



# The Ragchew W5NFL Newsletter



### The NFL Amateur Radio Club

Meets the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon lunch and 1:00 PM Meeting at the NFLARC clubhouse, near Dobins Rd & CR1020 Corsicana.



### There are Amazon links on our site now

If you go to Amazon by clicking our link we get .5% on purchases made there at no cost from you.

Look for it at [nflarc.org](http://nflarc.org) And in the forum.

## License Training Class / Testing

TBA

Interesting info!

### Special offer for clubs and instructors from CQ

If you're running a ham radio licensing or upgrading course, we will be happy to provide a sample issue of CQ magazine.

Just send us a request on club letterhead, telling us the dates on which your classes will be running and the number of students signed up. We'll get you out a package of samples as quickly as possible. Mail your request to:

CQ Licensing Class Offer  
c/o CQ magazine  
25 Newbridge Rd.  
Hicksville, NY 11801

## LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

### Newest Members

- |     |        |               |
|-----|--------|---------------|
| 220 | KG5CBD | Jason Tharp   |
| 221 | KG5FVE | Edward Borter |

### CQ Amateur Radio Club Listings



[http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_clubs\\_o-z.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_clubs_o-z.html)

I looked and we are not in there!  
So I sent a email to be added with this information.

*Navarro, Freestone, Limestone & Leon Amateur Radio Club (NFLARC) AKA Navarro Amateur Radio Club. The NFLARC serves the Quad and surrounding counties. We sponsor several wide area Linked repeaters from Franklin Tx. To Corsicana, Tx. (See website for more information). Meetings: 2nd Saturday at 1:00 pm at the NFLARC Clubhouse in Corsicana. All are cordially invited to attend. NFLARC sponsors amateur radio license courses and VEC testing sessions. Weekly net keep members informed of Ham activities. Mailing Address: PO Box 195, Corsicana TX 75147. Website: [www.nflarc.org](http://www.nflarc.org). For more info, contact us at [nflarc@yahoo.com](mailto:nflarc@yahoo.com)*

It's a matter of time now and we should be there too.

**2015 Shreveport Hamfest**

Email to NFLARC

[Bob Davis](#)

Jan 27

SARA would like to THANK all of you for the support of last year's Hamfest !!! 2015 is here and the plans have started. Attached is the first flier with updates to come as speakers and vendors sign on. We have a new venue for 2015 - **The Louisiana State Fair Grounds AG Building** with 26k sf. and a large parking area. SARA members will be visiting some of the surrounding area club meetings and will have fliers and raffle tickets (as soon as they are ready). Let your group know we are having a bigger, better event this year and any who want to keep up with our updates can go to our website - [www.k5sar.com](http://www.k5sar.com).

**We'll keep you posted as we near our event date!**

Thanks,

**Bob Davis N5ZVW**

SARA Hamfest Committee Member



**Shreveport Amateur Radio Association**



**PROUDLY SPONSORS THE**

**2015 SHREVEPORT BOSSIER HAMFEST**

**Saturday, August 8, 2015, 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

- ✓ Major prizes for our ever popular raffle drawing
- ✓ Hourly door prize drawings
- ✓ Dual Band HT given away each hour

Confirmed vendors:

**Main Trading**  
**Palmetto Antenna**  
**The Sign Man**  
**Houston Amateur Radio**

**Admission \$5.00**

**Raffle Tickets \$5.00**

(or 5 for \$20)

**Flea Market Tables \$10.00**

(Tables are 6' in length)

Vendor & Flea Market set up Friday, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday, 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM

LOCATION:  
 LOUISIANA STATE FAIR GROUNDS  
 AG BUILDING  
 SHREVEPOORT, LA

FULL RV HOOK UPS  
 (ELE/WATER/SEWER)  
 \$20.00/DAY

EASY ACCESS TO I-20, AREA HOTELS  
 AND ATTRACTIONS

CONTACT US:

VENDOR RELATIONS:  
 BOB DAVIS, N5ZVW, 318-230-1242  
[rdavis@comcast.com](mailto:rdavis@comcast.com)

FLEA MARKET TABLES:  
 BRUCE DEVILLE, KE5CPL, 318-751-8596  
[bdeville@aol.com](mailto:bdeville@aol.com)

**THE LOUISIANA STATE FAIR GROUNDS IS OUR NEW SUPERSIZED VENUE WITH PARKING THAT GOES ON FOREVER: 12,000+ SQ FT & 300+ PARKING SPOTS + 700 RV SPOTS**



**Plano Texas Ham Radio Outlet  
 Grand Opening Schedule of Events  
 February and March 2015**

Ham Radio Outlet's newest location is excited to announce our Grand Opening Schedule starting on the weekend of February 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 and continuing every weekend through March 28, 2015.

We will have refreshments on hand and will be having many of our manufacturers in to answer question on the products they produce and we sell.

**February 28<sup>th</sup> - ICOM, MFJ, Heil**

*Ray Novak from ICOM, Bob Heil of Heil Sound and Martin Jue founder of MFJ and Richard Stubbs of MFJ will be in attendance this weekend*

**March 7<sup>th</sup> - Kenwood, Gordon West, Comet/NCG/Daiwa/Lido, ABR Industries**

*Gordon West with W5YI, Phil Parton from Kenwood, Mic Stwertnik from Comet and Marc Abramson from ABR Industries*

**March 14<sup>th</sup> - RT Systems, Yaesu, Pryme, HRD**

*Karin from RT Systems, Dennis Motschenbacher and Chris Wilson from Yaesu, Jim Newcomb from Pryme and Rick Ruhl from Ham Radio Deluxe*

**March 21<sup>st</sup> - Powerwerx, Diamond Antennas, US Towers**

*Kevin Karamanos from Powerwerx, Wayne & Denise Bauman from Diamond Antenna and Vicki Contreras from US Tower Corporation.*

**March 28<sup>th</sup> - Alinco, Davis RF, Uniden (Tentative)**

*Raj Gounder from Alinco, Davis RF and a representative from Uniden America.*

If you have any questions please contact our local manager, [Charity Milam at our Plano Store.](#)

PLANO, TX:

Store Hours:

10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat

Telephone hours:

9:30AM-5:30PM Mon-Sat

TOLL FREE: 877-455-8750

LOCAL: 972-424-6219

FAX: 972-424-4969

EMAIL: [texas@hamradio.com](mailto:texas@hamradio.com)

Store Mailing Address:

701 E. Plano Parkway, Suite 406

Plano, TX 75074

## World News & Events

### BRAKING NEWS: FCC INAUGURATES PAPERLESS AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING FEBRUARY 17

(Courtesy ARRL)

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB004  
ARLB004 FCC "Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17

ZCZC AG04  
QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 4 ARLB004  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT January 29, 2015  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB004  
ARLB004 FCC "Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization - as well as an unofficial "reference copy" - from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC "give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The FCC said that applicants or licensees who include a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official electronic authorization via e-mail. New license

applicants who do not provide a FCC Registration Number at the examination point will receive a printed license as well as an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact FCC Support via the web at, [http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm?jo...ct\\_fcc\\_support](http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm?jo...ct_fcc_support), or via telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

The FCC rejected as "outside the scope of this proceeding" an ARRL argument that Section 97.23 of the Amateur Service rules be amended to replace "licensee mailing address" with other alternatives, including e-mail, for use in Commission correspondence. The rule, which requires that any licensee mailing address be in an area where the licensee has US Postal Service access, has precluded FCC issuance of location-specific call signs in such areas as Navassa Island (KP1) and some Pacific islands. NNNN

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### New weekly live ham webcast

**W5KUB.COM** has been doing webcast of major ham events for over 13 years now, with a following of about 50,000 hams in about 150 countries.

W5KUB.COM is now doing a live weekly ham radio webcast every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM central (0200 Wed)

The show is called **Amateur Radio Roundtable** and we have special guests each week covering a wide range of topics. During the last half of the show, we allow any viewer to come into our webcast remotely and be on the show.

We are also looking for anyone who wants to schedule maybe 10-20 minutes on the show and give a discussion, presentation, etc. We are looking for all subjects, DXing, homebrewing, vhf-uhf, arduino, raspberry PI, antennas, etc. We will put you on the show using skype.

