

**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



This past month has seen a series of hurricane events, and earthquakes in Mexico. As a result, numerous emergency and public service nets are in session. Mexico's National Emergency Net is active on 7.060 and 14.120 MHz. With the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Caribbean Emergency and Weather Net is active on 7.162 MHz, 7.188 MHz, and 3.815 MHz. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network is active on 14.265 MHz and the Columbian National Emergency Network has been active on 7.117 and 7.085 MHz. Radio amateurs not involved in any of these responses are asked to avoid these frequencies.

In other news, KCEN reports that they are making some progress on the new weather center in their studio and hope to have it completed in the next month or so. The ARRL North Texas Section now has a new Section Emergency Coordinator; please welcome Chris Ebert-NAØD. There is also a new website devoted to the ARRL's North Texas Section, thanks to the work of our new Section Manager Jay Urish-W5GM. You can visit the new site at: <http://www.arrlntx.org/>

This month we have two big events coming up: HamExpo on October 7th, and the Boy Scouts Jamboree On-the-Air during the weekend of October 20th through the 22nd. More information on both of these, a little further on.

Then at the end of this month, is Halloween. The night when ghouls and goblins come lurking at your door.

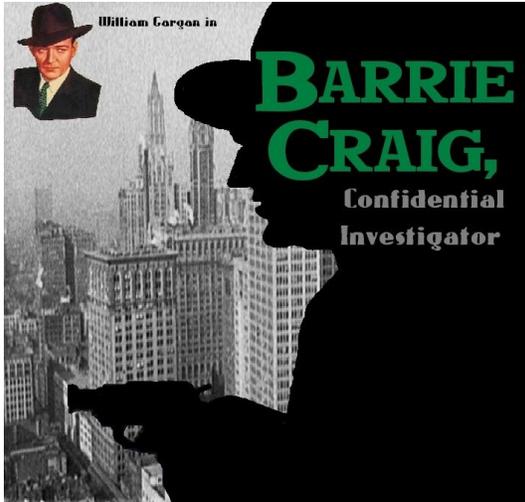
Here at home, some high winds came through the Bartlett area and I've been working to correct some wind damage done to one of my towers. As a result, I'm having to put some new anchors in the ground to pull the tower back in place, as it's leaning about four feet off-center.

We couldn't get together last month due to the EOC's activation, so let's all make up for it this month at our next club meeting, which will be on October 3rd, at 7:00 PM, at the Bell County Communications Center. Until then, pleasant dreams... Hmmm...? 73, Terry - KF5OHR





"Barrie Craig speaking. An office in a shabby old building on Madison Avenue isn't the ideal place to spend the summer. It isn't ideal for fall, winter and spring either. But if you're a confidential investigator, you settle for considerably less than the ideal."



Barrie Craig, Confidential Investigator was a detective drama heard over NBC from October 3, 1951 to June 30, 1955.

Craig's adventures were fairly standard PI fare. He worked alone, solved cases efficiently, and feared no man. As the promos went, he was: "Your man when you can't go to the cops. Confidentiality a specialty." Craig ran his operation from his office in Madison Avenue and solved crimes, relentlessly pursued criminals, and was not above taking odd jobs. Whereas the majority of the investigative themed old radio shows featured no-nonsense and hard-boiled detectives, Barrie Craig poked fun at the traditional local private eye with his laid-back and easy-going manner.

Can't go to the cops? Stop by Barrie Craig's Madison Avenue office for a confidential interview by visiting:
https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Barrie_Craig_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!

October NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

October 5th:	October 12th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	W5VEX
Back-Up: W5VEX	KD5FJF

October 19th:	October 26th:
Net Control: KD5FJF	K6WXA
Back-Up: K6WXA	AD5SK



K5CRA VE Test Session

The Copperas Cove Repeater Association will hold a VE Test Session Wednesday, October 4th, at 10:00 AM at the Copperas Cove Main Fire Station, 415 South Main Street in Copperas Cove. Persons interested in obtaining or upgrading their current license, or participating as a VE should contact Budd Johnson-WB4J via email at: buddwb4j@gmail.com



ARRL Simulated Emergency Test

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is October 7th & 8th 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 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 groups in providing emergency communications.



Coryell County Joint Comm Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Coryell County Joint Comm Group will be on Tuesday, October 10th, at 11:30 AM, at the Coryell County Annex, 800 East Main Street in Gatesville.



