

The  
**W5ES**  
 BULLETIN  
 The El Paso Amateur Radio Club  
 October 2011



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**REMEMBER IT'S NOT THE CLASS OF LICENSE THE AMATEUR HOLDS, BUT THE CLASS OF THE AMATEUR THAT HOLDS THE LICENSE.**

**Presidents Corner**

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of our friend, C. W. Hiett, N5HRD, A friend and long-time member and past president of this club and the local QCWA Chapter. Our love and support go to Nadine KA5ZLX and her entire family in their hour of grief.

Pecos Valley ARC in Roswell is having a Hamfest / Tailgate on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 08:00 – 15:00.  
 Contact KE4VNN at [mike@mikerohrbacher.com](mailto:mike@mikerohrbacher.com)

Let's talk a moment about FEEDBACK.

In the audio world, feedback is a very undesirable condition that leads to howling and squealing of the audio system at ear-splitting volumes when the microphone gets too close to the speakers. In many closed-loop electronic systems, feedback is what makes the system work. Take your cruise control, for instance. Feedback from the tachometer tells the accelerator control that the speed is too high or too low and creates a signal to bring the speed back to the preset level. In your radios and TVs a frequency synthesizer uses feedback to tune the desired frequency. So we don't have to fine tune our radios and TV's any more. In all amplifiers, there is a phenomenon called positive feedback, like the audio system, which can cause oscillations to increase. Conversely, negative feedback in an amplifier reduces the gain and reduces the frequency response so we must "neutralize" the circuit in order to restore gain and response.

Applied to a club such as ours, feedback can be a positive or negative influence. Let's look at some **examples of negative feedback:**

1. "Boy, the menus are boring. Same old thing every year!" (Kinda makes the cooks want to pour hot coffee in your lap!)
2. "I can't seem to get any help programming my HT. I guess they don't care."

*(Editors Note: Usually all it takes is asking the right person. So ask around.)*



### Examples of positive feedback:

1. "Wow! The Mexican dinner was great! But next time could I bring some of my tamales?" (this will create new ideas for the next dinner.)
2. "Sometimes our meetings are a little boring. I'd like to hear more about new paths in amateur radio such as D-Star, IRLP, Echolink, or ARRISAT. I know a guy who knows this stuff. Maybe he'll come and talk with us if I ask."(this might generate a program of interest on these alternative technologies).

So give us your feedback! Your directors and trustees want to make this club interesting, vibrant, and worth coming to attend twice a month or more!

My email is [OLDWILS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OLDWILS@GMAIL.COM)

My Cell Phone is (915) 253-4952

I monitor 444.200 whenever I'm in the car

73,

Paul AE5OJ

W5ES on the web @ [www.w5es.org](http://www.w5es.org) or [www.qsl.net/w5es](http://www.qsl.net/w5es)



### **EC's Bulletin**

September is National Preparedness Month, the El Paso County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (EPCARES) is encouraging the amateur radio community to pledge to drill an emergency plan or exercise with family, friends or colleagues. There are a few simple steps you and your family can take to become better prepared for an emergency:

Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed and Get Involved. If you already have an emergency plan and disaster supply kit for you and your family this month would be a perfect time to review them and update them if needed.

As we learned during the recent disasters local infrastructure in the effected areas were shut down, or went down do to the massive destruction caused by the disaster. All were affected but some of the cell phone services. In an emergency, cell voice networks may not work. So make sure everyone in your family knows how to text. A key emphasis of this effort is the "Text First, Talk Second" initiative, which encourages Americans to practice a simple two-step text-messaging exercise.

**Step 1:** Pre-determine who you would contact in any emergency (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors) and load their cell phone information into your phone.

**Step 2:** Conduct a text drill with your contacts by sending them a message 'R U OK' (which on any dumb or smart phone involves hitting the 7-8-6-5 keypad buttons). The person receiving the text message would



reply with 'I M OK' (which involves hitting keypad buttons 4-6-6-5). Why use this text shorthand developed by Safe America? The bandwidth taken up by 800 of these four-character messages is equivalent to one, one-minute phone call.

While the idea of using texting to let your friends or family know you're okay is still a novel concept to many people, in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Haitian earthquake and Joplin, Mo., tornado, text messages got through when voice calls failed.

On a side note:

In the US and Canada, there are "calling frequencies" on each band. Many stations monitor these frequencies to listen for band openings. Stations can call CQ on the calling frequency; if somebody answers, the stations should find a new frequency on which to conduct their QSO. It is considered poor etiquette to monopolize the calling frequency for QSOs.

During a recent ARRL sponsored contest I received a call from a friend of mine from out of state that has only been an amateur radio operator for a couple of years now. He was asking if it was alright to have QSOs on calling frequencies. He was experiencing a situation where a person was calling CQ on the calling frequency, and then having fifteen minute QSOs. He was not able to use the calling frequency to give out a call for contacts. When on the bands please observe the proper protocol and be considerate of the other operators that we share the bands with.