If you are interested send email to w5kub. I'm good in qrz lookup.

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Thanks,  
Tom

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## TX Factor Episode 7 – Friday 13th February 2015

### Season Two - Episode One or brand new Episode Seven?

Whatever your title preference, we are very excited to be launching into our second year of programmes, dedicated entirely to Amateur Radio in the UK and around the world..

Over the last 12 months, TX Factor has explored many facets of our hobby and promises to deliver so much more in the months ahead. Viewer feedback has been phenomenal after our first six episodes hit the screens in 2014 and we thank you for being a part of the experience, which has exceeded our wildest expectations.

Episode Seven launches on Friday 13th February 2015 and brings a diverse bunch of Amateur Radio flavours to the screen!

Nick Bennett, 2E0FGQ, meets up with one of radio's oldest on-air comrades (who is very young at heart!) and Bob McCreadie, G0FGX, touches base with a much younger amateur, challenged with the task of getting more teenagers and young adults into the hobby.

Mike Marsh, G1IAR, visits the IOTA 50th Anniversary convention in Royal Windsor and very quickly figures out why this part of the hobby is both challenging and utterly addictive!

You'll also be able to find out who was the lucky winner of the Yaesu VX-3 Handie, as we reveal the result of our second TX Factor competition. This fantastic prize was donated by Yaesu and Martin Lynch & Sons, who have now moved to their new superstore in Staines. (Convenient for visitors to the UK as it is near Heathrow Airport).

Wessex House, Drake Avenue, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2AP  
0345 2300599 [www.hamradio.co.uk/](http://www.hamradio.co.uk/)

Bob McCreadie is sent on assignment to Dartmoor to put an Innov Antennas LFA Q 3 element Quad Style Yagi to the test - with some impressive results, and even more impressive scenery!

You'll also get information on how to win one of these superb antennas as we announce the brand new TX Factor competition during the programme and give you the chance to be a TX Factor 2015 winner!

Why not show TX Factor at your club nights?

TX Factor's fast-paced, stimulating shows are full of items that your club members will enjoy. Our episodes make a great filler for those nights when you don't have a speaker or activity planned. If unreliable Internet is an issue at your club venue, contact us for a free link to the episodes you want to show so you can download in advance.

Keep an eye on the web site!

Between episodes we regularly post special mini editions featuring rig reviews and other breaking amateur radio news in TXtra There's TXtalk too!

Hear the weekly GB2RS News from the RSGB in broadcast quality along with a host of other regular, topical ham radio audio features. Subscribe to TXtalk as a podcast and you'll always have the latest episodes sent direct to your devices.

You'll find all this and more waiting for you at [www.txfactor.co.uk](http://www.txfactor.co.uk)

And don't forget.....we are always very interested to hear what your club or organisation is doing to encourage more young people in to the hobby or your thoughts on what needs to be done to ensure amateur radio gets the infusion of young blood that it needs to survive. Let us know by dropping us a line at [info@txfactor.co.uk](mailto:info@txfactor.co.uk)

TX Factor is sponsored by Martin Lynch and Sons and Yaesu Musen Co

For further information please contact:

[info@txfactor.co.uk](mailto:info@txfactor.co.uk)

Bob McCreadie: +44 (0)7989 406574

Mike Marsh: +44 (0)7767 822149

Nick Bennett: +44 (0)7836 246700 (mobile)

Nick Bennett: +44 (0)1749 346320 (landline)

[www.txfactor.com](http://www.txfactor.com)

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### More ISS Slow Scan TV activity

The Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) has announced another round of amateur radio Slow Scan Television (SSTV) activity from the International Space Station (ISS) will take place later this month

Twelve different images depicting space pioneer Yuri Gagarin - the first human to orbit Earth - will be sent on 145.800 MHz using the SSTV mode PD180, with a 3-minute off time between transmissions.

The equipment used will be the Kenwood D710 transceiver located in the Russian Service Module. It is thought the equipment may be producing about 25 watts output which should provide a very strong signal. The D710 uses 5 kHz deviation FM. If your rig has selectable FM filters (most mobiles do) make sure you choose the wider setting designed for 20 or 25 kHz channel spacing, usually marked FM or FMW.

Plans are being discussed for transmitting new images from space enthusiasts around the world in the coming months. Additional details will be released.

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ISS SSTV image received by Murray Hely ZL3MH

The images received by amateurs world-wide during previous transmissions can be seen at

[http://www.spaceflightsoftware.com/ARISS\\_SSTV/](http://www.spaceflightsoftware.com/ARISS_SSTV/)

You are invited to upload any pictures you receive during the upcoming transmissions.

In the UK newspaper the Daily Mail, **Jonathan O'Callaghan** wrote about how 22-year-old **Radek Karwacki**, an AMSAT-UK member, received pictures from the ISS using a £10 (\$15) RTL-SDR dongle and a dipole antenna, see

<http://amsat-uk.org/2015/02/04/iss-sstv-in-uk-press/>

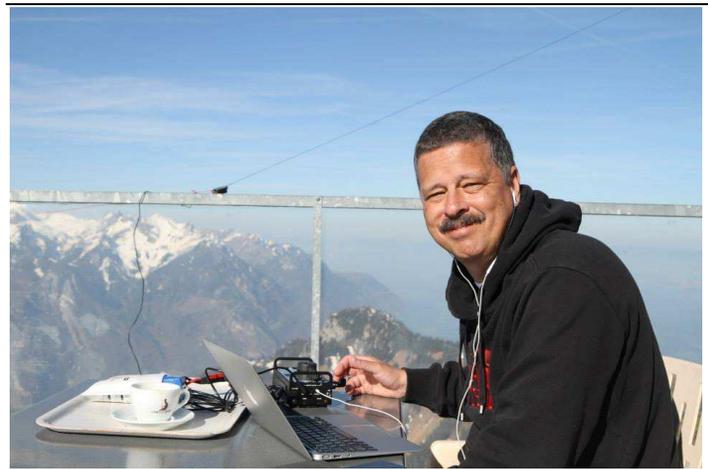
Read what you need to do to receive these pictures from space at

<http://amsat-uk.org/2015/02/11/more-iss-slow-scan-tv/>

### IARU President is new SOTA Mountain Goat

One of the latest amateurs to attain **Mountain Goat** as an activator in the popular Summits on the Air programme will be a familiar figure to many in the amateur radio world. This is because he managed to combine his interest in SOTA whilst at the same time holding the post of IARU Region 1 President.

**Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T** who was President up to October last year, has activated summits in no fewer than 15 different countries, spanning the globe. Being from one of the low countries does present some challenges to a SOTA activator but the opportunity to travel obviously came in useful for Hans.



*Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T operating from HB/VD-022 Berneuse. Sunshine and some luxury on the summit are highly appreciated!*

He says “ In October 2012 Paul HB9DST introduced K2XYL and me to the wonderful world of Summits on the Air. In that same month I retired, which meant a bit more free time for hiking, one of my wife’s favourites, and amateur radio. I have always tried to combine amateur radio with travel. So far I have been active from 80 DXCC entities. SOTA gave me a new start. When there is a chance to operate from another SOTA association I’ll give it a try. Of course I am not unique in that respect and there are others who have an even higher association score.”

“A great opportunity to learn more about a country is to go & activate a SOTA with a local amateur. I have fond memories of my SOTA activities in South Africa, Ireland, Macedonia, Lebanon, Romania, Poland and Australia. In all these countries I had the pleasure of having the company of a local amateur with whom I could discuss the scenery, antenna’s, radios etc. Experiencing the local cuisine during or after the SOTA activity is highly recommended. In recent months I got too focused on reaching 1000 activator points, It’s now time for 1, 2, 4 and 6 point summits which must be as beautiful as their higher brothers.”



### ARRL Warns Experimental Licensee to Avoid Interference to HF Ham Activity

02/13/2015

The ARRL has asked a Massachusetts company that plans to conduct experimental transmissions over wide portions of the HF spectrum either to avoid Amateur Radio allocations or to announce the times and frequencies of their transmissions in advance. The FCC last fall granted MITRE Corporation of Bedford, Massachusetts, a 2-year Part 5 Experimental License, [WH2XCI](http://www.arrl.org/wh2xci), to operate 21 transmitters at 10 fixed New York and Massachusetts sites. MITRE plans to test wideband HF communication techniques on a variety of bands between 2.5 MHz and 16 MHz.

