Hear ye! Hear ye! —

Whereas the primary goal of this Newsletter is to promote goodwill between all Northwest Arkansas amateur radio operators, and

Whereas this Newsletter exists and functions to publish and promote news, events, and information to benefit all Northwest Arkansas clubs, groups, and operators, and

Whereas the earnest desire is to have all subscribers and readers feel they are a part of this Newsletter and that it represents all Northwest Arkansas hams and their radio interests,

Therefore let it be known from henceforth from this month’s edition of the Newsletter, that it shall be known under a NEW NAME that is representative of ALL the fine hams in Northwest Arkansas. Pleased to help and ever ready to serve.
Greetings radio amateurs of Northwest Arkansas -

Enjoy your NEW Newsletter.

73!
Don, K5DB - Editor
When the ARKAN club officers approached me 15 months ago about bringing the Newsletter back, we all firmly agreed that we wanted to make it available as a help and a tool to all the hams of Northwest Arkansas. During those fifteen months, the Newsletter has experienced not only a rebirth, but also an evolution of sorts. Recently, I approached our club officers and suggested to them that we help the Newsletter evolve to yet another level and rename it, the objective being to illustrate to all our readers that we wish you to genuinely feel a part of the Newsletter, and recognize that we desire for it to represent all our fine hams in this area. They heartily approved. Whether you have an individual or club activity, event, announcement, etc., we want to help you spread the word. If you have equipment to buy, sell, or trade the Newsletter is here for you. If you have radio related articles that you would like to share with our growing body of subscribers, we'll be happy to include it. The Newsletter’s format will remain basically the same, but we are excited to “give it a new face” to represent you – the radio amateurs of Northwest Arkansas. The name “VOX” was chosen not only because of it being a ham radio term meaning “Voice Operated Transmit”, which is what we are doing by “transmitting” helpful, informative and entertaining material to you, but primarily it is the Latin word for “voice”. That is what we desire the Newsletter to be: a voice – your voice. We will continue to strive for quality area information, articles, and any other items you would like to see. Please feel free to drop us a line with any questions or comments anytime. Be sure to tell all your ham friends and especially new incoming hams to our area about how to subscribe to THE VOX! 73! – Don-K5DB, Editor
As was the case with many great scores for last June’s Field Day, northwest Arkansas operators showed they could also hold their own in the 2nd largest U.S. radio event, the 2013 running of ARRL Sweepstakes.

For the CW weekend participation, ARKAN club station AA5AR placed first in the high power division and overall in the state with 697 QSOs and 114,308 points. Kenneth Mills-N5EE (Gravette) turned-in a super score of 539 Q’s, 85,162 points, and a first in the state finish in the QRP division…great job Kenneth! Steve Norris from Eureka Springs, W5KI, had a first place state finish in the unlimited division with a great score of 376 Q’s and 60,912 points. Congrats Steve!

During Sweepstakes Phone weekend, our northwest Arkansas hams REALLY showed their stuff: ARCUA, The Amateur Radio Club of the University of Arkansas, W5YM, placed first in the school division with 789 Q’s and 130,974 points. A big congrats to ACØMX, AE5ZC, KC5EQJ, KF5QOE, K5FXB, WJ5V, and W5VO who operated W5YM for this year’s event, and worked all 83 ARRL sections...a clean sweep! ARKAN station AA5AR (KK5II, KA5IOE, W5DLB, K5SAA, and K5DB, ops) placed first in the multi-operator division with 704 Q’s and 115,456 points. Gary Darnell-WBØRUR (Fayetteville) turned in a great single-operator score in the unlimited single-op division with 651 Q’s and 108,066 points. Great job, Gary! Kenneth Mills-N5EE demonstrated that he could be right in the middle of the mix on SSB as well as CW with a first place finish again in the QRP division with 309 Q’s and 48,822 points. Andy Holmes put Bella Vista on the map in the high power, single-op division as K5PO scored 143 Q’s and 17,446 points.

The stellar note to all of these phone scores is that not only were they 1st-place finishes, but that they were also FIRST PLACE FINISHES IN THE STATE in their respective divisions. Fantastic job everybody!!! And you ask if northwest Arkansas has contesters residing in our quadrant of the state? I think we just answered that!
ARCUA - The Amateur Radio Club of the University of Arkansas

Website: www.w5ym.org

Club Callsign: W5YM

President – Jill Niemeier, ACØMX
Vice President – Matthew Barlow, W5VO
Treasurer – Hannah Vines, KD5WNF
UofA Staff Advisor: Larry Roe – WJ5V

Main activities: Field Day, November Sweepstakes, School Club Roundup, SEC Special Events

ARKAN - The Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

Website: www.arkanhams.org

Meets: 1st Monday of each month (except July & December), 6:30 pm.
Northwest Technical Institute, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd, Springdale

Club Callsign: AA5AR

President – Mark Parmer, NW5AR  🔹 Vice-President – Paul Dixon, KK5II
Secretary/Treasurer – Scott Anderson, K5SAA  🔹 Exec. Board Member – Don Banta, K5DB
VEC Liaison – Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON  🔹 Field Day Coordinator – Billy Hyatt, AE5CP
Webmaster/QLS Mgr. – Scott Anderson, K5SAA  🔹 AQP Mgr./Chair – Don Banta, K5DB