School Club Roundup

This 5-day event runs from 1300 UTC Monday, October 16th through 2359 UTC Friday, October 20th, 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>



Scouting's Jamboree On-the-Air

The 60th Jamboree-on-the-Air will be active as **K2BSA / 4** from Atlanta, GA., October 20th to the 22nd. Additionally, on October 21st, **K2BSA / 5** will be active from Tyler, TX.

For more information on this event visit: <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>



CQ World-Wide DX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, October 28th through 2400Z October 29th, on 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 & 160 meters SSB. For further information, please visit: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

If all the hams in the world were put into one city, it would be the size of Los Angeles... with a lot of QRM



As an early reminder... CTARC will not be holding a regular monthly meeting in December. Instead, you are cordially invited to our annual Christmas luncheon get together, which will be at *Richard Rawling's Garage* in Harker Heights, on December 2nd at Noon. More info on this will be in the December issue of the newsletter.



Halloween Weekend is a Pirate Radio Playground!



Looking through some of the shortwave radio blog posts, it appears that the weekend closest to Halloween - which this year, is the 28th & 29th - including Halloween night on the 31st, is when the most pirate radio activity is observed.

"Pirates" - unlicensed shortwave broadcasters, who are transmitting more power than the law allows. Compared to big-gun broadcasters, pirates are much more elusive game as very few announce their broadcasts in advance.

Suggested listening frequencies are between 6,800 - 7,000 kHz, 15010 - 15100 kHz and 21455 - 21550 kHz. Pirates broadcasts may be heard on both AM and SSB. Suggested listening hours are from 08:00 to 24:00 UTC.

No, I don't condone pirate radio. -Ed.

HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, the *Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, **Saturday, October 7th** 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>



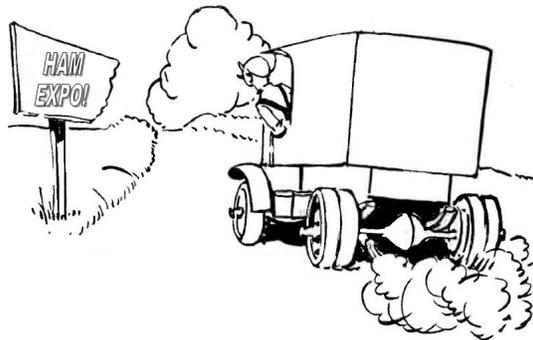
Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

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 Jan Gregg - W5GNK at: jang5@yahoo.com, or you can contact her by phone at (254) 217-3791.

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.



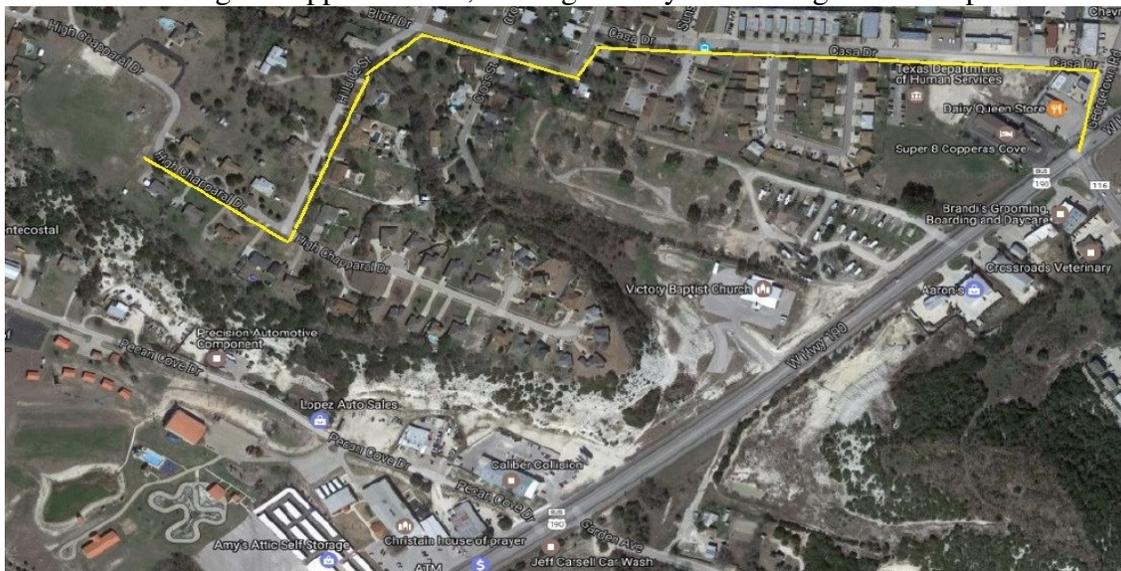
Boy Scout's Jamboree On-the-Air

The Boy Scouts will be holding their 60th Jamboree On-the-Air during the weekend of October 20th through the 22nd. In support of this, the Copperas Cove Repeater Association - K5CRA, will be running a special event station on Saturday, October 21st, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 Pm, at the High Chapparral Park in Copperas Cove. The members of CTARC have been invited to participate with them in their support of this event. The current plans are to set-up three HF stations for this event, and showing up a little early to assist with the set-up is highly encouraged.

