

**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



It is the end of September and I hope y'all have been enjoying some of the cooler weather we have had. Of course, today was in the lower 90's but anything under 100 in Texas is cool. Right!!!

Do not forget October 6th is Ham Expo and VE Testing at Belton. It starts at 6:00 AM on Saturday. Hope all of you will be able to attend. You might find something you just can't live without. The raffle prize of a Yaesu FT8800R has been ordered and received. We will have a table not too far from the ARRL table; so the ones working at our table will be able to help at the ARRL table without too much difficulty.

On October 20th, 2012 the Texas State Guard Amateur Radio Club will have another emergency drill. If anyone is free that week-end I suggest you try to participate. Those of us that attended the last emergency drill had a lot of fun. They suggest that you might want to have some fox hunting gear available in case you need to follow radio signals. More on this further on in the newsletter.

Some dates to remember:

- CTARC Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM Tuesday, October 2nd
- Ham Expo October 6th
- Texas State Guard Amateur Radio Club Emergency Drill October 20th
- CQ World-Wide DX Contest October 27th and 28th
- ARRL South Texas SET October 27th
- Halloween October 31st

And finally, remember the words of Orson Welles who closed out his 1938 'War of the Worlds' radio broadcast by saying:

"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."

- 73 de KE5UES



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, 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.

In 1895 21 year-old Guglielmo Marconi started conducting wireless experiments in his bedroom which would ultimately change the world of science.

Towards the end of his life, he philosophized: "*Have I done the world good, or have I added a menace?*"

How's DX?

The North Shore Scenic Railroad Club **NSØSR** will be active October 6th on – board trains from 11:00 AM to 8:30 PM CDT, on 14.260 and 7.200 MHz.



You can follow their movements via APRS at NSØSR-8, or by visiting: <http://aprs.fi/#!mt=roadmap&z=10&call=a%2FNSØSR-8&timerange=3600>. QSL direct.

HB9FR will be active from Rodrigues Island 16-23 October as **3B9SP** on the HF Bands. QSL via HB9ACA.

DJ7RJ is active on Reunion Island through the 21st of October as **FR/DJ7RJ**. He will be active on 160 - 10m CW & SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

A team of Saudi operators will activate Al-Dhahrah Island as **7Z7AB** between October 5th and the 11th.



Operations will be on 10 – 160 Meters. QSL via 7Z1CQ.

OH2YY will be active from Christmas Island 6 - 12 October as **VK9XM**. He will be active on 40 through 10 Meters. QSL via his home callsign.

AA5UK will be operating **stroke EA6** from the Balearic Islands between October 20th and the 31st. Activity will be on 80 through 6 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via his home callsign.

A group of Brazilian operators will be on the air as **T3ØPY** from Western Kiribati October 16th through the 25th. They plan on being on 160 – 10 meters, plus 6 Meter EME. QSL via PY2PT.

ON4CIT will be active from Togo as **5V7TH** from October 26 thru November 4th on 40 – 6 Meters. QSL via his home callsign.

IK5RUN will be active from Praslin Island 21-31 October as **S79UN**. He will be active on 40-10m CW, RTTY & SSB. QSL via his home call.

PY7ZY will be active as **3D2ZY** from Viti Levu Island, Fiji. QSL via his home callsign.

OH2NNE will be active as **5H2DK** from Tanzania from 2 -17 October on 80 -10 meters SSB. QSL via his home call.

PY2XB, PY2WAS, PY7XC & PY2PT will be active from Viti Levu Island, Fiji from 8-14 October 2012 as **3D2XB**, **3D2AS**, **3D2XC** & **3D2PT**. QSL each via their home callsign.

WBØVGI will be active as **5H3NP** from Tanzania, Oct. 8th to Dec. 15th. QSL via his home call.

K7QI will be active on the HF bands as **Z8ØB**, October through November, in South Sudan. QSL via K7GSE.

Of interest to DX'ers is the current **Z6ØK** operation from **Kosovo**. QSO's with this activity do not count towards DXCC. This is due to the fact that the sovereignty of Kosovo has not been recognized by the United Nations, nor has the ITU assigned a call sign block to Kosovo. Based on the above, in some circles this operation is regarded as an unlicensed 'pirate station.'