BCRO - Benton County Radio Operators

Website: www.bcro.org

Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7 pm.
Rogers Public Library
711 S. Dixieland Road, Rogers

Club Callsign: WX5BC

President – Loren Lawrence, N5PUV  🔹 Vice-President – Mel Hagen, AF5GF
Secretary – Lance Clark, KF5YPD  🔹 Treasurer – Mark Maddox, KL7IWT
Benton County RACES Coordinator – Loren Lawrence, N5PUV
BVRG - Bella Vista Repeater Group

Meets: 1st Thursday of each month (2nd Thursday if holiday), 8am
Duffer’s Restaurant
638 W. Lancashire Blvd., Bella Vista

President – Bob Femrite, KØSNG  ❖  Vice-President – Vern Sidler, AA6AR
Treasurer – Mark Whittlesey, WØKYZ  ❖  Field Day Coordinator – Ron Evans, K5XK

The Noise Blankers Radio Group

Websites:  www.noiseblankers.com and www.hamhijinks.com
Meets: As this is an activity group, regular meetings are not scheduled
Club Callsign:  WR5P
Activities:  The group produces special events, participates in contests and Wreaths Across America, and produces the popular Ham Hijinks satire news website.

President – Gary Darnell, WBØRUR  ❖  Vice-President – Andy Holmes, K5PO
Treasurer/Public Information Officer – Kevin Thornton, K5KVN

The Ozark Wireless Society

Meets: 4th Saturday of each month (except Nov. & Dec.), 10am
The General Store at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
118 W. Johnson Avenue, Springdale

Weekly On-Air Meeting/Chat Session:
Sundays, 4 pm, 3712.50 KHz

Club Coordinator:  Charles Tillotson, W5NX
On Saturday, March 1st, the Benton County Radio Operators held a class for the Technician License. It was held in the Rogers Public Library, in the Community Room from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

We would like to especially thank the Rogers Public Library for providing these facilities at no cost.

These classes are essential to expanding Amateur Radio in northwest Arkansas. Anyone from 9 to 90 is welcome to attend and of course there is no charge.

There were twelve candidates in attendance. I was the facilitator, using a pre-canned Power Point presentation.

I received several emails from candidates remarking that the class was very helpful, especially that it would probably be best to have the class in 3 or 4 sessions rather than one long session. In addition, there were helpful suggestions on ways to make the class more interesting. Many of the emails expressed an interest in a possible General Class License session.

A General Class License session(s) is possible if there is sufficient interest.

I would like to acknowledge Larry Bilderback [KD6IR], Darryl Wagoner [WA1GON], Mike Guest [KF5LHM], and Bob Delgman [KA5CLE] for providing help to set up the room and also for providing instructional assistance when some of the presentation became a little “foggy”.

As a reminder, license exams are held the first Monday of each month (except July and December) at the ARKAN club meeting at the NTI campus on Old Missouri Road in Springdale starting at 8:00 PM.

Also the BCRO club will have license exams on the fourth Saturday of every month at the Rogers Public Library from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
The BCRO had a good turnout of 13 attendees at the March meeting at the Rogers Public Library on Tuesday, Mar. 11.

The March program covered the new Benton County Storm Spotters Guidelines, recently published and downloadable from the front page of the club’s website: www.bcro.org. The county wants as many storm spotters as possible to be ready to help during the 2014 season, already looking to be active. They are also looking for stations to volunteer for a new position as WES (weather event station) that can monitor the frequency the day of expected storms. This will be to answer questions from ham operators before an actual storm net is set up and then pass info about available spotters gathered therein to the Net Control Station once a weather net is called. Loren – N5PUV is the contact for volunteers and will give out further info once called, as the RACES coordinator for Benton County.

Also covered was the CCC on the air August 9-10 as WX5BC (BCRO club call) at Devil’s Den state park. They will be looking for participants. The CCC site is http://www.qsl.net/ccc/.

BCRO will also be one of the clubs participating in the Outback in the Ozarks event. Several clubs from NW Arkansas and Fort Smith will be participating and Mark Farmer – NW5AR is the lead contact person. Any NW Arkansas non-club members are invited to help as well. For any BCRO members wishing to participate contact Mike Guest – KF5LHM.

Field Day preparations are in the works and to be discussed at the April meeting.

NASA says that our home star, the Sun’s, magnetic field has undergone a total reversal of its polarity, which marks the midpoint of Solar Cycle 24 which is going to be completed in 11 years’ time.

According to the U.S. space agency, the Sun has basically flipped magnetically upside down, with its North and South poles reversed to reach the Solar Cycle 24’s midpoint. Now, the magnetic fields have again started moving in opposite directions to finish the 22 year long process that will end in the poles switching their places once again.

NASA’s Dr. Tony Phillips said that a reversal of the sun's magnetic field is literally, a big event. He said that the domain of the sun's magnetic influence extends billions of kilometers beyond the minor planet Pluto.

The annual ARKAN Chili Social was held, after having been rescheduled (as was the case with the February meeting due to Ol’ Man Winter), at the Center for Non-Profits in Rogers on Monday evening, Feb. 10.

