

**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

Most importantly, I want to start off by welcoming and thanking Llew McCrea - KF5VGN, and James Horak-KG5PTE both of whom joined the club at our last meeting on February 5th. It's good to have the both of them with us, so if you haven't done so already, extend a hand and welcome them.

Also at our last meeting, we held a special election to fill the position of our club Vice President. At our November meeting last year, Alfred Fronfield-W5VCF, was elected to the position, but soon after, he accepted employment in the Houston area. Filling his position by unanimous vote, is Gil Rymer-W5GLR. He will be a valuable asset to the club's direction and guidance.

Staying on the subject of elections, we in the ARRL's North Texas Section now have a new Section Manager. Steven L. Smith-KG5VK, who lives near the town of Ben Franklin, 77 miles northeast of Dallas, was elected to the position as announced by the League on February 20th.

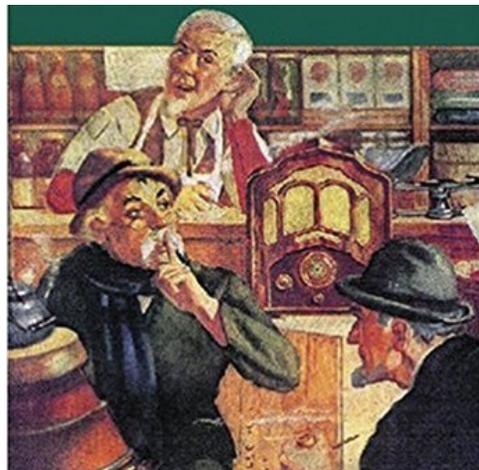
If y'all are as tired of our winter weather - warm one day and cold the next - as I am, relief may be in sight. Coming up later this month on March 20th, we get to officially kick winter out the door and welcome the first day of Spring. However this change in the seasons, also brings about what is usually our most "interesting" time of year with its related severe storm systems. For those of you who attended the last Skywarn training session, this may bring many opportunities to exercise your acquired knowledge during our spring storm season.

And prepare to lose a little sleep in less than a couple of weeks, as we switch to Daylight Saving Time on March 10th.

I guess I should also mention, if you haven't as yet renewed your club membership dues for this year, be sure to say hi to Carl, our club Treasurer.

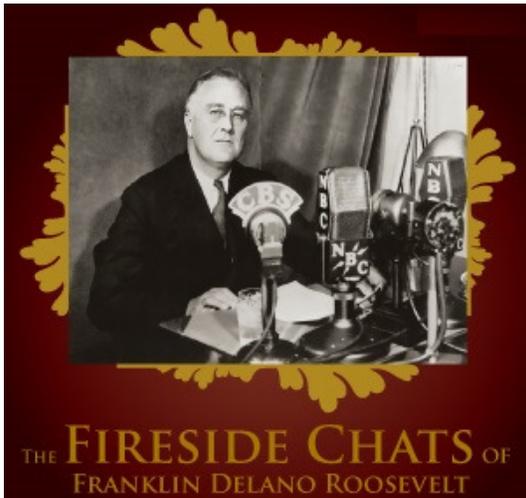
With that, that's all from my end. I hope to see you all at our next club meeting which will be on March 5th, at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center.

73, Terry - KF5OHR





"Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States..."



The Fireside Chats were a series of 31 evening radio addresses given by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt between March 12, 1933 and June 23, 1944.

Roosevelt spoke with familiarity to millions of Americans about the promulgation of the Emergency Banking Act in response to the banking crisis, the recession, New Deal initiatives, and the course of World War II. On radio, he was able to quell rumors and explain his policies. His tone and demeanor communicated self-assurance during times of despair and uncertainty.

Roosevelt was a great communicator on radio, and the fireside chats kept him in high public regard throughout his presidency. The term "fireside chat" stuck, as it perfectly evoked the comforting intent behind Roosevelt's words, as well as their informal, conversational tone.

You can pull up a chair beside the fireside, and chat again with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, by visiting: https://archive.org/details/firesidechats_1705_librivox



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!

March NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

March 7th:	March 14th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	W5VEX
Back-Up: W5VEX	KD5FJF
March 21st:	March 28th:
Net Control: KD5FJF	K6WXA
Back-Up: K6WXA	AD5SK



International DX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z March 2nd, to 2400Z March 3rd on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters SSB phone. For more information on this, please visit: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>



Novice Rig Round-Up

This 9-day event runs from March 2nd - 10th on 80, 40, 15 and 2 Meters CW. More information on this event is at: <http://novicerigroundup.com/>



The Lightbulb QSO Party

The objective of the Lightbulb QSO Party, is to build and use an antenna constructed in a manner so that a lightbulb is the key component of the antenna.

