

Club
Elections

PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

PARKINGTICKET

AUGUST

WWW.K5PRK.NET

2025



In This Issue

- CW On An HT
- Meeting minutes
- UV-5R Mini Review
- CLUB ELECTIONS

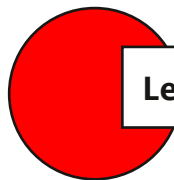
PARK HERE

Officers

(your answers begin here)

President	Tim Johnson, K5TCJ	president@k5prk.net
Vice President	Anthony Burokas, KB3DVS	vp@k5prk.net
Secretary	B. J. Watkins, K5BJW	secretary@k5prk.net
Treasurer	Mike Tharp, KG5TJF	treasurer@k5prk.net
Activities	Richard Seitz, KG5HCJ	activities@k5prk.net
Communications	Miranda Schwarck, KE5YZP	communications@k5prk.net
Webmaster	James McCormick, KG5KBP	webmaster@k5prk.net
Public Relations	Rob Forson, K5WFR	pr@k5prk.net
Newsletter	Lonnie Webb, KG5WHQ	newsletter@k5prk.net

EXPERIMENT AND HAVE FUN WITH YOUR RADIO



Learn more about the club at <https://k5prk.net>



Interact with the club at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/k5prk>



Have a groups.io conversation with the club at
<https://k5prk.groups.io/g/main>

PARK REPEATERS

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub operates five repeaters, which are located in Allen, Texas about 180 feet above ground level. All licensed amateur operators are welcome to join us on the air.

Our repeaters are open.

147.180 MHz + PL 107.2

K5PRK VHF
Voice Repeater

444.250 MHz + PL 79.7

K5PRK UHF
Voice Repeater

441.575 MHz +

DStar UHF
Digital Voice Port B

1295.000 MHz - 20.000

DStar 23cm
Digital Voice Port B

1255.000 MHz

DStar 23cm Digital Data

Broadcastify

K5PRK 444.250

K5PRK 147.18

If you notice problems with any of the club's repeaters, contact communications@k5prk.net via email with a detailed description of the issue.

Are you ready to read the content in the newsletter? It's all technician accessible.

**YOU HAVE BEEN DEPUTIZED AS ROVING
JUNIOR NEWSLETTER REPORTER
EXTRAORDINAIRE!**

Go photograph, experiment, solder, attempt to antenna your lawn chairs. Just write it all down and send the information to
newsletter@k5prk.net

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Tim Johnson K5TCJ
president@k5prk.net

Being an Odd numbered year, the following Board positions are up for election at our October general meeting:

- President,
- Treasurer,
- Activities, and
- Newsletter.

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please let any member of the Board of Directors know.

In addition to these positions, each Board member is authorized to form committees to help them perform their duties.

Here's an excellent opportunity to use your talents and get more active in the club.

You don't need to be able to climb towers, scamper across roofs, or exert a lot of energy to get involved.

There are plenty of "No Impact" activities for all of us to participate. Participate in the weekly net, write articles for the newsletter, help with the repeater operations, the opportunities are endless.

Probably the easiest contribution we all can make is Public Relations. Talk to your friends and acquaintances and recruit new members and encourage past members to come back. Most all of us are on various social media outlets. Use them. Post about Ham related events around the area, post about our club, and invite people

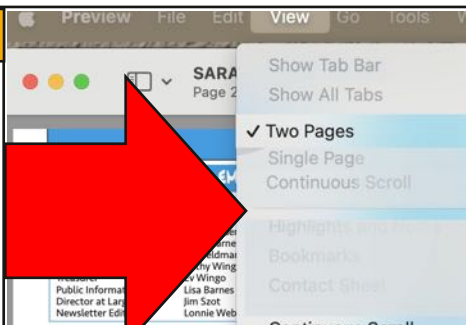
to learn about Ham Radio.

I know it's HOT out there but now would be a good time to start planning antenna upgrades, maintenance and winterizing to do when it gets cooler, but before it's too cold to do it.

Lots of opportunities this month to get on the air. QSO parties, Contests, various Special Event stations, POTA park activations, and that New DXpedition you want in your log. Don't miss the many opportunities to get on the air.

73, and see you at our next meeting, and on the air.

Tim 



CONTENTS

- 3 | From The President**
- 4 | Letters**
- 4 | Activities**
- 5 | Solar Meshtastic**
- 6 | Scholarship Announced**
- 8 | Meeting Minutes**
- 9 | Board Meeting**
- 10 | Baofeng UV5R Mini**
- 11 | Fourth Thursday Lunch**
- 13 | DIY: CW On A Quansheng**
- 14 | RadioQuest**
- 16 | Club Calendar**
- 20 | History of Skywarn, Part 2**
- 21 | Crank Calls**

Get your RadioQuest Score (page 14 for technicians' side)

August's giveaway went to General Michael Payne. This month it's the Technician RadioQuest page and no one has entered yet. Michael is ineligible for this one. Gotta start sending in your scores now, though!

**Fourth Thursday Lunch:
September 25, 2025
Poor Richards @ 11:30a**

**Next Meeting:
September 15, 2025**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

And just like that we have football weather in Texas.

Thank you to the more than a half dozen people who submitted tips and photos and thought for the newsletter. I was worried no one used the calendar but I got corrections on it—Awesome!

Don't forget Fourth Thursday Lunch @ Poor Richards where a few of us will get together and tell great lies and solve world peace.

