W5AMK CTARC Central Texas Amateur Radio Club

THE Wavelength NEWSLETTER

November 2013

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

November is one of the months during the year that it is not easy to find a lot to write about. One item that does happen in November is Thanksgiving and I am very thankful for all the good friends I have made over the past two years as president of the club. I hope that all of the members have a great and safe Thanksgiving this year. Also please remember that Thanksgiving falls on Thursday, November 28th, so there will not be a weekly net that night.

Now one of the items that I really do not like about November is the ending of Daylight Saving Time - this will take place on Sunday, November 3rd. So remember to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday night. I would like the powers that be to leave it one-way or the other. My body does not adjust as easily as it use too.

Please remember that in December, our club will meet at the Golden Corral, located at 1420 East Central Expressway in Killeen, at 7:00 PM, for our annual Christmas dinner get-together. This dinner get-together will be held in lieu of our regular club meeting, on December 3rd.

And of particular interest, after an extended period of being off the air and then required maintenance and the processing of paperwork for new trusteeship, the Gatesville repeater – formally heard as N5DDR – is back up and running, now with the call of W5AMK under the trusteeship of CTARC. This was accomplished very largely in part to our own Gerald Richmond-N5ZXJ, who spear-headed the effort.

The repeater is on 146.960(-) with a PL of 123.0 – give it a try!

Our next monthly meeting is CTARC's annual General Membership Meeting where amongst other things; election of new officers for the coming year will take place. So please try to attend. The meeting will be held on November 5th at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center.

- 73 de KE5UES

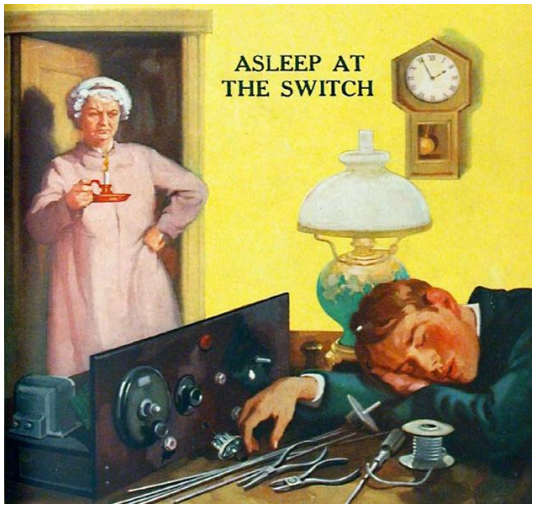
The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net
meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM
on the N5ZXJ repeater,
on 145.310(–) PL 123.0
Join Us!

November NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

November 7th:	November 14th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	AD5SK
Back-Up: AD5SK	K6WXA

November 21st	November 28th:
Net Control: K6WXA	**- No Net -**
Back-Up: W5VEX	**Thanksgiving**

Daylight Saving Time Ends



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, **November 3rd** at 2:00 AM. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed the preceding Saturday night.

SSB Sweepstakes Contest

Contest period runs from 2100Z, Nov. 16th to 0300Z, Nov. 18th on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters SSB.

For more information, please visit: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Strays

"From Nashville, Tennessee, the country music capitol of the world comes your Grand Ole Opry…"

The Grand Ole Opry is a weekly country music stage concert in Nashville, Tennessee that has presented the biggest stars of that genre. Founded on **November 28, 1925** as a one-hour radio "barn dance" on WSM, it is among the longest-running broadcasts in radio history.

In the 1930's, WSM was broadcasting with 50,000 watts, making the program a Saturday night musical tradition in nearly 30 states. In 1939, it debuted nationally on NBC Radio.

Dedicated to honoring country music and its history, the Opry show cases a mix of legends and contemporary chart-toppers performing country, bluegrass, folk, gospel, and comedic performances and skits. Considered an American icon, it attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world and millions of radio and Internet listeners. The Opry is "the show that made country music famous" and has been called the "home of American music" and "country's most famous stage."

