



# The GroundWire

## BENS' BITS

ISSUE 2012-03

This year I have been asked to serve again as the Vice President of the club. I would like to thank everyone in the club for making my membership a pleasant experience. I have seen members come and go for the past ten years. Somehow we still keep a basic core of members that keep the club going. I have enjoyed participating in the events that I could attend. Due to health and age, I am not able to participate in all the events that the club has to offer, but I enjoy hearing the planning and excitement that occurs at the club meetings. I have enjoyed members that have varying experiences and talents who share with us. I like the Monday night net and being one of the Net-Control operators.



Here is my challenge to each member. Try to attend the monthly meetings every time you can. Check in on the Monday night net each week, let us hear what is going on in your life that week or what new equipment you may have purchased. Volunteer to be part of the activities and Net Control Operator, it is a great learning experience. Last but not least, prepare an article for the Ground Wire, and let me know what month you want to have it published. I **will** be making assignments.

This month we recognize the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln. Just think of how grateful they would have been if they had had a few Amateur Radio operators for their communications.

73,

BEN/K5NEB

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## What is it??

Send your guess to [info@swdcarc.org](mailto:info@swdcarc.org).  
Winner will be revealed next month.



**ANSWER: Heathkit HW-101**

**February Winner is John Langridge (KB5NJD)**

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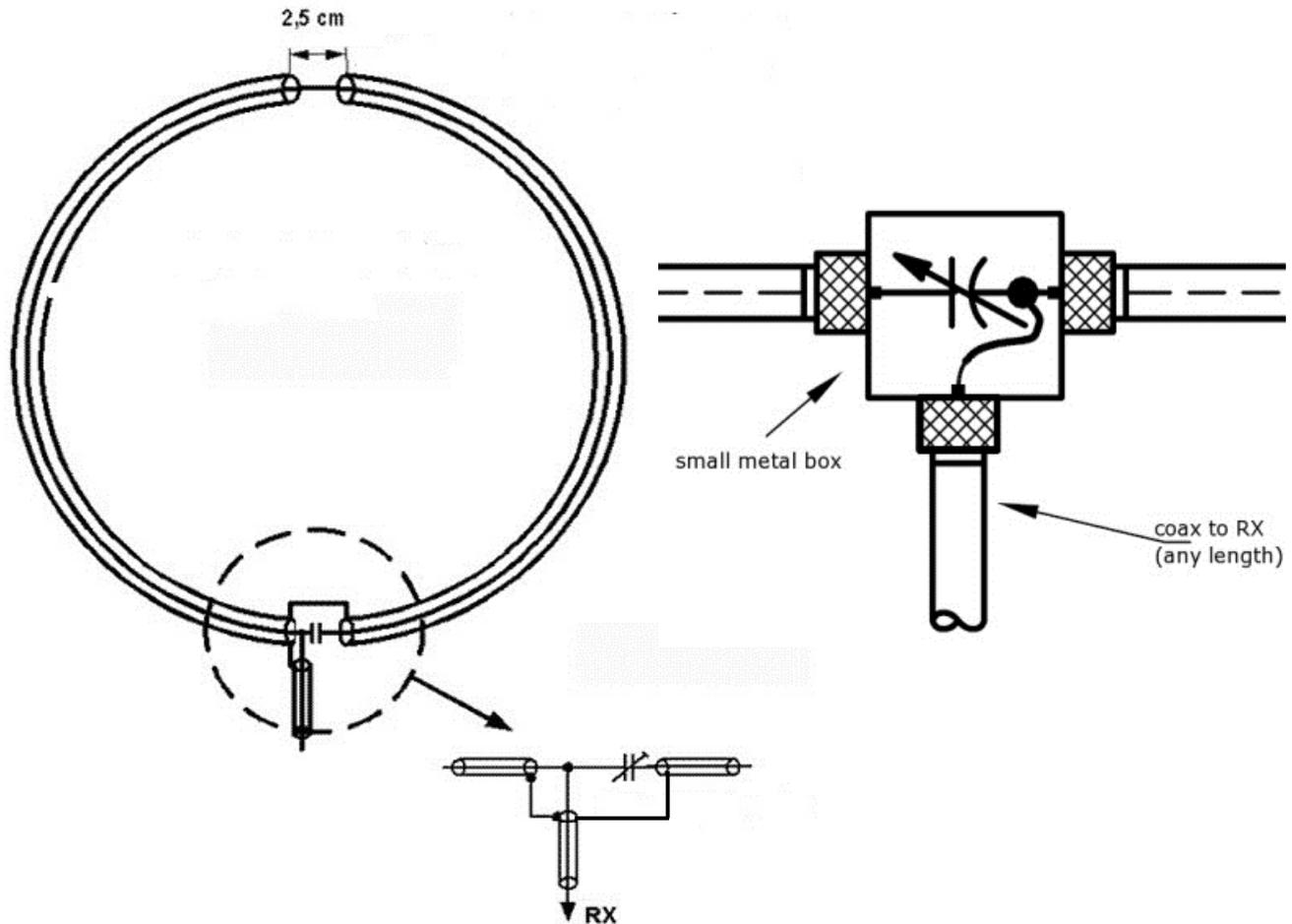
**Here is March's mystery ... What Is It??**



