

**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



Greetings folks,

Hope everyone is off to a good start to the new year. January is already in the books and it went by in a hurry. This month is the Bell County Skywarn on February the 14th - which is also Valentines Day, so be sure to take your special lady to a good dinner and a movie. McLennan County will be hosting their Skywarn training session on the 7th, and Travis County will be having theirs on the 21st. These three are the "big" ones for our area. The science of meteorology is constantly changing, so be sure to attend one of these sessions in your area to see what's new.

Also this month is the ARRL School Club Round-Up running from the 9th through the 13th, and the YLRL YL-OM Contest during the weekend of the 14th and 15th. More on all these events follows further on in the newsletter.

Then effective the 17th of this month, the FCC will no longer routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The FCC has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System. More on this is at:

www.arrl.org/news/fcc-paperless-amateur-radio-license-policy-goes-into-effect-on-february-17

I want to extend a congratulations to our own Russell Stoddard-KG6FUJ, who recently obtained his 'Worked All States Certificate' and was selected as the 'Ham of the Month' by the Triple-H Network. Nice going Russ!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:00 PM. I need a couple of volunteers to help with the yearly Audit of the Books. This should only take 20-30 minutes at most. And if you haven't already paid your yearly dues, please see Kenneth to get them taken care of.

It's Groundhog Day! What has he decided? Will we have another 6 weeks of winter? Bring on the snow! Or will we have an early spring with plenty of rain?! Find out, further on in the newsletter.

Hope to see you all Tuesday, the 3rd at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center, for our next meeting.

73 de Gerald - N5ZXJ





“Hi, this is Randy Stone. I cover the night beat for the Chicago Star. Stories start in many different ways...”



Night Beat was a radio drama series that aired on NBC from February 6th, 1950 until September 25th, 1952 and starred Frank Lovejoy as Randy Stone, a reporter who covered the night beat for the *Chicago Star*, encountering criminals and troubled souls. Listeners were invited to join Stone as he searched through the city for the strange stories waiting for him in the darkness. He met an assortment of people, most of them with a problem, many of them scared, and sometimes he was able to help them, sometimes he wasn't.

Sadly, *Night Beat* was produced by NBC, who, much as they had with several other of their highly promising and successful crime and detective dramas of the era, seemed hell-bent on sabotaging their most promising productions through a series of rescheduling fiascos, total absence of promotion of any kind, and just plain abandonment. One can only surmise that NBC was so consumed with their new child, Television, that they were simply asleep at the Radio switch.

You can tune-in again to 36 episodes in the series, by visiting:
https://archive.org/details/Nightbeat_otr



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!

February NCS and Back-Up NCS Schedule

February 5 th : Net Control: K6WXA Back-Up: KE5ISN	February 12 th : KE5ISN AD5SK
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February 19 th : Net Control: AD5SK Back-Up: KF5OHR	February 26 th : KF5OHR N5JLL
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Skywarn Training



Bell County (*Basic and Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 14th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at the Belton ISD Administration Building, 400 North Wall Street, in Belton.

Bosque County (*Basic Spotter Training*) Friday, February 6th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Meridian Civic Center, 309 West River Street, in Meridian.

Hill County (*Basic Spotter Training*) Monday, February 2nd, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Church on the Hill, 2000 Old Brandon Road, in Hillsboro.

McLennan County (*Basic and Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 7th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at the Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Road, in Waco.

Robertson County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Tuesday, February 17th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Franklin VFD - Station 2, 319 North Bremond St., in Franklin.

Skywarn Training *continued...*

Travis County (*Basic and Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 21st, 8:15AM to 4:15 PM, at the Austin Community College Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville Road, in Austin.



School Club Round-Up

This 5-day event runs Monday through Friday from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday, February 9th through the 13th. With the purpose of fostering contacts with and among school radio clubs.

More information on this can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>



YL-OM Contest

Sponsored by the Young Lady's Radio League in observance of Valentine's Day, contest period is 1400Z, 14 Feb thru 0200Z, 15 Feb on all authorized amateur frequencies. Log submissions go to KC8PKY.



