

**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**

## The Prez Says...

*Priscilla Beauregard, KE5UES*

On Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> I had the delightful experience of going on a “Fox Hunt”, ham radio style with Joe Dorn - W5VEX and Teddy Bruski - KE5UET. I would not say we were lost but it did take us awhile to get to the command location. Once we were on location each team was given a set of instructions and we were off. Our team did not have a directional antenna so Teddy was using the Yaesu FT60 H/T. Guess what! We were the first team to find the armadillo. It took another hour to find the ham.



We then all headed back to the command site, where we also had a chance to experience another unusual event - a lunch cooked completely by solar energy. We all had a lot of fun and are looking forward to the next training sometime late in September or the first of October. I hope our club can have a directional antenna building program in the near future.

More information about this exercise follows further on in this edition of the newsletter.

The club would like to congratulate **Gerald Richmond - N5ZXJ** on being elected Vice President of the Texas VHF-FM Society.

Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> is Labor Day; a lot of business and government offices will be closed. Be careful and safe if you are planning to be on the road. The weather will still be hot so drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

Hope to see y'all on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at the monthly meeting. It will be held at the Bell County Communication Center, 708 W. Ave O, in Belton, at 7:00 PM.

- 73 de KE5UES



Albert Einstein when asked to describe radio, replied:  
*"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates in exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."*



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!

September NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule:

September 6 <sup>th</sup> :	September 13 <sup>th</sup> :
Net Control: K6WXA	KE5UES
Back-Up: AD5SK	W5VEX

September 20 <sup>th</sup> :	September 27 <sup>th</sup> :
Net Control: W5VEX	KE5ISN
Back-Up: KE5ISN	AD5SK



### ARRL September VHF QSO Party

Contest period is from 1800Z, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>  
to 0300Z, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> on all authorized  
amateur frequencies of 50 MHz and up.

For complete information on this event  
visit: [http://www.arrl.org/september-  
vhfqsoparty](http://www.arrl.org/september-vhfqso-party)



### Texas QSO Party

The Texas QSO party is sponsored  
each year by the Northwest Amateur  
Radio Society - W5NC - to encourage  
contacts between Texas amateur radio  
operators and amateur radio operators  
throughout the world. This event is also  
an excellent opportunity for county  
hunters to add to their list of Texas  
counties worked.

Operating times are from 1400Z,  
September 24<sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, September 25<sup>th</sup>  
with then a break and again from 1400Z  
to 2000Z on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Further info, at: <http://www.txqp.net>

## Strays

### "I've Been Hamstrung"

Holy smokes and goodness sake,  
I just received a card that made me shake.  
You say my subscription to *QST*,  
Has just run out, oh woe is me.

Rectifiers are red and condensers are blue,  
*QST* how I would miss you.  
Your pages are crammed with the latest  
dope,  
Could I do without you, the answer is nope.

I've got standing waves all over the place,  
And my VFO is starting to race.  
Things are in rough shape as you can see,  
And the only thing that helps is *QST*.

Please find enclosed four hard earned bucks,  
Flying to you with the speed of ducks.  
I'm a lousy poet as you can see,  
But renew my subscription to *QST*!

- WØSXU *QST*, September 1957



Ad which appeared in *QST*, September 1942

# What's New?



## Vanity Call Sign Fee To Increase September 4th

On August 3, the FCC announced via a final rule in the Federal Register, that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 80 cents, from \$14.20 to \$15.00. The new fees take effect on September 4, 2012.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign, and also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.



## ITU Assigns New Prefix for Niue: E6A-E6Z

On August 3, the International Telecommunications Union updated its Table of International Call Sign Series to reflect a call sign change for Niue. The island will now have the entire **E6** prefix block.



Niue -- an island approximately 1500 miles northeast of New Zealand, is a self-governing island nation that has been in free association with New Zealand since 1974. Prior to the change, the island used ZK2. Niue is about 1.5 times the size of Washington, DC, and has a population of almost 1300 people.



## Curiosity Imprints Morse Code on Mars Surface

The Mars Science Laboratory, named *Curiosity* has vehicle tires with tread patterns that imprint the acronym JPL in Morse Code in the dusty soil of the Mars surface.



These are used by the earth-bound drivers to maintain visual orientation and checks of distance traveled which can be gauged by incremental count of the tread pattern repeats.

The newest Martian rover was launched on November 26, 2011 and successfully landed on Mars this past August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Perhaps when future Martian archaeologists study these strange fossil tread patterns a few hundred years from now, they will try to find someone studied in ancient radio lore to decode the meaning.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Our own Gerald Richmond - **N5ZXJ**, was elected as Vice President of the Texas VHF-FM Society at its meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Austin Summerfest.