A great turnout of about 20 people occurred, along with some chowing-down of some great food. ARKAN would like to thank everyone who brought their taste treats. A special thanks to Jerry Friend’s XYL for bringing some incredible chili and jalapeno cornbread. Also, an excellent salad was furnished by Mike Guest, along with some tasty cookies that were supplied by Kelsi from Outback in the Ozarks. With such a fare set before everyone, even the most discriminating pallet was pleased.

During the feast, Kelsi visited with officers from the clubs present to discuss preparations for amateur radio coverage for the upcoming Outback in the Ozarks event. (See article at top of next page – we need your help! Please sign-up!)

A tour of club station AA5AR was then conducted to conclude the evening. Thanks to everyone who attended!

SUN’S MAGNETIC FIELD HAS REVERSED

GREAT TIME EXPERIENCED AT ARKAN CHILI SOCIAL

ARKAN

FIELD HAS REVERSED

ARKAN CHILI SOCIAL

The annual ARKAN Chili Social was held, after having been rescheduled (as was the case with the February meeting due to Ol’ Man Winter), at the Center for Non-Profits in Rogers on Monday evening, Feb. 10.

A great turnout of about 20 people occurred, along with some chowing-down of some great food. ARKAN would like to thank everyone who brought their taste treats. A special thanks to Jerry Friend’s XYL for bringing some incredible chili and jalapeno cornbread. Also, an excellent salad was furnished by Mike Guest, along with some tasty cookies that were supplied by Kelsi from Outback in the Ozarks. With such a fare set before everyone, even the most discriminating pallet was pleased.

During the feast, Kelsi visited with officers from the clubs present to discuss preparations for amateur radio coverage for the upcoming Outback in the Ozarks event. (See article at top of next page – we need your help! Please sign-up!)

A tour of club station AA5AR was then conducted to conclude the evening. Thanks to everyone who attended!

ARKAN

FIELD HAS REVERSED

ARKAN CHILI SOCIAL

The annual ARKAN Chili Social was held, after having been rescheduled (as was the case with the February meeting due to Ol’ Man Winter), at the Center for Non-Profits in Rogers on Monday evening, Feb. 10.

A great turnout of about 20 people occurred, along with some chowing-down of some great food. ARKAN would like to thank everyone who brought their taste treats. A special thanks to Jerry Friend’s XYL for bringing some incredible chili and jalapeno cornbread. Also, an excellent salad was furnished by Mike Guest, along with some tasty cookies that were supplied by Kelsi from Outback in the Ozarks. With such a fare set before everyone, even the most discriminating pallet was pleased.

During the feast, Kelsi visited with officers from the clubs present to discuss preparations for amateur radio coverage for the upcoming Outback in the Ozarks event. (See article at top of next page – we need your help! Please sign-up!)

A tour of club station AA5AR was then conducted to conclude the evening. Thanks to everyone who attended!
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED !!!

OUTBACK IN THE OZARKS is a whopping 200-mile relay race that begins in historic Eureka Springs, winds thru the scenic “Ozark Outback”, and ends in Fayetteville. The event URL is: www.outbackintheozarks.com.

The date for the event is set for Friday and Saturday, May 2-3.

Organizational preparations are being made at this time, with final arrangements to be announced soon, but volunteer sign-ups are being accepted now. If you would like to enjoy a rewarding experience in contributing your amateur radio ability to this effort, it would be very deeply appreciated. To volunteer for this event in which ham operators are immensely needed, if you are a member of a NW Arkansas club, contact your club officers. If you are not a club member, send your sign-up information to Mark Parmer – NW5AR at e-mail: nw5ar@cox.net. You will later receive further information.

OPERATING EVENTS CALENDAR
April – 2014

Mar. 21 – 28: W6C
University of California/Berkley
Amateur Radio Club Centennial
Info: www.w6bb.org

April 12 – 13: NØSAP
102nd Titanic Special Event Station
David Beckler, 1137 W Crane Dr, Nixa, MO 65714. n0sap@yahoo.com

April 26: WF4Q
Commemorating the Life and Heroic Actions of Railroad Engineer Casey Jones
Info: www.westtnars/home

Louisiana QSO Party
Mar. 22-23 Info: http://louisianacontestclub.org/

Oklahoma QSO Party
Mar. 22-23 Info: http://k5cm.com/okqp2013rules.pdf

CQ WW WPX Contest – SSB

Mississippi QSO Party
Apr. 5-6 Info: http://www.arrlmiss.org

New Mexico QSO Party
Apr. 12-13 Info: http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/

Georgia QSO Party
Apr. 12-13 Info: http://www.georgiaqsoparty.org/
Benjamin Parmer, son of Mark and Donna Parmer, has received an appointment to the Class of 2018 at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Parmer is scheduled to graduate from homeschool in May/June of 2014. He was a member and Cadet Commander of the 115th Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol in Rogers, Arkansas. Parmer was also a member of the Har-Ber High School swim team, the Razorback Aquatic Club AquaHawgs, an Eagle Scout, and an amateur radio operator holding the callsign KF5NPD. The prospective members of the Class of 2018 will report to West Point for the first time on July 2, 2014.

The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year co-educational federal undergraduate liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America’s first college of engineering and is world-renown for leader development. Its mission remains constant—to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U. S. Army.

Mark, NW5AR, is President of ARKAN (Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest).