Emergency Drill

Leon Cheney, K5ZZM

The Texas State Guard Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring another emergency drill that will involve all of our area hams who wish to participate. The emergency, like many emergencies will not be known until it actually happens. ...So goes this drill. As we approach the date of the FTX we will be announcing information that will pertain to the drill.

We will announce an “*emergency*” on a pre-designated repeater at about 9:00am on Saturday the **20th of October, 2012**. The type of emergency will be announced on the repeater with an appeal for local help from any HAM operator in the area of the emergency to report



somewhere to assist. We will then assemble at some location which is in the affected area and plan to help solve the situation. We may also ask for additional equipment.

We plan to assemble for a briefing at an unknown location. Why do we say “unknown”.... that is because, as in any emergency, no one knows until it happens. That will be the theme of this exercise. This should be fun as well and we plan it to be both educational and fun.

Hope as many of you as possible will participate and be sure and include the family. We have no idea what type this will be but we will decide as a group what to do to solve the problem. All of your input and ideas will be welcome.

Again we might be thinking of having some “fox-hunt” gear available in case we need to follow radio signals... (just a hint).

More to follow...

Editor's Notes: The Texas State Guard Amateur Radio Club - W5TSG - operates on two specific repeaters... 147.320(+) PL 123 and on 145.310(-) also with a PL of 123. Their simplex operating frequency is 147.550.

A.R.R.L. South Texas Simulated Emergency Test



The ARRL South Texas SET is scheduled for **October 27th** from 8:00 AM to Noon.

The goal of this exercise is to test the readiness of ARES Mutual Aid Teams in partnership with Texas ARMY MARS and RACES organizations including the National Traffic System, in a scenario in which a large hurricane has impacted the Texas coast also spawning numerous tornadoes. Effects include widespread power outages and a failure of the Internet and phone/cellular networks in many areas of the state.

More information including operating frequencies and protocols, can be found at: <http://www.arrlstx.org/index.php/ares/sec-corner>.



Seasonal Forecast Outlook

Some meteorologists believe there is a significant chance for a particularly frigid winter for 2012-2013. While the most consistent of the cold is to the north, severe bouts of cold deep into Texas and Florida could be capable of affecting agriculture more so than we've seen in that last 20 years or so.

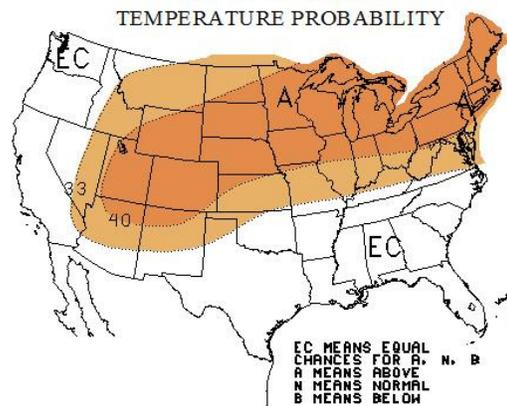
Supported by the model forecasts and the continued warmth across the Pacific Ocean, the official forecast calls for the development of most likely a weak El Niño persisting through December-February 2012-13.

So all in all what does this mean? It's likely to be a **colder than average** winter for Texas and surrounding states. Remembering back, the El Niño of 2004-2005 gave the Rio Grande valley a white Christmas.

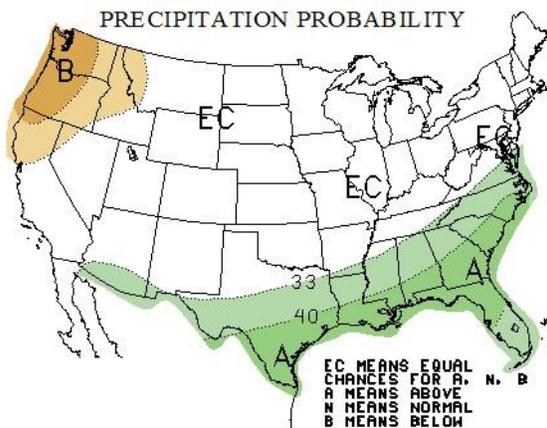
The two best fit analogs suggest December will be the fun month with a quiet period in January. February could be average with a cold shot.

