



# KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

August 2002

## July Meeting Highlights

*John Dyer, AE5B*

Meeting was rather uneventful. No program ..just general news and discussion. Peg had visited with Judy just before coming to the library and gave us an upbeat report. The ARRL has designated our ham fest next spring as the ARRL West Texas Section Convention. We all got to meet and visit with WB0JOS , Wayne, who has joined the staff at HSU this year. Tony has gone from K500L to AD5LI to WT5TX this summer and now has a call that he likes. Carla had just received the last qsl that qualified her for 6 Meter VUCC. Mike, KD5OKY, showed some of his recent SSTV work. We were all glad to see Peg able to attend after her recent surgery. With the ARRL Section News being dropped from QST next year, we discussed placing it in our monthly newsletter.

## Club Meeting!

*John Dyer, AE5B*

Remember to attend the Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting, Monday, 9 September, at the city library.

Jerry Jennison, N5OKQ, and Al Bunt, KD5OTS, of the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) will present a program at our September 9th meeting. Jerry is the Southern Territory Coordinator for SATERN overseeing a 15 state area. SATERN provides communication

support for The Salvation Army in its world-wide operations. SATERN teams spent over a month assisting in the World Trade Center tragedy last year and presently have teams assisting in the fires in the western states and the floods in Europe. Jerry and Al recently returned from the Seguin area where The Salvation Army and SATERN aided Texas flood victims. Al Bunt coordinated a five canteen feeding operation assisting the Texas flooding victims and workers. Al is a 20+ year Salvation Army Volunteer and is The Salvation Army's local disaster coordinator for the San Angelo area. Al recently was honored with a 2002 Governor's Volunteer Award. He also spent what has been described as " a hellish week" in Oklahoma City after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. This should be a program that will appeal to both hams and non-hams. Let's try to get a good crowd for our guests from the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club. Invite your friends and neighbors,

## Computer Literacy

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

I've recently been involved in several interviews for positions in our Technology Support department at my place of work, and I've been stunned at the lack of computer literacy amongst those who think they're good with computers. So I'm going to take this opportunity to list a few things that the job candidate

should know if he wants to impress me during the interview. NOTE: These things do not determine your computer literacy; they determine whether or not you impress me in an interview.

**Windows is not the only operating system in the world.** This is the biggie. If you really want to impress me, be familiar with at least one other operating system. MacOS-pre/X, OS/X, VAX/VMS, Linux, MS-DOS, Solaris, Novell, BeOS -- *anything*. Knowing only one OS is like only knowing how to drive an automatic transmission automobile. There's nothing wrong with not knowing how to drive a manual transmission car, but if you're applying for a job that requires driving different types of vehicles, this limitation would probably prevent you from getting the job.

To impress me further, either have two machines at home with different architectures (one a PC and one a Sun box, or a Mac and a PC, etc), or at least have your PC setup to dual-boot between two different OSes, preferably Windows and Linux.

**Use a different web browser than Microsoft's Internet Explorer.** The masses use IE, simply because they don't know any better. Your use of a different web browser tells me you stay informed, that you have "geek blood" in you, that you care about security issues, and/or that you care about the threat of one company taking monopolistic control of the internet by leveraging their dominant position in a related field.

**Know some of the benefits of Mozilla.** Things like being open source, tabbed browsing, group bookmarks, ability to block unrequested pop-up windows, cross-platform, W3C standards-compliant, web search any word you highlight on a web page, full-screen view capability, etc.

**Read Slashdot and Wired.**

**Know how to add something to the StartUp folder in Windows.** For even more brownie points, know at least one other method (or better yet, two) of setting an application to start up automatically when Windows starts.

**Know how to bypass the items in the StartUp folder when starting Windows.**

**Know how to add something to the Apple Menu.**

**Know what a macro virus is.**

**Have an opinion concerning Intel vs AMD.** At a minimum, know what these terms refer to.

**Have some experience with networking,** if only because you go to LAN Parties and have picked up enough knowledge to install a NIC and configure TCP/IP. Even better if you can do this on two different operating systems.

**Know what a Dvorak keyboard is.**

**Know what a BIOS is.**

**Know that Google is a search engine.**

**Know that Dogpile is a search engine that searches search engines.**

**Know that BSOD is an acronym for Blue Screen of Death,** and that it's a "feature" only of MS Windows.

"Sir, your daughter says she loves me, and she can't live without me, and she wants to marry me."

"And you're asking my permission to marry her?"

"No, I'm asking you to make her leave me alone."

## Abilene Area Code To Change Next Year

*ACU NewsFlash, Michelle Morris*

Abilene's 915 area code will change to 325 in April 2003. Snyder, Sweetwater, Coleman, Brownwood, San Angelo and Brady will change to

325 as well. From April to October, the old area code will work. From October to December, callers will be told the new area code. After December, callers will receive a "wrong number" message. If you would like more information or a map showing the three-way split of the 915 area code, go to the Web site of the Public Utility Commission of Texas at "<http://www.puc.state.tx.us/nrelease/2002/042302.cfm>"

"Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber."  
--Plato (427-347 B.C.)