North Korea Still Tops
DX Magazine’s Most Wanted Survey

DX Magazine has published the results of its most-wanted DXCC entities and, once again, North Korea (P5) is number 1. Here are the Top 10 overall worldwide results, as they appear in the January/February 2014 issue:

1. P5 – North Korea
2. KP1 – Navassa Island
3. 3Y/B – Bouvet Island
4. FT5W – Crozet Island
5. FT5Z – Amsterdam Island
6. VK0/H – Heard Island
7. BS7H – Scarborough Reef
8. ZS8M – Marion Island
9. VP8/S – South Sandwich Islands
10. FT5/T – Tromelin Island
The West Tyrone Amateur Radio Club (WTARC) will be taking part in St. Patrick’s Day celebrations on Monday, Mar. 17 in Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland. Operating times for Special Event Station GB1SPD will be from 1200-1700Z (UTC). The club will be QRV on HF, VHF, UHF, DSTAR and Echolink from the Strule Arts Centre. A special QSL card is being designed for the event; all contacts will receive the special QSL card. See the GB1SPD page on QRZ.com for more info on this event.

APR. 3
BVRG
(Bella Vista Repeater Group)
April Meeting
Duffer’s Restaurant
638 W Lancashire Blvd. – Bella Vista
Thursday, 8 am

APR. 7
ARKAN (Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest) April Meeting
Northwest Technical Institute
709 S Old Missouri Road – Springdale
Monday, 6:30 pm
(VE test session immediately following meeting @ 8pm)

APR. 8
BCRO (Benton County Radio Operators) April Meeting
Rogers Public Library – 711 S. Dixieland Road – Rogers
Tuesday, 7 pm

APR. 26
OWS (Ozark Wireless Society) April Meeting
The General Store at the Shiloh Museum – Springdale
Saturday, 10 am

APR. 26
BCRO (Benton County Radio Operators) VE Test Session
Rogers Public Library – 711 S. Dixieland Road – Rogers
Saturday, 3 pm
BCRO Test Session – Rogers
February 22, 2014

CONGRATULATIONS!!!:
Frank Majdan – New Technician!
Tanner Blair – New Technician!
Robert Ward – New Technician!
Michael Durff – New General!
Doris Bilderback, KD5WQB – New Amateur Extra!

UPCOMING TEST SESSIONS: Mar. 26 (Start Time: 3pm)
Rogers Public Library, 711 S. Dixieland Rd.

ARKAN Test Session – Rogers
March 10, 2014

John Wood – New Technician!

UPCOMING TEST SESSIONS: Mar. 26 (Start Time: pm)
Rogers Public Library, 711 S. Dixieland Rd.

At the January 2014 ARRL Board of Directors meeting, a resolution was passed which asked for member feedback and input pertaining to the increasing popularity of data modes. The information gathered by this investigation is to be used by the HF Band Planning Committee of the Board as a means to suggest ways to use our spectrum efficiently so that these data modes may “compatibly coexist with each other.” As per the resolution, the ARRL Board of Directors is now reaching out to the membership and requesting cogent input and thoughtful feedback on matters specific to digital mode operation on the HF bands.

The feedback may include, but is not limited to, the recent proposal the ARRL made to the FCC, RM 11708, regarding the elimination of the symbol rate restrictions currently in effect.

The Board of Directors believes that member input in the decision making process is both valuable and important as well as fostering a more transparent organization. It is to this end that we open this dialogue.

Comments must be received no later than March 31, 2014 to be included in the Committee’s report to the Board at the July 2014 ARRL Board of Directors meeting.

Please e-mail your comments to: HF-Digital-Bandplanning@arrl.org

Concerned members may also contact their Division Director by mail, telephone or in person with any relevant information.
The Benton County Radio Operators met with the Benton County Emergency Operation Center’s Deputy Director Mike Dixon on Wednesday, February 26. The main topic of discussion was the coming storm season and plans for ARES/RACES operations in the county. With me were Mike Guest (KF5LHM), Bob (KA5CLE) and Jim (KE5YYN). Several other county officials were also present.

I turned over to Mike Dixon my edits to their Storm Spotter Guidelines which will be published by the county soon. That document had not been updated since 2006 and of course, new information added. As soon as it is official, we will be posting it on the BCRO website: www.bcro.org. (Editor's note: The VOX will also feature these guidelines in a near-future issue.)

We also discussed in that meeting their new COP (County Operations Page) that will be in operation next month under beta. This in-house created system will allow a weather net control station (NCS) to place icons representing storm spotters on a graphical page that also has the weather, county vehicles and other tactical information that will be used internally to provide a "heads up" all on one page for use during weather events. This allows net control to take spotter information and place it into the icon that will then inform others that a message is attached and when clicked on, allow spotter-relayed info to be instantly seen by operations officials. It will be a large time saver and allow everyone to be working "off of the same page" as it were during those tense moments when time is of the essence. We are looking forward to seeing this system.