This event runs from 20:00 UTC March 9th, through 20:00 UTC March 10th, on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 Meters.

Much more information is available at: <https://hamsignal.com/blog/the-lightbulb-qso-party>

Daylight Saving Time Begins



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10th, at 2:00 AM. Be sure to set your clocks one hour ahead before going to bed the preceding Saturday night.



St. Patrick's Day On-Air Event

This event sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain, runs from 6:00 AM, March 15th - 6:00 AM, March 17th and is 48 hours of fun in a non-competitive on air celebration of St. Patrick's Day, celebrating the Irish in all of us. For more information on this event, visit: <http://stpatrickaward.webs.com/>



Williamson County ARC Swapfest

The Williamson County ARC will be holding their annual swapfest on Saturday, March 16th at the Community Center in the San Gabriel Park, 445 East Morrow Street, in Georgetown. Hours are 8:00 AM to Noon. Talk-in frequency is 146.640(-) PL 162.2 and call for N5TT. For more information, please visit: <http://www.wcarc.com/>



St. Patrick's Day Hamfest ARRL West Texas Convention

The St. Patrick's Day Hamfest and the ARRL West Texas State Convention, is on March 16th, at the MLK Community Center, 2300 Butternut Lane in Midland. Talk-in frequency is 147.300(+) PL 88.5, and call for W5QGG. For more information, visit: <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org/>



Coryell County Joint Comm Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Coryell County Joint Communications Group, will be on Tuesday, March 19th, at 11:30 AM at the Lil Tex Restaurant, 502 South Main Street, (FM 116) in Copperas Cove.



Greater Houston Hamfest ARRL South Texas Convention

The Greater Houston Hamfest and the ARRL South Texas State Convention, is on March 22nd & 23rd, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Highway 36, in Rosenberg. Talk-In frequency is 146.940(-) PL 167.9 and call for KK5W.

More information is available at: <http://www.houstonhamfest.org>



CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z March 30th to 2400Z, March 31st on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters SSB. For more information on this contest, please visit: <http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

**"In a world of extraordinary change,
radio is the least disruptive of all media."**

David Field, CEO - iHeartMedia



Skywarn Training



Bosque County This training session originally scheduled for March 5th, has been CANCELLED.

Lampasas County (*Basic Spotter Training*) Tuesday, March 5th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, at the County Annex, 409 South Pecan Street, in Lampasas.

Mills County (*Basic Spotter Training*) Wednesday, March 6th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, at the Mills County Law Enforcement Center, 2111 Priddy Road, in Goldthwaite.

Williamson County (*Basic & Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, March 30th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at the Georgetown Public Safety Operations and Training Center, 3500 DB Wood Road, in Georgetown.



John Stratton-N5AUS, the newly appointed ARRL West Gulf Division Director, will be the guest speaker at the March 7th meeting of the Temple Amateur Radio Club.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, at the Western Hills Church of Christ, 210 N. General Bruce Dr., in Temple. Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123.

You do not have to be a TARC member to attend and all are welcome.

"The radio, through the recreation it affords, is beneficial to the normal human body and mind."

Radio Topics - March, 1924

Hints and Kinks

"Lazy Susan" Mast Mount

Jack Roland-KEØVH, had reviewed some commercial offerings for tilting his vertical antenna, which were all pretty pricey, and then came up with what he calls, his "Lazy Susan".



Using a couple of pieces of zinc-coated angle iron cut from a piece purchased at Home Depot, he added some self-tapping screws to provide a sturdy-yet-inexpensive mount for the vertical antenna.



Then, wing nuts were used to release and tilt the antenna. The concept is more versatile than anything Jack has seen commercially, and is inexpensive to construct.



A group is active as **HD8M** from Santa Cruz Island, until March 6. QSL via WB2REM.

A group is active as **T31EU** from Kanton Island, until 5 March. QSL via DL2AWG.

A group will be active as **5XØT** from Uganda, March 13 - 25. QSL via I2YSB or LotW.

M1KTA will be active as **C6AKT** from Eleuthera Island, 8 - 16 March. QSL via his home call or LotW.

