

**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**

Terry's Telegram...

Terry Evans, KF5OHR



First off, a Hearty Welcome and a Big Thank You to Hal Pagel-N5JLL as our newest member of the club. Hal, who has been one of our net control operators, joined the club at our last meeting on January 5th. Nice having you Hal!

A few words about emergency power as a back up. A nice 5kw or 15kw gas generator would be great to keep things running around the house if a winter storm should move in. But if you don't have that, any kind of backup power would help out. With a small 500 watt to 1000 watt wind generator or a 500 to 1000 watt solar panel setup, they can keep you warm and the radio working. Maybe even a light or two.

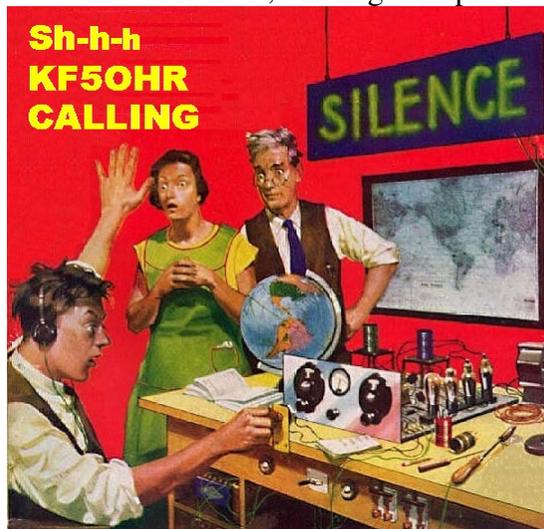
All the RV's and camper places carries or can get things like 12 volt coffee pots, TV's, CD / DVD player / recorders for camping along with 12 volt lamps for RV's and they are nice to have when the power grid is down. As when an ice storm occurs that could keep the power out for days. If there is a storm, then the wind will be blowing the wind generator making power for you - just have a battery to store it in, so that it can work for you. Most gas furnaces don't need much power if the gas is still on, then all you need is the igniter and the blower motor; you can do that from a 12 volt battery and a 1000 watt Power inverter. You may have to share the power with other things to keep some sort of comfort, but when the roads are closed and you can't get to a shelter, that is no so bad.

Coming up at our next meeting, we'll have Bob Harrell-KF5YZH, as our guest speaker.

Bob is the Emergency Manager for Coryell County and has some big plans in store for what will be the County's Emergency Operations Center in Gatesville. As a ham, he recognizes the value of amateur radio and wants amateur radio involved in his EOC in a big way. More about him follows further on in the newsletter.

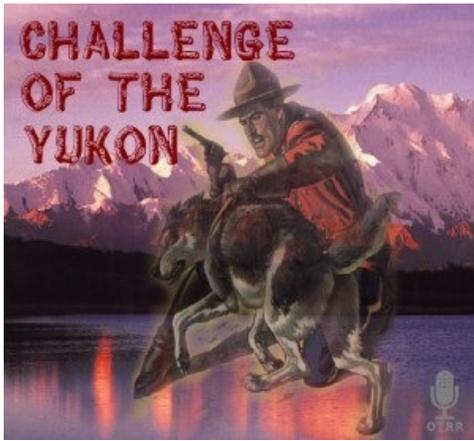
Our next club meeting is on Groundhog Day, February 2nd, at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center and I hope to see everyone there.

- 73 de Terry, KF5OHR





"Gold! Gold! Discovered in the Yukon! A stampede to the Klondike in a greedy race for riches. Back to the days of the Gold Rush, with the adventures of Sergeant Preston and his Wonder Dog, Yukon King, as they meet the Challenge of the Yukon!"



Challenge of the Yukon first aired on February 3rd, 1938 over station WXYZ in Detroit. The program eventually aired on ABC and later over the Mutual Broadcasting System where the title was changed to *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon* in November of 1951.

The program was an adventure series about Sergeant Frank Preston of the North-West Mounted Police and his lead sled dog, Yukon King, as they fought evildoers in the Northern wilderness during the Gold Rush of the 1890s. Each episode has him battling a new crisis, whether it be tracking down a murderer, a gang of thieves, or claim jumping miners.

Visit the sub-zero temperatures that this gallant hero and his wonder dog King faced during the Klondike gold rush in the Yukon Territory by visiting: https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Challenge_of_the_Yukon_Singles



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 & Back-Up NCS Schedule

February 4th:	February 11th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	N5JLL
Back-Up: N5JLL	K6WXA
February 18th:	February 25th:
Net Control: K6WXA	KD5FJF
Back-Up: KD5FJF	W5VEX



Skywarn Training



Bell County (*Basic and Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 13th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at the Belton ISD Administration Building, 400 North Wall Street, in Belton.