It is important for Hams wanting to volunteer with storm spotting for Benton county follow these directives as a minimum:

- Go to BCALERT.com and set their notices to "contiguous counties" for storm events. That allows them to get warnings issued for counties to the South, West and North of ours so that they may be apprised of being prepared to spot long before the weather reaches our county. We want spotters to be available long before weather comes into Benton County
- Along with the previous point, we are going to institute a Weather Event Coordinator (WEC) to monitor the BCRO frequency during the day of impending weather. The purpose there will be to capture the calls of hams who are wanting to know when a weather net might be called, and prepare them for operations. That WEC position will be passed around to a member who can be available to monitor that day. The WEC can make the call to start an official Weather Net at any time, regardless of national weather service warnings.
- We will make 100% effort to always have a net control person at the EOC to run operations over the radio prior to a weather net. Once that person is ready they will become the NCS (Net Control Station) and will ask for spotter to check-in and also hams to reserve the frequency for the Weather Net until relinquished back to normal operation. Once a weather net is up it will be under the control of the NCS and normal repeater traffic will have to be taken to simplex or another repeater, allowing that machine to pass weather related traffic only.
- We are also asking that Spotters attend a recent training from the weather service and have their certificate in their possession.

These may seem like new operational guidelines but in reality, mostly not. Most of them are common operating procedures for storm spotting events throughout our geographical area, and we want to be as efficient as possible for the benefit of the county we are serving.

We also discussed upcoming ARES/RACES meetings which will appear in the next issue of The VOX. Since the ARES/RACES program with the county involves hams outside of the BCRO club, I will be getting an updated list to contact plus asking hams who live in Benton country and who want to help with ARES/RACES and storm spotting to contact me by email. The county is only asking that Hams that want to be listed as ARES/RACES volunteers take the NIMS courses 100 and 200 as a minimum, then contact me with their certificates from those free online courses so I can get their paperwork into the program. The EOC agreed that those who are current in this program can be issued "county Races Volunteer" badges so they can show an employer if needed. If anyone would like additional information, please contact me at: KE5PUV@gmail.com.
Many amateurs enjoy traffic nets, DXing, contesting, working states and counties, emergency communication preparedness, assisting in public events, and many other areas. And...many amateurs enjoy the twist of working Special Event Stations.

Special Event Stations offer us the opportunity to collect QSLs and/or certificates that observe or commemorate local, national, and international events. You can quickly construct a 3-ring binder with a very interesting plethora of Special Event Station QSO confirmations, and show-off your collection to the family and friends. Even people who are uninterested in or ignorant to amateur radio, find Special Event Station QSLs and certificates interesting. And, who knows...there’s always the chance your collection will spark an interest in them for our hobby.

Probably the best reason for the operation of Special Event Stations is that they are educational. For example, last November Special Event Station W4D was on the air from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. If you happened to miss-out in working that station, then you probably do not know that they were celebrating the 520th anniversary of the discovery of the island by Christopher Columbus. When Columbus landed on the island on Nov. 19, 1493 he named it San Juan Batista in honor of St. John the Baptist, a name that was later changed to Puerto Rico (rich port).

In December of 2012, a group of us from ARKAN participated in the activation of Special Event Station K5A which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Prairie Grove. Not only did we offer a handsome certificate that described the importance, history, and impact of the battle on the war, we received many, many on-air words of thanks from the many stations that worked us for commemorating the event (there are hundreds of Civil War enthusiasts out there!). By just casual operating, we enjoyed logging 408 contacts that weekend!

Again, when you work Special Event Stations, it is very educational. When you activate a Special Event Station and if you do it right, there is an element of work involved, but it’s fun work. Putting a Special Event Station on the air is not like contesting. It can at times, get a little fast-paced, but most of the time it is very easy-going and you will meet many interesting people as they call you to work your Special Event. More about that in a bit. Each year ARKAN goes to the airwaves with Special Event Station W5T, (cont. next page)
as we go *train mobile* on the Arkansas and Missouri railroad for great fun on a Saturday, usually in April. It’s still 2 years away, but I am planning on another S/E station in June of 2016 to commemorate the 180th anniversary of Arkansas statehood (admitted to the Union on June 15, 1836). I hope there will be other S/E stations in Arkansas observing this event with their own stations as well.

So how do you find a Special Event Station? One of the easiest ways to find *major* commemorative stations is right here in the ARKAN Newsletter! Each month you will find them listed with major radio contests in the Operating Events section. If you want to view the full listings, you can go to the URL: [http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations).

Special Event Stations can observe, commemorate or celebrate just about anything: from holiday celebrations/observances, to historical events, to local, area, and/or state festivals, fairs, etc. Anything of interest!

As stated earlier, you may wish to organize and operate your own Special Event Station sometime. It can be a lot of fun and very rewarding. If you would like to pursue an activity such as this, here’s a quick checklist of what you would need to do:

- First (and obviously), choose your event. Some research will be involved in this. You will probably have to visit your local library or search the web for historical timelines and dates of the event you wish to observe/commemorate.
- As you search for and find an event for your S/E station, be sure and collect all the information you can about it, along with the timeline information. If you’re going to put a S/E event station on the air, you’ll want to be knowledgeable about your topic. You will then need to construct hard-copy documentation for the stations that work you, as written confirmation that they did work you. This would be in the form of either a QSL card or a certificate, or both if you wish.
  - If a QSL, you can either create and print your own on card stock (make sure you have the correct average QSL dimensions), engage the services of a local printer or one of the many quality QSL card commercial printers that you can find in the classified section of each month’s QST, or search the internet. Make sure you place the QSL information in your Special Event Station listing, that a S.A.S.E (Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope) is required for the requesting station to receive the card back from you. Most stations who search for and work Special Event Stations do not mind at all to include a SASE when they mail their card to you, and it will save you on postage costs.
  - If you prefer to issue a certificate, you can create/construct a handsome “Master Template” certificate with pictures, data, information, etc. about your (Cont. next page)
event (if you use pictures off the internet, make sure you use non-copyrighted photos, or get permission for copyrighted from the copyright owner).