An team of operators will be on the air as **3D2C** from Conway Reef between September 24th and October 5th.



Activity will be on 160 through 2 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK31. QSL via YT1AD.

F4EZG will be active between September 1st and the 3rd from Madagascar as **5R8VE**. Operations will only be on 20 and 15 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

**IW5ELA** will be on the air **stroke 3B8** from Maritius between September 6th and the 12th his operation will be on 20, 17, 15 and 12 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

DJ7RJ will be active from Reunion Island 26 September - 21 October 2012 as **FR/DJ7RJ**. He will be active on 160-10m CW & SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

**WC30, K3RMB, NK3P, KB3EYY** and **KB3HGJ** will be active from Prince Edward Island Sep 26 to Oct 1. They will operate from 80 to 10 meters in CW, SSB and RTTY as **stroke VY2**. QSL via K3MJW.

**OK1DX, OK1FCJ, & OK6DJ** will be active from Albania **stroke ZA** from 27 September to 3 October on 160 – 10 meters. QSL each via their respective home callsigns.

OE4JHW will be operational as **8Q7OE** from the Maldives on 10 thru 40 meters between September 3rd and the 14th. QSL via his home callsign.



## V-J Day

*“The thoughts and hopes of all America—indeed of all the civilized world—are centered tonight on the battleship Missouri. There on that small piece of American soil anchored in Tokyo Harbor the Japanese have just officially laid down their arms. They have signed terms of unconditional surrender.”*



President Truman, in this radio address to the American people on **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945** after the signing of the terms of Japan’s unconditional surrender aboard the *U.S.S. Missouri*, praised the sacrifice made by so many American soldiers as well the dedication to the war effort by Americans on the home front. The President credits the Spirit of Liberty, the freedom of the individual, and the personal dignity of man as the forces which led to victory but also warns of the difficult peace that lay ahead.

You can listen in again to the President’s broadcast by visiting: <http://archive.org/details/HarrS.Truman-AnnouncingJapansSurrender> and you can view the transcript of his speech at: <http://millercenter.org/president/speeches/detail/3341>

## Search and Rescue Simulated Emergency Training Exercise

Compiled by *Leon Cheney, K5ZZM & Joe Dorn, W5VEX*

The Waco area Texas State Guard ARC sponsored a search and rescue Simulated Emergency Training exercise that was very successful and might be a model for some other amateur radio clubs with an interest in emergency response.

**AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup>, 0330HRS...** WE ARE INITIATING A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION: Marty Godfrey - KF5IXZ, has not contacted his wife and is presumed injured or lost. Marty may also have a rare Armadillo which could be in labor in the area that also needs attention... those of you who are EMT trained might keep this in mind, in that the capture of this rare animal is also part of the mission.

With the initiation of the exercise, 35 hams responded on-site along with 8 off-site, from the Central Texas ARC, Heart of Texas ARC, the Bosque County ARS and the Texas State Guard ARC responded in support of the exercise. Also present were members of the Hill County Sheriff's Office, Bosque County Sheriff's Office and the Lake Whitney Police Department.

Jim Judd - KA5QKL, whose station was 30 miles south of the search area, volunteered to handle net control position as long as necessary. He had no operational information so had to do what we all do during emergencies; "wing it".

A briefing took place at the search site which was the east side of Lake Aquilla in Hill County, where strong signals from Marty - KF5IXZ were detected. BCARS member Mark Allen - W6PC volunteered to lead the mission.

Using "fox hunt" equipment, he and the search teams then proceeded to the search area working communications between net control, the teams, and our temporary command post on Lake Aquilla. After approximately 3 hours of intense searching and planning, the teams narrowed the target to the area where Marty's signal was strong where he was found well hidden, about a mile from the parking area.

After Marty's "rescue" and return to the staging area, he and his fellow hams had a nice solar-prepared lunch prepared by Carolyn Black - KD5GLM.

Thanks to all of you who participated in making this a meaningful and uplifting event. Here is the re-cap: A total of 379 man-hours of planning and execution went into this exercise. The search team successfully located our victim and his Armadillo in less than 3 hours by using all of our tools; *radio, DF gear, map reading, search methods, observation and plain intestinal fortitude*. All of you represent the very heart of being the epitome of volunteerism...responding to a call for help regardless of the danger.