ON7YK is active as **C5YK** from The Gambia, until March 9th. QSL via his home callsign, LotW or eQSL.

W2GD will be active as **HH2AA** from Haiti, March 2 - 3. QSL only via LotW.

F6ITD is active signing **stroke FG** from Guadeloupe, until March 13. QSL via his home call or LotW.

F5VHJ will be active as **TO5A** from Martinique, March 2 - 3. QSL via WA6WPG.

G3VYI will be active signing **stroke VY** from Prince Edward Island, March 9 - 10. QSL via his home call.

DK5ON will be active signing **stroke PJ2** from Curacao, March 14 - 30. QSL via his home call, or LotW.

ON4AVT is active signing **stroke 6W7** from Senegal, until March 30. QSL via his home callsign.

KG4AY is active from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until March 21. QSL via AC8AY, eQSL, or LotW.

VE3AXT is active as **V31AX** from Belize until May 15. QSL via MØURX.

A group will be active as **VP5P** from Turks and Caicos, March 27 - April 1. QSL via N2OO.

DK2HM will be active as **E51HMK** from Rarotonga Island, March 14 - 22. QSL via his home callsign, LotW, or eQSL.

A group will be active as **5V7EI** from Togo, 14 - 26 March. QSL via MØOXO.

A group will be active as **ZL7C** from the Chatham Islands, 28 March - 2 April. QSL via ZL4HU.

A group will be active as **XRØZRC** from Robinson Crusoe Island, 11 - 27 March. QSL via R7AL or LotW.

F1DUZ is active as **FG4KH** from Guadeloupe, until March 11. QSL via his home callsign.

F6HMQ and **F6GWV** are active, each signing **stroke FG** from Guadeloupe, until 10 March. QSL each via F6HMQ.

F6CTF is active as **3W9JF** from Vietnam, until March 6. QSL via his home call or eQSL.

JA8COE will be active signing **stroke VK4** from Horn Island, Australia, 14 - 17 March. QSL via his home call.

DL3YM is active as **XV9YM** from Vietnam, until 18 March. QSL via his home call, LotW, or eQSL.

SP5APW will be active as **XV9JK** from Cu Lao Thu Island, Vietnam, 10 - 16 March. QSL via his home call.

HB9FIH is active signing **stroke EA** from the Canary Islands until March 31. QSL via his home call, LotW or eQSL.

AA5UK is active signing **stroke VP5** from the Turks and Caicos Islands, until 8 March. QSL direct or via LotW.

VYØERC is active from the Eureka Weather Station until March 29. QSL via MØOXO.

WBØTEV as **V31VP** and K5PS as **V31CQ**, are active from Belize, until March 5. QSL each via their home call, LotW, or eQSL.

A group will be active as **7P8LB** from Lesotho, 8 - 16 March. QSL via MØOXO.

DL7BC will be active as **TO2BC** from French Guiana, March 21 - April 22. QSL via his home call or LotW.

How's DX? *continued...*

G4CWH will be active as **ZF2CA** from Cayman Island, 1 - 15 March. QSL via his home call.

AA9A will be active as **PJ7AA** from Sint Maarten, 3 - 30 March. QSL via his home call.

5B4ALX will be active as **E6ET** from Niue, March 19 - April 2. QSL via IZ4AMS.

A group will be active as **5X3C** and (**5X3E** on FT8), from Uganda, 13 - 25 March. QSL via I2YSB or LotW.

OK2ZI will be active signing **stroke FO** from Tahiti Island, 6 - 12 March. QSL via his home call, or LotW.

G3RWL will be active as **8P6DR** from Barbados, March 13 - April 17. QSL via his home call or LotW.

A group will be active as **A52ZB** and **A52IC** from Bhutan, 6 - 9 March. QSL A52ZB via DJ9ZB and A52IC via E21EIC.

V31NC is active in Belize, until 13 March. QSL via AA4NC.

G3XTT will be active as **C56DF** from Gambia, 9 - 10 March. QSL via his home call.

G3TXF will be active as **3B8XF** from Mauritius, March 9 - 10. QSL via his home call.

N4SIA as **KG4AS** and KP2L as **KG4SC**, will be active from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from March 6 - 13. QSL via their home calls.

A group will be active as **PJ2T** from Curacao Island, March 30 - 31. QSL via K1ZN.

TM6C is active each weekend until March 24th, from France. QSL via F6KMB.

