

**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

A new study by a clinical psychologist in the U.K., says Christmas music that airs well before the actual holiday, may be bad for you. The study suggests that it generates anxiety, because it's a reminder of how far we're behind and how much we have to get done over the coming weeks. The study goes on to note, that the most stress falls on retail workers in stores that play Christmas music. It could be the volume or the repetition of holiday tunes from Burl Ives or Brenda Lee. It turns out that many try to tune it out. How's that for news?

Well in my world, the holiday season is about to get started. My twin brother and his wife came to Texas over Thanksgiving and spent about a week with us. He brought his Harley and he and I took some time and spent most of that week riding through-out the country side. Next is the Christmas holiday planning; based on what information my wife and daughter keep sharing over the phone. Based on what little information I am able to pick up by eavesdropping on their conversation, I will suddenly be drug into the middle of all that planning, and that's the last place I want to be.

So I will just say that I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. And don't forget about our up coming Christmas party at Richard Rawlings Garage, 401 West Central Texas Expressway in Harker Heights on December 2nd at Noon. Hope to see you all there. More information on this, immediately follows.

Also note this Christmas party is to be held in lieu of what would be our regular meeting for this month - so don't come to the Comm Center; we won't be there!

Be safe and take care.

73, Terry - KF5OHR





The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club



Holiday Luncheon at Richard Rawling's Garage



401 West Central Texas Expressway in Harker Heights



...This dinner get-together to be held in lieu of our regular December meeting...

Saturday, December 2nd at 12:00 Noon

Their Lunch and Dinner Menu can be found at:

<http://www.richardrawlingsgarage.com/menu/>

Map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Richard+Rawlings%E2%80%99+Garage,+401+W+Central+Texas+Expy,+Harker+Heights,+TX+76548/@31.0737747,-97.6774404,14z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x864549989bb167f3:0x11c1dd3e4456fd01>

Richard Rawling's Garage (254) 432-8811



The incomparable Charlie Chan. Detective, Philosopher, and Modern Chinese Sage. Thrills, excitement and comedy are promised. And pearls of wisdom, as well --- "Accidents can happen, if planned that way."



The Adventures of Charlie Chan first aired December 2nd, 1932, over the NBC-Blue Network and featured Chan, a detective for the Honolulu police, who every week captured the imagination of his listeners, as he used his wit and pseudo Confucianism investigating mysteries and solving crimes around the world.

Never mind why Chan, who speaks in fortune-cookie English, or whether those are genuine Chinese proverbs he imparts or why his son has an Australian accent, Charlie Chan is simply irresistible. It's fun to hear radio's daytime serial version of the Hawaiian family man who gave us all a little exotic wit and wisdom while uncovering a dishonorable culprit.

Unfortunately, Chan on radio is very rare, what episodes that have survived can be listened to again by visiting: <https://oldradioprograms.us/Charlie%20Chan.htm>



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!

December NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

December 7th:	December 14th:
Net Control: W5VEX	AD5SK
Back-Up: AD5SK	KD5FJF

December 21st:	December 28th:
Net Control: KD5FJF	K6WXA
Back-Up: K6WXA	KE5ISN



160-Meter Contest

Contest period runs from 2200 UTC, December 1, and wraps up at 1559 UTC December 3. This is a 42-hour all-CW event with no operating time limit. If you have ever yearned to try your hand at Top Band contesting, this is the perfect opportunity!

More information is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>



Skywarn Recognition Day



This event takes place on all authorized amateur frequencies and modes from 0001 UTC Dec. 2nd to 2400 UTC Dec. 3rd. More information is at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio>

"For radio to once again become part of the cultural conversation, it will require rooms full of smart, inquisitive, and curious people coming together to truly conjure up *new* and innovative concepts."

Fred Jacobs - President, Jacobs Media Strategies



Temple Christmas Parade

The Temple Christmas Parade is on Monday, December 4th at 6:30 P.M. Volunteers are needed to assist with support communications. Initial meet will be at the Bell County Health Building, 201 North 8th St., in Temple at 3:30 PM.

