

**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



I asked Terry if I could have his space this month, so I could really introduce you to a couple of articles that appear in this month's newsletter. Right off the top, in this month's "YL News & Views" is a story about Agnes White-Tizard, a woman who none of us have ever heard of, yet each one of us is highly familiar with. From beginning to end, a lot of research went into this article, and by the time you reach the end I'm sure you'll say "Well I'll be darn." For you guys who have wives who aren't the least bit interested in radio, have them read it too and I'm sure they'll have the same reaction.

Up next, this being October, it is the month of ghouls and goblins and Halloween. To observe the occasion, I went searching for some kind of story that might deal with radio and ghostly spirits, or perhaps something about alleged haunted radio stations. Something along those lines. I came upon a captivating story by Corey Deitz, concerning radio station WDIE in Chaff Hills, North Carolina. The story will hold you right up to the end, and then...

But the big news this month, is HamExpo at the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton on the 1st. For those who may not have ever attended a HamExpo event, it's kind of like a state fair for ham radio operators, only without the rides and cotton candy. More info on this follows on the very next page.

For you DX Hounds, it seems as the season changes, DX is heating up. More and more operators are packing up their gear and heading to exotic locales, to operate while on vacation. This trend seems to be continuing at least through early December.

Well, that's all from me for this time around. I hope you find good reading in this month's issue, and I hope to see you all at HamExpo.

Our next club meeting is Tuesday, October 4th, at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center. As always, I look forward to seeing y'all.

73 de Rick, K6WXA



HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, the *Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, **Saturday, October 1st** from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Getting there is easy; from U.S. Highway 190 take the exit for Loop 121 and follow the signs to the Exposition Center. Plenty of free parking!

Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123, and call for W5LM.

General admission for the public is \$5.00 at the door. Admission price includes one free raffle ticket for various door prizes raffled off during the event. Winners must be present to collect their winnings.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>



Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

In conjunction with the HamExpo, amateur radio tests will be given in the main building of the Expo center, on the 2nd floor, and is sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The testing will begin at 9:30 AM and end when all applicants have been tested, probably around 11:00 AM.

Since the test session is in conjunction with the very popular Ham Expo, we expect between 25 and 50 people taking the tests. This requires at least 10 Volunteer Examiners to properly staff the event. The VE's participating should be on site by 9:00. Both General and Extra VE's are needed since all test levels are being made available.

This is a 'Ham Community' effort and all area VE's are needed and most welcome to participate. If you will be able to participate, please send an email to Joe Dorn - W5VEX at: jbdvex@gmail.com, or you can contact him by phone at (254) 939-5918 or at (254) 721-0829.

People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.





"The tolling of a bell, the roar of a plane, and it's Captainnnn Midnight!"



Captain Midnight was an aviation adventure fantasy that was initially broadcast over the WGN network in Chicago on October 17, 1939 and was sponsored by the Skelly Oil Company. The show caught the eye of executives at Ovaltine, and they took this old time radio program to the Mutual Network in order to reach a wider market.

What started off as a simple narration of a fictional World War I hero named Captain Jim "Red" Albright, soon morphed into something much bigger than anyone could have ever anticipated. A historic icon was born in the golden age of radio - the masked crusader, "Captain Midnight". Before long, millions were avidly following the exploits of the secret agent and his band of merry followers that took each listener to exotic places around the globe. Dive into a world of adventure with Captain Midnight by visiting: https://archive.org/details/Captain_Midnight



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!

October NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

October 6th: Net Control: KG6FUJ Back-Up: KE5ISN	October 13th: KE5ISN W5GNK
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October 20th: Net Control: W5GNK Back-Up: KF5OHR	October 27th: KF5OHR KE5ISN
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Simulated Emergency Test

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is October 1st & 2nd and is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Both the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the National Traffic System will be involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency communications capability within their community while interacting with NTS nets.

The primary objective of the SET is to test and practice the ability of ARES sections to communicate with their local EOC's from their locations. The over-all purpose of the test is to find out the strengths and weaknesses of ARES and NTS, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and other groups in providing emergency communications, and help radio amateurs gain experience in communications with shared agencies in an emergency situation.

The exercise simulates a wide-area power and communications emergency, requiring the ARES operator to be resourceful in getting the information through.