Wettest areas will be the southern half of the state. Overall, winter in terms of precipitation is for normal to slightly above normal statewide, wettest to the south less wet to the north. This is not snowfall - just overall precipitation, colder temperatures can have above snow even with less precipitation.

Three-Month Outlook Official Forecast Oct-Nov-Dec 2012



Three-Month Outlook Official Forecast Oct-Nov-Dec 2012



Above median precipitation is predicted in sections of the southwest based on continuation of enhanced monsoon conditions. The increased likelihood of below median precipitation in the upper Midwest is due to the impact of drier than normal initial soil moisture conditions.

Once El Niño conditions are firmly established, the extension of the subtropical jet enhances the chances of above median precipitation across the southern United States through the winter of 2013.

In locations where the likelihoods of

seasonal mean temperatures and seasonal precipitation amounts are similar to the climatological probabilities, equal chances (EC) of below, near, and above average temperature and precipitation are indicated.

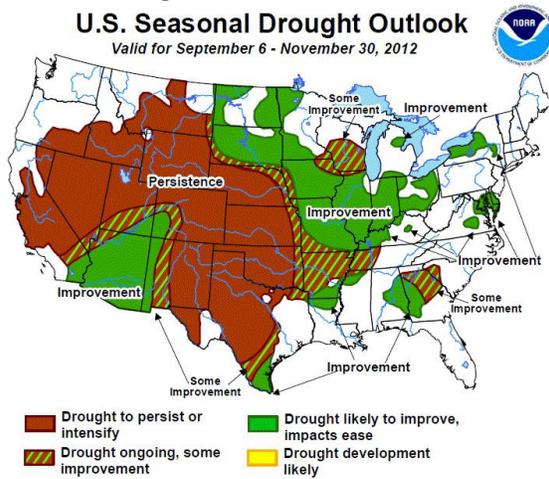
During this year's fire season, from January 1st to date, there have been 6,228 fires in the state with 106,569 acres being burned and 39 homes destroyed. This compares with last year, which had 30,547 reported fires with 3,993,716 acres burned and 2,946 homes destroyed.

For the period October through December, normal potential is expected Area-wide for the Southwest. As oceanic patterns switch to El Niño, atmospheric patterns will lead to most of the area experiencing below normal temperatures with the exception of the southern third of Arizona. Above normal precipitation is expected across the western half of the area with the plains of New Mexico and western Texas becoming drier.

Overall, no significant fire concerns are likely during this period.



Note: Significant fire potential is defined as the likelihood that a wildland fire event will require mobilization of additional resources from outside the area in which the fire situation originates.



The worst drought in the U.S. in decades may be leveling off or even be easing ever so slightly in some lucky locales, federal weather forecasters announced. While the latest forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center calls for the drought to linger in the nation's breadbasket and parts of some mountain states at least through November, it provided a silver lining with the news that conditions aren't expected to get worse.

In the latest seasonal assessment, drought still covered over 60 percent of the contiguous 48 states as of mid-August 2012, although significant expansion finally halted during the month of August. Still, almost one-quarter of the country was experiencing extreme to exceptional drought. 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.

With an El Niño winter likely, the Climate Prediction Center outlooks highlight the prospects for above normal precipitation during the cold season. As a result, a continued easing or complete elimination of drought conditions is expected into early 2013.



Tuning-In

Fort Hood Aero Comm's

Fort Hood is served by Hood Army Airfield and the Robert Gray Army Airfield. Both airfields are restricted areas for security reasons. These are paved, non-instrumented airstrips used for training at Fort Hood. Also on Fort Hood are the Shorthorn and Longhorn Auxiliary Landing Strips which primarily serve as summer training sites for National Guard and Reserve aviation units.

Hood Army Airfield – KHLR

38.300 MEDEVAC “Life Saver”
41.500 Tower
119.650 Tower
269.450 Tower
264.450 Tower
133.850 Ground Control
225.400 Ground Control

357.900 Hood Radio – Primary
141.175 Hood Radio – Alternate
141.100 Hood Radio – Evac Frequency
143.100 Hood Radio – Flight Operations
149.800 Hood Radio – Remote Radio Site

Hood Radio also transmits recorded range information continuously on 347 KHz.

