



THE SIGNAL

NEWSLETTER OF THE BELLA VISTA AREA RADIO

Arkansas' Largest Amateur Radio Club

- February Program – The IARU
- Sad Loss – Three BVRC members now SKs
- Final Membership Dues Reminder For 2025
- EXPERIMENTER'S CORNER –
Buck Converters
- WINTER FIELD DAY 2025
- BVRC Special Event Station Announcement
- A Simple 10-Meter Antenna
- What Are Deleted Entities?
- Amateur Radio Emergency
Preparedness Act Re-Introduced



March 2025

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, March 6, 2025 @ 7pm
Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy
3424 S. Downum Road
Springdale, AR

March Meeting Information

HAM 101 Workshop, 6pm preceding monthly meeting – For March, the Workshop will be in the capable hands of past BVRC President and current Membership Director Tom Northfell – W5XNA. Tom's topic will be "What is LOTW and what is Club Log?" These two programs are a vital part of DX operating. Whether you're a DXer or not, you can expand your amateur radio knowledge with this great program. If you're not a DXer, it will probably whet your appetite to become one!

BVRC March meeting, 7pm – A special treat is in store for all March meeting attendees as we welcome Grace Papay – K8LG from Holland, MI. Grace is one of many highly active teenage ham operators in the U.S. Since passing her Technician exam in March of 2021, she now holds the Amateur Extra license. She has learned and now works CW, and has operated in a plethora of modes and events from satellite operation to VHF/UHF operation, to contesting, and DXing. She is only 5 grid squares away from acquiring the coveted Fred Fish Memorial Award, has acquired her Worked All States and DXCC awards, various contest awards, and was bestowed the 2024 Amateur Radio Newline Young Ham of the Year award. Grace's topic will be "Contesting From A Youth's Perspective". Grace has given many interviews on various blogs and podcasts, and her presentation for the club will be something you won't want to miss. Grace will be joining us virtually via video hookup.

SEE YOU THEN!



BOARD MEMBERS

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From the desk of

the *President*



AMATEUR RADIO, SOFTWARE, AND YOU

During March, our club's HAM 101 Workshop will focus on two software tools to assist amateurs in making QSL contacts with other amateurs across the country and the world. In addition, our HAM 101 Net on Tuesday night has now implemented software to assist our net control operators in keeping track of those logging into our net and also allowing those logged in to see net progress in real time.

These developments got me to reminiscing about how different operating an amateur radio station is today from my experience several decades ago.

Back in the 1970's and 80's when I first became a licensed amateur radio operator, there were very few tools and aides to assist amateurs in finding and logging contacts, learning about other amateur operators and finding active amateur stations on the air.

Besides the ARRL blank paper log book, QSL cards that were sent and received, and information in issues of QST that listed DXpeditions, special event stations and other planned operations, there was little else available to find activity on the bands and amateurs were left to basically "twist the dials" to find active signals on the bands. What you knew about other amateurs outside your own community came from the information shared on QSL cards exchanged with other hams.

With the development of the personal computer and the internet, the amateur radio experience has become much more enhanced. Information about fellow hams throughout the world, band activity across all bands, and information to assist amateurs in all aspects of operating their stations has become commonplace through the use of software and internet websites.

I thought it might be useful for our new amateur operators in the club to provide a brief overview of a few software and internet tools that are representative of the kinds of tools available to help new hams, which are found on the following page. These are only a few of the myriad of software and internet sites that supplement our exciting hobby.

Examples of Logging tools to document and list contacts:

N3FJP Amateur Contact Log: [N3FJP's Amateur Radio Software](#)

HAMRS: <https://hamrs.app/>

Hunterlog: [HunterLog - krinkl3's docsite](#)

Examples to find information about the hobby and about other amateur operators:

QRZ: [Callsign Database - QRZ.com](#)

Radio QTH: [RadioQTH Amateur Radio Vanity License Search](#)

Examples to find other amateur operators currently active on the air:

Parks On The Air: [Parks on the Air | POTA](#)

DX summit: [DXSummit.fi](#)

DX heat: [DXHeat | DXCluster & DX Research Tool](#)

Examples of software and websites to monitor net operations:

Ham.live: [Ham.Live - Intro](#)

Netlogger: [NetLogger - Amateur Radio Logging Program](#)

Examples of software tools to program radios and reach repeaters across the country:

Repeaterbook: [RepeaterBook.com: Quick Search](#)

Echolink: [Introducing EchoLink](#)

Chirp: [Home - CHIRP](#)

VERY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTS SUPER INFORMATIVE PROGRAM ON THE I A R U



BVRC members were treated to a topic never before presented to the club for the February 2025 meeting, as our good friend from Searcy, AR, Joel Harrison – W5ZN, stepped up to the podium to acquaint meeting attendees to a very important aspect of the amateur radio hobby.

Joel's subject was, "The International Amateur Radio Union – Keeping Amateur Radio On The Air For Over 100 Years". Joel is a Past President of ARRL, current President of the Arkansas DX Association, and – currently and most importantly – Secretary of the IARU, the International Amateur Radio Union. All of us residing in this state can be immensely proud that we have a fellow Arkansan serving in such a huge responsibility and capacity.

As a foundation for his presentation, Joel asked the meeting room, "Who allocates the frequencies ham operators in the United States use?" Most everyone answered that it was the FCC. Joel surprised most of the members by informing them, that it is *not* the FCC. – It is the ITU, the International Telecommunications Union.





Joel – W5ZN

This is a very important item that many radio amateurs do not realize. Yes, the FCC does have an element of involvement with the amateur radio frequencies in the U.S. – they *regulate* them. – But...they do not *allocate* them.

The ITU is the governing body and the 'kingpin' of what frequency is allocated (assigned, granted) to any communications entity/organization in the world. It is they who award or remove frequencies for amateur radio, broadcast radio, satellites, radar, etc. When it comes to regulation in the U.S. or any other country in the world, this is where the IARU – the International Amateur Radio Union – comes in. A very important point to remember is the IARU reports to the ITU.

The ITU consists of 194 member countries. Each country has one vote. So, the U.S. has no more influence in the ITU than Sri Lanka does. – It has one vote. The ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Within the ITU building itself is housed the ITU Headquarters amateur radio station, 4U1ITU. (Perhaps some of you members have worked it.) The ITU oversees 40 different licensed radio services (some were mentioned in the previous paragraph).

The IARU is a member of the ITU, but because it is an organization and not a country, it does not vote, but can advise *if* one of its ham members is also a member of the delegation of a country.

Joel shared that there are two types of allocations: Primary and Secondary. If a radio service is granted a Primary allocation within a given frequency range, and Secondary radio service that shares the same range must yield to the Primary if they cause interference. (Some of you may remember a question on your license exam referring to this topic.)

