



The W5ES BULLETIN

The El Paso Amateur Radio Club

Editor Clay Emert, K5TRW

June 2009

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OFFICERS

President	Artis Wright, KD5KFY	694-8802
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Vice-Pres.	Bernie Krasowski, KD5QHV	857-5933
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	kc5mrm@zianet.com	
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TRUSTEES

Pete Hensgen KB5HTF	593-0712
phensgen@utep.edu	1 Years remaining
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

The club meeting held on May 8, 2009, the Board of Trustee gave their nomination report for Club Office after calling all members residing locally and accordance with Section 4, Article IV – Annual Meeting and Election. The names placed in nomination for Club Office are:

President	KD5KFY	Artis Wright	Trustee	N5HRD	CW Hiett
Vice President	KD5QHV	Bernie Krasowski	Trustee	AC5QS	ED Beeler
Secyary	KC5MRM	Carlton Talbot			
Treasurer	None				

CW, N5HRD will be chairperson of the Old Timers Committee and will have access to W5ES club house any day they choose to meet. If interested call CW - 821-3045.

Work Shop Notice

Lew Maxwell, KB5HPT will be the chairperson of The Amateur Radio Work Shop and this is what he had to say: "Beginning on June 8, 2009 W5ES will sponsor a twice a month Work Shop on the second Monday of the month beginning at 7 PM for approximately 1 hour. A second Work Shop will be held on the fourth Friday after the regularly scheduled buffet dinner from approximately 7:30 PM for an hour if there has not been a program previously scheduled. The ideal for the Work Shop is to give our fellow amateur radio operators assistance with problems they are having with their stations. The topics of discussion for the evening will be on the subject that the person(s) are looking for help on. We are going to try to help them solve their problem. It could also be teaching some basic communications skills; or net protocol for new amateur radio operators; or an introduction to amateur radio for the students in the radio classes; or learn a new mode of communication.

During the Monday evening session we could check into the WTRA Monday Night Roundtable and Swap Net. This is some of the ideas that come to mind at this time. We shall see what evolves when we actually start the Work Shop sessions.

I would like to have some volunteers to help out with the Work Shop, or if you would like to be an Elmer for a new amateur radio operator let me know. I can be reached at (915) 449-5277.

The next club meeting is June 12, 2009
73, Artis

EC Bulletin

Winlink Update

During the month of May, Doug, AE5HE installed and tested WebMail Access to Paclink on his Paclink station. WebMail allows the Paclink station to become an email server. Our clients can send and receive email through the Winlink system using only their web browser. After installing Wampserver, (<http://www.wampserver.com/en>) and WebMail,



(<http://www.afterlogic.com/download/webmail.asp>) on the Paclink station we create the tactical accounts (if not already done), and provide the client with a URL to the Paclink WebMail server and logon information. After logging on they are up and running. This makes for an easy quick deployment. All software is free.

D-Star Update

Doug and I have set up our D-Star stations to be an email gateway using the D-RATS program. An email message can be created using the D-RATS Form Manager and sent across the local D-Star system to either one of our stations which are connected to the internet. Email messages sent to an email server can be interrogated by an internet connected D-RATS station and retrieve the messages at a specified interval. The email retrieved by the D-RATS station will be forwarded over the local D-Star system to the recipient.

We also have our stations configured to act as a repeater proxy for local use. The repeater proxy is another feature of the D-RATS program, and works like a regular FM digi-peater. Dan Smith, KK7DS, the author of the D-RATS program, has set up a virtual reflector on the internet for other internet connected D-RATS stations to connect to. He calls it the Reflector. Not all of our local D-RATS stations are connected to the internet so Doug linked this reflector into his repeater proxy. That way the rest of us could enjoy contacting other stations outside El Paso County. We had contacts with a couple of Hams as far away as Trinidad.

Other News

Doug, AE5HE, Warren, KE5APX, and I gave two programs this month to the Sun City Amateur Radio Club, K5WPH. On 1 May we presented a program on APRS, IRLP, EchoLink and High Speed Multimedia. All of these modes involve connecting our radios to the internet. Then on 15 May we presented our Winlink 2000 program which included a live demonstration of the Winlink system and how we incorporate High Speed Multimedia with it. A live demonstration of the WebMail Access to Paclink was included in this presentation as well.

Questions and comments about the content of the article are welcomed and encouraged. Send an email to the address shown below. In the Subject line be sure to use //WL2K EC Bulletin.

