



August

2011

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**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**

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## President's Corner

*Kenneth Watkins, KE5ISN*

July has come and gone. The only thing that is happening is the heat. It appears that we are on our way to setting new records for the number of 100 degree days this summer. As of July 25<sup>th</sup>, Waco had recorded 25 consecutive days of 100 degrees plus. This ranks as 4<sup>th</sup> on the list of consecutive days. The record of 42 days was set June 23 – August 3, 1980. In 1980 there were 69 days of 100 plus, we have had 43 days so far this year.

The National Weather Service will start using the new climate normals on August 1st. Climate normals look at the weather for a 30 year period. The old normals were 1971-2000, with the new normals based on 1981-2010. NOAA has a good explanation of the climate normals along with detailed data for North Texas. Go to:

[www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/?n=normals](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/?n=normals) for more information.

Hurricane season is here and so far there have been 3 named storms with only one that impacted land. If you have not stocked your disaster kits and go bags, now is the time to do it. Since 1874 there have been 31 hurricanes and tropical storms that affected North Texas. A look of when these events occur reveals 2 in June, 3 in July, 10 for August, 12 in September and 2 in October. It is interesting to note that both of the October storms originated in the Pacific. If you would like more information go to:

[www.noaa.gov/fwd/?n=texashurricane](http://www.noaa.gov/fwd/?n=texashurricane) .

August brings up an important time for the club, which is the appointment of the nominations committee. While this may seem early to start the election process, it takes time for these 3 individuals to present a slate of candidates to the club that will work to keep the club alive and active. The office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Director will expire in December. This year Election Day will be November 1st.

On a social note, the Temple ARC has invited everyone to their annual Ice Cream Social. Special guest for the evening will be ARRL Western Gulf Director Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV and Vice Director John Stratton, K5AUS. The TARC meeting is Thursday, August 4th, at 7:00 pm at the Western Hills Church of Christ @ I-35 and West Adams in Temple. This would be a good time to come and meet your ARRL leadership.

Remember to take time and check into the Net on Thursday night, even if you are a 'short timer'.

See you August 2nd at the next CTARC meeting.

*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!

**August NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule:**

August 4 <sup>th</sup> : Net Control: W5VEX Back-Up: K6WXA	August 11 <sup>th</sup> : K6WXA AD5SK
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August 18 <sup>th</sup> : Net Control: AD5SK Back-Up: KE5ISN	August 25 <sup>th</sup> : KE5ISN KF5LNX
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**Austin Summerfest 2011**

Once again the capitol city is the place to be in the middle of the Texas summer. August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Austin Airport Marriott South, 4415 South IH-35. This year hosting the summer meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society and the ARRL Texas State Convention.

For more information please visit:  
[www.austinsummerfest.org](http://www.austinsummerfest.org)



**ARRL August UHF Contest**

Contest period runs from 1800 UTC, August 6<sup>th</sup> through 1800 UTC August 7<sup>th</sup> on all authorized amateur frequencies of 222 MHz and up. For further details see <http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf>



**International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend**

Not a contest, but this operating event runs from 0001 UTC, August 20<sup>th</sup> to 2359 UTC August 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information on this event, please visit: <http://illw.net/>



**North American QSO Party**

Contest period is from 1800 UTC, August 20<sup>th</sup> to 0600 UTC August 21<sup>st</sup>, on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters.

This is a great opportunity for anyone working towards their Worked All States or for anyone new to the HF bands, as the contestants aren't interested in "rag-chewing" but rather, in making contacts and moving on. For more info, visit: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>



**LBJ DAY**

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Educational Opportunities**



During the past month FEMA introduced three new courses to its independent study program: IS-111.a, *Livestock in Disasters*; IS-235.b, *Fundamentals of Emergency Management*; and IS-634, *Introduction to FEMA's Public Assistance Program*.

