

NOVEMBER 2008



HILL COUNTRY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

STATIC

KERRVILLE, TEXAS

<http://kerrhams.org>

REMEMBER



www.caringbridge.org/visit/ruthieguida

Minutes of the October Meeting

The Hill Country Amateur Radio Club met October 2, 2008 at The Red Cross meeting room. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Marilyn Vordenbaum KE5DDR. The pledge was led by Marilyn.

Members and visitors were introduced as well as 50/50 tickets given by Marilyn recognizing different ones for various reasons. New members Gene Schreiber KE5WEX and Darnell Schreiber KE5WIV were introduced. Also introduced was Bob Dockey KG7HE who joined the club at the end of the meeting. Welcome to all of these folks.

The club took a few minutes to share information concerning club members Gene Atkinson K5AZ, and Ruthie Guida N5RJM who are dealing with health issues. Diana Nelson gave an account of delivering the quilt to Ruthie. A report on Bill Tynan W3XO was given concerning his rollover truck accident. He had no injuries. We could see for ourselves that Bobbie Dees K5BVD was recovering nicely from her surgery.

A very interesting program on Skywarn was presented by Paul Yura, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the national Weather service Austin-San Antonio, Texas.

Members were encouraged to participate in the 50/50 activity while enjoying refreshments prepared by Diana Nelson K5DBN along with Ruby Jones KB0YIM.

The minutes were accepted as presented in the Static.

Harvey Vordenbaum K5HV presented the treasurer's report. It was accepted as presented and is attached to the minutes. He also read a note of appreciation from Ruthie Guida, N5RJM.

Under old business Marilyn shared information concerning the activities of the Red Cross Chapter.

Under new business Marilyn mentioned the possibility of a "Mini" Fox Hunt. Curtis Eastwood AD5UZ accepted the chairmanship of the nominating committee. He and his committee will give a report at the November meeting. It was reported there would be no regular meeting in December since the CHRISTMAS Party would be so close in date. The Christmas Party will be December 6 at noon. The location is River Front Park with thanks to Al Taylor N7ADU for making the arrangements. It was announced the November meeting would be "Let's Talk" in the form of a round table discussion.

Bob Nelson N5EW shared how Morse code was helpful to a person in need.

Bob Richie KL7BOB won the 50/50 drawing
Respectfully Submitted

Marilyn Vordenbaum substituting for Secretary Ruthie Guida.

SOLAR UPDATE

ARRL Letter October 3rd 2008

Tad "When all the birds are faint with the hot Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The sunspot appearance reported last week seems to follow the pattern emerging for most of 2008. A spot will appear for one or two days and then suddenly it is gone. Last week's report mentioned the solar wind being at an all time low. This week, NASA announced that so far, 2008 is the "blankest year of the space age," with more than 200 spotless days.

The minimum following Solar Cycle 18 in 1954 had 241 days without sunspots, and it preceded the solar max in 1959 for Solar Cycle 19 that had the highest sunspot numbers on record.

Sunspot numbers for September 25-October 1 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.2, 67.7, 67.3, 67, 66.8, 66.2 and 65.8 with a mean of 67. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 2, 3, 2, 4 and 6 with a mean of 3.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 3 and 7 with a mean of 2.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>.

To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the WIAW Propagation Bulletin page

A word or two from the president

It's time for us to sit down, face to face, elbow to elbow and talk about the future of HCARC. Our vision needs to be tuned up and defined. In other words we need to make sure we are all on the same frequency. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas at the November meeting. What is sometimes a major stress for a few can be discussed and then fun can replace stress. This will be a fun meeting, I promise. See you on November 6 at the Red Cross meeting room.

73,
Marilyn

MY HAM RADIO STORY - K5XA JOHN GUIDA

If in my youth and teen years in Tampa, Florida, and later into middle age, someone had suggested that Amateur Radio would become a significant attraction and hobby for me, I would have laughed and dismissed it with "Absolutely no way!"

