

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the
Bell County Communications Center, 708 West Avenue O, in Belton**

From the Editor's Desk...

Rick Murray, K6WXA

Greetings all from sunny Southern California, at the very heart of the coverage area of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club repeater – K6PV. We had a very pleasant drive coming out here – except for the California part; let me say if you’ve never driven on the freeway systems in Southern California, now is not a good time to start. Bumper to bumper high speed lunatics, though I’m sure they call it “formation flying.” Once in the Los Angeles basin, I started tuning the dial looking for my favorite station - KLOS 95.5, southern California’s only classic rock and roll – and my favorite on air personality, Joe Benson, known affectionately by all as “*your Uncle Joe*” only to find out he left KLOS for a radio job elsewhere. And then there are those long-haired, long-legged southern California women, you know, the ones you see on TV... they’re gone! I think maybe California just got too weird for them and they all left. Well, they say you can never go home.

Wednesday evening, October 21st, I had the chance to attend the monthly meeting of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club. The guest speaker was Bill Shanney - W6QR, who gave a good presentation on “Selecting Your First Transceiver.” A couple of things he pointed out was, the latest and greatest isn’t always what you want. If your radio isn’t ergonomically friendly, you won’t use it. He also mentioned you don’t need to run the max of 1,500 watts; generally 100 watts is just fine and in working DX, 400 watts will keep you above the noise floor. But he says, running 1,500 watts out is a good way to get to know all your neighbors.

Our next monthly club meeting is on November 3rd, which will be our annual "General Membership Meeting" where we will hold elections for next year's club officers. We will be taking nominations from the floor, but the current proposed slate of candidates is:

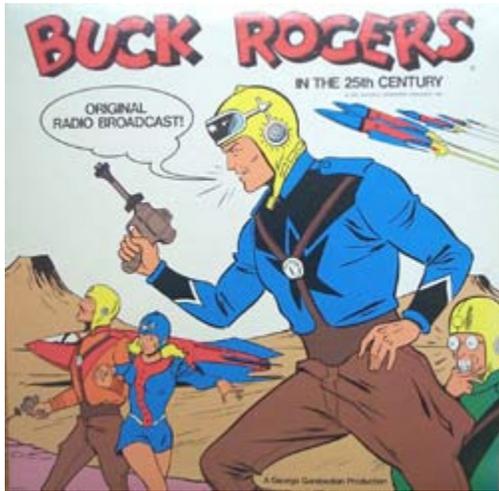
- President: Terry Evans, KF5OHR
- Vice President: Rick Murray, K6WXA
- Secretary: Russell Stoddard, KG6FUJ
- Treasurer: Kenneth Watkins, KE5ISN
- Board Director: Joe Mayer, K4JMS

That’s all from here, 73 from the Left Coast.





"Buck Rogers is back on the air. Buck and Wilma and all their fascinating friends and mysterious enemies in the super-scientific 25th century."



Buck Rogers in the 25th Century first aired November 7th, 1932 over the CBS Radio Network, and is notable as the first science fiction program on radio. With the huge popularity of the comic strip, it was a natural for *Buck Rogers* to become part of the nation's latest craze, radio.

The program was noted for its sound effects which included a regiment of marching robots and the crash of a rocket ship. The sounds of Buck's arsenal, consisting of such futuristic devices as a Gyro Cosmic Relativator, death rays, incendiary missiles, gamma bombs and a mechanical mole capable of burrowing deep into the Earth, were simulated by a variety of electrical and hand-powered motors.

You can listen-in again to the some of the remaining series that have survived the ages by visiting:

https://archive.org/details/otr_buckrogers



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 5th: | November 12th: |
| Net Control: AD5SK | KG6FUJ |
| Back-Up: KG6FUJ | W5GNK |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| November 19th: | November 26th: |
| Net Control: W5GNK | - No Net - |
| Back-Up: KF5OHR | Thanksgiving |

Daylight Saving Time Ends



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1st 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. 21st to 0300Z, Nov. 23rd on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters SSB. For more information, please visit:

www.arrl.org/sweepstakes



MARS Invites ARES/RACES Participation in Disaster Exercise

A disastrous coronal mass ejection will be the focus of a national Military Auxiliary Radio System communication exercise November 8th through the 10th. MARS is hoping to collaborate with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service groups in this exercise in support of the US Department of Defense.

The exercise scenario will simulate a CME event and focus on actions that radio operators should take prior to and following a CME event. One thing MARS wants is to continue to work on the interface with the greater Amateur Radio community.

