



The

W5ES BULLETIN

The El Paso Amateur Radio Club

Editor Clay Emert, K5TRW

April 2009

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OFFICERS

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Ed Beeler AC5QS	204-5885
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Dale Coleburn, KD5YGB	822-1832
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Linda Krasowski, KE5BQK	857-5933
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Presidents Corner

I am reaching out to amateur radio operators that are club members of W5ES. I need your active support a new initiative to talk to other members into attending club meetings, and submit ideals for club activities that members would be interesting in. Within our membership we have a wealth of knowledge and expertise, anywhere from setting up a station to programming a radio, understanding and solving those pesky RFI programs.

An Amateur Radio Workshop Night Program would be a good program to start; it would help those hams who have question about their HF radio or about programming their 2 meter radios. The program would be in addition to other regularly scheduled club activities.

We are not looking to cut back, but rather add-on and expand an effort to reach out to new hams, old hams, and everyday folks just thinking about becoming hams. Being available to share our expertise with those that are seeking a helping and guiding hand to better understand their new radio and amateur radio as a whole. Amateur Radio Workshop nights are not intended to have presentations setup in advance, but rather have club members available to assist and answer the questions of those that come forth seeding help. On a work shop night there could be multiple conversations occurring on several subjects simultaneously, it all depend on what help is sought. We need only to bring our expertise and be willing to share it with others. The day of week or month to get this going is something I will be seeking suggestions on, along with the start time. Think of the Amateur Work Shops as hams just gathering together to talk about radios and things in a very relaxed social setting. I hope that we will come together to usher in this new club activity. I am confident that all will enjoy it. On April 5, 2009 there will be a Palm Sunday breakfast at 0700hr at W5ES Club House.



73's
Artis Wright, KD5KFY

BEAN FEED

Sunday April 26 at 7 AM

MVRC Club House 6609 Jefferson Las Cruces

Admission is free - including tailgating

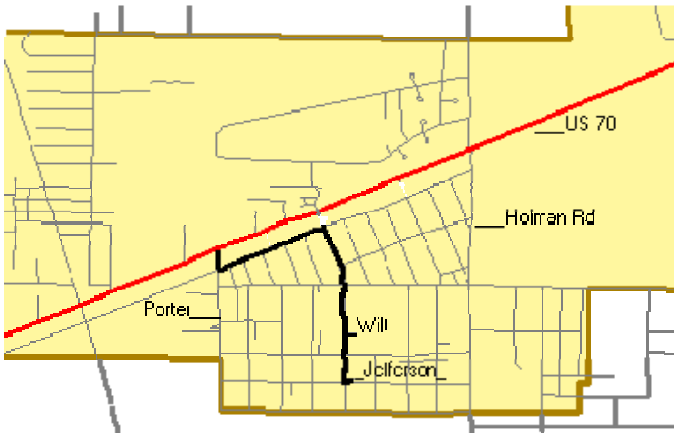
Coffee and Doughnuts

Chile bean plate with drink for \$5.00

Commercial Radio Vendors are scheduled

VE session

The MVRC Clubhouse is located at the intersection of Wilt and Jefferson in Hacienda Heights. This is East of Las Cruces. Take the Porter exit on US 70. It is about 5 miles from the I-25 interchange, near the firehouse. Almost immediately south of the south frontage road on the south side of US 70, turn left toward the mountains on Cortez until you come to Wilt. Turn right. There is a jog in the road, but at 0.35 miles you should come to Jefferson. Look for the tower and beam. Parking is across the street. Tailgating is in the club parking lot.



Talk in frequency 146.640

PL is turned on as needed. You will need a sub audible tone (100.0 Hz) in order to access the 146.04/146.64 repeater

7:00 AM Set up and selling (in the parking lot)

11:30 AM Food is served (in the dining room)

12:30 PM Program in radio room.

1:00 PM VE Session (In the dining room) (\$15.00 cash and photo I.D. issued by a government agency)

For more information contact-

Tres Campbell KD5ZHI (President) (373-2008)

Dennis Shepan KB5TPV (Vice President) (649-2907)

www.zianet.com/mvrc

Texas State Guard VE session generates 7 new Hams.



Examiners prepare for test Candidates arrive
Clay Emert and Roland Mata purchased manuals which usually sell for \$25 each and gave them to the guard members at a reduced cost of only \$10 a copy. The guard turned out to be a good bet. One of the group aced the test and most of the rest missed only 2 or 3 questions. **Great job.**

Photos by Roland, K5CW



CLUB CALL
El Paso Amateur Radio Club
W5MGI from 1947 to 1950
W5PEW from 1951 to 1954
W5ES from 1954 to present
The call letters W5ES were originally held by El Paso ham Paul Overman. He was a member of TAA (Transmitting Amateurs Association), which was the first Amateur Radio Club in El Paso. Paul died in 1933.
Bill K5WAE



EC Bulletin



For more information on Emergency Coordination contact:

Lew Maxwell, KB5HPT
ARRL Emergency Coordinator, El Paso County

Phone: (915) 449-5277

Email: kb5hpt@winlink.org

ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The annual Palm Sunday Breakfast is to be held on April 5th from 0700 Hrs to 1100 Hrs.

