

**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

Just a reminder that at our February meeting, Mr. Michael W. Harmon, the Emergency Manager for Bell County, will be our guest speaker. I told him we normally have about 20 persons show up for the meeting, but it would not make me feel bad if we have to put out more chairs for people to sit on. So I hope everyone can make the meeting.

We have had a lot of lightning and rain the past few days, so I have been off the radio and have the antennas disconnected. Also, the fog has been thick around my neck of the woods. But for me, most of my work has been inside at the plant and I have been working on installing a new 5mw power system from 14,400 to 4160 volts transformer and switch gear.

Staying on the subject of the weather... NOAA predicted that we would have a warmer average winter; and for the most part, we have. But as they say about Texas weather, if you don't like it, wait a minute. Now we are at the point in the season where we ask if our winter weather will continue, or will Spring come early? What will the Groundhog - Punxsutawney Phil - predict? The answer is coming up a little further on.

If anyone has a new update on Priscilla Beauregard-KE5UES, please let us know.

Also the club audit has been performed and looks good. My thanks to Robert and Teddy for doing that. Robert said that the 5 Weather Radios for the raffling at the *Skywarn* class have been received.

I will not be able to help on the weekly net for the next 10 weeks, as I will be attending a class with the Belton Police Department on Thursday nights. Add to that, Rick-K6WXA, reports that he too will be off the air before the time this newsletter comes out, until at least the middle of February, due to moving. He has also mentioned, that with the exception of *Skywarn*, there really is not much going on this month, and as a result, this will probably be the shortest issue of the newsletter yet published.

Be sure to remember that special someone in your life this coming Valentine's Day, on February 14th, and be sure to join us for our next club meeting on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center. Let's give Michael Harmon a good turn out.



- 73 de Terry, KF5OHR



"Red Ryder, like all ranchers, has a full week's work most every week on the Painted Valley Ranch. Yet, with the sniff of spring just around the corner, it's hard for America's Famous Fighting Cowboy not to start roaming -- just a little -- with Buckskin and faithful Little Beaver close by his side. Thus, as we join them now, we find them on the trail high above Roaring River, on the bend that sweeps between Sombrero and Sundown."



Red Ryder first aired over the NBC-Blue Network February 3, 1942 and later over the Mutual Network until 1951.

Unlike the heroes of other western shows, Red Ryder was not a lawman, although he was occasionally sworn in as a deputy sheriff when circumstances merited. Most of the time Red was a working cowhand. While he appeared to have his own ranch, he was principally working for his aunt, a feisty pioneer known only as the Duchess.

For almost a decade, Red Ryder starred in half-hour cowboy adventures featuring a great cast of characters. After the old time radio show went off the air, Red Ryder continued to appear in the popular "Red Ryder" comic books.

You can tune-in again to this popular children's radio show by visiting: <http://www.olderadiodownloads.com/western/red-ryder>



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 2nd:	February 9th:
Net Control: KG6FUJ	W5VEX
Back-Up: W5VEX	W5GNK
February 16th:	February 23rd:
Net Control: W5GNK	KE5ISN
Back-Up: KE5ISN	AD5SK



Skywarn Training



Bell County (*Basic & Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 11th, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, at the Belton New Tech High School, 320 North Blair Street, in Belton.

Coryell County (*Basic Spotter Training*) Monday, February 27th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Gatesville Fire Dept., 109 South 23rd Street, in Gatesville.

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

Travis County (*Basic & Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 11th, 8:15 AM - 4:15 PM, at the Austin Community College Eastview Campus, Building 8500, 3400 Webberville Road in Austin. More info on this session at: <http://www.la.utexas.edu/users/kimmel/skywarn.html>

Williamson County (*Basic Spotter Training*) Wednesday, February 22nd, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, at the Taylor Public Library, 801 Vance Street, in Taylor.



School Club Roundup

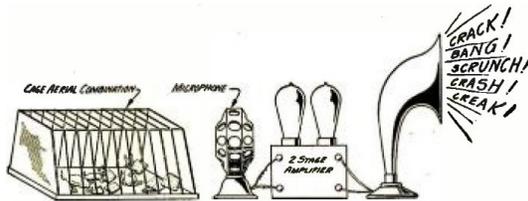
This 5-day event runs from 1300 UTC Monday, February 13th through 2359 UTC Friday, February 17th, with the purpose of fostering contacts with and among school radio clubs.

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

The Static Influx Receiver

Popular Radio - February, 1927

Radio without static is like corned beef without cabbage. Static-less radio sounds unnatural and artificial. Several years of radio listening has educated us to expect a little static to leaven the program. Some cold, clear nights the music doesn't soothe, doesn't entertain. Something is lacking - there is a void. Do you know what you're missing? Static!



In the Static Influx Receiver, there is concealed in a little tin cage before the second audio stage, a trained mouse and a box of ordinary soda crackers. When you tune in, the crackers are automatically shoved into the mouse apartment. "Crackle! Crackle! Crunch!" comes the noise from the mouse cage through the audio amplifiers and into your loudspeaker, assuring you of Grade A, dependable static whenever you need it to perfect the program. Two spare mice and a dozen soda crackers are essential with each Static Influx.