Lew Maxwell, KB5HPT

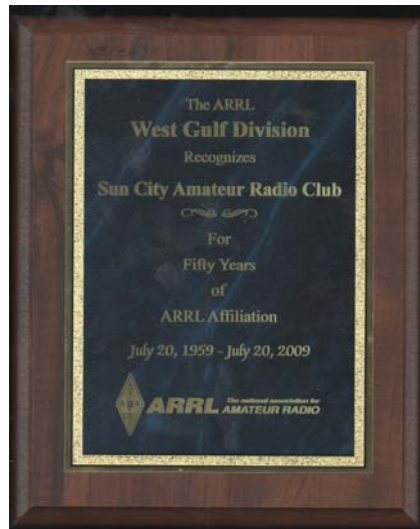
ARRL Emergency Coordinator – El Paso, County

Phone: (915) 449-5277

Email: kb5hpt@winlink.org

K5WPH Receives Prestigious 50 Year Award

The plaque presented in behalf to West Gulf Director David Woolweaver K5RAV, was accepted by Martin Raue, WB5LJO president of K5WPH for 50 years affiliation with The American Radio Relay League. The presentation was made at the Tech Night meeting in May by West Gulf Assistant Director Clay Emert, K5TRW.



As required by the Constitution and By-Laws, the Board of Trustees has submitted a list of candidates for the upcoming election on 12 June, 2009. They are:

President	Artis Wright, KD5KFY
Vice President	Bernie Krasowski, KD5QHV
Secretary	Carleton Talbot, KC5MRM
Treasurer	(None)
Trustee	C. W. Hiatt, N5HRD
Trustee	Ed Beeler, AC5QS

Nominations may be made from the floor during the annual meeting.



CHARLIE'S WHISTLE

By
Bob Beudet, W1YRC

A repeating issue presented itself to Charlie recently when he walked into his club meeting room a few minutes before the president was scheduled to gavel the meeting to order. He had just placed two still warm blueberry pies from Mary's kitchen on the refreshment table and was fixin' to pour himself a cup of fresh coffee and looking over some pastries that others had brought in. He heard some new hams talking about how poor band conditions were and it wasn't worth their time to even turn on the HF radio.

As Charlie made his way to an empty chair near the back of the room, one of the newbies spotted him and called him over, "Say Charlie, we need your help over here. Would you mind joining us and tell us again when the bands will turn around and let us work some DX? You've told us before but the bands aren't any better. We've been waiting and waiting to even hear some DX, but it's just not there."

Charlie is always very patient and generous with his time and information. Of course, he's always happy to help these new hams, but he knew that he had to allow some slack because they were all new hams and inexperienced with regard to DX. They had never seen anything of a sunspot cycle, other than a couple of years worth of Cycle 23's minimum. This surely hasn't been an exciting time for them.

As Charlie sat, one of the newest hams who realized that Charlie was one of the club's biggest DXers, said to him, "So I'll bet you're not working lots of DX these days either, are you?" Charlie quietly took a sip of his coffee and asked what his name was and where he came from because he had never seen him before. He replied that it was Joe and he had just moved from Chicago. Charlie said, "Well Joe, that depends on what you mean by DX. This morning, I worked West Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. Around noon, I worked about a dozen Europeans and this afternoon, a couple of stations in Africa and one in western Australia." Joe grinned in disbelief, "Yeah, right. Sure you did. The bands were dead all day. I checked a few times." Charlie nodded without grinning, "Well, I really made those contacts today and most everyday, I do about the same. The bands weren't dead at all."

Another fellow said, "Well, if you heard all those stations, I'll bet none of them were moving your S meter, Charlie." Charlie sipped some more coffee and replied that most of them did and a few were close to S9 on his meter. Then Joe said, "Oh sure, you probably have a beam a hundred feet high and run a kilowatt. Try doing it with a long wire and a hundred watts."

Charlie's old friend Mike had just arrived and picked up a cup of coffee as he overheard that latest part of the conversation. Mike is much blunter than Charlie he and reacted strongly to Joe's insensitive remark. As he came over to sit with Charlie, he replied to the former Chicago ham, "So what? A serious DXer uses a good antenna and has the power available when he needs it. He makes the contact and leaves the frequency for others. Do you think DXers shouldn't do that?"

The new fellow just smirked and said, "It doesn't take any skill when you have all that advantage." Just as Mike was about to go over and rearrange the fellow's head, Charlie grabbed his arm and asked him to stay. "Well son, using a KW amp doesn't let anyone hear more DX than what the next guy can hear and any DXer knows that you must hear the DX in order to work it. Even top DXers have to hear the DX before even thinking about working it. Having a KW transmitter or a beam for that matter doesn't matter a bit if you can't hear the stations. It seems from what you've said that you didn't hear any DX today. Most serious DXers use a directional gain antenna of some kind to hear weaker DX signals. These days at the sunspot minimum, we see a lot of weak signals. Of course, you don't need to use a beam but it makes DXing much more efficient, not as easy as you seem to think but at least a beam gives you a reasonable chance in the pile ups."