You can tune-in again to some of the earlier broadcasts of the Grand Ole Opry by visiting: http://archive.org/details/OlOpry

CTARC Website Down for Maintenance

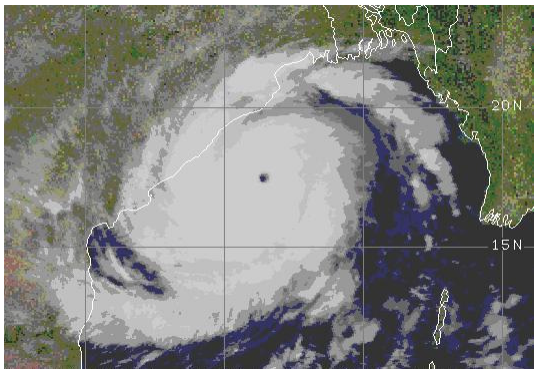
Mark McGraw, KF5HUG

Attention CTARC members and visitors to CTARC.org... Our original website went offline as a result of switching domain ownership. Consequently the site is being rebuilt from "scratch". This may take a while to get the site up and running again. Apologies for this downtime and thank you for your patience.

Amateurs asked to leave 7145 KHz Clear

Jayu S. Bhide, VU2JAU

In the aftermath of powerful Cyclone Phailin – a category 4 hurricane, teams of radio amateurs are working around the clock in India.



The Cyclone came ashore at Odisha in the Bay of Bengal flooding thousands of homes and forcing half a million people to leave early to seek shelter in one of India's biggest evacuations.

Amateurs are being asked to keep the frequency of 7145 kHz clear during their on-going disaster communications.

Authorities there have reported 14 deaths so far, and say the country escaped with a minimal loss of life.

Amateurs asked to leave 7095 KHz Clear

Roberto C. Vicencio, DU1VHY

A 7.2 Magnitude earthquake struck the islands of Bohol and Cebu in the Philippines causing personal casualties and severe infrastructure damage. ARES operations are ongoing and Philippine hams are using 7095 KHz for their emergency communications. Amateurs are being asked to keep this frequency clear during their on-going disaster communications.

Authorities report that so far at least 97 people have been killed as a result of the earthquake and that it is likely this has been the strongest earthquake to have hit the region in 400 years.

FCC Open for Business Following Government Shut-Down

Even though the FCC is technically back in operation, you have to remember that matters concerning services such as Amateur Radio are going to take a back seat to more important subjects. This includes but is not limited to, broadband expansion and broadcast related issues.

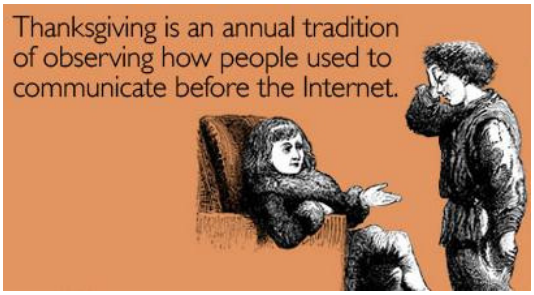
While the good news is that the FCC is open for business, it could face a paper-work deluge of monumental proportions in the coming days. So for now, the two key words are "be patient."

Strays

Poowaddle World Clock

I can't say enough about this website… This site not only displays the current time and date, but also shows population statistics, births and deaths, contraction of various illnesses, how much energy we produce and use, the same in regards to food production, our economy, crime statistics, even how many servings of *Coca-Cola* are going on. It'll even calculate how long you're expected to live… It tells me I'll be around for another 33 years to bother you.

Thanks to Robert - KE5WVC, you can check it out at: www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf



"Good on QRZ"

QRZ stickers are available to anyone who sends us a business sized, s.a.s.e., at QRZ. The first sticker is free and if you would like additional stickers they're $1 per additional sticker.

Write to: QRZ, 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Road #193, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Talk About Being In Radio

"Radio's radio and there's nothing else like it. It's that something you see in a kid's eyes. It's a home run with the bases full. It's the anvil and the forge. It's a symphony that's always listening for one more note. That's radio."

- 'Radio Today' November, 1940

FCC Dismisses Petition for Expanded 10 Meter Technician Privileges

The FCC has dismissed a Petition for Rule Making that sought to expand Technician privileges in the 10 meter band. The original petition asked the Commission to expand the spectrum available to Technician licensees on 10 meters to include operating privileges in the FM portion of the band, from 29.520 to 29.700 MHz.

The FCC pointed out a Technician class licensee can upgrade to a General class operator license and receive more frequency privileges, including those at issue here.

Novice and Technician licensees currently have operating privileges on 10 meters from 28.000 to 28.500 MHz.

More details on this story are on the ARRL News website at: www.arrl.org/news

How's DX?

9M6XRO, W6SZN, ZL1GO, JH3PRR and ZL3CW will be on the air from November 12th to the 27th as **N8A** from Tutuila Island. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters. The same group will be active from American Samoa 27 November through 2 December as **5W8A** on 160-10m. QSL via ZL3CW.