My interests and efforts during pre-teen years and on into high school were almost singular - bordering first mostly on sports and then broadening to include girls. In junior and senior high school it was necessary for me to maintain good grades in order to stay eligible to participate in sports. I also worked at various jobs almost full time from about the age of fifteen in order to financially support my car, and social subsidies which were as important to my "boy/girl" activities as grades were to sports.

Aside from sports, girls, work, and school, there was little time for anything else in my life. I certainly could not imagine that there was anything else that I should be doing.

Within days after graduation from high school in 1957, after finally realizing that I was not going to become the next coming of Yogi Berra (I was a catcher), and since I had no college plans, athletic scholarship offers or finances, and with the draft still in effect, I enlisted in the military. I selected the Air Force in hopes that I would qualify for career field training that would benefit me in civilian life after my military obligation was satisfied

Somehow or another I wound up in Security Service, assigned to an intensive Chinese language training class at Yale University in New Haven, CT. How this came about is a long story in itself, but should not take up valuable space here. It was, however, a bridge to my next Air Force career step into data processing, which would become my profession for the balance of my working career.

But still no amateur radio.

After my military career was completed in 1960, I proceeded to get onto the path of the rest of my life - job, marriage, kids, etc. I was totally immersed into information technology! I couldn't understand why anyone would be willing to pay me to do something that I loved so much! I worked every hour I could, not only for the money, but because it was so much fun. The long work hours at the beginning of my civilian career also set a personal standard for me which I would follow throughout my working life, and which helped me to regularly earn performance recognition, training opportunities, and promotions during my career development into the technological and applications aspects of

information processing, and then subsequently into various levels of management. (I would discover later in my Amateur Radio contesting efforts, that as a result of these "long work hour" efforts, I had, without realizing, mastered the art of "sleep deprivation" which really came in handy in the contests.)

My career, however, did not leave much time for anything else besides my growing family.

From 1960 to 1982, my profession took me to several cities and jobs in Florida, Alabama, and ultimately to Texas which would become my favorite place on planet Earth. Some of my most interesting assignments during this time were at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama and Kennedy Space Center in Florida, during the end of the Gemini project and the beginning of the Apollo project.

Still no amateur radio in sight.

In 1982 I was employed by the W.R. Grace Retail Group in San Antonio, Texas, managing their regional information processing division. During this time my main projects were to build a large information processing center, hire a staff of fifty technical, development, and operations people and subsequently develop and roll out point-of-sale technology to all of W.R. Grace's nationwide home improvement centers.

It was at this time that I met Ruthie, who is now my wonderful and loving wife. Ruthie worked as a Property Manager for a large commercial and residential real estate development company in San Antonio. I ultimately leased a floor in one of her commercial properties to build my data center. Working so close together sparked our relationship.

During our "courtship", Ruthie took me to visit her parents in Buckville, Arkansas. Ruthie's Mother was a very gracious lady. Her Daddy could only be defined as a "good ole" Arkansas Red-Neck (but in a nice way!)

And Al, or "Shade" as he was also called, was a ham radio operator - N5HSQ. I also found out that Ruthie's twin brother James was also a ham - N5JES.

And NOW the radio stuff starts to creep into my life!

Within ten minutes after arriving at Emmie and Shade's place in Buckville, Shade sat me down in front of his Kenwood radio (I don't remember what model), and began pointing out and explaining all of the knobs, buttons, and dials, and letting me get on the air with him. I WAS HOOKED! Before we left he made me promise that I would study to get my ham radio license so I could join him and his Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana buddies on the nightly "Razorback" net on 75 meters. I agreed!

The radio flame was kindled, but was burning only dimly. Some time after our visit with Ruthie's parents, I left W.R. Grace to embark on a third party computer leasing and brokering venture with an IBM colleague. All of my efforts (and money) went into this business, so ham radio stayed on the back burner. My business decision was ill timed, and it wasn't long before I realized that the business had little chance of shorter term success due to local competition and some Federal tax laws that were passed that financially inhibited the equipment leasing business. I was fast running out of money, so I decided to sell my interest to my partner, and go my separate way.

