



The STATIC

June 2018

The monthly newsletter for members and associates of the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club
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President's Message

Field Day

Field Day is just around the corner. As I mentioned in my message last month, participation is the key to having a good Field Day. While we have commitments from a sizable group of club members, I'd like to see everyone in the club come out for Field Day, whether to set up equipment, operate, take down or otherwise help support us with your presence. Come out for an hour, or the entire weekend, and have fun! Bring

your family and friends, too. Maybe one of them will catch the bug and get involved in the hobby, too.

Of course, Field Day is primarily a test of emergency preparedness – we learn how to put up our equipment and operate under less than optimum conditions. It's also a great opportunity for newer hams (or those who are a bit rusty) to polish their HF operating skills and get operating tips from more experienced operators. If you're a Tech, it's your opportunity to get on HF and explore some radio territory you may not have experienced before. And, of course, Field Day is about the "Three Fs": Friends, Fun and Food! On this latter point, we'll be hosting a club picnic Saturday evening with all members and their families invited – more on this at our upcoming club meeting on June 7th.

For groups that set up in advance (as HCARC does) Field Day officially starts at 1800 UTC (2:00 PM local) on Saturday, June 23rd, and runs for 24 hours after a station is first on the air.

We will begin setting up at the Field Day site – the sports pavilion at Our Lady of the Hills Catholic High School on Peterson Rd. – on Friday afternoon (June 22nd). We'll be erecting antennas, installing stations, etc. We currently plan on running class 3A (three main HF stations) plus a Get on the Air (GOTA) station for newly licensed operators (less than one year at time of Field Day) and inactive hams. We might add additional stations if we get more operator commitments. In addition to CW and SSB, we will also likely run

one station using one or more digital modes: RTTY, PSK31 or FT8, depending on what kind of activity we see for these modes.

We will have several new software-defined radios (SDRs) in use for Field Day, including the club's new Icom IC-7300, and at least one Flex 6600M, and possibly others. So, there will be a lot of opportunities for getting on the air and trying out some new modes and equipment.

Friends, Fun, and Food – with the opportunity to learn more about ham radio – that's what Field Day is all about. I hope to see you there!

Until then, 73,
Dale - K4DG

Welcome to our Newest Members

A warm Hill Country welcome to:
No new members to welcome

Congratulations to the new licensees & upgrades

A Hill Country Cheer for:
No new licensees or upgrades to cheer

Committee Reports

Repeater - Curtis Eastwood AD5UZ

No new news since last report.

Red Cross Liaison - Terry Hipkind W0HIP



Club Calendar

June 7th - The regular monthly meeting will be held at the Red Cross at 7pm

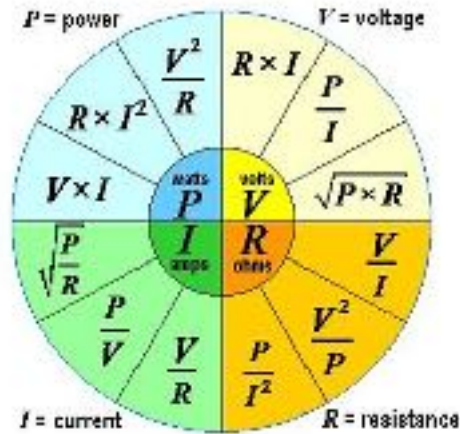
June 22nd, 23rd and 24th - FIELD DAY. Come to the meeting and get the latest news on all of the planned activities (especially the food part)

May was a slow month: no wildfires and no major disasters, although we did respond to some home fires.

This Chapter prepositioned its personnel and assets to the Laughlin Air Force Base Air Show. This was done at the request of the Base Commander in case of a major incident.

Server Room Upgrade – There is a new internet guest account at the Chapter. See me if you wish to have internet service while at the Chapter.

VE Testing - Fred Gilmore WOLPD



Upcoming Conventions

Field Day is coming in June

Summerfest is coming in August.

The Hill Country ARC team held no VE exams during the month of May. We will however have a session on June 16th at 1:00 Pm. This is on a Saturday, so If your ready to test or upgrade come on down. We already have 10 folks registered to either test or upgrade, so it should be a good session.



