

**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 President's Rant...

Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ

Behold! Another year has passed and winter will soon be upon us. For those of us here in Central Texas, the Winter Solstice will arrive on Sunday, December 21st, at 5:03 PM CST. With the combination of a weak El Nino setting up and the likelihood of sea surface temperatures remaining above normal over the Gulf of Alaska, this winter could, in fact, be colder for the eastern United States than last winter, and likely just as cold in the central United States. The entire region will likely have below-average temperatures. In fact, temperatures could end up being quite brutal at times due to troughing that will likely set up over the region this winter. We could have another polar-vortex driven winter, where pieces of the vortex break off and push well to the south. This is a similar scenario that occurred last winter and could in fact happen again this winter.

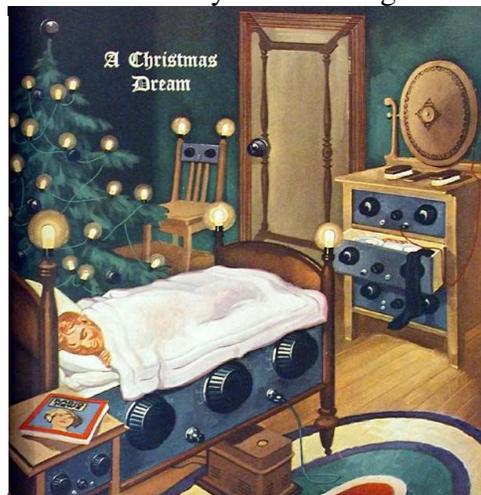
As a reminder, we will not be having a monthly meeting in December at the Communications center. Instead, please join us Tuesday evening, December 2nd, at 7:00 PM, at Texas Land & Cattle in Killeen for our annual Christmas holiday dinner get-together. This is a no-host dinner with no agenda, other than to enjoy good food and good friends in a relaxed atmosphere. More information on this follows further on in the newsletter.

During the next couple of months things in the club will start getting a little busier; the Salado 3 Kings 3 Miler is slated for January 3rd where a handful of radio operators will be needed to support this worthy event. February will be the annual Skywarn training in

Belton, and then on March 1st will be the Army Marathon III where several radio operators will be highly needed to support this important event.

Christmas will soon be here where we can gather with friends and family and unwrap that all that new radio gear around and spread good cheer across the airwaves with it. Speaking of which, Christmas falls on a Thursday this year, so we won't have a weekly net that week. Hope to see you all Tuesday night!

- 73 de Gerald, N5ZXJ





The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club

Holiday Dinner at Texas Land & Cattle
3403 East Central Texas Expressway in Killeen



...This no-host dinner get-together to be held in lieu of our regular December meeting...

Tuesday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM

**When greeted by the host / hostess, just mention that you're with
the "radio club" in the 'Saddle Room'**

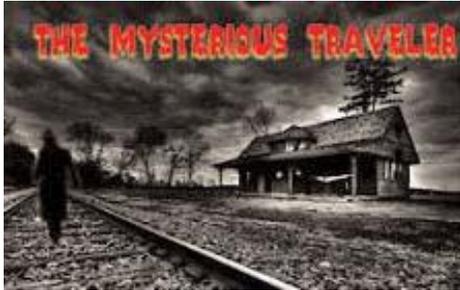
Their Dinner Menu can be found at:

http://www.texaslandandcattle.com/uploaded/file/menus/dinner/TXLC_Dinner_0814.pdf

Texas Land & Cattle - Tel: (254) 699-5500



“This is the Mysterious Traveler, inviting you to join me on another journey into the strange and terrifying. I hope you will enjoy the trip, that it will thrill you a little and chill you a little. So settle back, get a good grip on your nerves and be comfortable—if you can!”



The Mysterious Traveler first aired over the Mutual Broadcasting System on December 5th, 1943 and aired until September 16th, 1952. The show was an anthology radio series, featuring stories which ran the gamut from fantasy and science fiction to straight crime dramas of mystery and suspense.

No one—not even his nominal creators—knows whether the Traveler is detective, criminal or neither. He is only a sly, insinuating, knowing voice heard weekly over the MBS.

The series was written by Robert Arthur and David Kogan, who were activist members of the *Radio Writer's Guild*, which in 1953, was deemed to be a communist front group by the House Committee for Un-American Activities. As a consequence, though still immensely popular with its listeners, the Mutual Network was pressured by advertisers and affiliates to drop the series.