Questions and comments are always welcome and encouraged. Send an email to the address shown below.

Lew Maxwell, KB5HPT

ARRL Emergency Coordinator, El Paso County

Email: [kb5hpt@arrl.net](mailto:kb5hpt@arrl.net)



### **Electronics Class**

The last class only had three students. If you are interested in joining the class it is not too late.

Classes start at 6:30 on the regular meeting nights and finish up just prior to the meeting. Even if you already know something about electronics, the class is very well taught and you may be able to add something.

For more information please contact Paul, AE5OJ at:

[oldwils@gmail.com](mailto:oldwils@gmail.com)



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## CHARLIE'S WHISTLE

By

Bob Beudet, WIYRC

Charlie and Mary have been working hard this summer, much harder than normal mainly due to their decision to purchase a winter home in Florida. While they were spending time down there this summer, getting the contractors lined up to make things ready for them when the colder weather comes along, their chores back at home #1 on DX Hill were piling up. Mary's garden was producing nearly as many weeds as flowers and vegetables. When she saw the scene upon their return, she was in shock at what was in store for her.

Being the unapologetic neatnik that she is, she was out there at dawn on the day following their return from Florida. Charlie followed his normal routine that morning and took his morning coffee into the shack to scan the 40 meter band in the pre dawn hours. Upon returning to the kitchen for a coffee refill at about 7, he saw evidence of Mary having been there. He knew immediately where to look for her and sure enough, there she was, on all fours in the garden, pulling weeds and making her flowers as tidy as possible. She had quietly gone out very early, hoping to finish by 8 o'clock so that she and Charlie could go to the crafts shop for supplies and the farmer's market for groceries, all before noon. Why before noon? Because Mary had planned to bake from noon to three. Don't question Mary. She has a plan and Charlie knows that she does even if he has no idea what the plan is.

Charlie made a fresh cup of tea for Mary and brought it out to her along with a half cup of coffee for himself. Mary heard Rufus coming out of the house and Charlie closing the door. So, she got up and brushed herself off. "Hi dear. I got an early start on this mess. Does any of my work show yet? Gosh, everything is growing so much! How can we keep two houses going?" Charlie smiled and replied, "We'll find a way, I'm sure, dear."

Actually, the garden looked fine except for a few weeds here and there that suggested that the owners have been away for a couple of weeks. Most folks would be casual about it but having them at all really upset Mary. "Oh my", she thought as she worked away, "What have we done? Having this home has taken all the time we have to give. How

on earth will we find the time to manage two homes?"

Mary believes in keeping up with maintaining her garden. She refuses to let weeds and bad insects get ahead of her. Her standards in gardening, crafting and of course, her baking do not permit her to relax in any way. Of course, intellectually she realizes that she cannot be in two places at the same time. Charlie is the retired manager in the family and often reminds Mary of her need to either divide personal time effectively or find ways to delegate tasks to others. He knows that as long as she's healthy enough to have one, she'll always have a garden. Charlie helps with the gardening but he honestly doesn't like to do it. He's sort of clumsy in the dirt, actually. He does what is asked of him out of his love for Mary, little more than that. Mary appreciates his willingness to help but generally keeps him out of her small garden so he won't damage anything. But she does ask Charlie to haul the weeds and other refuse over to her compost heap which is behind the tower.

That's what he was doing with a full wheel barrow of garden pulls when his cell phone rang. The special ring tone is CQ DX in CW along with the call sign of his friends. That way, he knows who is calling before he sees the caller ID or even picks up the phone. The ring tone for infrequent callers is simply "CQ DX". This call was from Mike, his flea market and auction buddy who lives close by on DX Hill.

Charlie answered, "Hi Mike, what's happening?" Mike replied that he was sorry for calling so early but he knew that Charlie would be up. He said that he had a question that he hoped Charlie could answer easily. Charlie replied, "I sure hope so, Mike. You've got me on the spot now." Mike told Charlie that he wanted to bid on a couple of pallets of electronic equipment in a government surplus auction at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida but bidders must have a Florida address. So, if he has the highest bid, Mike has to show an actual Florida address to claim his purchase. Charlie heard the story but had to ask, "So you want to use my address? What does that mean? Will an Air Force truck show up at my place in Belleview, Florida and dump two pallets in front of my front door?"

Mike replied, "Well, not exactly Charlie. If I win and by the way, I'm pretty sure that I will, my idea is to fly down there and rent a truck to drive the stuff from Eglin in the panhandle to somewhere nearby in Florida so that I can consolidate the material and figure out what to do. Belleview would be nice, not too far away." Then he laughed. Charlie gave the request some thought but he wasn't laughing. "Look Mike, I've got some men working on the property over the summer and fall. I don't want to mess up their schedule or get in their way.