Getting to the park... High Chapparral Park is not properly listed on any maps, nor is it easy to simply explain the directions to there. However, if you can put in a map route to, or GPS coordinates to 1313, 1318, or 1319 High Chapparral Drive, the park is located right across from each of these addresses. When driving to the park, exercise additional caution as there is a large herd of deer that patronizes this and the surrounding areas, especially during the late afternoon and evening hours.



From the Dairy Queen at FM 116 and Business Route 190 in Copperas Cove, head North on Georgetown Road and turn left on Casa Drive. Follow it to Bluffdale Street and turn left. Then make the second left, up the hill at Hillside Street. Follow this to the "T" intersection of High Chapparral Drive, turn right and you'll run right into the park.



A final meeting to iron out loose ends will be done at the Copperas Cove Repeater Association's monthly breakfast meeting, at 9:00 AM, October 7th, at the Lil Tex Restaurant, 502 South Main Street, in Copperas Cove. For more info, please contact Robert Cathey-KA5VVD, at: ka5vvd@gmail.com



FCC Wants More Enforcement Authority

Though this article deals with issues in the Commercial Radio Broadcast Services, the proposals suggested by the FCC, if implemented, could have far reaching effects in the Amateur Radio Service.

Clearly we need aggressive enforcement action at the federal level, but with limited resources and personnel, that is unlikely, at least in the short term.

The FCC is urging Congress to give the agency more enforcement tools and modifying the FCC's enforcement authority to fight illegal radio broadcasters.

Pirate radio broadcasters have generally laughed at past enforcement efforts by the commission. The FCC is proposing increased penalties as some illegal operators face minimal fines, even for years or decades of disruptive and harmful activities.

Penalties for people who "knowingly and intentionally" assist illegal radio broadcasters; which would include advertisers, landlords and building owners.

Confiscation of Equipment —once illegal stations are located, the FCC's current policy is to issue a warning and leave. Commission staff should have a process to confiscate such equipment.

Sweeps — Once existing offenders are gone, the commission should be required to conduct biannual or yearly targeted enforcement efforts to ensure pirates do not return to the airwaves in a particular area.

Elimination of Warnings — The policy of leaving repeated warnings clearly does not work. The FCC wants to be allowed to suspend the warning process and go directly to the issuance of notice of apparent liability in appropriate cases.



"Radio From Hell" Beer

"Radio From Hell" is the name of the morning show over Salt Lake City's station KXRK - and they have their own beer, which is served with matching coasters that say, "Gone to Pee."



The label on the back of the bottle reads, *"When you're thinking about that first beer of the day, may we suggest Radio From Hell Red Ale. It goes down easy and a lot faster than bacon and eggs. You'll call us and say, Thanks for letting me drink it."*

TRUTH IN BROADCASTING

Phonograph reproduction over the radio is legitimate, but must not be passed off on the audience as the presentation of the artists in person, says the Federal Radio Commission, ordering that all mechanically-reproduced music must be announced in advance as such by broadcast stations.

Radio News - October, 1927



G80FQ is active from Isabela Island, in the Galapagos Islands until October 31st, signing **stroke HC8**. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from Christmas Island, 2 - 10 October as **VK9XI**. QSL via **MØOXO**.

A group will be active from Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 10 - 17 October as **VK9CI**. QSL via **MØOXO**.

W7GJ will be active from Christmas Island, 1 - 21 October as **VK9XGJ**. QSL via his home call.

EA5IDQ will be active from Sao Tome and Principe 12 - 21 October as **S9CQ**. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from Cocos (Keeling) Islands, during the latter half of this month as **VK9CZ**. QSL via **N3SL**.

AI5P and **NØKV** will be active from Saint Barthelemy Island, 17 - 26 October each signing **stroke FJ**. QSL via their home calls.