Only 75 of the original 370 *Mysterious Traveler* episodes still exist, and you can still travel along with him by visiting: <https://archive.org/details/TheMysteriousTraveler>



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!

December NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

December 4 th :	December 11 th :
Net Control: N5JLL	W5VEX
Back-Up: W5VEX	AD5SK

December 18 th :	December 25 th :
Net Control: KF5OHR	- No Net -
Back-Up: K6WXA	Christmas Day



Temple Christmas Parade

The Temple Christmas Parade is on Monday, December 1st at 6:30 P.M. Volunteers are needed to assist with support communications. Initial meet will be at the Bell County Health Building, 201 North 8th St., in Temple at 3:30 PM.



Staging time will start at 4:00 P.M. We will be operating 2 meter simplex. Necessary equipment will be an HT, safety vest, flashlight and proper clothing for the weather conditions. Other items that might be handy include a clipboard, writing instrument, snacks and something to drink. At least 10 to 12 volunteers are needed for this event. If you can assist in this event please contact **Myron Mesecke-N5TFK**, at meseckem@vvm.com.



ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Contest period runs from 2200 UTC, December 5, and wraps up at 1559 UTC December 7. This is a 42-hour all-CW event with no operating time limit. If you have ever yearned to try your hand at Top Band contesting, this is the perfect opportunity!

More information is available at:
<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>



Skywarn Recognition Day



This event takes place on all authorized amateur frequencies and modes from 0001 UTC Dec. 6th to 2400 UTC Dec. 6th.

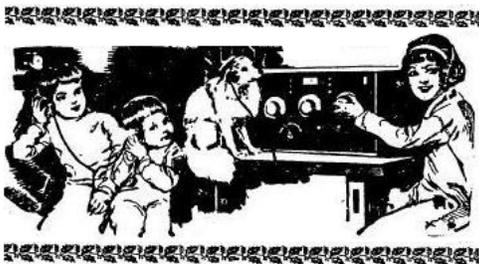
More information can be found at:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio>



ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, December 13th to 2359Z, December 14th. The objective is for Amateurs worldwide to engage in QSO's with as many other stations as possible on the 10 meter band.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>



On those long, cold winter evenings,
When the howling winds do blow,
We have one great consolation —
Just turn on the radio.

Volunteers Needed!

Amateur radio operators are needed for the Southwest Bell County area in case of a disaster and the city of Killeen CERT Team is toned out.

If toned out, CERT will be OPCON to the SW Bell County Fire Department, which means they will all be well equipped with personnel and can handle the situation of Search and Rescue, which is done by the 'Military Jeepers', who will bring the injured to the Forward Collection Point and we will then evacuate, as necessary, by ground or air ambulance.

Operators will be needed at the Killeen Emergency Operations Center, located in downtown Killeen, the Incident Command Post, where key SW Bell Fire Dept personnel will be set up, the CERT Forward Collection Point, and with the Military Jeepers. At least one spare person would additionally be assigned as needed. We need 2 operators for each place as we will be doing 12 hour shifts.

We will take care of feeding and housing for all personnel. The frequency would be the current repeater that is in operation. The duty would be to forward messages when the 800 series radios are unable to transmit.

If you can assist as part of this operation, please contact Richard Diller, KE5ULJ, by email: dillfarm@hot.rr.com

For years everyone looked toward the demise of radio when television came along. Before that, they thought talking movies might eliminate radio as well. But radio just keeps getting stronger.

— Casey Kasem



JA1XGI will be active from Niue Island 1-6 December as **E6XG**. QSL via his home callsign.

F4HEC will be active as **JD1BOX** from Chichijima Island Tokyo Prefecture, between December 4th and the 12th. QSL via his home call.

G3RWF will be operational in Lesotho as **7P8NH** between December 11th and the 14th on CW only. QSL via his home call.

Special Event Station **AT1JCB** will be active from Rajkot, India, through the 9th of December. QSL via VU2EXP.

KMØO will be operational as **3W3O** from Vietnam through the 24th of December. QSL via his home call.

IK1PMR and **PA3LEO** will be on the air signing **portable EA8** from Tenerife Island between December 9th and January 8th. QSL via HB9FKK.

Special event station **IY1IEY** will be on the air through December 31st from the yacht of Guglielmo Marconi, the *Elettra*. QSL via IK1QBT.

