

**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

Well it's getting to the end of another month and the year is about half over. Just don't know where it's going to so fast. I just wrapped up 12 weeks with the Belton C.H.I.P.S program and now that training is over, it's back to helping with the net control once again. So let me just say thanks to Kenneth and Rick for all of the extra work they put in to the Club.

With this nice weather we are starting to see all of the grass is green and growing and a lot of us are out riding. So as you are out running to the stores and doing your shopping and taking in all of the sights, just take an extra look as you back out of your parking place, or if you cut that turn a little close you could be cutting us on Motorcycles off without even seeing us. About three times this month I have been cut off by someone backing out of a parking spot at Wal-Mart in Temple and almost hit at the gas station at Sam's while I was pumping gas. The lady was so busy talking to her passenger I had to yell to get her to stop. So maybe take a little extra effort looking around and putting down your phones when you are backing out or whatever. Might give us a better chance of seeing tomorrow. Lets all enjoy the road!

With the warmer weather, it's not a bad idea to check on your outside antenna farm. How did your antennas make it through the winter and early spring? Connectors may have started corroding, cables may have become loose, antenna mounts may need tightening, and elements may be broken off antennas from the wind. If you use a tower, the bolts may need tightening.

Check over your antennas as soon as possible and plan your corrective action as there's things on the air you don't want to miss.

Have a couple of things to talk about that are coming up in the next couple of months, so I hope you can make our next club meeting. It will be on Tuesday, May 2nd, at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center.

Hope to see you there!

73, de Terry - KF5OHR





"The makers of Old Nick and Bit-O-Honey present David Harding, Counterspy."



Counterspy was an espionage drama radio series that first aired over New York station WJZ of the NBC Blue Network, on May 18, 1942 and was carried over what would become ABC until November 29, 1957.

David Harding was the chief of the United States Counterspies, a fictional unit engaged during World War II in counterespionage against Japan's Black Dragon and Germany's Gestapo.

With spies still lurking in the post-war years, as well as the Communist threat, the adventures continued apace well after World War II ended.

The War effort provided the backdrop to the vast majority of the scripts from 1942 through 1947. During the post-War years, the scripts evolved treatments such as scams against ex-G.I.s, black marketing, counterfeiting, Cold War foreign intrigue, and domestic espionage activities.

The average American has developed a world-wide reputation as an easy victim of organized espionage. Find out how and why our expert spy-trappers are not so easy to fool by visiting:

<https://archive.org/details/David.Harding.Counterspy>



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!

May NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

May 4th:	May 11th:
Net Control: W5VEX	KE5ISN
Back-Up: KE5ISN	KD5FJF
May 18th:	May 25th:
Net Control: KD5FJF	KF5OHR
Back-Up: KF5OHR	AD5SK



Coryell County Joint Comm Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Coryell County Joint Comm Group will be on Tuesday, May 9th, at 11:30 AM at the Lil Tex Restaurant, 502 South Main Street, in Copperas Cove.



Amateur Radio-Military Interoperability Exercise

The annual military to amateur cross-band communications test will be held on Saturday, May 13th. Participating military stations transmit on selected military MARS frequencies and listen for amateur radio stations in the amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur-band frequency being monitored. More information on this can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/armed-forces-day-crossband-military-amateur-radio-communications-test-is-may-13>

"Radio will arrive at its full maturity in a very few years. From then on, its course will be no more sensational than is that of the talking machine at the present time."

Radio Broadcast Magazine - May, 1927



U.S. Islands Event

This event will be on Saturday, May 13, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC (Friday evening to Saturday evening in the continental US). This event is to promote portable ham radio operation from islands in all bodies of water — lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and coastal islands in US territorial waters.

For more info on the U.S. Islands Program, please visit: <http://usislands.org/>



WX4NHC Annual Station Test

WX4NHC the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center, will conduct its annual station test on May 27th, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM CDT, to test its' station equipment, antennas, and computers in advance of the 2017 hurricane season, which starts June 1st.

