

The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the
Bell County Communications Center, 798 West Avenue O, in Belton

President's Corner

Kenneth Watkins, KE5ISN



The autumnal equinox occurred on September 23rd it is interesting to note that the full moon occurred on the same date. When these two events occur at the same time it is referred to as a Super Harvest Moon, the first since 1991. Fall also brings about football, high school on Thursday, Friday or Saturday; Collage on Saturday, with the Pro's playing on Sunday and Monday nights with an occasional Thursday night game. Hope your favorite teams have a winning season.

The annual meeting for the election of officers will be held at the November 2 meeting. The nomination committee will make their report of candidates at the October 5 meeting. The position of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Director will be placed on the ballot at this time. At the annual meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor and placed on the ballot. All current members will be sent a ballot by e-mail after the October meeting. You can return the ballot by mail or vote in person at the meeting. Please take time to thank Joe, W5VEX; Walter, KE5DPS; and Gil, W5GLR for their hard work as the Nominations Committee.

Have you ever thought about being a net control operator for the CTARC weekly traffic and training net? All it takes is approximately 30 minutes of your time on Thursday night, two weeks in a row every two months. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail and I will get with you with all the details.
73 de KE5ISN



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net
 meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM
 on the W5BEC repeater,
 on 147.140(+) PL 123.0
 Join Us!

October NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

October 7 th : Net Control: W5VEX Back-Up: AD5SK	October 14 th : AD5SK KE5ISN
October 21 st : Net Control: KE5ISN Back-Up: K6WXA	October 28 th : K6WXA KF5LNX

What's New?



I may be a little behind the times in reporting, but one of our club members Cody Schleppegrell - KCØHEQ, has obtained a new callsign to reflect his '5' land status and can now be heard as KF5HWA.



NIMS & Emergency Communications

Bud Garretson, AD5SK

Amateur Radio Emergency Service is 75 years old - same as me. Articles in *QST* told about how it came to be, and some encouraged taking NIMS courses, and becoming more “professional” communicators.

I refuse to take any courses. I am an amateur; ham radio is my hobby, not my profession. This NIMS stuff is causing people to leave volunteer fire departments, and will have hams decide not to participate in drills if they have to be NIMS certified.

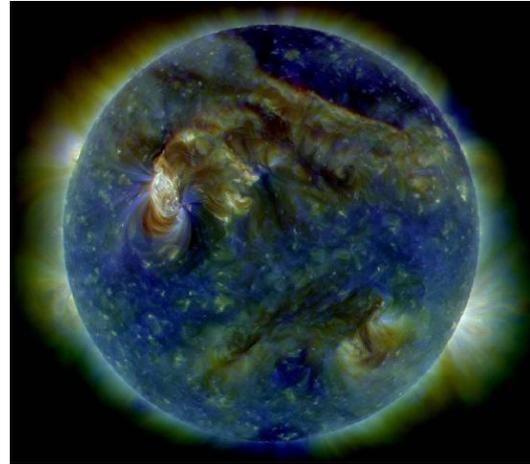
On SH-171, at the corn storage facility, there are two grain trailers that are burned out. The reason is that several departments answered the call, and while the decision was being made as to who was to be the Incident Commander, the trailers and harvester burned. The same foolishness will happen to ham emergency communications, if we let it. While everyone is trying to find out who is NIMS certified, communications will be in limbo. As we all know, the powers that be ignore our offers of communications help until we are the last resort. And then it doesn't matter; we just need to have working equipment!

Okay, I'm climbing down off the soapbox. I've spoken my opinion, and that's the way I'm going to be. If anyone wants to disagree, please write your thoughts to the editor.

(This article originally appeared in the August 2010 edition of "The Microphone" the monthly newsletter of the Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society and is reprinted here with permission of the author.) -Ed.

Strays

Tsunami on the Sun



Almost the full disk of the sun erupts in a tumult of activity on August 1. This extreme ultraviolet image from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory shows a C3-class solar flare (the white area at upper left), a solar tsunami (the wavelike structure at upper right), multiple filaments of magnetism lifting off the stellar surface, large-scale shaking of the solar corona, radio bursts, a coronal mass ejection and more. Different colors in the image represent different gas temperatures.

- Thanks to KE5WVC

Hurricanes, as Seen from Space

On the ground, hurricanes can be deadly, but as seen from space they can be a work of art.

Here are 18 images of hurricanes captured over the years by astronauts on the International Space Station, the Space Shuttle and NASA satellites.