Joel then gave one of the prime examples of this scenario. – Any ham who has operated in the phone portion of the 40-meter band is well acquainted with the foreign broadcast stations that also share can be heard anywhere from 7.200 MHz to the top end of the ham band, 7.300 MHz. They share that band segment with us. Some years previous, they could be heard from 7.100 to 7.300 MHz. (The entire amateur 40-meter is from 7.000-7.300 MHz.) However, in recent years the ITU removed the operating allocation for foreign broadcast stations from 7.100-7.200 MHz, which gave radio amateurs a welcomed relief for that extra 100 kHz.

So from that scenario (any many others involving other radio services), it is evident that the ITU indeed 'calls the shots' as to who is allowed to operate on a given frequency or frequency spread.

Joel also advised that when it comes to the ITU and the radio frequency spectrum:

- It is in ever increasing demand
- It is traded at very high prices
- There is constant pressure on users to release the spectrum
- Amateur radio cannot purchase/buy spectrum

Joel advised members spectrum allocation in the past was fairly easy, but things are vastly different today. When making a ruling on an allocation(s), the decision of the ITU must be by *consensus*, meaning that yes...each country has a vote, but it must be 100% for or 100% against (consensus). This means that just one stubborn country can block or delay an allocation or other point of business. The ITU meets at each World Radiocommunication Conference, which is held every 4 years. The last WRC was held in 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. WRC-27 will be held in China.



So basically, what is the IARU? Joel said it is the “umbrella” federation of national amateur radio societies throughout the world. It consists of Region 1 (Europe, European and Asiatic Russia, and Africa), Region 2 (the Americas), Region 3 (Asia, southeast Asia, and Oceania), and the International Secretariat (the ARRL).

Joel said the way you can help support the IARU is *joining or renewing your membership to your national IARU member society – the ARRL.*

He also advised, “Your ARRL membership is critically important. There is no other organization in the United States – NONE – that promotes and defends the amateur radio service at the FCC, in Congress, and many other agencies and organizations. Internationally, ARRL is a vital member of the International Amateur Radio Union team defending amateur radio at the International Telecommunications Union and at World Radiocommunication Conferences that have the authority to take the radio spectrum, shuffle it like a deck of cards, and hand it out to whoever they see fit.



Let me state this one more time – there is no other organization in the United States that does this – NONE! If amateur radio is important to you, then ARRL should be just as important. Collectively, the ARRL board reaches decisions based on member input and has maintained a strong amateur radio service for over 110 years.”

Joel, thanks so much for another stellar program. Anytime you would like to visit us again, the door's open. We look forward to another great program from you in the future!

It is with deep regret we record the passing of three esteemed BVRC members:

In Memoriam Hugh Maddox-WAØTDQ



(Photos and contribution by Ron Evans – K5XK)

Sadly, I have learned and would like to share that BVRC's oldest surviving club member, Hugh E. Maddox - WAØTDQ, is a Silent Key. Hugh passed away about a year ago, *just weeks after his 100th birthday*, on February 27, 2024.

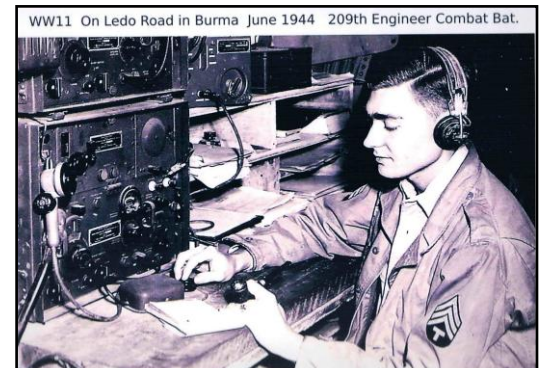
Hugh joined the United States Army during World War II, on February 5th, 1943. He served, with the 209th Combat Engineers Headquarters Communications Detachment, in the China-Burma-India Theater for 27 months, during the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign. For his service, Hugh was awarded 2 Bronze Service Stars. He was honorably discharged on December 1, 1945.

He was a member of the Amalgamated Lithographers of America and worked in the graphic arts and printing industry for more than 35 years. He started as an Apprentice Process Cameraman and retired in 1984 as Plant Manager.

You may remember that Hugh made a substantial donation of his HF and VHF/UHF gear and antennas to BVRC two years ago. Vinson – WV5C incorporated much of it into an excellent go-box for the club.

Steve Werner – K5SAW and I helped him with antennas after he moved to Neosho from NW Arkansas a few years ago. Hugh checked into BVRC's Sunday afternoon roundtable a few times afterward, but because of his weak voice, continued to prefer digital modes until he moved into assisted living. He was one of the backbones of the club for many years, rotating through all leadership positions.

--- RIP, Hugh





In Memoriam

John Hansen
AB5UN

(Contributed by Ron Evans – K5XK)

John R. Hansen, aged 94, became a Silent Key on November 19, 2024, in Manteo, North Carolina. Born on August 8, 1930, in Chicago IL, John led a life marked by dedication, service, and exploration.

John honorably served his country as a sergeant in the United States Air Force, displaying a steadfast commitment to duty that characterized much of his life. After his service, he pursued higher education and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. This achievement paved the way for a long and fulfilling career with AT&T, where he dedicated 34 years before retiring. A man of broad horizons and adventurous spirit, John traveled extensively, experiencing diverse cultures and landscapes that enriched his perspective on the world.

Shortly after moving to Bella Vista from Chicago, John was another original founder of BVRC, which was first known as the Bella Vista Repeater Group.

John's son, John F. Hansen – WØIL, writes, "I think both my mom and dad moved to Bella Vista in the early 90's. Before moving to BV, they traveled in a 5th wheel around the US for several years before building their home in BV.

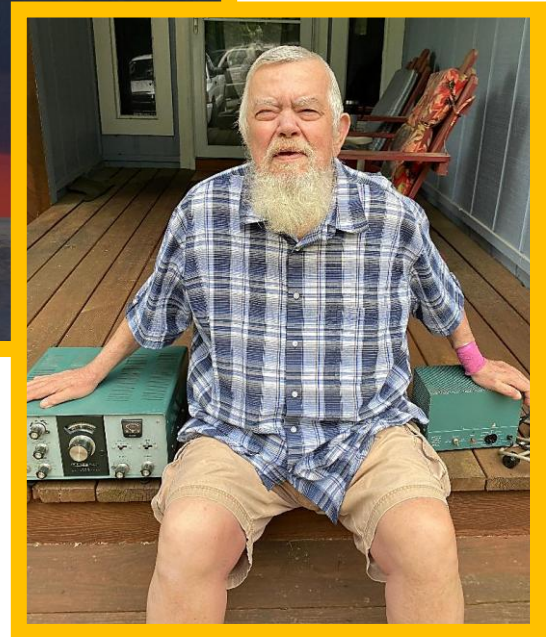
He became interested in amateur radio in the early 90's. I told him it was a good way for us to communicate back and forth, so he got licensed. His first call sign was KI5GM, Advanced class, then he upgraded to AB5UN on or before 2014."