# 80M Loop Receiving Antenna



Errata to 80m Shielded Loop Diagram from Club Presentation



Coax can be any type – RG6 or RG59 are most common. 5 or 6 feet ***total cable length*** is ok. The removal of the shield at the top of the loop must be exactly halfway between each end at the feed point – measure three times, cut once!

***All braids are tied together at the feed point.*** If you are not using connectors, use a terminal or barrier strip to terminate the ends of center conductor. Doing so will make adding capacitance easy when tuning. Either side of the capacitor is fine for connecting the center conductor of the feed line. The feed line shield connects directly to the other shield as short as possible.

Use whatever capacitors you can find to get about 600-pf capacitance. Depending on your coax type used in the loop and length, it could be much more or much less. Use an analyzer to tune to minimum SWR. **DO NOT USE YOUR RADIO TO PUT POWER ON THE LOOP!**

Questions? Email me at [kb5njd@arrl.net](mailto:kb5njd@arrl.net) 73, John, KB5NJD

# Courtesy Transcends Everything



After reading an exchange on the Top Band Reflector titled “Proper Decorum on the “Gentleman’s Band””, I feel compelled to share with you my thoughts on this subject. The basis for the article was one ham’s experience on 160 meters. Copied below is that post:

“Hi Guys,

This morning, after calling a general "CQ" several times on an apparently vacant frequency, the passband of my receiver was inundated by someone deliberately sending a continuous string of rapid dots---pausing only long enough to see if the barrage elicited any response from me---and a terse "QSY"...

I make it a point to never commence calling CQ without first sending "QRL?"---twice---on the frequency. Likewise, I always limit my first call to a single "4x3" string, in case I may have missed someone, confirming that the frequency is in use. Why is it that some obviously seasoned operators on the band repeatedly ignore queries as to frequency occupancy, preferring instead to rudely pounce upon unsuspecting callers in a manner that would surely convince newcomers that the term "Gentleman's Band" is merely a quaint reference to a bygone age...?

Not everyone on 160-meters has a lap top computer glued to the ON4KST Chat Room while operating, and not everyone is a slave to the notion that DX stations must respond to each & every "CQ". If someone has the good graces to ask if it's alright to call a casual "CQ" on a frequency, why not respond just as graciously in kind with an "R", or a "TU", if indeed, it is not...?

It takes so very little to uphold high Amateur standards, just as it doesn't take much to allow decorum to slip into the nether regions of the 11-meter band. Whether it's due to tradition, or some mis-placed perception of "quality", one certainly expects more from 1.8-MHz...

~73~ de Eddy”

It is our responsibility as FCC licensed Amateur operators to comply with the rules and regulations set forth and ensure our operations fall within these rules. It is a privilege to use the radio spectrum allotted to us, and therefore is our responsibility to act in a manner that reflects that privilege. I frequently remind myself that ham radio is a hobby, and should be a pleasurable experience. Yes, the chase to log that rare DX can be fierce and intense, this I know, but as Eddy notes, “It takes so little to uphold high Amateur standards”.

We are not born as Amateur Operators, but are introduced to this great hobby by someone or some means. I feel it is our duty to mentor those that we bring into the fold, and those that arrive by other means. By showing our peers the proper operation of their equipment and conduct becoming of a ham, we hopefully ensure that our bands do not become as the 11 meter band has ended up. Let’s all strive to be the best oper-



ators we can be. The FISTS CW organization motto is: “Accuracy Transcends Speed”. I think the underlying motto that all ham’s should have is: “Courtesy Transcends Everything”.