Hamilton County (*Basic Spotter Training*) Monday, February 8th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Comanche Community Center, 100 Indian Creek Drive, in Comanche.

McLennan County (*Basic and Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 6th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at the Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Road, in Waco.



School Club Round-Up

This 5-day event runs from 1300 UTC Monday, February 8th through 2359 UTC Friday, February 12th, 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>

System Fusion / Wires X Demo

The Bosque County ARC will have a System Fusion / Wires-X demo given by Ceven Twilley-K5ORN, at the Old City Hall In Valley Mills, on February 13th, at 6:30 PM. Anyone that is interested in the System Fusion / Wires-X system is cordially invited.



Village of Salado '3 Kings 3 Miler'

Robert Shoemaker, KE5WVC

This past January 2nd, the Village of Salado's held it's third running of the 3 Kings-3 Miler run event. 201 runners along with 3 or 4 dogs, participated in the run in mild weather with temp's in the mid 50's.

This year, logistical communications support was provided by Joe Mayer-K4JMS, Terry Evans-KF5OHR and Robert Shoemaker-KE5WVC.



The Starting Line

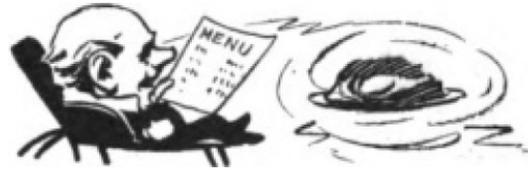
This year's winner was 20 year-old Alex Cook of Salado, with a time of 18:01. A big thanks to all who supported this event.



This year's winner - Alex Cook

Ordering Dinner by Wireless

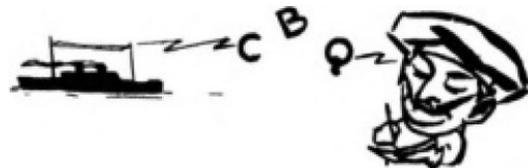
The Wireless Age - February, 1916



Giving orders by wireless for dinner is the latest development in modern restaurants. An eating house in New York City has announced that passengers on steamships bound for that city can make arrangements by marconigram to have the table set before they arrive.

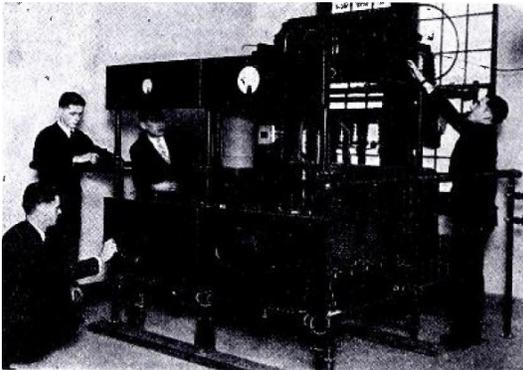
For instance, if tourist Purdy of Milwaukee, feels a yearning for corn beef and cabbage as the vessel on which he is voyaging approaches the Atlantic coast, he can send a wireless message directly from the steamship to the station on the roof of the restaurant. In order to facilitate the ordering, a list of abbreviations has been prepared. C.B.Q. being used to designate corn beef and cabbage. If Purdy's taste runs to ham and eggs he will only find it necessary to use the letters H.E. and the employment of the abbreviation M.P., will be sufficient to start the chef preparing mince pie. If his mouth waters for beef steak and onions, the craving can be satisfied with the abbreviation B. and O.

The danger signal of the abbreviated code W.A.S. which means we are starving, is answered by H.E. repeated three times in succession. W.A.B., meaning we are broke, is the signal of distress and is answered by an emphatic K.A. (keep away).



The Largest and The Smallest

On the Air - February, 1926



The world's largest broadcaster, shown here is the oscillator of the new 50,000 watt transmitter of station WJZ located at Bound Brook, NJ.



The world's smallest broadcaster, with a mere 5 watts, was station WDBX near the northern tip of Manhattan in New York. Despite its flea-sized power, it was picked up as far away as Chicago.

"The radio business is worse than selling women's dresses or men's straw hats, with the difference that the radio business is perhaps more uncertain. There is always a market for women's dresses and straw hats for men, even though out of season."