(Photos courtesy Ron Evans – K5XK)

In later years, John was a regular at the BVRC Saturday breakfasts in Bella Vista, prior to relocating to NC to live with family. We appreciate John's son for supplying a portion of the information contained in this tribute.
--- RIP, John

(A big thanks to Ron-K5XK for supplying us with the information on these two very noteworthy members.)



(Photo courtesy Rick Pope – KG5MWG.)

Neil Poff – K5NKP of Rogers became a Silent Key on December 24, 2024. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1947. His XYL, Dorothy, preceded him in death just several months previous in March, 2024.

He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, trout fishing, going to the gun range, motorcycling, western movies, and of course, amateur radio. Neil was also musically inclined as he played the clarinet through high school, played keyboards, flute, and sang in a rock band for many years.

He began his career with York Borg Warner as a HVAC mechanic/engineer and eventually retired from GEA FES as a HVAC/Refrigeration salesman.

He had resided in northwest Arkansas for many years, and was a familiar voice on the repeaters as well as the Sunday afternoon 3830 Roundtable. Besides HF and VHF/UHF, Neil also enjoyed CW and was constantly working on improving his code proficiency and speed. His friendly voice will be missed on the air as well as his always cordial presence at club meetings. --- RIP, Neil.





A reminder for everyone wanting to keep their BVRC memberships current for the coming year and have not as yet done so, 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: almarc11@yahoo.com. 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 **FREE**. You will also receive a handsome BVRC Lifetime Member certificate suitable for framing.*

The BVRC membership form and other essential information is included on the BVRC website club membership page. To view the page, click [here](#).

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



BVRC

Monthly Programs Needed

Would you like to present an amateur radio-related program at a club meeting? Or would you like to suggest an interesting topic for a presentation? Contact:

**Jan - WB5JAN at janhagan51@gmail.com,
Joe Hott - W5AEN at joe.hott@gmail.com,
or any Club officer (see page 2 of this issue)**





**Extra! Extra!
Welcome New
BVRC Members!**

- Phil Harris – W1PIX – Bentonville**
- John Benningfield – KEØOHC – Anderson, MO**
- Ben Rabicoff – W8RAB – Bentonville**
- James Morphew – Lincoln**
- William Rowland – KJ5KCQ – Harrison**
- Jon Fausett – KJ5KBK – Berryville**
- Joseph Payne – KJ5JSK - Fayetteville**



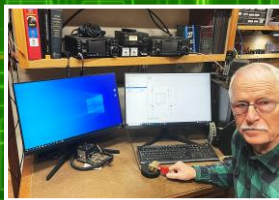
On November 25, 1905, the Electro Importing Company created and published the first-ever advertisement for an amateur radio set. It was named the Telimco, appeared in Scientific American, sold for \$8.50, and was guaranteed to work up to one mile.



WIRELESS TELEGRAPH
 The "Telimco" Complete Outfit, comprising 1 inch Spark Coil, Strap Key, Sender, Sensitive Relay, Coherer, with Automatic Decoherer and Sounder, 4 Ex. Strong Dry Cells, all necessary wiring, including send and catch wires, with full instructions and diagrams, \$8.50. Guaranteed to work up to one mile. Send for Illust. Pamphlet & 64-page catalogue.
ELECTRO IMPORTING CO., 32 Park Place, New York

EXPERIMENTER'S CORNER

By Bill Durham – KG5ZCI



THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: BUCK CONVERTERS

I have been working on bringing an Atwater Kent Model 20 back to life for quite a while. The radio was sold in the mid-1920s and was battery operated. It required 3 good sized batteries to operate. Keep in mind that this is a tube radio with filaments for each tube so the current demand is well over 1 amp. One of the batteries was 4.5 V and the other two were 45 V. These were connected in such a way as to provide -4.5 V for the filaments, 22.5 volts for the detector (UX200A) and 90 volts to four tubes (UV201A).



**The Atwater Kent Model 20
with original factory speaker**

Operating the radio with batteries was out of the question from the beginning because of the potential expense of reasonably short-lived batteries. So, the first problem was to build a suitable power supply to eliminate the need for a battery.

This is the subject of this month's column.....

On the following page, Figure 1 is a top view of the final product.

Figure 2 is a close up of the -4.5 volt and 22.5 volts buck converters (bottom and top respectively) which is the actual topic of this month's column.

Figure 3 shows the bottom layer with the transformers for each voltage. Isolation from the line ground is often a problem with old radios I have had some "fireworks" because of this in the past.

In the Atwater, the positive side of the 4.5 volt supply is connected to the common for the 22.5 and 90 volt supplies. This is the reason for the three transformers. Each transformer provides an isolated output to a simple bridge rectifier with a filter capacitor shown in the schematic (Figure 4)*. The first transformer (far left) is a common 6.3 volts transformer capable of providing 3-4 amps (these typically were used for filaments tube radios).