“[I]t will not be possible for MITRE to operate these transmitters within the Amateur Radio Service allocations...without causing harmful interference to a large number of Amateur Radio operators on an ongoing basis,” ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said in a February 12 letter to MITRE.

Imlay said that if MITRE does not agree to avoid ham radio bands or to announce times and frequencies of transmissions ahead of time, it will ask the FCC to rescind the company’s Experimental License or to impose a prior notification requirement “in real time for each and every use of the transmitters authorized at each site.” The WH2XCI Experimental License authorizes maximum bandwidths of 5 kHz, 500 kHz, and 1 MHz at effective radiated power levels of 6 W, 24 W, or 122 W. MITRE has indicated that most bandwidths would be between 100 and 300 kHz.

“At these power levels with the operating parameters proposed, it will be impossible to conduct your tests at any time within the Amateur Radio allocations and, at the same time, avoid harmful interference,” Imlay said. He noted that MITRE already conceded this point in a technical exhibit submitted to the FCC with respect to its 1 MHz bandwidth mode.

Imlay said that when interference from MITRE’s wide-bandwidth transmitters “inevitably occurs in the narrow-bandwidth, sensitive receivers” hams use, amateur licensees will have no way to determine the source of the interference or know to whom they might complain. “Thus, your assurance of operation on a ‘non-interference basis’ is meaningless under the circumstances, and yet that is both a special condition of operation” of the WH2XCI license and under FCC Part 5 regulations, Imlay told MITRE.

“It is ARRL’s intention to ensure that this experimental authorization, improvidently granted to the extent that it includes heavily used Amateur Radio allocations, is not permitted to cause interference to ongoing Amateur Radio HF communications,” Imlay concluded.

MITRE obtained the Experimental License to investigate high data rate wideband HF communication systems that exploit polarization diversity multiple input, multiple output concepts to expand the bandwidth of the communication channel.

Tech licence permits the holder to run 200 watts output on four HF bands and 1,500 watts on the VHF, UHF and Microwave bands. Techs can operate Maritime Mobile, build their own equipment and run repeaters.

Colton's parents Debra K0KAI and Zeke K0XK are both radio hams and it was seeing his parents using radios and talking to one another that made him want to become involved. So he took the FCC test and passed

**Tour de France Ham Radio Volunteers Rewarded**

A RAYNET team that helped the 2014 Tour de France race through the Yorkshire Dales has received radio equipment worth about £5,500



The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network (RAYNET) provided communications over 2,000 square miles in North Yorkshire. Radios were operated by 42 volunteers. The money has been donated by North Yorkshire County Council.

**5-year-old Passes Ham Radio Exam**

Colton Ragdale KE0CRD has successfully passed the US amateur radio exam at the age of 5



5-year-old Colton Ragdale, KE0CRD, Passes Ham Radio Exam Colton got 93% of the questions in the Technician exam correct. The USA Technician exam is broadly equivalent to the UK Foundation although it doesn't have any practical assessments. A

**RSGB publish Ham Radio Band Plans – 2015**

**The Society is pleased to announce that the January 2015 Band Plans are now available to browse and download on the RSGB website.**

To access the Band Plans go to [www.rsgb.org/bandplans](http://www.rsgb.org/bandplans) where you can browse the plans online, or to download them in the form of a PDF or Excel file.

The following notes explain the changes to the Band Plan—

**HF**

The updates for 2015 are confined to the addition of a usage note in the 472kHz band and a wider bandwidth all-modes segment in 29.0-29.1MHz. In addition the licence notes that referred to NoVs for 472kHz and 5MHz have been changed to reflect their incorporation into the new licence and indicate that specific conditions apply.

**VHF/UHF**

The most noticeable feature is that 146-147MHz has been included. However IARU changes and the Ofcom-ETCC packet review also result in changes to the main 145MHz band. Several packet channels have been cleared whilst the bottom of the band is now

shared with new narrowband amateur satellite downlinks. Both 145MHz and other VHF bands see the deletion of old RTTY and FAX channels amongst others to leave more flexible room for all-modes usage. 70cm also sees some change including a more consistent designation for the 12.5kHz operation of internet gateways. A landmark change is the removal of the UK beacon segment, reflecting the success in moving to standard IARU beacon frequencies.

**Microwave**

The Ofcom spectrum release changes see the 2350-2390 and 3410-3475MHz ranges removed from the appropriate band plans and some of the remaining frequencies being reset to all modes. In future this may change further as new data and DATV developments become clear. The new 2300-2302MHz segment (if you have the NoV) is incorporated as a separate table. The 10GHz band also sees a clearout of old designations and updates for repeater and wideband usage. A new shaded warning zone in the bottom 10-10.125GHz section indicates where the Primary User now has increased use.

**General notes**

These have also been updated, including the need to refer to specific Ofcom conditions and guidance for certain bands. New notes provide an explanation of MGM (Machine Generated Modes) and firm guidance regarding eSSB usage. Another new note, agreed by IARU Region 1 at Varna emphasises that all VHF WSPR frequencies in the band plans are transmitted centre frequencies and not ambiguous dial settings.

See More: <http://rsgb.org/main/operating/band-plans/>

**Aussie pico balloon downed**

After a period of silence, it's believed the small solar-powered pico balloon from Australia went down north-east of New Zealand, probably due to rain and ice in the area.

**Andy Nguyen VK3YT** reports that **PS-31** gave out its final JT9 packet message and was lost.

The balloon, launched from Melbourne Australia on Saturday January 24, manoeuvred forming an s-shape but was lost after as dark fell and it was across the International Dateline in the South Pacific.



Andy VK3YT who launched both the PS-31 and PS-32 balloons says "Thanks everyone for tracking, and hope PS-32 (the other balloon) will keep going for much longer."

**PS-32** with the **VK3ANH** callsign continues to be tracked and is over the Southern Ocean. It was put up from Woori Yallock 56kms east of Melbourne on January 26, and is taking a solar route before hopefully travelling around Cape Horn in South America.

Like all recent balloons in the series launched by Andy VK3YT for the Southern Hemisphere, it is fitted with QRP transmission of both WSPR and JT9 giving trackers the location, speed and altitude along with other data.

*Jim Linton VK3PC*



**Fo Time**



It's Here! A Ham Radio Podcast for *that* guy. It's a new Podcast for the Up and Coming Amateur Radio Operator aka Ham Radio Operator. Whether you're looking for the latest news, a different take on an idea, or just some good humor-Fo Time is the Podcast for you.

**Call the Fo Line:**  
**(206) 415-3809**

Launch Date was June 17th 2014

**Fo Time**

is a new podcast, aimed at the 'younger' Ham Operator and those interested in learning more about the hobby.

Cale/K4CDN is the podcasts host.



After leaving a near decade stint in Non-Commercial FM I wanted to fill the void of missing being behind the microphone. Podcasting seemed to be the logical answer. As a life long "radio nerd" I did some homework and launched Fo Time. I hope you enjoy the program and welcome your feedback!  
cale@amateurradio15.com

This podcast is sponsored by [Main Trading Company, Paris Texas.](#)

<http://amateurradio15.com/>

## 65 Great Things About Ham Radio

Five years ago, on CQ's 60th anniversary, They ran a feature throughout the year titled "60 Great Things About Ham Radio," in which they listed five "great things" each month. The series was quite popular and they have continued to receive requests to reprint it. So now, in honor of their 65th anniversary, we're repeating the list—with a few updates as well as five more "Great Things About Ham Radio."

1. It works when nothing else does
2. It makes you part of a worldwide community
3. The opportunity to help neighbors by providing public service and emergency communications
4. Some of the nicest people you'll ever meet
5. Some of the smartest people you'll ever meet
6. Some of the most interesting people you'll ever meet
7. Some of the most generous people you'll ever meet (along with some of the cheapest!)
8. Lifelong friendships
9. Friends around the world (including those you haven't met yet)
10. The opportunity to go interesting places you might not otherwise go to
11. The opportunity to do interesting things you might not otherwise get to do
12. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of geography
13. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of earth and space science
14. Practical uses for high school math
15. Practical uses for high school physics
16. A good way to practice a foreign language
17. A good way to keep in touch with faraway friends and relatives
18. A good way to get driving directions when visiting someplace new (with or without GPS)
19. A good way to find the best places to eat when visiting someplace new (with or without GPS)
20. Finding "non-touristy" off-the-beaten-path places to stay, eat, visit, etc.
21. A good way to learn about virtually any topic
22. A good way to bridge the generation gap
23. A good way to keep tabs on elderly/infirm people
24. People named Joe (Walsh, Rudi, Taylor)
25. How many of your non-ham friends have actually talked to someone in some remote place such as Cape Verde or the Seychelles?