MØCFW will be active as **MJ5Z** from Jersey, 15 - 17 March. QSL via his home call or LotW.



New ARES Plan Unveiled

Quite a while back, the ARRL said it was going to revise the ARES mission and training requirements. That has now been done.

The new ARES Plan can be viewed at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARES%20Plan%20-%20rev%2001-30%20-19.pdf>
The full article concerning this, is at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/new-plan-aligns-ares-with-the-needs-of-served-agencies>



ITU Emergency Comms Document Update

The International Telecommunications Union has updated a recommendation for cross border usage of emergency communications equipment, that may be physically brought by visiting relief personnel into a territory where there is a disaster or emergency.

The intention is to avoid delays due to customs procedures and facilitate the use of both professional, as well as amateur radio equipment in such situations.

The document can be viewed at: https://www.itu.int/dms_pubrec/itu-r/rec/m/R-REC-M.1637-1-201901-I!!PDF-E.pdf



Radio Saves a Life

Plymouth, England... Radio host Iain Lee saved a man's life by talking to him on air for 30 minutes after the man had called the station to say he had deliberately overdosed.

Lee kept the caller talking on talkRADIO, a popular radio station in the UK, and was able to work out where he was and get a description of him, while his producer was able to direct emergency services to him.



Weather Net Operating Procedures

Storm season is quickly approaching, and due to the breadth of the series of weather events, immediate threats to life and property can happen quickly. Weather Nets provide information to the National Weather Service Regional Office located in Fort Worth and various local authorities. The goal is to help protect the people of Central Texas and provide ground truth data to the National Weather Service.

Numerous emergency and public service nets may be in session. In order for Amateur Radio to play an effective role in supporting humanitarian efforts, it is key that all licensees cooperate to minimize potential on-air problems. At this time of year, it's appropriate to re-visit the basic operating guidelines of Weather Net procedures and to list the frequencies of where to tune to in the event a weather system takes out a particular repeater or repeaters, and what and how to report.

Operational Guidelines:

Standby Mode - The repeater is free for use. However, a CTARC Weather Net Control Operator will be standing by for any severe weather reports.

Active Mode - The repeater is under the control of the Net Control operator. All traffic should be directed through the NCS operator. Severe weather is occurring within our coverage area.

Emergency Mode - The repeater is under the control of the Net Control operator. All traffic is restricted to emergency traffic only. Extremely severe weather is occurring within our coverage area.

Other important notes... If you are the net control station for a weather net, don't sign-off with the National Weather Service just because the storm system has left your particular area. For everyone else, listen before transmitting. When checking in to a Weather Net, give your callsign and location. If you have no significant "reportable criteria" in your area, continue to observe conditions; monitor the frequency; and stay off the air. If you have to leave the net for any reason, advise the net control operator.



Weather Net Frequencies:

Primary Repeater N5ZXJ - Eddy, 145.310 MHz(-) PL Tone 123.0
Secondary Repeater W5BEC - Belton, 147.140 MHz(+) PL Tone 100.0
Alternate Repeater W5AMK - Gatesville, 146.960(-) PL Tone 123.0
Alternate Repeater KB5SXV - Lampasas, 147.220 MHz(+) PL Tone 88.5
Alternate Repeater W5ZDN - Lacy / Lakeview, 145.150 MHz(-) PL Tone 123.0
Alternate Repeater KE5URD - Cameron, 147.020 MHz(+) PL Tone 123.0
Alternate Repeater W5BCR - Clifton, 147.180 MHz(+) PL Tone 123.0
CTARC Simplex Frequency 147.550 MHz

Severe Weather Reporting Criteria:

Tornadoes – Violently rotating column of air, extending from a cloud base, in contact with the ground. Not all tornadoes may appear to be "in contact with the ground" look for debris being stirred up at what would be the base of the tornado.