The DX Code Of Conduct, if followed by all, would reduce or eliminate most of the QRM on the bands. I’m copying it below for those who have not seen it before:

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

Thanks for the bandwidth,

Respectfully,

Mike

K5MMH

## MTC Trip Report - 2/4/12



What do you get when you have an Extra, Advance and General Class Armature Radio Operator headed out on a road trip? Well, let me share with you.

On Saturday Morning, after breakfast of course, three headed out with the goal getting to Paris. OK, it was not to another country, we stayed in Texas. It started when Bill, N5TXN said he would like to run up to the Grand Opening of Main Trading Company in Paris, TX.



Parking was at a premium. It required us to circle the building a couple of times to find a spot.



Company logo and web-site banner.



Coffee, cold drinks and pizza - nice Grand Opening.

You know, Bill likes this company because that is where he purchased his little Red (wink, wink) HT. After thinking about it, I said sure, sounds like fun. On the morning of our departure, Jim, N1OQS (a friend of mine - Yes, John, I do have friends) was in the area, so he decided to go with us on the trip. (Jim, N1OQS is a ham that I meet in San Antonio when I was working down there. Jim is retired Air Force and now drives a Big Truck as an Over The Road Driver. He gets the chance ever so often to come to the Great State of Texas. So if you hear him on 147.060, be sure and say hi. I am trying to get him to talk on 3.608.5, but he is not set up for 80M in his big truck.

## MTC Trip Report - 2/4/12 ... continued



The trip was an adventure. Jim and I both had GPS running to make sure that Bill could find his way. Then we started playing with APRS. We talked to Floyd on the radio and then had to go to cell phones. Then just about to Paris the APRS started working correctly. After looking at everything there was, and picking some stuff up two or three times we waited for the Grand Prize Drawing. Needless to say, none of us won. But the second half of the trip began. Yes, we came back a different route, which I think was better because I got to see it and wasn't working on that junk radio that Bill has in his truck. About the time we got back in range for 147.060, we heard Floyd calling saying that he could see we are headed back. APRS was still working well.

Purchases, yes, you can't make a trip like this without buying something. Jim and I both walked out with a Kenwood TM-281A – 2M Mobile. Just what everyone needs, a new 2M Mobile. I did mount mine in the truck, replacing the 261A that I had just temporarily mounted by laying it on the seat. So far it seems like a great rig. Power 65 watts on high power and front facing speaker makes it a great radio.



There was a crowd the entire time we were there. They estimated 200 visitors based on entry forms for the door prizes.



Bill, N5TXN - Look, large knobs! Don't know what they do, but I like turning them!



Jim, N1OQS - No, that will not fit in your truck.



Well I didn't talk much about food and that is because there wasn't much food till after the trip. Yes, we did have pizza and a cold drink, but I don't think that we counted that as food as much as just a snack. So by the time we returned, Bill and I called our better halves and decided to go eat with them. We went ahead and brought Jim to. We decided to go to the little place in Cedar Hill called Babe's. Well, for those that haven't eaten there, it is one of those places that if you leave hungry, it is you own fault. We all had a good time with our visit and trip to MTC.

Thanks Bill, N5TXN and Jim, N1OQS – I had a great trip.

73.

Billy, KB5ZZW

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## **Important Notice**

The Saturday Morning Breakfast meeting has changed venues.

We are now meeting at Acapulco Ameri-Mex Restaurant at 225 E. Beltline Rd. in Desoto. This is ¼ mile east of Hampton Rd. on the north side of Beltline, across from the DeSoto ISD building.

We begin gathering at 6:30AM and we order at 7:00AM. Join us, all are welcome.

<http://www.acapulcosamerimex.com/index.php>

## Financial Report ... February 2012



February-12	Income	Expense	Balance	Petty Cash
<b>General Fund</b>				
Beginning Balance 2/1/12			\$1,812.96	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income-2012	\$50.00			
Transfer From Matl. Property				
Transfer Petty Cash income				
TOTAL INCOME	\$50.00			
EXPENSES				
Ham-Com Table		\$30.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES				
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$50.00	\$30.00		
Ending Balance 2/29/2012			\$1,832.96	
<b>Special Events Fund</b>				
Beginning Balance 2/1/12			\$125.14	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Trans from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME				
EXPENSES	\$0.00			
TOTAL EXPENSES				
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Ending Balance 2/29/2012			\$125.14	
<b>Material Property Fund</b>				
Beginning Balance 2/1/12			\$2,238.72	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income-2012	\$50.00			
Transfer from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME	\$50.00			
EXPENSES				
Telephone Pymt. 02Feb.		\$39.79		
Transfer to General Fund				
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$39.79		
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$50.00	\$39.79		
Ending Balance 2/29/2012			\$2,248.93	
<b>February Balance</b>	\$100.00	\$69.79	\$4,207.03	