26. How many of your non-ham friends might have talked to an astronaut aboard the space station?
27. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a satellite uplink station in their basements—or in the palms of their hands?
28. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a TV studio in their garage?
29. What other hobby group has designed, built, and had launched its own fleet of communication satellites?
30. Where else can you play with meteors?
31. Moonbounce
32. Informal way to improve technical skills
33. Informal way to improve communication skills
34. Introduces a variety of career paths
35. Offers unparalleled opportunities for career networking
36. Opportunities for competition in contesting and foxhunting
37. A good way to collect really cool postcards from around the world (despite the growth of electronic confirmations)
38. Nearly endless variety of different things to do, on and off the air
39. Hamfests
40. Dayton
41. Field Day
42. Working DX
43. Being DX
44. DXpeditions
45. Contesting
46. Award-chasing
47. Double-hop sporadic-E
48. Worldwide DX on 6 meters (once or twice every 11 years)  
[The current extended sunspot minimum has shown that mechanisms other than F2 propagation can offer intercontinental DX on the "magic band" at any point in the solar cycle.]
49. Tropospheric ducting
50. Gray-line propagation
51. TEP, chordal hops, etc.
52. Getting through on CW when nothing else will
53. Unexpected band openings
54. Building your own gear
55. Using gear you've built yourself
56. Operating QRP from some remote location
57. Experimenting with antennas
58. Working DX while mobile or while hiking
59. Experimenting with new modes and new technology
60. The opportunity to help build an internet that doesn't rely on the internet
61. DXing on your HT via IRLP and Echolink
62. Contributing to scientific knowledge about propagation
63. Keeping track of other people's GPS units via APRS
64. Ham radio balloon launches to the edge of space, and as always...
65. Reading CQ!

Permission is hereby granted to reprint this list in amateur radio club newsletters, provided credit is given to CQ magazine. Online editions must include a link to the CQ website,  
<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

## HISTORY

**Late 20th century**

At the 1979 World administrative radio conference in Geneva, Switzerland, three new amateur radio bands were established: 30 meters, 17 meters and 12 meters.[26] Today, these three bands are often referred to as the WARC bands by hams.

During the Falklands War in 1982, Argentine forces seized control of the phones and radio network on the islands and had cut off communications with London. Scottish amateur radio operator Les Hamilton, GM3ITN[27][28] was able to relay crucial information from fellow hams Bob McLeod and Tony Pole-Evans on the islands to British military intelligence in London, including the details of troop deployment, bombing raids, radar bases and military activities.[29] However, radio hams usually avoid controversial subjects and political situations and discussions as a part of the code of politeness of radio communications.

Major contributions to communications in the fields of automated message systems and packet radio were made by amateur radio operators throughout the 1980s. These computer controlled systems were used for the first time to distribute communications during and after disasters.[10]

American entry-level Novice and Technician class licensees were granted CW and SSB segments on the 10 Meter Band in 1987. The frequency ranges allocated to them are still known today throughout much of the world as the Novice Sub Bands even though it is no longer possible to obtain a Novice class license in the US.

Further advances in digital communications occurred in the 1990s as Amateurs used the power of PCs and sound cards to introduce such modes as PSK31 and began to incorporate Digital Signal Processing and Software-defined radio into their activities..

This exciting leading edge Transceiver is designed with ease of use in mind now packing an oversized back-lit touch panel display. At 1.7-inches the high resolution touch screen display provides loads of information through an easily navigable interface, providing stress-free operability and a high level of on-screen visibility for the FT2DR operator.

The FT2DR also is equipped with Yaesu’s versatile AMS (Automatic Mode Select) capability providing FM friendly digital communications that instantly recognizes either digital or FM analog communication and enables co-existence between the various modes. In addition, We have also included standard System Fusion features in the FT2DR to make it an ideal digital communication product for all Amateur Radio operators, such as (but not limited to): Snapshot with image data transmitting (requires MH-85A11U), Smart Navigation, Digital Group Monitor (GM) featuring position data and ID data transmitting during transmissions, and full support for the new and robust WiRES-X System.

**The advanced FT2DR is loaded with various new features including:** 700 mW of clear loud audio, Built-in High Sensitivity 66 ch GPS with antenna, 1200 bps / 9600 bps APRS® function, Dual watch (V/V, U/U/, V/U), Dual Monitor (C4FM Digital/C4FM Digital), GPS Logging/Recording capabilities, Water resistant (IPX5 Rating), microSD Card Slot, 2200mAh high capacity Li-Ion battery and Battery charger included as a standard supplied accessory.

We believe that the FT2DR Transceiver is one of the most important contributions to the System Fusion product line in – it is clear evidence of our determined intent to constantly keep abreast of enhancing technology to bring to the System Fusion product line long into the future.

The new feature packed FT2DR will be available in Early 2015. This device has not been approved by the F.C.C. This device may not be offered for sale or lease or be sold or leased until approval of the F.C.C. has been obtained. The information shown is preliminary and may be subject to change without notice or obligation.

**New Gear**

**COMING SOON!**

**MANUFACTURER: YAESU  
MODEL: FT-2DR**



The the new and advanced FT2DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Digital Handheld Transceiver.

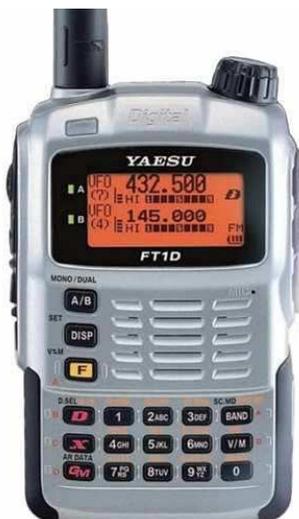


**MANUFACTURER: ICOM  
MODEL: IC-2730A**

- Includes remote control hand mic (HM207), mic hanger, DC power cable (OPC1132), controller cable (OPC837 3.5m, 11.4ft)
- This new mobile is idea for ham radio enthusiast searching for a high performing radio with classic 2m/70cm analog operation.
- Large high-contrast LCD screen with backlight
- V/V & U/U simultaneous receive capability
- 50W output
- Hands-free capable with optional UT-133

- RX: 118-174 and 375-550MHz
- CI-V remote control capability (through the OPC-478UC)
- Cross band repeater capability
- CS-2730 Free download PC programming software

### Yaesu FT1DR C4FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band Digital Handheld Transceiver



The introduction of our Yaesu FT1DR 12.5 kHz C4FM/FDMA 144/430MHz Dual Band Digital Handheld Transceiver ushers in The Dawn of a New Digital Communications Era in Amateur Radio. Yaesu has introduced the DR-1 Digital Repeater and FTM-400DR Mobile Transceiver products to work with the FT1DR to provide efficient and large data handling capabilities not currently available on the Amateur Radio bands.

The most attractive benefit of digital communication is its ability to transfer large amounts of data. The new FT1DR uses 12.5 kHz C4FM FDMA digital modulation mode to enable high speed data communication capability, reliable voice communication with strong error correction performance. C4FM FDMA provides 9.6 kbps data baud rate speed. It is significantly different from existing digital Amateur Radio and expands the opportunities for Amateur radio operators activities in the future.

The new FT1DR provides three digital modes (V/D mode, Voice FR mode, Data FR mode) and a Analog mode:

- V/D mode is Voice and Data communication in the same time frame. This mode enables the transceiver to send voice data with GPS position data and ID data in the same time frame. Also, this mode can pass the voice data with strong error correction data to stabilize the digital communication. This mode will be the basic mode of C4FM FDMA Digital HAM radio.
- Data FR mode uses the full rate of data capacity for transferring data. This mode enables you to transfer large amounts of data, text messages, images, and voice memo data with double speed in V/D mode.
- Voice FR mode uses the full rate of data capacity for voice data. This mode enables you to transfer clear, high quality voice data.
- Analog FM mode is the same as current FM mode allowing you to communicate with all VHF/UHF HAM radio operators.