First Radio Operators' Dance

San Francisco bears the distinction that it was the first city in the world to have a Radio Operators' Dance, and the San Francisco Radio Club bears the distinction of being the first radio organization to give a Radio Operators' Dance. The dance was held on February 23rd, 1917, with about thirty couples present. *Pacific Radio News - April, 1917*



Spam / Junk Email

It has been reported that some Volunteer Examiners have been receiving Spam and / or junk email. Bottom line, delete email from any VE groups that you don't immediately recognize. The ARRL is aware of the problem.



Tower Up for Giveaway... about a 40 foot tower free to who ever wants it and takes it down. The tower is of unknown age or brand. Pictures can be sent to whom ever is interested.

Contact Glenn Burt in Morgan's Point at: (254) 913-0342, or via email at: briceman1013@yahoo.com

"Radio broadcasting began as a toy. Then it mushroomed suddenly into a gigantic amusement enterprise, which has grown so rapidly that nobody can keep pace with it."

Popular Radio - February, 1927



Village of Salado '3 Kings 3 Miler'

Robert Shoemaker, KE5WVC

This past Saturday, January 7th, the Village of Salado held their 4th annual '3 Kings 3 Miler' run. Providing the logistical support communications were Robert Shoemaker-KE5WVC, Terry Evans-KF5OHR and Joe Mayer-N5JWM.



Along with our radio operators, 133 runners braved the early morning 20 degree weather for the event. Coming in first over-all was 42 year-old Tony Orozco of Belton, with a time of 18:35:36.

In addition to supporting the missions of St. Joseph's, proceeds from this year's race will support the Salado Family Relief Fund (SFRF). SFRF provides emergency relief to local families and anyone in need.

Though not yet announced, next year's run will more than likely be on Saturday, January 6th.

A big thanks not only to the operators for supporting the run, but to the runners as well for making the whole thing possible.

"Radio is a world that has to be believed to be seen." - Charles Beaumont



Coryell County Joint Comm Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Coryell County Joint Comm Group will be on Tuesday, February 21st, at 11:30 AM at the Lil Tex Restaurant, 502 South Main Street, in Copperas Cove.



IARU Emergency Telecommunications Guide

This emergency telecommunications guide was developed by the IARU as material suitable for training persons to participate in emergency events. It is also designed to provide guidance to the individual amateur radio operator who has little or no experience in handling emergency communications but desires to enhance their ability to participate in such events or to simply have a better understanding of the process.

This guide can be downloaded at:

http://www.iaru.org/uploads/1/3/0/7/13073366/emcommguide_1sept2016.pdf



Felling of VoA Radio Towers



Controlled demolition of the *Voice of America* radio towers in Washington and North Carolina. You can watch the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zcsbny8PFZw&feature=youtu.be>



A group will be active from Pitcairn Island, 16 February - 5 March as **VP6EU**. QSL via DK2AMM.

A group will be active from the Central African Republic this month as **TL8T**. Their specific operating dates are not mentioned. QSL via I2YSB.

LW9EOC will be active from San Andres Island, 13 - 27 February as **5JØNA**. QSL via his home call.

F6ICX is active from Sainte Marie (Nosy Boraha) Island, until 4 February as **5R8IC**. QSL via his home call.

DL5XL is active from Neumayer Station III, Antarctica until the end of this month as **DP1POL**. QSL via DL1ZBO.

Special Event Station **N4HLH** will be active February 17th from noon to 6 PM from Breeches Inlet, SC., to mark the 153rd anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. Housatonic by the submarine H. L. Hunley. QSL direct.

K8NDS is active from Belize until 6 February as **V31RF**. QSL only via eQSL.

Vostok Station Antarctica, is active until 15 February as **RI1ANC**. QSL via RN1ON.

DF2WO will be active from Rwanda during February - March as **9XB954**. QSL via MØOXO.

WB2TJO is active from Taveuni Island, Fiji until March as **3D2JS**. QSL via his home call.

KG9N will be active from Barbados 22 February - 7 March as **8P9AL**. QSL via his home call.

N1SNB will be active from Nicaragua 18 - 19 February as **YN2NB**. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from Macau, 13 - 26 February as **XX9D**. QSL via DL4SVA.

OH2IS will be active from Sint Maarten, 17 - 25 February, signing **stroke PJ7**. QSL via LotW.

F6ITD is active from Desirade Island, until 9 March as **TO7D** and signing **stroke FG**. QSL via his home call.

K6PV will activate Santa Catalina Island, February 22 - 26. QSL direct.

Special Event Station **S557E** will be active from Slovenia throughout the year. QSL via S5ØO.

PY2QI will be active from Fernando de Noronha Island, 15 - 21 February signing **stroke PYØF**. QSL via his home call.

W1USN and **AA1M** will be active from Panama, 10 - 22 February, each signing **stroke HP**. QSL each via their home calls.

K7ADD will be active from Rarotonga Island, 8 - 18 February as **E51AMF**. QSL via his home call.

VE3DZ will be active from Jamaica, 14 - 21 February as **6Y2T**. QSL via his home call.

