



The GroundWire

Words From the Ragin' Cajun

Why do I do Ham Radio?

Pondering this question recently has led me to put down on paper (ok, not real paper but electronic paper) the reasons I became a ham and remain one. Thinking about this took me to several areas that initially were not at the forefront of my thoughts, but sort of showed up as I began to jot down some random thoughts. My interest in Amateur Radio began on a vacation trip where our family stopped for a few days at my cousin's home in Louisville, Ky. Raymond WB4ZDU, operated a slow speed net on Saturday mornings. I sat with him and watched in amazement as he conducted the net and conversed with me about what he was doing. I am certain I asked too many questions, and to help answer some of those, Raymond loaned me a copy of "Now Your Talking!". Wanting to be part of the excitement, I read that book cover to cover. I picked up a Novice Class book from Radio Shack along with Morse Code cassette tapes. That's right, cassette tapes! I recall listening to those tapes while driving to work or around town performing my telephone repair work. After we relocated to Midlothian in '97, I sought out the SWDCARC to test with and became KD5DZG in early '98.

So, my first reason is for the "challenge". I enjoyed the challenge I put to myself to become a ham. Studying and practicing both the written and Morse elements was something I enjoyed and wanted to be very good at. Interestingly, this first reason is at the heart of several other aspects of this hobby that I am fond of. I'll cover those in a bit.

The next reason is the people. We are a great group at the SWDCARC and Amateur Radio as a whole. Everyone has something to share and add, and this makes interacting with fellow hams a vital part of my attraction to the club and radio in general. Our hobby is all about communication with other people, both near and far.

The Hands On aspect of our hobby is really attractive to me. Most of my ham gear and antennas are either kits or home made affairs. Building different antennas and using them to send signals aloft gives me the opportunity to be creative in design, and frugal with materials and funding. I have learned that in

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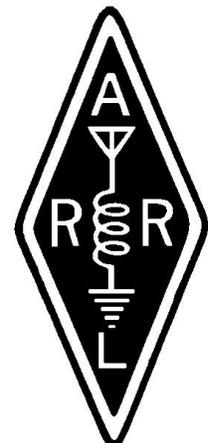
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Why Do I do Ham Radio? ... continued



many cases, it does not have to be fancy or pretty to work well enough to put another one in the logbook. Modifying a 40 meter vertical to work a Dxpedition on 80 and 160 meters by adding a long wire attached with an alligator clip proved that. The challenge here is striving to have the most efficient system online to take advantage of the modest power available – 100 watts maximum.

Amateur Radio has so many different disciplines that it is a challenge for me to focus on just a few to participate in. Wow, where do you start – MF, HF, UHF, VHF oh my. Then there's EME, ATV, APRS, SSB, and of course CW. Let's not forget ARDF, MARS, FD, RTTY, and SAT. You gotta love all of our acronyms! Bottom line here – there's something for everyone and more than enough to keep me interested for a long time.

Chasing DX and Awards is my current passion. I've earned DXCC Mixed, DXCC CW, and DXCC on 20 and 40 meters. 10 and 15 meters are almost completed too. My goal is 10 Band DXCC (6 to 160 Meters), so I have a long way to go. I don't think I'll ever grow tired of trying to log that new one. I enjoy reading and learning about the places that I make QSO's with – it's like a living Geography lesson. For me, there are endless challenges here- QRP WAS, 160 Meter DXCC, WAZ, you get the picture.

So, there are my reasons. What are your reason(s) for doing ham radio?

73

Mike

K5MMH



Fox Hunt - April 6th

Meet at Alcapulco's Ameri-Mex Resturant in DeSoto (breakfast place) by 8:30AM. Be there by 7:00AM if you want to join us for breakfast.

Bring your map, compass, and mobile HF radio (if you have one) and join in on the fun of using your HF Direction Finding skills. Even if you don't have any skills, it is fun to play. You can also just come and be a co-pilot or antenna rotator.