ARRL Survey Underway

The ARRL has asked an independent research company specializing in survey research to conduct a survey of Amateur Radio operators in the US, by mail as well as email.

The announcement does not indicate what the survey is about. Questions can be referred to Bob Inderbitzen - NQ1R, the ARRL Marketing Manager.

Uproar Over Plans to Erase Marconi Legacy from Chelmsford

The legacy of radio in Chelmsford will be controversially erased from its road signs in a "bureaucratic" debate over word count and safety. The recognized "Welcome to Chelmsford – Birthplace of Radio" message, printed on ten brown welcome signs surrounding the city, will be removed when they are replaced because the Highways Agency says the sentence distracts drivers.



Critics believe it is the latest in a long line of assaults on the legacy of Guglielmo Marconi, who opened the first wireless factory in Hall Street in Chelmsford in 1898 after migrating from Italy.

Marconi's 1912 New Street factory is being converted into 418 homes and his first Hall Street factory site recently got permission to become an apartment complex.

Critics say this decision is typical of Chelmsford, they don't wish to recognize the past and that the Chelmsford City council seems to be doing all they can to erase all of Chelmsford's industrial past. Marconi's daughter Princess Elettra in Italy said: "I think it's a terrible thing if they take those signs down because the whole world listens to radio."



New Ham Radio Dating Service Emerges

Andy Holmes, K5PO

LONELY OAKS, Texas – After seeing the flood of ‘hamentine’ tweets on his Twitter feed for Valentine’s Day, northern Montana ham radio operator and Sr. Web Developer Junior Brown had a grand idea to solve a common problem of single operators on the prowl: Finding that special YL!



Junior Brown – “Buddy, this site is for you!”

Junior’s team of crack coders / hams sprung into action and the site was able to launch just two days after the lovebird holiday at www.1-to-1.perfect50ohm-YL-match.com. “We’ve had a huge response!” cited Junior. “Apparently I’m not the only successful and single ham radio op out there looking for that special YL to fill my shack!”

“Maybe you don’t want to go solo on the long car ride to Dayton, or perhaps you would just like the warm company of a fine lady at the local club meeting at Denny’s. If so, well then buddy, this site is for you!” claims Junior.

Unlike many dating websites, Junior’s matching service doesn’t really use any algorithms at all. “Basically, if you’re a lady, and a ham radio operator... well... that’s plenty.”

Users are invited to first start with a text-based “QSO” through the site’s servers. If they seem to be resonant, they’re encouraged to have a live video-chat “Eyeball QSO.” Those that really arc-over may even opt to meet in person.

Junior concedes that the site seems to be a bit lacking in a vital element; “We have some 30,000 registered members since just last Monday, but only... well... we have just two YLs.”



'Tuna on a Shoestring'

Ginger Clark, KG6TAU

If you make this correctly, it will look like the worst slop ever served up on a plate, but it's really good!

Ingredients:

- 1 can tuna, drained
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1/4 cup minced onion
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 large can shoestring potatoes

Mix everything together except the shoestring potatoes. Add about a heaping handful of them when you're ready to serve to each serving - instead of the whole mixture. That way if there are any left overs, they aren't full of soggy shoestring potatoes.





K8PGJ will be operational **stroke FO** from Bora Bora between February 15th and the 24th. QSL via his home call.

3W3B will be active February 21st and 22nd from Vietnam. QSL via E21EIC.

Members of the Radiogrupo Sur will be operational as **CV5A** from Flores Island between February 21-23rd. QSL via CX2ABC.

DL2GAC will be active from the Solomon Islands 1-28 February as **H44MS**. QSL via his home call.

DJ9KH, **DK9BDN** and **DL6KAC** will be active from Ascension Island as **ZD8D** from Feb. 5th - Mar. 6th. QSL via DL9HO.

