteran ham of many decades, and has conducted previous presentations for the club. His presentation tonight was another outstanding production on his topic “The History and Modern Uses of RTTY.”



Radioteletype, or RTTY (“Ritty” in ham radio language) has been used for decades by ham operators worldwide, and even though its use has declined somewhat in the wake of the FT8 mode, it is still used utilized mostly in RTTY contests and definitely still has a place in our hobby.

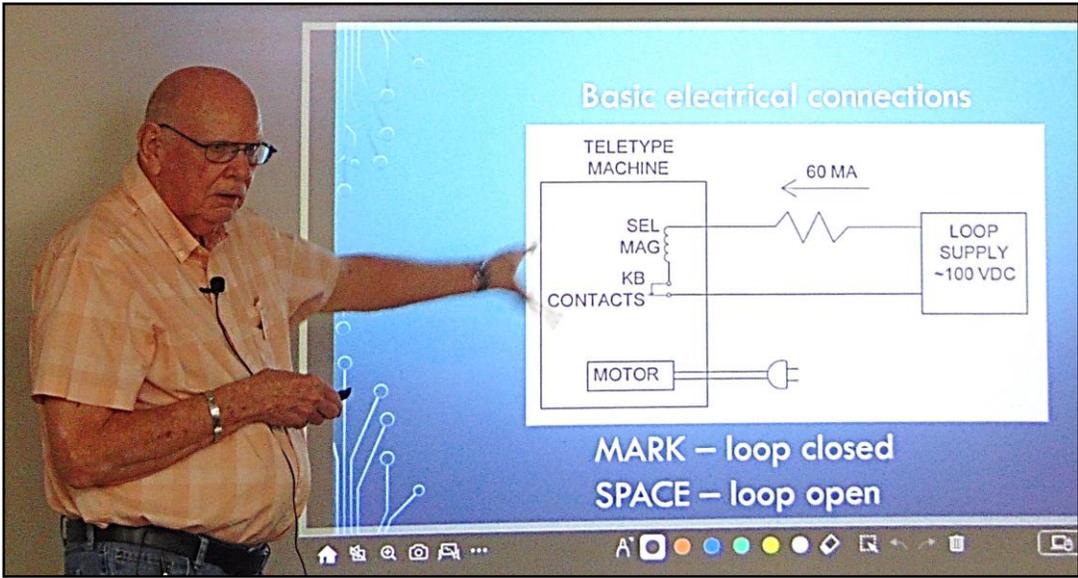
Mark began the program by relating how he began in RTTY and what was required to get his first station setup to operate the mode.

Mark then asked the question, “Since RTTY isn’t used much anymore, why talk about it?”

He then proceeded giving an overview of the mode. He said he is pleased – and it is a good thing – that radio

manufacturers have kept RTTY in their radio programming modes.

RTTY was first approved for amateur use in 1953. Mark then explained the history of RTTY and how the first radios transmitted an RTTY signal. He explained how RTTY data streams work and how, under the old manual operating mode, you had to perform 10 keystrokes to send only 4 characters. He then illustrated how, with today's RTTY computer software programs RTTY has been streamlined in sending and receiving and how it is much easier to use and enjoy.



Mark – K5XH

Mark shared that RTTY is different from other digital modes in that it is a conversational mode, accurate timing is not required, the signal can be spread across a large frequency range, and there is no checking and/or error corrections.

Mark said in today's ham radio experience, the primary times RTTY can be heard on the bands is during contests.

Mark then gave some reasons why RTTY contesting might be a different avenue to explore in one's ham radio experience, and especially why it's fun:

- RTTY is more relaxed operating than in a CW or phone contest
- It is much easier on the ears
- You gain experience in setting-up your station and computer to operate the mode

Mark then discussed the software and logging programs for RTTY contesting. He then showed the RTTY contest calendar of all the contests that occur during the year. He said a good place to start understanding and operating with RTTY is: <https://www.aa5au.com/rtty/getting-started-on-rtty/>. Mark concluded his presentation by admonishing everyone to have fun and give RTTY a try.

THANKS MARK FOR ANOTHER EXCELLENT PRESENTATION! WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE GREAT FUTURE PROGRAMS FROM YOU! THANKS FOR BEING A BVRC MEMBER!

**The largest and fastest growing amateur radio club in Arkansas.
 Now 270+ members strong!
 Thanks for your support!
 Be sure and participate in club meetings & events!**



Our August 2024 meeting was preceded by BVRC's Vice-President Joe Hott – W5AEN who hosted BVRC'S HAM 101 Workshop that convenes before the main meeting. Joe spoke on "Amateur Radio Solar Power" in which he setup a solar power demo and shared about solar panels, batteries, operating a portable station, and what has worked for him in achieving successful portable station operations. *THANKS JOE!*

Like our main meetings, our HAM 101 Workshop meetings continue to grow with almost a packed room every month!



It is great to see so many of our newcomers to the club and hobby (as well as our veteran ops!) hungry for knowledge and attending the HAM 101 Workshops. *Newcomers, these workshops are geared especially for you! Don't miss them!*

BVRC Graduates 2nd General License Class!



BVRC 2024 General License Class graduates are from Left to Right: Daniel Johnson-KJ5GLN, Jeanne Harlan-W5GIJ, Dustin Serio-KK5SDS, Laura Foster-WD6BBN, Jerry Reid, Jr.-KJ5ENJ, and Instructor Glenn Kilpatrick-WB5L.

From the Desk of the President

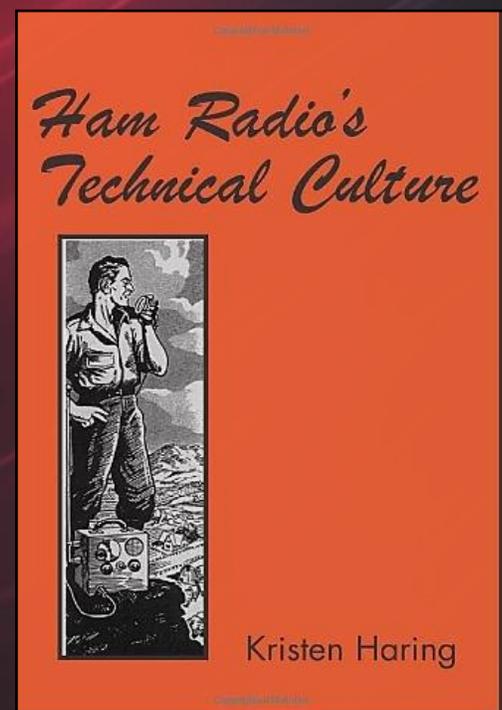


“Every night thousands of men retreat to radio stations elaborately outfitted in suburban basements or tucked into closets of city apartments to talk to local friends or to strangers on the other side of the world. They communicate by speaking into a microphone, tapping out Morse code on a telegraph key, or typing at the keyboard of a teletypewriter. In the Internet age, instantaneous, long-distance, person-to-person communication seems ordinary. But amateur radio operators have been completing such contacts since the 1910s. The hobbyists often called “hams” initially turned to radio for technical challenges and thrills. As the original form of wireless technology became more reliable and commonplace in the 1930s, ham radio continued as a leisure activity.” – excerpted from Kristen Haring’s 2008 book **“[Ham Radio’s Technical Culture](#).”**

The excerpt above, from history professor Kristen Haring’s 2008 book, *Ham Radio’s Technical Culture*, was based on a compilation of personal accounts found in magazines, newsletters, and trade journals that she used to define and illustrate the culture of amateur radio.

In reading from her book, it became clear to me that the culture of amateur radio that Professor Haring details explains for me the basis for the distinct culture that our Bella Vista Radio Club seeks to live by ... friendliness, helpfulness, and always seeking to provide events and activities to involve all who enjoy amateur radio.

Of special interest to BVRC members, I thought the following two excerpts were remarkable in that Professor Haring seems to be describing the heart of our Bella Vista Radio Club culture. See if the excerpts on the following page sound vaguely familiar:



“Since midcentury, hundreds of radio clubs have existed simultaneously in the United States, formalizing in-person gatherings between hams who lived near each other, worked together, or shared particular radio interests. The Los Angeles area alone had more than 30 clubs active in the 1950s. Clubs grounded hobbyist values in a visible social unit and provided vital mechanisms for enculturation. Hobby publications described clubs as offering the structure that individuals needed in order to feel connected to the ham community. Of the eight benefits of membership the Rochester Amateur Radio Association advertised in 1953, five focused on the pleasures of being part of a group. The club offered “Participation in club events open only to club members” and “Enjoyable monthly meetings.” For \$3 a year, the hobbyist was told he could expect “Fraternity with fellow hams from all walks of life” and a sense of “Belonging, knowing you’re associated, being a part of things.”

“Newsletters captured the casual, friendly interaction of clubs. Typically these were monthly publications produced inexpensively by a volunteer editor. They were intended as “extremely personal publications in contrast to the commercial jobs,” according to one editor, and aimed to “deal directly and personally with each and every member of the club, in name as well as in activities.” Because hams took pleasure in “reading about themselves and about the folks they know,” the audience for club bulletins tolerated amateur publishing efforts. The ARRL reassured editors intimidated by literary responsibilities that it was all right to “know more about gamma than grammar [sic]” since newsletters were “just another means of communication among friends — like ham radio.” Club publications deliberately retained a local flavor and plain language. Every page, in style and content, displayed the culture of ham radio.”

Our club works hard to provide a welcoming atmosphere and supportive environment for all, no matter their backgrounds and no matter where they are on their path through their amateur radio hobby. Because of this, as you may have heard me often say, our club has the most interesting members, including you!