Primary operations will be on the Hurricane Watch Net frequency of 14.325 MHz. Other suggested frequencies are 3.950, 7.268, 21.325 and 28.425 MHz, (+/-) QRM. They will also be on the IRLP Hurricane Net on node 9219 and EchoLink WX-TALK Conference node 7203.

QSL cards are available via WD4R.



"Hurricane Charlie" Exercise

The Texas Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, will be conducting a full-scale hurricane evacuation exercise from June 1st through the 8th, entitled "*Hurricane Charlie*". They are seeking volunteers to participate in the evacuation, sheltering, and repopulation portion of the exercise occurring on June 5th - 8th. There are multiple opportunities to volunteer for a few hours up to a couple of days, including playing the role of an evacuee and spending a night in a shelter in Harker Heights or Temple during the period of June 7 - 8.

The following video link gives a glimpse into what volunteers may experience during the exercise:

<https://vimeo.com/206601594/f4530e4bd9>

If you are interested in volunteering, please go to: <https://www.research.net/r/VBVV6CF> for their volunteer registration. You will be able to indicate the dates and locations where you would like to volunteer. You will then receive a letter with further information and be contacted by your local emergency management office.



Pirate Advisory

Earlier this March, someone has been pirating the United Nations Headquarters Amateur Radio station callsign **4U1UN** on 20-Meters RTTY.

The 4U1UN station was dismantled in 2010 due to renovation of the Secretariat Building and since then, security concerns and logistics have stood in the way of its returning to the air.

Bed Spring Challenge

Andy Warycka, NY7N

Amateur Radio operators have long joked about using a bedspring for an antenna. Now's your chance to really try it!



Make a two-way radio contact between the US and Australia or New Zealand on 10 meters using a bedspring for an antenna and only 5 watts transmit power. You have until the year 2020 to do it.

First 5 stations to confirm a contact made within these parameters will receive the beer of their choice from the San Tan Brewing Company. I'm sure you'll find something you like in there. If you're under 21, you'll receive a nice box of chocolates.

The list of requirements and parameters for this contest are lengthy and at the same time, fun to read. For complete details, and a good laugh, please visit:

https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60z2av/the_official_ny7n_bed_spring_challenge/

And for selecting your prize brew of choice, visit: <http://santanbrewing.com/> There's no word as to the source for the box of chocolates for those under 21.

Take advantage of an opportunity to showcase amateur radio at its best. *Popular Communications* - May, 1997

Ham Nation 300 Special Event

An on air Special Event celebrating the 300th broadcast of *Ham Nation* begins at 0300Z on May 25th and ends at 0500Z on June 1st. Listen up for the following *Ham Nation* stations:

WØH (KØHYD), **W1H** (K1LTJ), **W2H** (N2KOJ), **W4H** (KC7FPF), **W5H** (AE5DW), **W6H** (WT6H), **W7H** (W7UDI), **W9H** (NV9L) and **KØH** (K1DDN). "Wild Card" stations using their personal callsigns include show hosts: **K9EID** Bob Heil, **WB6NOA** Gordon West, **K7AGE**, Randy Hall and **W5JDX**, George Thomas.

Hams will be able to earn a Ham Nation 300 certificate by working six of the nine Special Event callsigns or by working five of the nine 1x1 calls and one show host. Hams can earn a Clean Sweep certificate by working all nine 1x1 callsigns.

Complete information can be found at: <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/ham-nation-on-air-special-event-and-ham-nation-challenge-announced.561953/>

What's New?



Two new repeaters have graced the airwaves in Belton. The first is the Belton High School Ham Radio Club repeater on 145.350(-) PL 123.0 under the call of KG5PIV. The Trustee for this repeater is KG5OTZ.