F6ITD will be active **stroke FG** from Guadeloupe, Feb. 2nd through Mar. 30th. QSL via his home call.

JA8BMK will be active from Laos as **XW8BM**, February 5th through the 25th. QSL via his home call.

DC8QT, **DD8ZX** and **DJ9KM** will be active **stroke V5** from Namibia, February 9th through the 20th. QSL via each of their respective home calls.

3Z9DX, **TI2HMJ** and **K7CO** will be operational each signing **stroke TI9** from Cocos Island, February 16th to the 23rd. QSL via 3Z9DX.

W5MJ will be active as **V63MJ** from Micronesia, February 16th to the 23rd. QSL via his home call.

DF3FS and **DL9OLI** will be active **stroke 5Z4** from Kenya, Feb. 16th to Mar. 8th. QSL via DF3FS.

AA4NC will be active **stroke HR5** from Honduras, February 17th to the 25th. QSL via his home call or LotW.

DL2JRM will be active **stroke JW** from Svalbard, Feb. 18th to the 25th. QSL via his home call.

F6BLP will be active as **6W7SK** from Senegal, through the 5th of February. QSL via his home call.

For the first time in years, and possibly the last time for years to come, a group of hams will activate Navassau Island as **K1N** February 1st through the 14th. QSL via N2OO. More info is available at: <http://kp1-5.com/new/index.htm>

WW1USA will be on the air February 7-8 to from the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, to commemorate the centennial of the start of the strategic air war by Germany against targets in England and France during the early days of 1915. QSL direct with sase.

AA9A will be active as **PJ7AA** from Sint Maarten, Feb. 18th through March 16th. QSL via his home call.

KV1J will be signing **stroke FP** from St Pierre & Miquelon, Feb. 26th to Mar. 10th. QSL via his home call.

K6PV will activate Santa Catalina Island in the NA-066 IOTA island group, February 25th - March 1st. QSL direct with sase.

M5RIC will be active from Jersey Island as **MJ5RIC**, February 11th to the 16th. QSL via MØOXO.

KG4RQ, **KG4YL**, **KG4HI** and **KG4AS** will be active from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, February 6th to the 13th. QSL as instructed.

KCØW will be active **stroke HH5** from Haiti, through February 3rd. QSL via his home call.

Special event station **YT9ØNS** is active from Serbia until the end of 2015 in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the amateur radio club of Novi Sad. QSL via YU7BPQ.

LA7GIA will be active from Malawi as **7Q7GIA**, February 21st - 28th. QSL via his home call.

Village of Salado '3 Kings 3 Miler' – Recap

On Saturday, January 3rd, the St. Joseph's Episcopal Church of Salado, sponsored it's second annual 5K run, dubbed the '3 Kings 3 Miler'. 103 runners ranging in age from 5 to 72, braved the early morning 40 degree weather - last year's run had 79 participants, so the popularity of the event has grown. Along with them were four ham radio operators from the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club.

Communications along the route were conducted on the W5LM repeater with Robert Shoemaker-KE5WVC providing net control for this 2nd annual event and who kept track of times when everyone was reporting in the first and last runners passing their locations. This information was passed along to the event organizers who seemed impressed to receive the information.



Just up from his location was Terry Evans-KF5OHR at Station #1, who provided the first and last runner tracking on the course. Up the street from Terry, was Bob Gleason-KF5WSQ at Station #2. Bob reports that the people who manned Station #2 were very friendly and appreciative of our help. Rounding out the field at Station #3 was Rick Murray-K6WXA.

All in all, the run went off with out a hitch. Some communications problems were noted though - for some reason, Station #1 and the Start / Finish line were able to access the repeater without a problem, however, Stations #2 and #3 could not access the repeater, and instead operated on the simplex frequency of the repeater's output frequency.



As to the run itself, the first place runner crossed the start / finish line was Tim Cooley, with a time of 19:13. The final runner to cross the finish line came in with a time of 54:49. And at the end, hot chocolate and hot coffee was on tap for all!