There will be a newsletter RadioQuest giveaway for technicians at the next meeting! 📧

ROUTE 66 ON THE AIR OPEN IN NEW ROUTE 66 ON THE AIR SPECIAL EVENT

August 25, 2025—The 2025 Route 66 On The Air special event will be active September 6-14. This year, 24 clubs located across the route will be operating special 1x1 call-signs. QSL cards and certificates will be available.

This year marks the 26th year of this great radio event. Originally started by the Northern Arizona DX Association, it was a way to allow amateur radio operators a fun way to "Relive the Ride." They also can relive their own memories of Route 66, and get to celebrate the highway's rich history in making the U.S. what it is today.

https://w6jbt.org/?page_id=15
https://w6jbt.org/?page_id=117
https://w6jbt.org/?page_id=26
<https://daily.hamweekly.com/tags/route-66-on-the-air/>

[via Amateur Radio Daily]

**HAMS, A WORK IN PROGRESS**

By KG5WHQ

New operators are going to run into personalities on air. Radio is the first social network, but advantageously, it isn't as bad as Facebook.

Friction often boils down to issues of interpersonal dynamics. However, these critiques overlook a critical aspect of our community—radio amateurs, technologists, and open-source developers—who often don't fit the neurotypical mold.

And interpersonal jazz blows up all over the ham radio community—if you let it.

Interpersonal conflicts can ripple through the ham radio community if left unchecked. Many technologists, whether formally diagnosed or not, exhibit traits associated with autism, OCD, or Asperger's.

Our spouses might just call us "nut-burgers."

We can be intensely (or madly) focused on specific topics, sometimes to the exclusion of all else. We may excel in persuasive communication, both in speech and writing, and possess average or above-average intelligence. Yet, interpreting emotional cues or navigating social nuances can be challenging.

Our cogs just turn a different way.

Luckily, we find that while being wildly different in experience and skills, we are made to complement each other. Some of us are the "shock absorbers," smoothing out interactions, while others are the "mud tires," powering through challenges

with grit and determination.

For many, connecting via radio, Morse code, or a keyboard feels more natural than face-to-face interaction. Most importantly, we eventually recognize our struggles with social dynamics. Personally, I don't know if I am neurotypical, but it took two decades for me to write and speak clearly, and I do not walk on eggshells.

That might be bad... Probably ought to write that on a sticky...

As a part of listening to people on the airwaves, whether on nets or eighty meters, approach them with a spoonful of sympathy and understanding, rather than the sudden, outright rejection that we can all have.

The recent and very public rejection of M17 by the ARDC body does us no favors. The reaction was one of interpersonal issues and should not have been allowed to sow dissent in the ranks of the ham radio community.

I have to believe God made us all the way we are. And I think he wants us to depend on each other to get things done.

N5SAC as a club will have an opportunity to pull out a chair for people in the days to come. Let's make this thing the best it can be. 📧

SOLAR MESHTASTIC NODE

By Andrew Damiano KG5SKI

Here is my \$12 solar light turned off-grid meshtastic node. Been running since early April. These rak boards sip power.



I don't know if they are the best but they are really good! I have a few helltec boards and they work the same but are really power hungry. The RAK board ran almost 2 weeks on a 3000 mha battery without being charged. I would recommend the RAK boards for DIY projects and you come up with your own case.



If you want a prebuilt setup there are lots out there but cost more. Lots of them use the RAK boards because they are very easy on power.

https://store.rokland.com/products/rakwireless-mini-meshtastic-starter-kit-us915-rak19003-4631-sku-115093?_pos=1&_psq=RAKwireless+Mini+Meshtastic+Starter+Kit&_ss=e&_v=1.0



Battery if you don't use the one in the solar light:

https://store.rokland.com/products/makerfocus-flat-3-7v-3000mah-rechargeable-lithium-polymer-11-1wh-battery-with-jst-type-ph-2-0-plug?pr_prod_strat=jac&pr_rec_id=306d1b883&pr_rec_pid=7155446054995&pr_ref_pid=7432640462931&pr_seq=uniform



Get Ready for the Texas QSO Party 2025!

The annual Texas QSO Party is just around the corner—mark your calendars:

Dates & Times:

Saturday, September 20 – 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM CDT (1400Z to 0200Z)

Sunday, September 21 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM CDT (1400Z to 2000Z)

This is a great opportunity for amateur radio fun—whether you're in Texas or elsewhere. Why participate?

Connect with as many Texas stations as you can—especially spotting different counties. Work from the comfort of home or operate mobile from inside Texas, or even join in from outside the state.

log your QSOs, and submit your log afterward.

Bonus: Mobile and rover operators can submit their operating route (like what counties you're hitting) in advance to be published for others to chase. Great chance to help boost activity across the state! txqp.net

If you're planning to operate, drop your comment here ...

73 and let's make this a big one, Operating rules can be found here <https://txqp.net/index.php/rules/operating-rules>



SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



THE MARY LOU BROWN NM7N MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Katherine Forson, KT5KMF

Katherine Forson is a meteorology major at Texas A&M University who will be starting her senior year at **Texas A&M** this fall. She has held an amateur radio license since age 9, having gotten her license in 2013, and her Amateur Extra class license since 2018.