8:30AM Saturday April 6

225 E. Beltline Rd, DeSoto, Tx (East of Hampton on Beltline Rd)

Clamp as seen in March QST; page 31



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www1.mscdirect.com/CGI/NNPDF7PMTCLG=008PMPAGE=9000

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Find more results at mscdirect.com

Hose Clamps with Key

SAE Size	Hose Size (in.)	Min. Dia. (in.)	Max. Dia. (in.)	W (in.)	Steel Order #	Steel Price/Box	Stainless Steel Order #	Stainless Steel Price/Box
—	1/2	0.28	0.51	5/8	05882170	\$5.35	05882352	\$7.55
4	3/8	0.28	0.63	5/8	05882188	5.35	05882360	7.95
6	3/4	0.39	0.75	5/8	05882198	5.35	05882378	8.25
6	3/4	0.40	0.75	1/2	—	—	05882402	11.28
8	7/8	0.39	0.91	5/8	05882204	5.70	05882386	8.54
8	7/8	0.40	0.91	1/2	05882279	8.15	05882451	11.57
—	1	0.51	1.02	5/8	—	—	05882394	8.89
12	1 1/4	0.51	1.26	1/2	05882295	9.04	05882477	12.25
16	1 1/2	0.75	1.50	1/2	05882203	9.70	05882485	12.58
20	1 3/4	0.75	1.73	1/2	05882311	10.71	05882493	13.25
24	2	0.98	2.01	1/2	05882329	11.28	05882501	13.65
28	2 1/4	1.30	2.24	1/2	05882337	11.96	05882519	14.53
32	2 1/2	1.57	2.52	1/2	—	—	05882527	15.45
36	2 3/4	1.81	2.76	1/2	05882238	13.53	—	—
44	3 1/4	2.32	3.23	1/2	05882253	14.82	05882436	17.38
48	3 1/2	2.56	3.50	1/2	05882261	15.52	05882444	18.06

• Band thickness: 0.02"
 • Box Qty.: 10

Worm Drive Clamps
 For Larger Range Diameters - 2 1/2" to 12 1/4"

SAE Size	Min. Dia. (in.)	Max. Dia. (in.)	Order #	Price Ea.
128	2 1/2	8 1/2	93466068	\$3.93
140	2 1/2	9 1/4	93466076	3.62
152	2 1/2	10	93466084	3.62
164	2 1/2	10 3/4	93466092	4.06
176	2 1/2	11 1/4	93466100	3.21
188	2 1/2	12 1/4	93466118	4.38

- All stainless steel
- Band width: 5/8"
- Extra slots in the band so that the minimum range is 2 1/2" in diameter

Shielded Worm Drive Clamps

SAE Size (in.)	Dia. Range (in.)	A		B	
		Order #	Price Ea.	Order #	Price Ea.
6	5/8 - 3/4	48704001	\$1.28	48705008	\$1.86
8	5/8 - 13/16	48704035	1.28	48705032	1.86
10	3/4 - 15/16	48704068	1.28	48705065	1.91
12	3/4 - 1 1/8	48704092	1.31	48705099	1.87
16	1 1/4 - 1 3/8	48704126	1.31	48705123	1.87
20	1 1/2 - 1 5/8	48704150	1.38	48705156	2.06

Series: Band 1/2" Wide Housing Liner

In the March '13 QST, on page 31 is a reference to stainless steel hose clamps with an attached key. The author's article was printed without his references to the parts used. I contacted him to get additional info on these neat and quick, no-tools needed clamps. He directed me to MSC Industrial Supply, page 4191 of their on-line catalog. Attached is a screen shot of that page in case others might want to pick up some for a antenna project.

