



KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

December 2002

October Meeting Highlights

Kent West, KC5ENO

President John Dyer, AE5B, called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. He announced that we'd have a brief meeting, and then go to the main Abilene Fire Station for a tour.

Secretary Randy Robinson, N5JZH, was absent, so the meeting minutes from the previous month were not read, as they are available in both the newsletter and the KCARC website

(<http://www.qsl.net/kcarc>).

However, John did ask if there were any changes/amendations that needed to be made, and Karla Dyer, K5RLA, motioned that the minutes be accepted as published. W. K. Wiggins, WB5Z00, seconded the motion, and the motion was then approved by the attendees.

Peg Richard, KA4UPA, then read the Treasurer's Report.

In order to nominate officers for the 2003 year, a quorum of eighteen members needed to be present; we had exactly that. John then opened the floor to nominations for club officers.

Gerald Dugan, N5OGD, nominated Harry Tredennick, N5IFK; Harry declined.

Jake Mullins, KC5JZP, then nominated W.K. Wiggins, who also declined.

W.K Wiggins then nominated John Dyer, who declined on the basis that he is now the West Texas Section Manager.

Peg Richard then asked Kent West, KC5ENO, if he would accept if nominated; he replied that he would do so reluctantly. She then nominated him. Dean Rucker, AD5IE, motioned that nominations for President cease; Karla Dyer seconded. Kent then announced that he would be running on the "Do Nothing Again" platform.

Then nominations were opened for Vice-President. Gerald Dugan nominated Dean Rucker, AD5IE, who declined. Nesa Love, KC5ENL, nominated Karla Dyer. Peg Richard seconded the nomination. Peg also moved that nominations for Vice-President cease, and Jake Mullins seconded.

For Secretary, Karla Dyer nominated Randy Robinson. Nesa Love motioned that nominations cease, and W.K. Wiggins seconded.

Karla Dyer then nominated Peg Richard for Treasurer. Harry Tredennick motioned that nominations cease, and Karla seconded.

Nominations for club officers were then closed.

Peg informed the club that the club has been asked to help with the Christmas Lights parade this year. The parade is scheduled for 3 December.

She also reminded the club of the annual Christmas Dinner, to be held at ACU the weekend following the Christmas Lights Parade, on 6 December, at 6:30pm.

It was mentioned that the upcoming weekend (18-21 October) would be a Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) weekend.

Peg then reminded the club that the last ARRL Test Session of the 2002 year would be conducted at 1:00pm at the Berry Lane Baptist Church building on 2 November. She also introduced our newest member, Rolf Murray, WB5UYX.

Peg then moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting then adjourned, and most attendees went to the new Abilene Main Fire Station for a tour. Jeff Renfro of the Abilene Fire Department took us on the tour, and it was an interesting and informative event.

Afterwards, several of us met at McDonald's on North First Street for coffee/snacks/late suppers.

November Meeting Highlights

Kent West, KC5ENO

President John Dyer (AE5B) called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. I counted 19 persons present.

As the minutes from last month's meeting were unavailable, they went unread. However, the minutes can be found at the KCARC website.

Peg Richard (KA4UP) then read the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted by the club as read. She also reminded the club that there would be no December meeting, but rather the Annual Christmas Dinner would take its place. The dinner will be at 6:30pm on the 6th of December at ACU's Bean.

Rather than count the vote for the 2003 club officers, Dean Rucker (AD5IE) motioned that the officers be elected by acclamation, in that the candidates for each office ran without opposition. Mike Maynor (KD5OKY) seconded the motion, and the club approved the motion, resulting in the officer roster for 2003 to be the following:

President: Kent West, KC5ENO

Vice-Pres: Karla Dyer, K5RLA

Treasurer: Peg Richard, KA4UPA

Secretary: Randy Robinson, N5JZH

Bill Shaw (KJ5DX) then reminded the club of the upcoming National Weather Service "Field Day". He also reminded the club of the Christmas Parade of Lights on Tuesday night, 3 Dec; participants need to meet downtown at about 6pm. RJ Harden will be the coordinator for this event. Also, the Skywarn training session is approaching in February. The tornadic storms this past week that have done so much damage and caused so many deaths highlight the need to be prepared.