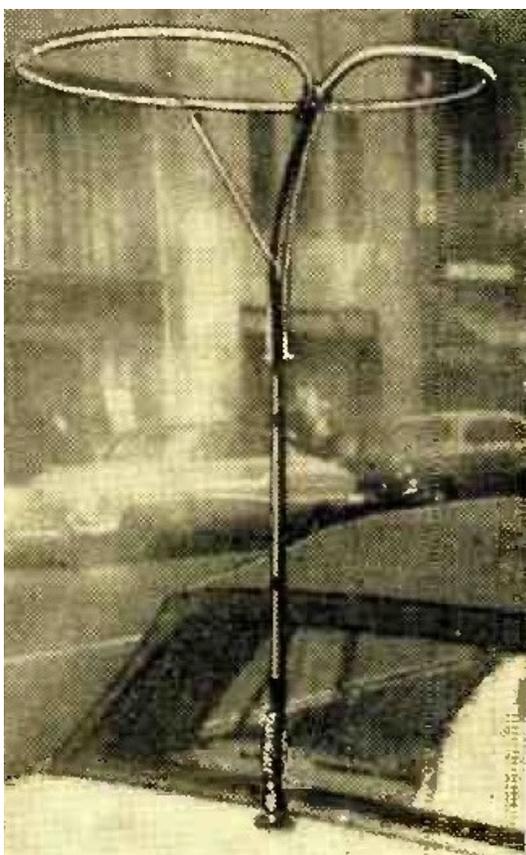
The second is the WD5EMS repeater on 145.190(-) PL100.0 in FM and C4FM mode. In FM mode the repeater will only work in the local area. In C4FM Digital mode, the repeater will be linked to other repeaters covering the Killeen, Temple, Belton and Austin areas. Future plans are to add additional linked systems to Lampasas, Adamsville and Burnet soon.

Quist Quiz

What Is It?

Popular Electronics - May, 1957

This unusual mobile antenna was photographed on Lexington Avenue in New York, in 1957. There was no indication of what the driver expected to capture and the antenna itself gave no clue as to its possible purpose.



Aside from the fact that it is a type of halo design, what is this antenna and what is it supposed to do?

"Radio is an extraordinarily democratic institution, exactly alike to rich and poor." *Radio Today* - May, 1937

Shortwave Radio Returns to Australia

Graham Kemp, VK4BB

With *Radio Australia* having ended its shortwave transmissions this past January, some of the gap is about to be filled by a North Queensland radio operation starting this month.

Radio 4KZ will run 1.5 thousand watts into an inverted V antenna on 5055 kHz seven days a week between 4 p.m. and 9 a.m. local time.

Located in Innisfail, *Radio 4KZ* covers the lush tropical coast of Far North Queensland from Townsville in the south to Cairns city in the north and Karumba to Normanton in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The general manager of *Radio 4KZ*, Al Kirton - VK4FFKZ, created the station to provide service to some areas left without radio when *Radio Australia* went off the air earlier this year.

Listeners can receive an attractive QSL card if they send in reception reports. Their QSL route is: 1 Edith Street, Innisfail, Queensland 4860 or you can email your reception report to: reception@4kz.com.au The first two weeks of their shortwave broadcasts will be a trial-run operation.

(The station's website is currently under construction as I type, but will eventually be available at:

<http://www.nqradio.com.au/> -Ed.)





KZ3AB is active from the Cayman Islands, until 6 May as **ZF2AB**. QSL via WA3EOP.

W6HB is active on Rarotonga Island until 13 May as **E51DL**. QSL via his home call.

VK5MAV will be active from Marion Reef, Coral Sea Islands, May - June (*the exact dates not given*) as **VK9MAV**. QSL via his home call.

A group is active from Ynys Gybi Island off the coast of Wales, as **MCØVRC** until 6 May. QSL via eQSL.

SP5APW will be active from Siargao Island, 9 - 16 May signing **stroke DU9**. QSL via his home call.

A group is active in Botswana, until 6 May as **A25UK**. QSL via MØOXO.

N1ZZZ is active on Diego Garcia Island, until some time next month as **VQ9ZZ**. QSL via his home call.

DL2AAZ will be active from Basse Terre Island, Guadeloupe, 22 May - 7 June signing **stroke FG**. QSL via his home call.

VE7BV is active from Guatemala until 15 May as **TG9BBV**. QSL via his home call.

Special Event Station **IIØCXX** is active on 7165 KHz. The station will run until May 31st. QSL via IKØIXI.