Go to:

<http://www.foxnews.com/slideshow/scitech/2010/04/07/hurricanes-seen-space/#slide=1>

9 Years After 9/11, Public Safety Radio Not Ready

Daniel Yang, K6DPY

“The inability of most firefighters and police officers to talk to each other on their radios on Sept. 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center — one of the most vexing problems on that day nine years ago — still has not been completely resolved. The problem, highlighted in the 9/11 Commission Report, was seen again in 2005 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Public safety officers from different jurisdictions arrived at the scene of those disasters only to find that, unable to communicate with each other by radio, they had to resort to running handwritten notes between command centers.”

(Edward Wyatt, The New York Times, September 6, 2010)

What I don't understand is how one can expect to build a system where public safety officers from different jurisdictions can talk to each other, when the FCC's basic paradigm for radio operations still follows the old model where each licensed operator is a “station” and station “broadcasts” are given specific frequencies to operate within, with such frequencies effectively walled from one another so that they do not “interfere” with each other. Furthermore under this paradigm, in order to communicate with a specific station over radio, the parties must pre-arrange to meet on the air at a certain time, on a certain frequency. That is, communicate before hand so that they can communicate later.

Isn't this kind of antiquated?

Technologies like D-Star, where one can reach a specific station as long as that station is not off, seem to be headed in the right direction. But much more is needed.

With phone calls, unlike radio operations, one can dial the target recipient's phone number whenever the need occurs. One does not have to arrange for the phone call ahead of time. The internet, another communications network, has a DNS computer database system where the location of every node is known to every other node on the internet. To “communicate” with a specific node, all one needs to know is the IP address. Also no prearrangement. Why can't radio operations be like this -- for the sake of public safety operators, if not for the sake of every radio operator? It seems the FCC's paradigm needs to change if we're going to fix public safety radio.

What can we do within our own public safety circles to improve the situation? What are the ranges of actions we can take that will have significant positive impact?

I'm no expert, just asking questions.

We need answers.

(This article first appeared in the reflector of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club and is reprinted here with permission of the author.) – Ed.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

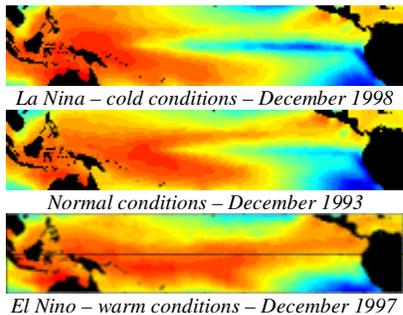


Winter Forecast Outlook

National Weather Service
Climate Prediction Center

During this past July, La Niña conditions developed, as negative sea surface temperature anomalies strengthened across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. These conditions are expected to strengthen and last through the Northern Hemisphere winter of 2010 - 2011.

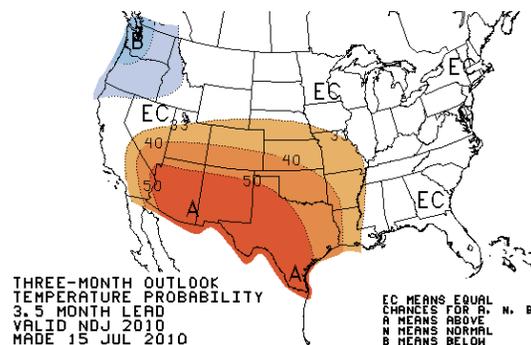
Nearly all models predict La Niña to continue through early 2011. However, there is disagreement among the models over the eventual strength of La Niña. Most dynamical models generally predict a moderate-to-strong La Niña, while the majority of the statistical model forecasts indicate a weaker episode. Given the strong cooling observed over the last several months and the apparent ocean-atmosphere coupling, the dynamical model outcome of a moderate-to-strong episode is favored at this time.



Normal Equatorial Pacific Ocean surface temperatures (December 1993) are shown in the middle panel, including cool water, called the 'cold tongue', in the Eastern Pacific (in blue, on the right of the plot) and warm water in the Western Pacific (in red, on the left). Strong La Niña conditions during December 1998 are shown in the top panel. Strong El Niño conditions, in December 1997, are shown on the bottom panel, with warm water (red) extending all along the equator.

La Niña means The Little Girl. La Niña is sometimes called El Viejo, anti-El Niño, or simply "a cold event" or "a cold episode". El Niño and La Niña events vary in strength. For example, the La Niña in 1988 was stronger than the La Niña in 1995, and the 1997-1998 El Niño was unusually strong. In the U.S., with a La Niña condition, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the Southeast, and cooler than normal in the Northwest.