All you can eat waffles, scrambled eggs, ham, juice and coffee for only \$5.00.

Linda, Nadine and Mary will be working the kitchen and the guys will serve those who need assistance.

COME ONE COME ALL

CHARLIE'S WHISTLE

By

Bob Beaudet, W1YRC

At a recent club meeting, one of the newer QRPers in the valley asked Charlie a fairly surprising question. At this stage in his life as well as after experiencing very full ham radio career, it is rare indeed for Charlie to be surprised by any question but this one surely did so. This particular QRPer has been a club member for about six months and was bitten by the DX bug when he attended a club meeting a short while back in which Charlie had responded to another person's question by giving a detailed explanation of how long path and gray line propagation actually works. That was really exciting and since then, he has been trying to learn more of the little DX tricks and techniques that top DXers like Charlie follow. He has also spent time studying published material on anything he could find related to DX. In a fairly short amount of time, he has become sufficiently expert relative to some of his contemporaries that they now consider him to be their Elmer. Second and third order mentoring like this is a very desirable occurrence and necessary and something that needs to be passed on and expanded. But that is an entirely different topic and should be covered in some detail at another time. Our QRPer asked Charlie an extremely fundamental question which needs to be answered here.

He explained that he had seen the write up on www.qrz.com of a few prominent DXers who were mentioned in DX Bulletins. He saw that some of them stated that they were "#1 DXCC Honor Roll". He couldn't understand how more than one person could be #1 in anything. The first president of the US, first governor of Texas, first person to land on the moon, first place in a NASCAR race, first person in line to buy tickets, etc. all are focused on the fact that one person sits in first place, ahead of everyone else. How could several hams properly call themselves #1? Along with that question, he recalled that Charlie mentioned at a previous club meeting that a recent Silent Key, named Charlie Mellen, W1FH had received the first DXCC certificate ever issued by the ARRL in both the Mixed mode and the Phone categories of DXCC back in 1947. Therefore, by his understanding, the QRPer logically assumed that W1FH was #1 and first on the DXCC list.

Well, understanding terminology can do two things. It will often both explain and confuse a subject. That is certainly the case in this example that the QRPer set forth for us. Charlie asked the QRPer how many countries he had worked so far. The young DXer replied, "Well, I don't really know but I think it's over a hundred. I have 63 entities confirmed, though." Charlie grinned and said, "Good! You know exactly how many you have confirmed. That's a good sign. The worked number really doesn't mean very much because they don't count until you have them confirmed. A good DXer always knows basic facts like that. You're correct also in calling them entities and not countries. We know that some places on the DXCC list are reefs, piles of rock and the tips of volcanic underwater mountains, hardly anything that would pass for being a country. Of course, many are not actual countries, but old references die hard. We called all DXCC places "countries" for many years, whether they were the size of Australia or a reef or a rock pile the size of a pick-up truck and regardless of whether they could accommodate any population. It is more appropriate to call these different places on earth "entities", whether they are the size of the US or Scarborough Reef. They each simply count as one entity."

Charlie continued explaining, "The ARRL offers a special plaque to anyone who has worked and confirmed a contact with every entity that is on the current DXCC list. There are presently 338 different entities on that list. The plaque states '1 ARRL DXCC Honor Roll' and that means that the call sign engraved on the plaque has worked and confirmed every current entity existing at that time. The contacts may have been made on any combination of the various ham bands or modes offered or more commonly mixed, which means that the work was done on a mixture of different bands and modes. A different Honor Roll recognition may be achieved for having made all the contacts on CW, Phone or RTTY."

Charlie asked the QRPer if he understood all of this. The fellow grinned and respectfully said, "Well, yes I sort of understand but I still don't understand how W1FH was first and these others can claim to be #1. Charlie smacked himself on the forehead and said, "Oh Gosh! Please forgive me. I didn't completely understand your question. That's my fault. Charlie W1FH received the first DXCC that ARRL awarded in the post World War II era. That's why he will always be #1. These other folks have achieved the top rung of the ten step Honor Roll; hence they sit in the top place of the DXCC

Honor Roll, but not suggesting that they held the first DXCC. There have been a great many DXCC certificates issued since 1945, probably well over 50,000. Mine was issued 45 years ago and its serial number is in the 7,000s. Just to make it confusing, W1FH was also at the top of the DXCC listings for several decades, meaning that he had more entities confirmed than anyone else. So he was #1 in that regard as well.”