## AMSAT's Goin' to Mars

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

According to the announcement at <http://www.amsat-dl.org/p3ep5a.htm>, the AMSAT-DL (Germany) has approved a plan to send an amateur satellite to Mars. The most recently launched satellite of the series (AMSAT- OSCAR 40, aka P3D) has demonstrated the capabilities necessary for a flight to Mars. The next two birds to be built will be P3E and P5A. P3E will have as its main purpose to serve as a "communication platform for the nearly 2 million amateur radio operators worldwide"; it will also function as a test bed for the Mars mission. Work has already been started on this satellite. The second satellite is expected to launch between 2007 and 2009, and will "transmit scientific data to Earth - data from experiments on-board P5A as well as - via its repeater function - from experiments on the Martian surface or the planet's atmosphere."

## Special Service Club Application

*John Dyer, AE5B*

Several months ago KCARC began the process of applying for Special Service Club recognition by the ARRL. Carla and I had an opportunity to visit with West Gulf Director Coy Day, N5OK, at the Texas State ARRL Convention in Austin Friday. I related

that we still had not received a response on our application. Coy promised to look into our problem and take it up with ARRL HQ if necessary. The following Thursday morning I had an email from HQ. At noon I had an email from the Affiliated Club Coordinator, K5IS. The paperwork apparently is on its way. The timing may be only a coincidence but I think our thanks need to go to Coy. Next spring, when we host the West Texas Section ARRL Convention, it will be nice to display our Special Service Club banner. Presently, the Midland ARC is the only other West Texas club honored as a SSC.

Editor's Note: There was some concern in our community that Mr. Day may have actually been part of the problem, and that perhaps the club should rethink its relationship with the ARRL because of this issue and others. Whereas the ARRL has been a tremendous asset to the interests of Amateur Radio, it's always a good idea to maintain watchful diligence.

## GOING, GOING, GONE

*John Dyer, AE5B*

Near the bottom of the 9 August 2002 ARRL Bulletin is an announcement that the Radio Amateur Callbook (RAC) will cease production with its final CD-ROM Callbook to be offered in November. The paper edition with the famous flying red horse cover ceased publication in 1997. Prior to the internet, the Radio Amateur Callbook was the only reliable source of foreign and domestic amateur radio addresses. Free public internet access to the FCC database gradually eroded their market base and they will soon be gone. The RAC continues to be the most authoritative source of DX addresses but that market apparently was not large enough to sustain a profit. It was a great thrill to see my name and novice call, WN5ALB, listed for the first time in the Flying Horse Callbook. Prior to the internet, most hams could tell you the exact issue that their call first appeared in print.

Dear Abby, My forty-year-old son has been paying a psychiatrist \$50 an hour every week for two-and-a-half years. He must be crazy.

## An Opportunity

*Submitted by Bill Shaw, KJ5DX*

*Below is a message from Mark Whitton, city of Abilene Emergency Manager. He needs our help!*

In preparation for the WMD functional exercise on September 17th, 18th, and 19th, I anticipate early activation of RACES. I know it's in the middle of the work week but tell me what are the possibilities of having an Operator at the EOC, ICP, and DDC? Next we would need Operators at the two hospitals, Abilene Regional Airport, Dyess, Law Enforcement Center, Central Fire, and Rural Metro. Real world, what would be your process for activating a Net for emergency communications (not necessarily a weather event). Would you call people by radio, phone, pager, or all of the above to see if they would or could respond? Please know precisely your resources (equipment & people) in advance of the exercise. I suspect a number of Operators cannot respond during the work week but would if the community were involved in a real disaster and traditional communications (land lines, cell phones, & radios) were out of service. Right??? So if we had to simulate response to most locations I would still need at least three real Operators with real on-location participation during the exercise. Can that happen? Likely we would need an Operator at NWS in San Angelo, as well. I guess participating Operators would need to know up front so they could make arrangements. Simulated Operators would be from real and existing resource lists.

## And A Response

*John Dyer, AE5B*

I don't have much information for you concerning the city's upcoming RACES drill. The District Radio Officer has the list of Radio Operators along with their amateur call signs and RACES unit numbers. It should be fairly current because it is updated quarterly. I do not know who the current DRO is but he would be the one to assign duties for an activation. Due to the eligibility requirements, I really doubt if there are enough qualified Races Radio Operators in the area to meet Mr. Whitton's goals. Be-

cause of its decision to work exclusively with RACES, the city has eliminated the majority of the members of KCARC, many who otherwise would be willing to volunteer their time. I looked at our club roster. More than half of our members are ineligible for RO appointments and would not be able to participate. That really narrows down the pool.