Scouting's Jamboree On-the-Air

The 59th Jamboree-on-the-Air will be active as **K2BSA** from October 15th to the 16th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time – extended evening hours are possible. For more info on this event visit: <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>



School Club Round-Up

This event is for the exchange of QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college and runs from October 17th to the 21st. More information on this is at: <http://www.ar1.org/school-club-roundup>



CQ World-Wide DX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, October 29th through 2400Z October 30th, on 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 & 160 meters SSB. For further information, please visit: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

When you and I were young, Maggie,
there were no autos then;
we took the old gray mare, Maggie,
yes, time and time again.
We took the old gray mare, Maggie,
and drove across the hills.
And now we're old and gray, Maggie,
but still the mem'ry thrills.
We do not mind the change, Maggie,
we're not so awful slow.
We have our own good times, Maggie,
with our new radio.

"Radio Topics" - October, 1923



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 *Oscar's* in Temple, on December 10th at Noon. More information on this will be provided in the December issue of the newsletter.



In Search of the Weird

Today we have pageants like Miss Universe and Miss America. Along the way though, some quite strange pageants have popped up.



Here's Elmira Humphries, "Miss Radio Queen" of 1939. She gave the pageant world a 'jolt' of excitement.



Special Event Stations **N1F**, **N2F**, **N3F**, **N4F**, **N8F** and **KF2IRE** will be on the air 4 - 10 October in observance of National Fire Prevention Week. QSL via **WX2S**. More information on this is at: <http://www.grz.com/lookup/N2F>

A group of British operators will be active from Chatham Islands 26 October to 9 November as **ZL7G**. QSL via **G3TXF**.

JA1IST will be active from Koror Island, Palau 22 - 27 October as **T88ZO**. QSL via his home call.

KK7L and **N7SMI** will be active from Tuvalu until the 4th of October as **T2R**. QSL via **N7SMI**.

NØODK will be active from Vietnam 20 October - 5 November as **3W2DK**. QSL via his home call.

W6NV will be active from Ascension Island October - November as **ZD8W**. QSL via his home call.

VK9NZ is active on Norfolk Island until October 8th. QSL via **ZL3PAH**.

AA4V, **N4SF**, **K8AJA**, and **W4GE** will be active from Jamaica 21 October - 1 November, each signing **stroke 6Y5**. QSL via their home calls.

DL2AH is active from Pitcairn Island until November 25th as **VP6AH**. QSL via his home call.

KCØW will be active from the Gilbert Islands, Kiribati until October 24th as **T3ØCOW**. QSL via his home call.

DD5ZZ is active on Martinique Island, until 3 October signing **stroke FM**. QSL via his home call.

DJØFX will be active as **KH6FX**, and **DF1SD** will be active as **KH7SD**, from the Hawaiian Islands, 9 - 23 October. QSL via their respective home calls.

A group will be active from Corsica Island, 28 October - 10 November as **TK2A**. QSL via **F5HNQ**.

N7BF, **WT4BT**, **AA4OC**, **W6ABM** will be active from Martinique Island, 29 October - 4 November as **FM/N7BF**, **FM/WT4BT**, **TO4OC** and **TO6ABM**. QSL each via their home calls.

DL2SBY is active from Seychelles until October 8 as **S79KB**. QSL via his home call.

W1SRD will be active from Lord Howe Island, 1 - 2 October signing **stroke VK9L**. QSL via his home call.

KB1YFD will be operating from the Icebreaker *Polarstern* through October 10th, located around 87° North by 65° East. QSL via his home call.

JAØRQV is active from Niuafou'ou Island, until 4 October as **A35JP/P**. QSL via his home call.

NK8O will be active from Tanzania, 20 October - 12 November as **5H3DX**. QSL via his home call.

7Y9TH will be active October 27-31st from the Ras Afia Lighthouse in Algeria. QSL via **SM4VPZ**.

HA5AO will be again from Lesotho, 15 - 29 October as **7P8AO**. QSL via his home call.

K7TRB is active from Lesotho until 5 November as **7P8VA**. QSL via his home call.

KB1ZSQ is active from Rwanda until 30 December as **9XØJW**. QSL via eQSL.

A group will be active from Vietnam 20 - 28 October as **3W2R**. QSL via **EB7DX**.