A group will be active from Swaziland 3 - 18 October as **3DAØMB**. They will operate EME on 2m, 70cm and 23cm CW. QSL via **PA3CMC**.

JQ6FQI will be active from Koror Island, Palau, 11 - 17 October as **T88WM**. QSL via his home call.

NJØF will be active from Botswana 20 October - 5 November as **A25A**. QSL via his home call.

A group is active from Ile du Cavallo, until 10 October as **7Y7AI**. QSL via **7X2DD**.

DM4DX is currently active in Egypt signing **stroke SU** until November. QSL only via LotW.

JJ2CJB will be active from Guam Island, 27 - 30 October as **AC2AI/KH2**. QSL via his home call, LotW or eQSL.

JR1FKR is active from Pohnpei Island, until 2 October as **V63FKR**. QSL via his home call.

Special Event Station **W5RRR** will be active from the Johnson Space Center in Houston, October 13th - 15th. More info is at: <https://w5rrr.org/>

GØKOM will be active from Cyprus 27 - 31 October as **ZC4MK**. QSL via his home call.

WB2YQH as **8P9RN**, **WF2S** as **8P9SL** and **W2KKZ** as **8P9KZ** will be active from Barbados Island, 17 - 25 October. QSL each via their home call.

IW2NEF will be active from Mauritius Island, 16 - 23 October signing **stroke 3B8**. QSL via **IK2DUW**.

HFØARC is active from the Polish Antarctic Station located on King George Island, until 10 October. QSL via **SQ1SGB**.

K8JH as **P4ØN** and **KB8KB** as **P4ØM** are active from Aruba Island, until 3 October. QSL each via their home calls.

NØHJZ will be active from The Bahamas, 23 October - 1 November as **C6ARW**. QSL via his home call.

GØVDE will be active from Saint Helena Island, 14 - 21 October as **ZD7VDE**. QSL via **G3SWH**.

W2DZO will be active from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 6 - 9 October as **KG4HH**. QSL via his home call.

NØSMX will be active from Montserrat Island, 28 - 29 October as **VP2MMX**. QSL via his home call.

A group is active until 8 October in Bhutan as **A5A**. QSL via **JH1AJT**.

SP9FIH will be active from Palestine 18 - 29 October as **E44WE**. QSL via his home call.

WA1ZAM will be active from Sint Maarten Island 20 Oct. - 5 Nov. as **PJ7PL**. QSL via his home call.



Harvey Shows Progress in Emergency Communications

The damage done by Hurricane Harvey where the category 4 hurricane made landfall, is a living nightmare already drawing comparisons to Hurricane Katrina. One comparison offers a glimmer of hope amid the devastation: Communications networks have held much better.

While connectivity was almost completely lost in Rockport, Texas, which was hit hardest by the storm, the Federal Communications Commission says just 4 percent of the 7,804 cell sites in Harvey's path were wiped out. By contrast, more than 1,000 cell sites were knocked out during Katrina, preventing millions of calls from going through, according to a post-Katrina FCC report.

Disaster preparedness has become a critical component of cellular networks. Companies such as Verizon and AT&T deploy mobile cell sites on light trucks and are now experimenting with drone technology to survey damage to their infrastructure.

That may come as cold comfort to the families fleeing ruined homes in boats and on floating air mattresses, but it is crucial nonetheless. Communications ranks up there with having fuel in police cars. As central as connectivity has become to our everyday lives, in times of disaster it is a matter of life and death. That's particularly true of cellular service, as disaster victims use smartphones to send SMS, Twitter, and Facebook notifications about their needs and their whereabouts.



Texas's 9-1-1 system has also progressed since the days of Katrina. Shortly after that hurricane, state and local governments began assembling lists of qualified telecommunications workers called Telecommunicator Emergency Response Teams who could fill in for 9-1-1 dispatchers. These are trained go-teams of people that can go into the affected area and start handling calls for the folks who would normally do that. When all the people who work in your call center have houses that are flooded, they're in trouble themselves.

While Texas's 9-1-1 system was overloaded with calls, those calls were going through. That means there's been some learning. During the height of Hurricane Harvey, some callers could not reach 9-1-1, either because of endless hold times or busy signals. That's partly due to the fact that the United States has a balkanized emergency response system, based on legacy wired phone networks that can only direct calls from one physical location to a single call center. Even if there were a way to handle the immense call volume, there would still be a shortage of first responders. You're never going to be able to respond to millions of people who are in distress or danger right at the same minute.