JA7ZF and JA7HMZ will be active from Pohnpei Island 22-30 November as **V63ZF** and **V63DX**. QSL V63ZF via JA7VF, and V63DX via JA7HMZ.

IØWDX will be active from La Digue Island 12-23 November as **S79WDX**. He will be active on 160-6 meters. QSL via his home call.

K5WA will be active from Saint Kitts Island 20-27 November as **V4/K5WA** on 160-10m. QSL via his home call.

Seven Venezuelan YL's will be on the air from Los Roques Islands 7-10 Nov as **YW5RYL** on 160-6 m CW & SSB. QSL as directed.

A group of amateurs will be active from Swaziland as **3DAØET** from 18 to 27 November. They plan to operate on 160 – 6 meters. QSL via N7RO.

N7QT and W4VAB will be active from Saba Island 7-17 November as **PJ6/N7QT** and **PJ6/W4VAB**. QSL each via their home callsigns.

XRØZR will be operational from November 8th to the 20th on Robinson Crusoe Island in the Juan Fernandez Archipelago. They plan to operate on 80 through 6 meters. QSL via IV3DSH.

A group of Polish operators will be active from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as **J88HL**, from the 17th to the 29th of November. QSL as directed.

AJ9C will be active from Nicaragua 19-27 November as **YN2CC**. QSL via his home call.

JA2ZS will be active from Vanuatu 1-11 November as **YJØZS** on 160-6m CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via his home call.

K2SX, **K2LE** and **W2LK** will be active from Sint Maarten Island in November, each signing **stroke PJ7**. QSL each via their home callsigns.

G3RWF and G3XAQ will be active from Rwanda starting 19 November as **9XØNH** and **9XØXA**. QSL each via their respective home calls.

Members of the Uruguay DX Group plan to mount a DXpedition to Easter Island as **E51E** from November 1st – 7th. QSL via EB7DX.

R1ØØRQA is on the air to celebrate the beginnings of professional radio operations 100 years ago in the region of Arkhangelsk, Russia through November 15th. QSL via RN1ON.

The Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico will be on the air November 10th from 9am - 3pm on 20 meters as **KP4AO** in observance of the observatory's 50th anniversary. QSL direct.

DK9PY will be active from Mayotte Island 4-11 November as **FH/DK9PY**. QSL via his home call.

IWØHEU will be active from Mario Zuccheli Station, Antarctica to the end of November as **IAØMZ**. Suggested frequencies are 14.333, 18.125, 21.230 and 24.940 MHz. QSL via IWØEFA.

K3EL and VE7DS are active from Raivavae Island, Austral Islands through 6 November as **TX5RV**. QSL via MØURX.

CX4CR, CX3AN, CX2AM, CX3CE, CE0HYO, EA7FTR & EA5HPX will be active from Easter Island 1-7 November as **XRØYY**. QSL via EB7DX.

An international group of hams will be active from Bangladesh 16-26 November as **S21ZBB** and **S21ZBC**. QSL via IK2VUC.

People with Scanners Help Solve Crimes –
– But Nobody will be Listening

Howard Owens, The Batavian {Batavia, New York}

A $10.8 million upgrade to the Genesee County {New York} emergency radio system is expected to greatly improve the reliability and efficiency of emergency communications, but the unintended consequence is that citizens, off-duty first responders and the media could all be in the dark for months or longer once the new system is fully operational.

It's a bit of a surprise to everybody involved, but the new technology being installed by Rochester-based *Harris RF* is incompatible with even the most advanced consumer scanners currently on the market. And when new scanners are released -- perhaps as early as the first part of next year -- they are likely to cost as much as $500 to $600 each.

Sheriff Gary T. Maha is a big believer in the idea that citizens with scanners help solve crimes. Clearly, when he spoke with *The Batavian* in the spring about the new radio system, he didn't anticipate the new technology would be incompatible with existing digital/trunking scanners.

"We're few and far between out there, we need all the eyes we can possibly have. If we have a bank robbery, we put that information out over the air so some citizen down the road may see the vehicle we want and can call 9-1-1. It's a benefit to us to have the people out there watching. They're our eyes and ears out there."

In recent weeks, we've had discussions with Sheriff Maha about the situation and he said he's interested in finding a solution. Getting scanners into the hands of media outlets is one thing. One solution that's been used in other parts of the country is for local law enforcement to lease emergency radios, with the outgoing transmission capability disabled, to news outlets. These radios cost in the neighborhood of $4,000 each, so it's still an expensive solution.