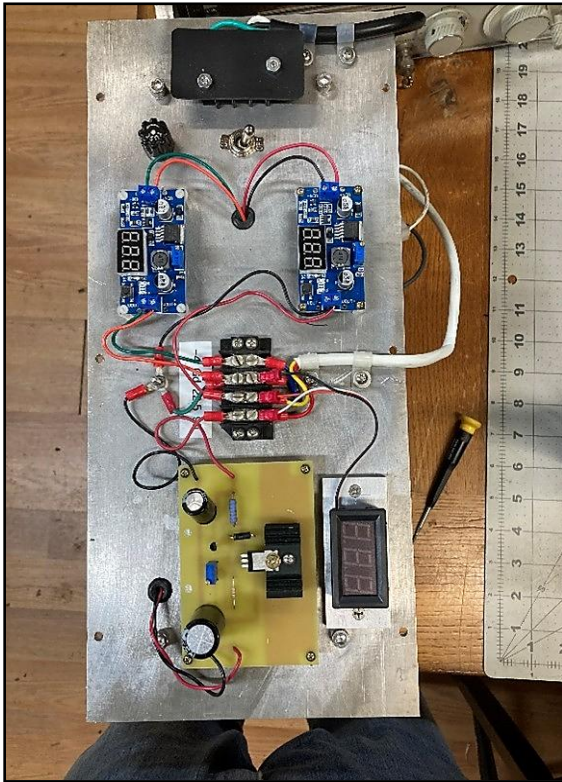


Figure 1

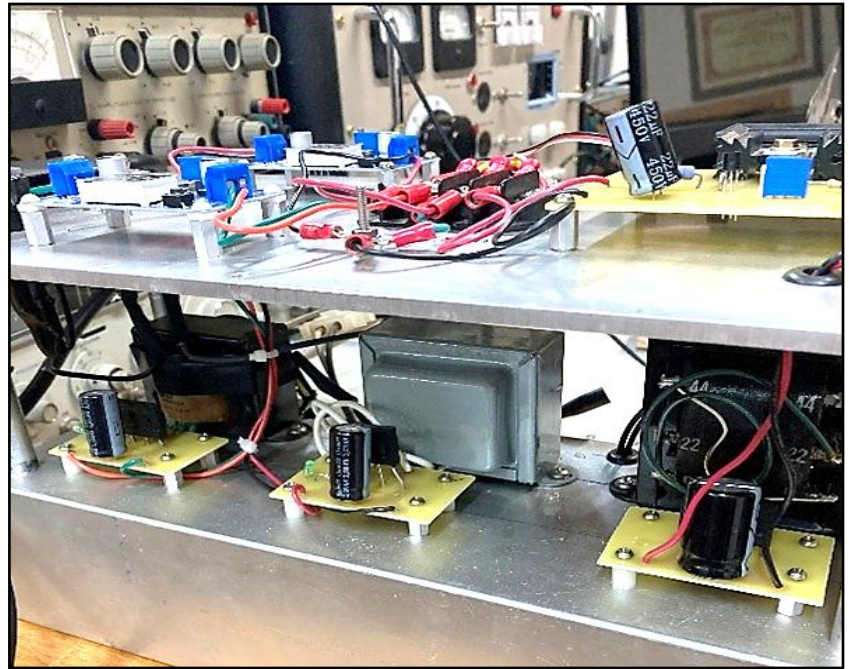


Figure 3

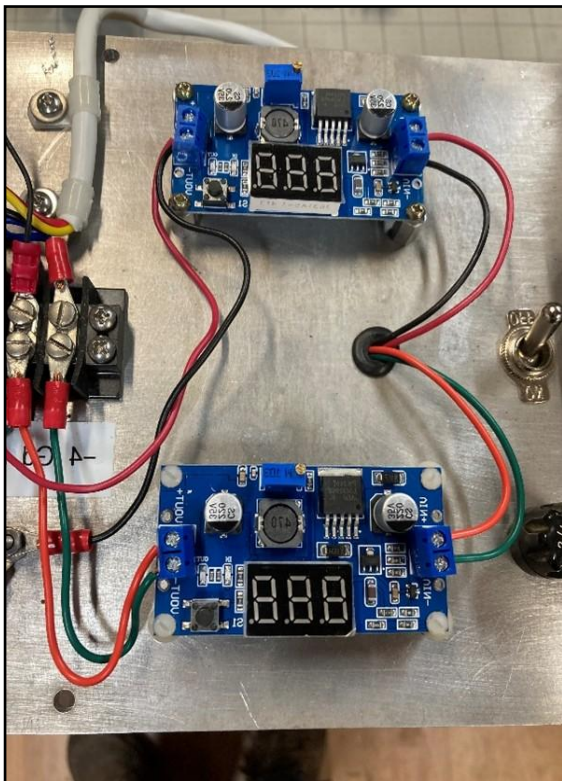


Figure 2

As you can see in Figure 2, the buck converters include digital voltmeters. The cost is amazing, 3 for a little over \$10. They are usually described as LM 2596 for the chip that is the heart of the device. These devices will operate with up to 40 VDC input and provide a variable output up to about 35 VDC minus 1.5 V below the input. The 1.5 V is called the overhead. The current maximum is 3 amps or conservatively 2.5 for extended operation.

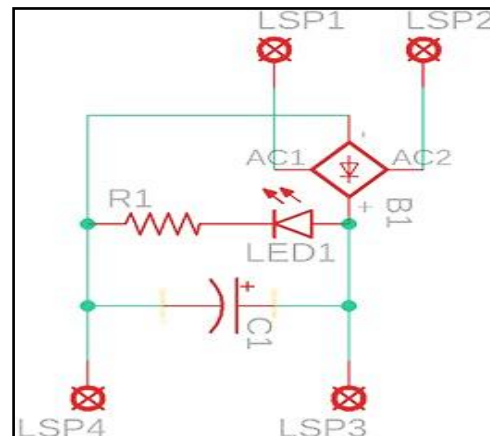


Figure 4

They are relatively new to the market and operate with about 93% efficiency. In the past, power supplies were generally constructed with simple voltage regulators like an LM7505. They satisfied the industry for years and had short circuit protection built in. However, they were not very efficient. If you applied say 12 volts you got a solid 5 volts out. However, the excess voltage was dissipated as heat so heat sinks were required. This translates into about 7 watts of power if the current was 1 amp.

Buck converters do not dissipate the power as heat. Instead, they operate more like a switching power supply by first converting the input voltage into a high frequency series of pulses. Manipulation of the pulses provide the variable output voltage after smoothing and filtering. In other words, they make whatever is needed, and no extra. There is some discussion of noisy operation in the literature, but I have not had a problem in that area as yet.

In my application, I shopped around a bit to find suitable transformers that were within the tolerable input voltage range for the converters and not too close to the maximum.

Unfortunately, 90 volts is way above the available buck converters so I went with a MOSFET regulator circuit. If you look closely at the photo you can see the MOSFET mounted on a heat sink. I chose the transformer carefully in order to get an input voltage close to the required output. With 5 tubes operating with a total current of under 100 mA there is no obvious heating. Please note the simplicity of this circuit which can be used to provide a variable output voltage up to 400 VDC if a larger transformer is used.

Where else might a buck converter be used? Consider, for example, that you have an accessory requiring 5 VDC or a wall wart and it is an accessory to your transceiver which is using 13.8 volts or a battery. You could hook up the converter to the radio supply, adjust the output to 5 volts, and you are ready to move on to the next problem. The current capacity of LM2596 based converters is about 3 amps which is more than adequate for most accessories (except maybe a large power amplifier). There are boost converters as well but that is a story for another column.

* I made a printed circuit board for the bridge circuit and expect to use it again in the future. James Bennet – KA5DVS, has agreed to help me get some commercial boards made and I may have extras if you have need of one. The bridge is good for several hundred volts with proper choice of capacitor and LED current limiting.

(Look for more great experimenter articles by Dr. Bill in upcoming Signal issues!)

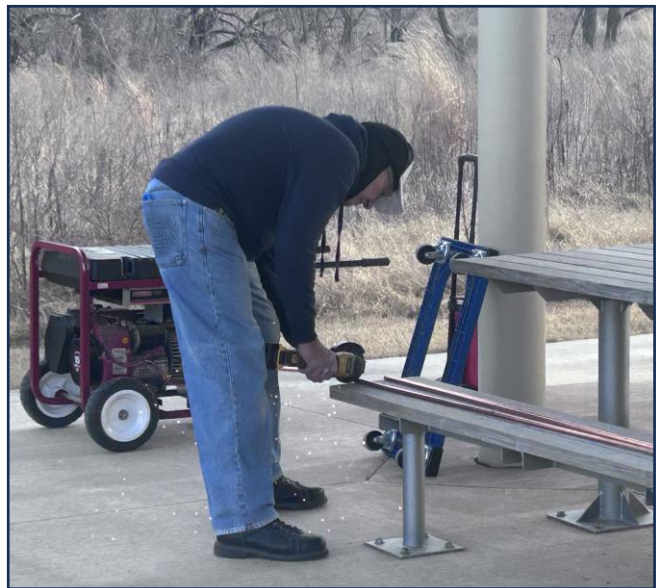
WINTER FIELD DAY 2025

A group comprised of BVRC members and visitors braved the winter elements to conduct another fun and successful Winter Field Day 2025 operation. They setup their WFD site at the Ozark Highlands Nature Center in Springdale.