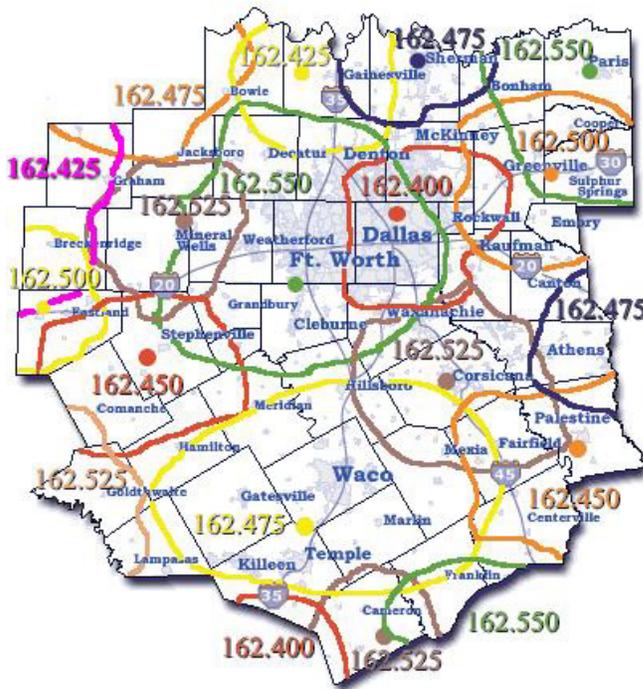
Funnel clouds – A rotating column of air, with a tornado-like appearance, extending from a cloud base, with a vertical axis, not in contact with the ground.

Wall clouds – The lowering of a cloud base, with horizontal rotation and persistence.

Wind damage – (usually from winds ranging from 47 to 54 MPH): large healthy tree limbs breaking off, structural damage such as roof shingles coming off, (usually from winds ranging in excess of 55 MPH): trees uprooted, structural damages to buildings.

Hail – While the "official" reporting criteria is 1-1/2" (quarter size) hail, it has been observed that the NWS is always interested in any size hail reports. And remember... there is no such thing as "marble size" hail.

Flooding – Water rising rapidly, flowing over roads, flooding buildings. More than just "ponding" at intersections or other areas.



Another good idea is to program in to your scanner or a memory channel in your HT, the frequency of the nearest NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in your area.

The National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth operates 13 transmitters located across North Texas. While several NOAA transmitters may be easily heard, for most of us, the principal frequency to tune to for our area is **162.475**, station **WXK35**.

More information on this can be found at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

You can also submit storm reports, or post-storm information via email to the NWS office in Fort Worth, at: sr-fwd.webmaster@noaa.gov or telephonically to: (800) 792-2257 or their alternate numbers of: (817) 429-2631, or (817) 831-1157.

To stay abreast of developing weather systems, visit the website of the Fort Worth Weather Forecast Office at: <http://www.weather.gov/fwd/> as well as the Austin / San Antonio Weather Forecast Office at: <http://www.weather.gov/ewx/>

RADIOTORIAL



Radio: We're Still There When You Need Us

Kevin Fodor, News Anchor & Programming Assistant - Cox Media Group

I was aghast at an interview I saw with a New York area resident, a young 20-something guy, about the abysmal storm recovery response following Hurricane Sandy. Toward the end of the interview, this guy blurts out, “We’re getting no information at all here!”

Wow! What a lack of knowledge about the world around him. Consider: The New York area is the number one radio market in the United States. New York City has three 50,000-watt radio stations, whose signals blanket the area - WOR, WABC and WCBS. Their signals are so strong, they can be received as far away as Ohio at night. All three of these stations provided information during Hurricane Sandy. However, they also are all on the AM broadcast band.

Sadly, this young man and his friends don’t seem to have heard of, much less bothered to listen to, any of these stations. Because, *who listens to AM radio anymore?* Welcome to the “new normal” - a whole new generation of Americans who think radio is totally irrelevant and not something to include as part of their lives.

Don’t complain and whine that radio is no longer “live and local” 24/7/365. Facts are, most all areas of the country have at least one station that goes “live and local” when these emergencies happen, for as long as needed until the emergency has passed. In some cases, they’re FM music stations. In others, you’ll have to flip the switch from “FM” to “AM.”

Radio has now been around for just shy of 100 years and today, you don’t even have to have batteries for one. There are “emergency radios” that cost anywhere from \$19.95 to \$39.95. These can operate in any situation. And many will receive AM/FM and, in some cases, police band and shortwave. They’re environmentally friendly.

With the exception of a few small daytime-only stations, the vast majority of radio stations now all operate 24/7/365. Yes, listeners have to put up with some commercials. But that’s the price you pay, other than the cost of the radio itself, for the information you’re getting around the clock.

So unplug from your iPod or iPhone and rediscover that ancient “old technology” of radio. We’re still there when you need us.





YL NEWS and VIEWS

"Denise"

Will Robots Replace Radio Jobs?