Someone asked John if he knew the status of the 146.96 repeater; John replied that Randy is the man to ask, and he wasn't at the meeting.

The club then watched an interesting video called "Science of Audio" by Bob Heil (K9EID - <http://www.heilsound.com>).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23, and several members then met at McDonald's for snacks/supper/coffee.

No Club Meeting! Dinner!

Kent West, KC5ENO

Remember, there will be no club meeting for December. Instead, we'll have the Annual KCARC Christmas Dinner at the ACU Cafeteria at 6:30pm on December 6th. RSVP to Peg by Tuesday December 3rd.

ISS Sightings

Kent West, KC5ENO

The International Space Station (ISS) is often visible in the night sky to the naked eye. It appears (and is often mistaken for) a high flying airplane. To see when it's visible in Abilene, visit <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/> and follow the links.

Skywarn Recognition Day

Submitted by Steve Roberts, KG5QH

I just got this in my e-mail from the IRLP net. I thought it might be of interest to the club since there are quite a few who have participated at one time or another in SkyWarn. Maybe we can even get something happening here. I know we don't have NWS here in Abilene anymore, but we could see about getting permission to set up a

station at the Dyess weather location or maybe even see about working with San Angelo since that is now our official NWS.

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To all node owners:

This is the official announcement for the 2002 SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD). SRD is the day amateur radio operators visit NWS offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of this is to recognize the contributions that amateur radio operators make to NWS warning operations...and to strengthen the bonds between amateur radio operators and the NWS. SRD is sponsored by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League.

SRD will be held this year from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on December 7, 2002 (Friday evening through Saturday evening). I encourage you all to participate in the event.

The IRLP operation will be held on Reflector 9203. A BIG THANK YOU!!!! to Dave Gingrich, K9DC, for the use of the reflector. Each station is asked to contact their weather service office about this event. Also I would like to ask that each person who does have interest in this event PLEASE !! send me a reply of who will be operating coordinator and the NWS office that they are affiliated with. I will make up a list of the stations involved for the weather office and I will send out a copy before the event.

Let's get involved and make it a great event for SKYWARN operators worldwide !!

Thanks and 73's

Joe Landers

And an Invite

Submitted by John Dyer, AE5B

Hector Guerrero wrote:

You and your Amateur Radio Club are invited to come down to our office and participate in the upcoming SKYWARN Recognition Day. The local Club will be on HF making contacts to other NWS offices around the country and abroad.

Would you please pass this onto as many HAMs as you can through your local nets? I'd appreciate it very much. Thanks and take care,
Hector

Batch Programming

Kent West, KC5ENO

When computers first started getting small and inexpensive enough to become "personal" computers, the owner pretty much had to be able to program it himself. Once the PC started becoming popular, the operating system manufacturers tended to ship some sort of programming tools with the system. When Microsoft DOS started becoming the *de facto* standard, BASIC was the programming tool shipped. It had a lot of negatives, but at least it was there. In addition to this "real" (cough cough) programming tool, DOS also came with a shell scripting capability called "batch programming". As Windows has displaced DOS from most personal computers, BASIC has disappeared from the PC scene. But DOS's batch capability is still there, although it too has become less of a force in the graphics-oriented world of Windows.

Still, there are times when a batch program is just what's needed.

Accordingly, here's a quick introduction to batch scripting for

those of you running Windows.

Open up a command prompt; there are several ways of doing this; probably the easiest is to click on Start, then Run, and enter either "cmd" or "command", whichever works on your machine. This will bring up a black window with white text (in most cases); this window might be full-screen, in which case you can toggle between window-mode and full-screen by pressing Alt-ENTER.

To create/edit a batch file, you'll need to use an editor. You can use something like Windows' Notepad, but you'll need to be sure to know where you've saved your files, and you'll need to be sure to put the filename in double-quotes or Notepad will automatically (and "secretely") add ".txt." to the end of the filename. Accordingly, it's just easier to use EDIT from within the command prompt window. So to start the editor, just enter EDIT. You can figure this editor out fairly easily.