Through my contacts with retail point-of-sale equipment manufacturers, it didn't take long to get a few employment offers. What I considered to be the best of these was with

Ames Department Stores - a Northeastern regional, 300 store, general merchandise retailer in Rocky Hill, Connecticut - just outside of Hartford - who was looking to convert their entire traditional (at the time) point-of-sale infrastructure for a more experimental cutting-edge PC based technology, and needed someone to head up the effort. The concept was intriguing, so I jumped at the opportunity.

Soon after arriving in Rocky Hill, Ruthie joined me. One evening during dinner we got to discussing the visit with her parents in Buckville, and I remembered the promise that I had made to her Dad. So I asked Ruthie if she could try to find something for me to study - maybe a book about Amateur Radio from a radio store.

She tried for a few days without success. And then one evening when I got home from work (home at the time was Room 262 at the Howard Johnson Motel in Rocky Hill), laid out on the bed was a copy of "Tune In The World" including the Morse Code study tape, the Part 97 FCC Regulations, a current copy of QST, and the then current copy of the ARRL Handbook. Ruthie had found Newington, and ARRL Headquarters, and had gone there and purchased my books! Everything I needed to become a Ham Radio Operator!

Now the flame really started burning!

So I jumped head first into the deep end, and immersed myself into the requirements of earning an Amateur Radio License. This effort, of course, came on top of an already demanding new job that was regularly requiring 60 to 70 plus hours per week.

I was fortunate that I had a cassette tape player in my diesel engine 1978 Oldsmobile Delta 88. I started learning the code from the tapes, sitting in the car every opportunity I had. I also invested in a portable cassette player so I could listen to the tapes at night after I had gone to bed.

And of course, I was studying "Tune In The World" to learn all about ham radio, and especially what I would need to pass the theory exams. As I studied, I became more and more motivated, as the subject matter that I was learning was also opening up a whole new world to me, one that I had never imagined.

During my theory study - I believe in the second or third chapter of the book - I learned the construction of call signs. The very next morning after I had arrived at work and was walking through the parking lot towards my company's offices, a license tag caught my eye, which would turn out to shape the rest of my amateur radio life.

The call sign read "K 1 T O" with a little lightning bolt between the "K 1" and the " T O". I might have seen this license tag before this morning, but it would not, of course, have meant anything to me.

After I got into the office, I asked around if anyone knew if there was a ham radio operator working there. It didn't take long for me to find out that the car and the call sign belonged to Dan Street - K1TO. And coincidentally, Dan and I at the time were both members of the same point of sale project team.

I immediately found Dan, explained what I was doing, and asked him if he would help me learn about ham radio and prepare for my license exams.

When I said before that the license tag I spotted in the parking lot would shape the rest of my amateur radio life, here's why. As it turned out, K1TO was (and still is) a world

class CW contester - many world wide and domestic CW contest wins and records - including three recent consecutive wins in the World Radio Championship with Jeff Steinman N5TJ. Also, Dan was a 2003 inductee into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, where I was fortunate enough to be able to speak on his behalf at the induction ceremony during the 2003 Hamvention in Dayton.

So when I asked Dan if he would help me, he agreed. And guess which direction he pointed me!

But Dan agreed conditionally. Here were his only two conditions:

1. After gaining my Novice license, I would keep studying and testing, and not stop until I successfully reached Extra Class.
2. I would not attach a microphone to any HF rig I bought and/or used until I got my Extra Class ticket.

So I dug in harder now that I had some specific goals to achieve. It was also great having "TO" as my "Elmer" and even better having him so close by. I'm sure there were many days that Dan had wished he never had taken me on!