For a complete list of all the courses offered by FEMA, please visit: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp?page=all>

## **Two Hurt Near Gordon Lake** *Were taking down antenna, electrocuted*

*Kristen Duwe, Times Record News  
Wichita Falls, Texas*

On the morning of June 26, two Texas radio amateurs -- Danny Caldwell-AD5IP, and Mike Byrne-AE5CO, received electric shocks as they took down an antenna. According to Wichita County Emergency Coordinator Larry Ballard-KE5KNV, the two were taking part in Field Day as part of the Wichita Amateur Radio Society.

“The Wichita Amateur Radio Society decided to terminate the participation in the exercise at 10 AM on Sunday, due to extreme heat and gusty wind conditions,” Ballard told the ARRL. “Danny and Mike were injured while lowering the center pole of the inverted V dipole antenna to the ground. They were knocked to the ground when a guy wire, or the antenna lead-in, was hit with very high wind gust that blew it into a high [power] line wire.” According to reports from witnesses, winds were gusting up to 40 miles per hour.

Ballard said 911 was called immediately and a rescue van arrived in a matter of minutes. The Fire Rescue Team determined that the two men were stable and they were transported to United Regional Hospital in Wichita Falls. Caldwell received CPR at the scene and was air lifted to Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Byrne was transported to Parkland later by ambulance.

Ballard said that Byrne was released from the hospital on Monday, June 27 and was resting at home. Caldwell, who suffered more serious injuries, was expected to be released later in the week.

## **President Declares Major Disaster for the State of Texas**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency announced on July 1<sup>st</sup>, that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of Texas to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by wildfires during the period of April 6 to May 3, 2011.

Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations in the counties of Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Brewster, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Clay, Coleman, Concho, Cottle, Crockett, Dawson, Duval, Eastland, Garza, Glasscock, Hall, Hemphill, Hockley, Irion, Kent, King, Lynn, Martin, Mason, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Pecos, Presidio, Scurry, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Terry, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Trinity, Tyler, Val Verde, and Young.

## **Hurricane Watch Net seeks “Official Reporting Stations”**

The Hurricane Watch Net is currently looking for amateur radio operators who are located in hurricane prone areas to become part of a database of “*Official Reporting Stations*”.

The HWN welcomes reports from all stations in an affected area. One advantage of being in the database is that HWN will notify you of upcoming net activations should you be located in the affected area of a storm. If you are interested in joining the HWN team of Official Reporting Stations, complete and submit the short web form at:

<http://www.hwn.org/forms/reportingstations.html>

## Loss of some 2 Meter Simplex Frequencies Imminent in Texas!

Aaron Scott, WX5VHF

Texas two meter simplex users stand to lose a large portion of available frequencies if proposed changes to the two meter band plan are passed by the Texas VHF-FM Society.

In an effort to make room for D-Star repeater pairs, the Society has proposed a revised band plan that will take spectrum from two meter simplex users statewide. Below is the band plan being proposed by the Texas VHF-FM Society:

146.450 - 146.490 MHz, High in/low out, 1 MHz offset, 12.5 kHz channel spacing or less, any digital voice/data air interface technology suitable for the Amateur Radio Service that is compatible with the channel spacing. No analog transmission permitted.

145.520 Analog	145.540 Analog	145.560 Analog	145.580 Analog
145.600 Analog	145.620 Analog	145.640 Analog	145.660 Analog
145.680 Analog	145.700 Analog	145.720 Analog	145.740 Analog
145.760 Analog	145.780 Analog	146.420 Analog	146.440 Analog
<b>146.450 Digital</b>	<b>146.460 Digital</b>	<b>146.470 Digital</b>	<b>146.480 Digital</b>
<b>146.490 Digital</b>	146.560 Analog	146.580 Analog	147.400 Analog
147.420 Analog	147.440 Analog	<b>147.450 Digital</b>	<b>147.460 Digital</b>
<b>147.470 Digital</b>	<b>147.480 Digital</b>	<b>147.490 Digital</b>	147.560 Analog
147.580 Analog			

This proposal was placed on the table at the March 1, 2008 General Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society and has yet to be voted on, possibly due to opposition from avid simplex users.

Contrary to public opinion, two meter simplex frequencies are regularly, and in some cases heavily used throughout the state.