The new FT1DR has very useful Automatic Mode Select function to identify and automatically select these four modes and when the radio receives a signal.

We included many additional features in the FT1DR to make it standard digital communication equipment for all Amateur Radio operators. Please see the detailed Feature descriptions below. We also recommend viewing and/or downloading the FT1DR Brochure that is available by clicking on the "Files" at the top of above this page.

#### Compact Size

Case: 2.4"(W) x 3.7"(H) x 1.1"(D) without knob, antenna and belt clip

Weight: 9.35 Oz with FNB-101LI battery and antenna

#### Rugged Case with Water Protection

The FT1DR has a very rugged case with a Water Protection IPX5 Rating making it PERFECT for extreme environments, field and outdoor use

#### High Power and Long Life Operation

You can depend on up to 5 watts of reliable power output. There are four steps of power output, 5 watts, 2.5 watts, 1 watt and 0.1 watt.

There are two types of Li-Ion battery. The optional FNB-102LI battery will provide up to 8 hours of typical 5 watt operation.

#### Illuminated Keyboard

Fully illuminated keyboard that will permit easy operation in dark environments

#### User-friendly Intuitive and Easy-to-Master Operations

The FT1DR is extremely user-friendly, with a wide range of functions that can be called up directly. An easy-to-understand hierarchical menu is also used for the setting modes that allows customization of the FT1DR and makes it convenient to use. Press the ENT key to move to a lower level of the hierarchy, press the DISP key to return to a higher level, and turn the dial to select items or set values. These simple operations can be used to adapt the FT1DR/FT1DE to many communication situations

#### Real Dual Band Operation (V+V/U+U/V+U)

With two independent receivers, you may listen to either the same or a different band simultaneously.

#### AF Dual Control

Listen to AM or FM radio stations while monitoring two frequency channels! Two independent receivers will allow you to listen to your favorite AM or FM broadcast station, and monitor two different bands ("Band A" and "Band B") at the same time.

#### Four (4) Communication Modes

The FT1DR operates in one traditional analog mode and three digital modes! Enjoy communication in the mode that best suits your needs, purpose.

#### 1. V/D Mode (Simultaneous Voice/Data Communication Mode)

Half of the bandwidth is used for voice signal with error correction. The transceiver uses powerful error correction technology developed for professional communication devices. The very effective error correction code provides benefits such as minimal interruption of communication. The basic digital C4FM FDMA mode provides a good balance between sound quality and error correction.

#### 2. Voice FR Mode (Voice Full Rate Mode)

This mode uses the entire 12.5 kHz bandwidth to transmit digital voice data. The larger voice data size allows voice communication with high sound quality. Use this mode for pleasing sound quality communication between amateur radio friends.

### 3. Data FR Mode (High-speed Data Communication Mode)

A high-speed data communication mode that uses the entire 12.5 kHz bandwidth for data communication. The transceiver automatically switches to this mode when sending and receiving images, allowing a large amount of data to be transmitted quickly.

### 4. Analog FM Mode

Analog FM is effective for communication with a weak signal that causes voices to break up in the digital modes. The analog mode allows communication even at distances where noise and weak signals make communication almost impossible. The tried-and-trusted low-power circuit design uses less battery power than the digital modes.

#### The Automatic Mode Selection

The Automatic Mode Select function detects the receive signal mode. The transceiver automatically selects one of the four communication modes according to the signal received. This is extremely convenient when listening for communications, as you do not need to be aware of the other party's communication mode. The transceiver can also be operated in a fixed communication mode.

#### Snapshot Picture Taking Capability

When using the handy speaker microphone camera (optional MH-85A11U), press the shutter button to capture a snapshot, then press the image transmit button to easily transmit the image data.

The snapshot image or received data is stored in a high capacity micro SD card that is installed in the radio. You can recall and send that image data from the SD card anytime. The image data size is 320 x 240 dots or 160 x 120 dots. Image quality can set from 3 types, and you can choose a format that is suitable for the image and purpose.

This image data also retains a time record and the GPS location data of the snapshot. It is easy to view and edit the data file after taking the pictures by using a personal computer.

A snapshot aids in navigating and returning to the pictured location; other various uses are possible.

#### Digital Group Monitor Function

The digital GM function automatically checks whether members registered in a group are within communication range, and displays information such as distance and direction for each call sign on the screen. This convenient function makes it possible not only to see whether any friends are in communication range, but also to instantaneously determine the location and relationship between all members of the group.

This function can also be used to send messages and data such as images between members of a group, permitting convenient and fun communication between friends when out for a drive or hike. Sent and received messages and images can be checked on the LOG List screen, with icons making them easy to distinguish.

#### Band Scope

The FT1DR includes a high resolution band-scope with about 50 channels.

#### Wideband Receive Coverage

Covers 504 kHz – 999.900 MHz (A Band), 108 MHz – 580 MHz (B Band), continuous reception for short-wave, FM/AM broadcasts, aircraft, public service channels, etc.

Preset Receiver Function – NOAA Weather, Marine, Shortwave

Preset Receiver Function with an Extensive Range of Major Broadcasting Stations and Various Wireless Information Services.

The FT1DR has a preset receiver function with various frequencies in memories, making it easy to call up stations in the various communication services. The frequencies include short-wave broadcasts, international (marine) VHF and NOAA Weather channels.

#### Built-in GPS

Integral GPS receiver and antenna (located on top of the radio) provides location, time, direction and APRS® information. The FT1DR has a very useful GPS data transmission capability.

#### 1200/9600bps APRS® Data Communication

The built-in worldwide standard AX.25 Data TNC Modem permits uncomplicated APRS® (Automatic Packet Reporting System) operation. You will be able to display the information, station list; and use the message, SmartBeaconing TM function. You will be able to track your APRS® movement on the Internet websites.

#### Smart Navigation Function

This is a real-time navigation function that records the location and direction of Group Monitor (GM) stations. Digital V/D Mode communicates information such as position data at the same time as the voice signal, allowing you to view the distance and direction of the other party in real time while communicating. This makes it possible to confirm your position and the other party's in situations such as hiking and driving where your positions are constantly changing, providing an easy way to meet up or join routes.

#### Backtrack Function to Return to Departure Point

This function allows navigation back to the departure point, or a point previously added to the memory. When hiking or camping, just register the starting point or the position of your tent and then you can constantly check the direction and distance from your current position. The arrow of the compass display constantly shows the direction to the registered point, making it extremely convenient in finding your way back to the registered place – just move in the direction so that the arrow in the heading-up display points straight upward.

#### Lots of Memory Channels and Features

The FT1DR includes 1266 channel memories; 24 100-channel memory banks; memory TAG up to 16 characters.

#### Scanning

We were sure to include versatile scanning capabilities for the monitoring enthusiasts!

#### DTMF Features

Functional DTMF Encode and Memory features are included

#### Selective Call / Pager Features

Built-in CTCSS, DCS and an all new PAGER function encode/decode enables multiple-use selective calling features.

#### Vibrate Alert

Select from three types of Vibrate Alert functions

#### Data Terminal for Data Communication

A Data terminal is located on the side of the radio. The optional camera equipped microphone (MH-85A11U) may be connected to this terminal. Your Personal Computer may also be connected to this terminal to transfer the data or update the firmware of the radio

#### Micro SD Card Slot

A micro SD card slot is provided on the side of the radio. Memory back-up, the picture image data and other useful information is stored on the high capacity micro SD card (Maximum 32GB). The GPS logger records the location and track information of your moving station, which may be shown later by using Map software on your personal computer. By using the SD card, it is also possible to clone the radio data to the other compatible radios.

**Accurate 24 Hour Clock**

The FT1DR GPS receiver is used to provide a highly accurate 24 hour Clock for your various needs.

**Password Lock**

Password Lock function to meet your security concerns.