The team consisted of Nathan Spears – KEØVPI, Rick Pope – KG5MWG, BVRC Social Media Coordinator Alex Smith – KI5EQK, Daniel Hayes – KJ5HCO, and Matthew Barlow – W5VO.

Alex shared that the group had a very enjoyable time, and had many visitors come by the operating site. All team members received a handsome Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts. Great work guys!

Here are some photos of their good-looking setup:



**KE0VPI
EM26VG**

log start	25-Jan-2025, 18.31			
log end	26-Jan-2025, 19.00			
operating period	1 days 0 hours 29 min			
operating time	14 hours 54 min			
off time	9 hours 35 min			
Σ QSOs	73			
CW	2			
Phone	69			
Digi	2			
Band	QSO	CW	Phone	Digi
80m	3	0	3	0
40m	31	0	31	0
20m	10	0	8	2
15m	15	2	13	0
10m	13	0	13	0
2m	1	0	1	0
Σ Gridsquares	52			
Σ Gridfields	10			
Σ Countries	2			



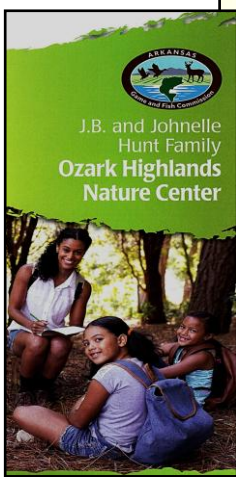
EXCITING NEWS!

BVRC POTA & Special Event Station Coming In April !!!

The Bella Vista area Radio Club leadership team announces a Parks On The Air and Special Event Station day for all club members!

**Where: J.B. & Johnelle Hunt Family Ozark Highlands Nature Center
3400 N. 40th Street, Springdale AR**

When: Saturday, April 19, 2025 – Event runs from 9am-6pm, local time



This special club event will be two-fold: 1) A Special Event Station celebrating the 5th anniversary of the nature center, and 2) The activation of this Parks On The Air park (POTA # US-11951). There will be two modes: SSB and FT8. There will be three stations running, two on SSB and one on FT8. ANY club member can operate regardless of their license class (Technicians – here's your chance for some HF fun!) The club call W5NX will be used for this event.

Food will be provided for lunch, but bring your choice of beverage (non-alcoholic). Aside from the operating fun, you can tour the beautiful nature center which is administered by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. **ADMISSION IS FREE!** Mark your calendar now and we'll see you there!



BVRC VE REPORT

**From Don Cooper – KC7DC
BVRC VE Coordinator
February, 2025**



Congratulations!

Dillon Foust – KJ5KBY – Bentonville – New Technician!

Nathan Johnson – KJ5KBZ – Bentonville – New Technician!

Bill Rowland – KJ5KCQ – Harrison – New Technician!

Jon Fausett – KJ5KBK – Berryville – New Technician!

Next month's test sessions:

- Mar. 8, 10 am – Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale**
- Mar. 8, 2 pm – Bella Vista Public Library, 11 Dickens Place, Bella Vista**



A SIMPLE 10-METER ANTENNA



FOR SOLAR CYCLE 25 & BEYOND

For our newcomer Technicians and our newly upgraded General and/or Amateur Extra club members, Solar Cycle 25 is almost half completed. It will peak roughly in July of 2025. That means band conditions will continue to improve until that time, and will remain good for 3-4 years after the peak before beginning to diminish.

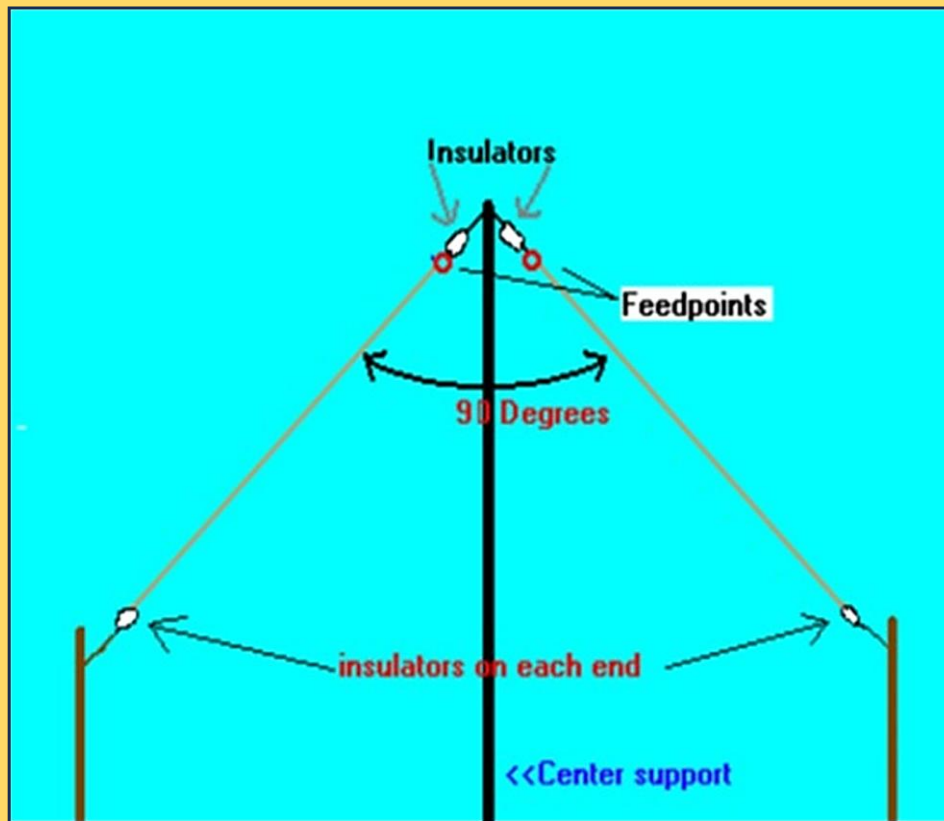
The 10-meter band is one of the most exciting bands to operate, mainly because it doesn't take much power to communicate around the globe and you can purchase an antenna for this band at a decent price, or even build your own with relative ease at an even greater cost savings.

Ten meters basically lives or dies according the sunspot cycle. It is also basically a daytime band with propagation decreasing to nothing around sunset or so. For the previous several decades, propagation on the 10-meter band has been relatively short due to the previous sub-par solar cycles: North America and sometimes half-decent openings to the Caribbean and South America. But right now, Cycle 25 is being exceptionally good to us and 10 meters is on fire. With 100 watts or less, on any mode, communication worldwide is very possible.

Technicians, a special shout-out to you to let you know that you can operate 10-meters on any mode: CW, SSB (Phone), and even FT8. (Note: *This is the only HF band that you're Technician license allows you to operate SSB and FT8 on.* To operate this mode on the other HF bands, you will need to upgrade your license. But what fun and excitement you *can* experience on 10 meters!)