A well-established group of simplex operators in north and east Texas have used the frequency of 147.420 on a daily basis since the mid 1970's. While that frequency is not in immediate danger of being reallocated, other well used frequencies are!

A group of simplex operators around the Cedar Creek Lake area in eastern Texas that regularly use the frequency of 146.475 stands to lose that piece of spectrum.

I'm sure there are many more frequencies all across the state that are in use that we do not know about! If anyone knows of other simplex frequencies in use in the state of Texas please feel free to e-mail me at [WX5VHF@gmail.com](mailto:WX5VHF@gmail.com)

In an effort to display the utilization of these simplex frequencies I am asking for all Texas two meter simplex operators to attend and cast a vote at the Texas VHF-FM Society's Summer Meeting that will take place at Austin Summerfest 2011. The meeting will be held Saturday, August 6th at 1:00PM in the Pecan Room of the Austin Marriott Airport South at 4415 South Interstate 35 in Austin.

In order to vote at this meeting you MUST be a member of the Society! To become a member you must download the form from the link below and send it back with \$15.00. <http://www.txvhffm.com/images/Forms/...pplication.pdf>

Hams always say "Use it, or lose it" when it comes to radio spectrum. Well, this time it's being used and we still may lose it!



## A Riley Good Time in Plano

Don Wilbanks, AE5DW



One could honestly say that the recent ARRL National Convention in Plano, Texas, could be billed as having been a Riley good show. Yes, we know that's kind of a play on words, but we are saying is, because the special guest of honor was none other than retired FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Speaking to a standing room only audience, Riley let the crowd in on some of the more fun methodology he used during his tenure as the regulatory agency's ham radio rules enforcer to quickly solve some problems before they became major headaches.



*Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH*

K4ZDH: "This is one where I learned that a wife or a girlfriend can be the most effective enforcement tool that we have and that's why I often sent tapes out to the derelicts as we called them. There was a 50 percent chance that the wife would get the mail and the tapes and she would say, "...gee, what's in this package." (And he would reply) "...Nothing, it just came from the FCC." (She) "Well, what are these tapes for?" And invariably, she is going to listen to them and you can close that case out within a few weeks."

Riley then went on to tell of one case where his theory proved out better than expected...

"This happened the first year of enforcement and the first year I used to get so aggravated about what the bands sounded like, that it would often sour our weekend. So one Friday I decided to call and try to resolve something before it ruined my weekend. I just had a gut feeling that we could get it resolved over the telephone. So I called down; the wife answered and I asked for so and so the amateur operator. She said he's not there but asked what this was about. So against my better judgment I told her what was going on about the interference, and some of the language and so forth and of the complaints.

And there was a pause that I'll never forget. And then she said, "Well he gets home around 6. And I can guarantee you that after 6:15 tonight that you will never have this problem again."

"We never heard from or about that guy again."

Riley spoke and took questions from the audience for the better part of an hour. And what we saw and heard in Plano, Texas was really a new Riley Hollingsworth. He was no longer just the man from the FCC reporting on the state of Part 97 rules enforcement. Rather, he was there as one of us, to share his personal feelings about his love of amateur radio. The crowd truly treasured every word. And to be honest, so did we.



## Have no fear, the hams are here!

Rebecca Unger, Hi-Desert Star

Our society thrives on instant information, but the technology isn't bullet-proof. Since 1859, when a massive solar storm fried telegraph systems, causing the earliest grid meltdown, storms and other disasters have been taking out telecommunications systems. In case of an emergency, you may not be able to dial 9-1-1.

But have no fear, the hams are here!

Amateur radio operators are not a relic of a simpler time, but heroes on the frontline when disaster strikes. Because of the frequencies they operate in, these under-the-radar "hobbyists" save lives during earthquakes, floods, tornados and hurricanes.

"Our bands are interspersed between TV, the military, aircraft, you name it," Bill Prats-K6ACJ, the Desert Radio Amateur Transmitting Society's Coachella Valley club coordinator, explains. "Some of the frequencies we use are the same as in the late 1800's."

The club's Gary Boskovich-KD6QLT, noted another benefit to going low-tech.

