

THE SIGNAL



Newsletter of the

Bella Vista area Radio Club

Arkansas' Largest Amateur Radio Club

**Special
BVRC Field DAY
Issue**



**BREAKING NEWS:
BVRC
Club Station!**

August 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)

BVRC Twin Linked Repeaters:

Bella Vista: 147.255 +600 khz offset, pl 162.2

Springdale: 444.100 + 5 MHz offset, pl 162.2

Website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org

chrome://settings/searchEngines

WEEKLY NETS:

BVRC HAM 101 Net
Mondays @ 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 103.5

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

August Meeting Information

HAM 101 Workshop, 6pm preceding monthly meeting – BVRC Social Media Coordinator Alex Smith – KI5EQK will be our moderator for the August workshop, sharing the topic “Amateur Radio Public Service Operations”. Amateur radio EmComm and public communication assistance enthusiasts will find this month’s topic very beneficial to them, as Alex is well versed in amateur radio public service work. Alex has many hours in this area under his belt, and his presentation promises to be helpful and educational. Don’t miss it.

BVRC August meeting, 7pm – BVRC welcomes another very special guest speaker for August, as Joe Eisenberg – KØNEB from Lincoln, NE will take to the podium for a really great presentation. Joe was the kit building editor of the former and longstanding CQ Magazine. He is now the kit building columnist for The Spectrum Monitor magazine. First licensed in 1969, Joe’s Elmer was Leo Meyerson – WØGFQ, founder of World Radio Laboratories, who started Joe at an early age when Joe resided in Omaha. Joe’s topic will be “Kit Building Techniques for Success”. Be sure and join us for what will be a great program. Joe will be appearing to us virtually.

SEE YOU THEN!

BOARD MEMBERS



APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Chair: Don Banta - K5DB

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BREAKING NEWS

From the desk of

*the President***BVRC SIGNS AGREEMENT
WITH ALETA FOR
PERMANENT CLUB STATION**

On Thursday, July 17th, the Bella Vista Radio Club reached a huge milestone. After two years of work by the **BVRC Club Station Task Force**, a **Memo of Understanding (MOU)** was presented to our club for signature by the **Arkansas Department of Public Safety, Division on Law Enforcement Standards and Training**.



Joining me for the document signing in the ALETA office of ALETA Lead Supervisor Clint Scrivner were Supervisor Scrivner, ALETA Senior Agent (and BVRC member) Gregg Harrison-K5GKH as well as BVRC Past President Tom Northfell-W5XNA and BVRC Past Vice President Don Banta-K5DB who both had crafted the initial partnership with ALETA to allow BVRC to use the ALETA facility for our monthly meetings and educational classes.

This MOU is the document granting the right for BVRC to construct and maintain a radio tower antenna system for amateur radio use by BVRC at the Springdale Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy complex. Along with this MOU, an agreement was reached with ALETA staff to assemble a BVRC club radio station in the ALETA complex.

The tower/antenna system will support BVRC's amateur radio operations as well as house antennas that ALETA will use with their commercial radio equipment in their training activities. Under the MOU, BVRC will install the antenna(s) that ALETA will use for their operations.

BVRC's Club Station will be housed initially in the classroom where our monthly HAM 101 workshops are currently held. One corner of this room will be devoted to the BVRC station equipment for exclusive use by BVRC membership. Another corner of this room will be used by ALETA staff for their commercial radio equipment used in their training activities.

BVRC's club station at ALETA will allow our club to provide "hands-on" training for our members in HF, VHF and UHF radio operations as well as provide a home base for special operations such as special event station operations and advanced training in HF operations. It is also planned for general use by members through a reservation system.

Under the agreement between the BVRC and Springdale ALETA Leadership Teams, the access BVRC will have to the club's station will be during three time periods: evenings (after ALETA training hours), weekends, and weekdays when ALETA training is not being held. This is usually a few days during the month that will be known in advance.

I am excited for this wonderful new development for our BVRC members. I am grateful for the hard work of the Club Station Task Force who have worked behind the scenes to develop this agreement with ALETA. I am also grateful to ALETA Supervisor Scrivner and ALETA Senior Agent Gregory Harrison – K5GKH for their work to help bring this MOU agreement about.

I am looking forward to the continuation of a wonderful partnership with ALETA to support their important mission and to advance amateur radio through the Bella Vista Radio Club.

73,
Jan
WB5JAN

JULY PROGRAM FEATURES OUTSTANDING BEHIND-THE-SCENES STORY ON QSO WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION



It was another near SRO meeting room for the BVRC July meeting, as attending members and guests experienced a 'double treat'. First Field Day Coordinator Tom Northfell-W5XNA gave a summary of the phenomenal BVRC Field Day 2025 event just concluded the past weekend. President Jan Hagan-WB5JAN then premiered the club's brand new documentary video on the happenings and excitement that occurred at FD '25. The excellent production was videoed, written, and produced by club member Adnan Ademovic-KDØKCY. (Fantastic job, Adnan.)