You can then use the master certificate template to fill-out the names and callsigns of the stations that request a certificate via e-mail and send it to them as an e-mail attachment. They can print it on their own printer (yes they will be printing it with their ink at their cost, but they would be spending that same money for the cost of a SASE manila envelope for you to send them a hard-copy certificate anyway). This saves postage costs for them, and certificate printing & postage costs for you. You can also print or have your certificates printed and issue via regular mail, of course.

- You will need to choose and request to be assigned a 1x1 callsign for your Special Event Station. The best place to do this is: www.arrl.org/special-event-call-signs. Not only will the ARRL secure the callsign for you (if it is not already taken), but you can also ask them to list your event in the corresponding monthly issue of QST for the month your event will take place. Be sure and secure your callsign at least 6 months before you conduct your event to ensure you get the callsign you want to use.
- Approximately 2 weeks before the event, contact QRZ.com. Have them construct a webpage for your S/E station (make sure you give them its callsign). You can then edit the page with all applicable information: The title of your S/E station (ex: Special Event Station W5D. Commemorating the 108th anniversary of the discovery of diamonds in Arkansas), information/history supporting the event, information on how to obtain QSL or certificate, etc. You can save a lot of on-air time by doing this. Then when you are on-air with your S/E callsign, all you need say (unless you would be answering incoming questions about the significance of the event) is “full information is available on QRZ.com.”

Special Event Stations are a unique and very interesting aspect of amateur radio. They are educational, promote the hobby, and definitely make an “out of the ordinary” contact for other stations. But the most important facet of Special Event Stations, as it should be, is that they are fun.

Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
<th>ENTITY</th>
<th>CALLSIGN</th>
<th>QSL Via</th>
<th>INFO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar23</td>
<td>Mar31</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>3D2FJ</td>
<td>LotW</td>
<td>By K0UU fm Beqa I (OC-016, WLOTA 0215); 80-10m; CW; QSL also OK via K0UU direct; holiday style operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar23</td>
<td>Mar31</td>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>5V7</td>
<td>F5MVB</td>
<td>By F5MVB as 5V7MP and F5AOW as 5V7BJ; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct (US$2 or 1 IRC, w/ SAE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar28</td>
<td>Apr09</td>
<td>Mellish Reef</td>
<td>VK9MT</td>
<td>MØURX</td>
<td>By team; OQRS available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr05</td>
<td>Apr12</td>
<td>Madeira Island</td>
<td>CT9</td>
<td>F5SGI</td>
<td>By CT9/F5SGI; 80-10m; mainly CW; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr05</td>
<td>Apr17</td>
<td>Easter Island</td>
<td>CEØY</td>
<td>CE1WFN</td>
<td>By CEØY/CE1WFN; HF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr08</td>
<td>Apr15</td>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>T88QX</td>
<td>LotW</td>
<td>By DF8DX; 40-10m; CW, some SSB; QSL also OK via DF8DX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr09</td>
<td>Apr17</td>
<td>Ogasawara</td>
<td>JD1AAI</td>
<td>JD1AAI</td>
<td>By JA2NQG; CW; QSL also OK via JA2NQG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr16</td>
<td>Apr24</td>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>VP2MMN</td>
<td>DF8AN</td>
<td>By DF8AN; 160-6m; mainly CW; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr29</td>
<td>May07</td>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>T88ST</td>
<td>JR3STX</td>
<td>By JR3STX; 80-6m; CW SSB RTTY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This month we feature two cards from 2 very big contest stations, and in case you haven’t worked them and received a card from them, you’ll find these to be very interesting:

Once upon a time, a bunch of serious Finnish contest amateurs gathered around the fireplace to figure out whether they had done their share in traditional amateur radio, and to have a serious look at some new ways of going about it. Their idea was to make new technologies work on young people’s terms so that the potential renewal of amateur radio could be conducted with the art of contesting as a spearhead – elevating it all to an Extreme Sport – using extreme concepts so as to get young people involved with it and hopefully to jump on the amateur radio bandwagon.

They decided to push their envelope to heights never seen before and go for some extreme targets – one was to change the winning scores of major contests that had been mainly coming from the European continent, and move those European records to the Far North. This group also aimed their sites to set European records from the south, by setting-up station CR2X (Azores). But the Arcala station is truly their pride and joy, as you can see why!

From the QSL on the right, the Arcala mammoth rises to a towering height of 100 meters (330 feet). This array consists of 4 elements on 80-meters, 3 elements on 160 meters, and 4-over-4 on 40-meters. And this is just one array. If you were to drive 40 km east of the city of Oulu, you would suddenly approach an unbelievable site, when you reach the village of Arcala – 7 rotatable towers with 40 antennas totaling 198 elements. Many times in today’s world, people misuse the word “amazing” in their everyday vernacular, describing something that realistically is not. THIS STATION IS.