73

Mike
K5MMH

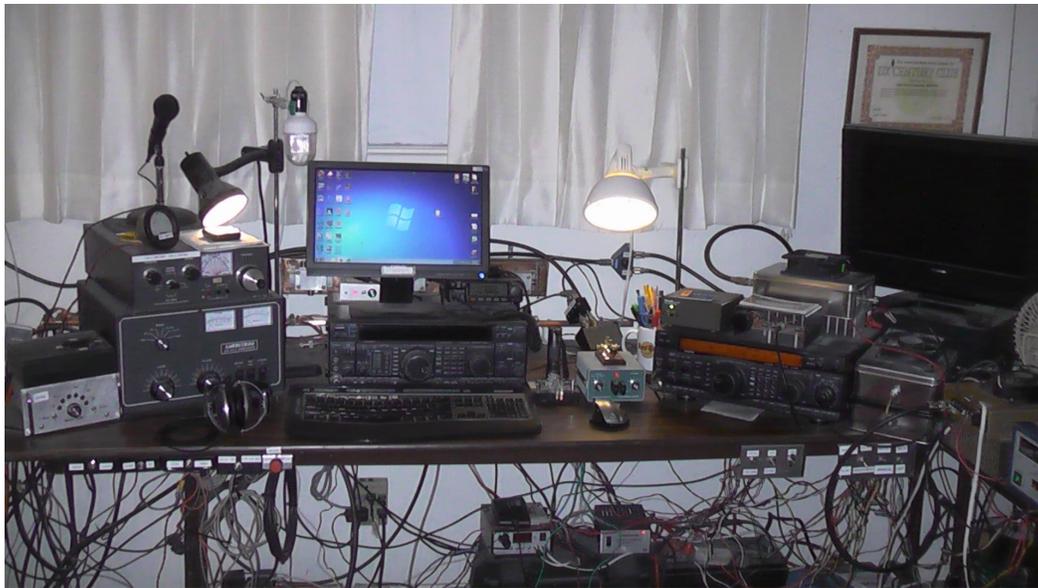
Name That Station!!



Send your guess to n5txn.be@gmail.com.
Winner will be revealed next month.



March's station photo belongs to KX5G, Russ Thompson.
K5MMH, Mike Harang had the winning guess.



Here is the station for April. Name that station??

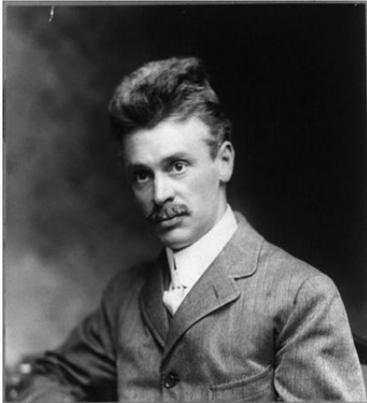
Send me a picture of your station and be a part of the fun. It can be your fixed station, portable or mobile. Send in all three if you are so lucky to have all three.

73,BILL / N5TXN

The Way we were by the Crusty OM.



Who is this Guy Anyway??



Ain't me, I ain't near that hansom, besides I am alive and this OM is long gone. With all the talk about guns lately in the news, I decided to veer off course for a while and talk about some other things. You have seen his creation on many shoot'im-up shows. This man invented the silencer for guns. How cool is that?

This man was born September 2, 1869 in Brooklyn, NY. His father was a gun smith, and invented the first self powered machine gun. He went to the Brooklyn schools (Hey, we all can't be lucky enough to be educated in Texas), and graduated as a Mechanical engineer from MIT. Back then it was a two year program. He was the youngest in his graduating class at 17.

He worked for an outfit called Pope Manufacturing Company where he ran Motor Vehicle Division. He was a race car driver, winning the first ever closed circuit race in the US. His silencer work was not only on guns, but also on engines including autos (muffler), air compressors and other applications that are still in use.

His hobbies led him in becoming involved in state of the art technology, flight. As a glider enthusiast, he owned one of the first aircraft in Hartford, Connecticut. He helped found the Aero club of Hartford, served as chairman of the Hartford Aviation Commission, and helped push airmail as a viable form of moving the mail.

At age 40, he learned Morse Code. Marconi had sent his first signal across the Atlantic just 9 years before then. He and his son built one of the first radiotelegraph stations, with spark gap transmitter, and a large antenna in Hartford.

OK, you've probably guessed this guy has to be a ham. Yea he was. His first call was SNY. He also had the call signs 1WH, 1ZM, 1AW and later W1AW.

Before today, if I had asked you "tell me everything you know about Hiram Maxim." You'd say "He started the ARRL and his call was W1AW." If you knew more than that you were way ahead of me. Now you realize he is not just a ham, but a very influential man in many areas. With his pioneering acoustical work building silencers and mufflers to his work in the automotive industry, Maxim left his mark on society.

As Paul Harvey used to say "And now you know the rest of the story".

Hey folks, sure would like some feedback. I have gotten very interested in history and am gonna bore you with that unless someone tells me to quit. You can always give me feedback via email at ab5com@qsl.net.