ARES/RACES groups and individuals interested in participating in the exercise should contact MARS via email at: mars.exercises@gmail.com

Radio

A young bride asked her husband to copy off a radio recipe she wanted. He did his best but got two stations at once, one of which was broadcasting the morning exercises and the other the recipe. This is what he took down:

"Hands on hips, place one cup of flour on the shoulders, raise knees and depress toes and mix thoroughly in one-half cup of milk. Repeat six times. Inhale quickly one-half teaspoon of baking powder, lower the legs and mash two hard-boiled eggs in a sieve. Exhale, breathe naturally and sift into a bowl. Lie flat on the floor and roll the white of an egg backward and forward until it comes to a boil. In ten minutes remove from the fire and rub smartly with a rough towel. Breathe naturally, dress in warm flannels and serve with fish soup."

Ham "Just Sure" Obama Is Out to Get Him

SEINS FORMIDABLE, UTAH – A Fulbright County man is casting wild accusations today against a high profile politician: U.S. President Barack Obama.

Local ham radio operator Junior Brown says the leader of the free world is personally making enjoyment of his hobby "almost impossible."



"I heard Obama got his ham license, that can't be right."

Junior – a regular contributor to right-wing conservative online message boards – claims Obama is manipulating the sunspot cycle to ruin propagation.

"A few weeks ago, I shared one of those Facebook messages about Obama being the worst President ever. Now, I can't make any contacts. The bands are not only quiet... they're totally dead!"

Junior says he is "almost 100% positive" that Obama saw his message online and "turned the dial" on the White House HAARP device to create the low sunspot numbers.

"It's just typical of a Washington bureaucrat to do that to the little guy!" exclaims the retired bus mechanic and general class ham. "I've worked my entire life for some peace and quiet... and the chance to work DX. And now Obama goes and messes it up!"

Junior says he'll be happy when a new U.S. President is elected in 2016 so the sunspot numbers will go up again.

New Record for Aeroplane Transmission

The Wireless Age - November, 1916

A new record for flashing wireless messages from an aeroplane in flight was established by Captain Clarence Culver, of the signal corps aviation school, of the U.S. Army, when he succeeded in keeping in constant communication with San Diego while on a reconnaissance flight to Santa Monica and return, a total one way distance of 114 miles, in an aeroplane.



Captain Clarence Culver

Captain Culver ascended from the military aerodrome in a Martin Tractor No. 50, piloted by Sergeant William Ocker. He flew at an even height of a mile and a half, sending messages every three minutes to Lieutenant W.A. Robertson, who handled the receiving instruments of a private station.

Captain Culver's feat was accomplished by a radio set designed by himself. The power for the transmission set is derived from a generator placed on the lower wing section of the aeroplane and driven by a two blade propeller. Aerial wires hung from the fuselage, with an insulated counterpoise hung from the wings to the tail of the aeroplane, complete the set, which weighs less than forty pounds.

Tower Troubles

The Wireless Estimator

As radio amateurs, many of us all understand all too well the challenges of putting up and maintaining a tower. But, some listeners to Oklahoma's station KGUY - 91.3 FM, got a rude reception this past September 23rd when they were treated to deafening silence after a tower crew hired by the American Tower Corporation cut the broadcaster's 418-foot tower down without notifying them.



The station's director of programming and operations Dale Bolton, said KGUY started receiving calls from loyal listeners that the station had stopped broadcasting, and then the usual equipment checks were made to assess why the station was off the air.

"We were later notified by American Tower that they had cut the tower down because a crew had tried to make repairs to the unsafe tower and couldn't."

Bolton said he had previously noticed that the tower appeared to be crooked and stood at "an odd angle." He believes it could have possibly been a problem with the guy wires.

Bolton said the tower should of been decommissioned if it was a danger to workers and others in the guyed tower's proximity, but he thought that... "It would have been nice if we were able to give our listeners notice."



Texas Weather Wire NWS - Austin / San Antonio

The *Texas Weather Wire* Fall Edition of the quarterly newsletter from the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Austin, is now available online in .pdf format at: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/pdf/Fall_2015.pdf



Email Phishing Scam

Andy Shefrin, KB1YHB

ARRL IT Infrastructure and Operations Manager

If you use an arrl.net email alias and the ARRL email forwarding service, be on the lookout for a phishing scam. A number of ARRL members have reported to the League that they received an email from "Arrl Webmail Admin" with "account upgrade" in the subject line. The email requests such personal information as user names and passwords, and includes a bogus message telling the recipient that the accounts are being removed and upgraded to an enhanced service. The ARRL emphatically states this is not an official message and is cautioning recipients of these emails.

The ARRL is aware of this phishing scheme and is working to block the sender's email address at their upstream provider. As with any emails of unknown origin, do not open or reply to them.