Staging time will start at 4:00 P.M. We will be operating 2 meter simplex. Necessary equipment will be an HT, safety vest, flashlight and proper clothing for the weather conditions. At least 10 to 12 volunteers are needed for this event. If you can assist in this please contact Robert Shoemaker-KE5WVC, at: robert1867@embarqmail.com or by phone at: (254) 702-8066.



10-Meter Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, December 9th to 2359Z, December 10th. The objective is for Amateurs worldwide to engage in QSO's with as many other stations as possible on the 10 meter band. For more info please visit: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>



K5CRA Has A New Website

Through the efforts of John Bryant - W5JTB, the Copperas Cove Repeater Association now has a new website. You can visit this nicely laid out site at: <https://k5cra.org/>

Advice during blackouts: "Keep indoors. Lie down. Turn off the lights. Turn on the radio."

Defense Administrator Fiorello LaGuardia - Dec. 1941



World's First Ship Broadcaster

Popular Communications - December, 1987

The M/V Kanimbla, of Melbourne, Australia, was a 484-foot liner that carried 453 passengers and a crew of 160. It's maiden voyage was on 10 June 1936, which marked the first broadcast of its shortwave station - VK9MI, while engaged in coastal passenger service from Melbourne to Cairns, and also sailed on the Sydney to Fremantle route.



VK9MI operated on 6053 and 11710 kHz, billing itself as "The World's First Ship Broadcaster" as it was the first passenger vessel in the British Empire to be licensed for broadcasting.

The trademarks of VK9MI were its sign-on signal of a ship's bell followed by a blast of the Kanimbla's whistle. Even though VK9MI ran a mere 50 watts, it was widely reported and rewarded many listeners with QSL cards.

VK9MI was probably the best known legal ship-borne broadcaster of radio's golden era.

The M/V Kanimbla continued to sail the seas until December 7, 1973, when she was sold and broken up for scrap.

Art, Is Seldom Far Behind Science

Radio News - December, 1926

The time has so far passed for considering radio in the light of a plaything, with which men of the family regale their leisure hours instead of playing billiards, that radio has come into its own as a paramount factor in home decoration.



In its earliest stages, radio, like a very long-legged and unsteady young colt, was anything but beautiful. It was something which made the living room look like the garage just after the Ford had been taken apart. Once put together it was not much better.

Why build with much labor a radio which when finished is merely a piece of mechanism to be set awkwardly upon a table, disfiguring an otherwise tasteful environment?



Christmas Card from Radio Free Europe - 1951



FCC Levies Biggest Fines Ever

The Federal Communications Commission has affirmed a huge fine of \$404,166.00 on Jay Peralta, of Queens, New York, who has admitted to making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with officers' communications, transmitting false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activity involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers.

The NYPD contacted the FCC's New York Office and advised that it had arrested Peralta and another individual in connection with the unauthorized transmissions on the NYPD's radio system. The two arrested are currently in custody pending their trial.

Elsewhere, the FCC heaved a \$144,344.00 fine against Fabrice Polynice, for operating an unlicensed broadcast station on 90.1 MHz in the North Miami, Florida area. Also fined was the building's owner, Harold and Veronise Sido, who were active participants not just facilitators, providing material support in the form of free use of their property, including electricity and internet connectivity necessary for operation of the transmitter and antenna.

Add to that, this was not the first time FCC field agents had knocked on Fabrice Polynice's door. Back in 2012, the FCC found Polynice operating an unlicensed broadcast station and seized transmission equipment from him and levied a \$25,000 forfeiture order against Polynice.



Election Results



At our last club meeting on November 7th, elections were held for club officers to carry the club through next year.

Elected / re-elected into office were:
Terry Evans-KF5OHR, as President.
Rick Murray-K6WXA, as Vice President. Carl Beckom-KG5NFE, as Treasurer. Trudy Jenkins-KG5VLC, as Secretary and Tom Robinson-KG5NJG as a Board Director.

Magnetic Vehicle Signs

These flexible magnetic vehicle signs are available through the Denton County Amateur Radio Association-W5NGU.