A group will be active from Melilla, Spain, 18 - 21 May as **EG9TOR** they will operate mainly CW. QSL via EA4PN.

IZ2ZTQ will be active from French Polynesia 1 May - 31 July signing **stroke FO**. QSL via LotW, eQSL or to IZ2LSP.

VE3LYC, will operate from Pukapuka Atoll, in the North Cook Islands, from 9 to 23 May as **E51LYC**. QSL via his home call.

AD7MM is active from Rarotonga Island, until 12 May as **E51BAS**. QSL via his home call, LotW, or eQSL.

ON5SM is active from Mindanao Island, Philippines until 24 May signing **stroke DU9**. QSL via his home call.

W1CDC is active on Saint Kitts Island, until 7 May signing **stroke V4**. QSL via his home call.

DF7DQ will be active from Vietnam, 1 - 10 May as **3W9DQ**. QSL via his home call.

K9EL will be active from Saint Martin Island, 1 - 15 May signing **stroke FS**. QSL via his home call.

DF2WO will be active from Santiago Island, Cape Verde, 3 May - 8 June as **D44TWO**. QSL via MØOXO.

HB9JAB is active from Namibia until 8 May signing **stroke V51**. QSL via eQSL, or LotW.

VE7VZ is active from Guatemala until 15 May, signing **stroke TG9**. QSL via VE7BV.

OH3WS will be active from Market Reef, 6 - 7 May as **OJØW**. QSL via his home call.

LZ1PJ will be active from Mahe Island, Seychelles, 2 - 10 May as **S79J**. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from Eritrea Island 19 - 29 May as **E31AA**. QSL via JH1AJT.

WP4JBG is active from Vietnam as **XV9G** until May 9th. QSL via his home call.

F4GHS will be active from Corsica Island, signing **stroke TK**, 23 - 28 May. QSL via his home call.

JR1LZK and **JE1HXZ** are active from Minami Daito Island, Borodino Islands, until 6 May, each signing **stroke 6**. QSL via their home calls.

JA8VE will be active from Koror Island, 12 - 19 May as **T8VE**. QSL via his home call.



Preparing for Hurricane Season

The Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season begins May 15th; the Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1st. Stuck in the middle is us, and we do get affected by tropical storm systems that brew up in both regions.

Beginning with the 2017 hurricane season, the National Weather Service will issue storm surge watches and warnings to highlight areas along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts that have a significant risk of life-threatening inundation from a potential tropical cyclone. Having separate warnings for these two hazards will save lives by better identifying the specific tropical cyclone hazards communities may face.

The definitions for the new storm surge watch and warning are: *Storm Surge Watch*: The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, in association with an ongoing or potential tropical cyclone. The watch may be issued earlier when other conditions, such as the onset of tropical storm-force winds, are



Example Storm Surge Watch / Warning Graphic

expected to limit the time available to take protective actions or evacuations. The watch may also be issued for locations not expected to receive life-threatening inundation, but which could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.

Storm Surge Warning: The danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours, in association with an ongoing or potential tropical cyclone. The warning may also be issued for locations not expected to receive life-threatening inundation, but which could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.



Also new this year, the National Hurricane Center will begin using an experimental Time of Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds graphics. The graphic will display the “earliest reasonable” arrival time window that users at individual locations can safely assume of seeing the onset of sustained tropical-storm-force winds – the period during which preparations should ideally be completed for those with a low tolerance for risk.

NHC advisories will also contain information on inland tropical cyclone wind watches and warnings, as well as on the new storm surge watches and warnings.

More info on the graphics is at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml#GTWO>

The National Hurricane Center will also have the option to issue advisories, watches, and warnings for disturbances that are not yet a tropical cyclone, but which pose the threat of bringing tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours. Under previous policy, it has not been permitted to issue a hurricane or tropical storm watch or warning until after a tropical cyclone had formed.

Also new for the 2017 hurricane season, new Event Codes to the Emergency Alert System and NOAA Weather Radios are coming into play...

The Extreme Wind Warning (EWW) is an existing operational warning issued for advance notice of sustained surface wind speeds of 115 miles per hour or greater in association with major hurricanes.