If you wish to give 10 meters a try, you need to strike while the iron is hot and the solar cycle is peaking.

Here is a simple but great little 10-meter inverted-V antenna that you can build if you choose:



You will need a pipe, tv mast, pole, or other type of solid center support. (I would not use PVC for the center support. It is too flimsy.) The taller, the better – at least 20-30 feet. If that isn't feasible for you, at the extreme you could go with a 10-15' support but your antenna performance will be sacrificed.

You should also have two supports on the ends of the antenna legs standing out of the ground at least 8 feet, the primary reason for this being SAFETY. This will prevent any contact with the antenna. (Here is where PVC would work, as the supports do not have to bear any significant weight.) Using eyebolts at the top of the supports will work will to tie your antenna rope to, for each leg. Be sure these supports are far enough apart so that the two legs of the antenna are 90 degrees apart.

Now for the antenna itself:

Start with two wires 8.3 feet in length. Then trim the wires to make the resonance, in other words a 1:1 SWR (Standing Wave Ratio), occur at 28.250 MHz. You can use an antenna analyzer to obtain this frequency resonance, or you can conduct a trial-and-err session using the SWR meter on your radio. Trim the antenna in very short cuts, not more than an inch off each leg at a time. (Or, fold the wire back over the main leg and wrap around the leg.) When you arrive at resonance at 28.250 MHz, you're ready for 10-meter excitement! This inverted vee works on the entire 28.000 to 28.500 MHz Technician 10-meter allocation.

As previously stated, you can now operate all modes available to all amateurs in that allocation. You will work stations both inside and outside the U.S..... And that is really cool!!!

(Again, if you choose to purchase a pre-made 10 meter dipole, you can find those on most major dealer websites and also E-bay.)



WHAT ARE DXCC DELETED ENTITIES?

By Don – K5DB

If you currently, or in the future plan to, participate in the ARRL DX Century Club awards program, you can view the rules on the ARRL website [here](#). The rules for DXCC are extensive and quite lengthy, but..... simply and ‘in a nutshell’:

To earn your first DXCC award, you must *work and confirm* a minimum of 100 DXCC entities (countries). Currently there are 340 entities on the DXCC list. (To view the list, click [here](#).)

The reason a country is technically termed an ‘entity’ is because there are many political regions, principalities, and islands throughout the world who are technically not a country such as the United States, but they do possess their own governing body and sovereignty. A prime example would be Vatican City. Vatican City is not Italy. It is its own principality with its own amateur radio call sign prefix and has its own governing body headed by the President, in this case the Pope. (“I” is the prefix for Italy, “HV” is the prefix for Vatican City.) There are many other locales with this same type of political structure. This is why the term ‘entity’ is widely used in DXCC terminology.

Working DXCC entities is much the same as pursuing the Worked-All-States award. – The more entities you work and confirm after working your first 100, the harder it gets. However, do not become discouraged with the challenge of adding more and more new countries to your statistics. It does become more difficult, but *it is not impossible*. That’s the fun and rewarding satisfaction you experience from accomplishing this feat. Remember – if it was easy, everybody would be doing it. The main word to utilize should you become interested in attaining QSOs and confirmations with all the different entities is **PATIENCE**. Pileups will definitely test your patience and perseverance, but do not become discouraged. – Stay with it, hang in there, and you will eventually contact and receive credit for the particular countries/entities you’re needing.

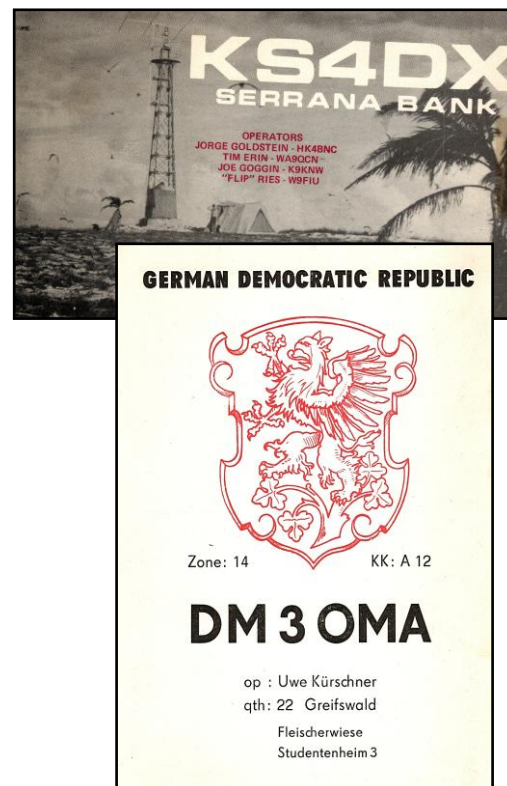
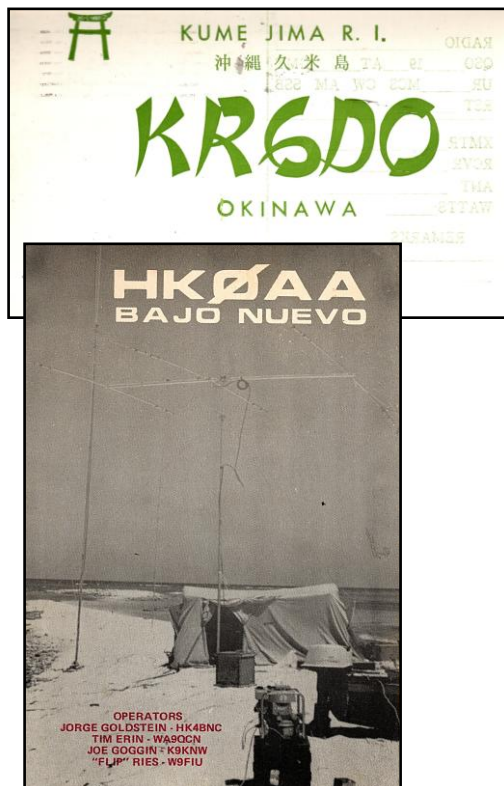
I have discussed this brief synopsis of DXCC to bring us to this article’s topic of discussion – *deleted entities*.

Deleted entities are just that – they have been deleted from the current DXCC entities list. To be added to the DXCC list, an entity must meet the DXCC rules criteria.

So, why does an entity become deleted? Due to the passage of time and the change in geographical location as well as administrative and political changes, some entities no longer can meet the criteria set forth in the DXCC rules under which they were added. Hence, they are deleted from the list. Since DXCC’s inception in 1945, 62 entities have been deleted.