46.700 Pilots (Air to Air)	149.300 21 st Cavalry Apache Operations
64.350 Pilots (Air to Air)	321.475 21 st Cavalry Apache Operations
44.400 Pilots (Air to Air)	35.325 21 st Cavalry Apache Operations

Shorthorn Auxiliary Landing Strip – 23XS

143.350 Tower
118.800 ATIS (*Automatic Terminal Information Service*)

Longhorn Auxiliary Landing Strip – 22XS

38.900 Tower
64.350 Tower
143.000 Tower
237.500 Tower

Range Control

30.450 Primary
38.750 Alternate



Boeing CH-47D Chinook Heavy-Lift Helicopter





Robert Gray Army Airfield – KGRK

Robert Gray Army Airfield is located at West Fort Hood, southwest of the main post, approximately eight miles from main Fort Hood and 10 miles from Killeen.

The airfield is named in honor of Captain Robert M. Gray, U.S. Army Air Corps.

3rd Weather Squadron

The 3rd Weather Squadron is a unit of the United States Air Force, currently located at west Fort Hood. Some of the services provided by the 3rd W.S. include both local and worldwide flying forecasts, climatic summaries, operations plan annexes, and weather briefings that provide the installation with the information they need to plan for operations and exercises.

The 3rd Weather Squadron is the largest weather unit in the U.S. Air Force.

120.075 Approach / Departure
 323.150 Approach / Departure
 120.750 Tower
 285.500 Tower
 126.200 Ground Control
 279.500 Ground Control
 121.800 Clearance
 251.100 Clearance
 38.750 Flight Operations
 143.100 Flight Operations
 357.900 Flight Operations
 118.950 Radar Operations
 306.500 Pilot to Metro Service
 41.200 Pilot to Metro Service
 125.050 Pilot to Dispatch
 305.150 Pilot to Dispatch
 38.700 Pilot to Dispatch
 241.000 UNMTO

The 3rd Weather Squadron operates four Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) stations around the installation, which can be monitored on:

128.575
 134.975
 135.525
 119.075



The 3rd Weather Squadron's website provides the local Fort Hood forecast, and it can be found at: <http://www.hood.army.mil/3ws>. The website reports climatological, solar, and lunar data for areas of interest to the various units at Fort Hood.



The First Air-Sea Rescue of an Aircraft, Using Radio

In 1910, six men – and a cat – attempted to cross the Atlantic in an airship. It was the first attempt to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. With favorable weather, the crew expected to reach land in northern Europe after around five days.

The airship – ‘*America*’ – was comprised of a cotton and silk balloon 228ft long, filled with hydrogen, beneath which ran a long slim ‘car’, or enclosed catwalk, which housed the crew as well as engines to power four propellers. The vessel was steered by a rudder at the stern and a wheel in the front of the car. Slung beneath the car was a lifeboat equipped with a spark gap radio set, which radio operator Jack Irwin used during the flight, callsign “W”, and used the frame of the airship as the antenna.



Crew of the ‘*America*’ from left: Fred Aubert, Walter Wellman, Melvin Vaniman, Jack Irwin, Louis Loud and Murray Simon

As the crew climbed on board, Murray Simon - the navigator, picked up a stray cat that had been living in the *America*’s hangar. Like many sailors, he was superstitious. “We can never have luck without a cat on board.” he said.



Melvin Vaniman, Chief Engineer of the airship *America* & ‘*Kiddo*’ the cat

Simon opined that, “you must never cross the Atlantic in an airship without a cat – more useful than a barometer”.

On October 15th the airship *America*, with her crew of six – and the cat – crept out of its hangar in Atlantic City and headed out to sea. The voyage was to make celebrities of its crew – feline as well as human.

Nevertheless, the animal did not appear to bless the voyage with luck. Condensing water on the airship’s skin added excess weight, and it was difficult to gain height.

The engines failed 38 hours into the flight, and *America* drifted. By the end of the first day, the crew knew they would not cross the Atlantic. After another 33 hours, and having now traveled a total distance of 1,370 miles, they sighted the Royal Mail Steamship *Trent* west of Bermuda.