Storm Surge Watch/Warning (SWW) for the Gulf and East coasts. The NWS will issue the Storm Surge Watch for the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, associated with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. The Storm Surge Warning will be for providing advance notice of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland within the specified area, within 36 hours, associated with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical cyclone.



The National Weather Service also may issue a watch for locations not expected to receive life-threatening inundation, but could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas. These same Storm Surge Watches and Warnings will additionally be broadcasted over NOAA Weather Radio.

If your EAS equipment is not updated and the Weather Forecast Office requests EAS activation using the new Event Codes, the EAS encoder/decoder equipment will usually decode the information received as an “UNKNOWN” Event Code and the

EAS will not automatically activate. Existing SAME receivers, including Public Alert™ receivers, will process the new event codes. For those receivers providing a limited, caption-like message display, the receiver will likely show wording such as “UNKNOWN WATCH” or “UNKNOWN WARNING.” However, NWR SAME and Public Alert™ receivers should activate normally.

More information on these new Event Codes can be found at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane/resources/Tropical_EASWRN_092816.pdf and at: <http://www.arrrl.org/news/fcc-approves-new-emergency-alert-system-event-codes-for-2017-hurricane-season>

Hurricane preparedness week is May 7th - 13th and is your time to prepare. Tropical cyclones are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. Even areas well away from the coastline can be threatened by flooding, destructive winds and tornadoes spawned by these storms.

You can track and obtain further information on any developing Tropical Storm System in the Eastern Pacific or the Atlantic by visiting the National Hurricane Center website at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

A Home-Brew 6-Meter Dipole

Editor's Introduction and Disclaimer... There's been a lot of talk lately concerning the new 6-Meter repeater in Troy. Back when I was in California, I was big into antenna designing and building. Years ago, I came upon this design for a 6-Meter dipole by Glynn E. Rogers Sr., K4ABT, but I never got around to building it and testing it out. The original website where I found this design, provided no graphs as to VSWR results, or the antenna's broad bandedness, or radiation pattern, or gain - if any. If you care to visit the original website, it can be found at: <http://www.hamgrp.com/ant.htm>

There are numerous commercially made antennas on the market designed to cover the 6 meter band, including yagis, verticals, various types of wire antennas, single-banders, multi-banders, etc. The prices range from well below \$100 to well over \$1000, and they are available from most all of the well-known brand name companies. But here's a simple and inexpensive antenna design you can build yourself to get on 6-Meters.

The two aerials are 51" fiberglass threaded whips, held in place with mounting bolts to the underside of the 1" PVC caps. The balance of the electrical length of the element is the coax pig-tail (unshielded) inside the 1" PVC "T" →

RF Choke - 10 turns of RG-58 coax wound on 1" PVC support arm and fed through 1/4" hole to elements.