The new fellow replied, "Well, I use a long wire and run 100 watts and I can work all the DX I want." Mike jumped in again, "Oh, is that so? What have you worked in the last week?" Still smirking, the teen replied, "Oh, let's see...France, Spain, Costa Rica and Brazil." Mike then asked, "And what did you work today?" The young ham said, "Nothing. The bands weren't any good today." Mike pointed out that Charlie just reported making a couple dozen DX contacts today, many of them on the other side of the world. A good operator with proper equipment can make up for marginal band conditions. Do you understand?"

Charlie stepped in because he could see that his friend Mike's face was getting red and he was probably going to start seriously berating this young fellow for pretending to be such an authority without having credentials. Charlie asked the teen, "What sort of operating did you do when you lived in Chicago?" He said that he lived in an apartment and just got his Technician ticket a year before his family moved here from Chicago. All he had was a 2 meter FM radio and a mobile antenna in his room. He upgraded to Extra just before moving here a few months ago. Charlie calmly asked the young man, "So, what do you have for a station out here?" The new Extra replied, "Well, I borrowed a transceiver from my friend and put up a wire from my house to a tall tree. I think you old timers call this kind of antenna a Zepp. It works really well, whatever it is." Charlie explained that what he had put up sounds like it would be a Zepp. He then asked, "Do you have plans to put up a tower or get an amplifier?"

His reply was, “No, that makes it too easy. Anyone can work DX that way.”

Mike was starting to squirm and turn red again. Charlie knew Mike would rip into this fairly arrogant fellow pretty quickly for making such a cold and uninformed remark. In order to divert Mike away from taking action, Charlie pointed out to the new fellow, “You know, Mike here does a pretty fair job in breaking a DX pile up, usually with only two or three calls at most. Pile-ups don’t usually develop when one is chasing popular places like the ones you mentioned; France, Spain, Brazil, etc. Cracking competition for more exotic and distant places can be very tough. If dozens or hundreds of callers are the same signal strength, the DX station has difficulty picking one out of the noise. It’s simply more efficient for all involved to use an antenna that focuses your signal in order to make the contact crisply, minimize QRM for others and move off the frequency. Running power is a personal choice. In Mike’s and my cases, we’re senior citizens and we need to save as much time as possible when working DX. We can’t risk getting too excited and raising our blood pressure. You young folks can better afford it.” Most of the group grinned at Charlie’s self deprecating humor, but the young Chicagoan remained straight faced.

The fellow quickly observed, “Maybe you senior guys should quit chasing DX and keep ragchewing on 75 meters, complaining about your ailments and doctor appointments.”

Mike nearly lost it completely, “Son, you know a new ham like you ought to respect someone like Charlie, not just because he’s old enough to be your grandfather but because he’s forgotten more about ham radio and especially DXing than most of us will ever know. You need to learn quite a lot more about ham radio before handing out advice and obviously, you need to improve your social skills. You’ve only been a ham for a couple of years and you think you know enough about DXing to debate with Charlie. Then, you tell him to stay on 75 meters and complain. What’s wrong with you anyway?”

The young fellow just grinned. After an uncomfortable wait, Charlie spoke up. “Of course, I was kidding when I said that we seniors need to save time, etc. I know that you didn’t mean to be impolite. But, you really should spend some time learning more about DXing before recommending what is best for the rest of us. I would never tell you that DXing with a hundred watts and a wire antenna isn’t how you should chase DX. Lots of hams have worked all over the world with a setup like that. Band conditions at present normally don’t let you work much more than strong single or double hop skip contact. You must know that serious DXers use serious stations plus a lot of skill and experience to work their DX.

Again, the fellow didn’t reply. One of the others in the group asked, “Charlie, what is single and double hop skip? I never heard of that.” The former Chicago new ham answered for Charlie, “It’s really low angle DX that only happens at dawn and dusk.” Mike jumped in at that point, “No, that’s not right. You’re confusing it with grey line propagation and you even got that wrong because low angle signals, although best for DX are not necessarily involved. Single hop is the term we use to describe stations worked that are at the end of a single reflection of our signal off the ionosphere and back to ground. On 20 meters, that would usually be about 1000 to 1500 miles distant from us. Double hop means that the signal reflected back to earth and back to the ionosphere again. Those can be distances up to 3000 miles or more. Making a contact with the other side of the world may require that your signal makes several up and down trips. With every reflection, a little signal is lost to absorption, so you must start with a pretty strong transmitted signal to compensate for that. That’s why it would be very unusual, except in extremely favorable band conditions, to work DX like that using low power and a wire.”