The signs measure 24 X 6 inches and are available in a set of three for \$25.00. You can order these through their website at: <http://dcara.net/forsale.php> or by emailing Gerald Marchant-WB5NZV at: wb5nzv@arrl.net.



Contributed by Gerald Richmond - N5ZXJ

What's New?



The "F-Bomb"

If you want to go on the air and utter dirty words, you'd better go... to Canada.

The Telegraph reports the Canadian Broadcasting Standards Council has now OK'd the F-bomb for French speaking stations only. That's because the word in question is apparently "part of the common French spoken language," thus making it less vulgar.



The impetus for this rule change came about because of complaints from French-speaking station CKOI listeners who heard the F-bomb aired in sound bites of Madonna using it in reference to President Trump at a rally, and Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong invoking it at a concert.

But according to the CBSC, when used sparingly and on "francophone" stations, the F-bomb is apparently kosher.

...and there you have, the last word.



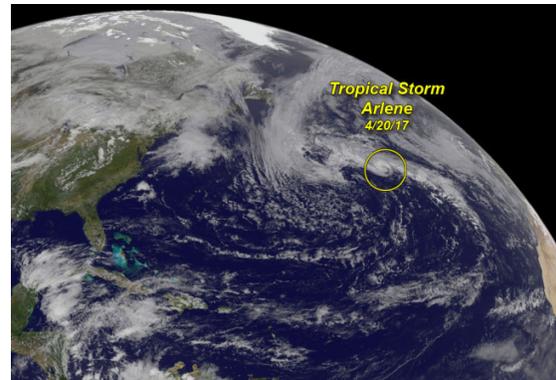


Historic Atlantic Hurricane Season Ends

Early predictions by researchers at Colorado State University, predicted that the Atlantic hurricane season this year would be slightly below-average and called for an expected 11 named storm systems. Of those, researchers expected four to become hurricanes and two to reach major hurricane strength (Category 3-4-5).

NOAA forecasters predicted an above-normal season with 14-19 named storm systems, with 5-9 hurricanes and 2-5 major hurricanes. What transpired, was a total of **17** named tropical storm systems. Of those, **10** developed into hurricanes and of those, **5** became major hurricane systems of Category 3 or higher.

The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season "officially" started on June 1st, this year it started early with the formation of Tropical Storm Arlene in the Atlantic basin on April 20th. It was the farthest north a tropical storm has formed in the Atlantic so early in the season, and became only the second April tropical storm of record in the satellite era since Tropical Storm Ana in 2003.



Unrelated to Arlene, Tropical Storm Adrian in the Eastern Pacific basin also formed before the corresponding hurricane season was set to officially begin, being the earliest named storm in the Eastern Pacific. This makes 2017 the second consecutive year after 2016, where the first storms in both basins were pre-season storms.

For those of us here in Texas, the newsmaker for this year's hurricane season, was Hurricane Harvey, which made landfall along the Texas coast as a Category-4 system on August 25th. Throughout Texas, more than 300,000 people were left without electricity and billions of dollars of property damage was sustained. As of October 14, at least 88 fatalities have been confirmed attributed to Hurricane Harvey.



Hurricane Irma

Despite the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey, even worse, was Hurricane Irma. It was the most powerful Atlantic hurricane in recorded history. Its winds were 185 miles per hour for 37 hours; longer than any storm ever recorded. Its coastal storm surges were 20 feet above normal tide levels. Irma held 7 trillion watts of energy - twice as much as all the bombs used in World War II. Its force was so powerful that earthquake seismometers recorded it.

The storm caused at least 134 deaths: one in Anguilla, one in Barbados, three in Barbuda, four in the British Virgin Islands, 10 in Cuba, 11 in the French West Indies, one in Haiti, three in Puerto Rico, four on the Dutch side of Sint Maarten, 90 in the contiguous United States, four in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and two others in unknown locations in the Caribbean. Between Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, it was the first time the Continental U.S. had been hit by two Category-4 hurricanes in one season.