Support Arm - 30" of one-inch PVC →

One-inch PVC Elbow →

16" one-inch PVC →

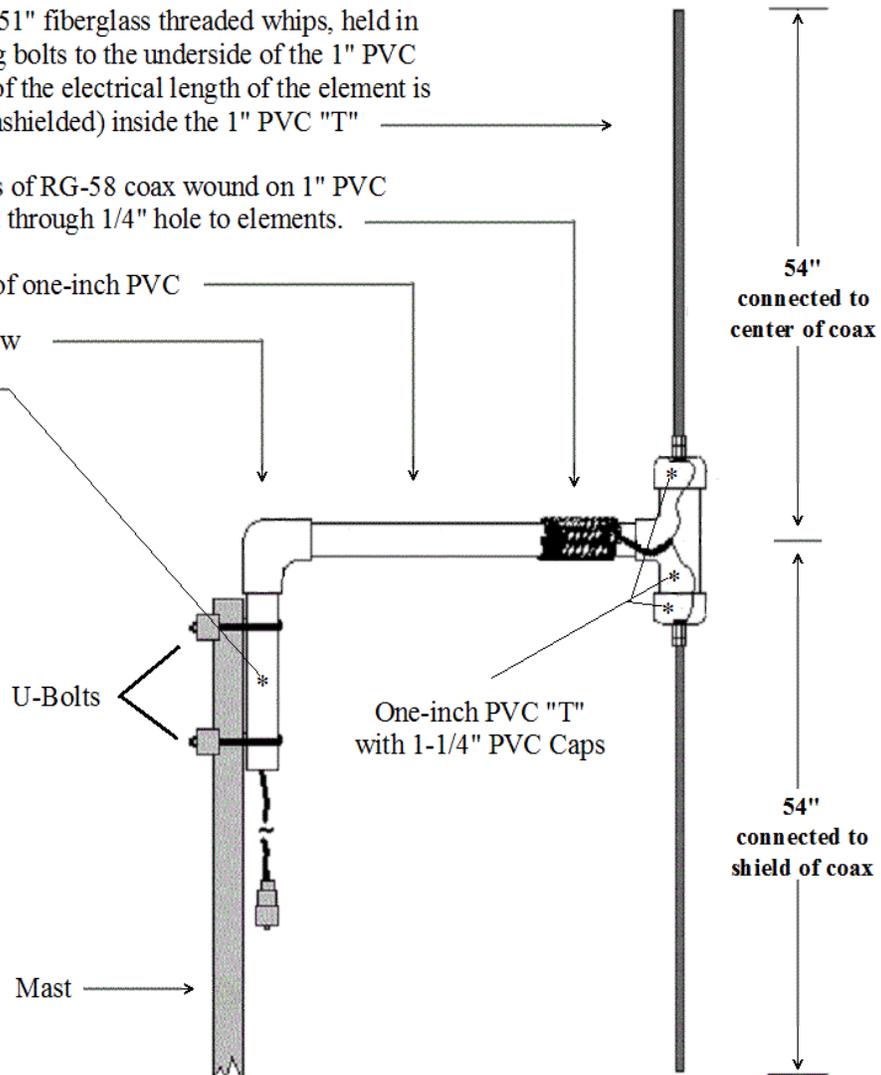
U-Bolts

One-inch PVC "T" with 1-1/4" PVC Caps

Mast →

54"
connected to
center of coax

54"
connected to
shield of coax





Susan Stamberg *...an inauspicious start...*

Susan Stamberg is a big name in public radio. One of NPR's "founding mothers," she was the first woman to anchor a national nightly news program when she co-hosted NPR's *All Things Considered* for 14 years. Listeners hear her reports as a special correspondent, and every year at Thanksgiving, her mother's cranberry relish recipe returns to the air.

But Stamberg's career began its ascent with a nervous mistake. Her big break occurred essentially at the moment she made her radio debut. Stamberg was working at WAMU, a local radio station in Washington, D.C., producing a daily program when the weather girl called in sick, and the format for their broadcast called for a weather forecast.

There was nobody else to do it, so it was up to her...

Back in those days, they would dial up a phone number to get the weather report. Then they were supposed to write down the forecast, and read it live over the air. She was so nervous, she forgot to make the call. She gets into the studio, the on-air light comes on, and she doesn't know what the weather is because she didn't make the phone call. She thought she could just look out the window — but the only window in the studio was out of reach and covered with curtains.

So she did the only thing she could think of to do, she made it up. It was in the middle of February, but she was so nervous, she said the temperature was in the 90s. And that the barometer was — (she didn't even know what that meant) she says. Then the format called for her to repeat what the weather was. She couldn't remember what she had just said, so... she made it up again.



This time around, she reported that it was 62 degrees and the wind velocity was at 109 mph. She said by the time she finished, she was petrified and relieved when the program ended. But apparently, no one noticed.

Stamberg says her not-so-glamorous on-air debut taught her a couple things about being on the radio: Never go on the air unprepared and never lie to your listeners.

Since then, she has been awarded the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Ohio State University's Golden Anniversary Director's Award, and the Distinguished Broadcaster Award from the American Women in Radio and Television. In 1994, she was inducted into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame and in 1996 she was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame.