We had a fun time and overall the event was a great success with some real situations that were not planned - such as a blown a tire on the Communications trailer while enroute to the command post. Every one was ready to do it again and that will be in late September or in October at some unannounced location. Hope to see you there. This is stuff that we all need to get down as we know it will really happen one day where this type of direction-finding search and rescue technique will be needed.

Thanks Leon and the Texas State Guard Club for your efforts. This was a great way to 'play radio'.

## The First Annual Antenna On the Air Party

One of the terms often used in the amateur radio hobby is *Elmering* and with that in mind, **Harry Brown - AC8S**, has stepped up to the plate as an Elmer for what he is calling “The First Annual Antenna On-the-Air Party.”

This is not a contest, but rather an operating event. There are no logs to keep; no points awarded for each QSO and no award to be handed out for a “First Place” at the end of it.

Rather, the purpose of this event is for we hams to demonstrate our antennas; to hear how they get out; so other hams can “rate” what they hear and put up one just like it – or better – as the case may be.

It is hoped that as many hams as possible will participate in the event and help other hams know about different antenna systems.

Whether you want to make just a few contacts, or, if you want to make a lot of contacts, don’t sit this one out! Get on the air and have fun learning about and hearing, new antennas, and let others learn about, and hear your antenna! Exchange: signal report, US state, Canadian province, or DX country, antenna being used, where it’s located, for example, on a balcony, in an attic, how high up it is, and, how much power you’re running.



### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Antenna On-the-Air Party

Starts: 2300Z, September 21<sup>st</sup>  
Ends: 0400Z, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6,  
and 2 Meters.  
Modes: AM, CW, FM and SSB.

An example exchange might be “You’re 5-9 Alaska, running a long wire, in a backyard, up 10 feet, running 200 watts.”

Participants are encouraged to operate only from a fixed location, such as your place of residence and to limit their output power to 200 watts or less.

Again, no logs need be submitted after the event. Just take down any information about

the other stations antenna that **YOU** need to know, such as what is given by the station. The station can give as much info on the antenna as needed, such as, how to build it, or, tell the station you’re working, that they can find directions on how to build and put up the antenna or where to buy it at a certain website, or, to send you an email with a request for more information about the antenna.

If you’d like more insight or thoughts from the Elmer of this event, you can drop him a line at: [wd8oep2464@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wd8oep2464@sbcglobal.net) .



## NOAA Revises Hurricane Season Forecast

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have revised their predictions, saying more named storms are likely in this year's Atlantic hurricane season.

This year's Atlantic hurricane season was originally forecasted to have 10 named storm systems, with four of those attaining hurricane strength and two of those becoming major hurricanes.

The agency now predicts between 12 and 17 named storms, with five to eight of those becoming hurricanes, and that two to three of those could become major hurricanes. The increase in the likelihood of an above-normal season is because storm-conducive wind patterns and warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures are now in place in the Atlantic. These conditions are linked to the ongoing high activity era for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995.



*All eyes on Isaac – August 26th*

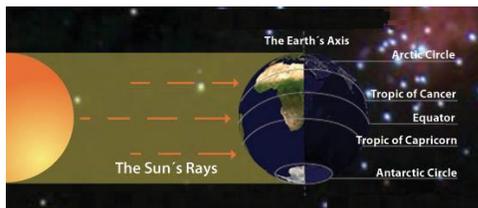
Also, strong early-season activity is generally indicative of a more active season.

However, NOAA seasonal climate forecasters also announced that El Niño will likely develop in August or September which will strengthen the vertical wind shear over the Atlantic, which suppresses storm development. But they don't expect El Niño's influence until later in the season.

As of this writing, this season has already produced ten named storms, four of which became hurricanes – Chris, Ernesto, Gordon and Isaac. This year was also the first time since 1908 that three named storms formed before the June 1st start of hurricane season.

## Autumnal Equinox

In many regions of North America, the fall landscape silently explodes with vibrant colors of red, yellow, and orange. The leaves begin to drop off the trees, providing endless hours of jumping into leaf piles for kids and raking them back up for parents! Baseball season hits the homestretch, while football season is just warming up. Temperatures begin to drop, nights begin to get longer, and all the woodland critters are storing up for the long haul of winter.



For those of us here in Central Texas, the September Equinox (*also referred to as the Fall or Autumnal Equinox*) will occur at 9:49 AM CDT, Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> marking the first day of Fall.

The next celestial-weather event will occur on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> with the Winter Solstice.

## Seasonal Drought Outlook

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, nearly 89 percent of Texas continues to suffer from some form of drought, which is much better than it was just eight months ago. However, the worst of the drought continues over parts of the Texas Panhandle and Deep South Texas.