Have a shortwave receiver, or maybe your ham rig has a broad general coverage receiver built-in? Tune in to **WTWW** on 5085 KHz on Tuesday evenings at 8 PM CDT for the *QSO Live* radio program hosted by Ted Randall – WB8PUM. The show also airs on Saturdays at 1 PM CDT on 9475 KHz and on Sundays at 9 PM CDT, on 5085 KHz with in-depth interviews with special guests and hams from all over the world.

For more information, please visit: <http://qsoradioshow.com>



HamExpo VE Test Session

Jan Gregg, W5GNK

At the HamExpo VE Test Session this past October 3rd, 14 tests were given resulting in 2 new Extra's; 6 new General's and 4 new Technicians. There were 2 who did not pass their exams. A big thanks to the 12 VE's who assisted!



As an early reminder... CTARC will not be holding a regular monthly meeting in December. Instead, you and your family are cordially invited to our annual Christmas dinner get together, which will be at *Johnny's* in Salado, on December 1st at 6:30 PM.

More information on this will be provided in the December issue of the newsletter.



SM6LRR will be active from Vietnam 23 November - 5 December as **XV2D**. QSL via his home call.

A group of amateurs will activate Willis Island 12-21 November as **VK9WA**. QSL via N7SML.

A group of amateurs will be active from Vietnam as **3W3MD**, through the 10th of November. QSL via IK2VUC.

OH1VR and **OH3JR** will be active from Saba Island, each signing **stroke PJ5**, 23 November - 2 December. QSL via their respective home calls.

DL2AH will be active from Yap Island through the 10th of November as **V63AH**. QSL via his home call.

MØDXR will be active from Costa Rica 28 - 29 November as **T15W**. QSL via N3YIM.

N7BF will be active from Saint Lucia Island 7 - 14 November as **J68KF**. QSL via his home call.

AA4OC, **KB7NJV**, **N7QR**, **N7DWL**, and **WT4BT** will be active from Saint Lucia Island 7 - 14 November each signing **stroke J6**. QSL via home calls.

DL7VOG will be active from Martinique Island 10 November - 8 December signing **stroke FM**. QSL via his home call.

DF6LO will be active from Rodrigues Island in November signing **stroke 3B9**. QSL via LotW or eQSL.

F6ICX will be active from Sainte Marie (Nosy Boraha) Island, November 1st through December 12th as **5R8IC**. QSL via his home call.

OE7PGI will be active from Bonaire Island 2 - 7 November signing **stroke PJ4**. QSL via his home call.

GØKIK will be active from Rarotonga Island, 9 - 15 November as **E51KIK**. QSL via his home call.

A group of amateurs will be active from Coëtivy Island in the Seychelles, 15 - 23 November as **S79C**. QSL via MØOXO.

GØKIK will be active from Waiheke Island 17 - 24 November signing **stroke ZL1**. QSL via his home call.

3W3MD/P will be active from Da Nang City, Vietnam, as well as from Cham Island, through November 10th. QSL via IK2VUC.

OH2BAD and OH1MA will be active from Aruba 3 - 10 November as **P4ØMH** and **P4/OH1MA**. QSL for both via OH2BAD.

OH2BAD and **OH1MA** will be active from Bonaire Island 10 - 18 November, each signing **stroke PJ4**. QSL via OH2BAD.

RZ3FW and **R4WAA** will be active from Easter Island November 24th to December 2nd, each signing **stroke CEØY**. QSL via their home calls.

DL9USA will be active from Anguilla Island 8 - 23 November as **VP2ECC**. QSL via his home call.

WJ2O will be active from Trinidad and Tobago 25 - 30 November signing **stroke 9Y4**. QSL via N2ZN.

T2TT will be active from Tuvalu Island 24 November - 2 December. QSL via K8NA.

VK5MAV will be active from Croker Island 1-6 November signing **stroke 8**. QSL via his home call.

ZL1IF will be active from Upolu Island, Samoa 25 November through 3 December, as **5WØIF**. QSL via his home call.

G4IRN will be active from Honduras 21 - 30 November as **HR2J**. QSL via his HR2J address.

JA8VE and JF1OCQ will be active from Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam, 4 - 11 November as **3W4VE** and **3W4VX**. QSL via their home calls.

The Windom Off-Center Fed Antenna

First introduced in the September 1929 issue of *QST* magazine, Loren G. "Windy" Windom, who after serving in WW-2 in the 145th Infantry Regiment, became a Major General and was later appointed by the governor as the 37th Adjutant General of Ohio in 1959, and was always active in Amateur Radio as W8GZ.