They have a lot to get done before Mary and I can move in and we really want the work done on schedule.” Mike assured Charlie that he would personally be responsible and guarantee that this auction wouldn’t cause any issue with the workers or the new property.

Mike is a very close friend and Charlie knows that his personal assurance is good enough. A few years ago, Mike got Charlie involved in a mystery bid for some unmarked amplifiers and only after claiming them in the storage warehouse, discovered that they had actually won two pallets, each loaded with 16 brand new Collins HF amplifiers. Charlie still uses one of those amps to this day. They were easily worth dozens of times more than they paid for what were vaguely identified only as amplifiers. Maybe this new auction will be another outstanding find? Can it be possible? Things like that simply don’t happen twice in a lifetime. Do they?

As Mike had hoped, Charlie agreed to his plan. He then asked what he knew about this “electronic equipment” that was being auctioned. Mike said that the stuff is identified only by different stock numbers and an FOB New York designation. He had been reading about the recent change being made by the joint armed forces communications command from a national selection of satellite based secure communications portable field stations from the vhf/uhf spectrum to microwave. Mike’s hope is that this auctioned equipment might be the deployment ready obsolete stations. They’re probably easily adaptable to the ham bands and should be fairly high power. Of course, this is only Mike’s theory but Charlie knows from many years of friendship with him that Mike is pretty clever and does his homework thoroughly. That’s why he has done so well at flea markets and auctions. Mike surely is not a casual trader.

Charlie wished Mike luck and went back to work with Mary. Mary had been making a pile of weeds for Charlie and he had to hurry to fill the wheel barrow and keep up with her. But after one more trip to the compost heap, he was caught up. It’s amazing how fast the weeds can overtake a bare patch of soil left unattended for a few days. Mary is so proud of her garden that she cannot tolerate any weeds spoiling her work.

They finished their work finally and took some time to relax. Mary had made one of her signature blueberry pies yesterday afternoon and cut a couple of slices for them to enjoy in the kitchen with some iced tea. Charlie never tires of Mary’s baking. It’s so

much better than anything sold in stores or restaurants. They sat and talked about their decision to have a Florida home. They both feel that making the move was a good thing but they realize of course that it added a good deal of work to their list of obligations.

But, they agree that it’s a good thing and look forward to escaping another winter in snow and ice.

A few days passed and just after Charlie had finished his early morning cruise of the bands and he was heading to the kitchen for a coffee refill, the phone rang. It was Mike.

“You know what, Charlie? I was second in line to win the bid. The winning bid was from a guy who out bid me by \$50. Can you believe it?” Charlie said he was honestly sorry to hear of his misfortune but admitted that now he won’t have to be concerned about any issues bothering the workers at his place in Florida.

That was the last Charlie would hear of this, right? Well, you would think so, but a few days later, he received another phone call from Mike. He asked, “Guess what?” Charlie couldn’t imagine but offered a guess anyway, “Did the winner renege on his bid.” Mike replied, “Boy, you’re a smart guy. You’re almost right. Well, the fellow didn’t renege but he was ruled ineligible because he used a Florida PO Box in his bid rather than a real address. His actual address was in Georgia. The auction house disqualified his bid when they were making the award and I was the next bid behind him. So, it’s mine.”

Charlie was happy for his friend but it brought back to mind his concerns over the work that should be going on at his Florida home. “So, what’s the plan, Mike? Are you going down there?” Mike replied that he was flying out in the morning. He again assured Charlie that this won’t disturb anything going on at his winter home. Once he determines what he has bought, he’ll figure out what to do. All he knows is that he bought two skids full of electronic equipment. That could be anything; TV sets, auto ignition systems, well pump controls or most anything else. Mike admitted to Charlie that he doesn’t know why he takes these chances but when the likely bidding seems to be so low, he can’t seem to resist throwing in a bid, just for the heck of it.

Well, as he told Charlie he would do, Mike took the early Southwest flight out and hoped to be at the Eglin AFB warehouse by early afternoon. Charlie went about his daily activities without thinking much about what was happening in Florida. Actually, Mike had asked Charlie to come along on the trip to bring some good luck but Charlie declined since he wanted to help Mary with some chores on DX Hill.

Mary had started baking according to her plan but had to take a break. She needed some supplies for cookies and pies she was planning to make for her crafts club. After lunch, Charlie drove her to the market but waited outside, listening to some club members discussing antenna work on the repeater. Suddenly, his cell phone rang. It was Mike. He looked at the time. It was nearly 3:00 PM. Mike said, "Guess what, Charlie?" Charlie was out of guesses and told him so. "I got here a couple hours ago with my rental truck and paid my bill, signed some paperwork and found the warehouse. There are two pallets with electronic equipment, as it said, but I didn't expect this." Charlie was curious now. He asked, "So, what did you buy, old boy?"