73,
Jan – WB5JAN

THANK YOU

**A SALUTE AND HUGE WORD OF THANKS
TO OUTGOING WEBMASTER
GLENN KILPATRICK - WB5L**

With hearts full of gratitude and appreciation, Bella Vista Radio Club tenders the absolute best wishes and God's blessings to our outgoing Webmaster, Glenn - WB5L. Glenn's vocation in computer technology brought him to northwest Arkansas 23 years ago. In that time period Glenn has made myriads of friends and has faithfully served NW Arkansas hams in many, many capacities.

Although Glenn has created and maintained a top-notch website that experienced over 1 million hits last year, he is also a past BVRC President (3 years of service), 2018 BVRC Ham of the Year recipient, General license class instructor, and - he was awarded the 2019 ARRL Delta Division Ham of the Year.

Glenn, **thank you so much** for your service to BVRC over the years. Our very best goes with you as you begin a new chapter of your life in Tennessee. And.....**DON'T FORGET TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US ON THE RADIO!**



Glenn received the BVRC 2018 Ham of the Year Award from Ron Evans-K5XK



ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris-K5UZ presented Glenn the Delta Division Ham of the Year Award in 2019

BVRC Welcomes New Webmaster and N5BVA Club Call Trustee

It is with immense pleasure and excitement that BVRC welcomes Roger Dickey – KJ4QIS as its new webmaster and N5BVA club call trustee. Roger and his XYL reside in Rogers. He joined BVRC in July 2022, and has been highly active in the club since that time.

Roger moved to NW Arkansas in 2010 from Jacksonville, FL where he acquired his first [Technician] license in 2009. He passed his General exam at the Joplin hamfest in August 2010, and then passed his Amateur Extra exam at the Claremore, OK hamfest this past April.



Roger says his interests in ham radio right now are... “All over the place. - POTA hunting and the occasional activation. Once I realized there were awards for POTA I've tried to get more active. I just wrapped up the BVRC CW Academy and joined SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) to help with getting CW QSOs. I also spend time hacking on my Raspberry Pi to see how it can relate to ham capabilities, so far mainly APRS/Packet BBS, and HamClock. I've got my sights set on obtaining the ARRL DXCC certificate and am already off to a good start. I live in an HOA and am limited on antenna options, so I'm usually adjusting homebrew antennas in my attic to try and improve my performance.”

We are so appreciative and grateful to Roger for stepping forward and undertaking this vital position within the club. Roger is a great fit to keep BVRC's website at the par-none level that Glenn-WB5L has maintained over the years. Glenn and Roger have been working together for a smooth transition and the passing of the torch. Roger has also been voted N5BVA call sign trustee.



Roger has an extensive computer programming background, as he related to us: “My IT background starts back in 1998, when I started as a help desk technician. I was responsible for desktop support for about 300 full-time employees and various restaurant/retail point-of-sale technology at a beach-front resort in Florida. I gained a lot of experience there and worked my way up to a server and network administrator. I graduated from Florida Technical College in 1999 taking various computer programming courses. It was at that point where I started to pivot into a software development career, building networking tools, websites, and various online applications. After leaving the help desk/network admin position, I spent several years in the stock market field, building and selling day trading, technical analysis, and long-term investing applications that we developed at a small start-up company. In 2010, I moved to NW Arkansas and soon started working for a local marketing agency where I was responsible for the development, maintenance, and hosting of hundreds of websites for local businesses. Since 2015, I have been focused on e-commerce tools and working closely with the Walmart.com team to help improve online sales through a proprietary software-as-a-service called SKU Ninja. Currently, I'm the VP of Engineering at a company called Flywheel Commerce and manage a small team of software engineers that have a continued focus on e-commerce for Walmart, Amazon, and other popular ecommerce sites. -THANKS ROGER!



THE BVRC HAM 101 NET



BVRC's flagship net – The BVRC Legacy Net – meets each Wednesday at 7 pm on the BVRC twin linked repeaters, and is the longest running repeater net in NW Arkansas.

However, BVRC also has a net that was created and geared *especially for newcomers to our club and our hobby.*

The HAM 101 Net meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm local time on the WX5NAS Skywarn Link System (repeater frequencies on page 2 of this issue of The Signal).

This is 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 new ham operators to have fun and gain help on all aspects of amateur radio, as well as learning how a net operates. There is always a panel of Elmers (mentors) on frequency to answer any questions or issues our newcomers have. From radios to antennas, these topics and more are covered and explored. This is a terrific way to increase your ham radio knowledge and explore new areas of the hobby. **Newcomers, the HAM 101 Net is there for you and waiting to help you.** So don't be shy; click the mic and check-in with us! We look forward to hearing you check-in!





BVRC MEMBERS ENJOY PARKS ON THE AIR OPERATIONS IN THE WILD WEST

In 1865 Horace Greeley, the founder and editor of the New York Tribune, penned the famous quotation, “Go west, young man, go west.”

Well, two of our club’s distinguished members and their XYLs took Horace seriously this summer and did just that. BVRC President Jan Hagan-WB5JAN and his wife Prudence, as well as Robert Hill-K5NZV and his wife Dana (W5DGH, BVRC Secretary) took to the highways and byways on two super trips to South Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas, and Colorado.



Jan and Prudence trekked to the Black Hills area of South Dakota, visiting Sturgis, Mount Rushmore, and Badlands National Park. They also jaunted 2 hours to the west of the Black Hills to the first National Monument of the U.S. – Devil’s Tower, Wyoming, where Jan activated that POTA unit.

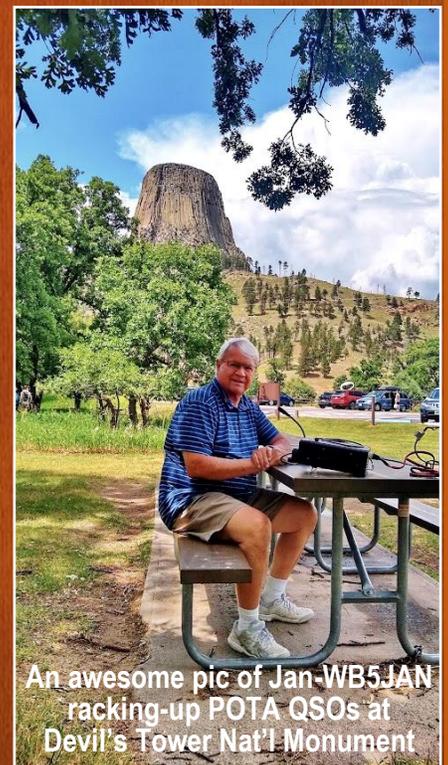
Jan told us it was a challenge to find time for POTA activations between photographing their trip and tourist stops. He was able to activate 2 parks, however: Black Hills National Forest – POTA US-4524, and Devil’s Tower National Monument – POTA US-0920. For those two activations he worked stations coast-to-coast with his trusty Wolf River Coil antenna. His favorite QSO was with his neighbor back home, Dale-W5DSL, who lives a mile from him in Bella Vista!



Excellent photo of the Mt. Rushmore monument



Jan & Prudence at Sturgis, SD



An awesome pic of Jan-WB5JAN racking-up POTA QSOs at Devil’s Tower Nat’l Monument

K5NZV / W5DGH Operation

Several BVRC members are involved with activating POTA parks, but none of us are in the rarified atmosphere of our “BVRC POTA activators on steroids” (lol), Robert – K5NZV and Dana – W5DGH.

As of this writing, Robert and Dana have conducted over 100 activations over 50 parks! **Excellent job you two!** (Those of us who also activate parks from time to time know the challenge, work, and operating stamina it takes to put a park on the air.)

While on this particular trip to the Rocky Mountain State of Colorado, here are their awesome stats:

Parks activated:

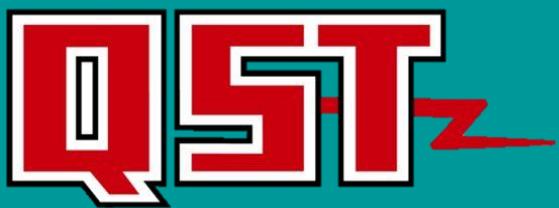
- Wilson Lake State Wildlife Area, KS
- Cheyenne Mountain State Park, CO
- Pike National Forest (Pike’s Peak), CO
- San Juan National Forest, CO
- Mesa Verde National Park, Co
- Haviland Lake State Wildlife Area, CO
- Carson National Forest, NM



During these multiple park activations, they tallied 178 QSOs on FT8, and 102 on phone. Great #'s considering they were also touring and photographing.

We also congratulate them on the acquisition of their brand new Brinkley travel trailer. (Your editor has had the pleasure of being given a tour of the trailer, and it is immaculate...a veritable New York City Plaza Hotel on wheels!)

Thanks Robert and Dana for sharing, and best wishes on many new future POTA activations!!!



BVRC Members Receive Accolades In QST

Two of BVRC's distinguished Fayetteville members have been recognized in the August issue of QST for their awesome accomplishments in contesting and Morse code. We congratulate them!



Mark Whatley – K5XH is BVRC's "RTTY Expert". Each year Mark participates in the annual ARRL RTTY Roundup, placing high in the rankings in North America and the world. This year was no exception. The RTTY Roundup is held each year on the first weekend in January. Results take around 6-7 months to tabulate and finalize, and were released a short time ago. Once again, Mark placed #7 in the Top Ten in the U.S. and Canada.