Also, because of Dan, I joined the Murphy's Marauder Contest Club whose membership came from the contester-rich Central Connecticut area. Murphy's meetings were held in the conference room at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, which was a real trip for me, considering the fact that I was the only non-licensed member for awhile. As a result of my membership, I also wound up with many additional "Elmers" who were terrific contesters in their own right - Jack Schuster W1WEF; Rus Healy NJ2L (now K2UA), Dave Sumner K1ZZ (who I'm sure many of you will recognize as the Chief Executive Officer of the ARRL), and many others.

The flame was now blazing - eternally!

I did something relating to learning Amateur Radio and studying the code in every waking hour I could devote. Dan had pointed me to some IBM PC software (old 8086 era DOS based software) that would play text files in CW through the built in speaker of the computer. So I found the software, and borrowed a PC from the office, took it home to Room 262, and started listening to CW non-stop - in the car, on my cassette player whenever I could, and now ALL NIGHT LONG while I slept. Poor Ruthie!

"TO" encouraged me to buy a radio to listen to the "real thing" so I bought an Icom 735. Our room was on the second floor of the hotel, and we had a very small balcony that overlooked the parking lot. On the other side of the parking lot was a patch of woods. Instant end-fed long wire antenna!

Being a contest club full of top notch contesters, Murphy's members had a weekly net on 10 Meters every Thursday night that was devoted to CW contest practice. They called it "Murphy Madness". It was a simulated CW contest among all of the members that had checked into the net. Basically what they would do was "play back or resend" contacts from their previous contest logs. It was run at about 35 to 40 words a minute, and was truly "Madness"! So I listened to that every Thursday night, along with constantly scanning the bands and listening in to CW QSOs that I could hear. I wanted so much to "do that"!

So in September of 1986, I believed that I was ready to take my Novice test. At that time, Extra class hams were able to administer the Novice tests, so of course I asked K1TO to give me mine on September 29, 1986.

Dan selected theory questions from the question pool, but when it came to the CW test, he invented his own version! And then he also told me that he was going to require five minutes of solid copy in order for me to pass!

I learned later on in my 13 and 20 word a minute code tests about the "QSO" format of most tests. But Dan didn't think that was good enough.

HE THREW THE BOOK AT ME - literally! Text that was taken from the technical pages of QST, and other NASTY words.

My code test looked like this:

"DO PHASED MARRAYS HAVE GAIN OVER FULL-WAVE LOOPS? AT 28, 21, 14 AND 7 MHZ? FIGURE-46 SHOWS WAVE ANGLES OF 9, 15 AND 30 DEGREES AS AVERAGE. JUNKBOXES ARE QUITE GOOD SOURCES OF MATERIAL."

Well, I aced the theory test, but I missed one stinking letter in the code test from Hell - writing "M" for "A" in the word "arrays". After scoring the test, Dan sat in front of me, looking down at my CW copy, shaking his head and muttering "Busted! Not Good!"

I had to beg him to pass me, which he finally did.

My Novice license - KA1PAK came on November 4, 1986. By this time, Ruthie and I had moved from Room 262 to a second story apartment in a complex where Ruthie was the Property Manager.

My "shack" was in a small spare bedroom in the front of the apartment facing the parking lot. However, on the opposite side of the apartment, through sliding glass doors off of the living room was a wooden deck which looked out over about 100 feet of maintained lawn, continued by about 500 feet of woods ultimately ending at the bank of the Connecticut River. So I bought about 1500 feet of insulated copper wire, and enough RG-8 coax to get feed line from the shack to the deck railing. I put up two approximately 700 foot runs of the insulated wire from the deck rail, over the lawn, and into the trees all of the way to the river. The wires formed a very wide "V", with one leg pointing almost north, and the other about southeast.

While it was only about 25 feet above the ground as it made its way through tree branches on the way to the edge of the Connecticut River, the antenna was GANGBUSTERS! I could work all over the United States, and well into Europe, with my weak spots being JA and South America.