**Improved AM Broadcast Reception**

An Internal Bar Antenna ensures better than normal AM broadcast band reception

**Other Features**

- High-intensity White LED for Emergency Illumination
- Built-in sensor provides accurate temperature readings.
- Built in On/Off Timer
- Automatic Power Off
- Time-out Timer
- Battery saving features

## Ham Software

**School Club Roundup Contest Log 1.0 is Now Available!**

Just in time for next week's contest, School Club Roundup Contest Log 1.0 is now available! This new program has all the features you've come to expect in N3FJP Software including dupe checking, multipliers changing color when worked, scoring, DX spotting, rig interface, super check partial, sending CW, Cabrillo output, etc. Best of all, you'll likely find it very easy and intuitive to use!

I've never operated the School Club Roundup myself, but I'm really looking forward to giving it a try next week! The focus is working schools (5 multipliers each) and non school clubs (2 multipliers each), but individuals can work each other for QSO points as well, which should make for a lively week on the bands! You'll find all the details on the ARRL School Club Roundup contest here: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

Whether you are an N3FJP Software package subscriber or not, School Club Roundup Contest Log 1.0 is free to everyone. I've developed this program to help encourage young folks to pursue the great hobby of Amateur Radio. All I ask is that you help spread the word and enjoy the software!

You'll find School Club Roundup Contest Log 1.0 here: <http://www.n3fjp.com/schoolclubru.html>

**Winter Field Day Email Address Problem.**

Winter Field Day was a great event, but folks, including me, have been unable to e-mail their logs to the SPAR folks for contest submission. Many individuals have written me direct for assistance, but I am not affiliated with SPAR and find myself in the same situation.

So far, all of my attempts to contact SPAR have gone unanswered and there is no new information on their web site or forum. They were extremely responsive and enthusiastic during the development process and the contest was a good success, so I'm at a loss. If anything comes to light, I will let you know.

**NA Sprint SSB Contest Log 1.0 is Now Available!**

Just in time for tomorrow's contest, NA Sprint SSB Contest Log 1.0 is now available! As I detailed on Wednesday, NCJ has dropped support for the SSB version of NA Sprint and a new group has taken over its support. The new group made significant, last minute rule changes that only firmed up on Wednesday, requiring me to write an entirely new program to support their SSB version of the contest. You'll find complete details on the new contest here: <http://ssbsprint.com/>

As always, additional programs I add to the N3FJP Software package are always free to package subscribers. In addition, this program is also free to those that have previously registered my existing NA Sprint software. Just use the same password for either the new NA Sprint SSB version or the existing CW / RTTY version. You can download the software here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/nasprint.html>

**Kudos to Contest Supporters / Developers & Encouragement for More!**

I'd like to commend the NA SSB Sprint group for their efforts and encourage everyone, (individuals and clubs) to brainstorm and implement fun, engaging Amateur Radio operating events. If you've tuned in on a contest weekend or payed attention to the success of last year's 365 day ARRL Centennial QSO party, you know that an engaging, well crafted set of challenges is tremendous fun and a big part of what makes Amateur Radio thrive.

A few of us here are working on a year long, State / County QSO Party contest (<http://www.n3fjp.com/wascntyqsoparty.html>), but there are many other possibilities too! In an upcoming club meeting, schedule some time to brainstorm some Amateur Radio challenges with your group and craft some rules around your ideas. It could be a few hour sprint, a weekend contest or a year long event. It could be something that only your club membership pursues or it could become even more popular than the Centennial QSO Party! Imagine the possibilities and make it happen!

**State QSO Party Programs for LA, ON, MO, NM and MT are Now Available!**

State QSO Party programs for Louisiana, Ontario, Missouri, New Mexico and Montana are now available! As always, these programs are free to N3FJP Software Package users! Just enter the state QSO party password we sent with your package list and you will be all set!

You can download the new programs here: <http://www.n3fjp.com/stateqsoparty.html>

Enjoy!

### NA Sprint Log 3.7 Now Available! However...

This requires a bit of explanation. The National Contest Journal has ended its sponsorship of the North American Sprint. The following is from the January 8, 2015 ARRL Letter (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2015-01-08>):

National Contest Journal (NCJ) has ended its sponsorship for the phone version of the North American Sprint. Going forward, the magazine will support Sprint events for CW and RTTY only. The magazine cited dwindling support for its decision.

"The September 2014 running of the phone North American Sprint attracted just 52 logs, and we estimate that approximately 3500 contacts took place," said NCJ Editor Pat Barkey, N9RV. He pointed out that the CW Sprint a weekend earlier attracted nearly 10 times that number of entries. Barkey said the lack of "a critical mass of participants" significantly changes the nature of the competition, where winning scores are built through recruiting and coaching new participants, "and the operating experience that makes the CW Sprint so special is essentially lost."

Meanwhile, another group is attempting to keep the SSB Sprint active, which is super. However, I'm having a difficult time remaining in the loop for what may be some very significant last minute rule changes that affect the functionality of my software for this weekend's contest. To make a long story short, I only became aware that the new group was adding Hawaii as a multiplier because another N3FJP Software user noticed the change on their website on Monday.

I went ahead and added the Hawaii multiplier to the NA Sprint Log 3.7 (for SSB only, it is still not added when CW / RTTY are selected in conformance with those versions of the rules). I was about to announce version 3.7 when it came to light that the new group was considering additional rules changes Monday evening as well.

The additional rule changes they are contemplating add more section multipliers that can only be accommodated by creating a new, separate program for the SSB version of the event. Adding the additional sections to the existing software would break the program for the CW / RTTY versions of the contest.

I have not heard a word from the new sprint group since Monday evening. If / when they e-mail me with definitive direction, I'll do my best to accommodate their new rule set, even if that means creating an additional program, should their rules diverge significantly enough to require it. That said, I'll need to hear definitively from the group that the new rule set is firmed up and that the proposed changes are documented and publicized. The effort here is significant, so I can't compound the time it will take by chasing a dynamically fluctuating rule set.

So, the bottom line is that NA Sprint version 3.7 has been updated

to accommodate the new Sprint SSB rule set as documented on the new group's web site as of 1/26/15. You'll find version 3.7 here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/nasprint.html>

As always, upgrades are free to registered users.

Enjoy!

### The New HamQTH Callbook Service

Posted date: February 14, 2015

Welcome to the free hamradio callbook. This callbook provides all data for free and you will not have to log in to see any detail unlike other sites. It includes also XML access for logging programs. You can use everything from HamQTH as often as you want without limits. The server has lots of power available and the Internet connection is unlimited.

By registering on this website server, you can also edit or correct your information and write a little about yourself and/or add photos. The unique thing is you can choose if you want your address or other personal details to be shown to unregistered users. It is your choice, not mine. I won't hide your address or any details. Only you decide to do that. Your address will be shared by anyone, unless you choose otherwise. Also I won't modify or censor any user's profile. We are hamradio operators and I believe there is no need to filter anything.

HamQTH provides you this features:

- very clear station profile without any moving banners
- the top profile picture can be designed using a mouse directly in the browser
- unlimited "About me" section that won't be modified by anybody else, only you can change it
- "Recent activity" information shows how often is station active on the air (calling CQ, posting to the DX cluster, spotted in the DX cluster
- powerfull map with location of the station
- DX condition to the station location based on current sun spots
- very powerfull log search function with many options
- DX cluster fully customizable using filters
- dx cluster can color the spots according to an uploaded log to HamQTH (you'll see new spots in red, new bands in blue etc. also fully customizable)
- Website can speak to you in your native language (if is it translated into it)
- and many more small details that are very useful

See More : <http://hamqth.com/>

**BUY, SELL, or SWAP**

Looking for a manual tuner for hf.  
I have a like new LDG Electronics z-100 plus auto tuner to trade.

Also needing a microphone for a Kenwood TS-930S  
903-641-3201 or chiefellington@yahoo.com.