### 2012 Board Members

#### President

Scott Crappa (KE5NLK)

#### Vice-President

Ben Barber (K5NEB)

#### Treasurer

Mike Harang (K5MMH)

#### Secretary

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

#### Directors

Paul Dryer (KD5IVP)

Lester Wong (K5ITO)

Rick Ellis (KJ5UY)

### Committee Positions

#### Repeater Trustee

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

#### Web Master

Bruce Holt (KG1BAH)

# MN<sup>2</sup>

### Monday Night Net

**Net Time 8:00PM**

**147.060(+ ) Primary**  
**444.500(+ ) Alternate**

## Minutes of Board Meeting ... February 7, 2012



The meeting was called to order by Scott, KE5NLK at 6:30 pm.

Invocation was given by Ben, K5NEB.

**Executive Board members present:** Scott, KE5NLK, Paul, KD5IVP, Lester, K5ITO, Mike, K5MMH, and Jerry, KB6OJE.

**Club members present:** Johnny, KJ5LB, Bill, N5TXN, John, KB5NJD.

**Guests:** None

**Minutes:** Motion to approved by Mike, K5MMH; Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul, KD5IVP. Motion passed.

**Treasure Report** Motion to approved by Paul, KD5IVP; Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry, KB6OJE. Motion passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Repeater:** Both were working, however, 2m was still failing at times.

**VE Session:** None last month.

**EOC:** Paul, KD5IVP, (DeSoto EOC Radio Officer) and Johnny, KJ5LB, (Cedar Hill Radio Officer) are getting city radios. The Tri-Cities area is getting away from RACES and Dallas County Races and will continue to use our "informal" net in SW Dallas County on our 2m repeater..

**Membership:** Stephane Patrick, KF5KIW was approved as a new member.

**Net:** Had a good number check-in last night. Russ, KX5G, was net control.

**Web:** Bruce, KG1BAH, reports that there was a problem when Russ's server went down, but working to resolve. Also, that the HAM Of The Year photo has been replaced.

**Groundwire:** Great front page article, but need more articles.

**Nomination:** There was a correction to the General Meeting Minutes for 17 Jan 2012. The correct Directors for 2012 are Paul, KD5IVP, 1 year Director, Lester, K5ITO, 2 year Director and Rick, KJ6UY, 3 year Director.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Head For The Hills:** This event is scheduled for 12 May 2012 from Uptown Village in Cedar Hill. SWD-CARC will use the CERT trailer as net control this year. Mike, K5MMH, drove last years route with his APRS active and said there was coverage for the full route. He will check out the use of our 440 repeater and necessary software and TNC to get to computer for APRS.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. John, KB5NJD, prepared Ham.com to answer questions about getting into Ham Radio to try to get more General Class members.
2. John, KB5NJD, brought up a technical project for the club to consider: A Balloon launch. Club would need to check the liability insurance before proceeding.
3. Ben, K5NEB, hopes to do a General class in the Fall.

**PROGRAM:** John, KB5NJD, will talk on 80m Fox Hunt.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by K5MMH, at 7:20 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Scott, KE5NLK at 6:32 pm.

Invocation was given by Paul, KD5IVP.

**Minutes:** Approved? Y Motion: Billy, KE5ZZW; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jimmy, KB5WIO.

**Treasure Report:** Approved? Y Motion: Johnny, KJ5LB ; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick, KJ5UY.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Repeater:** Both repeaters are working.

**VE Session:** There were no VE sessions this month.

**EOC:** Paul, KD5IVP & Johnny, LJ5LB met with Tri-Cities Fire Chiefs, EOC Radio Officers will be getting city radios. The EOCs will use the SWDCARC “informal” net for reporting severe weather,

**Membership:** We currently have 28 Full members and 3 Family members for a total of 31.

**Net:** There were 9 check-ins last night. Rick, KJ5UY, was net control.

**Web:** Web Master was not present, however web is up and running and appears up to date.

**Groundwire:** Is on the web for all to read and enjoy. Ben, K5NEB, is in charge of getting front page story each month.