K7ZO will be active from Nicaragua 29 - 30 October as **YN5Z**. QSL via his home call or LotW.

K5TTE will be active from Belize, 9 - 16 October as **V31TT**. QSL via his home call.

VK5GR will be active from Kangaroo Island, 10 - 16 October. QSL via his home call.

How's DX? *continued...*

IZ1MHY will be active from Felidhoo Atoll, Maldives, 2 - 12 October as **8Q7MD**. QSL via his home call.

JR1GSE will be active from Koror Island, Palau 28 - 31 October as **T88TH**. QSL via his home call.

JAØJHQ will be active from Easter Island, 14 - 16 October signing **stroke CEØY**. QSL via his home call.

PH2M will be active from Lazarote Island until October 6th signing **stroke EA8**. QSL via his home callsign.

IH9YMC will be active from Pantelleria Island October 29-30. QSL via eQSL.

A group will be active from Sao Tome Island, 8 - 23 October as **S9YY**. QSL via DH7WW.

SP5APW will be active from Colon Island, 13 - 18 October as **H84JK**. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from Kanton Island, in the Phoenix Islands, starting 4 October as **T31T**. Their length of stay is not mentioned. QSL via 3Z9DX.

Special Event Station **PD75JEEP** is on the air from the Netherlands until 30 November in observance of the 75th anniversary of the Jeep. QSL via PD2RKG.

W4TTT, WB2REM, KE2D, WA8NJR will be active from Costa Rica each signing **stroke TI5**, 29 - 30 October. QSL each via their respective home calls.

AA1AC will be active from Bermuda Islands, 10 - 15 October signing **stroke VP9**. QSL via his home call.

WF2S will be active from Saint Lucia Island, 18 - 27 October as **J68SL**. QSL via his home call.

A group is active on Marmara Island, until 5 October as **TCØMI**. QSL via TA5FA.



Mobile Alert app

Contributed by *Budd Johnson, WB4J*

Both Coryell County and the city of Copperas Cove Emergency Management offices have the capability to implement an alert by using *CodeRED*. This is a system used to connect to the public or a specific group, with real-time, location specific alerts to include emergency, community, missing person and severe weather information.

The *CodeRED* system is integrated with the Emergency Alert System, the National Weather Service and FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. The *CodeRED* Mobile App is available free in the Apple Store and the Android Google Play. You may also register your home phone number and cell phone number to receive alerts at:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BFB7CC4C6C0A>



SHAKESPEARE ON THE RADIO

YET NOW---NO MATTER.
AH, STAND BY.

- Antony and Cleopatra



Amateur Radio-Military Interoperability Exercise

An Amateur Radio - military interoperability exercise will take place October 31 and November 1. The event will begin at 1200 UTC on October 31 and continue through 2359 UTC on November 1 on 5.3305 MHz, 5.3465 MHz, 5.357 MHz, and 5.3715 MHz.

During this exercise, military stations will attempt to make radio contact with stations in as many of the 3143 US counties as possible.

More information on this can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/news>



Weather Spotters: Everything You Need to Know

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What does it mean to be a weather spotter? What impact does it have? What does it take to be one?

A weather spotter is first and foremost someone that has a commitment to helping their local community. Their responsibility is to report severe weather to the National Weather Service, or NWS. The weather spotter's reports are communicated to 1 of 122 NWS Weather Forecast Offices, who then provide the public with accurate weather information. This volunteer-based program originated in the 1960's as a way for the NWS to connect with regions across the country. The program is called *Skywarn* and it recruits weather-loving volunteers to help update the NWS of severe weather patterns that form. Weather spotters have had a vital role in public safety for over 50 years and that won't change anytime soon.

This role is important because the volunteers are the crucial link between the NWS and regions that need to be warned about impending weather conditions. Trained severe weather spotters monitor and report all severe weather activity to the NWS so their areas can stay informed. Therefore, their job has a deep impact on the safety and protection of the community they serve in.



Without the hundreds of thousands of weather spotters in America, most of the severe weather in our country would not be reported as accurately or timely.

