

The Static

An evolving publication of the Hill
Country Amateur Radio Club



...and now a word from the prez.

Well the Mayans were wrong the Earth did not end. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you happiness this coming new year.

This New Year has a lot to keep the Ham community busy. The US Track and Field Ultra Marathon will be held in Bandera in two weeks, a week later another Ultra Marathon at Big Bend, another Tour de Cure bike ride is scheduled for May, the Museum Ships on the Air will take place in June, Field Day is also in June and additional public service events have yet to be scheduled to fill out the remainder of the year. Scattered throughout the year will also be a host of DX contesting events as well as Ham Fests, antenna raisings,

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Ham classes and testing. We can be kept busy.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I would like to see the club participate in Red Cross exercises. The first one is targeted to begin Sunday January 13, 2013 and does not require you to leave the comfort of your radio shack. The purpose of The Great Central Texas Region American Red Cross Radio Roundup is to reach out across the Region's 48 counties and find out who the Red Cross can potentially rely on. You need not be a member of the Red Cross, all ARES teams and Radio Clubs that are supporting Red Cross (that's us) are invited to participate.

There will be three basic nets. These are: 1) EchoLink (VHF/UHF) Net scheduled for the first day, 2) HF Net scheduled for the second day and 3) a Digital Net also scheduled for the second day.

1) EchoLink net – Austin is currently working permission for the IRLP bridge and EchoLink net. The target for this net is Sunday January 13, 2012 at 6PM CST. Check-ins will be called by chapter (ours is the Hill Country Chapter). Each station will “check in” and identify by Call Sign, principal Red Cross Group (“Hill Country Amateur Radio Club” unless you are a member of the Red Cross), Name and County.

2) HF net – Under agreement with South Texas ARES the January 14, 2013 Monday night 7:30 Net

(3.873MHz) will be a special net. On this net Red Cross affiliated Hams (that's us again) will check in giving Call Sign followed by "Red Cross" when your district is called.

3) Digital Check-In – If you have the capability, send an email via HF WINLINK to W5KA@winlink.org and KF5FUZ@winlink.org. Please indicate that you are from the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club. Do this by Monday January 14, 2013.

I will have more information for the club meeting.

Again – not a large exercise, just one to see what assets the Red Cross can mobilize in a communications emergency. I want to encourage club member participation in this exercise to demonstrate our close alliance with the Hill Country Chapter.

Hope to see you at the club meeting!

Terry, W0HIP

Emergency Preparedness is something we talk about from time to time and we kick around emergency communications at meetings, but what would you take with you if you had to evacuate your home for a week? For starters on emergency supplies, check out this site. www.beprepared.com We have seen the failures of government in New Orleans and New York and the

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message is loud and clear.- we have to be prepared to take care of ourselves.

Postage increases as of January 27 postage on first class mail will rise from 45 cents to 46 cents. Post cards (think QSL cards) will go from 32 cents to 33 cents. Overseas postage will rise from \$1.05 to \$1.10.

The website DXMaps.com shows maps of current QSOs. It is free to sign up and shows QSOs the various regions of the world (or worldwide) by selecting the tabs at the top. You can select HF or VHF then select the band you are interested in. Spend some time looking at this. It is worth the effort.

Upcoming ham fests – put these on your calendar

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/14/2012

Start Date: 01/14/2012

End Date: 01/14/2012

Location: Schertz Civic Center
1400 Schertz Parkway
Schertz, TX 78154

Website: <http://w5sc.org>

Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.940- (PL 179.9)

Public Contact: Lewis Archer , W0YVY

PO Box 34263 San Antonio, TX 78265

Phone: 210-415-5733

Email: usxpop@yahoo.com

The next Hamfest in Belton will be held on April 20. More information will be published on that later.

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FOX MATCHING FUND ESTABLISHED

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW, says that the organization has received a matching funds challenge to help with the Fox 1 program. Baines says that an anonymous donor will match up to \$25,000 in funds to be donated to the Fox satellite project.

Fox-1B mission will incorporate the spare flight hardware of Fox-1. It is a joint project with the Institute for Space and Defense Electronics at Vanderbilt University and is AMSAT's first satellite with science as its primary mission. As such it holds the potential of opening up new opportunities for free launches. The satellite will also carry a ham radio FM transponder and AMSAT expects to be able to operate the transponder and science payload simultaneously.

AMSAT says that it has requested a launch in the second half of 2014 to a 650 kilometer sun-synchronous orbit. This is same as had been requested for Fox-1.

Donations to the matching fund can be made via PayPal sent to Martha (at) amsat (dot) org. Or you can simply click on the PayPal logo at www.amsat.org.

The above article came from Amateur Radio Newsline. Here's the link <http://www.arnewline.org/>

There are many groups concerning amateur radio on Yahoo.com that cover almost every aspect of the hobby. Here are a few links you may find interesting.

The groups have archives, access to which may require membership.

If you are interested in radio repairs and legal modifications (think MARS mods), try this group. It has over 5500 members.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Amateur-repairs/>

If you are interested in digital modes, the following group has about 4400 participants.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/digitalradio/>

For people interested in activities in the 902 to 928 MHz portion of the spectrum and the 1800 other souls out there, try this site.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AR902MHz/>

If low power operations are your cup of tea, the following group has over 700 members in central Texas.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AQRP/>

There are many other groups on Yahoo and if you would like to spend an afternoon just browsing them, go to the following site to see if there is something to suit your interests.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/search?query=AMATEUR+RADIO&sg=10&sort=relevance>

Remember, this is a hobby and you can put as much into it as your time and

interests allow. You should have fun with it.

VE Session. The next VE session for the HCARC will be February 3. Keep an eye on the Reflector for further details.

Happy New Year an since we survived the end of the Mayan calendar maybe it's time to investigate an operational mode that is new to you.