Proceeds from the run will benefit a building fund for the renovation of a building to serve as the church's new parish hall. The run also focused on Epiphany, a holiday observed in many denominations which celebrates the

coming of the wise men, or three kings and the presentation of their gifts to the infant Christ. The church staff and family hope to continue to make this an annual event, with future proceeds benefiting the church's outreach programs.

A Big Thanks to All the Amateur Radio Operators who helped in this event!

More information concerning this event is available on their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/3Kings3Miler>



6 More Weeks of Winter Forecasted

Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania... Every February 2nd thousands of people gather here at this wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to be a part of the most watched weather forecast of the year. Festivities began in the early hours with fireworks, as shuttle buses carried fans from nearby parking lots and the community to await the big event. Many people had been waiting since the previous night in anticipation of Phil's big day.

"This is the most important weather prediction to be found anywhere on the globe," Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley told the crowd, many of which wore knitted hats in the shape of groundhogs or had groundhog paw marks painted on their cheeks.

Since 1886, the people of Punxsutawney, have looked to Phil for his predictions.



At just about 7:22 AM, Punxsutawney Phil - the Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, Weather Prophet Extraordinaire, National Treasure and most photographed Pennsylvanian, emerged from his burrow and was held aloft to the glare of cameras and the cheers of thousands of spectators and offered his annual weather prognostication to the Groundhog Club president who was dressed in a top hat and tuxedo: *"It's my shadow I see. Six more weeks of winter there will be."*

Although a few "boos" came from the crowd at the news of a longer winter, most spectators were just happy to be part of the festivities. According to legend, if the rodent emerges from his hole and sees his shadow, six more weeks of freezing temperatures and snow are on the way.



Despite the hoopla and festival atmosphere in Punxsutawney, Pa., an analysis of weather data from the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., shows that Phil's forecasts are, on average, inaccurate. "The groundhog has shown no talent for predicting the arrival of spring," according to the center.

According to researchers, Phil's predictions are only right about 39 percent of the time.

This means that Phil is more likely to be wrong most of the time than right! "They are horrible forecasts," said Kim Klockow, a researcher at a weather convention in Atlanta. "We still love them and all, but better to flip a coin."

Groundhog Day breaks up the monotony of winter. It has existed for 129 years, not because it is the best meteorological science known to man but because it is fun. If you want to argue the science, you have lost the point of the day.

Remembering the Ladies

Women have been active participants in the development of radio or wireless communications since its beginning. Women had worked as telegraph operators since the late 1840s, and it was not long before women telegraphers began to work as wireless operators as well. The age of radio communication began with the development of wireless telegraphy around 1900. It was one of very few mediums that gave women the chance to have a global voice—and they took it.



Graynella Packer on the steamship "Mohawk"

While not a ham, the first woman to be officially employed as a shipboard wireless operator was 22 year old Graynella Packer, a telegrapher from Jacksonville, Florida, who was employed as a wireless operator for the United Wireless Telegraph Company aboard the steamship *Mohawk* from November 1910 to April 1911.

This was just two years after the first wireless distress call from a ship at sea, and a year before the *Titanic* disaster made heroes of that ship's wireless operators.

In 1912 Charles Herrold, began broadcasting over what would later become station KQW, in San Francisco. The scheduled broadcasts were called the "Little Hams Program" for an audience of homemade crystal radio enthusiasts.

Herrold's program quickly became popular and listeners would telephone with music requests. One reason for the program's popularity was the announcer, Herrold's young wife Sybil, who is credited with being the first woman to broadcast a radio program.

Thousands of listeners were able to listen to Herrold's day-long broadcasts, experiencing radio broadcasting of voice for the first time. Herrold's radio station later became San Francisco's KCBS in 1949. Herrold remains known as the first person to broadcast regularly scheduled entertainment programming, which developed the first radio audience.