A batch file is simply a collection (or "batch") of DOS commands that run one after the other.

Here's a batch file you can enter:

```
@echo off
REM DEMO.BAT
REM Written by Kent West
REM 27 November 2002
echo This batch file is a simple
echo demonstration of some of the
echo things that batch programming
echo can do.
echo.
echo.
echo Press Ctrl-C to abort this demo, or
pause
echo Here's a listing of the current
directory:
pause
dir
pause
echo And here's a wide listing of the
current directory:
pause
dir /w
echo This batch file will now be copied
echo to a file named DEMO.DMO
REM First, make sure a DEMO.DMO
REM doesn't already exist.
if exist DEMO.DMO goto Err1
copy demo.bat demo.dmo
goto Err1END
```

```
:Err1
echo Sorry, DEMO.DMO already exists.
:Err1END
REM Now count from 5 to 10
for %%C in (5 6 7 8 9 10) do echo %%C
pause
echo This command was invoked as %0
echo and the first three parameters
echo fed to it were:
echo %1
echo %2
echo %3
:END
```

Save this file as DEMO.BAT. Now to run it, simply enter the command "demo". Also, try "DEMO" and "DEMO.BAT" and "demo.bat" and "demo fox cat dog" as experiments.

Normally a batch file will echo to the screen each command that is run. The command "echo off" (see the first line) will prevent the echo of each command. The at sign ("@echo off") prevents the first line from being echoed; otherwise, it would echo before the system knew not to echo the commands.

The "REM" statements are remarks or comments; they don't do anything other than provide documentation to a human reading the batch file.

The "echo" commands print out to the screen whatever text follows the command.

The "pause" command pauses execution of the script and prints a message that says "Press any key to continue", and then continues when a key is pressed.

The "dir" and "dir /w" commands are standard DOS commands to see the list of files in the current directory.

The "if" command tests to see if a certain condition is met, in this case, whether the file named "DEMO.DMO" already exists in the current directory. Batch scripting is quite limited, so we had to do some "spaghetti coding" here. If the file exists, we use the "goto" command to skip over the copy command to a "label" named

“Err1”. This label could have any name, such as “FileExistsError” or “Oops”, etc. Notice a label is marked as a label by the colon in front of it. The execution of the script continues here, and then echoes the error message that the file already exists.

If the file does not exist, we don't skip the copy command, and instead we “fall through” to that command line, which copies the file from “DEMO.BAT” to “DEMO.DMO”.

Then because we don't want to “fall through” to the error message, we have to use another “goto” to jump over the error message; we do this by jumping to the “Err1End” label.

The “For” statement creates a “variable” named “%%C”. This variable first takes on the value of 5, because 5 is the first value within the parenthesis. With the

value, the “DO” half of the “FOR” statement echoes the value of %%C, which is currently 5. So the number 5 is printed to the screen.

Then the “FOR” statement loops around and runs again, this time with the next value in the parenthesis, which is 6.

Then it loops again, with the value of 7, and so on and so on.

The values in the parenthesis could have been almost anything, such as “dog cat horse shoe” or “Mary Jane Joe Bob Daniel Marty Susan Pat”. The statement will loop for each value; so that if there are 4 values, it'll loop four times. If there are 60 values, it'll loop 60 times.

Finally, the script prints out the name of the command as it was invoked on the command line. If you ran the program by typing “demo”, it'll print “demo”. If you ran it by typing “Demo.bAt”, it'll print “Demo.bAt”. This name is

fed to the script as the variable “%0”.

Then it prints any parameters you added to the command line. They are fed to the script as numbered variables with names like “%1”, “%2”, and so on. The first parameter is fed into “%1”, and the third to “%3”, and etc.

Capitalization doesn't matter with DOS; I just used mixed case to make the program more readable.

Batch programs can be considerably more complex than this little example. And batch programming has some severe limitations. Still, with some creativity, you can accomplish a lot with a batch script. Hopefully, this'll help you get your feet wet.

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