There were, however, two issues with my first antenna.

The first was that, my shack was on one side of the apartment, and the beginning of my antenna at the deck rail was on the opposite side. Since our apartment was on the 2nd floor, and there were apartments above, below, and on either side of us, there was no possibility of routing the coax through an attic or basement.

So it was necessary to lay the coax on the floor, run it out of the shack door and along the hall wall, under the couch in the living room (which was strategically placed for this purpose, even though not esthetically located in the room), and out through the sliders to the deck.

One problem solved. Coax doesn't look too bad running down the hall!

The second issue was RFI.

I had installed a ground from the radio, and out of the shack window to a ground rod that I had put down behind the

hedges on the parking lot side of the apartment. However, being on the second floor, the ground was probably not very effective.

So as I exercised my Novice license privileges, I generated RFI that was often noticed by our fellow apartment dwellers, who regularly complained to the Property Manager.

But that problem was summarily dismissed as non-consequential. After all, I LIVED with the Property Manager!

So I started working CW, and true to my word to Dan, continued studying. On December 19, 1986, I tested for my General license - the designated theory test, and 13 words per minute CW, administered by an ARRL Volunteer Examiner. My test results were personally embarrassing, as I had to report to my "Elmer" K1TO the next day that I had only achieved Technician level, as I had passed the theory, but failed the CW portion of the test.

The failure just helped me to work harder to achieve the goal of going all of the way. I kept my Novice call of KA1PAK while passing the 13 word per minute CW and Advanced theory on January 18, 1987.

On February 22, 1987, I passed the 20 WPM CW test and Extra class theory.

On May 5, 1987, NJ1V arrived! At age 47, I had gone from civilian to Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator in seven months! I was very proud and excited, and all of my new ham radio friends that had been so instrumental in helping me were proud as well. And of course, I got great support from Ruthie! It was a very nice time in my life.

Except for sports, I had never before in my life had a hobby. While I continued to be active in sports, mostly industrial league fast pitch softball, my age was starting to become a factor, as I was usually playing on teams and in leagues with many players that were considerably younger than me.

But by a stroke of luck, I had discovered amateur radio, as well as falling in with a bunch of guys whose ham radio preference was contesting. So now at age 47 plus, I could continue to participate in something competitively.

For the next couple of years, we moved to two other apartment complexes as a result of the expansion of Ruthie's Property Management responsibilities. While I was not able to duplicate the effectiveness of my first "Connecticut River" antenna, I was able in both instances to install adequate wire antennas that allowed me to participate in contests from both locations.

In 1988, we moved back to Texas where I worked for an expanding craft store chain in the Dallas area. We purchased a home in tower friendly The Colony, where I put up my first tower - a 48' Rohn HDBX, topped by a KT34-XA triband yagi antenna. The antenna was a big step up from only the wire antennas I had used in Connecticut, and I was happy that my contest scores were improving as a result, and I was learning a whole lot about antenna building and tower raising.

I was also expanding my circle of ham radio friends, having joined the Metrocrest Amateur Radio Society (MARS). Many of the guys and gals in the club were extremely helpful in my tower and antenna raising project. And in 1989, as a member of Metrocrest, I had the good fortune of being involved with the club in activating W1AW on the air, portable for the first time ever (W1AW/5), from the grounds of Hamcom at the Arlington Convention Center, to

commemorate the ARRL's 75th Anniversary. Even though it was hard work, it was also great fun.

We didn't stay in North Texas very long, as I was recruited by Wal-Mart, and we did a stint at their corporate headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas. It wasn't too long after we got there that I came to the realization that Wal-Mart was not really a great place to work. But nonetheless, I was committed, so I focused on my new job and proceeded to prepare for the raising of another tower. This one was a little different, though - because our land was primarily a rock pile! So instead of digging holes, I started "chipping" holes.