Katherine has been a member of the Texas A&M Amateur Radio Club, or W5AC, since she started college in the fall of 2022. She has served as both the Director of Operations and Secretary of the club, then was elected as President in May of 2024. She will be serving as President again for the 2025-2026 school year and is also the club's Newsletter Editor. Katherine took over the role of the Team Lead for license testing during her sophomore year and has since transitioned the team to administering online exams through the ExamTools website as well as participating in a W5YI pilot program to offer completely free licensing for students. She serves as the liaison between W5AC and the Texas Aggie Storm Chasers (TASC) and has been the Radio and Licensing Director for TASC since her freshman year. She has participated in three study abroad programs throughout the course of her time in college and has operated amateur radio during each of them. These programs included trips to Australia, Barbados, Argentina, and Antarctica. Katherine was also chosen as the ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Award recipient in 2021.

When she isn't talking on the radio, Katherine participates in many other campus activities. In addition to her meteorology courses, she is pursuing a minor in climate change and hopes to attend graduate school after graduating next May. She is interested in a career path in either climate change research or policy studies. She was chosen in April of 2024 as a NOAA Hollings Scholar, a program in which students receive a two-year scholarship and an internship between their junior and senior years. She recently completed her summer internship in Boulder, Colorado working with the NOAA Science On a Sphere team. Katherine is a member of the Texas A&M Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and was elected to serve as their Treasurer in April of this year. She also plays sousaphone in the Texas A&M Hullabaloo Band which performs at soccer, volleyball, and basketball games.

Katherine adds, "I'm so honored to have received this scholarship and I appreciate all you do to encourage women to both participate and feel welcome in the hobby!"

Reprinted from the YLRL Harmonics Newsletter.



**Krish Desai,
KD9RGN**
New England
FEMARA
Scholarship



**Trey Drenon,
KO6CIZ**
Martin J. Green Jr.,
K2PLF, Memorial
Scholarship



**Ian Duncan,
KC9THI**
William C.
Winscott, N6CHA,
Memorial
Scholarship



**Frank D'Urso,
K1MKY**
The 10-10
International Net
Scholarship



**Ethan Edwards,
AE4CE**
Free Family
Scholarship,
[N3TG (SK),
K3MAF, KC3YO,
K4FRE, KB4HGU
(SK), KB4HGV
(SK)], and Vienna
Wireless Society
Scholarship



**Isabelle Ellard,
KQ4JRR**
Alan G. Thorpe,
K1TMW, Memorial
Scholarship



**James Ervin,
K15UXW**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**Benjamin
Faershtein,
KO6CNT**
Harry J. Dannals,
W2HD, Memorial
Scholarship



**Joseph Farkas,
KX4YS**
Gwinnett Amateur
Radio Society
Scholarship



**Dylan Fielding,
KJ7MFU**
Hy and Mimi
Ginsberg
Memorial
Scholarship



**Katherine Forson,
KT5KMF**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**Landon Gale,
AI7HE**
Central Arizona
DX Association
Scholarship



**Samuel Garlough,
KO6GMZ**
ARRL Foundation
General Fund
Scholarship



**Christopher
Geiser, KC3IVM**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**Andrew Gentry,
K4UPX**
Jake McClain
Driver, KC5WXA,
Scholarship



**Natalie Gilbert,
N1PNK**
New England
FEMARA
Scholarship

*Pictured here is
page 90 of the
September QST
Magazine
featuring our
very own
KT5KMF
Katherine
Forson.*



**Michael Gilbert-
Cabaceira,
KI5TXS**
The Quarter
Century Wireless
Association, Inc. (QCWA)
Scholarship, and Robert
A. Rodriguez,
K5AUW,
Scholarship (San
Antonio Radio
Club, Inc.)



**Nicholas
Glennon, KQ4LII**
Charles Clarke
Cordle Memorial
Scholarship



**William Gonzalez,
KD9YWL**
Ozaukee Radio
Club, W9CQO,
Scholarship, and Edmond
A. Metzger
Scholarship



**Matthew Guercio,
KD2TFA**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**Markus Hansen,
W7MTH**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



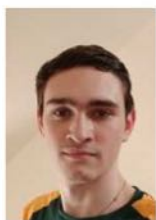
**Brynn Hebert,
KG5KRV**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**Logan Hebert,
KG5LLM**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**Leon Hellmich,
DL3ON**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**Maxwell
Hochschild,
AC1MX**
Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)
Scholarship



**John Horan,
AE0ZY**
The 10-10
International Net
Scholarship



**William Houser,
KN4EZW**
Ernest L.
Baulch, W2TX,
and Marcia E.
Baulch, WA2AKJ,
Scholarship



**Der-Han Huang,
K06ECC**
The Quarter
Century Wireless
Association,
Inc. (QCWA)
Scholarship



**Julian Hughes,
KC1KDY**
Byron Blanchard,
N1EKV, Memorial
Scholarship



**Mikayla Hunt,
KK7HSE**
William Bennett,
W7PHO, Memorial
Scholarship



**Andrew Johnson,
N4HFR**
Richard W.
Bendicksen,
N7ZL, Memorial
Scholarship



**Chandler
Johnson,
KK7WRR**
Joel R. Miller,
W7PDX, and
Martha C.
Miller STEM
Scholarship

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST GENERAL MEETING



**August 18, 2025
General Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order at 7:10 p.m.

Officers Present:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Public Relations Director
Newsletter Editor
VE Coordinator

Officers Absent:

Communications Director
Activities Director
Webmaster

There were 20 members present and 2 guests.