Radio News - February, 1921



NOAA Weather Radio is Getting a New Voice

For the first time in over 15 years, a new computer system will be used to generate audio recordings of the forecasts, observations, watches and warnings which are routinely heard over NOAA's weather radio broadcasts. The new voices of "Donna" and "Craig" are currently being field tested over station WXJ-21 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Valentine Thoughts



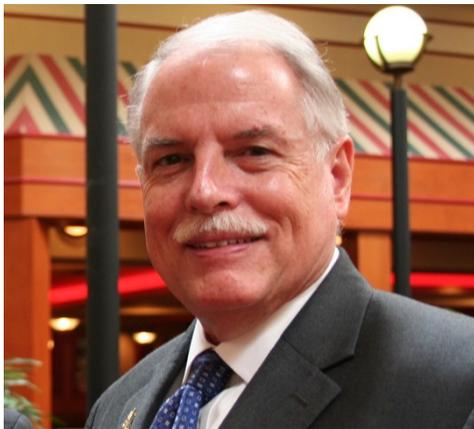
My mind becomes a vacuum tube
When I think of you;
My heart gets quite ec-static
My headband goes askew.
Your eyes that flash like unquenched
sparks,
Your hair like copper wire,
Break down my high resistance
Like a transformed amplifier.
I really think we're both in-tune,
And ere through life we roam.
Suppose you hook up now with me
And share my humble ohm.



Changing of the Guard

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, Connecticut January 15th and 16th to elect a new League President as well as other officers, Executive Committee members, and ARRL Foundation directors.

Succeeding President Kay Craigie - N3KN, is the League's 16th President, Rick Roderick-K5UR.



New ARRL President Rick Roderick - K5UR

Succeeding ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner-K1ZZ, is Tom Gallagher-NY2RF.



New ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher - NY2RF

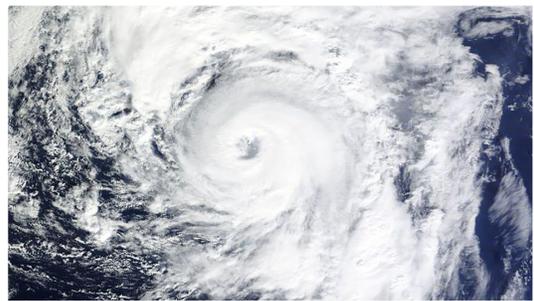
Here in our region, Matthew Morris - K5ICR has been named the new North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator.



Early Start for 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season



Sub-Tropical Storm Alex formed about 415 miles southwest of the Azores Islands January 13th, becoming the first tropical or subtropical storm to form in January since an unnamed system did so in 1978. The following day it became a Category-1 Hurricane; the first hurricane to form in January since an unnamed storm in 1938.

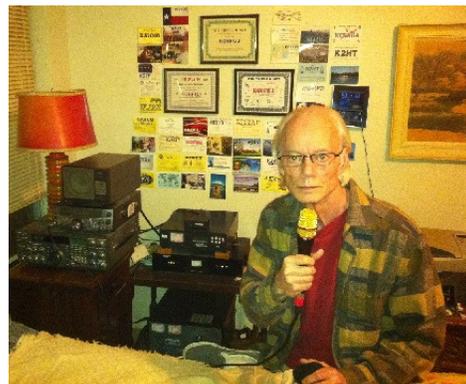


Hurricane Alex - January 14th, 2016



CONGRATULATIONS

A hearty congratulations to our own Russell Stoddard-KG6FUJ, who was recently selected as the Net Control Station of the year for 2015 by the "Triple H Net". The recognition was given for exemplary service to the operations and services of the Triple H Net and for services "above-and-beyond" the call of duty.



Russell Stoddard - KG6FUJ

Bob Harrell - KF5YZH

Coryell County Emergency Manager

On January 19th, Teddy Bruski-KE5UET, Budd Johnson-WB4J and Rick Murray-K6WXA, met with Bob Harrell, the Coryell County Emergency Manager to offer amateur radio / ARES service and support, to his emergency operations needs. Bob is a man of vision with big ideas and big plans for the county. As an amateur radio operator himself, he recognizes the value that amateur radio operators can provide to his county in the event of a disaster. He was quite receptive and we have gotten off on the right track to include amateur radio in the county's emergency communications.

At present, the county does not have an EOC in Gatesville, per say, as it's currently a vacant room which is still under construction, and he is looking for volunteers to help build and formulate its design. And he wants amateur radio to be a big part of that design and build in his EOC. At present, "Go Boxes" would have to be relied upon for operations at the EOC for amateur radio use.