Another solution is putting streaming feeds of emergency transmissions from the P25 system on the county's website. But it's unclear at this point if the county has the available bandwidth or necessary technology to make this happen. A Web-based solution would help both media outlets and make transmissions available to all county residents who care to tune in.

The Sheriff along with Undersheriff William Sheron, met yesterday with executives at *Harris RF*. Sheron said that Harris indicated it's a problem beyond the scope of their work, but said they are aware of other jurisdictions doing exactly what the Sheriff is considering.

Genesee County isn't the only jurisdiction facing this issue as more and more agencies switch to the new technology. What *The Batavian* has been able to piece together from various sources, as well as interviewing Gerry Oliver, owner of *G&G Communications* in LeRoy {New York}, is that:

- A company called *GRE America* made a radio that was designed to be compatible with Phase II technology, but the company went out of business. Its radio was imperfect technology and needed improvements and wouldn't necessarily work with

Harris RF communication systems. BRS Phase II TDMA radios can be found on eBay, but you take your chances buying one.

- Another company, *The Whistler Group, Inc*., has acquired GRE's intellectual property and is planning to enter into the scanner business. It didn't specifically announce a Phase II scanner, but presumably they'll bring one to market, perhaps before the end of March.
- Representatives from *Uniden* have dropped hints in *RadioReference.com* that the company -- which is the largest manufacturer of scanners -- is close to announcing a Phase II scanner. It may go to market sometime in 2014.

RadioReference is an organization of ham radio operators, scanner enthusiasts and volunteers from around the nation, who make their local emergency communications available on the *RadioReference.com* website. Every smartphone app that allows people to listen to police and fire calls on their iPhones and Droids uses 'RR' feeds, so if 'RR' doesn't have working Phase II scanners, then those apps won't work for jurisdictions that utilize these P25 radio systems.

The county has until March 1st to stop using one of its current 800 MHz channels so that the bandwidth becomes available for an inter-operable communications channel for Federal Homeland Security.

Steven Sharpe, {Genesee County, NY} Director of Emergency Communications, said installation begins next month, but current scanners will work on existing emergency channels until the P25 infrastructure is in place and operational.

Migration to the new system for emergency users should begin in December. Beyond that the schedule of the transition depends on other factors -- from FCC licensing to tower crew availability -- though all equipment is scheduled to be installed by Feb. 1st, giving the county one month to meet the 800 MHz channel deadline.

One of the county's existing radio sites.

A key factor behind this project is the push to build a nationwide 800 MHz channel that all responders can use regardless of the jurisdiction or agency in an emergency. Use of the inter-operable channel in Western New York is being held up, at least in part, by Genesee County, because the county is using the 800 MHz band specified for the channel. This project will move that portion of the county's emergency communications off those frequencies to another band.

Oliver said there are a lot of people concerned about the issue, and people should be concerned. "This is a public safety issue and it's a public information issue, there's the average listener who pays taxes and thinks they have a right to listen-in, but there's also the issue of firemen, off-duty police officers and EMT's -- how are they going to listen? I hope there's a solution for safety sake. Let's say I'm an (off duty) EMT and I live down the street from a call, a scanner might tell me, do I respond? What should I do if I hear nobody's responding? At the end of the day, it's about life safety."

Ham Arrested in Indianapolis for Impersonating a Police Officer

Jack Parker, W8ISH

Rod Bradway-KC9PFW, a highly decorated, five-year veteran of the Indianapolis Police Department - and an area ham, was responding to a domestic disturbance call in an apartment complex around 2 A.M. After hearing a woman's screams for help in the apartment, Bradway forced open the door and was shot and killed by the woman's ex-boyfriend. Other responding officers then shot and killed Bradway's assailant.

Rod Bradway – KC9PFW

News of the death of the Indianapolis police officer made headlines all through the week. But, on the afternoon of his funeral, another man in uniform stole the headlines. As law enforcement officers, friends, family and media gathered at the cemetery to lay the officer to rest, another man in blue was arrested for impersonating a police officer.

As it turns out these two men had more in common than first thought. They are both Indianapolis based Amateur Radio Operators.

Arrested was 38 year old **Minh Nguyen-KB9WDY**, who was in full police uniform, leather equipment belt and a holstered firearm, as he waited with Westside residents and other police officers as the miles long funeral procession neared the west side district headquarters where deceased officer Rod Bradway was assigned.