Good DX!
Crusty

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxim_Gun
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiram_Percy_Maxim#cite_note-2
<http://connecticuthistory.org/hiram-percy-maxim/>

Financial Report ... March 2013



March-13	Income	Expense	Balance	Petty Cash
General Fund				
Beginning Balance 3/1/2013			\$2,408.61	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income-2013	\$75.00			
ARRL Renewal Income-2013	\$39.00			
Transfer From Matl. Property				
Tranfer Petty Cash income				
TOTAL INCOME	\$114.00			
EXPENSES				
ARRL Renewal Ck. #2024		\$37.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$37.00		
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$114.00	\$37.00		
Ending Balance 3/31/2013			\$2,485.61	
Special Events Fund				
Beginning Balance 3/1/2013			\$140.14	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Trans from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME	\$0.00			
EXPENSES				
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$0.00		
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Ending Balance 3/31/2013			\$140.14	
Material Property Fund				
Beginning Balance 3/1/2013			\$1,970.56	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income-2013	\$75.00			
Transfer from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME	\$75.00			
EXPENSES				
Telephone Pymt. 04 Mar		\$43.47		
Repair Equip Ck 2023		\$300.00		
Transfer to General Fund				
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$343.47		
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$75.00	\$343.47		
Ending Balance 3/31/2013			\$1,702.09	
March Balance	\$189.00	\$380.47	\$4,327.84	

2013 Board Members

President

Mike Harang (K5MMH)

Vice-President

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

Treasurer

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Secretary

Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)

Directors

Paul Dryer (KD5IVP)

Rick Ellis (KJ5UY)

Lester Wong (K5ITO)

Committee Positions

Repeater Trustee

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

Repeater Committee Chair

Mike Harang (K5MMH)

Newsletter Editor

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

Web Master

Bruce Holt (KG1BAH)

MN²

Monday Night Net

Net Time 8:00PM

147.060(+) Primary

444.500(+) Alternate

Minutes of Board Meeting ... March 5, 2013



The meeting was called to order by Mike (K5MMH) at 6:29 pm.
Invocation was given by Floyd (KC5QBC).

Executive Board members present:

Officers

Mike Harang(K5MMH)
Pat Roberson(K5YPP)

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)
Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Directors

Lester Wong (K5ITO) – Houston on business
Paul Dryer (KD5IVP) – Prior Commitment
Rick Ellis (KJ5UY)

Guests: Johnny (KJ5LB), Scott (KE5NLK), John (KB5NJD), Floyd (KC5QBC)

Minutes: Correction to call sign for Scott (KE5NLK) in the 5 Feb. Board Minutes. Motion to approve with corrections by Rick (KJ5UY); Motion 2nd by Jerry (KB6OJE). Motion approved.

Treasure Report Motion to approve by Mike (K5MMH); Motion 2nd by Bill(N5TXN). Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Repeater: All repeater members were present and discussed the problematic performance of the repeaters. Danny Boyer (W5AHN) is aware and researching causes. Repeater Committee: Johnny (KJ5LB), Floyd (KC5QBC), Bill (N5TXN), Mike (K5MMH), and Scott (KE5NLK).

VE Session: At the Feb. meeting two tested: 1 new Tech, and 1 Tech to General.

EOC: CERT training on radio use.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Net: Rick (KJ5UY) reports that we had 9 check-ins and the net was cut short due to the repeater problem.

Web: Updates have been made to the calendar and email addresses.

Groundwire: On the web...participate in the station game and send articles to Bill (N5TXN).

OLD BUSINESS

VE Session April 13, 20 and 27 – At the G.P. Police/Fire Training facility. See Ben Barber (K5NEB) for details.

Texas State Parks on the Air – April 06 and 07. See www.tspota.com for details. beginning about 8:15 am from the usual starting point, Acapulco's Restaurant on Belt Line just East of Hampton in DeSoto. Rick, KJ5UY will be hiding the Fox this month. Head For the Hills Bike Rally – May 11 - Contact Jerry (KB6OJE) or Scott (KE5NLK) .