Bill Durham – KG5ZCI started learning and using Morse code just a few years ago and enjoys it immensely. Bill is self-taught, not enrolling in any CW online courses or classes. He started from scratch and has been dedicated in his pursuit of CW. After learning the letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and prosigns used on the bands, he then got his code speed up to 10 words-per-minute. At that point, his CW mentor Dan Puckett – K5FXB (recently a Silent Key) worked with him to achieve his next plateau – 15 wpm. Congratulations to Bill on achieving his 15 wpm endorsement for the ARRL Code Proficiency award, performing that feat just recently. Knowing Bill, he will continue his quest with the CW mode. Next stop – 20 wpm!

(Bill is also BVRC's Congeniality Coordinator and has baked over 1000 cookies for club meetings!!)

Top Ten – US and Canada		
Single Operator, High Power	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power
AC0C 321,625	N800 377,292	W0SD 293,531
AA3B 320,256	K3MM 291,810	N7AT 263,310
NN1SS 285,894	N0XR (@NONI)	K5RZA 232,458
K7RL 237,207		KY7M 232,050
A19T 205,410	K9CT 240,992	K3AJ 209,385
M0SE 160,000	K6LL 222,768	N4SS 195,360
K5XH 152,850	W0LSD 215,280	AD4ES 194,834
AD5XL 146,387	N2WK 208,915	K1QF 183,644
N0AT 145,310	N6IE 179,860	ND2T 176,512
N7GP 144,243	K1MK (@K1TTT)	AB5EB 173,877
	WY7FD 173,475	
	170,240	
Single Operator, Low Power	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power
W4AAA (KK9A, op) 228,903	AA5AU 259,419	W5YD 123,178
W7RN (WK6I, op) 185,948	K1IG 207,616	KT7E 107,957
W0AAE 126,720	N0HJZ 134,809	N7GCO 91,530
VE3DZ 125,350	WT9U 125,204	NC1CC 83,410
W7CXX (WA7LNV, op) 111,360	K9PW 114,128	W1QK 60,812
K9WX 107,712	K6EI 111,228	WA1F 59,452
WA1FCN 94,570	K1DC 109,434	WD4LBR 51,415
W7YAQ 88,266	VE3MGY 93,942	KO0Z 47,520
K3RWN 87,400	W9ILY 79,080	WS0Z 33,225
N8CWU 87,305	AD1C 77,490	KG5VK 13,398

This month, ARRL recognizes merit and progress in Morse code proficiency on the part of the following individuals, who have achieved proficiency at the following rates, in words per minute.

January 2024	March 2024	May 2024
Charles W. Campbell, K0CWC 15	Mark A. Jessing, N4OJE 10	Tom J. Zajdel, AA3TZ 10
Douglas B. Diegert, N2KGT 15	Stephen M. Riley, WA9CWE 10	Tom J. Zajdel, AA3TZ 15
George Wayne Moore, W8SUN 20	Kenneth F. Robinson, K8SCA 10	John H. Orkney, KA1LHJ 20
	Steven L. Myers, A17OL 20	Tom J. Zajdel, AA3TZ 20
	Bernard A. Poskus, KF0QS 20	Daryl I. Hammond, W0BZ 25
February 2024	April 2024	June 2024
Charlene K. Lewis, K8XCO 10	Joseph P. Kononchik, KS1I 10	Robin L. Zinsmaster, N6PHP 25
Douglas B. Powers, KD5DBP 10	Bill Durham, KG5ZCI 15	
Timothy J. Sinnott, KE2UM 10	Joseph P. Kononchik, KS1I 15	
Margot L. Wasz, KM6JWY 10	Glenn R. Barr, Jr., W0KFC 20	
Lawrence Schall, KB2MN 20	Daryl I. Hammond, W0BZ 20	
Albert J. Whetter, W9WJ 20	Gabriel E. Donley, WN7JT 25	

Congratulations to all of the recipients.

BVRC Prez Reaches POTA Milestone

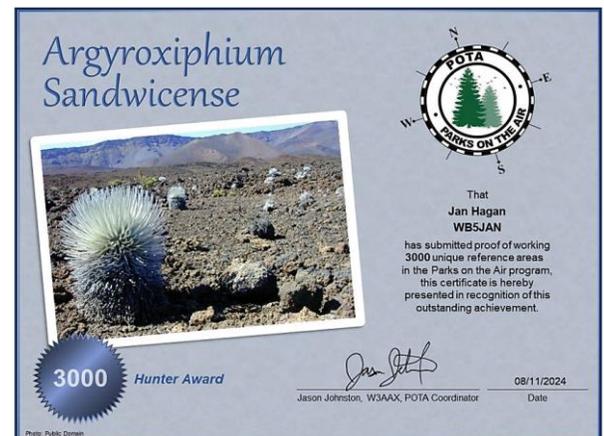


The Signal is pleased to announce a huge accomplishment by our esteemed President, Jan Hagan – WB5JAN. On August 12, Jan confirmed his **3000th QSO with a POTA park!** This is a remarkable feat in that since he now has 3000 parks confirmed, he has reached *the top 1% of POTA hunters in the world!* (Wow.) Although the Parks On The Air (POTA) program is going full steam in North America, it is still a fledgling program elsewhere in the world, but is gaining popularity. Even so, Jan has also worked POTA parks in 25 different countries! **And a huge footnote: He has done all this without an amplifier – outstanding!**



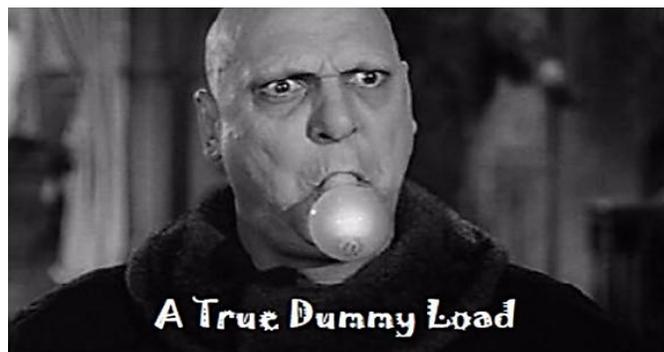
Jan, a HUGE congratulations to you!

Well done!



* * * * *

LAUGHTER



BVRC CONTEST OPERATORS ACQUIRE TOP HONORS IN ARRL CONTESTS

The ARRL encountered a massive cyber-attack several months ago. Since that time, they have been working on restoring all the various sections of their website and services. Just recently, they succeeded in getting the ARRL Contest Portal back online. The data of the various ARRL contests contained in this now restored branch of the website bears-out some exciting news concerning some of our members who are avid contesters. Congratulations to these operators for their outstanding achievements in some of the major ARRL contests! We have included a portion of their award certificates on this page. Also, kudos to other BVRC members who participated!

(Abbreviations: MOSTHP-Multi Operator Single Transmitter High Power, SOULP-Single Operator Unlimited Low Power, SOUHP-Single Operator Unlimited High Power, SOHP-Single Operator High Power, SOQRP-Single Operator QRP, SOLP – Single Operator Low Power.)

ARRL November SSB Sweepstakes 2023

W5NX - (Operators: Dana-W5DGH, Kathy-WQ5T, Robert-K5NZV, Dennis-W5DM, Don-K5DB)
1st Place Arkansas, 1st Place Delta Division, MOSTHP
N5EE – Ken: 1st Place Ark. 1st Place Delta Division, SOQRP

ARRL November CW Sweepstakes 2023

N5EE – Ken: 1st Place Ark. Overall, Delta Div. Top 5
KM5G – Chuck: 1st Place Ark., Delta Div. Top 10, SOULP
K5DB – Don: 1st Place Ark., Delta Div. Top 10, SOUHP

ARRL 2023 10-Meter Contest

KM5G – Chuck: 1st Place Ark. Overall, Delta Div. Top 5, SOUHP, CW only
K5DB – Don: 1st Place Ark., 1st Place Delta Division, SOHP, Mixed Mode
N5EE – Ken: 1st Place Ark., 1st Place Delta Division, SO QRP, CW only
K5VR – Stan: 1st Place Ark., Delta Div. Top 10, SOLP, CW only

ARRL 2024 DX Contest - CW

KM5G – Chuck: 1st Place Ark. Overall, 1st Place Delta Div., SOUHP
K5DB – Don: 1st Place Ark., Delta Division Top Ten, SOHP
K5VR – Stan: 1st Place Ark., 1st Place Delta Division, SOQRP
K5XK – Ron: 1st Place Ark., 1st Place Delta Division, SOLP, 10 meter
K5FUV – Bill: Delta Division Top Ten, SOHP

ARRL 2024 DX Contest – Phone

N5EE – Ken: 1st Place Ark. Overall, SOUHP
N5SRC – Scott: 1st Place Ark., SOHP



BVRC VE REPORT

From Don Cooper - KC7DC

BVRC VE Coordinator

August 2024



Congratulations!

Laura Foster – WD6BBN – Bella Vista – New General!

Jeanne Harlan – W5GIJ – Springdale – New General!

Daniel Johnson – KJ5GLN – Huntsville – New General!

Jerry Reid, Jr. – KJ5ENJ – Lowell – New General!

Dustin Serio – KK5SDS – Pea Ridge – New General!

Michael Sickler, Jr. – KJ5HPE – West Fork – New Technician!

Michael Kimes – KJ5HOR – Bella Vista – New Technician!

Next month's test sessions:

- **September 1, 10 am – Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale**
- **September 14, 2 pm – Bella Vista Public Library, 11 Dickens Place, Bella Vista**

WELCOME

Welcome New BVRC Members!