A smile slowly came to the QRPer. “Oh, now I see. That’s pretty cool! You actually knew W1FH, Charlie?” Charlie acknowledged that he did indeed know Mr. DX. “There are some people who you admire and respect so much that as you learn the activity, you try to always copy what that other person might have done in different situations. Charlie was one of those hams. When I started in ham radio, Charlie was an established and well known world class DXer. He had already become legendary. For years, Charlie always seemed to be on the air and working rare DX before the rest of the world even knew that the DX station was on the air. With Charlie, DXing just seemed natural. He heard extremely well and DX was always happy to work the gentle man from Boston. DX stations considered working W1FH as validation of their operating, sort of like a seal of approval. There were other top DXers in Charlie’s era of course, such as PY2CK, W6AM and a few others. Most were good friends with one another and enjoyed the rivalry to be first in the pile-ups. All of these original top guns are Silent Keys now.”

The brand new DXer thought for a moment, then said, “So, now we have new top guns who beginning DXers like I can look up to, right?” Charlie had to admit that he was right but wasn’t entirely comfortable at what was being suggested, even in an oblique manner, being compared to someone of W1FH’s stature. The QRPer blurted out, “Wow! W1FH was amazing! With the thousands of DXers in the world, he achieved so much ahead of anyone else. He must have had an amazing station. What sort of equipment did he have? How many towers? Did he have separate kilowatts for each band?”

Our old mentor calmly replied, “Charlie lived just off a heavily traveled Boston city street and had one

small tower with a few home made antennas on it. He had a Collins receiver and transmitter and a home made KW amplifier. It was certainly a good station but was nothing unusual at all. Don Wallace, W6AM, on the other hand, owned several hilltop acres near Los Angeles with dozens of hundred foot tall telephone poles to support twenty rhombic antennas to cover every point on the compass. His shack looked like a commercial wireless facility with separate very high power amps on each band. Some people have reported that the amps were Variac controlled so he could turn them down if an inspector was nearby. I heard back then that his 20, 40 and 80 meter amps were capable of running well above one KW. W6AM was in a completely different league, money wise compared to W1FH who, with his brother, ran a small liquor store in downtown Boston. Don was flamboyant and loved publicity.

Charlie was just the opposite. He loved to remain humble. Despite those differences, Charlie worked every country that ever appeared, usually before anyone else did and until the time when they both became Silent Keys, Charlie had worked and confirmed one more than W6AM had never worked, W6ODD/CR8 in Damao, Diu near Macao in Southeast Asia. That single disparity was famous among the serious DXers. The rivalry between Don and Charlie was a little like the story of the tortoise and the hare. Charlie was a fabulous operator and never blew his own horn. Don was high profile with a huge station and support team to keep everything running. Of course, both were great operators and terrific DXers. I knew and respected W1FH and learned a lot from just trying to be like him with more than just our first names.” The QRPer grinned at that comment and said that he knew who he would try to emulate. “Charlie, I want to learn everything that you know about DX.”

Charlie appreciated his kind comment and said that he would be happy to help the young man, as he would any new ham who wanted help in learning about DX. Clearly, the QRPer’s comment was just a bit patronizing but certainly meant with all due sincerity. We all learn one way or another from those who have preceded us. We learn some good and maybe some not so good things. Whether we benefit or not as we go forward depends on our ability to understand and benefit from the knowledge.

With Field Day coming up I thought now would be a good time to republish some old F/D projects. I got this one many years ago and have built several of them and they are simple to build and work well.

JUNK BOX PROJECT

A simple instrument can be built to check and help adjust your emergency generator for voltage and cycles. We thank Sam Preckett K5BPQ (SK) for providing the information and schematic for this instrument. The sketch on the right shows one way to hook up the instrument. When the instrument is completed, connect it into the house current and calibrate M2 by adjusting the pot until meter reads .6 MA (which represents 60 cycles).