## And Another Opportunity

*John Dyer, AE5B*

Hector, KC5BRB, from the San Angelo NWS has invited the KCARC to participate with them in their booth at the West Texas Fair. The responsibility of manning and operating the booth would fall to the NWS. We would participate as our club members' time allowed. Passes will be provided for those that would like to join Hector in the booth. He will have AC power and would like to have an operable radio in their display. I explained to Hector that we might have a problem spreading the word among our members due to the late notice. He told me that would not be a problem and asked us to join him when we could. He closed our conversation with, "You guys just come and hang out with us." So if any of you would like to "hang out" with Hector at the WTX Fair, let Peg, Bill, or myself know. Thanks to Bill Shaw, KJ5DX, for his part in these efforts.

## Apply for RACES

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

If you haven't already applied for membership in RACES, now's the time to do so. You can download an application from the KCARC website at <http://www.qsl.net/kcarc>.

## Tidbits

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

Netscape 7 has now been released. Based on the Mozilla 1.0 code, it features more stability, full W3C compliance, Instant Messenger, a web page composer, a full-featured email client that supports both POP3 and IMAP, built-in radio listening, web searching of words you select on a web page, and full-screen mode.

With many school children carrying around devices that are capable of SMS (Short Messaging System), the class bully has turned to using this tool to extend his campaign of terror. Nothing like your pager going off. Letting you know that "We are watching you... you're gonna get it!" The full story is at <http://www.wired.com/news/school/0,1383,54771,00.html>.

Because of some recent controversy surrounding patent enforcement on MP3 technology, rumour has it that hardware manufacturers and others are beginning to take a closer look at the Ogg Vorbis format as a replacement for the common MP3 format. Ogg is an Open and Free format (like Linux/GNU software) for encoding audio digitally. My understanding is that at some compression levels, MP3 sounds better than Ogg, but at other compression levels, Ogg sounds better than MP3. MP3 currently has the mindshare and the market, but Ogg is free (and "Free", for those who understand the difference). Should be interesting to see how it plays out. For me, I already rip my tunes to Ogg.

Want to keep up on the latest tech toys and etc? Visit "ZZZ online" at <http://www.zzz.com.ru/>. To get the full dose, click on the Archives link on the left to start at the first issue. Cool stuff.

The Macintosh Titanium Powerbook with OS/X is way cool. Very. It'd be my next computer if I had the money.

Several models of amateur radio will allow cross-band repeating. This is handy if you need to take your handie-talkie into a situation where you need extra distance to reach another operator. For example, you might leave your car on a high spot with it's mobile radio rigged to cross-band repeat, and take your HT into the valley where it can't reach out to other repeaters and/or operators, but it can reach back to your car. Of course, there are FCC regulations to remain mindful of, but if your radio is capable, it's good to know. Often time this info won't be in the radio's manual; you'll need to do a

Google on the internet for your radio's model number and "cross band repeat". You can find other radio modifications (mods) on the internet also.

Wanted to try out Linux but just haven't gotten around to it? Have a broadband internet connection and a CD burner? Download a "Live Linux" CD from <http://www.knoppix.com>. This Knoppix CD is a full setup that runs off the CD; you can even run it on machines that don't have a hard drive (assuming the machine has enough RAM to function as a Ramdisk – 96MB I believe). It has KDE3, xmms, word processors/suites (KOffice, Abiword, OpenOffice.org), games, web browsers (Konqueror, Mozilla, Galeon, and Lynx), the GIMP, scanner and OCR software, Gaim, GnomeMeeting, network tools like Ethereal, VNC, the works. And get this! It's all Free!

"For over 20 years, Lucy or *Australopithecus afarensis* has been considered one of our first 'ancestors', mainly because it supposedly walked

upright." . . . "...new evidence has come forth that Lucy has the morphology of a knuckle-walker, which is . . . quite different than walking upright." . . . "Maybe there is no evolutionary relationship at all, and these are all unique, extinct apes?" The full story's at [http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/magazines/tj/docs/tj\\_v15n2\\_knuckle\\_walker.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/magazines/tj/docs/tj_v15n2_knuckle_walker.asp).

Ford has decided to call it quits on their electric vehicle program "Think Mobility", probably instead to focus on hybrids. Search Slashdot for the link.

To convert frequency (in Mhz) to F (Mhz) = 300 / m (meters)  
So, if you want to find what band 50MHz is in it'd be 50 = 300/m, which works out to m = 6. So 50 MHz is in the 6 meter band. Be aware this may only be approximate.

Abilene Christian University is experimenting with Voice Over IP (VoIP), a telephone system that uses

computer ethernet networks rather than standard phone lines. This promising technology could help to usher in an age of combined high-speed data and telephone integration in average American households.

Stephen (KD5DRM), Esmé, and Chloe Sheasby will be moving from their recent home in Indianapolis to Florida to help take care of his parents.

Over the past several decades, reports have been made of an anomalous object on Mt Ararat. This object has also shown up on several satellite images. So far, no conclusion can be made as to whether this is a man-made object, specifically Noah's Ark, or a natural object, but a soon-to-be launched commercial spacecraft might shed some light on the matter. Also, classified government images may soon be released to the public. More info can be found at [http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/planetearth/noahs\\_ark\\_010823-1.html](http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/planetearth/noahs_ark_010823-1.html).

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