Under Fire on the Silver Shell

Harold T. Mapes - May 30th, 1917

Editor's Introduction... Harold T. Mapes was an amateur wireless operator who obtained a position as First Marconi Operator, aboard the American tanker steamship *Silver Shell*. Here is his personal account of one voyage where the tanker was engaged by an enemy submarine, during the harrowing days of World War I.

As I sat in the wireless cabin of the *Silver Shell*, sending out frantic calls for protection against the German submarine which was bombarding us even as she steamed closer to the stern of her prospective victim, my position might be likened to that of the blackfaced man at the Coney Island amusement places who exposes himself as a target for the missiles hurled by visitors.

On a tanker, it should be explained, the boiler, engines, and wireless cabin forming the vital parts of the ship, are in the stern. So I had as it were, a grand stand seat, rather too close to the bulls-eye to be comfortable. Add to this description of my position, the fact that the *Silver Shell* was laden with more than a million gallons of gasoline, which was almost sure to explode when the first shell hits its mark, and you can comprehend without difficulty the perils with which I was surrounded.

It was early in the afternoon of May 30th, when the submarine was sighted off our starboard bow, and the alarm was sounded.



Harold T. Mapes

Lifeboats were made ready for lowering into the water and we had just thrown bundles containing our valuables into the boats, when the submarine gave unmistakable notice that she was enemy craft by firing a shell. The latter exploded about 100 yards away from our vessel. Then another shell was fired which just missed the wireless cabin.



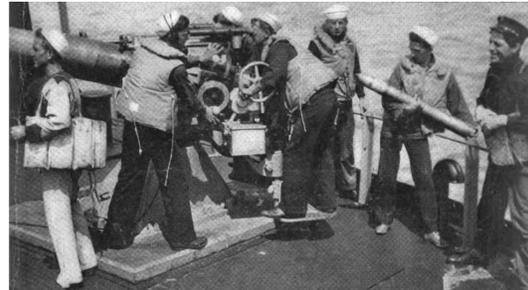
The Tanker Steamship "Silver Shell"

Meanwhile the *Silver Shell's* men opened fire on the Germans with our four-inch gun, but the first shots missed their target by about 1,000 yards. The fault was soon remedied and our shells began dropping on all sides of the submarine.

Their shells passed in alarming proximity to our heads, and burst on both sides of the bow and the stern of the ship. I recall one shell bounded over the wireless cabin, just missing the structure by a couple of feet.

There was no lack of activity in the radio room while we were being shelled. I flashed the S O S giving our position, course and rate of speed. Listening for a response to my appeals for aid was not without its problems. Our after-gun was only twenty-five feet away from the wireless cabin and every time it fired the concussion knocked the radio apparatus out of adjustment. Then, too, the roar of the gun and the bursting of the German shells was deafening. I finally succeeded in receiving a message which was, "Help thirty-five miles northwest gunboat FQ. Coming as fast as possible."

From my position in the wireless cabin I could see the submarine steaming along in our wake, like a hound after a hare about 3,000 yards astern of us. From the *Silver Shell* could be seen the flash of their guns. Then would follow an interval of about 10 seconds before those on the tanker could determine whether the shot would hit its mark. The emotions of the men on the tanker during these periods were not the most comfortable, I assure you.



Gun Crew of the Silver Shell during the engagement

Under a high pressure of steam, the U-boat was gaining on us and finally she reached a point about 2,300 yards away. She was firing shrapnel to sweep our decks; the shells continued to burst on all sides of us and it seemed that some of them must take disastrous effect.

Then as suddenly as she had begun the attack on us, she was vanquished. One of our shots struck her just aft of her conning tower, inflicting a wound which caused her bow to rise high in the air. Immediately she began to sink, stern first, with her crew still on deck. It was a dramatic finish to a dramatic fight, for she would, it is likely, have cleared our decks in fifteen minutes and then turned her fire on our lifeboats in the event that we tried to escape in them.



Gun crew of the Silver Shell - the author is seated, center

The engagement with the submarine lasted more than an hour and a half, but fortunately no one on the *Silver Shell* was seriously injured. And that is the story of how an amateur got an insight into the life of a commercial operator at sea. The memories of my voyage on the *Silver Shell* will remain with me for years to come.