## Hamfests & Events

Hamfest/Convention  
03/07/2015 | 13th Annual Hamfest  
Location: Irving, TX  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Irving Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://irvingarc.org>

Hamfest/Convention  
03/14/2015 | WC ARC SwapFest  
Location: Georgetown, TX  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Williamson County Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.WCARC.com>

Hamfest/Convention  
03/28/2015 | Texas State Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)  
Location: Rosenberg, TX  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.houstonhamfest.org/>

## NFLARC Weather Nets



### SKYWARN™ Spotter Training Schedule 2015!

**Classes in Bold Type Include Advanced Spotter Training!**  
Unless posted otherwise, all classes are free and open to the public.  
No advanced registration is required.  
TBD = To Be Determined

DATE	COUNTY	CITY	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday Mar 3	Mills	Goldthwaite	Goldthwaite VFD	7:00-9:00PM
Thursday	Palo Pinto	Palo Pinto	Ag-Life	6:30-8:30PM

Mar 5			Building	
Saturday Mar 7	Rockwall	Rockwall	Rockwall County Library	11:00AM-1:00PM
Saturday Mar 7	Navarro	Corsicana	The Palace Theater	10:00AM - 3:00PM
Saturday Mar 14	Dallas	Grand Prairie	Grand Prairie Police & Fire Public Safety Building (2nd Floor)	9AM-1PM
Monday Mar 16	Delta	Cooper	Delta County Civic Center	7:00-9:00PM
Tuesday Mar 17	Eastland	Eastland	Eastland Fire Department	7:00-9:00PM
Tuesday Mar 17	Henderson	Athens	Henderson County Courthouse Annex	7:00-9:00PM
Saturday Mar 21	Tarrant	Mansfield	St. Jude Church 310 Graves St.	9:00AM-Noon
Monday Mar 23	Young	Graham	North Central Texas College	7:00-9:00PM
Tuesday Mar 24	Somervell	Glen Rose	Glen Rose FD	7:00-9:00PM
Tuesday Mar 24	Stephens	Breckenridge	Texas State Technical College	7:00-9:00PM
Thursday Mar 26	Erath	Stephenville	Science Building - Room 102 Tarleton State University	6:30-8:30PM
Thursday Mar 26	Montague	Montague	Montague Courthouse Annex	7:00-9:00PM
Monday Mar 30	Parker	Weatherford	Mince Auditorium - Weatherford College	7:00-9:00PM

### NFLARC Weather Net Frequencies:

- Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Corsicana - 440 (442.925 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 146.2)
- Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
- Fairfield - 2M (145.110 \* with a tone of 146.2)
- Lindale - 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
- Mexia - 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)

- Simplex Frequency - 146.500 MHz
- Echolink - KD5OXM-L

## NFLARC Weekly Information Net

Net meets every Wednesday night at 9:00 PM local time

- The Linked Repeaters at
  - Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
  - Corsicana - 440 (442.925 - with a tone of 146.2)
  - Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
  - Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 146.2)
  - Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
  - Fairfield \* 2M (145.110 \* with a tone of 146.2)
  - Lindale \* 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
  - Mexia \* 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)
  - Echolink \* KD5OXM-L
- We can be Monitored via
  - <http://nflarc.org/radio.html>
  - <http://www.radioreference.com>
    - (Central Texas Amateur Repeaters)

## Net Control Schedule

- Feb
  - 04 Rebekah / Wil
  - 11 Wil / Rebekah
  - 18 Michael / Doug
  - 25 James / Michael

If you would like to learn or practice being net control, contact us here <http://nflarc.org/email.html>

## NFLARC Scheduled Club Meetings

### March 14, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### April 11, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### May 1, 2015

NFLARC Dues **Time:** Untimed event

### May 9, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### June 13, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### July 11, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### August 8, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### September 12, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### October 10, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### November 14, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### December 12, 2015

NFLARC Lunch **Time:** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

NFLARC Meeting **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

## Other Area Nets

- **HF**
  - 10 mtrs Tues 8:00p 28.437 + or - W5DXS net
  - 40 mtrs M-Sat 10:00-noon 1:00-2:00p Sat 10:00a-noon 7.290
  - 80 mtrs 24/7 6:30p SW Traffic Net 3.873
  - 80 mtrs 24/7 8:00p-9:00 Gulf Coast Hurricane Net 3.935
- **U/VHF**
  - **Daily-**
    - 4:00 a -an informal net on 146.580 Simplex every morning, Come and visit with the bunch!
  - **Mon-**
    - 7:00p 146.82 and Waco area 146.660 linked Temple ARC
    - 8:00p 145.150 Hotarc Bakers Dozen Training net (WX Net)
  - **Tue-**
    - 7:00p -147.180 Bosque County ARC Round Table Net
    - 7:30p 147.180 Pink HAMster net
    - 8:30p- 147.24 (97.4 tone) Slo-scan Emergency Preparedness Net
    - 9:00p- 147.140, 97.4 SlowScan-ATV Talkabout Net
    - 10:00p 147.360 PL Tone 110.9 Tarlton Area ARC
  - **Weds.**
    - 7:30 p.m. W5TSG Emergency Relay Net SIMPLEX . 147.550 All checkins during the 7:30 net will have an opportunity to make comments on the 8:00 p.m. net
    - 8:00 p.m. W5TSG Traffic and Training Net 147.320 with a tone of + 123
    - 8:00pm ON THE LAST WEDS. OF THE MONTH ON 145.31 TONE 123 THE W5TSG TRAFFIC AND TRAINING NET. All licensed radio operators are welcome to check in. Bud AD5SK Net Control
    - 9:00p- 146.78 Quad County net (access Hill County repeater)
  - **Thurs.**
    - 7:00p 146.78 LWARS Training Net
    - 8:00p 147.14 Central Texas ARC Net (WX Net)
    - 8:00p 145.310, 123.0 Central Texas Amateur Radio Net
  - **Sun.**
    - 7:30p 444.00 tone 136.5 and 145.45 tone 88.5 Johnson County ARC (Cleburne)

## AREA CLUB MEETINGS

- All-Ham Breakfast
  - Every Sat.9:00am GRIFFS at China Spring Road & Wortham Bend Road in China Spring. Come join your fellow hams every Saturday morning.
- Bosque County ARC
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. 6:30pm Johnny's Café on HWY. 6 In Clifton
  - VEC team there to give a test or upgrade at 5:30 each meeting
- Central Texas ARC
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. 7:00pm Belton EOC
- HOTARC
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 7:00pm W5NCD Workshop 12772 Chapel Rd., Lorena
- Lake Whitney ARS
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. 10:00am Whitney Fire Department
- Temple ARC
  - 1st Thurs. 7:00pm Western Hills Church of Christ Adams & I-35, Temple
- W5TSG ARC
  - 2nd Monday 6:30pm TSGARC Clubhouse 3292 Speegleville Road, Waco
- Tarleton Area ARC
  - 1st Tuesday of each month Stephenville (also a 70cm repeater available 444.775 PL tone 88.5)
- CCARC - Cedar Creek Amateur Radio Club
  - Second Saturday of each month at the [Mabank Cafe, 301 N. 3rd. Street in Mabank.](#)
  - Their meeting room is a no-smoking area for us all morning.

- ± QRP Fox Hunt 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 11
- 1300Z-1400Z, Mar 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 12
- ± CWops Mini-CWT Test 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
- ± RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 13
- ± QRP Fox Hunt 1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
- ± F9AA Cup, SSB 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 14
- ± AGCW QRP Contest 1600Z, Mar 14 to 1600Z, Mar 15
- ± EA PSK63 Contest 1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
- ± Idaho QSO Party 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
- ± North American Sprint, RTTY 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 15
- ± UBA Spring Contest, 2m 1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
- ± Wisconsin QSO Party 0200Z-0400Z, Mar 16
- ± Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 18
- ± QRP Fox Hunt 1300Z-1400Z, Mar 18 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 18 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 19
- ± CWops Mini-CWT Test 0030Z-0230Z, Mar 19
- ± NAQCC CW Sprint 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 19
- ± RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 20
- ± QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
- ± BARTG HF RTTY Contest 1000Z, Mar 21 to 1000Z, Mar 22
- ± SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest 1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
- ± Russian DX Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Mar 21 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Mar 21 (432)
- ± AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1700Z-1859Z, Mar 21
- ± Feld Hell Sprint 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
- ± UBA Spring Contest, SSB 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 25
- ± QRP Fox Hunt 1300Z-1400Z, Mar 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 26
- ± CWops Mini-CWT Test 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 27
- ± QRP Fox Hunt 0000Z, Mar 28 to 2400Z, Mar 29
- ± CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