The cake came first, then came the icing: Miles Boomer-KJ5ANC, Vinson Carter-WV5C, and Murray Harris-W5XH then took to the podium to give an outstanding program and recollection of the historic event that occurred this past March 31st at Lakeside Junior High School in Springdale, when students from the junior high along with students from Sonora Elementary took part in a contact with astronaut Nichole Ayers-KJ5GW1 aboard the International Space Station. Nichole used the space station's callsign NA1SS (North America 1 Space Station) for the QSO.



This awesome event was actually the brainchild of Miles-KJ5ANC and in commemoration of that, his callsign was used for the ground station to make the contact.

In April of 2024, Miles emailed the BVRC leadership about the possibility of getting assistance in developing an ARISS proposal. ARISS stands for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (<https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>) and is a program that allows students to speak with astronauts using ham radio. Miles is involved in the EAST (Education Accelerated by Service and Technology) program at Lakeside, and wanted to develop a proposal

for his class, as he had recently become interested in amateur radio, earning both his technician and general class licenses. The EAST Initiative is a program that offers classes for students that provides an environment that fosters relevant, individualized life-changing experiences through service and technology. Miles thought that developing an ARISS proposal would be an ideal class project. The purpose of ARISS is to help students learn about radio and electronics, and how to communicate clearly over ham radio. Students also learn about space research, satellite communications, and wireless technology.





Miles-KJ5ANC addresses the BVRC July meeting with co-presenters Vinson-WV5C and Murray-W5XH



**Astronaut Nichole Ayers
with whom the ISS QSO was made**

Nichole graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 2011, where she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in Russian. She is currently a Major in the USAF. She has flown a T-38 Talon and an F-22 Raptor. She was commander on the SpaceX Mission 10 crew that flew to the ISS two weeks prior to the contact. Recently, she performed her first spacewalk with astronaut Anne McClain (her 3rd). This was the 93rd spacewalk conducted by American astronauts since the ISS went into service, and the 275th performed by all members of the international space teams that have served aboard the ISS.

EXPEDITION 73		
U.S. SPACEWALK 93		
 <p>ANNE MCCLAIN FLIGHT ENGINEER</p> <p>3RD SPACEWALK PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED 2 SPACEWALKS TOTALING 13 HOURS, 8 MINUTES</p> <p>EV1</p>	 <p>NICHOLE AYERS FLIGHT ENGINEER</p> <p>1ST SPACEWALK</p> <p>EV2</p>	
<p>275th spacewalk in support of space station assembly, maintenance, and upgrades. Third spacewalk in 2025. First spacewalk for Expedition 73.</p>		

This event took a whopping one year in the making. The club offered to help Miles with this endeavor and both BVRC president Jan Hagan – WB5JAN and Vinson Carter – WV5C helped write letters of support from both BVRC and ARCUA (the Amateur Radio Club of the University of Arkansas). The university club took the lead in helping two Springdale teachers Jamie Stalling at Lakeside Junior High and Josh Worthy at Sonora Elementary to develop the

education plan and technical proposal. The development of the equipment and technical plan were Murray Harris – W5XH and Bill Durham – KG5ZCI.

To help the students with 'mic fright', throughout the school year, Vinson worked with the students at Sonora Elementary and Lakeside Junior High to learn more about amateur radio. Vinson set up a station at Sonora Elementary and the students were able to participate in both the fall and spring ARRL School Club Roundup. When ISS Day came, they were well prepared and performed excellently. So much so, they asked all of their 20 questions to Nichole before the 10-12 minute orbital pass of the space station over NW Arkansas ended (the ISS travels at 17,000 mph). Vinson also coordinated the event through NASA mediator Daniel-K4RGK.

Murray and Vinson administered the station setup, while the livestream video was produced and directed solely by the students at Lakeside. They all did a spectacular job.

The station at the junior high consisted of an Icom IC-9700, a 10 dB gain dual polarity beam, and tracking hardware was a device called a SatBox which is a phenomenal piece of equipment. The antenna was borrowed from the UofA club where it was lowered from atop the Science and Engineering building on the UofA campus, then transported to Lakeside JHS where the Springdale School District supplied a lift truck to place the array on the roof of the junior high. Three 150' runs of LMR-400 coax and one 400' of rotator cable were used for this contact. So, a LOT of preparation went into this event to say the least.

They then played an audio file of the full QSO with Nichole, which was exciting to hear. If you would like to see the video on the full event, click [here](#). (The intro is quite long, so fast forward to around the 27 minute mark, when the actual event begins.)