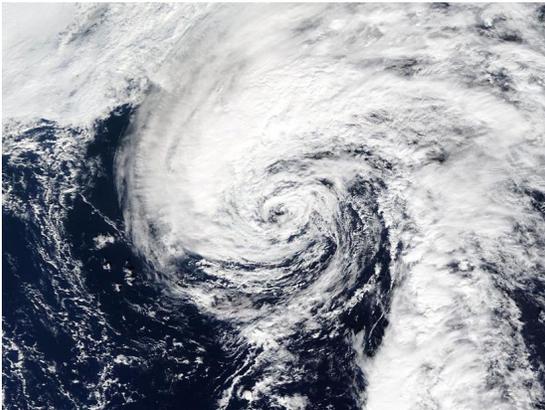
In so far as record setters, the next historic system was Hurricane Ophelia. It was the 10th hurricane of the season - the last time there were 10 hurricanes in a year was in 1893. It was the first hurricane to make landfall in Ireland since 1961, and it led to the first time ever that a severe weather alert was issued for that entire country. It was also the eastern-most Category-3 Hurricane on record.

The system made additional landfalls in Norway, Sweden and Finland before dissipating over Russia.



Extra-Tropical Cyclone Ophelia making landfall in Ireland

The last named system of the season was Tropical Storm Rina. It was born November 7th in the far off Atlantic, a slob of a system that was unable to get its thunderstorms aligned with its center of circulation, and wholly unremarkable barring one significant statistic. As the 17th-named storm of the year, Rina put 2017 among a select group of just 10 hurricane seasons dating back to 1887 to muster that many tropical cyclones, and marks it as the most active season for named tropical storm systems since 2012.



Tropical Storm Rina

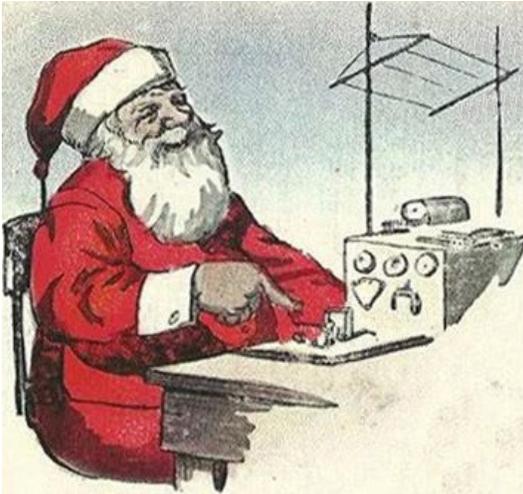
Besides its late formation - closer to Thanksgiving than peak hurricane season - Rina was also notable for its late formation in a less than an ideal environment. Typically, tropical storms need at least 80-degree water temps to form, but Rina was spinning over sea surface temperatures of just 77 degrees. Rina's ascent to tropical storm status was a true accomplishment given its less-than-intense showers and thunderstorms, and strong westerly wind shear that plagued the storm.

Winter Solstice

For meteorologists, winter begins on December 1st. For astronomers and scientists - *as well as the rest of us* - the December Solstice is the start of the winter season. For those of us here in Central Texas, the Winter Solstice bringing the first day of Winter, will be on Thursday, December 21st, at 10:28 AM.



Santa Net on 3.916



Good little boys and girls can talk to Santa Claus through the magic of ham radio, now until December 24th, starting at 7:30 PM CST. More info on this is at: <http://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/3-916-santa-net-kicks-of-nov-24th.587150/>

DG8NCO is active from Belize until 10 December as **V31EME**. QSL via his home call.

K9NU will be active from Saint Martin Island, 1 - 9 December signing **stroke FS**. QSL via his home call.

GØCKV is active from Rodrigues Island, until 12 December as **3B9HA**. QSL via MØOXO.

NK8O is active from Tanzania until December 4th as **5H3DX**. QSL via his home call.

HB9VQQ will be active from Kandima Island, in the Maldives, 22 - 30 December as **8Q7HB**. QSL via his home call.

A group is active as **HC8LU** from San Cristobal Island, Galapagos Islands, until 8 December. QSL via IK2DUW.