We've seen much evidence of advanced technology in recent years and because of it, many Americans are actively sweating their jobs – not because of the state of the economy but because of rapid advances in robotics and artificial intelligence. This includes workers in hospitality, transportation (think autonomous cars), manufacturing, and retail. Medical workers may be replaced by machines that monitor vitals, and devices that can administer medicine automatically. Who needs a doctor or a nurse?

Enter *Denise*, at radio station KROV in San Antonio – a “virtual DJ” – or form of radio automation. Denise isn't real and doesn't pretend to be. Anything you can say on the air, Denise can as well. "She" is an artificial intelligence program. A concept of an alternative method of achieving automation. Denise is viable because so many in radio have given up on live and local personality, opting instead for voice-tracking, automation, and the easy and cheap way out.

Denise is a very unique software program originally designed as an artificial intelligence program developed to serve as a virtual assistant. "She" could answer phone calls, check email, conduct Web searches as well as schedule appointments. Within time, "she" will improve until the day no one will be able to differentiate her from a real human being.

"Her" creator says the change to a virtual radio host could save radio stations hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. "If you have a staff of five, now you'll have just one. It never has to go to the bathroom. It is always there."



But "she" is not without controversy. Denise wouldn't exist if everyone was doing compelling, personality radio. Listen to your radio – are you hearing live, local, engaged radio, or are you hearing voice-tracked breaks, random content, and the lack of accompaniment?

This isn't a debate about automation, voice-tracking, or even artificial intelligence radio personalities like Denise. The invention of Denise should serve as a rallying cry for programmers and radio people around the country. The more radio embraces things that marginalizes it, the faster it will be further marginalized.

Radio is about using your human life experiences, your emotions, and your creativity to bring things to life. Machines and artificial intelligence, not so much.

Any self respecting radio station considering using something like Denise, may just as well send their chief engineer to Home Depot for a chainsaw and ask him to cut down the tower.

What does this have to do with amateur radio? Look at the latest craze – FT8. Set it to “auto mode” and go to bed. Get up in the morning, and Hey! you've earned your DXCC!

BROADCAST TOPIK

Yntymak Radio Rebuilds Peace in Kyrgyzstan

Helping warring ethnic communities find peace is a tall order for any broadcaster. But this is the mandate for Yntymak (the Kyrgyz word for “harmony”), a regional public radio broadcaster in southern Kyrgyzstan. After ethnic violence tore apart the Kyrgyz and Uzbek populations, Yntymak tries a positive approach to bring them back together.

Founded by the Kyrgyz government in 2011 and supported by the international nonprofit broadcast organization Internews, Yntymak’s mission is to build bridges between the majority Kyrgyz and minority Uzbek populations in this part of Central Asia.

A June 2010 Kyrgyz/Uzbek conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan resulted in more than 2,000 people being killed, and thousands of refugees being displaced from both communities. As a result of this conflict, Uzbek language media almost disappeared from the local media landscape. Excluding such a large cultural group from vital information was unacceptable.



Yntymak took to the airwaves in August 2012, and today, the station broadcasts 24 hours, seven days a week on FM (106.1 MHz) originating from the city of Osh, where much of the Kyrgyz/Uzbek violence took place. Seven years after the Kyrgyz/Uzbek conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan, Yntymak remains the only station to broadcast programs in the Uzbek language, on radio. The station also broadcasts in Kyrgyz and Russian, in a bid to

bring “harmony” to all the area’s significant ethnic groups. According to the CIA’s online World Factbook, Kyrgyzstan’s 6 million population is 70.9 percent Kyrgyz, 14.3 percent Uzbek, and 7.7 percent Russian; this last group having grown during Kyrgyzstan’s incorporation into the Soviet Union (1918–1991).

The fact that Yntymak splits its broadcast day between the major three language groups makes its programming understandable to nearly everyone in south Kyrgyzstan. But it is the actual content that is broadcast on Yntymak that really brings people together, because its programs emphasize inclusiveness and unity; rather than the divisiveness fostered by some other regional broadcasters.

It is the passion of Yntymak’s 90-strong staff to serve their region’s diverse ethnic groups — and to do so fairly and objectively — that is making the real difference in south Kyrgyzstan. By itself, Yntymak cannot solve the ethnic divide in southern Kyrgyzstan. But with the help of its staff and listeners, the broadcaster is making visible progress to heal the schism between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks. The quality of their programs, with a focus on stories of cooperation and finding common themes for all communities in the south, as well as informing their audience about the value of public service broadcasting.