If you have a strong passion for severe weather and public service, you should consider becoming a weather spotter. *Skywarn* currently has over 350,000 volunteer weather spotters across America, all who help warn their communities of severe storms ahead. The training for this role consists of a free two hour session hosted by the NWS or a local *Skywarn* group. It's a mandatory session that teaches volunteers about storm structures, identifying severe weather behavior, basic weather safety, and more. If you're interested in becoming a weather spotter and would like to find a *Skywarn* class or talk to a representative in your region, visit: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/states/tx-skywarn.htm>

Weather spotters are the unsung heroes of the weather community. You don't know who they are, but they are constantly keeping an eye on severe weather that could threaten the lives and property in your area. Consider becoming a weather spotter and contact your local NWS Forecast Office about their training sessions and volunteer positions. [**Editor's Note...** CTARC's *Skywarn* training will be sometime in February.]



Agnes White-Tizard

Radio's First Lady of Food

Agnes White-Tizard was a woman you've probably never heard of. Yet for over a quarter of a century, she was the most popular woman on radio. In fact, in 1945 *Fortune* magazine declared her -- or her personification -- the second most popular woman in America; second only to Eleanor Roosevelt. I mentioned her *personification*, for back in the day, it was not unusual for a radio personality not to use their own name. Instead they had what were called, "house names". We'll come back to that in a bit.

In 1921, the Washburn Crosby Company merged with five other milling companies; this merger would eventually become known as 'General Mills'. Then in 1924, the Washburn Crosby Company was persuaded by executives of the Twin Cities Civic and Commerce Association to take over the faltering WLAG radio station located in Minneapolis. Under their ownership, the station became WCCO and would have 10 times the power of earlier radio stations in the Twin Cities.



The original WCCO studio

By 1925, it became the largest radio station west of the Mississippi, with two aerial towers, each 200 feet high at either end of the transmitter building, putting out 5,000 watts of power. In 1932, a new 50,000 watt transmitter was added, giving the station the maximum power allowed in the U.S.



Agnes White-Tizard, the original "Betty Crocker"

But let's back up... After an October 1921 contest in the *Saturday Evening Post*, the advertising department of the Washburn Crosby Company received many household questions along with contest entries. Samuel Gale, head of advertising, wanted to answer the questions but felt that the advice should come from a woman. He solved this problem by inventing "Betty Crocker" as a way to give a personalized response to consumer product questions.

The name Betty was selected because it was viewed as a cheery, all-American name. It was paired with the last name Crocker, in honor of William G. Crocker, a well-liked and retired Washburn Crosby Company director.

The advertising staff began to answer consumer questions using Betty Crocker's name and persona. The answers to listeners' letters, were provided by the all-female home service department who signed each letter, "Cordially yours, Betty Crocker."

On October 2, 1924, just three years after General Mills created the composite Betty identity, it debuted "The Betty Crocker Cooking School of the Air" on Minneapolis radio station WCCO - and at the mic as Betty, was Agnes White-Tizard. Home cooks everywhere tuned in to listen to their trusted kitchen confidante—Betty's advice became so popular that in 1927 NBC picked up the program and aired it nationwide. It went on to become one of the longest running radio shows in U.S. history.

In 1945, at the request of the U.S. Office of War Information, for four months Betty Crocker broadcast on NBC radio a program called "Our Nation's Rations" to help homemakers make the most of rationed foods. Almost seven million copies of a Betty Crocker wartime booklet, *Your Share*, were distributed at this time.

She not only presented a cooking show, but she also conducted a 'cooking school' on the air. Listeners could 'graduate' by actively participating in eight cooking lessons. Those who did, would receive a Gold Medal Radio Cooking School diploma at its conclusion.



Agnes White-Tizard at the mic as "Betty Crocker"

The show remained on network radio until 1953 with most of the programming carried over NBC. ABC picked up the program and carried it from 1947 to 1953.



"Betty Crocker" - 1936

Finally, in 1936 Betty Crocker got a face. Artist Neysa McMein brought together all the women in the company's Home Service Department and "blended their features into an official likeness." The widely circulated portrait reinforced the popular belief that Betty Crocker was a real person. The portrait has subtly changed over the years, with no real person ever having posed as a model.

Scholarly studies of Betty Crocker, the fictional General Mills character, who as a model of home

economist and of the domestic science movement, all agree that it was the medium of radio, with its ability to sustain a "live trademark" that made Betty.

Oh..., the signature of "Betty Crocker" was a result of a contest of the ladies in the Washburn Crosby Company to see who could write the most distinctive signature. The contest was won by one of their secretaries named Florence Lindeberg.