Luke Redford – KFØBDG – Bella Vista
Michael Sickler – KJ5HPE – West Fork
Michael Kimes – KJ5HOR – Bella Vista

BVRC Graduates 3rd CW Academy Class!



Students from the 3rd BVRC CW Academy class were presented with their certificates of completion at the August 2024 club meeting. They were a joy to work with. They worked hard, and have now begun their CW adventures, being able to send and receive international Morse code at 5 words per minute. It won't take them long to bring their code speed up, that's for sure!

From left to right: Adnan Ademovic-KDØKCY, Roger Dickey-KJ4QIS, Stephen Ponder-N5ZE, Bill Schmidt-NOØBS, Laura Foster-WD6BBN, and Instructor Don Banta-K5DB

Special Event Station W5NX From Mount Magazine! – Right Around the Corner!



The Bella Vista area Radio Club leadership team is pleased to announce our club's next big operating event!:

EVENT NAME: Special Event Station W5NX
Operating from the highest point
in Arkansas – Mount Magazine

EVENT DATE: September 14 & 15, 2024

LOCATION: Cameron Bluff Campground
Mount Magazine State Park
(POTA #s US-1104, 4425, and US-8322)



A core organizing group will be traveling to Cameron Bluff Campground on Friday, September 13, to setup the three stations which will be SSB (phone), CW, and FT8. As of right now, we will be using at least three antennas – two Windom Off-Center Fed dipoles and the Model 2289 outverted-V. Other antennas will also be possible. We will be operating portable from Cameron Bluff Campground located inside Mount Magazine State Park. The stations will be setup on sites 2, 8, 11, and/or 12. We will go on the air at 9:00 am local time on Sept. 14.

We invite all BVRC members to participate in this Special Event Station / Parks on the Air event! Whether you plan to come for the weekend, or for a day trip only on Saturday, you are invited to join us for a BVRC pot luck dinner at 5:00 pm on Saturday.

If you are planning to come for the pot luck, we ask you to e-mail Don-K5DB to confirm your attendance at arsk5db@gmail.com, and also bring a side dish or dessert to contribute to the pot luck. If you wish to spend Saturday night and not have to drive back home to NW Arkansas, you can check for available accommodations in the park, or the Paris Inn in Paris, and then make reservations for facilities in the park either by phone: 479-963-8502, or the park's online website at: <https://www.reseze.net/servlet/WebresResDesk?hotelid=1649&buildingCode=any&roomType=any>, or contact the Paris Inn for available rooms at: <https://parisinnar.com/> or phone: 479-963-2400.

If you would like to spend an exciting BVRC ham radio weekend at Mount Magazine, mark your calendar now! The pileups calling us will be **BIG!** A great opportunity to sharpen your operating skills!

See you there!!!!!!!!!!

ANNOUNCING THE 4TH ANNUAL BVRC CW ROUNDUP!!!



Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024
Time Period: 7pm – 8:30 pm local time (0000-0100Z, October 11)
Frequency: 3.540 – 3.560 kHz

Operating classes: **CLASS A** – BVRC member – Experienced CW operator
CLASS B – Newcomer or newer CW operator (BVRC member or non-member)
CLASS C – Non-BVRC member – Experienced CW operator
CLASS D – Listeners who copy only (log calls of participating stations you heard)

CQing: Send “CQ CWR CQ CWR”

Exchange: Signal report (including operating class) / QTH (your location) / name

Example: You are a newer CW operator and you are in a QSO with K5XYZ whose signal is readable, their signal strength is registering a ‘7’ on your S-meter and their signal tone is good. Your [example] callsign is W5ABC, you live in Bentonville, and your name is Albert. You would then send something like:

K5XYZ DE W5ABC (K5XYZ this is W5ABC) BT (break)

RST IS 579 B 579 B BT

QTH IS BENTONVILLE, AR BENTONVILLE, AR BT

NAME IS ALBERT ALBERT BT

HW CPY? (How did you copy my transmission?)

K5XYZ DE W5ABC K (Over)

The other station would then reply with their information using the same format. After the exchanges are completed, short informal remarks can be made during the QSO if desired, after which the contact would end with something like:

TNX FER QSO (thanks for the QSO)

GL ES 73 (Good luck and best wishes)

K5XYZ DE W5ABC SK (end of contact)



Description of event: *This 1½ -hour event is not a contest.* Rather, it is a celebration of our area newcomers new to CW, returners to the mode of CW, and listeners. Also, it is an invitation to our veteran CW operators to enjoy helping the newcomers in making live, on-air CW contacts. There are no points scored, and no results or standings posted. **You do NOT have to be a member of BVRC to participate.**

A handsome certificate will be issued to each participant submitting a log entry from the event. (See above)

Send logs *no later than Saturday, October 19*, to Don Banta – K5DB:

Regular mail log: Don Banta

Electronic log: arsk5db@gmail.com

3407 Diana St.

Attach Cabrillo file: [call].log

Springdale, AR 72764

FROM ARRL.....



ARRL VEC Celebrates 4 Decades of Service to the Amateur Radio Community

A look
back at 40 years
of volunteerism, and a look ahead to important changes in our program.

(Included in this article are photos of some of our dedicated Bella Vista and Springdale VE team members at past amateur radio exam sessions, courtesy Fred-KI5WVN and Don-K5DB.)

ARRL VEC PROGRAM'S HISTORY

July 21, 2024 marked the 40th anniversary of the inception of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC). Our program has a long-standing tradition of serving the amateur radio community and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with integrity and expertise. The ARRL VEC program is nationally and globally known as a great contributor to the amateur radio community and a symbol of excellence.

On July 21, 1984, ARRL and the FCC signed the VEC Memorandum of Agreement at the ARRL National Convention in New York City. The agreement officially authorized ARRL to accredit Volunteer Examiners (VEs) and coordinate exam sessions. The first ARRL VEC exam session was held soon thereafter on September 2, 1984 at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention in California.



To give you an idea of what the ARRL VEC and our VEs have accomplished, here are some statistics:

- In the first 40 years, more than 81,000 licensees have been accredited as VEs.
- More than 183,000 test sessions have been conducted.
- At these test sessions, approximately 1.1 million individuals have taken 1.4 million examinations.

ARRL VEC PROGRAM'S FUTURE

The role and importance of the VEC system have not diminished over the years; most hams today never had the experience of sitting for an exam in front of an FCC official at an FCC field office. The VEC exam sessions that are provided today are far more convenient and plentiful than any FCC-commissioned examinations.

VE teams can administer exams online at any time or in person any location according to local needs.

Today, our VEC program is more than just amateur radio examinations. We also serve the FCC and support the amateur radio community in many functions. We are special event call sign coordinators, club call sign administrators, question pool writers, and a knowledgeable information source for a wide range of licensing matters.



In 2025, we will be transitioning to a complete digital online exam platform. Shifting VE teams to this system will reduce VEC printing, storage, shredding, and shipping (both to and from the VE team).



Stronger results will be attained by meeting our VE teams' and examinees' expectations, being less dependent on the US Postal Service and paper filings, and achieving higher customer satisfaction due to the shorter wait times for license issuance.

The Covid-19 pandemic served as a catalyst to accelerate changes that were already under way. we know that we must keep an eye on our future and new technology, and we must be poised to thrive in the electronic testing world.

We recognize the need to create a better digital experience for our customers and members, and we are committed to providing an honest, reliable examination system.

The Covid-19 pandemic served as a catalyst to accelerate changes that were already under way.



Overall, we are proud to serve the community. We've accomplished so much in the past 40 years, and continuing to move forward will protect amateur radio for future generations.

Proud to Serve the Amateur Radio Community – A Message from ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma – AB1FM

I began working for ARRL in 1985, shortly after the VEC launch. It still amazes me, after all these years, how important the VEC program is to amateur radio and how well it works. The VE system has made a truly positive difference in our community's growth and future.

I would like to thank our VEs for playing an important role in the success of the ARRL VEC program and amateur radio, as I believe our contributions are rewarding and that our impact is significant.

I have proudly served the community for the past 39 years and enjoy working with our volunteers. You have truly shown me what volunteering is all about. ARRL VEs generously devote their time, energy, and skills, and are invaluable to our community. I thank them all for their efforts. It's fun to reminisce about the past – to see how far we've come and how much we've accomplished. However, it's essential to think about and plan for our future.

I look forward to continuing to serve you wherever your examining takes you, and I hope we can continue working together for the good of amateur radio. 73.

Maria Somma – AB1FM
ARRL VEC Manager (19 years of service)
VEC employee (39 years of service)
NCVEC Vice-Chairman (9 years of service)
NCVEC Question Pool Committee (7 years of service)



ATTENTION ALL BVRC MEMBERS: As you can see from this article, being an ARRL Volunteer Examiner can be interesting, fun, and especially rewarding in that considering what amateur radio has done for you, you can “give back” to its community and help others in beginning their ham adventure.

Bella Vista area Radio Club has two teams of VEs that conduct monthly exam sessions in Bella Vista and Springdale. If you would like to join one of our teams in this very rewarding area of our hobby, you can obtain more information by contacting BVRC VE Coordinator: Don Cooper – KC7DC at: don_c@hotmail.com.