Thank goodness I didn't have to chip holes or work for Wal-Mart for very long. I was again recruited, and in 1990 I went to work for C.R. Anthony Company, a retailer headquartered in Oklahoma City. This turned out to be one of the better career moves we made, as well as another opportunity to improve my station.

I had a great job, and we loved Oklahoma City as a place to live. It didn't take long to again add a bunch of new folks to our list of friends (most of whom had Amateur Radio call signs). We joined the local BIG radio club of over 300 members - OCAPA. In 1994 and 1995 I was elected President of the club. And I'm very proud of the significant role OCAPA played in providing communications for the coordination of the Salvation Army's support of the disaster relief teams during the aftermath of the Murrah Federal Building bombing in April 1995.

While in Oklahoma, I built what I consider the best station I have had to date. While beset with some calamities - direct lightning strike and a small tornado not quite to the ground but enough to destroy one of my towers, the station stayed together long enough for me to play very competitively in several contests.

Among other memorable contests, in 1993 I hosted a multi-operator effort for ARRL Phone Sweepstakes in which we won the plaque for First Place - West Gulf Division. And in 1994, while coming in a close second in the West Gulf Division to WX0B in North Texas, in the same contest we set an Oklahoma record which still stands.

While living in Oklahoma, we also became members of the Oklahoma DX Association - OKDXA. Ruthie (also now licensed as N5RJM) and I were invited to join the DXpedition effort of the OKDXA to Palau for the 1992 ARRL DX Phone Contest. We won First Place - Oceania, and had a great time operating before and after the contest as well.

Another recruiter came knocking with a better career opportunity. So in the fall of 1995 we picked up stakes again, and moved back to Texas. I took a position with Prime Equipment Company, and we lived in Hempstead, about 50 miles from Prime's West Houston Headquarters. When I took down my station in Oklahoma for the move to Texas, I realized that I would have to focus much more on my new job and less on Amateur Radio, so I made arrangements to store all of the tower sections, antennas, and coax and cables at the QTH of my good friend Jim Eppright - K5RX in North Texas. Jim was kind enough to let me store everything in an old barn on his property.

Little did I realize at the time that, primarily because of career demands, I would not see my equipment again until December of 2006.

At about the time that I joined the company, my new employer - Prime Equipment - entered into a very aggressive expansion period, having been purchased by a global Middle Eastern oil money cartel - Investcorp. The intent of the expansion was to grow the company in size and value, and then either take the company public or sell to another buyer (this was Investcorp's preferred business model.) The public offering of Prime Equipment was made successfully in 1997. Then in 1998 Atlas Copco of Sweden - the world's largest manufacturer of oil free air compressors among other things) purchased all of the outstanding public Prime Equipment stock. This took Investcorp out of the ownership picture of Prime Equipment. (I write all of this because it plays into Ruthie's and my final career move, which will be developed later in this what must be becoming an exhausting reading chronicle!)

During this period - 1995 through early 1999, because of increasingly demanding company responsibilities, I did not have much of a chance to develop a contest competitive station. I was, however, invited by my good friend Don Toman K2KQ to participate in the 1998 CQ WW CW Contest in Grenada (J3) with members of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. This was my first big opportunity to experience being "the DX" from a very world-wide propagation favorable location during a time when thousands of stations were on the air for the contest.

I had the good luck of "opening" the contest on 40 Meters, and after calling one contest CQ, heard what must have been everyone in the world calling me! What a hoot! And we won! As I wrote earlier, in 1998, Investcorp no longer maintained any business interest in Prime Equipment. In late 1998, a prior associate and friend at Investcorp's U.S. headquarters in New York contacted me regarding a high level executive Information Technology position in a newly acquired Investcorp venture - Harborside Healthcare, a multi-state healthcare company headquartered in downtown Boston, Massachusetts.