Cordially yours,

Betty Crocker



The Haunting Story of Station WDIE

Corey Deitz

Dylan I. Ellington was an entrepreneur in Chaff Hills, North Carolina when the radio bug bit him, and he decided to construct and put his own station on the air. Ellington applied for call letters to the FCC to reflect his name, hence the station became WDIE, which went on the air in 1947. In any other story, this would be somewhat insignificant except for a few unavoidable facts.

From the time the station operated as WDIE, every single person who did a morning program there died within 3 years of taking the position. And, not only did the morning personalities keep dying, but their deaths were out of the ordinary. The first morning man's car was hit by a train, his brand new 1947 Mercury Coupe was dragged for 200 yards before the locomotive could come to a complete halt.



The next morning deejay died on-the-air in the middle of doing the weather forecast. The coroner's report was inconclusive but it seems the man's heart just exploded even before he could utter the current temperature. The third morning personality was murdered during a late-night break-in at his apartment. These three deaths all occurred during the first 8 years of WDIE's operation, between 1947 and 1955.

Dylan I. Ellington was aghast at the awful luck his young radio station seemed to have had with his morning deejays. Then, one morning soon after the third death, Ellington arrived at the station to continue doing the morning show which he had temporarily stepped into. He pulled into the station's parking lot at about 5:10 a.m. while it was still quite dark, exited his vehicle, and walked to the door to unlock it. As he opened the door and pushed it open, there in the hallway were three apparitions.



Dylan was petrified. So surprised and taken aback by the phantoms of his former employees, his legs froze in place and Ellington began to scream for help. He was so physically traumatized he was unable to flee from the scene. At about this time, the head engineer for the station was pulling into the parking lot and heard Ellington's screams and immediately ran into the station. But, it was too late. Dylan I. Ellington himself had fallen to the floor, and died of cardiac arrest.

Soon after Ellington's death, WDIE was sold and the call letters were changed. The station operates today quietly as a local radio outlet serving the community. Few people talk about the early years and the four deaths attributed to the station.

Some other unavoidable facts about this station which do need to be told... there never was a Dylan I. Ellington nor a station WDIE. And Chaff Hills, North Carolina... there's no such place. Had ya goin' though, didn't I? 'Tis the season... Happy Halloween!

In Memoriam: Carlos R. Griffith

- Still At His Post -

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 re-dedicated on May 30, 1957 and since then more names have been added to it.

One of those names added was that of Carlos R. Griffith, the radio officer of the S.S. *Panoceanic Faith*, an 8,000 ton, 459 foot Type C2 Cargo Ship, noted for its speed and fuel economy.

On October 9, 1967 she was en route to India from San Francisco where she was loaded with over 10,000 tons of fertilizer. She was to make a stop-over in Japan, but she never made it there.



On October 4, 1967, Griffith radioed the owners of the vessel that they were encountering heavy weather and the average speed since departure was only 8 knots. It was also reported that the forward spaces were flooding and the weather tight doors and portholes in the forward part of the mid-ship house were leaking. By October 6th, the vessel was facing heavy seas forward, and by early afternoon of the 7th the tarpaulin on the starboard forward corner of No. 1 hatch was adrift and the corner of the hatch pontoon was exposed. On October 8th, the vessel was down by the head and a starboard list was developing. Advice concerning a bunkering port was requested from the owners, as the vessel's speed was only about 4 knots.



On October 9th, five days after first reporting that the vessel was encountering heavy seas and high winds, at 0618 the *Panoceanic Faith* radioed requesting any ships in the area to stand by for assistance. By 0820 she reported that immediate assistance was required. By 0905 the seas and swells were intensifying, and she was developing a heavy starboard list. Coast Guard aircraft arrived shortly thereafter and found the vessel listing with the forward deck awash. It wasn't until 0958 that the vessel sent her first S O S reporting that she was sinking and required immediate assistance.

At 1451, Griffith reported they were abandoning ship; fourteen minutes later, the *Panoceanic Faith* disappeared beneath the waves. Only five of the forty-one man crew survived in the freezing water.

Included amongst those who were lost, and whose remains were not recovered, is that of Carlos R. Griffith the radio officer. He went down with his ship, at his post.