President's Report:

Board Elections are upcoming in October. (See Comments in New Business below)

Thanks and best wishes were given to Kip Moravec, AE5IB, who is moving to Michigan in the Very near future. Kip has served in many capacities with the club including President and Communications Director for many years. Kip also serves as our current repeater trustee.

Also, Vice President Anthony Burokas is resigning his board position because of family travel and school for his son in Ger-

many. Anthony was also given thanks and best wishes. He has served in numerous capacities and has provided much support not only in his capacity of board officer, but also in areas that needed his expertise.

Vice President Report:

Upcoming General Meeting Programs:
September 15th – Meshtastic
October 20th – Jason Johnston host of You Tube Channel Ham Radio 2.0
November 17th – Open
December 15th – Christmas Party

Secretary Report:

3 New members since last meeting:
Nevin Chacko KJ5LVR
Rogelio De Leon, Jr KB4ROY
Ian T Duncan AE5ID

Reminder that nominations for open Board of Directors positions need to be made by September General Meeting so that proxy ballots may be completed.

Treasurer's Report:

July Auction netted \$2,644.17
Full treasurer's report reviewable on HamClubOnline.com

Public Relations Report:

No current report

Communications Report:

Communications Director was absent, however, Kip Moravec, the repeater trustee, reported that the WinLink repair part has been received and programmed and is currently being tested. Installation will begin shortly.

Activities Director:

Absent, but provided information regarding two upcoming events, Blackland Triathlon on

September 1st and Plano Balloon Festival on September 18th–23rd.

Newsletter Editor:

Announced winner of this month's ParkingTicket quiz – Michael Payne, K5MFP, who checked off all boxes except one.

Webmaster—Absent—No Report

VE Coordinator

8 people passed their Technician test earlier in the month.

New Business:

The following positions are on the ballot for the October election.

President (term limited)
Treasurer (term limited)
Activities (not running)
Newsletter (incumbent is running)

Additionally, two more positions are being vacated:

Vice President—resigning for family/work issues.

Secretary—incumbent is resigning to run for treasurer
Any club member in good standing (dues are current) are eligible to serve on the Board. Please submit your nominations for any of these offices before or during the September General Meeting.

50/50 drawing—won by Bruce Cameron.

Additional drawing for 50th Anniversary pin—won by visitor, Martha Cady.

Program by Michael Tharp

Recap of Field Day and suggestions for a Winter Field Day and for next year's Summer Field Day.
Adjourned at 8:05 p.m. 📺

ADDITIONAL INFO ON HAMCLUBONLINE.COM

Wondering about the Treasurer's report? Missing something from the minutes? Go log in at **HamClubOnline.com** using the email address you already gave the secretary and set a new password if you need to. 📡



MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING



Plano Amateur Radio Klub Board of Directors Meeting Sept. 2, 2025

Present: (On-Line)

Tim Johnson, President
B. J. Watkins, Secretary
Rob Forson, Public

Relations Director

Richard Seitz, Activities

Director

Lonnie Webb, Newsletter

Editor

Absent:

Anthony Burokas, V.P.
Michael Tharp, Treasurer
Miranda Schwark,

Communications Director

James McCormick,

Webmaster

Sean Kelly, Past President

Visitor: Ian Duncan, AE5ID

Meeting Start: 7:04 p.m.

Quorum Established 7:25 p.m.

President

Quorum was not established until later, but discussed all positions for election have one person running except Activities Director, which has had no applicants.

President will be absent for September General Meeting and V.P. is currently open because of resignation. Secretary is next in succession and will conduct General Meeting.

Vice President—Absent

Future Meeting Programs:
September—Meshtastic and Plano Balloon Festival Solicitation of Volunteers.

October—Ham 2.0

November—Collin County Judge Chris Hill

December—Christmas Party

Treasurer—Absent

Full treasurer's report reviewable on HamClubOnline.com

Secretary

Testing Ham Club On Line ballot option. Sample Ballot to be e-mailed with cover letter this week to all voting members. Only 4 members have incorrect e-mail or have opted out of communications from Ham Club On Line.

Communications Director—Absent—No Report

Newsletter Editor

Need submissions for next newsletter.

Board recommends reimbursement for Radio Quest prizes that Newsletter Editor is currently furnishing.

Webmaster - Absent

Activities Director

Nothing to report

Public Relations

No Current Projects

New Business

President makes motion for Board to approve Ian Duncan AE5ID as the new repeater trustee. Seconded by Richard Seitz....unanimous vote by board, to be confirmed by general membership at September meeting.

A request by Kipton Moravec for a donation to All-Star Link in the amount of \$12.00 per node per year as they have requested. Question from Secretary as to what All-Star Link is and are we using it. Discussion tabled until general meeting for clarification from Communications Director and action by the membership.

Adjourned at 8:00.

All 📡

BAOFENG UV-5R MINI

By KG5WHQ

A New Radio From An Old(ish) Company

Baofeng created the UV-5R Mini to deliver a smaller, lighter, and more portable iteration of the well-known UV-5R series, targeting users who value ease of carry while retaining essential features. This compact model, measuring $4.21 \times 2.05 \times 1.46$ inches and weighing just 7.05 oz, supports dual-band VHF/UHF operation, stores up to 999 channels, and provides 5W of power, making it suitable for activities like hiking, camping, or emergency communications. It introduces contemporary upgrades such as USB-C charging and Bluetooth APP programming for simplified setup. Additional features, including one-key frequency copying and a 1600mAh battery, enhance its utility for ham radio enthusiasts, outdoor users, and professionals seeking an affordable, reliable, and travel-friendly radio. The UV-5R Mini builds on the legacy of the original UV-5R, a budget-friendly favorite since 2012, adapting it to modern needs for streamlined, tech-savvy designs.