Sybil Herrold



Emma Chandler, 8NH

Mrs. Emma Candler, 8NH (later 8ER) of Marysville, Ohio shared a station with her husband, Charles, but was by far the more active of the two. Trained and employed as a telegraph operator at the Marconi Company, she quickly became a proficient wireless operator when she got on the air in January, 1915 after acquiring her First Grade Commercial License. It is widely believed that Emma was the first licensed YL ham operator in the United States, though there is one obscure

mention of a California lady - Mrs. M.J. Glass, of San Jose who operated as station FNFN in 1910 - slightly ahead of her. The Chandler station abused the ether using a one inch spark coil, running a full kilowatt. The antenna system was 87 feet long, 58 feet high, and had six wires, with a lead in from the center.

While certainly not the first female ham radio operator, Miss M. Adaire Garmhausen, 3BCK, is the first to earn the now popular ham radio title "YL". It all came about when she submitted an article to *QST*, in early 1920. She received a letter back from the ARRL dated May 13, 1920 which read in part:

My Dear YL:- "We have had to coin a new phrase for your benefit as you will readily see that OM will not fit and OL would certainly be most inapplicable. Thank you very much indeed for your most amusing history of the trials and tribulations of a lady ham. We will be very pleased to present this to the radio fraternity in an early issue of *QST*."



M. Adaire Garmhausen



Marie Zimmerman

When people think of early radio pioneers, I doubt that the name of Marie Zimmerman comes readily to mind, nor does the place where she made history – Vinton, Iowa. In early 1922, Marie decided it might be fun to operate their own radiophone station, and on July 21st, 1922, the Department of Commerce - which licensed stations before the creation of the Federal Radio Commission - issued a limited commercial license to "Mrs. Robert E. Zimmerman" of Vinton, Iowa, to operate station WIAE.

The station went on the air with only 40 Watts and she became the first woman to own a licensed radio station. Unfortunately for little stations like WIAE, late 1922 saw the radio craze take hold nationwide, as hundreds of new stations took to the air. By early 1923, she knew she could no longer afford the station's expenses and did not renew WIAE's license. The Department of Commerce officially deleted the station in late June. It had lasted not quite a year.

Clara Reger-W2RUF, received her call sign in 1933 at age thirty-five and was known for her exceptional Morse code skills. She spent much of her life teaching others how to become operators and received the Edison Award for teaching a fourteen-year-old boy without arms to send Morse code with his feet. But she is also known for the signature salutation, '33' which she created especially for women communicating with other women which means love sealed with friendship.



Clara Reger-W2RUF



Ethel Smith, W7FWB

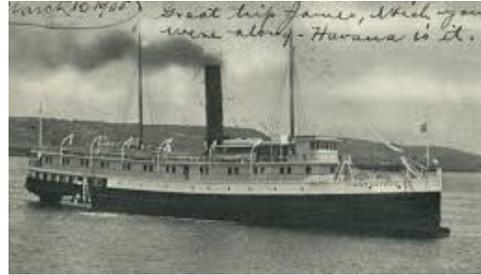
Ethel Smith-W7FWB, wondered just how many female "key-twitchers" were out there. Because of it, she formed the Young Lady's Radio League in October of 1939 and served as their first president.

These are just a few of the many women who used radio as their medium of choice, their stories as operators are fascinating and inspiring. These women were united in their mutual passion for exploration, technology and adventure. And that still holds true today for many YL hams.

Wireless to the Rescue

It was Friday, **February 4th, 1910...** the steamer *Kentucky*, set to sail around Cape Horn from New York to Tacoma, Washington ran into heavy weather outside the Virginia Capes and began to leak badly, faster than the pumps could control. Struggling against the storm, her seams were open and the sea was pouring into her. She grew heavier and heavier with the weight of the water as the minutes passed and grave fears were felt lest the steamer might add her bones to the hundreds in the graveyard of the Atlantic.

Captain Moore saw it would be useless to attempt to navigate the ship further and ordered a distress call to be made. Strangely enough, she was equipped with wireless not more than two weeks prior to her voyage and this was her first voyage after being equipped with the apparatus. At his post in the wireless room of the *Kentucky* sat Operator W. D. McGinnis, who at the key, hammered away, on the call for aid...