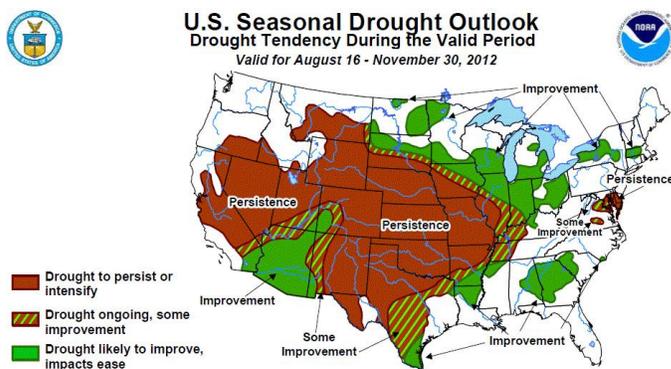
Much of Deep South Texas is suffering from severe to extreme drought at the present time, and no real relief is in sight anytime soon. Residents of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas were hoping that Tropical Storm Helene would bring welcome rains to the area. However, the bulk of the moisture was shunted into the Gulf of Mexico instead. A large dip in the jet stream that brought record cold air to parts of the Midwest drove a lot



*Tierra Blanca Creek in Canyon, Texas*

of Helene's remnant moisture northeastward away from South Texas.

The long-lead outlook for September through November indicates enhanced chances for above-normal precipitation in eastern Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama. Farther north and west, near to below-normal precipitation seems more likely in the High Plains and northern half of the Great Plains for the last half of August, and the September through November outlook leans neither dry nor wet. In the end, improvement is forecast in southern Texas where the seasonal temperature decline could have a significant effect.



Some improvement was forecast in areas adjacent to these improvement regions, and persistence was forecast effectively for the interior and western parts of this large drought region. However, the effect of cooler autumn weather is not easy to determine, and given the indeterminate

precipitation forecast, improvement could well be felt in a considerably larger part of this region.

The Drought Outlook through the end of November, indicates drought conditions will remain essentially unchanged in large sections of the central Mississippi Valley, the central and southwestern Great Plains, most of the High Plains, the central Rockies, the Great Basin, and parts of the Far West, though the seasonal declines in temperatures, evaporative moisture loss, and water demand should preclude any widespread worsening of conditions. At least some improvement is forecast for much of the central Rockies, the Southwest, the southern Great Plains, the Ohio Valley, the Great Lakes region, the upper Midwest, and the eastern tier of states.

The next drought outlook statement will be issued on September 6<sup>th</sup>. You can view this at: [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/seasonal\\_drought.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html)



**QST Managing Editor Joel Kleinman - N1BKE** of Meriden, Connecticut, died August 18 from injuries received during a house fire. He was 64. Kleinman was responsible for the coordination, organization, control and completion of all aspects of *QST*'s editorial content each month. "With the passing of Joel Kleinman - N1BKE, we have lost not only a respected professional colleague, but also a friend," said ARRL President Kay Craigie - N3KN.

---

**Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) Vice President George Varvitsiotes - K6SV** passed away August 21st due to complications from cancer. He was 57.

---

**The FCC** was charged several months ago by Congress to conduct a study into the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief, and into the existence of impediments thereto, including the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations. The FCC has released its report which can be viewed at: [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2012/db0820/DA-12-1342A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0820/DA-12-1342A1.pdf)

---

**NOAA** has issued a status report on their roll-out of Dual Polarization RADAR upgrades. KEWX (New Braunfels) was upgraded a couple of months ago. KGRK (Granger, Williamson County) is still pending their upgrade. The status update is at: <http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/PublicDocs/DualPol/DPstatus.pdf>

---

**Troy Kimmel, Chief Meteorologist at KEYE-TV** has released a 93-page report on Inclement/Severe Weather and Extreme Climatology for South Central Texas. This is an excellent read which can be found at: <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/grg/kimmel/inclement.pdf>

---

**The month of September** marks the peak of this year's Atlantic Hurricane Season. Those with interest should regularly check the National Hurricane Center's website at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. You might also want to monitor the Hurricane Watch Net through station WX4NHC on 14.325 MHz (USB) or their alternate frequency of 3.950 MHz (LSB). The net is activated anytime a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of a populated land mass, or on request of the National Hurricane Center. More info on the Hurricane Watch Net is at: <http://hwn.org>. Those without HF equipment can monitor the net via: <http://14300stream.homeip.net:88/broadwave.aspx?src=1&rate=0> when the net is active.