Ham-Com – June 07, and 08. SWDCARC has one table available for members to sell their equipment. Gather up the unused items you want to get rid of.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 80m Fox Hunt – March 09, 0830 hour kickoff after breakfast at Acapulco's – John (KB5NJD) will be hiding the fox and giving hints.
2. Field Day – June 22 and 23 – Some members checked out the location on Camp Wisdom Road on 23 Feb. and found it favorable. More members need to check it out. Action was tabled until the April Board meeting.
3. Reimbursement for tires on Johnny Roberson's Field Day trailer - \$300. Trailer has been used exclusively by SWDCARC at Field Day for about 9 years. Replacement of rotten tires at dealer cost. Motion made by Rick (KJ5UY), second by Bill (N5TXN). Motion approved.
4. Material Property Inventory - Needed on paper by April Board Meeting stating condition and location of all SWDCARC property. Send to Mike (K5MMH).
5. SWDCARC Repeaters – have issues, need to know what we have.....
6. Request for Programs, Activities, and Events – need more feed back from members.
7. Memorial Gifts for Club Members/Family Members – The Board members verified that memorial gifts are not given by the club and that any motion made in a General Meeting was void since only the Board approves expenditures according to the By-Laws.
8. Program for March General Membership Meeting by Mike (K5MMH).
9. *GroundWire* front page article. Good one for March. Need others for coming months.
10. Jerusalem Market Place – March 28 - 30. Need parking lot help. Contact Jerry (KB6OJE).
11. Financial Audit needed.

ADJOURN: Motion Rick, KJ5UY at 7:45 pm.

General Membership Meeting ... March 19, 2013



The meeting was called to order by Mike, K5MMH at 6:37 pm.

Invocation was given by Mike, K5MMH.

Minutes: Motion: Jimmy, KB5WIO; 2nd by Jerry, KB6OJE. Approved? Yes

Treasure Report: Motion: Jimmy, KB5WIO ; 2nd by Scott, KE5NLK. Approved? Yes

Guests: Dave, KF5TSO, Steve, KF5RYI, Barry, KF5JPE.

Officers Present: President: Mike, K5MMH, Treasurer: Jerry, KB6OJE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Repeater: 2m has audio problem. 440 work good.

VE Session: No report

EOC: No activity as have not had a disaster.

Membership: Reminder, renew ARRL membership through the club as we get to keep a portion of the renewal fee-\$3 for renewal and \$15 for new ARRL membership.

Net: Had 4 check-ins last last night.

Web: It is up and running..

Groundwire: Reminder, deadline for articles is the 25th of the month. Also, looking for submission of photos of your shack, car or HT installation for the newsletter. Another great newsletter, even though it was late.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Texas State Parks On The Air: This is scheduled for April 6 and 7.

2. Head for the Hills Bike Rally: Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 11th, when we will be providing communications for this Rotary Club event. We need more than 20 radio operators to fill all the positions. Chairperson for this event is Jerry, KB6OJE,(e-mail= cjerryk@gmail.com) assisted by Scott, KE5NLK (e-mail=scnme90@hotmail.com)

3. Ham Com: The club has 2 tables reserve at Ham Com. Be gathering up your stuff you want to get rid and bring to Ham Com to be sold at the table. The date is 7 & 8 June.

4. 80 meter Fox Hunt: The March Fox Hunt on 9 March was won by the team of Jimmy, KB5WIO, Gene, N5PKZ, & James, KF5RBN. The 2nd place went to Rick, KJ5UY, operating solo. The 3rd place was claimed by the team Harold, KF5LDG , and Jerry, KB6OJE. John, KB5NJD, and Larry, KY5S hid the fox in Kid Springs Park in Oak Cliff. The next Fox Hunt will be in April with the March winners hiding the fox. Date to be announced.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jerusalem Market Place: This event takes place at the Windsor Park Baptist Church on March 28, 29 & 30 this year. We need approximately 6 radio operators each night to help with parking and security. Contact Jerry, KB6OJE, (cjerryk@gmail.com) with the dates you are able to assist. Time will be from about 5:30 to 8:30pm.

2. Field Day: Need someone to volunteer to be Chairperson for this event that is held the 4th full weekend in June. Mike, K5MMH, the previous Chairperson has a binder with all you need to know to make it a success.

3. Financial Audit: Scott, KE5NLK, volunteered his wife to do the audit this year.

4. Groundwire Front Page Article: Mike, K5MMH, will do it this month. Need volunteer to write the front page article for the May issue. Contact Mike, K5MMH, if you can write the article.

Program: Moxen Antenna for 10m, by Mike, K5MMH

ADJOURN: Motion by Jimmy, KB5WIO, to adjourn to the meeting at 6:54 pm.