DL7BC is active from French Guiana until 7 December, signing **stroke FY**. QSL his home call.

J69AZ will be active from Barbados Island 13 December - 2 January as **8P9JB**. QSL via his home call.

DCØKK is active from Sri Lanka until 25 March as **4S7KKG**. QSL via his home call.

K4ZW will be active from Laos, 3 - 8 December as **XW4ZW**. QSL via K1SE.

XE2IC is active on Magdalena Island, as **XF1IM**, until 3 December. QSL via his home call.

KCØW will be active from Brunei, 3 - 18 December, signing **stroke V85**. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from Goree Island, 15 - 17 December as **6V1A**. QSL via 6W7JX.

WA3DX will be active from Senegal 25 December - 12 January, signing **stroke 6W**. QSL via his home call.

N2FF is active from Antigua Island, until 7 December as **V26FF**. QSL via LotW.

DH1BL is active from French Guiana until 7 December as **FY4VOS**. QSL via DL7BC.

A group will be active from Tidra Island, 1 - 7 December as **5T5TI**. QSL via NI5DX.

A92AA is active from Mauritania, as **5T1A**, until 20 December. QSL via his home call.

A61M is active from Mauritania, as **5T1R**, until 20 December. QSL via A92AA.

JM6EBU will be active from Tonga, 5 - 7 December as **A31NM**. QSL via his home call.

GØKOM will be active from Cyprus, 5 - 12 December as **ZC4MK**. QSL via his home call or LotW.

NZ1C will be active from Corsica, 16 - 24 December signing **stroke TK**. QSL via DD5ZZ.

The Realities of Working in the Radio Business

Anonymous Radio Staffers

"There are jobs in radio?" you ask. Not really, but you can still get a degree in it! Unfortunately, here are some things you learn when you spend any amount of time in the radio business. If you work in radio, you probably won't laugh much. You'll either be deeply offended or nod along sadly.

Request Shows Are Fake... At the corporate station, music is programmed at the main office, and touching that program is a mortal sin. The corporate office knows down to the second, what and when you want to hear something. It's surprisingly easy to fake a request show. People mostly call in wanting to hear whatever is most popular -- stuff that's on the schedule to play anyway. It's mostly little kids and drunk people who call in to request music, and they do it for the novelty of hearing themselves on the radio. If you denied them that immense pleasure, they tended to get upset. And we all know that if there's one group of people you don't want to piss off, it's 12-year-old girls. They're brutal.

Radio Stations Are Empty A Lot Of The Time... The typical weekend crew for a radio station is one 20-year-old bored college student. Their job is making sure nothing burns to the ground, answering the phone, taking meter readings once an hour and fending off bill collectors. Even though you're always hearing someone on-the-air, what you're hearing is mostly pre-recorded or syndicated material.



Stations run in little clusters, so you'll have one building that houses a sports talk station, a lite rock station, a country station, and some b.s. AM news station. At night and on the weekends, one person monitors all the stations.

Everyone in Radio is Suuuuper Poor... People imagine radio personalities are out hobnobbing with Lady Gaga, but they're mostly hobnobbing with Lady Linda from the Visa collections department. No one works as just an on-air personality. A lot of people you hear on the radio are doing double duty in the sales or promotions department, or selling garage doors. The glamorous world of garage door sales is apparently more alluring than a job in the radio industry these days. Only about one in every hundred radio / television graduates actually end up in the radio industry.

Gross People Tend To Gravitate To Large-Market Radio... If you're going to be in radio to make money, pretty much the only way to do it, is at a large-market station. The downside is that large radio stations are entirely populated by the worst trash fire people you will ever meet. There's also a ton of gossip and jealousy in the "big-radio" office. At one station, one person had been recently promoted to the executive producer role of the morning show, and everyone said he got the job by sleeping with the head of the promotions department. If you listened to everyone there, you would think no one ever actually did any work. They were all just sleeping with each other all the time for career advancement purposes. No one was ever happy to see someone else succeed.