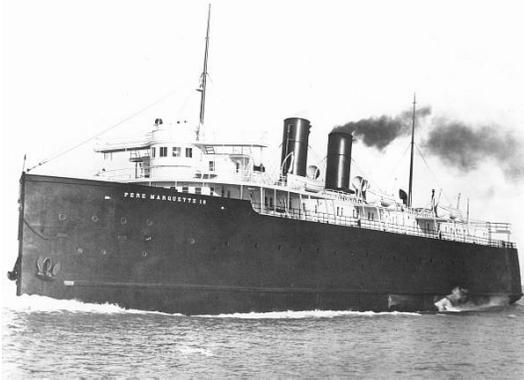
---

**KB5AVY Linked Repeater System:** listen-in to linked repeaters covering New Orleans and Jefferson Parish: <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5626>

## The First Use of Wireless on a Ship in Distress on the Great Lakes

Stephen S. Sczpanck, a wireless operator, blazed the trail which so many have unselfishly followed. Sczpanck was lost on the *Pere Marquette Car Ferry No. 18* on **September 9th, 1910**, on Lake Michigan.

The seas were running high but the weather was fair. The vessel was not overloaded. Her engines and machinery were working and she had passed a government inspection at Ludington the day before.



The steamer was discovered taking on water around 3:00 AM and was about midway across Lake Michigan, when, on order from the captain, Sczpanck sent out a call for help while the crew summoned to the deck the passengers, who were still comfortably seated in the railroad coaches. In the midst of the confusion the cool and collected wireless operator appeared, making his way slowly through the aisles and stopping at each seat to reassure the passengers help was coming, his wireless appeal had been answered and a sister ship was

speeding to the rescue. When the boats had been lowered away in good order and his assistance was no longer needed on deck, Sczpanck returned to the wireless room. There he remained by his crackling key, directing the speeding rescue ships until the still waters closed relentlessly over the vessel, taking him and thirty-eight others to the bottom. The cause of her sinking remains a mystery to this day and may never be known.

This is believed to of been the first ship-to-shore radio distress signal - and rescue - on the Great Lakes made possible by radio.

## The Youngest “Silent Key”

The *Francis H. Leggett* left Grays Harbor, WA with a belly full of railroad timbers headed on a southern course for San Francisco, carrying 67 passengers and crew. One of which was a seventeen-year-old boy, Clifton J. Fleming – the ships’ wireless operator.

For two days she had been pounded unmercifully by the heavy seas and finally on **September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1914**, a particularly vicious wave tore loose a hatch and a torrent of water poured into the hold.

Fleming sent out the distress call as the vessel began to list and two steamships started to the rescue. Suddenly the vessel lurched as her lumber cargo shifted, and she disappeared beneath the waves.



Coming up in the pounding sea, Fleming clung to a piece of wreckage for support. He discovered a woman struggling in the water and assisted her to the drifting wood and relinquished his hold upon it since it would not support them both, he let go and sank. He was not seen again.

# HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, the *Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, **Saturday, Oct. 6th** from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Getting there is easy; from U.S. Highway 190 take the exit for Loop 121 and follow the signs to the Exposition Center. Plenty of free parking!

Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123, and call for W5LM.

General admission for the public is \$5.00 at the door. Admission price includes one free raffle ticket for various door prizes raffled off during the event. Winners must be present to collect their winnings.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>



## Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

In conjunction with the HamExpo, amateur radio tests will be given in the main building of the Expo center, sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The testing will begin at 9:30 AM and end when all applicants have been tested, probably around 11:00 AM.

Since the test session is in conjunction with the very popular Ham Expo, we expect between 25 and 50 people taking the tests. This requires at least 10 Volunteer Examiners to properly staff the event. The VE's participating should be on site by 9:00. Both General and Extra VE's are needed since all test levels are being made available.

This is a 'Ham Community' effort and all area VE's are needed and most welcome to participate. If you will be able to participate, please send an email to Joe Dorn - W5VEX, at: [w5vex@arrl.net](mailto:w5vex@arrl.net), or you can contact him by phone at (254) 939-5918 or (254) 721-0829.

People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.



You might remember former CTARC member Cody Schleppegrell, ex: KCØHEQ, then KF5HWA. Since then Cody has upgraded to Extra Class and is now **AE5YY**. He and his family have also moved and they now live in Meadows Place, southwest of Houston.

If you want to QSO with him, he says he's on almost nightly on 3.916 MHz.