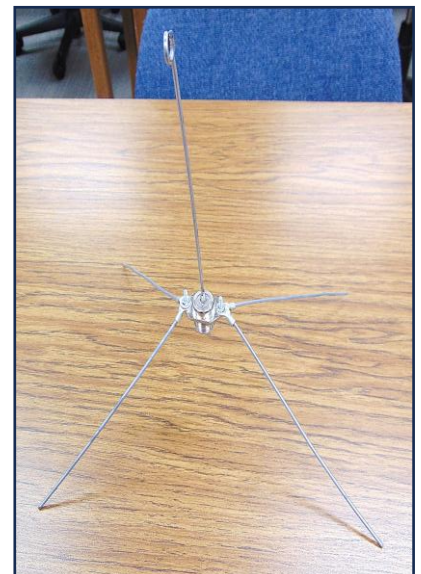
This was one of the most historic events in Arkansas amateur radio history, and we once again congratulate Miles, Vinson, and Murray on this milestone achievement.

JULY HAM 101 WORKSHOP FEATURES 2-METER ANTENNA

This month's HAM 101 Workshop was also a treat to attendees as BVRC 2024 Ham of the Year Jon Williams – K5DVT conducted a program on how to build an ultra-inexpensive 2-meter antenna.



The antenna is made out of steel rods, the cheapest being a wire hanger that you might hanging in your closet. He showed how to figure the length of the driven element and radials for the desired frequency. The driven element is then soldered into the center of a chassis-type SO-239 connector with the radials attached with short machine screws and nuts. The radials are mounted at 45° angles to the connector. Jon said the antenna works great in just about any application, home or portable. *THANKS JON!*



BVRC VE REPORT FROM DON BANTA – K5DB BVRC VE COORDINATOR JULY 2025



CONGRATULATIONS!

Alan Flynn – KJ5LZN – Fayetteville – New Technician!

Jerry Biazio – KJ5LZO – Springdale – New Technician!

Scott Smith – KJ5MBX – Eureka Springs – New Technician!

Wade Courtney – N5WAC – Bella Vista – New General!

John Benningfield – Anderson MO – New Amateur Extra!

Next month's exam sessions:

- **August 9, 10 am – Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale**
- **August 9, 2 pm – Bella Vista Public Library
11 Dickens Place
Bella Vista**



Welcome New BVRC Members!

Carla Berg – KI5KTE – Rogers
Dennis Schaefer – W5RZ – Dover, AR
Cody Roueche – KJ5LUW – Centerton
Serenity Biggs – KJ5LVB – Prairie Grove
Luke Buzzard – KJ5LXD – Centerton
Alan Flynn – KJ5LZN – Fayetteville
Jerry Biazio – KJ5LZO - Springdale
Russell Moreton – Seligman, MO
Scott Smith – KJ5MBX – Eureka Springs
Herbert Robbins – AA5DV – Bentonville
Stephanie Cowan – Fayetteville
T. J. Gallagher – Bentonville

BVRC FIELD DAY 2025 ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS!!!



BVRC members from all over northwest Arkansas, the Arkansas River Valley, northeast Oklahoma, and southwest Missouri trekked to Metfield Park in Bella Vista for another excitement- and fun-packed Field Day 2025 on June 28-29.

BVRC began as a small coffee klatch in Bella Vista in 1993. Since then, it has convened at several different venues and locations with its present home at the fabulous ALETA (Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy) complex in Springdale. Securing the ALETA complex has

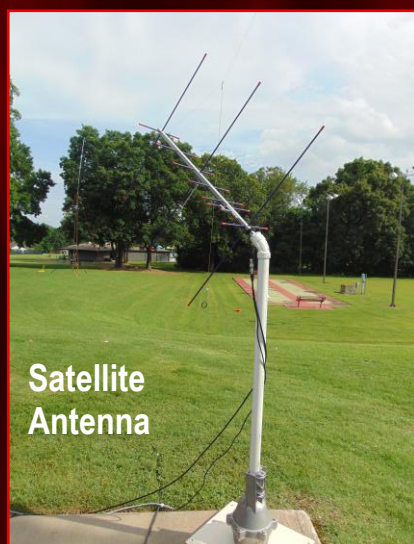
evolved into a big plus for the club, as our meeting locale is now approximately located in the center of the BVRC membership area, resulting in generally equidistant travel for most members.

However, because the club did originate in Bella Vista, BVRC has always returned to its old stomping grounds to conduct the biggest event on the amateur radio calendar – ARRL Field Day. And what a fine facility Metfield park provides. – A great pavilion, a playground for the kids and grandkids, an excellently kept park, nice restrooms, and lots of trees making for easy dipole antenna raising, along with the other antennas.