Another very impressive HF installation can be found in St. Petersburg, Russia at contest station RU1A, which I have worked many times over the years in various DX contests. It is the club station of the St. Petersburg State Aerospace Instrumentation University. Check-out their antennas: 2-element (both driven) wire beam up 205’, 3-element full-size beam 24-foot boom up 100’, 4-element beam up 90’. They also have high in the air 7, 5, and 3-element beams, a 4x4 “H” frame rotary, a 5-over-5 element beam, and to top it all off a RQ63 tri-band quad (6 elements on 10, 6 elements on 15, and 4 elements on 20 meters) on a 52.8’ boom, 100 feet up. They were running 7 Yaesu FT-1000 MP transceivers when I first worked them in 2003. How’s this for a club station?

(Please send .JPGs of your interesting QSLs and accompanying stories for us to include in Qurious QSLs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)
If you could spend 10 minutes chatting with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station what would you ask him/her? Delaware Township (NJ) School 4th and 5th graders were ready to go on Wednesday, Feb. 19, when they got the chance to do just that, through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

Everyone in the school got to listen in over speakers in the gym, where they were gathered that morning. "We put 400 people in one room and got them to be super-silent. That's just amazing," said teacher Val Wheatley, who organized the undertaking. Since then, she said, "Everyone's still bubbling about it." Delaware Township, a Pre-K through grade 8 school, submitted a proposal in April 2013 to take part in the ham radio program, Wheatley said. ARISS is offered through a partnership between NASA, the American Radio Relay League, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) and other amateur radio organizations and space agencies in Russia, Canada, Japan and Europe.

The ARKAN Field Day Committee/Team and other club members had a hearty breakfast at the Fayetteville IHOP on Saturday, Feb. 8. They then travelled to University of Arkansas Agri Park to assess station layout and antenna placement for June’s upcoming ARRL Field Day 2014. It was a cold, overcast, and semi-windy morning, but the organizational appraisal went well and plans were completed. The 4th weekend in June will be here before you know it, and ARKAN sends best wishes for smooth set-ups, successful operations, and especially a quality and fun time to all our NW Arkansas clubs that will be taking to the airwaves for this year’s event.
**RESCUE RADIO: North Carolina Hams Respond to Ice Storm**

Wilson County North Carolina Auxiliary Emergency Communications was activated for the February 12th severe winter weather. This after weather officials began to predict a potential crippling ice storm for the Wilson County area.

A number of team members manned the radio room at the Wilson County Emergency Operations Center from where they provided weather reports of precipitation changes to SKYWARN operations.

Journal entry logs to the WebEOC were posted to the Internet and the Wilson County Auxiliary Emergency Communications Facebook page was updated with alerts and weather information. At one point the group's social media page was reaching over 700 citizens in both the county and city. And while the potential was in place for the responders to pass traffic to the Emergency Manager, thanks to changes in overall weather conditions that need never arose.

**RESCUE RADIO: Ham Radio Officials Help Track Down Local Dementia Patient**

Amateur radio operators in Eugene, Oregon, recently helped authorities track down a man with dementia after he had wandered away from his home. Lane County sheriff's officials said that the ham radio T-hunting team used its own radio direction finding gear to locate the unidentified man who was wearing an electronic identification transmitter bracelet only two hours after his wife had reported him missing from their home. The names of the hams involved in this rescue radio operation were not mentioned in the Oregon Register-Guard news story.

**TX FACTOR TV Program Comes to the Web**

The United Kingdom's first television show dedicated entirely to amateur radio was launched on the Internet just after midnight UTC on Friday 21st February. The half-hour show is produced by a group of broadcast professionals who are themselves radio amateurs.

Shot in full High Definition, episode one features Bob McCreadie, GØFGX, exploring the Marconi Centre, at Poldhu in Cornwall. Nick Bennett 2EZØFGQ takes a hike up a mountain to discover the delights of Summits on the Air operation. Finally, Mike Marsh G1IAR takes the audience to meet the Norman Lockyer Observatory Radio Group to find out what makes a 2 meter repeater tick.

Over the coming months and years the show hopes to explore all aspects of our fascinating hobby and is free to watch at www.txfactor.co.uk. Just click on the word "here" under "Watch Episode 1 Now".

**Public Invited to Comment on FCC Process Reform**

The Federal Communications Commission is inviting comment on what it terms as its Process Reform. Among the agency's goals is eliminating or streamlining outdated rules that are candidates for such action. This, as a result of marketplace or technology changes that render them no longer necessary in the public interest.

Interested parties may file comments on the Report and the proposed recommendations on or before March 31, 2014. All comments should reference GN Docket No. 14-25. Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the agency's Electronic Comment Filing System at wwwapps.fcc.gov/ecfs. The entire notice can be read on-line at: www.tinyurl.com/FCC-rules-reform.
After every flight, UPS pilots fill out a form called a “gripe sheet”, which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by UPS pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers. (By the way, UPS has one of the best air safety records in the nation.)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit. P: Dead bugs on windshield.
S: Something tightened in cockpit. S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-feet-per-minute descent.
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
S: DME volume set to more believable level.
S: Evidence removed.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S: That’s what friction locks are for.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.
S: Suspect you’re right.