Also discussed was the subject of reinvigorating CERT in his area, as well as the W5AMK Gatesville repeater capability, storm spotting and access control to the EOC. Additionally, Bob would like to "build" a core group of hams to work together in the event of a disaster in the area. The thoughts are to involve ARES / Hams from Lampasas, Coryell and Bell counties, as well as including the areas where they may assist from a disaster area to "outside the last mile" and to be able to assist others if required.



Coryell County Emergency Manager Bob Harrell, KF5YZH

Bob will be our guest speaker at the next CTARC meeting on February 2nd. He will present his thoughts and ideas and will welcome yours. Following that, the next planning meeting with Bob will be held at the "Lil Tex" restaurant located at 502 South Main Street in Copperas Cove, Tuesday, February 9th at 1 PM. Bob has already said that he would welcome any and all who would like to come and participate in this meeting.

Further on down the road, thoughts are to do a discussion based or table top exercise later in the year and setting up an alert roster for communications support, as well as formulating a list of who would be interested in doing a shift at the EOC when it activates. In Bob's own words, *"Without volunteers, we are nothing."*

His office is located in the Coryell County Main Street Annex, located on the corner of 8th Street and Main (HWY-84) in Gatesville, next door to the "Extraco Bank". If you'd like to assist in this endeavor and get on-board with him, Bob can be reached at his office at (254) 458-5038, or you can email him at: coryellcountymc@coryellcounty.org He would be very happy to hear from you and highly appreciate whatever services you might be able to render.

Though many of us in CTARC are from outside of his area of responsibility, this would be a great project for both CTARC and the CCRA to back and get involved in.



Winter is Ending Spring is on the Way!

Punxsutawney – The Weather Capital of the World, the ultimate destination to learn how the science and folklore of weather prediction collide, home of the world-famous furry weather forecaster – Punxsutawney Phil. Every year on February 2nd, thousands of people make the trek to Gobbler's Knob to hear Punxsutawney Phil's prediction for the length of winter. If he sees his shadow when he emerges from his burrow there will be six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow foretells an early spring.

Punxsutawney Phil - the Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, Weather Prophet Extraordinaire, National Treasure and most photographed Pennsylvanian, has been making his big prediction for 130 years. He's lived through two World Wars, the Great Depression and more. He was around *way* before we had computers. Think about *that*.

Weighing in at 20 pounds and boasting a 40 percent accuracy rating, Phil made his appearance here at Gobbler's Knob, at just about 7:25 a.m. to decide our fates.

With thousands watching on Gobbler's Knob, Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his lair Tuesday and did not see his shadow - the sign an early spring is coming! - Yes, you read that correctly, folks – the Groundhog has determined that winter is ending! Anyone with seasonal depression or who simply can't wait for temperatures to warm up may have reason to rejoice today.



Phil, you should know, is never wrong -- but sometimes his prognostications get lost in translation.

In 2013, Phil also predicted an early spring but the region remained in the grip of one of the coldest winters on record. One Ohio law firm filed suit saying that Phil had made the misrepresentation of an early spring - and they sought the death penalty. A counter suit was filed in Pennsylvania, charging Ohio with being 'Out of Court' and out of their jurisdiction in their charges against Phil.

Finally, Bill Deeley, President of the Groundhog Day Club's Inner Circle, came forward and said Phil rightly predicted six more weeks of winter, but he failed to correctly interpret Phil's groundhog-ese, resulting in a wrong announcement. Based on the new evidence, Ohio dropped its suit and issued a full pardon.

One final note... It's supposed to be bad luck to leave your Christmas decorations up after Groundhog Day.





Members of the North Country DX Association will be active February 15 - March 27, from several locations in Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories using **KL7RST**, **VY1RST** and **VE8RST** to promote Amateur Radio up north. QSL via K7ICE. More information is available at:

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?thread/s/ncdxa-rst-special-event-2016.495779/>

HB9BEI will be active from Sao Tome and Principe 25 February - 24 March as **S9BK**. QSL via his home call.

A group of operators will be active from Tongatapu Island 18 - 24 February as **A35T**. QSL via MØURX.

K8AQM will be active from Saint Kitts Island 13 - 21 February as **V47TR**. QSL via his home call.

W7YAQ will be active from Moorea Island, French Polynesia 6 - 7 February, signing **stroke FO**. He will then be active from Easter Island 10 - 14 February signing **stroke CEØY**. QSL via his home call.