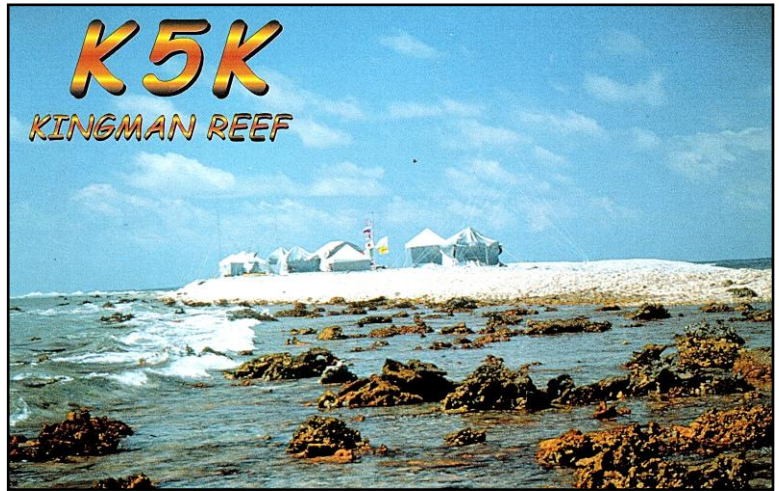
But do not lose heart! Just because an entity you worked has been deleted, the ruling is basically simple: It will REMAIN on your lifetime confirmation list, but it will no longer count as a CURRENT confirmed entity. In other words, while no longer current, the entities on the deleted list can still be used towards the DXCC awards that are noted in Section I rule 1 (a-q) of the rules. However, deleted entities do not count towards Honor Roll, Honor Roll #1, 5-Band DXCC, or the DXCC Challenge, because these awards are based on the operator's confirmations that are on the current DXCC entity list. There are 340 entities on the current list.

As an example, I have pursued the DXCC award and endorsements since I was first licensed when I was 13 in 1969. My DXCC statistics are still quite modest compared to other DXers in the U.S. I am still working on confirming new countries on new bands and modes all the time (ha). Still, my lifetime entity/country count is currently 325. However, in the past decades I have operated, I've worked 10 countries that have been deleted from the current active DXCC list, which leaves me with 315. Therefore, to achieve DXCC Honor Roll – which is working a minimum of 331 of the 340 entities – I still have 16 countries left to work and confirm. I am presently 69 years old and still hoping I can achieve the DXCC Honor Roll before I check-out of this ol' world, but of course, this is problematical, ha. I am still happy and pleased with what I have achieved thus far. Again, my stats are fairly modest. BVRC has quite a few members that have achieved the Honor Roll. Indeed, some of them have worked all 340 entities! (By the way, working all of the current entities garners the Honor Roll #1 award.) Many veteran hams across the country have 20-60+ deleted entities to their credit.



Shown above are some QSL cards from entities which are now deleted that I have worked in years past. One example is the DM3OMA card from the German Democratic Republic (GDR). This is the old East Germany from the years before the fall of communism in Russia and eastern Europe, when there was an East (communist) and West (free) Germany. East and West Germany are now the combined country of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). When communism fell and caused political change, the GDR became a deleted entity.

Another one of my QSL cards is the interesting card from Kingman Reef. It is interesting because it is the most currently deleted entity.



The DXCC awards committee voted to delete it from the list on Mar. 29, 2016. The reason for the deletion (as mentioned earlier) was due to an administrative change. The reef had been administered by both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but the Navy relinquished the administrative rights, which left control of Kingman Reef with the USFWS. Because the USFWS became the sole administrative organization of the reef, it then fell under the jurisdiction of the USFWS, which caused it to change status and become a similar USFWS managed entity along with other islands in the area – Palmyra and Jarvis Islands. Per the DXCC rules, to be included on the DXCC list as an island, one of the parameters is that the island be a minimum of 800 kilometers (about 500 miles) from any other separate island entity. Since it was now under USFWS control, Kingman Reef was now too close to USFWS controlled Palmyra Island, to count as a separate DXCC entity. Therefore, it lost the criteria of why it was added to the current DXCC list and was deleted. The reef is now considered part of the Palmyra/Jarvis DXCC entity.

For you newcomers to the DXCC program (or at least since 2016) and in my opinion, I don't see you having to delete an entity you've worked from your countries list anytime soon. In fact, we may see just the reverse when referring to the current DXCC list, and possibly history in the making – the return of a DXCC entity to the list that was previously deleted.

What I am referring to is the Panama Canal Zone.

My QSL from the U.S. Canal Zone in 1970 is shown below. In those days, the canal zone was designated by the call sign prefix "KZ5". Z for "zone", of course. Hence the operator's call sign KZ5CLN.



The current political dialog indicates the U.S. might possibly in the future take back control of the canal zone. Of course, none of us know how this scenario would transpire. However, if control of the canal zone were actually to return to the U.S., it would become a "new" entity for many DXers.

If and when that would occur, the final determination would fall on the shoulders of the DXCC awards committee, of course. Just my speculation.....who knows?

FROM



.....

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced

U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Representatives August Pfluger, R-Tex., and Joe Courtney, D-Conn. announced their joint re-introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to restore the right to amateur radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities.

Homeowner association rules often prevent amateur radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though amateur radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters, such as hurricanes, when other means of communication fail.

“Mississippians should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death,” Senator Wicker said. “The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires.”

“When disaster strikes, amateur radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn’t be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusiasts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies,” said Senator Blumenthal.

“Natural disasters and other emergency situations that hinder our regular lines of communication are unfortunately unavoidable, which is why we must bolster our emergency preparedness by removing the barriers amateur radio operators often run into when installing antennas. Amateur radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times. My district is home to dozens of
(cont. next page)

amateur radio operators ready to volunteer in the event of an emergency, and I am proud to lead this legislation,” said Congressman August Pfluger.

“As we know from recent natural disasters, amateur radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities’ best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we’ve taken a strong step in that direction,” said Congressman Courtney.

Background:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094 and S. 459) would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed amateur radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban, prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station antennas. Homeowner associations have often prevented installation and use of such antennas through private land use restrictions. This has hindered voluntary training for emergency situations and blocked access to necessary communications when disaster strikes.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that would prevent or ban amateur radio antennas;
- Specify an approval process for installing amateur radio antennas;
- Provide a Federal private right of action to amateur radio operators in disputed cases.

On behalf of America’s amateur radio licensees, Rick Roderick-K5UR, the President of The American Radio Relay League, re-confirmed the ARRL’s full support for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025, and extended his thanks and appreciation to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their unflagging leadership of the bi-partisan effort to support and protect the rights of all amateur radio operators.

The text of the House version can be found at this [link](#).

Join many BURC members
at an event that's always fun!

For more information, go to the hamfest's website at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/arv-hamfest/home>

From ARRL: Long Time Ham Radio Outlet Employee Honored for 60 Years in Amateur Radio

Paul Szczerbinski - W9KHO, an employee of Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, received a Certificate of Honor from HRO President Robert Ferrero - W6KR, for 60 years as an amateur radio operator. This is just the second time the award has been presented.



Paul – W9KHO

Szczerbinski's history in radio dates to 1964 when, after being honorably discharged from the United States Air Force, he began working for Hy-Gain Electronics in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1967, Szczerbinski began working at Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee. In 2016, when AES aligned with HRO, Paul became the most senior Sales Associate, and he continues to work at the HRO Milwaukee store. ARRL Wisconsin Assistant Section Manager Tom Czaja - KG9EE also extended his best wishes to Szczerbinski for his dedication to the hobby and industry.