For the perspective, I am reviewing this radio for use in situations ham operators function in. That makes the bar easy to reach—or so I thought.

TLDR

It's a UV-5R that looks terrible in the sun. Black terrible. It's bad in the cup holder. This is the only radio of mine that works better in



Figure 1. Baofeng UV-5R MINI.

my downstairs easy chair than outside. The battery holds up very well. Adding a bluetooth phone app improves the product, but that is underwhelming compared to competition.

Indoors, the screen is beautiful. Feels awesome in the hand, but impractical for my personal use.



Figure 3. The UV-5R MINI is as small as a rechargeable tool battery.



Figure 2. Quansheng K(5), comparable in size to the older UV-5R.

The Bluetooth functionality is specifically for interfacing with the programming app, not for audio output to Bluetooth speakers.

Keypad looks nice, back lit, bright. You have to memorize what each button does, however, as the printing doesn't explain which button is the NOAA button, for example.

PROS

- Works just like a UV-5R.
- Screen is beautiful.
- Bluetooth phone app.
- Feels amazing in the hand.
- Battery holds up very well.
- About the same size as an electric screwdriver and shorter than your thumb.

CONS

- Screen looks terrible in the sun.
- Reception is poor in car.
- Impractical for an HT.
- Bluetooth app is very average.

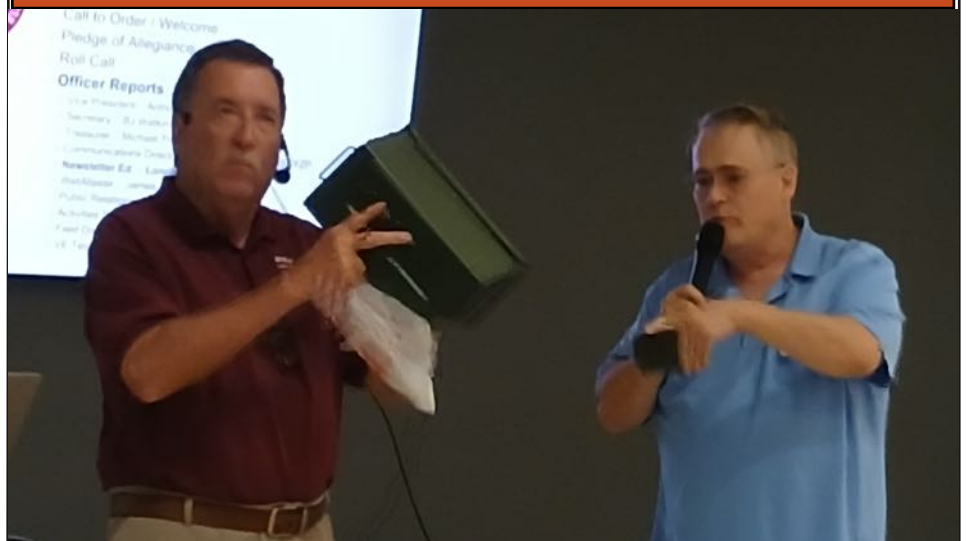
FOURTH THURSDAY LUNCH

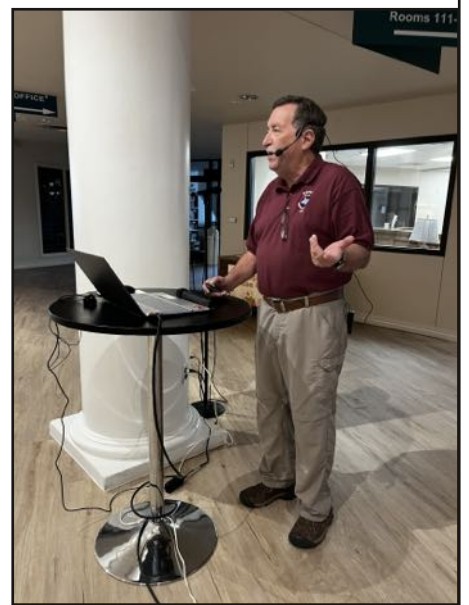


Poor Richard's Cafe at 11:30a on the Fourth Thursday of the month. We who are able to get away join up and dine on the fine local diner food.

It's a fun time and topics are random.
(It's also where I get a lot of ideas for ham radio cartoons!) 📻

***Fourth Thursday Lunch:
August 25, 2025
Poor Richards @ 11:30a***





MAKE YOUR QUANSHENG HT MODULATE CW AND ACCEPT A KEY

By KG5WHQ

This article is for educational purposes. No warranties or guarantees are implied or given.

There are several Quanshengs in our midst since these very hackable radios got on the market. One thing that eludes the stock K5, K6, and K8 is CW modulation. Fortunately, custom firmwares address that.

For this project you will need a programming cable, a soldering iron, some non-lead solder, flux, a throw-away baofeng earpiece, a connection for your key (in my case this is a 3.5mm jack), a good cutting tool and a rainy afternoon.

Quansheng, Baofeng, and a dozen others use the Kenwood cable type, known as the K-1.