After attracting the ship’s attention by a signaling lamp, Jack Irwin made the first aerial distress call by radio. The crew – along with the cat – got into the lifeboat and, after opening the gas valves on the airship, abandoned the *America*. The airship then drifted out of sight over the horizon and was never seen again.

The *Trent* gave the crew safe passage to New York, where they were welcomed as heroes. ‘*Kiddo*’ the cat was especially well received.



The airship ‘*America*’ as seen from the *RMS Trent*

Wellman and his crew did not make it to Europe, that aerial accomplishment wouldn’t occur until May of 1919 by a U.S. Navy NC4 aircraft, but they did break various records.

For instance, not just for distance and time in the air, but also for the first radio message being sent from an aircraft of any kind on Marconi equipment, and for the first air-sea rescue of an aircraft, also using radio.



Walter Wellman, who was the driving force behind the *America* adventure, went on to write several books. He spent his final years in New York where, in 1934 he died of liver cancer at the age of 75.

Murray Simon, navigator of the *America*, eventually made the aerial flight across the Atlantic - as an invited guest aboard the Zeppelin *Hindenburg*, during its first crossing of the Atlantic in 1936. He passed away in South Devon, England in 1969 at the age of 87.



America's radio operator Jack Irwin, continued his career in radio working at the *Radio Broadcast* magazine laboratories and writing articles. He served honorably in the Army during World War I, and was promoted to Colonel serving in the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth, NJ. He was later killed in action during World War II. A street on Fort Monmouth is named in his honor.

Less than two years after the failed attempt of the Atlantic crossing by the *America*, its Chief Engineer Melvin Vaniman made a second attempt at crossing the Atlantic. This time without a cat, aboard the airship *Akron*. On July 2nd, 1912 the *Akron* rose to a 1,000 feet and then suddenly exploded, instantly killing he and all of his four-man crew.



'Kiddo' – the cat – was renamed 'Trent' after the rescue ship, and for a while he was displayed in a gilded cage in the window of Gimbel's department store. He would later go home with Walter Wellman's daughter - Edith and live a quiet life.

History does not record what became of the airship's other two crewmen – Louis Loud and Fred Aubert.

What does remain is the lifeboat carried by the *America* – the same lifeboat that was carried by the ill-fated *Akron* – it is now on permanent display in the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, in Washington, D.C.



Radio is the ideal medium for horror and mystery entertainment. In the minds eye, radio horror and mystery shows can conjure the most frightening of scary sensations. With sound effects, good timing, and the power of suggestion horror and mystery in classic radio created some of the scariest and most memorable horror productions in history. Topics of the horror genre vary widely including monsters and ghouls, noir horror, and the scariest of them all: man.

The fun of movie monsters and horror films is sitting in the dark (hopefully with your best girl next to you) and enjoying the frights. This requires a good deal of acceptance on the part of the audience, a “suspension of disbelief”. Radio horror requires this same suspension, but radio fans know that it is much more effective. Movies have to show you the images, but on the radio they grow in your own mind, and are more powerful than any image on the screen could be. If we picture ourselves stuck in a dark room or coffin, the intensity of the fright is much more genuine.



The very purpose of the Horror Genre is to give us feelings of fear, disgust, and terror. And what fun it is!

Like all old time radio shows, horror shows had to stick to time constraints, sponsor’s demands, and the regular foibles of putting on a production. The old time radio horror shows attracted big name stars, big budgets, and creative people. Producers used sound effects, plot, actor’s performances, and the human imagination to strike fear in the listening audience. In this way, radio became the ideal medium to enjoy horror genre.



As characters week to week were slashed, murdered, killed, and/or driven insane among other atrocities, we could count on the host returning week to week. This allowed the audience to form an attachment to the show.

Halloween provides a good excuse to turn the lights down, let the fire burn low, and enjoy some creepy, chilling and frightening fun!

Tune in to: <http://www.HalloweenRadio.net>

“Pleasant dreaaaams, hmm?”

“The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest fear is fear of the unknown.” - H.P. Lovecraft