BVRC CLUB ACCESSORIES

from Embroidered Memories

Show you're a proud BVRC member with:

- Key Rings
- Name Badges
- Mouse pads
- Custom Hats w/Callsign
- License Plates
- Ceramic Mugs
- Luggage Tags

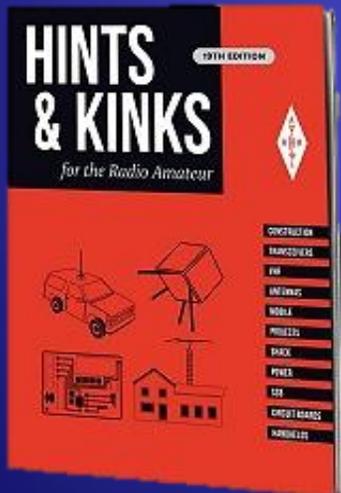


To order your personalized BVRC product, click [here](#)



For decades, QST's "Hints & Kinks" (now "Hints & Hacks") has been one of the magazine's most popular columns. If you're looking for solutions to everyday problems, devised or discovered by your fellow radio amateurs, you'll find them here.

The new 19th edition gathers the best projects and problem-solving tips from 2012 through 2016. It's full of know-how from QST's readers.



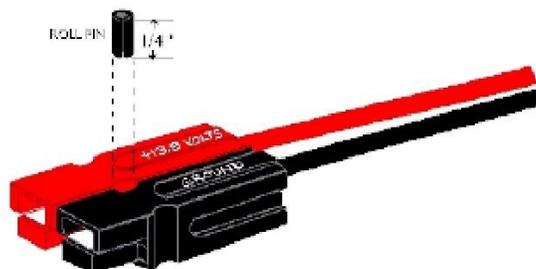
- ▶ Novel antennas & antenna improvements
- ▶ Features to spiffy-up your shack
- ▶ Ideas to streamline projects and station maintenance

ARRL member price: \$19.95

To order, click [here](#).

POWERPOLE CONNECTORS

Anderson PowerPole® connectors have become the standard for 12V DC interconnectivity in amateur radio. Many members of the ham radio community use these as their standard 12-volt DC power connector for everything from radios to DC power sources to accessories. Because the connectors are so standardized, this allows equipment owned by different hams to be used together without needing adapters in emergencies, at public service events, at Field Day, during contests, when borrowing equipment, etc. You should seriously consider using these connectors or constructing adapters so you can adapt to these connectors.



Either the 15-ampere or 30-ampere sizes can be used, and both sizes mate with each other. The plastic housings are the same for both sizes. As you can see in Figure 1, the internal connector of the PowerPole (the metal part that actually does the electrical connecting) has the same size “tongue” for both the 15-amp (the four on the left) and 30-amp (the four on the right) connectors, but the round barrel area (the part of the connector opposite the tongue end which holds the wire) of the 15-amp silver-plated contact is smaller than that of the 30-amp contact, but the tongue contact area is the same for both. The connectors can be used separately if desired, or the housings can dovetail together as a compact unit. (We’ll discuss dovetailing shortly.....)

An optional 3/32-inch-diameter roll pin that is 1/4 inch long is an available accessory, or a drop of super-glue can be used to keep the housings together side by side and not sliding apart (see photo above).

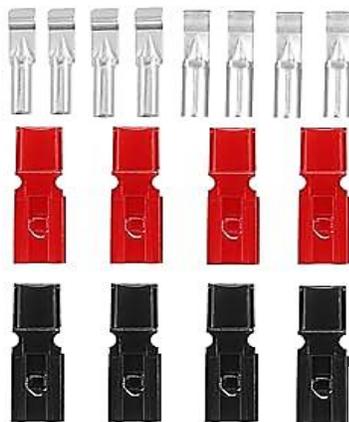


Fig. 1

The connectors are non-corrosive stainless-steel leaf springs that maintain *constant* contact pressure—ideal for frequent connections/disconnections and intermittent overloading. The red and black housings are high impact-resistant, polycarbonate housing with UL94V-2 flammability ratings. They’re also available in many other colors for circuit trace ability and coding.

The identical connector halves are genderless, making assembly quick and easy and reducing the number of parts stocked. The molded-in dovetails allow for customized yoking together in a variety of configurations. When the connectors are disconnected, no metal parts are exposed.

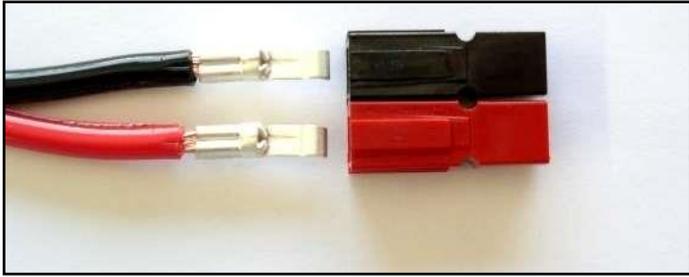


Fig. 2

The 15-amp connectors are designed for 16-20 gauge wire and the 30-amp connectors are designed for 12-14 gauge wire. (There is also a 45-amp connector for 8-10 gauge wire. Although doable, it is tough to secure the connector inside the housing on these.)

The contacts can be soldered or crimped, or both, to wires (Figure 2). A custom crimping tool is available from various suppliers, if you choose to crimp with something other than pliers or vise-grips (the tool actually does a better job by keeping the crimp more rounded and easier to insert into the housing). After a connector has been attached to a wire, it is then installed into the housing so that the inside housing spring mates with the metal underside of the housing connection. Just push the connector all the way through the housing until you hear a “click”. The connector is then secured in the housing (Figure 3). To remove a connector from the housing, there is a custom extraction tool which is also available from suppliers. You may also substitute a very small blade screwdriver (such as one used to repair glasses) or X-Acto knife to lift the connector from the housing spring, allowing the connector to be removed.



Fig. 3

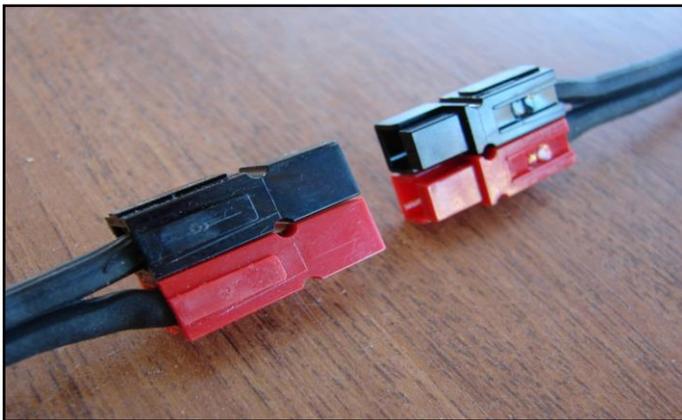


Fig. 3

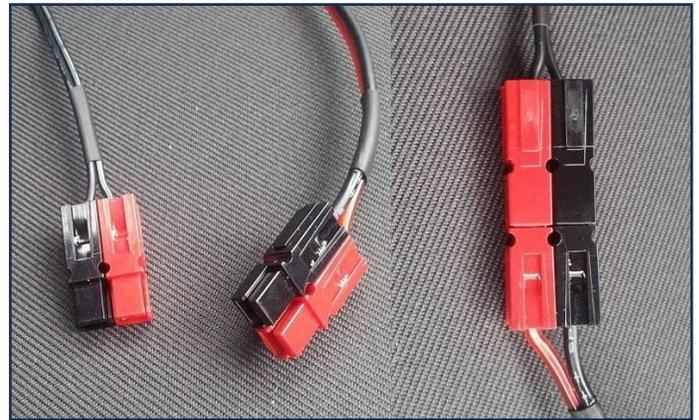


Fig. 4

Figure 4 shows a completed set of PowerPoles ready to be connected. Figure 5 shows PowerPoles before and after connection.

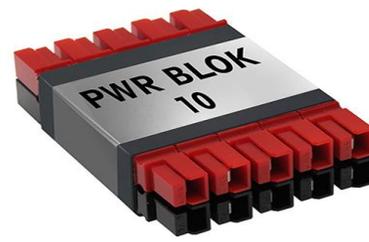
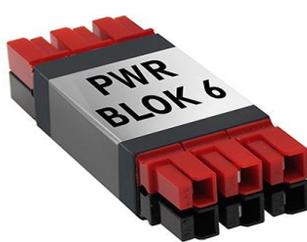
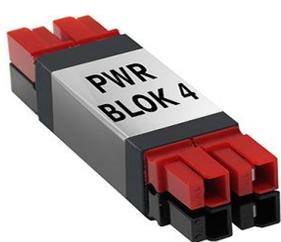
The Anderson Powerpole® connector is more expensive than the older de facto standards of the two-wire trailer plug and the Molex connector, but provides a more reliable electrical connection (both mechanically and electrically), and is easier to adapt to a wider range of wire gauges. Another advantage over the older trailer or Molex connectors is the Powerpole's superior ratings to withstand 100,000 no-load insertions and 250 hot-plugs at full load.

The specific nature of the PowerPole is a significant advantage since batteries can be both a power source or a power sink. A power supply can be connected to a radio and/or a battery, and multiple batteries, radios, and/or redundant power sources can be connected in parallel using the same power distribution panels. Connectors in which non-hermaphroditic contacts are arranged in a hermaphroditic arrangement (such as bullet connectors used in low end solar equipment and vehicle wiring) can be electrically incompatible (reverse polarity damages equipment) and non-hermaphroditic connectors can be mechanically incompatible with each other (won't mate). You do not have that problem with PowerPoles.

After purchasing the connectors and housings, you can make your own adapter cable(s) to fit whatever application you're dealing with to connect components:



PowerPole distribution blocks are also available in case you want to run power to different components from the same, or multiple, power source(s). They come in blocks of 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 connector blocks:



PowerPole connectors shown with red/black cable. Figure 5 shows 10-gauge wire being used, which would require the 45-amp connector mentioned earlier.