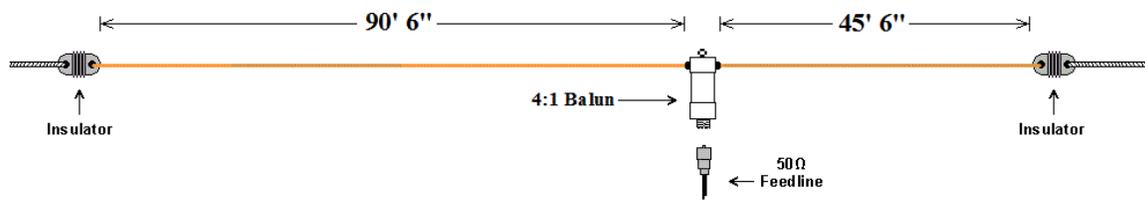
In the middle 1920's, Loren Windom operated as 8GZ / 8ZG in the Columbus, Ohio area, running 250 watts out - which was considered high power at the time. He was considered the technical bellwether of Columbus hams and was an active experimenter, working with antennas among other things.

He later passed away on February 1st, 1988 at the age of 82. His call has since been reissued.



Loren Windom, W8GZ

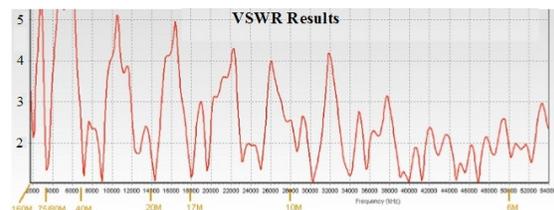
The Windom Antenna was very popular in days gone by due to its simplicity. Perhaps today it is often overlooked as being "too simple" to work on all bands, how could a dipole-like antenna work on all bands with a reasonably low SWR? Well, it does not really work on all bands, but will work on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 & 6 meters. But not so well on the WARC Bands (30, 17 & 12 meters).



The Windom is kind of like a dipole, but not center fed, where the two sides are equal in length, but it is an Off Center Fed antenna. Usually cut for one leg at 90 feet and the opposite leg at 45 feet. In the middle is a 4:1 Balun, using low loss coaxial cable to the transmitter. The wire itself, is #12 AWG jacketed copper wire, which can be obtained at any hardware store. It is best to have the center up at least 35 feet and the ends as clear of structure as possible. A tuner is generally not required.

Editor's Notes: Not meaning to advertise... the two insulators can be ordered through the BuxComm Corporation, Part #INSULATOR for \$1.95 each. The 4:1 Balun, Part #B1U41, can be ordered for \$39.95. Visit: <https://packetradio.com/catalog/> for more information on these. I've ordered products through this company in the past, and never experienced any problems.

This article first appeared in the September 2015 issue of *The Microphone*, the monthly newsletter of the Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society and is reprinted here with permission of it's Editor - W5CRY.





A Pill That May Resist Cold

Science Digest - November, 1957

A pill that may increase resistance to cold is being tested at the Arctic Aero-medical Laboratory near Fairbanks, Alaska.

The pill contains glycine, an amino-acid that causes the body to generate more heat than it can otherwise produce. It is hoped the pill might enable men to stay alive longer in icy water, and hasten the warming of a man who has been chilled to a critical point of exposure.

At the laboratory, operated by the Air Force at Ladd Air Force Base, volunteers are taking the pills with no evidence of ill effect. If the tests are successful the pills could be included in survival kits.

Glycine also may make possible a technique of heart surgery in which the heart can be chilled to the point where it stops for an hour or more without suffering damage. According to scientists working at the Air Force laboratory, the heart suffers "ventricular fibrillation" when its temperature is lowered to about 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

This is a loss of rhythmic beat, which causes death. Hence, in heart surgery, the organ can be chilled only enough to stop its



beating for six or eight minutes. Glycine in the bloodstream may enable the heart to be chilled past this critical temperature.

Extensive research has been carried out at the laboratory with Negroes, Eskimos, and whites to find out why some ethnic groups seem more resistant to cold than others. Among Negroes who agreed to act as subjects in the experiments, basal metabolism—that is, their rate of energy production—fell more rapidly than it did in white men. Similar studies of Eskimos produced no evidence that their bodies were better equipped for the cold than those of white men. The Eskimos' ability to endure extremely low temperatures seems based on acquired skills and excellently adapted clothing and diet.