Houston radio stations were as ready as they could be for the unexpected magnitude of the catastrophe. Forward thinking station managers planned ahead for the storm and

secured multiple hotel rooms near their stations, and stocked up on needed supplies, enabling the majority of their content team to be in place and their stations to be on the air 24/7.

In the Houston area, there were at least nine radio stations out of service due to the effects of Hurricane Harvey. Broadcasters and other news outlets played a critical role in conveying emergency information, and in some cases, even coordinating live, on-air rescues. CBS radio affiliate stations KILT, KHMV, KKHH and KIKK dropped all regular programming and ran a four-station, commercial-free simulcast of long-form coverage with a continuous loop of evacuation information, routes and shelters. These stations in Houston were the only stations broadcasting continuous live storm coverage. Once the live simulcasts began running across the stations, the phone lines were inundated with questions and needs that CBS Radio Houston helped to answer and connected residents with immediate help.

Many CBS Radio Houston employees couldn't make it home, and were camped out in the offices or a nearby hotel. The staff stockpiled food and water. Any and all on-air hosts that were able to make it safely to the stations were pulled in to provide continuous live updates.



Flooded lobby of Station KHOU

Station KTTX in Bryan-College Station, had water damage on its ground floor and on the second floor from blowing rain. But the station and its sister station KWHI, continued to broadcast to their Brazos Valley community, which was threatened by the cresting Brazos River, as well as by the storms. KORA, also located in Bryan, was working off of generators, and fortunately, their transmitter site is high, allowing them to remain on the air.

In a statement from FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, broadcasters and other news outlets have played a critical role in conveying emergency information, and in some cases, even coordinating live, on-air rescues in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Adding that, "You can't talk about the heroes of Hurricane Harvey without talking about broadcasters." He went on to list stories of stations who sprang into action. "Everyone who is pitching in deserves our gratitude and support". The FCC is keeping tabs on the impacts of the widespread flooding, and has been working with the Department of Homeland Security to closely monitor communications networks and stands ready to help however the FCC can.

The FCC will study the impact of Hurricane Harvey on the communications infrastructure in affected areas, and produce a report, with a plan for fixing the vulnerabilities the storm identified, including cell service outages and 911 issues.

While these systems are not perfect, of course, and the pace of progress may not be quick enough for all of the people. But once the flood waters recede, there will no doubt be lots to learn from Hurricane Harvey—like Katrina before it—that could help even more people in the future.



Nisha Dupuis *Duty First at Radio Anguilla*

19-year-old Nisha Dupuis, a reporter for Radio Anguilla, a station on the small Caribbean island that was in the direct path of Hurricane Irma, kept broadcasting the latest news about the hurricane to the people of Anguilla. Even when the storm caused the radio station's systems to shut down and she lost contact with her own family.

Irma was the most powerful Atlantic Ocean hurricane in recorded history. It first made landfall on the islands of the northeast Caribbean, roaring along a path pointing to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba before heading for Florida. The heart of the storm passed over the twin-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda bringing heavy rain and howling winds that sent debris flying as people huddled in their homes or in government shelters. The worst of it passed over Anguilla. Powerful winds from the Category 5 hurricane slammed the island nation, toppling trees, destroying cars and ripping the doors, windows and roofs from homes and other buildings.

Staff members were trying to protect Radio Anguilla's equipment, while still receiving calls from people who were in distress — some crying, some saying that their shutters were blowing off, their windows are open, their doors are blowing open and they have children in their house. While panicked people from around the island called in to share their stories and get whatever information they could,



Dupuis lost contact with her own family. At one point, one of the station's window shutters blew off and the building started to flood.

Still, duty called.

When Radio Anguilla's systems went down, Dupuis grabbed her phone and a selfie-stick and started 'broadcasting' live from her personal Twitter account. "It kind of distracted me from a bit of the weight of not hearing from my family, and whether or not my own home was still standing." she said.

A disaster like this, she said, forces you to think outside of yourself. You realize how vulnerable you are, and you realize that all you have around you is each other. So you rally up and you try to help and that is what keeps you going. Knowing that there are people depending on this information, that there are people who are perhaps in worse predicaments than I am... that really is the driving force that makes me be able to do this and just keep going and going.

Radio Anguilla broadcasts on 95.5 MHz FM, to the roughly 15,000 inhabitants of Anguilla, a British overseas territory in the Caribbean. Their website, along with a link to listen live, can be found at: <http://www.radioaxa.com/> though at this writing, the station is still off the air as a result of Hurricane Irma.