Postcard from the S.S. Kentucky in March of 1905

"SOS we are sinking. Our latitude is 32 degrees 10 minutes; longitude 76 degrees 30 minutes. Kentucky." McGinnis sat at his instrument until water rushed in and drowned out the dynamo that enabled him to send out his signals. Then the wireless was choked and the *Kentucky's* crew could only wait until the vessel was found.

Aboard the Mallory liner *Alamo*, enroute from New York to Galveston, the bombardment of the SOS call was received by E. D. Seaman, the *Alamo's* operator, at about 11:30 A.M., who ran with the message to the *Alamo's* skipper, and a moment later the bells in the engine room were ringing the signals that changed the *Alamo's* course and turned her nose in the direction of the sinking *Kentucky*.



The Mallory Liner, "Alamo"

The *Alamo* put on full speed, pointing her nose in the direction given by the *Kentucky*, and as she drew within range of the latter's supposed position she began to send thick, black smoke from her funnels to give heart to the crew of the disabled vessel and then came alongside the foundering vessel, at 3:50 P.M. just as the electricity failed aboard the *Kentucky*.

Then bit by bit out of the air came electric flashes to the station of the United Wireless Company at Savannah, telling of the rescue in small boats of Capt. Moore and his men. The work of transferring the crew was attended with little danger, and no one was injured. The wireless had served to save the lives of all on board.

It is an evidence of his heroism that Captain Moore, when on the *Alamo*, publicly thanked the operator for his work, and the rescued crew then cheered him. Then Capt. Moore of the *Kentucky* looked back at his laboring vessel and said: "She will go to the bottom before midnight." And his prophecy came true.

Editor's Note: As to the Mallory Liner "Alamo" herself, built in 1883, she was eventually scrapped in 1924



The Army Marathon III

Volunteers Needed! The Army Marathon - in honor of the service and sacrifice of our military servicemen and women in uniform - the third annual Army Marathon will be run Sunday, March 1st. The race will begin at 07:00 AM, at the Killeen Civic Center, located at 3601 South W.S. Young in Killeen and end on Hilliard Road, with the finish line just south of Highway 36, in Temple. The Inaugural running of The Army Marathon had 900 runners, and last year's run had 1,184 runners. Marathon officials expect to attract a similar high number of runners this year.

Approximately 25 amateur radio operators are needed to volunteer for communications support for the marathon at the start line, finish line, race official shadows, rovers and 19 water points along the course. It's recommended that if you have both a mobile radio as well as an HT, to bring both. Primary communications will be through the N5ZXJ repeater on 145.310(-) PL 123.

With the race commencing at 07:00, volunteers will need to be in position by 6:30 AM. If you would like to assist in this event, please contact Robert Shoemaker - KE5WVC, at (254) 702-8066 or via email at: robert1867@embarqmail.com as soon as possible so coordination can be conducted with everyone else involved.



This year's finishers medal

If you're contacting Robert by email, please include your telephone number in the message body. This is the largest event in the area requiring large scale amateur radio support. It doesn't matter what radio club you're with, please, if you can help out in this event contact Robert as soon as possible. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

A map showing the marathon route, mile markers and water points can be found at: www.thearmymarathon.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2015_Army-Marathon-Route_2014-3-20.pdf

The Half Marathon course map can be found at: www.thearmymarathon.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2015_Army-Half-Marathon-Route_2014-3-20.pdf

Robert will be sending out an email to all the volunteers with their assignments, at a later date. For full information on the marathon, visit: www.thearmymarathon.com.



The Army Marathon was created to honor our military folks and their families, and especially to help raise money and awareness for the many organizations who serve these heroes. The goal of the Army Marathon is to be the largest marathon in the country that directly honors the service and sacrifice of our

Vietnam veterans as well as all of our Heroes that have served this country faithfully.