ARES - Terry Hipkind W0HIP



The C★ Region Wildfire Trailer (what Austin calls our home made communications trailer) was deployed to the Laughlin Air Force Base Air Show in support of our Red Cross Chapter. Members of our ARES group were prepared to activate and man our radio room if needed. As it turned out, all went smoothly at the Air Show with the only incidents being that of individual sunburn.

Club Station

RADIO ROOM – Terry Hipkind W0HIP



The Packet Station is back on the air. You may access this station with the following settings: 145.090 MHz simplex and no tone. Anyone not familiar with Packet, feel free to contact Fred Gilmore WØLPD or myself.

The Radio Room has a new cipher lock. If you wish access, contact Gary Johnson or myself for a quick ten minute orientation and you will be issued your own user code.

There is a large pile of excess equipment taking up floor space. We need your help with inventory/testing/preparing this equipment for sale. If interested, please let me know. Our goal is to have this room cleared by July 15.

SKYWARN - Larry Altman N5QGD



No news since the last report

Club Event Report

From an email received in another news group today, June 3rd
[Editor]

Been working on my stack of three element 6m LFAs and I finally got the temporary setup done. Yes temporary on push-up poles until I get the towers up where I will get my 6m nine element up (just refitted my 6M2WLC with a homebrew hairpin v M2 T block), and this baby stack of 6m three element LFAs (from Innovantennas).

Right now at this minute there is a major 6m opening to Europe most of it being done on FT8. I worked France and Italy using FT8 which are new band slots but decided to wait and see if the band continues to improve and people slide down to CW and phone. We have had a very early start on 6m for DX this season due in large part to this weak signal mode (WSJT-X 1.8). It is cool mode for testing propagation and your signal but I prefer CW and phone.

Anyway without getting too philosophical here it is the season to have fun! The magic band is open and whether you love digital or hate it the time is now. Been calling CQ DX also on CW but no takers yet.

Happy Hunting on the Magic Band!

73,

Keith
Nz5f

License Study Class - Dale Gaudier K4DG



Stay tuned for upcoming announcements regarding licensee study classes. There is already an Extra Upgrade Class in session.

If you are interested in getting your license or upgrading or if you know someone who is, please contact Dale.

Contact Dale Gaudier at k4dg@arri.net



A little more history of CW Coast Guard CW Operators Association



The Coast Guard CW Operators Association (CGCWOA) is a membership organization comprised primarily of former members of the United States Coast Guard who held the enlisted rating of Radioman (RM) or Telecommunications Specialist (TC), and who employed International Morse Code (CW) in their routine communications duties on Coast Guard cutters and at shore stations. Also, "Associate Membership" is offered to other professional and military CW operators who possess similar qualifications.

The Association was founded by RMCS Ralph H. Davis Jr., who in February of 1996 commenced publication of the Association's newsletter, "Comm-One." CGCWOA was formed shortly after the Coast Guard discontinued the routine use of CW at its cutters and radio stations. Its formation wasn't meant as a protest of any kind. After all, it was the Coast Guard Radiomen who implemented and perfected the technological advancements in communications that eventually made their art of CW obsolete. (And, as usual, they did their job well.) Rather, the Association



was formed to institutionalize the camaraderie and fellowship that had grown out of being a relatively small group of sailors with a special skill, a skill which in many ways set them apart from everyone else in the Coast Guard. To be sure, radiomen were an integral part of the crew and worked closely with other crew members in delivering Coast Guard services, but somehow they were different. They were a close knit group of people who spoke an unusual language, the language of Morse. To many of their shipmates the Radio Shack was an almost mystical place, a place where they could not only get the best cup of coffee on the mid watch, but also a place providing their only link to the rest of the world — a link that was essentially uncontrollable by the rest of them, officers and enlisted personnel alike. And, unlike members of other rates, radiomen throughout the Coast Guard kept in close touch with one another. It was, for example, the Radio Gang that began and maintained a tradition of exchanging Christmas Cards with all other units having radioman billets, thus establishing an informal system of keeping track of where former shipmates were stationed. The men and women of the Coast Guard who wore the "Sparks" on the left sleeve of their uniforms, either as RMs or early TCs, are bonded together for life. The official end of the line finally came in 2003 when the Coast Guard merged the rates of Telecommunications Specialist (TC) and Radarman (RD) into the new rate of Operations Specialist (OS), and assigned the old RD insignia to the rating badge. The people in the new rate will surely make their own history, but they will never match the degree of fellowship shared by Coast Guard CW operators who earned the "Sparks". It was this sense of fellowship that Chief Davis sought to perpetuate through the CGCWOA, even as the code was fading from its Coast Guard existence. ". Chief Davis crossed the bar in October of 1996.

