



The STATIC

October 2017

The monthly newsletter for members and associates of the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club
Copyright HCARC 2017

President's Message

I'm happy to report that the Red Cross in Kerrville has reopened for use by community groups, including the HCARC. This is an indication that the emergency response phase to hurricane Harvey along the Texas coast is winding down. There is still a long road to recovery as tens of thousands of people start rebuilding their homes and their lives.

Following on the heels of Harvey was hurricane Irma which has severely damaged the US Virgin Islands and devastated Puerto Rico. As of this writing, over 90% of the island is without power and fresh water. Communications in and out of the island is severely limited with most cellphone service and internet connections down. The Red Cross, in cooperation with the ARRL, has sent in 50 ham radio operators with emergency communications equipment, to help establish communications with the mainland in support of the island's recovery efforts.

Both Harvey and Irma are good reminders of why I continue to emphasize emergency preparedness as an important facet of our role as ham radio operators. Emergency preparedness is not only important to you and your family, but also to your community and your country. Are you prepared?

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As mentioned in last month's Static my family and I went to Wyoming to observe the solar eclipse on August 21st. I will be talking more about this event as part of our October meeting program. I'll also be reporting on some "citizen science" projects that were run in conjunction with the eclipse. These projects concerned the effects of totality on radio propagation.

I hope to see you at our meeting on October 5th.

73,
Dale - K4DG

Club Calendar

October 5th - Regular Club Meeting at the Red Cross Building 7pm

Welcome to our Newest Members

A warm Hill Country welcome to:
There are no new members since the last report

Congratulations to the new licensees & upgrades

A Hill Country Cheer for:
There were no upgrades since the last report

Committee Reports

Repeater - Curtis Eastwood AD5UZ

No new news since the last report

Red Cross Liaison - Terry Hipskind W0HIP



Hurricane Harvey - As of 09-28-2017 we have provided \$148 Million in Immediate Assistance to 370,000 Households. This is in addition to sheltering, food, snacks, water, Medical, Mental Health Services, and disaster emergency supplies.

Unofficial TX Only numbers:

- 8 Open Shelters (down from 193)
- around 1000 folks still in shelters
- 6 Open Kitchens (down from 17)
- 14 Fixed Feeding sites (down from 38)
- we are manning 9 EOCs (down from 32 at the peak)
- 90 Mobile Feeding Units
- 108,000 Meals and Snacks served yesterday
- 36,000 Disaster Emergency Supplies
- 1800 Health and Mental Health appointments
- 1500 Red Cross Staff on the ground
- The Red Cross grew its volunteer workforce with over 13,000 new volunteers during this Disaster Relief Operation

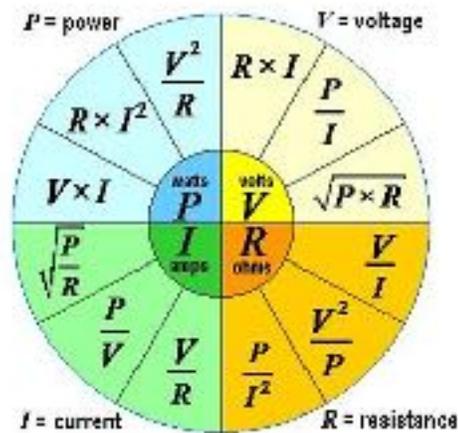


Our district – Central and Southwest Texas (C★ District 3) has no remaining open shelters (we even had two shelters here in Kerrville), and has now transitioned back to normal chapter operations for long term recovery in areas that had damaged or destroyed homes.

Upcoming
Conventions

TBD

VE Testing - Fred Gilmore W0LPD



We had no VE sessions during the month of September. Our next scheduled VE session has been changed from October 28 to November 18, to take place immediately after the conclusion of Dale's "Upgrade to General" class. I hope it will be as successful as the last class. The VE session will start at 1:00 PM at the Red Cross building, 333 Earl Garrett. This is the same place as our club meetings and walk-ins will be allowed. If you're already a General, bone up and take the Extra.

Last month when I submitted the VE stats for our team, I left out KF5AIE, Robert who has 4 sessions to his credit. I apologize for this error,

Robert just became a VE this year and he has helped in 4 of the 10 sessions we have held to date.



ARES - Terry Hipkind W0HIP

Most of our dual hat ARES/Red Cross members were actively involved with the local Red Cross Chapter in supporting the Shelter Operations here locally (one shelter at Schreiner University and one shelter at the Kerrville Bible Church).

The hurricanes did not cause any major communication issues that the hams in the affected areas could not handle. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are another story – the ARRL has been asked by the Red Cross to supply 50 operators to the Disaster Relief Operation. The mission is focused on health and welfare traffic - safe and well. The web site is the best source for information on mainland families that are out of communication and want information regarding family members who are registering with the ARRL/ARES folks on the islands. <http://safeandwell.org> <http://sanoysalvo.org>



SKYWARN - Larry Altman N5QGD

No new news since the last report.