Step 1. Download a firmware that provides the CW modulation feature. I chose the IJV firmware which is a serious upgrade as it is a swiss army knife of tools for your HT. There are two branches of the firmware, one for HF modders(3.x) and one for stock hardware(2.x). Being adventurous, I went with the 3.x option but still selected the non-HF-mod file. The files and manual are here:

<http://bit.ly/4mBFrrD>

Follow the instructions and use the egzumer uploader (on the page it is under **2.4 Online tool for Mac and Linux as well**). That is the easiest.

Step 2. Cut your sacrificial earpiece so that you have a good length of wire to work with. Strip the black outer sleeve off. Then strip the wires inside as shown in

Figure 2.

Step 3. Cut your wires for your audio jack (assuming your key is similar to mine).

Step 4. If you have standard colors, you are interested in the black and red colors. These make up the ground posts or "sleeves" on the K-1 plug. This simulates a PTT when shorted.

Step 5. We don't want to be a mike or a speaker, though. Cut the small post from the K-1 just above the "sleeve". See Figure 2.

Step 6. Solder the black and red wires as indicated in Figure 2. You can include the white wire for completeness. By all means use flux on those tiny wires. Insulate with heat shrink or tape to your tastes.

Step 7. After your radio is flashed with new firmware and reboots, put it into CW modulation by selecting a frequency that is safe for CW (144.0 to 144.1 in the USA). Press FM and choose CW. This is outlined under heading **7.8 CW Modulation (Continuous Wave)**.

Step 8. Plug in your adapter and your key (if you don't have a key, use a momentary switch of some kind). You can test with the real PTT key but you can now rock VHF Morse code on the external key!

My radio is a little sticky on the action but it works at my current speed.

I make the assumption this will work on the B-Tech and TK model if the firmware will load. I have not tested any of this on a non-Quansheng family radio.


WARNING: do not stick soldering iron in mouth. 



Figure 1. The Quansheng K5.

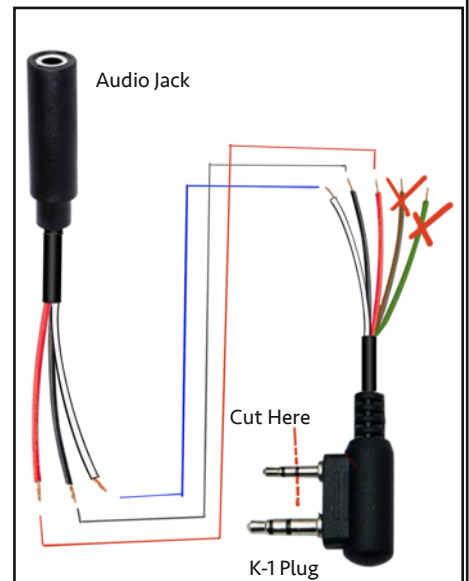


Figure 2. Hand drawn wiring diagram showing an audio jack and connections to the K-1 plug.

I DARE YOU!

Take a stab!

I dare you to beat my score.

It isn't necessary to hit my score quickly. Just share your score on QRZ or facebook.

We'll enjoy growing along with you.

If my math is right I scored 20 points while I was a technician.

The glove is thrown, my radio friends.

YOU can do it!

—KG5WHQ

RADIO QUEST TECHNICIAN LEVEL	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Found an Elmer(someone to answer how-to questions)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Listened on a frequency before talking
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Used your call sign on your handy talkie(HT)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spoke to another person on a regular (simplex) frequency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spoke on club repeater
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sent an APRS update
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logged in on QRZ.com and created a logbook
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a contact via satellite/ISS on an HT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Got my grid location
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gave a signal report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Send a CW/Morse code CQ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attended a ham club meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joined the ARRL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Checked-in on a club info net
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asked a question on a net or a club meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joined breakfast Eyeball QSO on Saturday
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Passed a license exam
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signed up for EchoLink
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bought a cheap Chinese radio
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bought an expensive Japanese radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Built a radio
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Built a j-pole/2m antenna
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a balun
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made an RF choke
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a go-bag/go-box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Went on a POTA expedition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asked a new contact what radio/antenna they were using
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Was asked what radio/antenna you are using
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Served as a net control operator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Join the ARRL

CHECK ALL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED. HAVE YOU FULFILLED THIS MONTH'S QUEST?

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S RADIOQUEST? LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID. POST SCREENCAPS ON FACEBOOK FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

RADIO QUEST TECHNICIAN LEVEL

<input type="checkbox"/>	Found an Elmer(someone to answer how-to questions)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listened on a frequency before talking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Used your call sign on your handy talkie(HT)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spoke to another person on a regular (simplex) frequency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spoke on club repeater
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sent an APRS update
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logged in on QRZ.com and created a logbook
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a contact via satellite/ISS on an HT
<input type="checkbox"/>	Got my grid location
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gave a signal report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Send a CW/Morse code CQ
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attended a ham club meeting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joined the ARRL
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checked-in on a club info net
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asked a question on a net or a club meeting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joined breakfast Eyeball QSO on Saturday
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passed a license exam
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed up for EchoLink
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bought a cheap Chinese radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bought an expensive Japanese radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Built a radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Built a j-pole/2m antenna
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a balun
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made an RF choke
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a go-bag/go-box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Went on a POTA expedition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asked a new contact what radio/antenna they were using
<input type="checkbox"/>	Was asked what radio/antenna you are using
<input type="checkbox"/>	Served as a net control operator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Join the ARRL

CHECK ALL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED. HAVE YOU FULFILLED THIS MONTH'S QUEST?