Severe Weather Is The Only Time Radio Is Relevant Anymore... If the television isn't working and Spotify won't tell you if you're going to die or not, people will reluctantly flip on the radio, even in 2017. If there's a tornado warning, everyone available immediately books it to the station in the worst possible weather and bursts in the door with an attitude of "HAHAHA I almost died. Where are my headphones? I'm on in five." Radio people seem to be immune to fear of bad weather. Maybe it's from years of working through storms, or maybe it's just because most of the people I worked with were 100 years old and no longer feared petty mortality. I remember seeing grizzled DJs crowding by the back door of the station so they could lean outside and smoke as hail pounded the building.

Working during storms was my favorite part of the job. I used to be deathly afraid of tornadoes as a little kid, but working through them really helped me kick my phobia. For some reason, it made me feel like I was in charge of the tornado, and I wasn't going to let it backtalk or murder me. Everyone says that if your kid sees something bad happen, you should comfort them by telling them to "Look for the helpers." If there's a fire, the firemen come to help. Stuff like that. In the case of tornado weather, I was the helper. All you can really do in that situation is let people know when they're in danger, and that was part of my job.

One person described working in radio, as truly bizarre. More bizarre than the fact that radio is still around when Spotify and YouTube exist. Radio still existing is like trying to sell torches in a flashlight store. But for me, basically, working in radio, I guess I recommend it. I mean, it's been around since 1920, so is the industry really dying, or is it an un-killable god-thing? I pick the latter, and I'm putting Assistant to Un-killable God on my resume.

Remembering Pearl Harbor & Radio

As part of the World War II Memorial, located in the National Mall in Washington D.C., is a bronze relief depicting a multigenerational family gathered around the radio. Someone is tuning it in, and the rest of the family are gathered around to listen, whether its update of the news on December 7th, 1941, as news of the attack were coming in. Or perhaps listening in as President Roosevelt gets ready to address the joint session of congress the following day. The panel captures the reality of life in those days before TV and the internet, when the radio was the primary source of news for most Americans.





Beatrice Yvonne Cormeau

"To help save France from the Nazis"

Beatrice Yvonne Cormeau was educated in both Belgium and Scotland, and was living in London when in 1937, she married Charles Edouard Emile Cormeau, a chartered accountant. Her husband enlisted in The Rifle Brigade and in November 1940, was wounded in France and sent back to the UK. Shortly afterwards he was killed when their London home was bombed.

Newly widowed, Yvonne decided to take her husband's place in the armed forces and joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force as an administrator in November 1941. While serving at RAF Swinderby she answered an appeal on the notice board for linguists, and was recruited by the Special Operations Executive and trained as a wireless operator and was promoted to the rank of Flight Officer.

She volunteered to "do something and save France from the Nazis". On the night of 22 August 1943, she was parachuted into St Antoine du Queyret, northeast of Bordeaux; becoming the second female radio operator to be sent to France. Her role was to work as a courier and wireless operator in Gascony. Whilst carrying out her secret operations in Occupied France, she used the code names "Annette", "Fairy" and "Safari". Cormeau sent over 400 transmissions back to London, which was a record for her section. She made arrangements for arms and supplies to be dropped for the local Marquis, and assisted in the cutting of the power and telephone lines, resulting in the isolation of the German Army Group G, garrisoned near Toulouse.

She was almost arrested by the Germans after being betrayed by an agent codenamed Rodolph.



However, she continued to operate, despite being confronted by "wanted" posters in her neighborhood which gave an accurate sketch of her appearance. At one point, she was stopped at a German roadblock and was questioned while a gun was held to her back. Eventually the Germans accepted her story and ID that she was a district nurse, and she succeeded in passing her wireless equipment off as an X-ray machine. Later, whilst operating in France, Yvonne was shot in the leg by a German patrol, but managed to escape. The dress she wore on this occasion and the bloodstained briefcase she carried are on display in the Imperial War Museum in London along with her WAAF officer's uniform.

After the war, Yvonne returned to London, and later in her 70s, she married again to James Edgar Farrow, with whom she lived in Derbyshire. Yvonne passed away on Christmas Day in 1997, at the age of 88. Her memorial service was attended by representatives from both the UK and French governments.