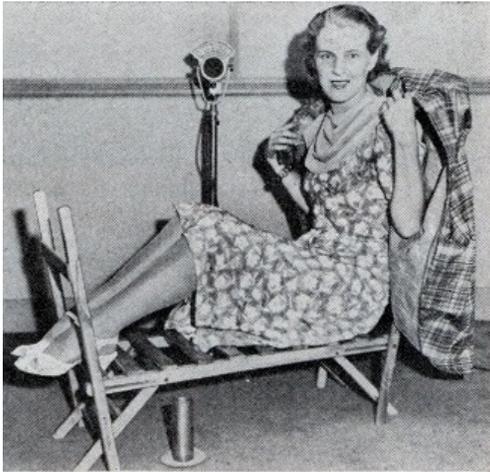
The abstract from the 1961 Final Report explains that it didn't work:

Glycine and similar materials lies in their ability to provide additional calories to the cooling organism via the mechanism of specific dynamic action. Thirty grams of glycine were administered orally to five volunteer, male subjects who were subsequently exposed nude to an environment of 10° C. Measurements of rectal and extremity surface temperatures and whole body metabolic rates failed to show any statistically significant effects that could be attributed to the influence of glycine.

Broadcasting a Bath

Popular Science - November, 1937

Through the microphones of broadcasting station WQXR in New York City, amateur inventors describe their new devices to radio listeners in a regular weekly program aptly named "Can It Be Done?"



This young woman is telling the radio audience about a hood and chair that turn any tub into a Turkish bath. The drain extension keeps hot water at the proper level.



Do Women Know What They Want In Radio Programs?

Radio Broadcast - November, 1925

In England recently, a woman graduate of Cambridge debated before the microphone with a woman who had been in charge of various canteens during the war on what subjects appeal most to women listeners. The Cambridge graduate favored amusing and intellectual talks of a non-domestic character, and the ex-canteen manager declared she wanted talks on practical subjects and "ultra-feminine topics" - whatever they are. Listeners were asked to express their views, and some 80 per cent of the letters sided with the Cambridge woman. Cookery, child welfare, and household management talks were not wanted. The general cry was: "Take us out of the kitchen and take us out of ourselves!" The letter writers wanted talks on music, literature, travel, women's movements, etc., with an occasional fashion talk or humorous reading.

Almost without exception American broadcasting stations, when they have a program for women, have limited it to the obvious domestic things. No broadcaster has had the courage or the intelligence to arrange a program to appeal to the intelligence of women. One wonders whether this failure is due to a belief that it would be useless to make the attempt or because the program designers simply fail to appreciate the necessity.

Perhaps a national effort will awaken the program directors, and they will now busy themselves and arrange women's programs with a broader appeal.

Dedication to the Last Breath

Standing at the lower end of Battery Park, where the tip end of New York looks out toward the remorseless ocean stands a memorial fountain to wireless operators lost at sea. The monument was dedicated on May 12th, 1915, and bore the names of ten young wireless operators who, in the midst of storm and terror, stuck to their post of duty and went down with their ships. The monument was rededicated on May 30, 1957, and since then more names have been added to it.

One of those added was Hipolito Elanga, the radio operator of the Cypriot flagged coal ship *Polydoros*.

The *Polydoros* was a 908-foot freighter laden with 109,000 tons of coal along with 1,300 tons of diesel fuel. With a crew of 28, she had left Norfolk, VA and was bound for Taranto, Italy when on Sunday, November 20th, 1994, fire broke out in the ship's superstructure, several levels above the main deck of the *Polydoros*

while the ship was some 210 miles south of Nantucket Island, in the Atlantic.

In the radio room the ship's radio officer, Hipolito Elanga of the Philippines, had sent an SOS by Telex to Sweden; Sweden then relayed the distress message to the Coast Guard in New York, who dispatched a cutter and two helicopters. By the following day smoke billowed from the freighter and fire engulfed the ship's pilot house, forcing the Captain and three other officers to abandon ship.



The Polydoros engulfed in smoke - photo USCG

Later in the day, more than 24 hours after the fire started, Coast Guard helicopters were able to airlift the remaining 24 crewman in a daring air-sea rescue, as well as the four officers who were forced to go over-board.

A team of 15 Coast Guard firefighters boarded the vessel, later in the day and managed to put out the flames at about 5:15 p.m. before it spread to the ship's cargo of coal and diesel fuel.

During a sub-sequent search of the ship by the Coast Guard, they found the ship's radio operator, 26 year-old Hipolito Elanga, dead at his post over come by smoke inhalation, slumped over the radio equipment. He was the only casualty as a result of the fire.

The remaining crew members said they were shaken by the experience but thankful to have been so close to the American shore. They went on to say that if they had been closer to South America or Africa, their rescue would of taken much longer.

Two salvage ships arrived the following day and were able to take the *Polydoros* in tow and bring it back to port.