DF8AN will be active from Easter Island, 10 - 17 February signing **stroke CEØY**. Then from Robinson Crusoe Island, 21 - 24 February signing **stroke CEØZ**. QSL via his home call.

V31MU will be active from Belize, 14 - 28 February. QSL via WØMU.

N2TA will be active from Novolazarevskaya Station, Antarctica, signing **stroke KC4** until the end of February. QSL via N2TX.

F8AAN will be active from Saint Martin Island 17 February - 10 March, signing **stroke FS**. QSL via home call.

K5GO is active as **ZF9CW** from Cayman Brac Island until February 23rd. QSL via his home call.

JH1OLB will be active from Koror Island, Palau, 17 - 21 February as **T88DT**. QSL via his home call.



Winter to Continue

Groundhog Day, that day of the year which poses the annual question: when will winter end? Groundhog Day comes every year on February 2nd. It has its roots in astronomy, in the sense that it's a seasonal festival, tied to the movement of the Earth around the sun. It's also a great excuse to go outside and enjoy some revelry during the winter months.

On this Groundhog Day, the crowd gathered early at Gobbler's Knob, awaiting the emergence of Punxsutawney Phil – called the Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, Weather Prophet Extraordinaire, National Treasure and most photographed Pennsylvanian. All eyes were on his tree-trunk burrow when at just about 7:25 a.m., after a tap of a cane on the burrow, his door was opened, and the animal emerged.

He was held aloft to cheers and applause. But Phil did not respond, other than to blink. Then he was placed on top of his burrow, where he scampered about and sniffed at its surface. The crowd was hushed in suspenseful silence. Would Phil see his shadow... meaning six more weeks of winter, or... if not, an early spring?

Phil's actions were closely analyzed, then he uttered his prediction to a representative of the 'Inner Circle' in



groundhogese. The representative then translated Phil's words to the waiting crowd... "Yes, a shadow I see. Six more weeks of winter it must be."

Is there a method to Punxsutawney Phil's madness in predicting how long winter will last? Although Phil's method may seem flawed - anticipating that the sight of his shadow determines a longer winter; for those of us like you and me -- *The True Believers* -- we say, why would you listen to a meteorologist when you can rely on a groundhog to predict the weather? The most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil.

This year's ceremony in Punxsutawney, marked the 131st observance of Groundhog Day - the first being held in 1886. Prior to 1966, the ceremony was held in secret, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event, drawing crowds numbering in the thousands.

If you're hoping for a more scientific prediction, consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Whether you celebrate with a real groundhog and a real shadow – or just pause a moment on this day to reflect on the passing of the seasons, Groundhog Day is a way to have a little fun at mid-winter, though climate records and statistics tell us that winter probably isn't over yet.



Evelyn C. Birkby *"Down a Country Lane"*

In the 1950s, domesticity dominated the lives of most rural Iowa women. Somewhat isolated on the farm, many turned on the radio to hear a friendly voice – someone to share their sometimes lonely lives. Radio homemakers were a popular radio program choice; they served as “neighbors on the air” and helped women with everything from menu planning to child rearing.

One of those radio homemakers was Evelyn Birkby, who for almost 40 years, broadcasted her warm words of wisdom on rural life over a five-state area on radio station KMA in Shenandoah, Iowa. "We were just women who shared our lives," says Evelyn Birkby. "We shared what we were doing with our families, what we were cooking, and what we were eating." Birkby's broadcasts over KMA, and others like them, gave farm wives information they could use every day, while connecting listeners across the isolation of the Midwestern prairie. The familiar voices who hosted these shows became an intimate presence in fans' homes.

In 1949 *the Shenandoah Evening Sentinel* advertised for a farm woman to write a weekly newspaper column. Encouraged by her husband, Evelyn applied and was accepted. In speaking of her "Up a Country Lane" column, Evelyn said it was "a forum to share my observations about my own experiences and those of my neighbors."

On May 15, 1950, Evelyn took her column on the air with radio station KMA, changing its name to "Down a Country Lane." The program was broadcast over KMA until 1952 when the needs of her husband and children, made it difficult to prepare a program and travel back and forth to the to the studio.

Birkby took a hiatus until 1955, when she began working for *Kitchen-Klatter* as a writer and broadcaster. The *Kitchen-Klatter* radio program originated from KMA but was syndicated over a six-state area.

In 1983, Birkby left *Kitchen-Klatter* and returned full-time to radio station KMA to head its book department. Besides authoring *the KMA Festival Cookie Book* (1983), *Cooking with KMA: Featuring 60 Years of Radio Homemakers* (1985), and *KMA's Come Again Cookie Book* (1987), Evelyn assisted with the radio homemaker broadcasts until the summer of 1991, when she resigned to give her full attention to writing. What followed were *Neighboring on the Air: Cooking With the KMA Radio Homemakers* in 1991 and *Up A Country Lane Cookbook* in 1993.

Evelyn, now at age 97, says her best advice for aging gracefully is to keep your mind sharp and clear, drink lots of milk, and see everything in life as an adventure and opportunity. She still airs a monthly radio visit with the KMA listening audience.