"Our radio gear is on a 12-volt system, and a car's battery is 12-volt," he pointed out. "When the power is out and cell phones are down, there's a power source for us right there. And we use a lot of solar."

Prats, Boskovich and their fellow "RATS" were in the Basin last weekend taking part in the annual American Radio Relay League field day competition. Amateur operators rack up points for making contact using various modes of ham equipment and reaching out to the remotest locations.

The Low Desert RATS chilled in Joshua Tree's Angel View Crippled Children Foundation cafeteria. Several staff members at the care facility are licensed amateur radio operators. Angel View's sites in Joshua Tree and Desert Hot Springs have

permanent antenna systems, thanks to donations from the RATS.

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club-W6BA, set up its field-day base in the lot next to the Paradise Cafe in Yucca Valley. The highlight of the installation was Jim Nagel's (ABØWM) 28-foot-tall antenna.

While emergency work is a valuable component to amateur radio, the annual field days are good public outreach for the ham clubs.

"What we try to do is bring in an outsider who wants to find out what ham radio is all about, what we do and how we do it," Boskovich said. "We give him a chance to talk to somebody, on an island or a mountain top, maybe in Costa Rica or China. That's when the desire builds up bit by bit in the individual to do this. Other countries may not have the computers and cell phones we have, but there are hams all over the world."



Jim Nagel-ABØWM, left, gets help raising his 28-foot antenna for his ham club's field day at the Paradise Cafe in Yucca Valley. A passing motorist stopped to gawk and ask, "Can you talk to flying saucers with that thing?"

## Hamming Up the Airwaves

Tom Bearden, PBS

When a giant tornado devastated Joplin, Mo., earlier this year, it destroyed more than homes, schools, and businesses. It also destroyed a large part of the city's communications infrastructure. "Hospitals could not communicate, police could not communicate, and the only thing that was working was amateur radio," said Rick Spiegel-WØRIC, an amateur radio operator.



Field Day site Prospect Park, Littleton, CO

I spoke with Spiegel and several of his colleagues on June 25th during the annual American Radio Relay League's Field Day. His group had set up five two-way radio stations in a park in Littleton, Colo., where they operated them for 24 consecutive hours over the weekend, using only battery power. That's how they stay on the air when cell phones and police and fire radio systems have been destroyed.

An estimated 30,000 hams across the country set up transmitters in public places this weekend

to show off the emergency communications capabilities of their hobby, and to possibly attract new amateur radio enthusiasts.

Scott Brown, whose radio call sign is KØXTR, said there's more to amateur radio than just helping out during emergencies.

"People do this to have fun," he said. "We're prepared for emergency communications, but it's first and foremost a hobby. We enjoy talking to other people with similar interests."

Glenn Valenta-KØBO, who is an electronics engineer by profession, said there are networks of people with similar interests who gather at specific times, on specific radio frequencies just to chew the fat. He says there are many such forums, "like 'Collins net,' where people with old Collins radios get together and exchange information about Collins. There are also political nets, electronics nets, and astronomy nets."

In the past, there were significant hurdles to becoming a ham. The radios themselves were expensive. In addition, a license from the Federal Communications Commission required hams to know Morse code, a telegraphic system that dates back to the 1890s. Morse code uses combinations of dots and dashes to represent individual letters of the alphabet, and is transmitted over the airwaves with a telegraph key.

Today a license is still required, but Morse code has been dropped from the exam. Even so, Brown still does most of his communicating via code.

"Morse code is still alive and well in ham radio," he said. "It's fun."

The old code does offer one advantage over voice communications. Operators can send Morse messages over longer distances because the signal doesn't have to be as strong as a voice transmission in order to be understandable.

Aspiring amateur radio operators today don't have to be rich, either, Brown said. He said that on eBay, entry-level, hand-held ham radios range from \$100 to \$300.



## From One Extreme to Another across the Country

Many rivers in the upper Midwest and northern Plains remain above flood stage, and the threat for more flooding will continue through the summer, forecasters with the National Weather Service said.