K1KA will be active from Saint Kitts Island during February as **V47KA**. QSL via his home call.

OE4AAC will be active from Mauritius Island during February as **3B8HD**. QSL via his home call.

H44MK and **H44TM** will be active from Guadalcanal Island, in the Solomon Islands until 16 February. QSL via WL7HP.

F8AAN will be active from Saint Martin Island 10 - 26 February signing **stroke FS**. QSL via his home call.

HB9ARY will be active from Mauritius through the 8th of February as **3B8HC**. QSL via NI5DX.

NN7A will operate as **V31JZ/P** from South Water Caye Island, 4 - 11 Feb. QSL via his home call.

SM3NFB will be active from Vietnam until February 6th as **XV3TH**. QSL via his home call.

WF3U will be active from Kenya until the 29th of February signing **stroke 5Z4**. QSL via his home call.

JA7HMZ will be active from Pohnpei Island 19 - 24 February as **V63DX**. QSL via his home call.

ON6DX will be active from Togo 10 - 22 February as **5V7TH**. QSL via his home call.

KB8YRX, will be active as **8P9CA** from Barbados until February 4th. QSL via his home call.

DF3FS will be active from Kenya until February 7th, signing **stroke 5Z4**. QSL via his home call.

A group of French operators will be active as **TM39TJ** through the 14th of February. QSL via F8GGZ.

N9SW will be active until the 9th of February signing **stroke FJ** from St. Barthelemy. QSL via his home call sign.



For a few minutes this past January 8th, three ham radio operators descended on the tiny hamlet of Luckenbach, Texas - WØHA, WØMH and K6WXA. It would of been nice to of had a full fledged operation from this rare DX entity.





Barbara M. Dunn - G6YL - *Europe's First YL*

It was in 1923 that Miss Barbara Dunn received her introduction to broadcast radio and, eventually, to the "Ham" game. It was curiosity that prompted her to find out the meaning of certain scratchy signals which interfered with broadcast reception at her home in Stock, Essex, England. Having discovered that these were spark signals from ships and coastal stations, she deserted the ranks of her broadcast listening, and set to learn the Morse code. She mastered the code entirely by self-tuition and after five months, in her spare time, she could copy it at 20 WPM. She later upped her code speed to 35 WPM.

In 1927, she was "bullied" by a couple of ham radio old-timers to take her exam. At the exam session, the instructor gave her a column from the newspaper to transmit in Morse code. This she proceeded to do, but soon after, the examiner stopped her because she was including all the brackets, colons, semi-colons, etc., which he said amateurs never use. He only wanted full-stops and breaks. He then transmitted to her at 12 words per minute, then again at 25 words per minute, which she copied correctly.



Barbara Dunn-G6YL in 1928

She passed her test with flying colors and obtained her license on April 13th, 1927. Her first QSO with a U.S. station was in 1928, with her self-described "bucket of bolts" station and with only 6 watts out. By September of 1939 she only needed four more countries for her DXCC, but the out-break of World War II in Europe put all amateurs off the air. During the war years, she served as a Voluntary Interceptor with Britain's Radio Secret Service, listening for German transmissions.



The "bucket of bolts" station of G6YL

She eventually earned Worked All States on 10 meters; her DXCC with 142 confirmed countries of 158 and various other certificates in amateur radio operating proficiency.

Barbara's nephew visited her when she was very old. She still had her shack all complete with all the old equipment although not used for some time and much covered in cobwebs. Her house was "stuck" in the 1930's. It still had flagstone floors, big solid stone washbasins, etc.

No exact date is given, but Barbara became a *Silent Key* sometime in 1976. She never married.

"S.O.S. We Are Falling"

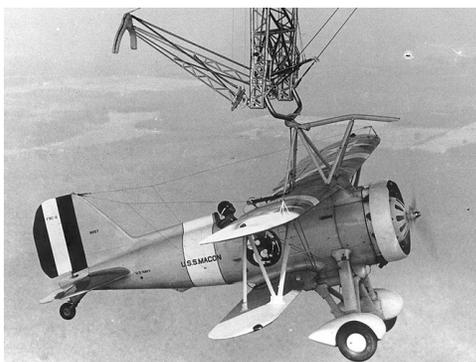
Standing at the lower end of Battery Park, where the tip end of New York looks out toward the remorseless ocean stands a memorial fountain to wireless operators lost at sea. The monument was dedicated on May 12th, 1915, and bore the names of ten young wireless operators who, in the midst of storm and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

The monument was rededicated on May 30, 1957, and several more names were added. One of those added was Radioman 1st Class Ernest Edwin Dailey, the radio operator of the *U.S.S. Macon*.