A sincere congratulations to Paul!!!

THE DXCC DEN



By Don - K5DB

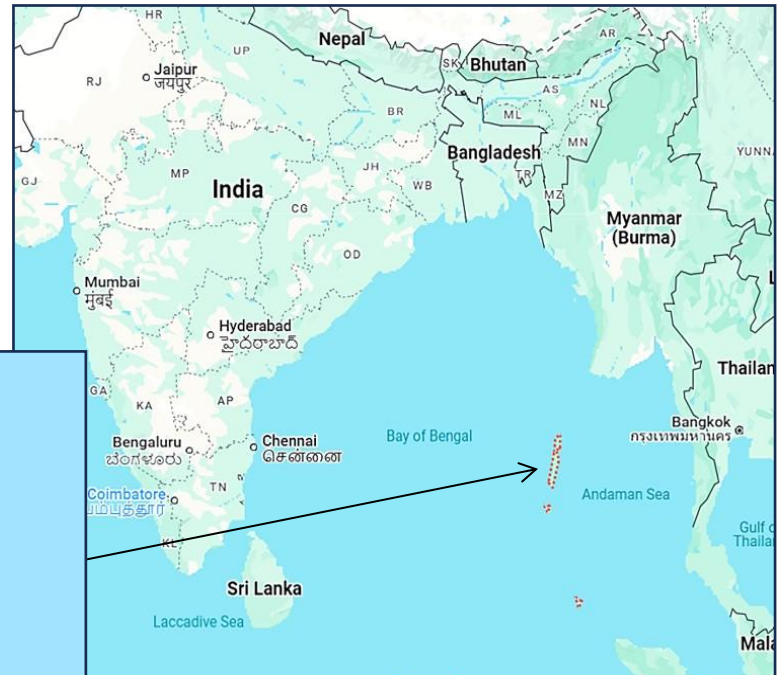
This month's featured country:

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Primary Call Sign Prefix: VU4

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a union territory of India comprising 572 islands, of which only 38 are inhabited. The islands are grouped into two main clusters: the northern Andaman Islands and the southern Nicobar Islands, separated by a 93 mile wide channel. The capital and largest city of the territory is Port Blair (officially Sri Vijaya Puram). The islands are situated between the Bay of Bengal to the west and the Andaman Sea to the east.

The islands host the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only geographical command operated jointly by the three major wings of the Indian Armed Forces: the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. While Hindi and English are the official languages, the major spoken languages include Bengali, Tamil and Telugu. Indigenous people speak any of the Andamanese or Nicobarese family of languages. Hinduism is the majority religion in the union territory, with a significant Christian minority.

The name Andaman might have been derived from Handuman, after the Indian God Hanuman from the Hindu epic "Ramayana". Nicobar, which was located in the sea route connecting South India to South East Asia, was known as Nakkavaram, meaning "open/naked land" borrowed from Tamil language which later became Nicobar. In the 11th century, Rajendra Chola I of the Chola dynasty of Tamilakam invaded parts of southeast Asia using the Nicobar islands as an intermediate naval base. The islands are later mentioned by Marco Polo in the 13th century.



Location of Andaman & Nicobar

The European colonization on the islands began when settlers from the Danish East India Company arrived on the Nicobar Islands on December 12, 1755.

During the Second World War, the islands were invaded by the Japanese as a part of their attack on the allies in 1942. Port Blair was captured by the Japanese on March 23, 1942 and established control over the island. Local people were often killed on trivial matters with the largest being the Homfreyganj massacre on January 30, 1944, where 44 local civilians were shot by the Japanese on suspicion of spying. The islands were officially handed back to India on October 7, 1945.

The territory consists of 836 islands and islets occupying an area of 3,185 square miles, of which only 31 are permanently inhabited. They are grouped into the north Andaman islands and south Nicobar islands, separated by the 93 mile wide Ten Degree Channel.

The topography of the territory varies significantly across various islands. The islands may have sandy, rocky sandstone, or marshy beaches on the coastlines and might be surrounded by shoals and coral reefs. The altitude varies significantly from completely flat islands to gradually raising topography from the coast to the interior of the larger islands.





As per the 2011 census, the population was 380,581.

The Andaman islands were populated by the Indigenous people (the Great Andamanese, the Onge, the Jarawa and the Sentinelese) who were isolated and spoke Andamanese languages for thousands of years. The Nicobar islands, which was part of trade routes and was frequented by travelers, were populated by Shompen people before the islands were settled by Nicobarese people, who spoke Austroasiatic languages.

Today, the Andamanese people speak about a dozen endangered Andamanese languages which belong to two families, the Great Andamanese and the Ongan.

When it comes to the hobby of amateur radio, the call sign prefix of Andaman and Nicobar is **VU4**. VU4 ranks on the Club Log Most Wanted List as #28 for the USA and #53 worldwide, making it a rare and exciting challenge. (Editor's note: I can definitely concur with that last statement. And I am not attempting to climb on a soapbox concerning FT8, but if it had not been for that mode I would have not worked and confirmed this entity. I was never able to hear them on SSB or CW, but did work it on the FT8 digital mode. Attempting to work *any* country in India or southeast Asia (Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, etc.) from the central part of the U.S. is tough no matter what mode.....possible, but tough. In my DXing experiences, I think it's the toughest region of the world to work from the central U.S., which adds all the more to the excitement when you are able to work and confirm countries in this area.)

According to my recent research in the QRZ.com database, there are only a handful of native operators in Andaman & Nicobar - less than 10. In the past 15 years since around 2010, the only way to work this elusive country is when a DXpedition has gone there (not very often) or when a small group or even one individual goes there for vacation or work related purposes.

My "hero" when it comes to Andaman and Nicobar is Krishna Kanakasapathi. "Krish" as he goes by on the bands, has made several trips in the past couple of years using the call sign VU4N. I was fortunate to work him on two December 21, 2023 on 20-meters. I have worked him since on 17-meters and he has confirmed that band for me, but I have not gotten it verified by ARRL just yet. He also resides in Cary, NC with the U.S. call W4VKU.

And now the exciting part about amateur radio and this rare DXCC country: For the first time in many, many, years *we have a MAJOR DXpedition now forming to travel to Andaman & Nicobar*. I am very excited about this, because even though I have it confirmed, I still need it on a bunch of other bands!



From March 10th to March 20th, 2025, (it's just around the corner!) an experienced team of 12 operators will be active from South Andaman, operating 6 stations around the clock on bands from 10m to 160m (including 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters,) using CW, SSB, and DIGI. They will be using the call sign **VU4AX**. The 12-operator team will consist of 10 Belgian and 2 Dutch operators.

If you want to monitor news and updates from the DX Adventure team, you can follow them on their website [here](#). Go work 'em!

My bi-fold QSL card from Krish – VU4N



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