Are There Zombies Lurking Around Your Radio Station?

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It's the perfect time of year to honestly assess your radio station – its activities, projects, and initiatives. This is especially the case for stations that have been around for at least a decade – or decades.

Between tradition, sponsorships, and budget issues, it's not at all unusual for stations to be engaged in activities and events that have perhaps worn out their welcome – or need reinvention. The concept of assessing the station arsenal – events, features, sales promotions – and virtually every activity that's part of the station is the topic of a new exercise you might want to consider before the end of the year.

Many events – steeped in history and tradition – done year in and year out, even though you might question their impact, effectiveness, and value. Like movie sequels, the more you find yourself referring to events as “The 10th Annual,” you may be dealing with tired concepts that need to be freshened – or terminated.

If you've been around your station for a while, you may be asking yourself, “Why are we still doing this?” only to get caught up in the inertia that is so common to how radio stations operate.

1. Zombies: These are ideas, events, and features that aren't necessarily “dead or alive.” They simply walk through the organization, sucking up time and resources. They need to be killed or brought back to

life. In their “undead” stage, they can sap the energy and life out of stations.

2. Dead bodies: These are ideas, features, promotions, and events the station has tried which have failed, and shouldn't be brought back. And yet, how often are station teams guilty of repeating events and features that didn't work the first time? Sometimes, these cadavers continue to take up space at the station because they have dollars attached to them. Yet, they're still very dead.

3. Heroes: *Unexpected heroes* – initiatives that perhaps surprised the team because they exceeded everyone's expectations. The key is to determine what worked well about these features, events, and promotions and how can those characteristics and elements be applied to new initiatives?

If phrases like “because we've always done it” or “it's part of our tradition” are heard, they're symptoms that there may be “zombies” lurking in your station.

The last thing a radio station needs are people, events, and initiatives that fall under the heading of “the walking dead.” Not getting hung up on the “zombies,” in your operation, and instead, focusing on those “heroes” is the first step in planning a successful 2018.



Operation Storm, & Radio Free Afghanistan

It was the height of the Cold War, when, under “Operation Storm”, the Soviet Union first sent its army into Afghanistan on December 24th, 1979. Three days later, Soviet troops entered the capital city of Kabul and the existing Afghanistan government was overthrown. This eventually led to one of the forgotten chapters in the Cold War history: the United States first broadcast shortwave radio programs to Afghanistan on October 1st, 1985.

The American financed station Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany, expanded its broadcasting services outside the target areas of East Europe and the USSR and broadcast to Afghanistan extensive war coverage in Dari--one of the major languages in Afghanistan as Radio Free Afghanistan. RFA’s mandate was “to provide uncensored news and information about the war in Afghanistan and to serve as a free surrogate radio for the Afghan resistance.”

The RFE President at that time was Gene Pell, who said: "The people of Afghanistan continue to wage a gallant resistance to the Soviet occupation. These broadcasts are an important measure of the U.S. government’s commitment to



that struggle and the principal of political self-determination. Although it is difficult to broadcast to a war-torn country, RFA maintains a proper journalistic tone and approach, favoring a free, united, independent and Muslim Afghanistan."

Through the facilities of Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Afghanistan used existing transmitters in Pals, Spain and Holzkirchen, Germany, each with 250 kW power, plus the 100 kW transmitters in Lampertheim, Germany, to send programs into Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union responded by jamming the frequencies on existing equipment used to jam normal Radio Free Europe broadcasts.

RFA sent staff journalists to Peshawar, Pakistan to report on the war -- one even crossed the border into Afghanistan to report live from there. They interviewed resistance leaders and young defectors from the Soviet army. The official Soviet media was silent on the Red army defectors, some of whom asked for and received asylum in the West.

In October 1988, Radio Free Europe and Deutsche Welle, the German international broadcast network, conducted a survey of refugees from Afghanistan living in northern Pakistan. The results: BBC had the highest rating of listeners, followed by Radio Free Afghanistan, which most respondents thought did an "excellent" job on reporting on local news in Afghanistan.

After nine years of war, the Soviet Union pulled out the last of its army from Afghanistan on February 15th, 1989, with an estimated loss of 15,000 troops killed. As part of the “phase down”, and Congressional budget cutting after the Cold War ended with the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union in 1991, Radio Free Afghanistan broadcast its last program on October 19th, 1993, with the statement, “It was proud to be part of the struggle against the Soviet occupation and that the Service always endeavored to bring freedom, peace, and democracy to Afghanistan.”