Announcement – October Meeting

The next meeting of the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club will be **Oct. 5, 2017** at the American Red Cross. Business meeting will start at **7:00pm.**

Beginning at **6:15pm** there will be a Tech Corner presentation by Dale, K4DG, on “**Programming Your HT the Easy Way Using CHIRP**”. This presentation will be in classroom A, the smaller classroom at the Red Cross. So, come early and bring your HTs.

After the business meeting our program will be “**The Great Eclipse of 2017: Journey to Totality**” presented by Dale, K4DG.

I hope to see you there.

73,
Dale - K4DG



License Study Class - Dale Gaudier K4DG

General Class Upgrade Course



I will be offering a General Class upgrade class this November. If you are a Tech license holder, this class is for you. By upgrading to General, you will have operating privileges on every HF band. It is the single-best and most cost-effective thing you can do to expand your amateur radio operating horizons.

When: November 4, 11 and 18 from 9am to 3pm

Where: American Red Cross, Kerrville

Cost: \$30 for the course (not including the exam fee, which will be \$15).

The course book will be the **ARRL General Class License Manual, Eighth Edition**, available for around \$25-30 on Amazon, the ARRL store and other sites.

There is a scheduled VE test session beginning at 1PM on the 18th where you can take the General class license exam. As a reminder, if you pass the exam you will be able to use your new General class privileges immediately.

Please contact me as soon as possible to let me know if you would like to attend this class. I will then send you further details about the class and the planned syllabus.

Contact Dale Gaudier at k4dg@arrl.net



Master of the Code

He sits talking with the watch
Fingers fly over the keys.
A cigarette is puffed upon,
Ashes knocked clear with ease.

Pausing for a long draught,
From the coffee cup
The code never stops flowing,
In a flash he catches up.

Not a "dit" or a "dah" is missed,
By this master of the code

As he copies the daily press
At forty words or so.

Many tales have been told
Of men skilled as he.
I sit watch as if hypnotized,
Wishing it were me.

Fresh from school with 18 words
I thought myself the best.
Only one session with the chief,
Laid this boot's pride to rest.

But then, as we know in life,
Ahead down the road
It will be me sitting there
Copying "RATT" like code.

While at the next position,
A wide eyed striker sits.
Watching years of practice
Typing out newsy bits.

He also, as I once did
In admiring wonder,
Shake his head and woefully think,
His choice of rate a blunder.

Only time and experience
Will lighten up his load.
Then he will sit down and be
The Master of the Code.



Other Radio News

Radio Webinar on the horizon - [A Look at Propagation for the 2017/2018 Contest Season](#) on Wednesday, October 4, 9 PM EDT (Thursday, October 5 - 01:00 UTC). K9LA will review the status of Cycle 24 for the next half-year, and will discuss how the contest bands will be affected. Bonus - He'll also tell host K4ZW whether the lowbands will open this year during his XW4ZW lowband DXpedition or, whether to bring extra beer money and a deck of cards. Put it on your calendar and register today!

RI1F Victoriya Island - Members of the Russian Robinson Club (RRC) continue [planning](#) for their next Arctic operation. Look for RI1F to be active from Victoriya Island (EU-190). They plan to leave Murmansk around September 27th and are expected to operate between October 1-7. This island group has never been activated before. These islands also count for DXCC purposes as Franz Josef Land. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the WARC bands, VHF and UHF. Operations will be on CW, SSB, the Digital modes, EME (dates are October 3-7) and the satellites.

These announcements from Calling CQ Tiny Newsletter - issue 107 by Jeff Davis KE9V

Calling CQ - Issue 106

September 18, 2017

FCC Opens 630/2200 Meters to Amateur Use - the FCC has authorized amateur radio use of the 630 and 2200-meter bands, effective October 16, 2017, provided registration procedures have been followed and no objections are received within 30 days. Register [here](#).

FYI: 861,680,340 QSO records have been entered into Logbook of the World resulting in 152,592,925 QSL records for its 98,428 registered users.

From Calling CQ Tiny Newsletter
by Jeff Davis KE9V

ARRL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SB SPACE @ ARL \$ARLS009
ARLS009 FalconSAT-3 Now Open for Amateur
Radio Use

ZCZC AS09
QST de W1AW
Space Bulletin 009 ARLS009
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT September 26, 2017
To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS009
ARLS009 FalconSAT-3 Now Open for Amateur
Radio Use

The Air Force Academy satellite FalconSAT-3 is now open for Amateur Radio use as a digital store-and-forward system. Built in 2005 and 2006 by cadets and faculty in the Space Systems Research Center at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, FalconSAT-3 was launched in 2007.