According to the arrest report, Police say Nguyen was taking photographs from a black 2012 Dodge Charger equipped with a siren, flashing lights and a two-way radio. Police found an AR-15 rifle in his car and later found guns, police uniforms and police equipment at his the home.

Minh Nguyen-KB9WDY

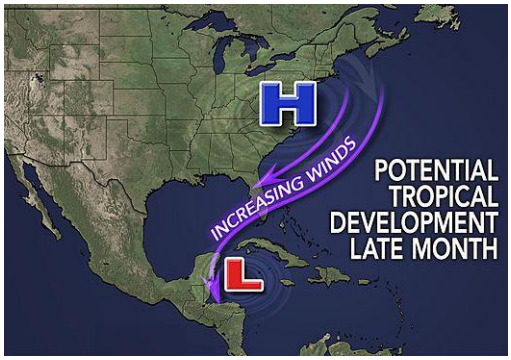
Police say he has had prior arrests on similar and other unusual behavior. The report said Nguyen also had "property stolen from the city of Indianapolis," including property room slips and envelopes that the public does not have access to.

Minh Nguyen faces felony charges of impersonating a public servant and theft, which carries a sentence of six months to three years in prison. A conviction could also lead to revocation of his Amateur Radio license by the FCC if they choose to review the case.

Authorities don't believe the two men knew each other. The police badge and uniform was the common link to this sad commentary.

Last Gasp for the Atlantic Hurricane Season?

The area that has bred the majority of tropical storms during the 2013 Atlantic season may have a couple more tricks up its sleeve before the season comes to a close. The western Caribbean and southwestern Gulf of Mexico are likely candidates for near-continent tropical storm formation in the coming weeks. As large high pressure areas begin to build southeastward from Canada and across the eastern United States, the flow of air around these fair weather systems may help to spin up tropical systems farther south.



According to Hurricane expert Dan Kottlowski, it is not uncommon to get a tropical system to form south of a large area of high pressure. Tropical systems would have to form very far south in this case. The advancing areas of chilly high pressure over the next few weeks will also greatly lower the risk of powerful storms tracking very far to the north, such as the central Gulf Coast and much of the Atlantic Seaboard.

The combination of cool air, cooling waters and disruptive winds produced by the high pressure area would tend to limit the strength of any system, Kottlowski said.

Areas to watch closely during the upcoming pattern expected from later next week into November for tropical storm or hurricane impact would be from the Florida Peninsula southwestward to southern Mexico, Central America and the islands around the western part of the Caribbean.

There have been 12 tropical storm systems that have reached at least tropical storm strength this season with Humberto and Ingrid being the only systems to reach Category 1 hurricane status. Including Tropical Depression 8, there have been six tropical systems originating from the general area of the western Caribbean to the southern Gulf.

Officially, hurricane season continues until the end of November.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, from 1851 to 2012, on average there have been one to two tropical storms and about one hurricane from late October through the end of November. The total seasonal average number of tropical storms in the Atlantic is 10 with six hurricanes.

Long range weather expert Paul Pastelok stated during an interview this past summer, that the hurricane season may continue late this year with a tropical storm here and there well into November, with the greatest risk being flooding rainfall.

Persistent dry air and rounds of disruptive winds have played a significant role in reducing the number of hurricanes and the strength of them this season. The Atlantic Season behaved like an El Niño year, yet all data suggest that water temperatures over much of the tropical Pacific were near average, suggesting a neutral pattern.

Double-Feature CoCoRaHS Webinars

The CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinars series is presenting two webinars this month:

Weather Modification:
Does the seeding of clouds enhance precipitation? An old question revisited

Back in the 1960's through 1980's, much research was conducted into advertent modification of weather. The Weather Channel's recent documentary series *"Hacking the Planet"* gives a good survey of the ideas that were tested back then. Federal support for this work essentially ceased some 25 years ago in the U.S., not because of environmental or ethical concerns, but rather because of the difficulty of signal detection in the 'noise' of natural variability. Amidst this state of uncertainty, commercial interests in the United States and across the world have continued to invest in cloud seeding, mainly to increase precipitation.

In recent years the State of Wyoming has embarked on an ambitious project, the Wyoming Weather Modification Pilot Project. This is the most rigorous effort to date to determine the impact of ground-based glaciogenic cloud seeding on snowfall over Wyoming's mountains. New observational tools and high-performance computing power now exist to revisit this old question. This talk will explain the basic physics behind weather modification, and it will survey cloud seeding efforts from the early days to the recent revival.