Parts List:

- One 150 VAC meter (M1)
- One 1 MA CE meter (M2)
- Two 6.2 Zenger diodes
- Two 1N914 diodes
- One 1MFd/200 VDC Electrolytic capacitor.
- One 15K/ 2 watt resistor
- One 1k trim-pot*

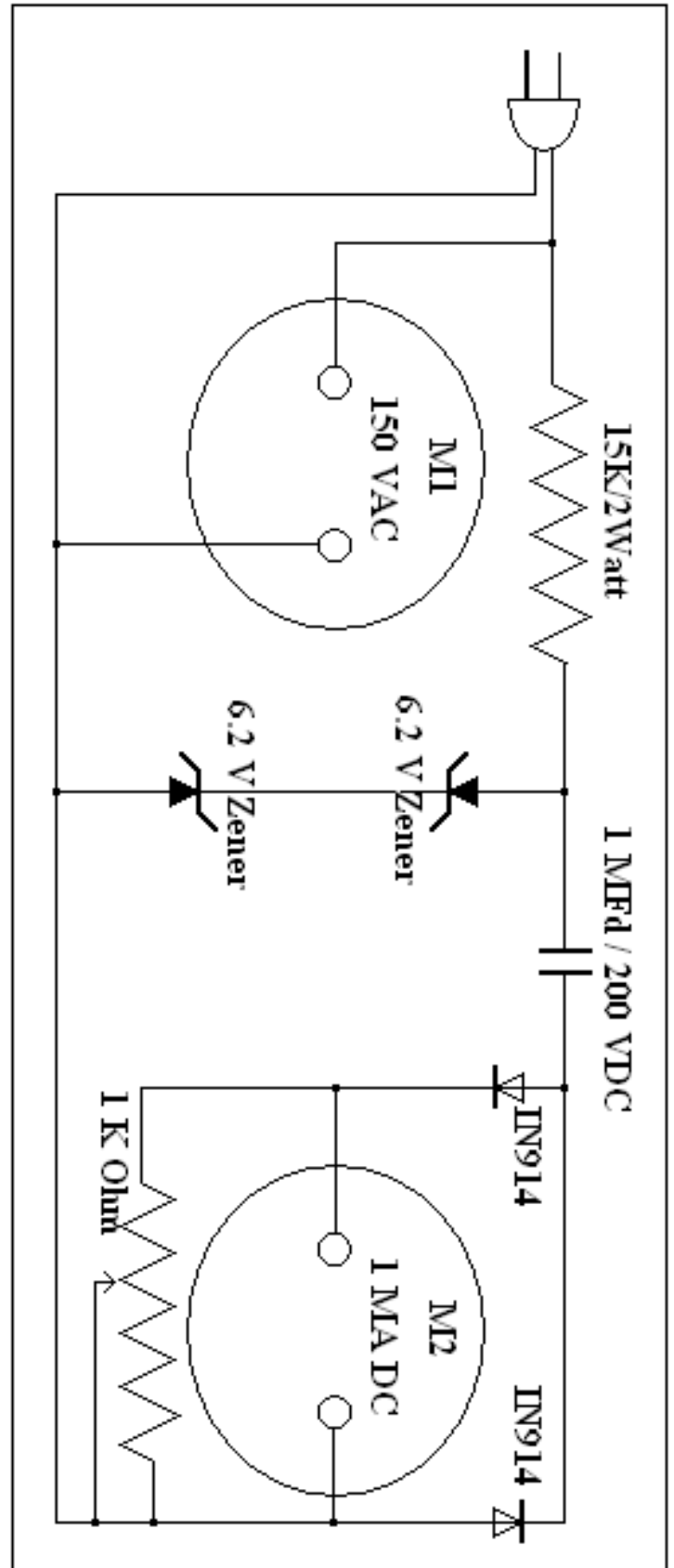
**Use any value which will allow meter to be adjusted to represent 60 cycles or .6 MA on the meter.*

Be sure to isolate all components from the case if your case is metal. Editor



I had a call for Albert Gemots, KB5KWW the other day. He taught at Riverside High School and has now retired and was given the radio, power supply and antenna that the school club once had. He wishes to give it to one of the clubs at a school or non-profit organization. If anyone know of a school please contact me or Albert.

Editor



April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Regular Meeting K5WPH 7:PM	4 VE Session 0900 at W5ES
5 Palm Sunday Breakfast 0700 - 1100	6	7 EL PASO GOLD PROSPECTORS 6 :00 PM 2100 San Diego	8	9	10 Regular Meeting W5ES 7PM	11 No Host Ham Breakfast at Tejas Café on Dyer
12 WAE Certificate group meets at 0900 at W5ES 28.440 MHz	13	14	15	16	17 K5WPH Meeting 7:00 PM	18 11:30 AM QCWA Luncheon / Meeting at Furr's In Sunrise Center Meeting 12:30 PM
19 WAE Certificate group meets at 0900 at W5ES 28.440 MHz	20	21	22	23 El Paso Metal Detectors meet 6:00 PM 2100 San Diego	24 W5ES Tech-night Meeting Burges, chips, ice cream, pie and cake	25
26 WAE Certificate group meets at 0900 at W5ES 28.440 MHz	27	28	29	30		Las Cruces BEAN FEED Sunday April 26



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