Fig. 5

Many pieces of amateur radio equipment run on 12-volt DC automotive voltage, which is also called 13.8-volts DC. The voltage delivered by a lead–acid battery with six-cells used as an automotive battery will vary depending on various electrical loads in a vehicle. Without loads the battery will float from 11.7 to 12.8 volts, and while charging from an alternator the voltage will increase to 13.8–14.4 volts DC. PowerPoles handle these voltage changes easily.

For use in amateur radio, the community has adopted a standard color code, polarity, and specific physical arrangement for assembling pairs of PowerPole connectors. One red and one black PowerPole housing can be physically arranged in 4 different mechanical orientations: red left, red right, red top, red bottom. The standard is red positive and black negative. When viewed from the tongue end of the connector, an easy way for remembering the arrangement is: "Red on Right — Tongue on Top".

“Wanna Be” PowerPoles

You can obtain “knock-off” versions of Anderson PowerPoles® on Amazon and E-bay, but keep in mind the specifications, dissimilar materials, and power handling capability may be sub-par to the authentic ones. I tried to save a little money by purchasing some off Amazon years ago, and found that installing (sliding and clicking) the connector into the housing is more difficult with knock-offs and sometimes the connection isn’t solid, with a degree of play between the housings. Most of the time, they do not stay together when dovetailed, either. The genuine product is easier to manipulate.

To the best of my knowledge and research (and I am not “advertising” for these dealers, this is just my findings from the investigations I’ve conducted), the only vendor/dealers that stock *genuine* Anderson PowerPole products are Quick Silver Radio and DX Engineering. You can also get quality red/black power cabling from them, ranging from 6-gauge down to 22-gauge to fit your application needs.

If you want genuine Anderson PowerPoles, there are five ways to distinguish between the authentic ones and the fakes:

1) COLOR – In Figure 6, notice the connector on the right is a paler red than the one on the left. A paler colored housing is a good preliminary indication of a PowerPole knock-off, which it is.

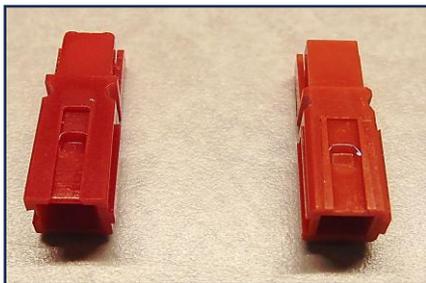


Fig. 6

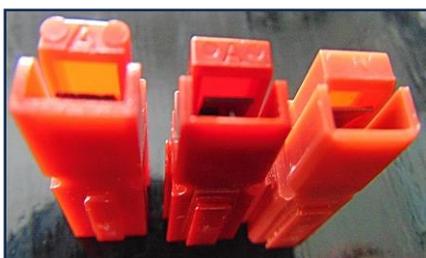


Fig. 7

2) BRANDING – On the front of the connector you will normally see some type of brand. Of the 3 connectors shown in Figure 7, the middle connector is a genuine Anderson PowerPole and the outside left and right connectors are knock-offs. Besides being paler in color than the genuine (center) connector, notice the genuine connector in the center has a branded “A” (for Anderson) that is proportionate to the connector’s surface, with relatively small, sharp-edged, branded circles on either side of the A. The fake connector on the left has very large circles that are raised above the housing surface and the “A” is large and oversized. The fake connector on the right does not even use an “A” but rather uses an “N”, a dead ringer that this is not an authentic Anderson PowerPole.

3) **SLOTING** – In Figure 8 once again, is the genuine Anderson connector is in the middle with knock-off connectors on the sides. PowerPole connector knock-offs, as with the original, normally have two slotted sides and two ribbed, or “dovetailed” sides. The dovetail side is designed to slide into the slotted side, thus joining a red and black connector jointly, enabling simultaneous connecting and disconnecting. In Figure 8, the slotted side of the three connectors is shown, and they all appear similar. However in Figure 9, notice that the sides of the slots of the fakes are straight up and down, but the sides of the slot of the central genuine connector are tapered – narrow at the top, larger at the bottom. This allows the dovetail side to join securely to the slotted side of an adjacent connector.

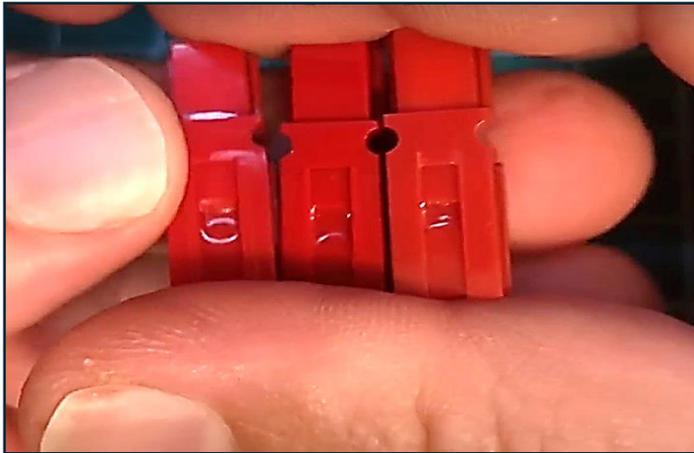


Fig. 8

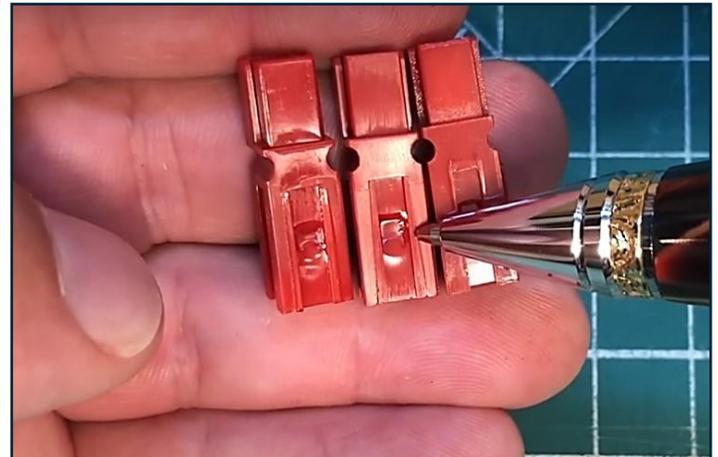


Fig. 9

4) **DOVETAILING** – In Figure 10, the connectors have been rotated and now are showing the dovetail side. Notice the dovetail of the left fake connector has rounded corners at the top. Both the left and right connectors’ dovetails are also narrow, whereas the dovetail of the genuine center connector has distinct sharp corners at the top and is wider than the other two.

5) **THE “PORCH”** – A very distinct trait of a genuine Anderson PowerPole connector – and a main identifier – is found at the top of the dovetail. The genuine connector has a slight, elevated surface just above the top of the dovetail that I call the “porch”, whereas the fake connectors are flat and have no porch (as you can also see in Figure 10 on the left and right fakes). A more distinct photo of the porch is shown in Figure 11.

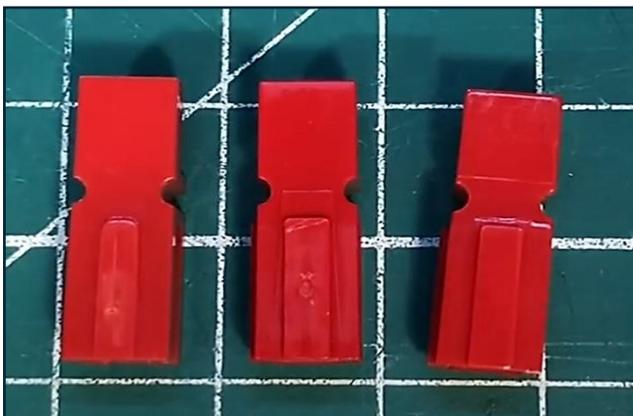


Fig. 10

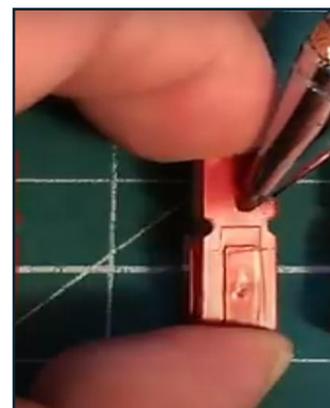


Fig. 11

Lastly, don’t be fooled by the photos of PowerPoles used by vendors in periodicals or websites. – They’ll use a picture of a real Anderson PowerPole, but they actually sell the fake version.