The following poem was written by Ralph H. Davis Jr. RMCS on 30 March 1996. I first met Ralph in 1962 when he was a RM2. Ralph was always writing poems. Just seven months after he wrote this poem he became a silent key. - w0lpd

The Seasons of Life

When I was young
In the Spring of life,
I took a fair maiden
To be my wife.

The first few year
She was an exciting Lover.
Bringing mystery and joy
Under the cover.

The middle years
Were busy indeed.
Now she had time only for
My children's needs.

Now that I am old,
Set in my ways,
She's become my best friend.
Love of her grows day by day.

-30-



Other Radio News

0.2% of the U.S. Population are licensed Ham Radio Operators. 21% of those hold an Extra Class License. Of the states with greater than 10K Hams, Texas by far has the greatest % of General and above licensees.

73,

Gary J
N5BAA



State/ Territory	Novi ce	Tech	Te ch - Pl us	Genera l	Adva nced	Extra	Total
Alabama	96	5687		2945	643	2656	12027
Alaska	24	1798		909	187	625	3543
Arizona	150	10402		4478	1174	4125	20329
Arkansas	53	4308		1769	399	1506	8035
California	1136	64853		20113	4464	15605	106171
Colorado	138	9274		3922	869	3375	17578
Connecticut	168	3417		1920	476	1659	7640
Delaware	22	795		467	92	369	1745
District of Columbia	4	224		108	30	103	469

Florida	627	17696	11197	3110	9201	41831
Georgia	165	9034	4571	1061	3785	18616
Guam	1	132	53	13	95	294
Hawaii	42	2174	817	169	706	3908
Idaho	35	5137	1904	274	1267	8617
Illinois	332	8910	5159	1250	4336	19987
Indiana	224	7303	3815	887	3052	15281
Iowa	87	2828	1557	490	1457	6419
Kansas	91	3573	1906	386	1406	7362
Kentucky	108	4642	2298	499	1863	9410
Louisiana	79	2777	1610	425	1320	6211
Maine	49	1968	1219	268	1026	4530
Maryland	149	4914	2732	710	2634	11139
Massachusetts	234	5875	3377	834	3165	13485
Michigan	257	10019	5013	1201	4446	20936
Minnesota	149	5491	2813	711	2392	11556
Mississippi	29	2584	1333	293	1187	5426
Missouri	137	7817	3561	785	2977	15277
Montana	37	1958	975	199	711	3880
Nebraska	45	1781	942	275	713	3756
Nevada	52	4215	1728	384	1409	7788
New Hampshire	63	2400	1363	302	1344	5472
New Jersey	293	6396	3250	907	2967	13813
New Mexico	39	3574	1406	336	1261	6616
New York	593	12665	6682	1661	5902	27503
North Carolina	209	9591	5249	1252	4610	20911
North Dakota	16	793	400	83	271	1563
Ohio	451	13031	6996	1576	5920	27974
Oklahoma	68	5082	2263	481	1901	9795



Oregon	141	10515	4591	845	3237	19329
Pennsylvania	376	10778	5833	1559	5299	23845
Puerto Rico	222	2182	917	230	538	4089
Rhode Island	34	874	470	119	434	1931
South Carolina	89	4600	2351	546	2071	9657
South Dakota	21	785	515	127	443	1891
Tennessee	156	8697	4442	1015	3815	18125
Texas	415	27060	11952	2859	10304	52590
Utah	66	12223	2738	353	1883	17263
Vermont	19	995	513	128	477	2132
Virgin Islands	1	83	62	14	49	209
Virginia	238	9141	4933	1150	4548	20010
Washington	260	18525	7684	1456	5425	33350
West Virginia	58	3565	1365	262	1196	6446
Wisconsin	126	4984	2934	719	2379	11142
Wyoming	17	949	537	123	401	2027
Other*	3	280	108	13	232	636