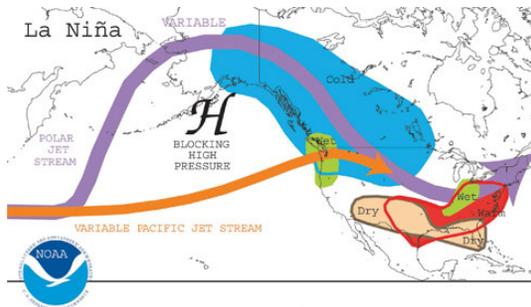
The contours on the map show the total probability (%) of three categories, 'Above', indicated by the letter "A", 'Below', indicated by the letter "B", and the middle category, indicated by the letter "N". At any point on the map, the sum of the probabilities of these three categories is 100%. In regions where the forecasters have no forecast tools which favor either



the chance of A, or B, the chance of these two categories is defined to be 33.33% each, and the region is labeled "EC", which stands for equal chances.

The probability for precipitation during this same period, November 2010 – January 2011, is predicted to be below normal for the southeast area, and above normal in the northwest.

With La Niña, weather systems tend to stay farther north, so strong cold fronts usually don't make it down here. Past La Niña cycles intensified drought conditions that plagued Central Texas for two years; however, it's hard to say if this winter's La Niña will bring on another drought.



Using San Marcos figures compiled from NOAA's website, one can see drastic changes in rainfall over the past three winters. From September 2007 to February 2008, San Marcos recorded 3.48 inches of rain. The following year, from September 2008 to February 2009, the city had only 2.72 inches of rain. Both winters had a combined total rainfall of 6.2 inches.

In contrast, El Niño dumped more than 22 inches of rain on San Marcos from September 2009 to February 2010. As much as seven inches of rain fell in just October 2009.

Past La Niña cycles intensified drought conditions that plagued Central Texas for two years, said Meteorologist Amanda Fanning, who works at NOAA's New Braunfels office. However, she said it's hard to say if this winter's La Niña will bring on another drought.

Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon, who also serves as a professor of atmospheric science at Texas A&M University, said that the recent severe drought of record first surfaced in the fall of 2007, which was followed by two La Niña cycles. "Two consecutive La Niña winters helped make this drought particularly severe, while the current El Niño conditions have helped to end the drought," he said in a news release.

Michael Lehman, one of the last remaining full-time farmers in the Kyle area, manages 2,400 acres of crops that sprout around Kyle. In the previous two farming seasons, his family had "tremendous losses" because of the drought, he said. He recalled only harvesting 60 out of 700 acres of his cornfields, and less than half of his other crops last year. This year, he's counting on all of his crops being harvested.

Lehman and others could be faced with another disastrous drought if La Niña has its way on the region again. But for now, Lehman is concentrated on reaping the benefits of the harvest. If a drought arises, Lehman said that he may have to switch his cornfields to cotton, a more drought-tolerant crop.



Time will tell how much rain will fall this winter, as most dynamic models are predicting a moderate-to-strong La Niña cycle, according to NOAA's announcement.

La Niña temperature and precipitation impacts over the United States are typically weak during summer and early fall, but strengthen considerably during late fall and

winter, the announcement says.

Nobody predicts the weather in Texas
but fools and newcomers. - *Anonymous*



A Nation in Panic!

The 72nd Anniversary



“We know now that in the early years of the twentieth century this world was being watched closely by intelligences greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own. We know now that as human beings busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinized and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinize the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water. With infinite complacency people went to and fro over the earth about their little affairs, serene in the assurance of their dominion over this small spinning fragment of solar driftwood which by chance or design man has inherited out of the dark mystery of time and space. Yet across an immense ethereal gulf, minds that as to our minds as ours are to the beasts in the jungle, intellects vast, cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes and slowly and surely drew their plans against us. In the thirty-ninth year of the twentieth century came the great disillusionment...”

“We take you now to Grovers Mill, New Jersey...” It was near the end of the evening, October 30th, 1938, the Crosley service estimated that some six million people were listening to the live broadcast on their radios, of the Mercury Theatre on the Air. In the CBS studios, located on the 20th floor at 485 Madison Avenue in New York City, Orson Welles was at the mic starring in the evening's broadcast of H.G. Wells' *“War of the Worlds.”*

The first two-thirds of the broadcast were presented as a series of simulated news bulletins, a technique which was intended to heighten the dramatic effect, which suggested to many listeners that an actual alien invasion by Martians was currently in progress.