The satellite has completed its scientific and training missions, and the Academy now is making it available for Amateur Radio use. The Packet Bulletin Board System operates at 9600 baud with a 145.840 MHz uplink/435.103 MHz downlink. Output power is 1 W, and the downlink is continuously on. Digipeating is enabled for live QSOs, but unattended digipeating operation is not authorized at this time.

Additional information is available on the AMSAT website at,

<https://www.amsat.org/falconsat-3/> .

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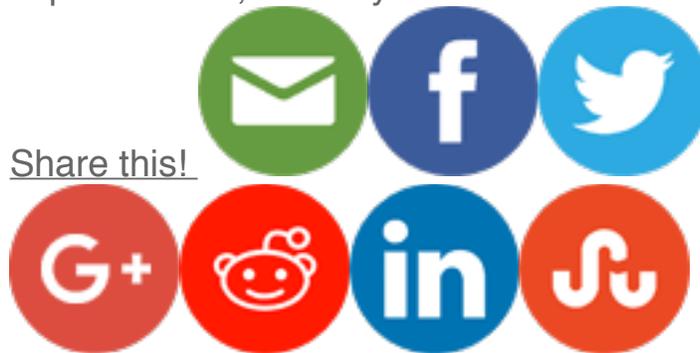
A Bit of Radio Memorabilia

From KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog

Radio as art

september 25, 2017 by [dan kb6nu](#)

Share this!



A reader, Richard, K3IND, sent me this yesterday. He noted that it's from an exhibit at the Tate Modern Museum in London. I love it...Dan



The piece is called Babel (2001) and is the work of [Cildo Meireles](#). [The Tate website notes:](#)

BABEL 2001

This vast tower of radios, each tuned to a different channel and adjusted to the minimum volume at which it is audible, relates to the biblical story of the Tower of Babel: a tower tall enough to reach the heavens. Affronted by this structure, God caused the builders to speak in different languages and, ceasing to understand one another, become divided and scattered across the earth. According to myth, this inability to communicate became the cause of all mankind's conflicts.

Babel consists of around 800 radios of varying ages, from the beautiful, large, valve radios which make up the bottom tiers of the tower to the smaller mass-produced electronic radios of recent years which form its summit. By using radios of decreasing size from the floor to the ceiling, Meireles emphasises the perspective and the sheer height of the work.

Furthermore, Babel constitutes a survey of radios from the 1920s to the present day, which in turn presents what the artist has described as 'an archaeological sample of events'. Due to the time-based nature of the medium of radio, no two experiences of this work are ever the same.

Contesting Calendar

from <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

Some upcoming contests:

October 2nd thru 8th - IQRP quarterly Marathon

October 6th to 8th - YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest

October 7th to 8th -

ARRL EME Contest

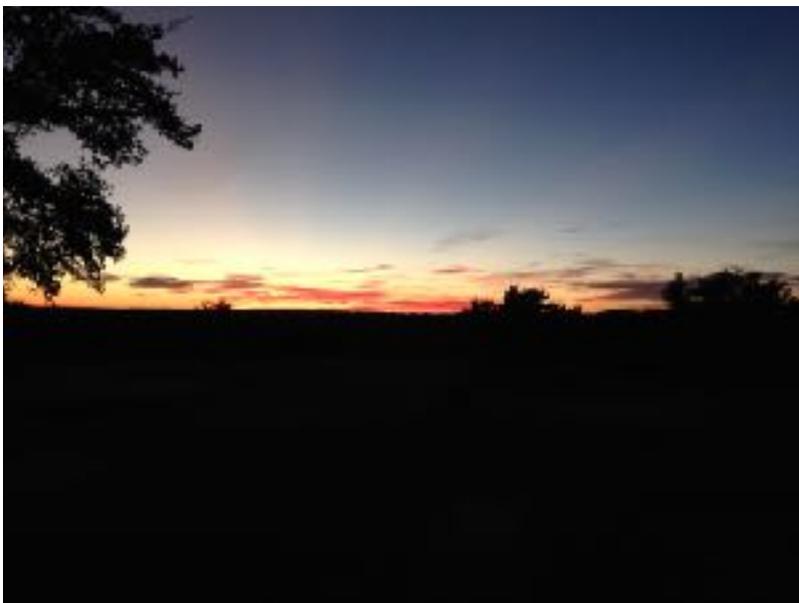
Oceana DX Contest

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

Russian WW Digital Contest

California QSO Party

Go to the Hornucopia site above for a full listing of upcoming contests.



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 Garret, 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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hillcountryARC>
Officers:
President: Dale Gaudier K4DG k4dg@arrl.net
Vice President: Gary Johnson N5BAA n5baa@hctc.net
Treasurer: Dennis Robertson W5FBG robertson@ctesc.net
Secretary: Robert Russell KF5AIE timberr66@hotmail.com
Static Editor: Starr Center KI5SC starr@arrl.net

The HCARC is an ARRL affiliated club

Cover and inside photo by A. Center

RC & ARES photo by T. Hipskind

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.