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S RADIOQUEST? LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID. POST SCREENCAPS ON FACEBOOK FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

newsletter@k5prk.net

RADIO QUEST

GENERAL LEVEL

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuned up your first HF frequency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a DX contact(out of the continental US)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joined a traffic net
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sent a radiogram
<input type="checkbox"/>	Worked a Field Day contact
<input type="checkbox"/>	Participated in a contest
<input type="checkbox"/>	Used a digital mode
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sent an email over the radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Connected your radio to the computer/internet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Used a SWR meter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grounded your station
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grounded your antenna
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applied a lightning arrestor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drove a ground rod
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computed RF emissions for your station
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ran your station on a battery
<input type="checkbox"/>	Powered your station from a car power supply
<input type="checkbox"/>	Created your first scratch paper log
<input type="checkbox"/>	Installed logging software(such as hamrs/n1mm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logged on to LOTW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Used a pi*star
<input type="checkbox"/>	Used a Watt meter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Made a counterpoise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threw a wire up in a tree for an antenna
<input type="checkbox"/>	Know who Dave Cassler is
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have given a Roger Roger (RR)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stood on a ladder and wondered "Will it antenna?"
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joined RACES
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listened to a weather net

CHECK ALL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED. HAVE YOU FULFILLED THIS MONTH'S QUEST?

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S RADIOQUEST? LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID. POST SCREENCAPS ON FACEBOOK FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

newsletter@k5prk.net

RADIO QUEST

GENERAL LEVEL

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tuned up your first HF frequency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Made a DX contact(out of the continental US)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joined a traffic net
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sent a radiogram
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worked a Field Day contact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participated in a contest
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Used a digital mode
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sent an email over the radio
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connected your radio to the computer/internet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Used a SWR meter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grounded your station
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grounded your antenna
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Applied a lightning arrestor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drove a ground rod
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Computed RF emissions for your station
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ran your station on a battery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Powered your station from a car power supply
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Created your first scratch paper log
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Installed logging software(such as hamrs/n1mm)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logged on to LOTW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Used a pi*star
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Used a Watt meter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Made a counterpoise
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Threw a wire up in a tree for an antenna
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Know who Dave Cassler is
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Have given a Roger Roger (RR)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stood on a ladder and wondered "Will it antenna?"
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joined RACES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Listened to a weather net

CHECK ALL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED. HAVE YOU FULFILLED THIS MONTH'S QUEST?

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S RADIOQUEST? LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID. POST SCREENCAPS ON FACEBOOK FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

I DARE YOU!

Take a stab!

I dare you to beat my score. It isn't necessary to hit my score quickly. Just share your score on QRZ or facebook.

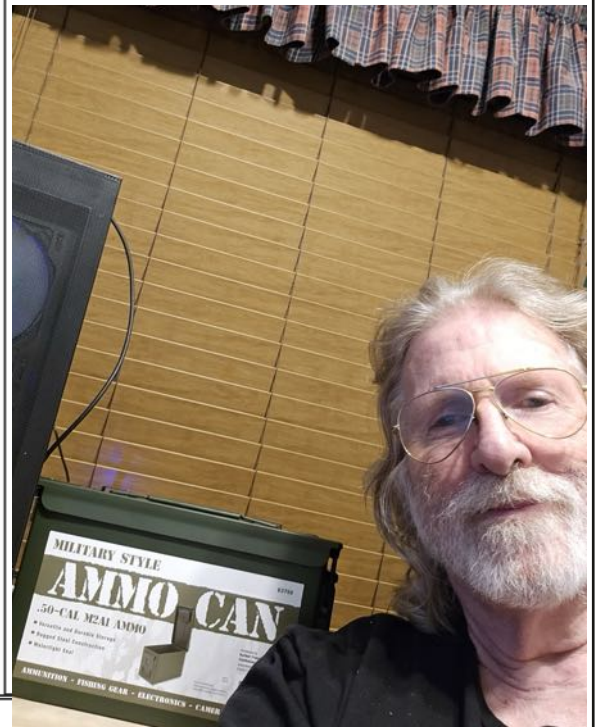
We'll enjoy growing along with you.

If my math is right I scored 27 points while I was a general.

The glove is thrown, my radio friends.

YOU can do it!