Happy DC connecting with Anderson PowerPoles. If you need help making your first cable with these connectors, there are dozens of videos on YouTube that can help you with that, or shoot me an e-mail and I’ll be glad to help. 73. – Don, K5DB

CALLSIGNOLOGY:

The Science of Call Signs

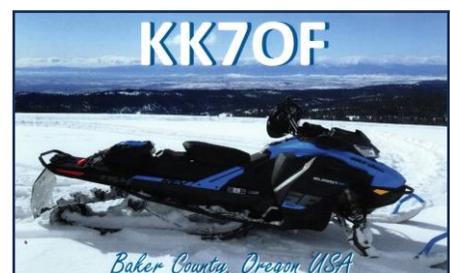
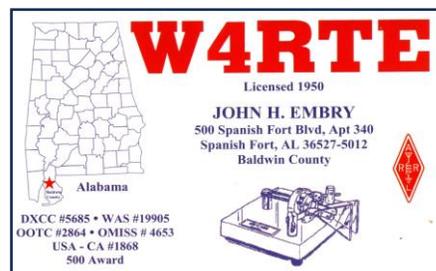
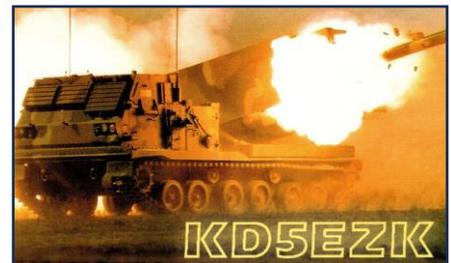
From Don – K5DB

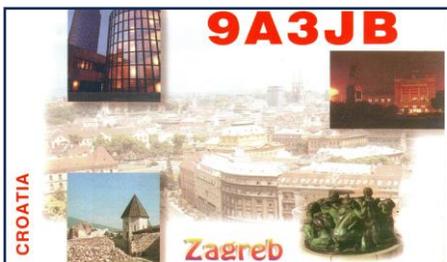
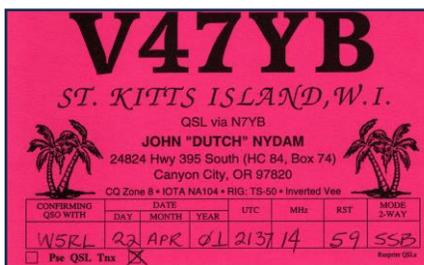
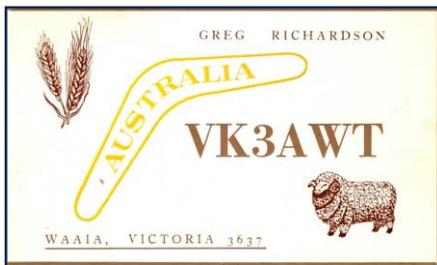
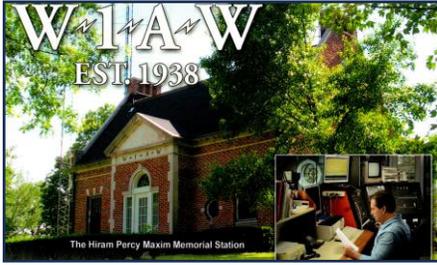
Amateur radio call signs are in the international series, and are issued by a nation's telecommunications agency in conjunction with the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union). They *normally* consist of a PREFIX which could be one or two letters, a NUMBER which usually denotes a geographical area, and a SUFFIX which consists of 1, 2, or 3 letters.

However, there are many exceptions to this format, especially when international call signs come into play. No matter what facet of HF amateur radio you enjoy (casual QSOs, state hunting, county hunting, DXing, POTA, etc.) it will probably be advantageous for you to understand the structure of callsigns. Doing so will keep you from becoming confused when a strange call sign comes your way. Let's take a look at how the international call sign system works:

In the United States, all callsigns begin with A, K, N, or W. The term "2x3 formatted callsign" means the callsign has a 2-letter prefix, a number, and a 3-letter suffix. It usually denotes the callsign that the licensee was issued when they acquired their first license. Example: KD5EZK. The same is true with older 1x3 callsigns, Example: W4RTE.

There are also [vanity] callsigns that are specially granted to holders of certain license classes, *if* the callsign is available and they choose to be issued those callsigns by the FCC to replace their current one. (When they upgrade they can also request a new sequential call sign, or retain their original callsign if they so choose.) An example of these would be Advanced Class license holders. The Advanced class exam has not been administered and the license not issued since its deletion in 2000, but these license holders of course still retain their full operating privileges, and have 2x2 formatted callsigns. Example: KK7OF. (You can apply for a 2X2 callsign for a vanity call if it is available, but you must hold an Amateur Extra class license to do so.)





Another example would be the specially formatted callsigns issued only to Amateur Extra Class license holders, which would be either a 1x2, 2x1, or Alpha-2x2 callsign. Examples: W1AW, NF7D, AB10C.

With the advent of the Vanity callsign program, operators can now apply for a callsign of their choosing to replace their current callsign – provided the desired callsign is available – and it corresponds with their current class of license. Also, both U.S. and foreign callsigns, no matter what the format, can be followed by a further suffix after the normal callsign to indicate the station is operating under special conditions: /P for portable, /M for mobile, /MM for maritime mobile, or /AM for aeronautical mobile.

HOWEVER!!! – This formatting changes outside the U.S.

For example in Australia and its other sovereignties, call signs are structured only with a 2-letter prefix, a number (which identifies the geographical area), and a 2 or 3 letter suffix. The number following the prefix is normally a single number (0 to 9). Examples: VK3AWT. VK4EJ.

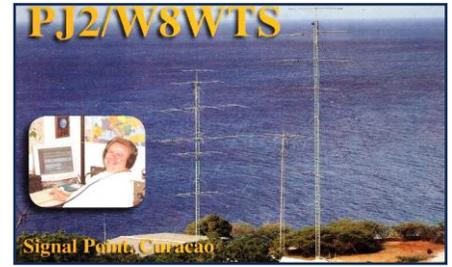
Some countries' prefixes, such as the Caribbean island country of St. Kitts, consist of a letter followed by a number. Hence, in the example St. Kitts callsign V47YB – the prefix is V4, the number is 7, and the suffix is YB.

Others may start with a reverse-type format – a number followed by a letter, such as Croatia in which the prefix is 9A. Example: 9A3JB.

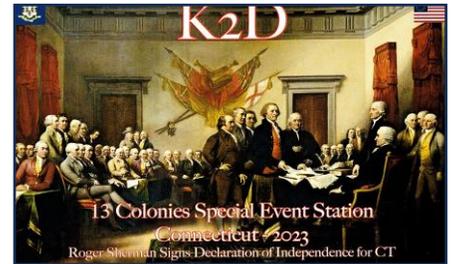
When operating with reciprocal agreements under the jurisdiction of a foreign government, an identifying station prepends the call sign with the country prefix and number of the district/territory from which the operation is occurring.

For example, I worked a U.S. licensed amateur operating from Curacao using this type of callsign format. Curacao's prefix is PJ2. So, he used the callsign PJ2/W8WTS. (Example on the following page.)

Occasionally, international special call signs are issued in the amateur radio service for temporary use to commemorate special events. For example, Haiti's prefix is HH. A normal callsign from Haiti is usually the prefix, a number, and a 2-letter suffix. However, in November 2022, the Radio Club d'Haiti was issued a Special Event callsign to commemorate the final battle of the Haitian Revolution in which the slave Haitian army defeated the French army on November 18, 1803. This battle gained Haiti its independence from France. The Special Event callsign that was used was, of course, HH18NOV. By the way DXers, in case you're wondering.....yes, I did get credit for Haiti on 3 bands that I worked this special event station on.



In the United States, special event stations occur quite often during all times of the year and commemorate, celebrate, or denote events, places of interest, historical commemorations, etc., on a local, regional or national level. Special event station callsigns are in the 1x1 format, a letter, number, and letter. Example: K2D (One of the 13 Colonies Special Event stations.)



These are just a few examples of the many types of call signs and call sign prefix/suffix combinations that exist out there nationally and internationally.

The more you operate the HF bands, the more you will get a knack in understanding them. It may seem like "alphabet soup" at first but the more you operate, the more you will develop the knowledge to differentiate these callsigns and where these stations are, that there is structure and order to each call sign you hear on the air, and the less confusing it will be for you.

A good website showing all the international callsign prefixes and other valuable information can be found at the ARRL URL:

<http://www.arrl.org/international-call-sign-series>

Now,

Go Work 'Em!

Beginning with the November 2025 issue of The Signal, we will be featuring a 4-part series on the topic of CW, or Morse code. We hope this series will stir interest in any of our club members who do not know CW, to consider enrolling and joining us in the annual BVRC CW Academy. The next BVRC CW Academy course will commence the first Monday evening in April 2025 and will be a 10 class course every other week, ending in early August.

In the meantime and for our members that have never been exposed to CW or have no conception of what it is, here is a short article to help you understand what CW is all about. We hope this short article will entice you to look forward to the feature CW series in the November Signal, where you will discover why this 180-year-old technology is still going strong on today's ham bands in light of our current technological era.

What Is CW?



In the lexicon of electronics, the acronym “CW” simply means *continuous wave*. It is a stream of radio frequency (RF) energy that never changes and never stops – at least not until you let go of the “transmit” switch. It is not modulated, which means that it carries no information.

Most of the energy in a CW signal is concentrated on just one frequency. If you turn on a transmitter and generate a CW signal at 7.030 MHz for example, much of the RF energy will be centered on that frequency. If someone with a receiver tunes across 7.030 MHz, they might hear a tone like a musical note, stable and unchanging – like someone steadily blowing a whistle.

Our hypothetical listener will lose interest in the signal pretty quickly, though. After all, it communicates nothing other than its presence.

So how do we add information to a CW signal? The easiest way is to turn it on and off for specific lengths of time. We call the longer transmissions *dashes*, and the shorter transmissions are known as *dots*. Regardless of how fast the operator is sending, a proper dash transmission should always be three times longer than a dot. Rather than speaking in terms of dots and dashes, however, most hams say “*dits*” and “*dahs*”, because those words more accurately mimic the sounds that are heard on the air.

So if a person tunes across 7.030 MHz, instead of hearing a continuous tone, they now hear a string of dits and dahs that sound like random beeps. But let's assume our listener is familiar with the coding scheme known as *International Morse code*. They hear a “dah” followed by two “dits”, and they know the combination of sounds represents the letter “D”.

Did this help your understanding of what CW basically is? Did it whet your appetite for more information on this fascinating mode? See you with our first special CW article in November!!!!