The United Kingdom's Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society is sending an expedition to the Falkland Islands to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the WW1 'Battle of Falklands'. **VP8RAF stroke 100** and **VP8FIR stroke 100** will operate from December 5th through the 9th. Also, all VP8 prefix stations will be able to use "stroke 100" through the 15th of December.

DL6KVA will be active as **4KØCW** from Azerbaijan through December 2nd. QSL via his home call.

RV3MA will be operational from Morocco as **CN2MA** until December 1st. QSL via UA2FM.

UT5UGR will be active as **KL7WA / FM** from Martinique until December 1st. QSL via his home call.

ON7ØNUTS will be active from 16 December through 14 January to commemorate all the soldiers who fought and died during the battle of the bulge in December, 1944. General Anthony McAuliffe answered "NUTS" to the German Commander when he was asked to surrender his troops. It was the bloodiest battle fought by the U.S. army during WWII. QSL via ON7KEC.

One-Hundred years ago, a great war was raging across Europe when a small miracle of peace occurred over the battlefield on Christmas Eve 1914. Special Event Station **WW1USA** of the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial will be on the air at Kansas City, Missouri to commemorate this historic event from 15:00 UTC on December 27th through 22:00 UTC on December 28th.

G3VPW will be active from Falkland Islands through December 12th operating as **VP8KF**. QSL via his home call.

JJ2RCJ will be active **stroke AH2** from Guam between December 27th to the 30th. QSL via his home call.

DJ8VW will be operational as **5P8VW** from Romo Island between December 6th and the 21st. QSL via his home call.

JJ3DST will be active **stroke 6** from Tokara Island between 0600 UTC on December 27th through 0000 UTC on January 4th. Operations will be on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, FM and some of the digital modes. QSL to his home call.

On Dec 6, 1907 the Monongah Mine in West Virginia encountered explosions in mine shafts #8 and #6, killing 362 individuals. To this date, it is the worst disaster in the history of mining of the United States.

KC9HYY/MMD will be operating from 5-7 December in remembrance of the accident at the Monongah Mine.



2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season Ends

The Atlantic hurricane season which began on June 1st, will officially end November 30th, and will be remembered as a relatively quiet season as was predicted. Back in April, Colorado State University forecasters William Gray and Phil Klotzbach indicated that the 2014 hurricane season would be below-average. Specifically, they believed there would be a total of 9 named storms, with three of those developing into hurricanes and only one of those hurricanes being of Category 3 intensity or higher.

What transpired during the season, were a total of 8 named storm systems. Of those, 5 reached hurricane strength and of those five, 2 became major hurricanes of category 3 intensity or higher. Along with these, there were two un-named tropical depressions that additionally formed - Tropical Depression's 2 and 9.

The first named storm system of the season was Tropical Storm Arthur. It would later gain Category 2 hurricane intensity and slam into the coast of North Carolina. Due to the hurricane, many Independence Day activities in the U.S. were cancelled or rescheduled. However, damage was limited to strewn debris and inundated roads, and no deaths or serious injuries were reported.



Tropical Storm Arthur – July 1st

The strongest storm of the season was Hurricane Gonzalo, it attained Category 4 intensity on October 15th - the first in the Atlantic since Ophelia in 2011. Gonzalo damaged homes and trees in Antigua and Barbuda with hurricane-force wind gusts. Dozens of boats were destroyed on the island of Saint Martin, where one person died.



Hurricane Gonzalo - October 16th

Gonzalo battered Bermuda island with wind gusts as high as 144 mph downing numerous trees and power poles and causing widespread roof damage. At the height of the storm, about 31,000 out of 36,000 total electricity customers were without power. Barely a road was passable immediately following the hurricane, though the island generally fared better than expected, with no known fatalities or serious injuries.

The remnants of Gonzalo later made landfall in the United Kingdom and Ireland, causing heavy rains and gale-force winds. Three people in Britain died due to injuries caused by the storm.

The last storm of the season was Tropical Storm Hanna, which made landfall near the Nicaragua-Honduras border on October 27th, bringing heavy rains and winds of 30 mph, before the system 'collapsed' over land as a disturbance.



Chai Tea Mix

Sarah Dorn, XYL / W5VEX

I got this out of a little freebie magazine, *TEX APPEAL*, that I picked up in my cardiologist's office. It was listed as a possible Christmas gift so I tried it and then my granddaughter and I made several bunches for Santa to deliver. Wonder if it is good cold?