With rivers running high and soils completely saturated, just a small amount of rain could trigger more flooding, including areas that have already seen major to record flooding. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting above-normal rainfall in much of the region in the one and three month outlooks. Adding to the flood threat will be the rising temperatures over the Rockies, which will release the water from the remaining snow-pack.

“The sponge is fully saturated – there is nowhere for any additional water to go,” said Jack Hayes, Ph.D., director of NOAA's National Weather Service. “While unusual for this time of year, all signs point to the flood threat continuing through summer.”

Forecasters say this season could rival the Great Flood of 1993, when the upper Midwest endured persistent, record-breaking floods from April through August, impacting nine states and causing more than \$25 billion in damages.

In the Pacific Northwest, July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend holiday goers had to change their plans, or at least their packing lists. Ski poles were replacing fishing poles at popular hiking and camping spots where late-winter snowstorms blanketed Western mountains from the Rockies to the Sierra Nevada.



At Crystal Mountain, south of Seattle, spokeswoman Justus Harris said she expected to see “a lot of bikini tops” out on the slopes. The National Weather Service predicted mostly sunny skies on the mountain on July 4, with a high near 59 degrees. The mountain hasn't been open this late in the year since 1999.



A massive dust storm swept across Phoenix, Arizona July 5<sup>th</sup> causing widespread destruction and zero visibility. Winds gusted over 50 MPH and halted air traffic from 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM due to low visibility.

Although no serious injuries were reported, the storm destroyed power lines, causing power losses for several hours.

The mile-high dust storm moved between speeds of 50 and 60 mph and appeared to be nearly 100 miles wide, according to the Weather Service's radar. "I've been in Arizona for nearly 33 years, and I've never seen as thick a coating of dust, on streets and cars, as this one," said Craig Ellis of the National Weather Service. "I've never seen anything like it before." Weather Service officials said the storm's unusual density was caused by little rainfall in affected areas during the past several months.

Closer to home, the first named storm system of the 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Tropical Storm Arlene – formed June 28<sup>th</sup> off the east coast of Mexico.

Packing sustained winds of 40 MPH and moving west-southwest, Arlene lumbered across Mexico at 7 MPH dumping torrential rains which caused deadly flooding and mud slides. All in all, 22 people lost their lives either as a result of building collapses, mud slides or being swept away in their cars. The victims ranged in age from 12 to 65.



The youngest victim, 12 year-old, Uriel Escobar, was electrocuted after touching a downed power line, said Juan Carlos Orantes, the director of emergencies with the country's civil protection agency.

The storm produced 4 to 8 inches of rain in some areas, while isolated amounts of up to 15 inches fell in mountainous terrain.



Here in Texas, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has dubbed all of Texas a natural disaster as the worst drought in decades persists across most of the state. In a news release, the department designated 213 counties directly impacted by drought as disasters and said the remaining 41 also qualified for assistance because they are contiguous.

The designation, which also applies to

32 counties in four neighboring states, allows ranchers and farmers to apply for low-interest emergency loans. Losses in agriculture could top the 2006 record of \$4.1 billion.

Exceptional drought conditions are occurring across much of the state due to a lack of significant rainfall and scorching temperatures. Based on the latest drought information, this drought ranks 3rd worst in history with 97% of the state experiencing some drought conditions and 72% of the state in exceptional drought conditions. While it may seem bad across North Texas we are actually much better off than many parts of the state. Conditions are much more serious farther south and west of the Metroplex.

The triple-digit temperatures in Texas are being blamed in one woman's death. Authorities say a 56-year-old woman went riding on an all-terrain vehicle, crashed and became disoriented, then started walking in the woods and became dehydrated before she died.

Conditions are not expected to improve much over the coming weeks.



## ARRL, National Weather Service Update *Memorandum of Understanding*



The National Weather Service has updated its *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* with the ARRL. The updated *MoU* serves “as a framework within which volunteers of the ARRL may coordinate their services, facilities and equipment with the NWS in support of nationwide, state and local early weather warning and emergency communications function.” In May, ARRL President Kay Craigie-N3KN, signed on behalf of the ARRL, and in June, NWS Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services’ Director Dave Caldwell signed on behalf of the NWS. The ARRL and the NWS have had a formal working arrangement since 1986.



NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge David Wert-KB2FZO;  
ARRL President Kay Craigie-N3KN; Warning Coordinator  
Meteorologist Phil Hysel- KI4CKP in Blacksburg, VA

The NWS, in the *MoU*, acknowledges that Amateur Radio operators can be of valuable assistance in early severe weather warning and tornado spotting. Through its SKYWARN program, the NWS recognizes that Amateur Radio operators have assisted as communicators and weather spotters since the program began in the late 1960s. “In areas where tornadoes and other severe weather have been known to threaten, the NWS recruits volunteers and trains them in proper weather spotting procedures,” the *MoU* states.

“These dedicated citizens help keep their local community safe by conveying severe weather reports to their local NWS forecast office. SKYWARN spotters are integral to the success of our nation’s severe weather warning system.”

“All the National Weather Service personnel I’ve met throughout the country have told me how much they respect and depend on the Amateur Radio SKYWARN volunteers in their forecast areas,” Craigie said. “This year’s weather disasters underscore the importance of amateurs becoming trained severe weather spotters and participating in SKYWARN. It’s a pleasure for me to work with the National Weather Service, both as an ARRL official and as a local SKYWARN volunteer.”

Through the *MoU*, the ARRL will encourage its Field Organization, including ARES, to “contact and cooperate with National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologists for the purpose of establishing organized SKYWARN networks with radio amateurs serving as communicators and spotters.” The ARRL will also encourage its Section management teams “to provide specialized communications and observation support on an as-needed basis for NWS offices in other weather emergencies, such as hurricanes, snow and heavy rain storms, and other severe weather situations.” In turn, the NWS will work with ARRL Section ARES volunteers to establish SKYWARN networks, and/or other weather emergency and alert systems.

“The relationship between the National Weather Service and the ARRL has been a model partnership for many years,” said ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC. “The renewal of this *MoU* emphasizes the value of Amateur Radio to the NWS mission.”

## **Anti Distracted Driving Measure Introduced in US House of Representatives**

*Bruce Tennant, K6PZW*

According to published news reports, Representative Carolyn McCarthy of New York said the legislation titled the “Safe Drivers Act of 2011” would direct the Department of Transportation to set a national standard to prohibit drivers from using hand-held mobile devices, except in certain emergency situations. The legislation, as now proposed, states a handheld device would at this time not include voice-operated, vehicle-integrated, or hands-free devices that allow an individual to operate that device without the use of either hand except to activate or deactivate a feature or function.



*Representative Carolyn McCarthy*

In addition to developing a national handheld ban, the legislation would also require the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on all aspects of distracted driving. In particular, the study would look at cognitive distraction which involves whether drivers can still be dangerously distracted while using mobile phones even when they are operated with hands-free devices or voice commands.

Within two years of the proposed law’s passage, the Department of Transportation would be required to report on its findings and possibly tighten its restrictions even further on the use of all mobile device used in vehicles. States that did not comply with the Federal government’s standard within two years would be penalized by having 25% of their federal highway funding withheld.

It’s unknown whether or not the use of handheld push-to-talk microphones used by two-way radio users such as police, fire, delivery services, CB operators and hams would be exempted from McCarthy’s proposed national ban.

## **Texas Gov. Perry Vetoes Texting While Driving Bill**

*April Castro, Associated Press*

Austin – Governor Rick Perry vetoed a bill that would have outlawed sending or reading text messages while driving.

Lawmakers approved the texting ban last month, but Perry called it an “overreach” and “government effort to micromanage the behavior of adults.”

Former House Speaker Tom Craddick had pushed the texting while driving ban, touting it as a public-safety measure. But the bill triggered more than a half-hour of debate on the House floor with opponents arguing the bill would amount to criminalizing drivers simply for receiving a text message while driving.