While Ruthie and I were not especially crazy about leaving our beautiful Texas home in Hempstead (where we felt we would retire), and also especially to consider moving to the Winter Wonderland of the Northeast. However, the offer that was made was too good to turn down. So in March of 1999, we were off once more! However, we knew that this would be it, as our plans were to return to Texas in 2004 to retire.

We bought a home in Chelmsford, Massachusetts (a 35 mile commute into Boston, and a town that is about 12 miles south of the New Hampshire border.) I immediately joined the local radio club (the Billerica Amateur Radio Society - BARS), and renewed many prior acquaintances when I also joined the Yankee Clipper Contest Club - YCCC.

Again, the priorities of my job precluded me from doing anything radio from our Chelmsford QTH. I was, however, able to occasionally participate in multi-operator contests from stations like K1TWF, WO1N, and K1TTT. And I went back to Grenada for the 1999 CQ WW CW Contest, which we won again!

While in Massachusetts, I was lucky enough to acquire the vanity call K1ZA in 2000. I was very reluctant to give up NJ1V, but my plan was to hopefully get it back later for the callsign of my personal contest club - The Sons of Sicily Contest Club (can you guess my heritage?), which I did in 2002.

Ruthie and I had a great time in New England, winter weather notwithstanding. We made a lot of new friends, and saw just about all of New England, with its rich history, beautifully scenic vistas, and terrific seafood. When we left to come home to Texas, we agreed that it WAS the best career move we made.

But we were so happy when we could return HOME to Texas! We bought our property, five acres south of Kerrville, in 2003, and began building our retirement home in November 2004. We moved into the house in April 2005, but quickly realized that there was still much to do on the property and to the house itself. We became busier than ever! But we loved that we were HOME!

Shortly after arriving in Kerrville, we joined the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club - HCARC, and once more expanded our circle of good Ham Radio friends, as well as others such as our great neighbors and, seemingly everyday, new people that we meet while incorporating ourselves into Kerrville society. What a great place to live!

Another call sign change came - a very fortuitous opportunity - and in 2007 I applied for and was assigned the vanity call K5XA. But that's it! No more moving! No more call signs!

While we were very busy making our home and property (which we call Godfather Ridge) comfortable to our liking and life style, I was able to start working again to build my station.

In December 2006 I returned to K5RX's QTH to recover my tower parts and accessories that had been there since the fall of 1995, I also purchased some new antennas and a new HF radio. In March 2007, I poured the tower base and guy wire anchor holes to accommodate a 128 foot Rohn 45 tower (the tallest tower I have ever installed, by 28 feet!)

Beginning in June 2007, with the tremendous help of George Fremin K5TR, who did all of the engineering and tower work, and also with the help of many members of HCARC, and believe it or not - good neighbors - the tower was completed in August 2007. Since then, I have built four antennas that will go up on the tower.

There is still a lot of work to do before I can get back on the air, but there have also been other priorities that were and will continue to be more significant. But I hope to be back on the air, active in contests again, sometime in 2009.

I never in my life prior to 1986, at the age of 47, imagined that I would take interest in Amateur Radio. But I am so happy that I was lucky enough to be exposed to the hobby! Through it, I have had many memorable experiences, Learned many new things, and met some very fine people who I will carry with me as friends for the rest of my life!

73,
K5XA John Guida
October 3, 2008

Fists club call is **KNØWCW**



<http://www.fists.org/>

FOR SELL

ICOM IC-718 and ICOM Power Supply.

This is the basic radio and PS as purchased from the dealer.

* It has the standard hand mike.

* No modifications have been made to the radio.

* It has no scratches and is a 9 + appearance wise.

This radio was used by a disabled Ham Radio operator for about one year (mostly listening) but his medical condition now precludes him from both voice/CW operations.

The asking price is **\$450** cash/USPS Money order.

(Make an offer if you wish!)

Shipping/insurance is additional.

The only additional cost associated with this radio will be the boxing (original boxes I believe) and postage for shipping will be charged.

Contact Don, K5DEJ josephs@beecreek.net

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