THE DXCC DEN



By Don – K5DB

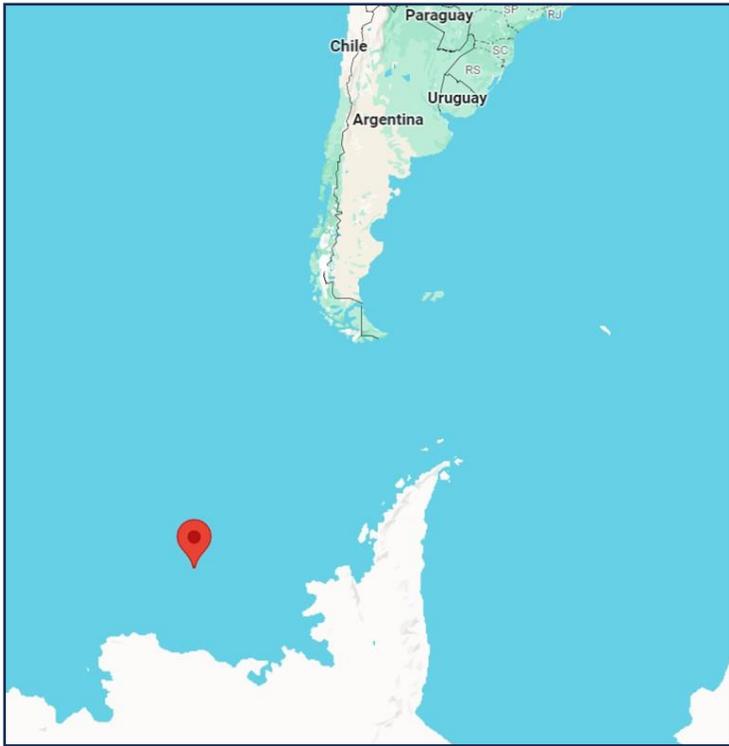
This month's featured country:



Peter 1 Island

Primary Callsign Prefix: 3Y

Peter I (Peter The First) Island is an uninhabited volcanic island in the Bellingshausen Sea, 240 miles from continental Antarctica. It is claimed as a dependency of Norway and, along with Bouvet Island and Queen Maud Land, composes one of the three Norwegian dependent territories in the Antarctic and Subantarctic. The island measures approximately 7 by 12 miles, with an area of 60 sq. miles. Its highest point is the 5,380 foot Lars Christensen Peak. Nearly all the island is covered by a glacier and it is



Location of Peter 1 Island

The island's vegetation consists exclusively of mosses and lichens which have adapted to the extreme Antarctic climate. The island has a very harsh climate with intense winds and freezing temperatures. The steady snowfall keeps vegetation to a minimum. The island is a breeding ground for a few seabirds, namely Wilson's storm petrels and Antarctic terns. Penguins visit the island infrequently.



surrounded most of the year by pack ice, making it inaccessible during these times. There is little vertebrate animal life on the island, apart from some seabirds and seals.

The first sighting of Peter I Island was made on October, 21 1821 by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen's expedition, who commanded the ships Vostok and Mirny under the Russian flag. He named the island after Czar Peter I of Russia.

Surrounding the island is a 130 foot tall ice front and vertical cliffs (see photo below). The long stretches of ice caps are supplemented with rock outcrops. Landing is only possible at three points, and only during the brief period of the year in which the island is not surrounded by pack ice.

With the extreme Antarctic climate and severe winds, amateur radio activations of Peter 1 Island have been very scarce, the last two DXpeditions occurring in 1994 and 2006.

Because it has been 18 years since the last activation, Peter 1 has once again climbed up the DXCC Most Wanted List and is currently at #7.

The 2006 DXpedition - 3YØX - activated the island for twelve days in February, with a total of 276 operating hours. They made 87,034 QSOs. The team consisted of 21 operators from the U.S., France, Martinique, Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, and Russia. The late and great Bob Allphin - K4UEE co-headed this DXpedition along with Ralph Fedor - KØIR.



Peter 1 Island aerial view



The 2006 3YØX team awaits the first helicopter transport of the equipment to construct operating shelters



Assembling one of the shelters

Since there are no feasible landing areas on Peter 1 Island, the solution to getting a ham radio team on the island caused extra expense to the DXpedition. – They chartered a ship complete with a helipad and small helicopter.

Upon arrival at the island, the helicopter made many trips back-and-forth from the ship to the operating area transporting the team, equipment, materials to build shelters, and supplies. Several other DXpeditions have had to rely on this type of operation.

After getting everyone and everything on the island, the first item of business was to, of course, build the shelters that would house the operating stations, sleeping quarters, eating and break area, etc. It was a daunting task at times to erect the shelters, with the wind speed intermittently hitting 40-70 mph.

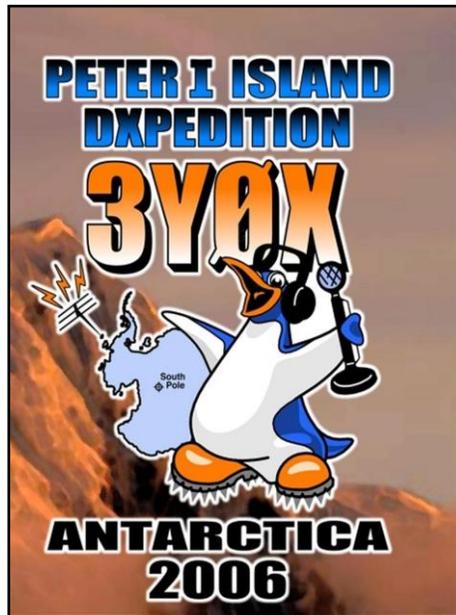
Most radio amateurs, except for those who follow DXpeditions closely, have no conception of what it takes to conduct an operation such as the one 3YØX activated.

At times, DXpedition teams must face life-threatening conditions when erecting and dismantling operating stations. This isn't a very nice reward, considering team members themselves usually contribute \$20,000-\$30,000 plus to help cover expenses for the DXpedition. (The rest of the funds for these type of operations come from donations from other individuals and/or DX organizations and clubs. Total expenses for a DXpedition such as 2006 Peter 1 Island in today's money can easily cost north of \$1.5 million.)

The main goal of any DXpedition is, of course, to get the entity on the air ASAP after arrival. So, as each shelter was constructed, a few stations were placed on the air while the remaining shelters were being constructed and raised. Dismantling was the same procedure in reverse.



The ship's helipad



Another crate of cargo arrives from the ship



With the propane heaters creating a nice and toasty shelter, one of the CW ops logs another QSO



**The treacherous approach to
Peter 1 through broken pack ice**

The most intimidating task during the DXpedition was with – you guessed it – the antennas. Several beams and verticals were used in which the team did their best to secure them to survive the horrific Antarctic winds.

But, of course, many times the antennas were either blown over from breakage in the guy lines due to the high winds, and many times damage occurred. How would you like to make a major repair on an antenna, sometimes taking hours, in a -30F or worse wind chill? Again, some hams have no conception of the daring service and sacrifice DXpedition teams make and endure.



**Along with the broken pack ice field, successful and safe
navigation around monstrous icebergs had to be performed**

After examining all aspects of the 2006 Peter 1 Island DXpedition, is it any wonder why another activation has not been mounted in 18 years?

HOWEVER, THERE IS NOW EXCITING NEWS!!!

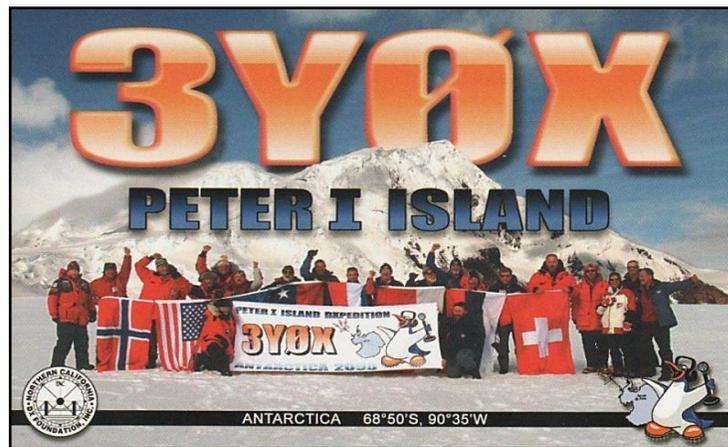
A Peter 1 Island DXpedition is in the making for 2027! (Which gives you an idea of how far ahead one of these monstrous DXpeditions must be planned.) The planned call sign will be **3YØL**. Here is the most recent information from the team:

“We plan to activate Peter I Island in February 2027 with a team of 19 operators. We will go to Peter I with a large vessel and two helicopters, and the DXpedition will be led by an external expedition leader from an Antarctica Expedition company – Spirit of Sydney. The capacity of the expedition leader and the vessel have been reviewed and approved by Norwegian Polar Institute and is the basis for the landing permit we received in April 2024.

Our expedition leader, Ken-LA7GIA has supported more than 80+ expeditions to Antarctica and has previously landed on Peter I three times. With the landing permit and external resources involved, we’re ready to move forward signing the contracts.

It should be noted that the total cost of this expedition is approximately \$2,000,000, including all logistics, marine, aviation, insurance, safety and rescue, and Antarctica permits. Our website will be updated to reflect the changes. At the time of activation in 2027 it will be 21 years since the last DXpedition to this island.”

If you want more information, here is the link to their website: <https://3y0l.com/>. It seems like a long way away, but hang in there...2027 will be here before you know it and if you’ve never worked this rare DXCC entity, this will be your chance.



My 3YØX QSL from the 2006 DXpedition



Coming soon to a frequency near you!

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