Called the "Queen of the Skies" the *U.S.S. Macon* was an incredible sight. The airship was gigantic, and the largest helium-filled airship ever built in the U.S. It was only 20 feet shorter than the ill-fated Graf Zeppelin, the *Hindenburg*.



Designed by the Goodyear-Zeppelin Corp., a partnership created in 1923 between the U.S. and German companies, the *U.S.S. Macon* was launched April 21, 1933, and was designed to be a scout for the sea-going fleet, as a flying aircraft carrier, designed to carry five single-seat Curtiss F9C Sparrowhawk aircraft for scouting that the dirigible stored in its belly. The airplanes were slowly lowered on a trapeze and harness through a T-shaped hole in the dirigible's underside. The pilots simply revved up their RPMs, yanked a release lever and dropped into the air in mid-flight. Retrieving the planes, however, was a wild and white-knuckled ordeal. Each Sparrowhawk had a hook welded to its upper wing. The pilots had to match their speed to that of the dirigible and then gently set the tiny hook back on to the trapeze. The harness would then be attached to the fuselage, and the aircraft would be hoisted back up into the dirigible.



One of Macon's F9C Sparrowhawks

February 12th, 1935... evening winter sun glinted off the silver skin of the 785-foot-long cigar-shaped dirigible as she glided past San Luis Obispo County, her engines thrumming against the prevailing northwest wind, as she headed to the San Francisco Bay area. Unbeknownst to all, she was in her final minutes of life.

An incident a few days before, had weakened the *Macon's* upper vertical fin. Modifications to the original design to allow an unobstructed fin view from the control car further compromised strength.

In an attempt to save weight, the fins also were not connected internally via a cruciform framework like Zeppelins. Then, near Big Sur, a gale closed in and *Macon's* weakened tail fin was completely tore off.

The 785-foot-long *Macon*, was slow to maneuver and delicate, requiring the captain - Lt. Commander Herbert V. Wylie - to anticipate problems long before they became critical. Now he was in dire straits. Gas cells were damaged, and up to 20 percent of the lift was lost. Commander Wylie ordered large amounts of fuel and ballast to be dropped, which caused the airship to rise rapidly. This in turn forced automatic venting of additional helium to prevent cells from rupturing during ascent. Now, with gas cells already damaged and leaking, and the venting of additional helium, the *Macon*, with a crew of 83 souls aboard, was sinking over the ocean as the sun set.

Ralph Duncan, a shortwave radio operator in San Luis Obispo, heard the distress calls as the “Queen of the Skies” went down... “We have had a casualty. SOS falling —AS.” (AS means wait a minute.) The final message was transmitted at 5:31 p.m. — “We will abandon ship as soon as it lands on water. We are 20 miles off Point Sur, probably 10 miles at sea.”

Thanks to the efforts of *Macon* radioman Dailey, many of the crew escaped via raft as the airship settled to sea.



The U.S.S. Macon (ZRS-5)

Lieutenant Peck, who was also aboard the *Macon*, reported that “Dailey stood by his post crackling out those messages. The last message he was given was that we were abandoning ship. But Dailey just sat there chewing away at a hunk of gum and sending out our location.”

Then, in the nose still 125 feet above the surface of the water, Radioman 1st class Ernest Dailey was panicking. He looked down at the dark stormy seas through a hole he’d cut in the shiny outer material of the dirigible, and without warning, leaped into the void. Witnesses say he did a flip in the air and landed on his back in the water below, never to be seen again.

As the airship began to settle into the water, the rest of the crew methodically abandoned her. They shimmied down lines or leapt into the water and boarded the rubber life rafts which dotted the dark seas around the dying dirigible. Only one other crewman, a Filipino mess steward named Florentino Edquiba, was killed when he apparently swam back to retrieve personal effects. He too was never seen again. Despite the loss of these two crewmen, it was called a miracle, or a triumph of naval discipline; 81 of the crew of 83 survived.



Nose cone of the U.S.S. Macon

In June of 1990, the Pacific grave of the *U.S.S. Macon* was located in 1,500 feet of water by a small Navy submarine exploring the coast. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered a military grave. To this day, to prevent looting of the wreck site, the exact location of the *Macon's* final resting place remains classified.

The *Macon* is a solemn memorial to the men who lost their lives flying these magnificent airships.