Mike started, "I'm here with the pallets. One is stacked with over a hundred heavy boxes of copper plated blank PC boards. It looks like there are two, four and six layer boards here. There are thousands of boards here. I can sell these for several times what I paid for the entire lot. The other one has four complete satellite communications stations, the kind he anticipated. They're all sealed for shipment to any environment and seem to be complete with a collapsing antenna array, generator power supply and computer.

The transmitter and receiver is solid state and looks like the station will run at least a hundred watts, probably more. Mike's assessment was, "Charlie, it is sweet!"

Mike said that he found some off duty airmen on the base who he hired to help him load the truck and they were already at work. He decided that rather than drive to Belleview with this stuff and then have to unload and reload later on, he would simply drive home. In the short run, it would cost a little more in gas, hotel and time but in the end, everything would be in his barn where he can work on it at his leisure and he won't have to handle it twice. Furthermore, he wanted to get at reselling the pc boards as soon as possible and thinks he has a buyer for them. So, time is of the essence. Of course, that avoids any problem with the renovation work going on in Belleview but now Charlie wishes he had gone with him to help him with the long drive to DX Hill. Mike said he would take it easy and be home in a few days.

Mike is a great trader. He has a good eye for turning a profit and usually makes money when he deals with an auction or trade. Charlie never knows for certain, but he thinks that Mike makes lots more on his hobby work than he ever made in his work

before he retired. No wonder he was so anxious to retire.

Mike expected to drive the big rental truck all the way back to DX Hill. He would drive a few hundred miles a day and wouldn't try to break any land speed records. He could spend his time profitably while driving. He could call some potential buyers for the pc blank boards and reach some conditional agreements, subject to physical verification when he could send them a sample. Then if all checks OK, Mike could make a very large profit. At today's prices for copper, he could make a good profit on just the scrap.

Mike told Charlie that he will keep one of the satellite stations to play with and asked Charlie if he wanted one also. Initially, Charlie declined but thought for a bit about his new contest partners in Florida and told Mike that he might want one for his Florida station. Satellite contacts don't count in contests as far as Charlie knew but it was a capability that his new station partners may want to play with. Without hesitation, Mike said, "It's yours."

Almost a week later, Mike pulled up the driveway on DX Hill in the good size truck he rented in Florida. Charlie and Mike unloaded one of the satellite stations. It was packaged up very well and not terribly heavy, about a hundred pounds which isn't much considering all the equipment that is included. Charlie also looked over the pallet full of copper coated pc blanks and asked Mike, "Back a few years ago, before the price of copper headed skyward, do you know how much we had to pay for boards like these?" Mike nodded that he did and asked, "Do you know what I paid for these?" Charlie shook his head and Mike said, "Less than five for a penny." Wow! Charlie was shocked. "What a steal!" he said. Mike agreed and said he'd make a nice profit on these boards.

If Charlie were interested in economic gain in his retirement, maybe he should shadow Mike around and invest in what he goes for. But, thanks to wise planning and hard work many years ago, Mary's and his retirement programs are quite comfortable and safe. It's fun to make some profit now and then, however and Charlie is delighted for Mike.

As they lowered the satellite station package to a garden wagon for its short trip to the storage shed, Mike asked Charlie, "There's another auction in a few months. Do you want to look at the list?" Charlie grinned and nodded, "Sure", he said. "Maybe I can find some treasure." Mike replied, "You never know, old boy. Maybe you will."

# OCTOBER 2011

## COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>Roswell Hamfest / Tailgate Saturday 0800 to 1500 Hrs Set up 0700</p>	<p><b>1</b> 9:00 AM VE TESTS at WSES</p>
<p><b>2</b> WAE Certificate group meets at 0900 at W/SES 28.440 MHz</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>7:00 PM K5WPH Regular Meeting</p>	<p><b>8</b> No Host Ham Breakfast at 08:00 at Tejas Cafe, Dyer</p>
<p><b>9</b> WAE Certificate group meets at 0900 at W/SES 28.440 MHz</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> Basic electronics 6:30 8:00 PM Regular meeting WSES</p>	<p><b>15</b> QCWA - 2:00 PM MEETING, Golden Corral 4610 Woodrow Bean</p>
<p><b>16</b> WAE Certificate group meets at 0900 at W/SES 28.440 MHz</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>7:00 PM K5WPH Program Night 3709 Wickham</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23/30</b> WAE Certificate group meets at 0900 at W/SES 28.440 MHz</p>	<p><b>24/31</b> HALLOWEEN</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 6:00 PM El Paso Prospectors Club, 2100 San Diego</p>	<p><b>28</b> Tech Night at WSES Meatloaf &amp; all the fixins Program: Costume Party</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>