TOTAL 8694 381354 0 174765 40674 146078 **751565**

Report includes FCC actions through Saturday, 02-Jun-2018

* Other = US territories and possessions not listed above, plus APO/FPO

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[Having Trouble?](#)

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[FYI : < 20% of the total belong to the ARRL... The HCARC has ~58% of it's total as members of the ARRL.....Editor]



Program Calendar

June – Field Day; confirmed

July – Field Day Wrap up; confirmed

Aug – DX Basics, especially for new Hams -
Lew K. W5LEW; pending

Sept – Possible. Radio 80 years ago by Bill
Tynan W3XO; pending

October – RTTY presentation By Kerry
Sandstrom K5KS; confirmed

November – EME Basics. Suggested by Warren
S. KG5NPV; pending

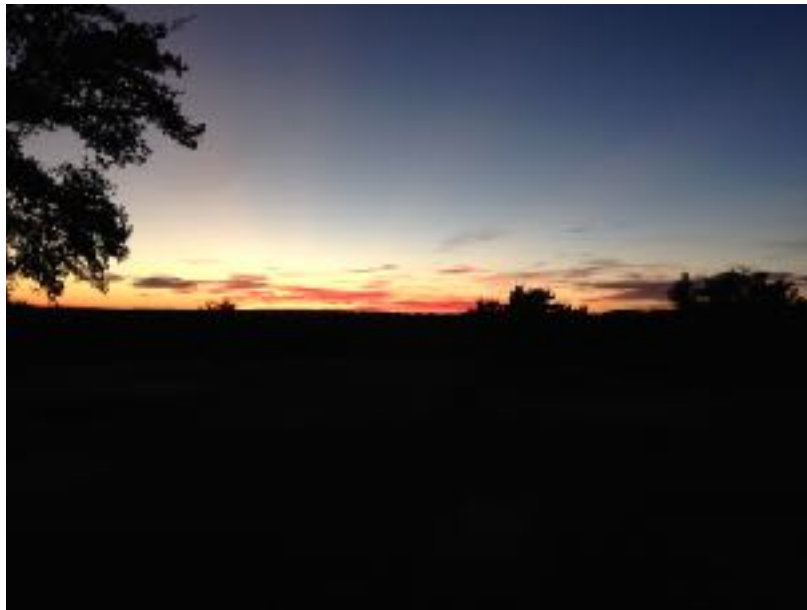
December – Christmas Party; confirmed



Tis the season for uninvited and unwanted visitors on the property, even though this one was devouring a rattler (as close as I could discern without getting too close.)

So be careful out there and wear appropriate attire if you are working in the high grass and brush. This one was sitting on the concrete of my dog kennels and was very easily spotted.

[Editor]



HCARC General Information

Repeater: N5HR 146.98(-) Tone 162.2
General Meeting: First Thursday of every month except
December at 7pm at the American Red Cross, 333 Earl Garrett,
Kerrville, TX. Meet & Greet begins at 6pm
Club Net: Every Monday at 7pm on the N5HR Repeater
Website: www.kerrhams.org
Email Reflector: To sign up go to [http://www.kerrhams.org/
general_misc.html](http://www.kerrhams.org/general_misc.html)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hillcountryARC>
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RC & ARES photos by T. Hipskind
VE Group by Fred's assistant
Cover and others by A. Bronder

The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

+CONSIDERATE...He/She never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

+LOYAL...He/She offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/her country, through which Amateur Radio in his/her country is represented nationally and internationally.

+PROGRESSIVE...He/She keeps his/her station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/Her operating practice is above reproach.

+FRIENDLY...He/She operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

+BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

+PATRIOTIC...His/her station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.