## CONTEST CALENDAR

### March 2015

- ± NSARA Contest 1200Z-1600Z, Mar 1 and 1800Z-2200Z, Mar 1
- ± SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest 1200Z-1400Z, Mar 1
- ± North Carolina QSO Party 1500Z, Mar 1 to 0059Z, Mar 2
- ± RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
- ± ARS Spartan Sprint 0200Z-0400Z, Mar 3
- ± AGCW YL-CW Party 1900Z-2100Z, Mar 3
- ± QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Mar 4
- 1300Z-1400Z, Mar 4 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 4 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 5
- ± CWops Mini-CWT Test 2300Z, Mar 4 to 2300Z, Mar 5 and 2300Z, Mar 7 to 2300Z, Mar 8
- ± AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest 1800Z-1900Z, Mar 5 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 5 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Mar 5 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Mar 5 (Dig)
- ± NRAU 10m Activity Contest 0200Z-0330Z, Mar 6
- ± QRP Fox Hunt 0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
- ± ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0600Z-0629Z, Mar 7 and 0630Z-0659Z, Mar 7 and 0700Z-0729Z, Mar 7 and 0730Z-0800Z, Mar 7
- ± Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
- ± UBA Spring Contest, CW 1100Z-1700Z, Mar 8
- ± DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest

## DX News



### Island activities:

#### [Special callsigns for Cook Islands](#)

Amateurs resident in the Cook Islands have been issued E50x callsigns instead of the usual E51XX to celebrate 50 years of self-governance.

The Cook Islands are IOTA reference OC-013.

The seven residents may opt to use them for all or part of 2015 in place of their regular E51xx call signs.

Visitors to the Cooks will be issued the standard visitor E51XXX callsigns.

Dispatch of specially designed QSL cards won't start until late March at the earliest.

## IOTA News from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club

12 February, 2015

### Island activities:

#### IOTA-QRGs

CW: 28040 24920 21040 18098 14040 10114 7030 3530 kHz  
SSB: 28560 28460 24950 21260 18128 14260 7055 3760 kHz

**AF-003; ZD8**, Ascension: Werner/DJ9KH, Axel/DK9BDN, and Christian/DL6KAC are going to put Ascension Island on the air between Feb. 2 and March 6 with the call ZD8D. QRV on 160-6m on CW, RTTY, and RTTY with a focus on the low bands. QSL via DL9HO (d/B).

**EU-038, PA**, Noord Holland/ Friesland/ Groningen Province group: Frank/PC2D, Arnold/PD2C, Rudi/PA4UNX, Gerard/PA7CW, Monique/DO3MKT, and William/DO3WKS activate Ameland Island (WLOTA 1059) from the 13th to the 16th with their homecalls. QRV on 160-10m in SSB and cW, as PC2D during the PACC Contest. QSL via homecalls, LoTW.

**EU-047, DL**, Niedersachsen State group: Robert, DK2RO, is going to get on the air from Spiekeroog (DID/GIA N-08) between the 15th and 20th. QRV during the morning and evening hours on 40-10m on CW, some SSB and digital modes. Also active as DK2RO/p from the Nationalpark und Biosphaerenreservat Niedersaechsisches Wattenmeer (DLFF-010).  
QSL via homecall (d/B). <http://stroke-portable.de/>

**NA-146; FJ**, St. Barthelemy: Pat/N2IEN, Lee/WW2DX, Lori/KB2HZI, and Ray/W2RE will operate from from St. Barth (DIFO FJ-001, WLOTA 0377) between the 11th and 17th, signing FJ/homecalls. QRV on 160-6m, QSL info to be announced on the air.

**OC-086; KH0**, Northern Mariana Islands: Kazu, JH8PHT, returns to Saipan (WW Loc. QK25uf) for Feb. 11 to 14, operating as AH0KT. QRV on 80-6m in SSB, CW, and digital modes. QSL via JH8PHT.

**SA-036; P4**, Aruba: Jack, WX3P, operates as P40JP from Aruba Island (WLOTA 0033) on 40-10m from the 14th to the 19th. QSL via homecall.

Compiled by *Friedrich, DLABBH*  
[Deutscher Amateur Radio Club](http://www.darc.de)  
e-mail: [iota@dxhf.darc.de](mailto:iota@dxhf.darc.de)

[RSGB IOTA website](http://www.rsgb.org)

## LINKS

QRZ now  
<http://qrznow.com/>

<http://new.dxsummit.fi/#/>



<http://www.qrz.com/>



<http://www.repeaterbook.com>

## SILENT KEYS



## FYI

- NFLARC Club Dues are due every May

## Ham Radio Glossary

### D

**D region** -- The lowest region of the ionosphere. The D region contributes very little to short-wave radio propagation. It acts mainly to absorb energy from radio waves as they pass through it. This absorption has a significant effect on signals below about 7.5 MHz during daylight.

**Data** -- Computer-based communications modes, such as packet radio, which can be used to transmit and receive computer files, or digital information.

**DE** -- The Morse code abbreviation for "from" or "this is." Deci -- The metric prefix for 10<sup>-1</sup>, or divide by 10.

**Delta loop antenna** -- A variation of the cubical quad with triangular elements.

**Detector** -- The stage in a receiver in which the modulation (voice or other information) is recovered from the RF signal.

**Digipeater** -- A packet-radio station used to retransmit signals that are specifically addressed to be retransmitted by that station.

**Digital communications** -- Computer-based communications modes. This can include data modes like packet radio and text-only modes like radioteletype (RTTY).

**Dipole antenna** -- See Half-wave dipole. A dipole need not be ½ wavelength long.

**Direct current (dc)** -- Electrical current that flows in one direction only.

**Directional wattmeter** (see Wattmeter)

**Director** -- An element in front of the driven element in a Yagi and some other directional antennas.

**Double-pole, double-throw (DPDT) switch** -- A switch that has six contacts. The DPDT switch has two center contacts. The two center contacts can each be connected to one of two other contacts.

**Double-pole, single-throw (DPST) switch** -- A switch that connects two contacts to another set of contacts. A DPST switch turns two circuits on or off at the same time.

**Driven element** -- The part of an antenna that connects directly to the feed line.

**Dual-band antenna** -- An antenna designed for use on two different Amateur Radio bands.

**Dummy antenna** -- A station accessory that allows you to test or adjust transmitting equipment without sending a signal out over the air. Also called dummy load.

**Dummy load** -- A station accessory that allows you to test or adjust transmitting equipment without sending a signal out over the air. Also called dummy antenna.

**Duplexer** -- A device that allows a dual-band radio to use a single dual-band antenna.

**Duty cycle** -- A measure of the amount of time a transmitter is operating at full output power during a single transmission. A lower duty cycle means less RF radiation exposure for the same PEP output.

**DX** -- Distance, foreign countries.

## 2013-2014 Officers

**President:** Doug S - KE5CDK

**Vice President:** Rodger W - W5UOK

**Secretary:** Rebekah M - K5RCM

**Treasurer:** James S - KD5OXM

**Director (1yr):** Mary S - KE5FGU

**Director (2yr):** Kevin M - KW5MOS

**Director (3yr):** Michael B - KF5KHS

**Field Day Committee:**

**Testing Committee:**

Ken P K5KCP,

Rebekah M - K5RCM

**VE Team**

Ken P K5KCP,

Rebekah M - K5RCM

**Public Relations Chairman**

Ken P K5KCP

**Activities Chairman**

Rebekah M - K5RCM

## Address Book

- [Staff@nflarc.org](mailto:Staff@nflarc.org) - Is sent to pres, vp, sec, tres, & board
- [members@nflarc.org](mailto:members@nflarc.org) - Is sent to all members on the mailing list
- [vec@nflarc.org](mailto:vec@nflarc.org) - Is sent to our VEC's
- [ve@nflarc.org](mailto:ve@nflarc.org) - Is sent to the VE team
- [ares@nflarc.org](mailto:ares@nflarc.org) - Is sent to pres, vp, sec, tres,
- [fd@nflarc.org](mailto:fd@nflarc.org) - Is sent to pres, vp, sec, tres,
- [ragchew@nflarc.org](mailto:ragchew@nflarc.org) - is sent to the newsletter editor

If you have Questions, Comments, Links, Submissions, Corrections, Etc.

Send them to [ragchew@nflarc.org](mailto:ragchew@nflarc.org)

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