*Texas Governor Rick Perry*

## Field Day Disgrace

Steven Reed, KW4H

On the last day of field day 2011, one of our Tech class graduates arrived and was given the opportunity to make his first contact -- a phone exchange on 20 meters. We helped him dial up someone calling "CQ Field Day" and coached him on what to say for a successful field day exchange. What happened next was one of the most horrifying experiences I've ever had in ham radio -- I witnessed a new ham being mocked and verbally abused on the air. The ham we made contact with went out of his way to be rude, condescending, and downright abusive in his over-the-air communication with someone who identified himself as being not only new to ham radio, but on his first contact. The other ham then refused to identify himself in any other mode except Morse Code, and mocked the new ham for not knowing Code. He then berated him for being in the "General Class band" without proper authorization, and we had to step in and inform this clown that a control operator with Extra Class privileges was sitting next to him. In addition to all of this, instead of providing proper field day exchange protocol, this ham would only say he was a "44 Double D".

Following this embarrassing and outrageous over the air exchange, several members of our club had to spend some time explaining to the newcomer that what he just experienced was not the norm in Ham Radio. Hopefully, he will remain interested in the hobby and not think we are a bunch of kooks.

I think this incident deserves some publicity. Our hobby is always in dire need of young hams, and I personally witnessed a 22 year old young man being verbally abused and mocked on the air by one of our own. I won't release the callsign of the other ham involved in this incident, but if it were in my hands he would have permanently lost his license today.

Fortunately, most hams are kind and courteous towards newcomers and recognize the importance of encouraging young people to be involved in ham radio. Most hams will go out of their way to be helpful and wouldn't even think of mocking someone who was new and inexperienced.

If you run across a new ham, please be kind and courteous. Let's keep our hobby alive and moving forward.



*Editor's notes...* following the posting of this story on *eHam.net*, several readers replied stating that the identity of the offending station should be made known to the amateur radio community so "the rest of us" may avoid him and not answer his CQ's.

Another ham – WZ4I – was tuning up and down 20 meters and over-heard the offending ham in question.

His callsign was **KZ8O** (*ex-ND8V*) reportedly, "...a well known lid who operates on 14.272-14.275 and 14.313." Another ham went further to say that "...KZ8O is well known for this type of operating..."

The report was verified by the author.

Fortunately, most hams are kind and courteous towards newcomers and recognize the importance of encouraging young people to be involved in ham radio.

# W R R

## First in Texas

WRR was the first licensed broadcast station in Texas and the South and the second broadcast station issued a commercial license in the United States.



WRR transmitter tower circa 1950's

WRR was the brainchild of inventor Henry “Dad” Garrett, Police and Fire Signal Superintendent for the City of Dallas who began tinkering with radio in his off-duty hours. When a fire destroyed telephone lines and thwarted dispatching efforts in different parts of the city, Garrett saw the potential for instantaneous communication through the new medium of wireless radio transmission. After several years of experimentation Garrett’s innovation convinced the City of Dallas to purchase equipment to operate a 50-watt station.

Licensed on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1921, the station operated with a “composite” transmitting system (i.e. “homemade”), and was authorized to operate at a power of up to 100 watts, giving the station an approximate range of 200 nautical miles.

In later years, the call letters would be said to stand for “*Where Radio Radiates*”. WRR can still be heard today in the Dallas area on 101.1 FM.

## First Radio Broadcast of a Major League Baseball Game

It’s August 5th, 1921 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Harold Arlin, a twenty-five year old Westinghouse foreman and nighttime studio announcer, took his place in Baseball History from a ground-level box seat in Forbes Field. Using only a converted telephone as a microphone and some jerry-rigged equipment set up behind home plate, Arlin called the world’s first baseball game as he described the Pittsburgh Pirates’ 8-5 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies broadcast on **KDKA**, the nation’s first commercial radio station.



Not everyone in major league baseball welcomed the exposure on this new medium called “radio.” Many were concerned games on radio would keep fans at home rather than at the ballpark, an observation that seems shortsighted today.

It turned out radio’s intimacy made it and baseball an ideal match. Radio’s portability helped too; at home, in the car, at the office, a transistor radio under the pillow. Still, it took years for many teams to recognize the marketing ability of broadcasting games.

Who could have foreseen that Radio’s marriage to Baseball--*America's Game*--would become a match made in Heaven.