**Nominations/Vote:** Johnny, KJ5LB, reports that the nominating committee has the following for officers for next year: President, Scott, KE5NLK; Vice-President, Ben, K5NEB; Secretary, Jerry, KB6OJE; Treasurer, Mike, K5MMH; 1 year Director, Paul, KD5IVP, 3 year Director, Rick, KJ5UY. Rick, KJ5UY, made motion to accept by acclamation and Scott, KE5NLK, seconded the motion. It passed. The other Director is Lester, K5ITO.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Head For The Hills:** This event is scheduled for 12 May 2012 from Uptown Village in Cedar Hill. SWDCARC will use the CERT trailer as net control this year. Mike, K5MMH, drove last years route with his APRS active and said there was coverage for the full route.

**APRS:** Mike, K5MMH, wants to have a workshop to set up APRS for those that do not have their equipment working. He also reports that APRS.FI has ability to show position only instead of showing the trace of travel, which would be very confusing for net control when a SAG vehicle is staying in one portion of the route and going back and forth.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Balloon Launch:** John, KB5NJD, brought up a technical project for the club to consider: a Balloon launch. It would need a project manager as it is a monumental task preparing for a launch. Should consider that the equipment used in the launch may be lost. Bill, N5TXN, suggested inviting Lockheed Balloon Team as a program and maybe throw in with them for a launch, to learn from those that have done several launches.

**Update:** Tom Poindexter, KE5GKK, is reported feeling better and hopes to be able to walk across room by March.

**Ham Com Table:** Decision was made to stick with one Ham Com Table.

**Fox Hunt:** John, KB5NJD, is shooting for an April 80m Fox Hunt. Date to be determined.

**PROGRAM:** John, KB5NJD, presented building an 80m portable directional antenna, using PVC and coax.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Scott, KE5NLK

**General Membership Meeting Minutes.**

17 Jan 2012 CORRECTED 7 Feb 2012

The meeting was called to order by Scott, KE5NLK at 6:32 pm.

Invocation was given by Paul, KD5IVP.

**Minutes:** Approved? Y Motion: Johnny, KJ5LB; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Billy, KE5ZZW.

**Treasure Report:** Approved? Y Motion: Lester, K5ITO; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike, K5MMH.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Repeater:** Both repeaters are working, replugged some connections.

**VE Session:** There were no VE sessions this month.

**EOC:** Cedar Hill still says it is getting Johnny, KJ5LB, radio to talk to tri-cities.

**Membership:** Received an application from Stephanie Patrick, KF5KIW. Her application will be brought before the Board at its next meeting for approval.

**Net:** There were 9 check-ins last night.

**Web:** Bruce, KG1BAH, reports he has updated the web.

**Groundwire:** Is on the web for all to read and enjoy.

**Nominations:** Johnny, KJ5LB, reports that the nominating committee has the following for officers for next year: President, Scott, KE5NLK; Vice-President, Ben, K5NEB; Secretary, Jerry, KB6OJE; Treasurer, Mike, K5MMH; 1 year Director, Paul, KD5IVP, 3 year Director, Rick, KJ5UY. Scott asked for nominations from the floor and received none. Billy, KB5ZZW, made a motion for nominations to close. It passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Fox Hunt:** Saturday, 14 Jan, 4 club members (Rick, KJ5UY; Lester, K5ITO; Jimmy, KB5WIO and Jerry, KB6OJE) enjoy nearly two hours of hunting the Fox, John, KB5NJD. The radio signal bouncing off the Cedar Hill towers gave us fits for it kept taking us back toward them. Since no one was able to locate the Fox, John, KB5NJD, will be hiding the Fox for the next hunt. He is talking about having a HF Fox hunt next time instead of VHF as this last one.

**Up Date:** Tom, KE5GKK, is back in the hospital as he came down with double pneumonia. Floyd, KC5QBC, father is in hospital and not doing well. Keep both in your prayers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Head For The Hills Bike Rally:** Rick, KJ5UY, brought up that we need to start thinking about and begin preparing for the Bike Rally and getting our APRS up and running and tested before May.

**PROGRAM:** John, KB5NJD, presented Interfacing Ham Radio with Internet For Audio Patching.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Rick, KJ5UY