Ingredients:

2-1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon ground cloves
3/4 teaspoon ground cardamom (optional)
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1-1/2 cups unsweetened instant tea decaffeinated or regular
1-1/2 to 2 cups sugar
1 cup non-fat dried milk powder
1 cup powdered non-dairy creamer
1 cup French vanilla flavored powdered non-dairy creamer



Directions:

Combine all the spices and the tea in a food processor or blender. Blend for 1-2 minutes or until all the mixture is a fine powder. Pour into a large bowl. Put the sugar into the processor/blender and process until it is a superfine powder. Add the sugar to the bowl of spices and blend in the milk powder and creamers. (Use a large bowl with a lid and shake until mixed thoroughly.) Store in air tight containers.



Serving Directions:

Put 2 heaping tablespoons of Chai Tea Mix into a mug and fill with either hot milk or boiling water and stir.



Notes:

I made 2 small changes to the above recipe. I added the powdered milk to the sugar in the blender. (I dislike the consistency of dried milk.) We always use the boiling water, not the milk. (It would be "milk overkill".) Also, if you like a little bite, add 1 or 2 teaspoons of dry mustard. (I've tried it, but decided not to use it.)

Jean Shepherd - W9QWN / K2ORS the story of the man behind “A Christmas Story”

Have you ever seen the movie “A Christmas Story”? The film came out around Christmas time in 1983, set in what appears to be middle America in the 1940’s and features a young boy named ‘Ralphie’ who all he wants for Christmas is a ‘Red Ryder’ BB gun. Of course his parents object, saying, “You’ll shoot your eye out.”

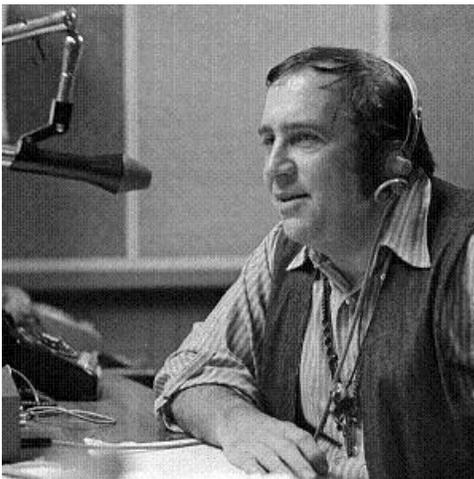
The movie was adopted from a story that was originally titled, “Red Ryder” written by Jean Shepherd-W9QWN/K2ORS, who read it over the air on his radio show on WOR, in New York, on December 25, 1972.

Jean Shepherd was an American [raconteur](#), radio and TV personality, writer and actor who is best known to modern audiences for the film *A Christmas Story* which he narrated and co-scripted, that was based on his own semi-autobiographical stories.



“Ralphie” and his Red Ryder BB Rifle at Christmas

“Shep,” as he was known, obtained a position at WOR radio in New York City, on an overnight slot in 1956, where he delighted his fans by telling stories, reading poetry and organizing comedic listener stunts. The most famous of the last involved creating a hoax about a non-existent book, ‘*I, Libertine*’, by the equally non-existent author “Frederick R. Ewing.” During a discussion on how easy it was to manipulate the best seller lists, which at that time were based not only on sales but demand, Shepherd suggested that his listeners visit bookstores and ask for a copy of *I, Libertine* which led to booksellers attempting to purchase the book from their distributors. Fans of the show eventually took it further, planting references to the book and author so widely that demand for the book led to it being listed on The New York Times Best Seller list.



Jean Shepherd at station WOR circa 1970

When he was about to be released by WOR in 1956 for not being commercial, he did a commercial for *Sweetheart Soap*, not a sponsor, and was immediately fired. His listeners besieged WOR with complaints, and when Sweetheart offered to sponsor him he was reinstated. Eventually, he attracted more sponsors than he wanted—the commercials interrupted the flow of his monologues. He continued his radio shows until he left WOR in 1977. His subsequent radio work consisted of only short segments on several other stations through to the mid 1990’s.

Jean became a Silent Key on October 16th, 1999.

Jean’s original radio broadcast of December 25, 1972 of “Red Ryder” can be found at:
<http://www.myoldradio.com/old-radio-episodes/jean-shepherd-red-ryder/19>