P: Aircraft handles funny.
S: Aircraft warned to straighten-up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums. P: Mouse in cockpit.
S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics. S: Cat installed.

And of course we’ve saved the best one for last!

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.
S: Took hammer away from the midget.
This month, The VOX features the FB shack of Ron Evans – K5XK. Ron resides in Bella Vista and is a member and Field Day Coordinator of the Bella Vista Repeater Group. Ron is a fine CW operator as well, along with being QSL manager for several DX stations.

Ron exclusively uses Ten-Tec equipment at his home station (Ed. Note: My kind o’ guy!).

The current line-up is all Ten-Tec. An Orion 565 and small Hercules 2 solid state QSK amp with 48 amp p.s., LDG AT-1000 auto-tuner, and Vibroplex iambic paddle. The antennas are currently a 5 band, 2 el Quad @ 50’ and an inverted Vee for the lower bands. Ham II rotator, Heath remote antenna switch. A Kenwood TM-221A and 4 el Yagi doesn’t get much use on 2 Meters these days while the upper HF bands are so ‘hot.’ For general logging and record keeping, Ron uses Win-EQF, and N1MM for occasional contesting. Our thanks to Ron for sending-in these great pics.
If you work a lot of HF and are involved with pursuing an award (WAS, DXCC, etc.) or just good ol’ rag chewing, and even if you opt to use LotW (Logbook of the World) or e-QSL for some of your electronic contact confirmations, it is inevitable that, sooner or later, you will have to deal with hard copy QSL cards.

As far as your own card is concerned, there are many QSL printing software programs out there that you can purchase and print your own. The only drawback to this is that unless you choose a design that is very simple and does not include color pictures or elaborate graphics, you’re probably going to spend more than your comfortable with on printer ink. In that case, you may want to opt for a commercial QSL printer. There are many of these that advertise in each monthly issue of QST, or you can find them on the web using your search engine. They usually offer many designs and layouts at reasonable cost, which will enable you to choose one within your price range. Of course and as just about with anything else, the fancier the card, the more the printing cost will be.

Personally, I use 2 types of cards – a budget card and a picture card, to use with whatever “QSL situation” I am faced with. Ex: If a county hunter wants my card (they have thousands), he/she probably isn’t that interes-

in however elaborate my card is-they just want confirmation. So they get a budget card.

Make sure the dimensions of the dividers are a little less narrow and a little less tall than your shoe box dimensions, and you’re in business.

FILE BOX OR CABINET – You may want to opt for a custom cardboard file box, plastic file box, or a wooden or metal office card file cabinet with the # of drawers of your choosing:

You can store all your cards or if you wish, you can spiffy-up the shack a bit and show-off some of them to potential visitors with QSL displays, or a little of both. There are many QSL display options just as there are storage options. You

THE GOOD OL’ SHOE BOX – I used several of these for many, many years. They work and they’re cheap. You probably have some empty shoeboxes laying around. Go to a discount store or one of the office supply stores, and pick-up a packet of numerical card dividers or alphabetical dividers or both (depending on how you want to catalog your cards, usually numerical for stateside cards and alphabetical for DX).
You can purchase 20-card plastic displays or 3-ring binder displays, which are available through several sources you can find with your search engine on the Internet.

Or, you can go all-out and purchase (or build) a perpetual QSL display using grooved mini-shelving. Personally, I think the ultimate QSL display method might be one of which I recently discovered on the web. I’ve used many display approaches over the years, and I am seriously considering purchasing for myself a QSL display which is currently sold by DX Engineering. *(Note: I am not engaging in an advertisement for them. Just passing along what they’ve got.)*

They have created an electronic means of displaying QSL cards sort of like a digital photo frame, but geared specifically for QSLs. The display consists of a 7” diagonal digital picture frame that has a 16:9 aspect ratio.

According to reviews that I have read on the product, it has a nice, crisp display, programmable on-and-off times, & various view transitions. The frame has a port for an SD flash memory card.

To enable the images of your to be displayed in the picture frame, a scanner is also included in the purchase price. The scanner is optimized for scanning QSL cards. It scans one card at a time, and will handle QSLs up to 4” x 6”. This dimension will accommodate almost any normal-sized QSL, with the exception of jumbo-sized cards. The scanner can be used in conjunction with a PC, or as a stand-alone with the picture frame (good feature). In a stand-alone arrangement, it scans QSL cards directly to the flash memory card which is then plugged into the frame (not sure if flash card is provided with kit).

The scanner is very fast taking only a few seconds for each card and also automatically crops the cards which eliminates black edges when displayed.

It can only scan single cards – not bi-fold or tri-fold cards such as from a DXpedition. According to reviews, the auto-cropping occasionally will cut off a portion of the QSL’s callsign if it is printed too close to the edge of the card, but that of course will not be the case with every QSL, and it should be a minor issue. If you want more information on the kit, go to: http://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-qsl-kit.

Hard copy QSLs have, and will always have, a lasting legacy in amateur radio. Even with the present onset of the electronic QSL (e-QSL) which is fast and handy to confirm a contact, hard copy QSLs are great conversation pieces to share with hams and non-hams alike, and are lasting keepsakes.

You do need a good method and system to keep them though, and whichever one you settle on in the quest for organizing, storing, and/or displaying your QSL cards, we hope that this article has been helpful to you.