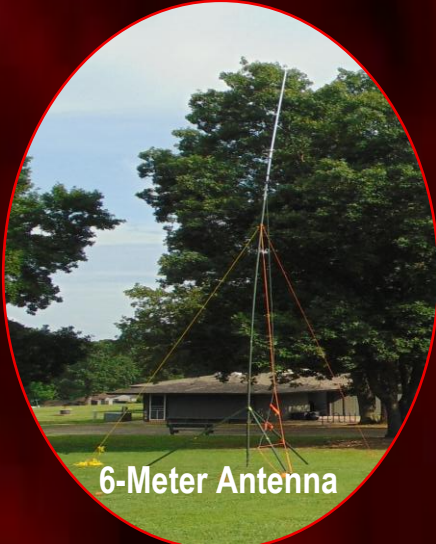
Mother Nature did provide a small amount of excitement twice for about 30 minutes on Friday evening during antenna raising and on Saturday evening with 30-40 mph winds and heavy rain, but it did not dampen the spirits of our FD operation at all. (She did provide us with a beautiful rainbow after the cells came through.) On the contrary, the (once again) excellent evening meal provided by our Hospitality Director Bill-KG5ZCI, assisted by Rebecca-N5REB and Alex-KI5EQK offset Mother Nature's antics. We hope you enjoy some of this year's Field Day 2025 impressions on the following pages.

(Photos courtesy W5XH and K5DB)

AND.....MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR FIELD DAY 2026, JUNE 27-28!



Satellite
Antenna



6-Meter Antenna



HF Vertical &
Hexx Beam



One of two HF dipole antennas



Jon-K5DVT & Ron-K5XK



FD videographer
Adnan – KDØKCY
To view the video, click [here](#)



Bella Vista Mayor John Flynn
reads proclamation



Bill-KC5ZCI conducts
Fox Hunting antenna construction class



Welcome Station captain
Tom-KN4SLP (R)
with Marc-WØKYZ





James-N5ZMX visits with Chuck-NS5C while Michael-W5KMK operates the digital station



Brandon-W5BNL with XYL Lanna-N5ALG at the 6-meter station



Tom-W5BNR and Nate-KF5RPK at the 6-meter station



CW aficionados Chuck-KM5G, Stan-K5GO, Bob-WB0AUQ, Nick-WA5BDU, and Ron-K5XK observe Cade-KC7MDT as he operates the CW station



Two of our distant members from Harrison, Allen-KE5FAR, and Rebecca-N5REB from Fort Smith at the SSB station



Vinson-WV5C assists Ryan-K5HEX
in preparing for the FD Fox Hunt



BVRV President Jan-WB5JAN
gets ready for the FD opening ceremony



6-meter
station captain
Joe-W5AEN



The color guard team from
Rogers American Legion Post



Stan-K5GO make a SSB QSO with Kathy-WQ5T logging,
as Jay-W5JAY and Carla-KI5KTE witness the action



Chuck-KM5G
pounds-out another QSO
at the CW station



Father and son 'dynamic duo'
Stephen-N5ZE and Brad-KJ5CWR
assist new member **Carla-KI5KTE**
with programming her brand new HT

As with recent BVRC Field Days, and with the myriad of club members and visitors attending, we had lots more pictures, but if we included them all it would make this issue about 60 pages long!

For those of you who were unable to attend, we hope these vignettes will illustrate to you what you missed, and we hope you'll be able to come to next year's extravaganza. HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN!!!

2025 Field Day Results:

CW QSOs: 1,458
SSB QSOs: 341
Digital QSOs: 304
TOTAL QSOs: 2,103

U.S. States Worked: 50
Canadian Provinces: 8
Total Countries: 7



BVRC

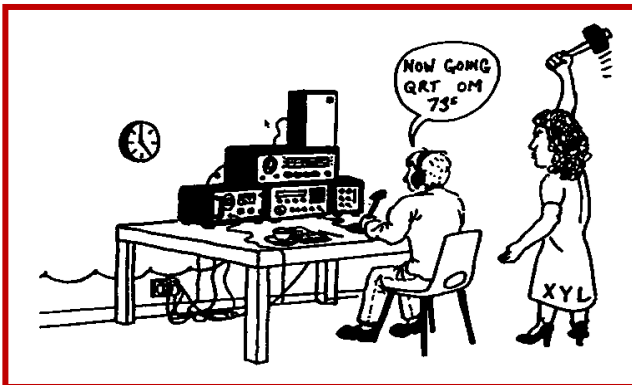
Monthly Programs Needed

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 ianhagan51@gmail.com,
Joe Hott – W5AEN at joe.hott@gmail.com,
or any Club officer (see page 2 of this issue)**



Laughter



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