The pompous Chicagoan shrugged and said, “Yeah, I knew that.” Charlie, Mike and everyone else in the group knew that he didn’t. As gracious as we know Charlie to be, the young fellow had annoyed him just a bit, not for his lack of knowledge but his attitude. Despite that Charlie offered, “Look son, you’d benefit from some mentoring. I’d be very happy to help you. Could you come by DX Hill for a few afternoons?” Instead of replying and to everyone’s surprise, the fellow just got up and left the meeting without saying a word.

After a few seconds, one of the group observed, “Charlie and Mike, I’ve known Joe since he moved here a few months ago. He likes to be an authority on just about everything and honestly does know lots of different stuff. He doesn’t like being corrected by anyone. We sort of ignore him when he gets too hard to take. But, if the offer holds, I’d sure like to come to DX Hill and see how to become a DXer.” The others in the group said that they’d like to come also. Of course, Charlie welcomed them all.

As we know, DXing at the bottom of the sunspot cycle can be very challenging. Signals are rarely strong and one needs to listen to lots of noise and be patient to work the limited DX that can be found. The upper bands like 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters are rarely open except for occasional contacts. Checking any band by just spinning the dial across it will invariably tell you that no DX is there but if you carefully tune and listen for weak signals, you may be rewarded. Charlie works DX nearly every day by careful listening and so can you. A good DXer is an even better skilled short wave listener. Good DXing!

By Mark Johnsen NB1U and Bob Beaudet W1YRC. With attribution to the QST article author, Lew Gordon K4VX

No HF operator wants to use an ineffective antenna. But, because of space restrictions and lack of proper information, they often feel pressured into purchasing a multiband vertical, packaged off center fed antenna or some other product marketed as a solution to their needs. The problem with this is that these antennas can cost several hundred dollars and often not perform as well as simple home made antennas that cost little or nothing.

A year ago, The Messenger carried an article on the Fan Dipole, an inexpensive and effective antenna made up of several dipoles connected in parallel and fed with a single feedline. It is a terrific value, costing somewhere between nothing and \$35, depending on how well stocked a junk box you have and how resourceful you are in procuring material from friends. Best of all, it works great!

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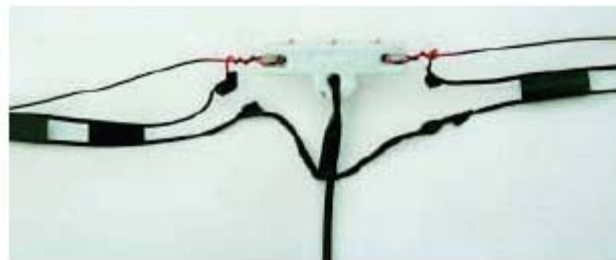
Another terrific and low cost antenna has come to our attention from a QST article written by K4VX. It is called a Linear Loaded Dipole and utilizes standard technology and components that have been around for years. BVARC member and contester/DXer, Mark NB1U, uses one of these antennas on 40 meters, installed as a sloper, favoring the easterly direction. It has outperformed his off center fed dipole by two S units into Europe and Africa and is only 46 feet long, about 30% shorter than a standard half wave dipole for the 40 meter band. The antenna is made from

standard 450 ohm ladder feedline with a #12 single conductor wire interlaced between the spacers of the ladder line to provide physical support to the ladder line. The #12 wire becomes part of the antenna as shown in this picture.



Construction of this antenna is extremely simple and requires very little experience or construction know-how to build. In other words, new hams could confidently tackle this project with full expectation of success. A detailed picture of how the center connections are made is shown below. The coaxial feedline, (RG-8X for example) is connected to the lower conductor of the ladder line. The ends of each section of ladder line are shorted together and insulated from the #12 wire interlaced through it. The ends are insulated and supported as you would install any dipole, using end insulators and Dacron line to secure each end to some suitable structure.

If this looks like an antenna that you can use,



you may obtain the original QST article from the July, 2002 QST, page 40, 41, and 42. If you are an ARRL member, simply go to the ARRL home page, www.arrl.org, click on QST Archive Search and enter the month, year, author's call, and source (QST). Your digital copy of the pages will come up and may be kept or printed for reference. It contains much more helpful information. If you have trouble downloading this article, please contact W1YRC@arrl.org and I will send you the file in a .pdf format.

Good luck with you new antenna and happy DXing. 73, Mark NB1U and Bob W1YRC

June 2009

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



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