Orson Welles at age 23 at the mic.

Many listeners were apparently confused as they were accustomed to accepting news flashes as reliable. Then a “news bulletin” reported that a huge flaming object had struck on the Wilson farm near Grovers Mill, New Jersey. In 1938, with the world on the brink of World War II, audiences were already on razor's edge. There are estimates that about 20 percent of those listening believed it was real; that translates to about a million people.



Aerial view of the Wilson farm, near Grover's Mill, NJ where the Martians never landed.

No movie special effects could have conjured up enormous aliens striding across the Hudson River towards the CBS studios as if it were a child's wading pool (*in Welles's words*) as convincingly as the listeners' imaginations could.

Panicked listeners packed roads, hid in cellars, and loaded their guns. In one block of Newark, New Jersey, 20 families rushed out of their houses with wet towels over their faces as protection from Martian poison gas, according to a front-page article in the *New York Times*.

Finally, a despairing voice of a ham radio operator is heard calling, "2X2L calling CQ. Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there.... anyone?"

In just a few short weeks prior to the broadcast, Hitler managed to scare all of Europe to its knees, but he at least had an army and an air force to back up his shrieking words. Orson Welles scared thousands into demoralization with nothing at all. Orson Welles knew how to use radio's imaginative possibilities, and he was a master at blurring the lines between fiction and reality. There is no doubt that radio held a unique power over its audience. For rural audiences, in particular, it was the primary point of contact with the outside world, providing news, entertainment, and companionship.



The New York Times

Copyright, 1897, by The New York Times Company.
NEW YORK, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1938.

Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact

Many Flee Homes to Escape 'Gas Raid From Mars'—Phone Calls Swamp Police at Broadcast of Wells Fantasy

A wave of mass hysteria seized thousands of radio listeners throughout the nation between 8:15 and 9:30 o'clock last night when a broadcast of a dramatization of H. G. Wells' fantasy, "The War of the Worlds," led thousands to believe that an interplanetary conflict had started with invading Martians spreading wide death and destruction in New Jersey and New York.

and radio stations here and in other cities of the United States and Canada seeking advice on protective measures against the raids.

The program was produced by Mr. Welles and the Mercury Theatre on the Air over station WABC and the Columbia Broadcasting System's coast-to-coast network, from 8 to 9 o'clock.

The radio play, as presented, was to simulate a realistic radio news

All across the United States, listeners reacted. Thousands of people called radio stations, police and newspapers. Many in the New England area loaded up their cars and fled their homes. In other areas, people went to churches to pray. People improvised gas masks. Miscarriages and early births were reported. Deaths, too, were reported but never confirmed. Many people were hysterical. They thought the end was near.

The power of radio had fooled the listeners. They had become accustomed to believing everything they heard on the radio, without questioning it. Now they had learned - the hard way.

The hoax worked, historians say, because the broadcast authentically simulated how radio worked in an emergency.

Interestingly enough, prior to the broadcast, Welles hesitated in presenting it because in his words, "...it was our thought that perhaps people might be bored or annoyed at hearing a tale so improbable."

"So goodbye everybody, and remember the terrible lesson you learned tonight. That grinning, glowing, globular invader of your living room is an inhabitant of the pumpkin patch, and if your doorbell rings and nobody's there, that was no Martian... it's Halloween."

You can sit back and listen in again to the 59 minute broadcast, presented by the *Mercury Theatre on the Air* by going to: <http://sounds.mercurytheatre.info/mercury/381030.mp3>



In 1953, Paramount Pictures took H.G. Wells' story and adapted it for the big screen. You can view this 75 minute Technicolor film by visiting: <http://www.filmshowonline.net/videos/31552>

CQ CQ World-Wide DX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, October 30th through 2400Z October 31st on 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 & 160 meters SSB. For further info, please visit: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=172>

While staying on the subject of “*CQ Contest*” be sure to stop by and visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAOOd48j6WA> for an enjoyable video done by OZ1ADL.

Educational Opportunities



This past month FEMA introduced one new course to its' independent study program. IS-522 *Exercising Continuity Plans for Pandemics*;

For a complete list of all the courses available through FEMA, please visit: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



My fellow CTARC members, I'd like to extend an apology for the lateness in this month's newsletter going out to you all. Over the past month I've had an extremely happy event occur in my life, which I really wasn't expecting. That also blossomed into more happy events which took me out of state for a few days.

The two together are also the reason this edition is rather short in content.

Next month, we'll get back into the swing of things here. *73 de K6WXA*