Bart Geerts of the University of Wyoming, Laramie will host this webinar, on Wednesday, November 6th at Noon.

To register and participate in this webinar, visit:
https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/789770622

A Review of Significant Weather Events Occurring in 2013

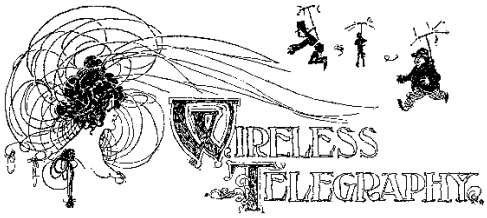
Greg Carbin of the NOAA Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK will present an overview of hazardous weather episodes impacting life and property within the United States during 2013. Selected events will be presented in quasi-chronological order and described with photos, maps, and loops of satellite and radar data. While many of the events selected for this talk captured the attention of the media and public, some of these meteorological memories may have been forgotten as more substantial weather events occurred throughout the year. The presentation will include descriptions of significant and deadly weather events of the past year including winter storms, tornadoes and floods. Along with the meteorological set-up for each event, an impact summary will also be provided.

This webinar will be presented on Thursday, November 14th at Noon.

To register and participate in this webinar, visit:
https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/572784326

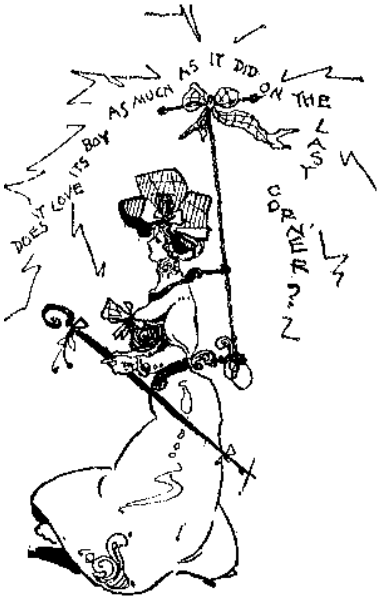
The Wireless Age

Los Angeles Times - November 4, 1901



Commenting upon the experiments recently made with the Armstrong and Orling system of wireless telegraphy, a correspondent of the London Spectator waxes prophetic, and forecasts all sorts of wonderful things to come to pass in the future.

He says:



"Some day men and women will carry wireless tele - phones as today we carry a card case or camera. We shall switch ourselves on to the underground radiations through the medium of our walking sticks or boots, and then tune up our receiver to say tone No. 39,451, and tone No. 39,451 and he will go about his business undisturbed by other tones. For military purposes it soon will be no longer necessary to carry cumbrous coils of wire, which are always at the mercy of an enemy. The staff officer and the scout each will drive a wireless apparatus into the ground and await the magic touch of the sympathetic tone. Thanks to the Morse code, it will not even be necessary to await perfection in the conveyance of the human voice. A kindred apparatus will magnify the telephonic sound, and some day the mouse for which we shall set a telephonic trap, will be able to roar like a bull. A ship will proclaim her name loudly through the fog and Calais and Dover, in hazy weather, will announce themselves to approaching packets. Wireless torpedoes, probably, will provide the best solution of the difficulties of coast defense, and when a force of watchful and highly-expert electricians is sufficient to supply the torpedoes with guiding machines, how many expensive fortifications might not we do without?"

Perhaps all this may come about 'some day.' But the achievements of wireless telegraphy, thus far, though they are indeed wonderful, have been considerably more prolific in promises than in fulfillment. Still, it will not do, in this age of strenuousness and progress, to say that anything is impossible.

"For we are ancients of the earth, and in the morning of the times."

- *Charles Mulford Robinson*

MODERN MECHANIX
YESTERDAY'S Tomorrow TODAY
November, 1937

Back-Seat Dial for Auto Radio

Passenger operating car's radio from rear seat.

Back-seat control of automobile radios is made possible by a new device that fits all standard receivers. A conventional dial is mounted in the upholstery beside the rear seat of a car, and tunes the radio by means of a flexible shaft. The unit does not interfere with the regular dashboard control, and the two dials are synchronized so they always show the same station reading when either is turned.

Portable Army Radio Tested

It looks like you should be able to wind up that key in his back and make him march…

The Princess Royale expresses interest in a new portable field radio transmitting and receiving set that operates while strapped to a soldier's back, which was satisfactorily tested by the Royal Corps of Signals at Alder-shot, England. The device features a special loop-type antenna, standard earphones and a hand microphone. The power supply unit is self-contained.