—KG5WHQ



**Email
your scores to
NEWSLETTER@K5PRK.NET
There will be a prize.**

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER		
Sunday 31	Monday 1	Tuesday 2
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p KSTIT D-Star Net @ REF33B	7p K5PRK Board Meeting 7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 7:30p RWK -- Meeting on the Air @ 147.12, PL110.9 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p DARC (Dallas) General Meeting 7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p DARC (Dallas) Meeting on the Air 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p KSTIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 9p Collin County ARES @ WD5ERD	7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p KSTIT D-Star Net @ REF33B Sep 12: Intro to SKCC Zoom forum WES Weekend Sprintathon (Sat & Sun)	7p K5PRK General Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8p American Legion Post 315 Radio Club Net @ W5SRA 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p DARC(Dallas) Meeting On The Air 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p KSTIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 9p Collin County ARES Training Net @ W5MRC Michael Faraday born 1791	6p VE Testing @ K5PRK 7p DARC (Dallas) Geek Net 7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255 MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p KSTIT D-Star Net @ REF33B	7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER			
Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 7p HAM (Mesquite) Monthly Meeting 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in	12p Garland "Hands-On" Gathering 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in Intro to SKCC Zoom forum SKSA Straight Key Sprint Asia (eve UTC)	9a W5YI VE Test Session @ Wylie 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A WES Weekend Sprintathon Sat & Sun
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz 7p Murphy CERT Net @ W5SRA	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in	9a W5SRA Laurel VE Test Session 9a GARC (Garland) ECC Open House 9a GARC Swap Shop @ GARC Clubhouse 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A OQS Oceania QRS Saunter
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz SKS Straight Key Sprint (Wed 00 UTC)	12p Fourth Thursday Lunch 11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net Alfred Vail born 1807	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in	7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in	12p Garland "Hands-On" Gathering 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A

OCTOBER

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday	
28		29		30	
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 7p K1USN SST		7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54		7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B	
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p DARC (Dallas) Meeting on the Air 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 9p Collin County ARES @ WD5ERD 7p K1USN SST Collegiate QSO Party Worked All Provinces of China DX Oceania DX Contest, Phone Russian WW Digital Contest IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves K1USN Slow Speed Test		7p K5PRK Board Meeting @ Jits 7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 7:30p RWK -- Meeting on the Air @ 147.12, PL 110.9 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54 RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW		7p DARC (Dallas) General Meeting 7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B	
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 7p K1USN SST EME - 50 to 1296 MHz Makrothen RTTY Contest Nevada QSO Party Oceania DX Contest, CW Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB Arizona QSO Party Pennsylvania QSO Party		7p DARC (Dallas) Geek Net @ W5FC 7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54		7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B DARC RTTY Sprint	
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p DARC (Dallas) Meeting on the Air 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 9p Collin County ARES @ WD5ERD 7p K1USN SST JARTS WW RTTY ContestNCCC Sprint 10-10 Int'l Fall Contest, CW New York QSO Party YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest Worked All Germany Contest Stew Perry Topband Challenge		6p VE Testing @ K5PRK 7p K5PRK General Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8p American Legion Post 315 Radio Club Net @ W5SRA 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54 School Club Roundup YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest		7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B School Club Roundup	
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 7p K1USN SST Classic Exchange, CW		7p DARC (Dallas) Geek Net @ W5FC 7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54 RSGB FT4 Contest		7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B	

OCTOBER

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1		2		3		4	
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB UKEICC 80m Contest		11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 7p HAM (Mesquite) Monthly Meeting 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet UKEICC 80m Contest SARL 80m QSO Party NRAU 10m Activity Contest		3p K1USN SST UKEICC 80m Contest		12p Garland "Hands-On" Gathering 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A Collegiate QSO Party Worked All Provinces of China DX Oceania DX Contest, Phone Russian WW Digital Contest IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves	
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8:30p NTx ARES Net @ 3860 432 MHz Fall Sprint	8	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 432 MHz Fall Sprint	9	3p K1USN SST 10-10 Int'l 10-10 Day Sprint	10	9a W5SRA Laurel VE Test Session 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A EME - 50 to 1296 MHz Makrothen RTTY Contest QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party Nevada QSO Party Oceania DX Contest, CW Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB Arizona QSO Party Pennsylvania QSO Party	11
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 7p Murphy CERT Net @W5SRA AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	15	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest NTC QSO Party	16	3p K1USN SST Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	17	9a W5YI VE Test Session @ Wylie 9a GARC (Garland) ECC Open House 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A JARTS WW RTTY ContestNCCC Sprint 10-10 Int'l Fall Contest, CW New York QSO Party YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest Worked All Germany Contest Stew Perry Topband Challenge Feld Hell Sprint Argentina National 7 MHz Contest	18
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB School Club Roundup IRTS 80m Counties Contest	22	12p Fourth Thursday Ham Lunch 11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet School Club Roundup RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	23	3p K1USN SST School Club Roundup	24	7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net @REF029A School Club Roundup CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 902 MHz and Up Fall Sprint	25
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB UKEICC 80m Contest	29	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet	30	3p K1USN SST Zombie Shuffle	31	12p Garland "Hands-On" Gathering 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A	1

THE HISTORY OF SKYWARN (PART 2 OF 3)

By Scott Whitfield KE5AYC

scott.whitfield@icloud.com

**New Technologies in the '60's**

New spotter technologies and training techniques have been developing since the 1960s. Prior to the 1960s, the vast majority of amateur radio communication relied on AM-modulated signals and the use of simplex. It was not uncommon for spotters to hear the distant net control station and not hear other mobile or base stations which were much closer. After 1960, amateurs adopted the use of FM repeaters which operated in the VHF spectrum. The use of FM repeaters was a huge advancement for storm spotters; spotters could now hear each other regularly. The low noise floor and greatly improved audio quality meant much better signal reception for all stations. By the 1970s, nearly all spotter radio activity consisted of half-duplex FM repeater use.

The next major technology to aid spotters was the development of the cell phone in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It was then possible for non-amateur radio operators to directly report severe weather.

Storm spotting became more popular with the public during the late 1980s and early 1990s. During this period, a number of NSSL (National Severe Storms Laboratory) projects were carried out, some of which were documented and broadcast on television in a number of specials.

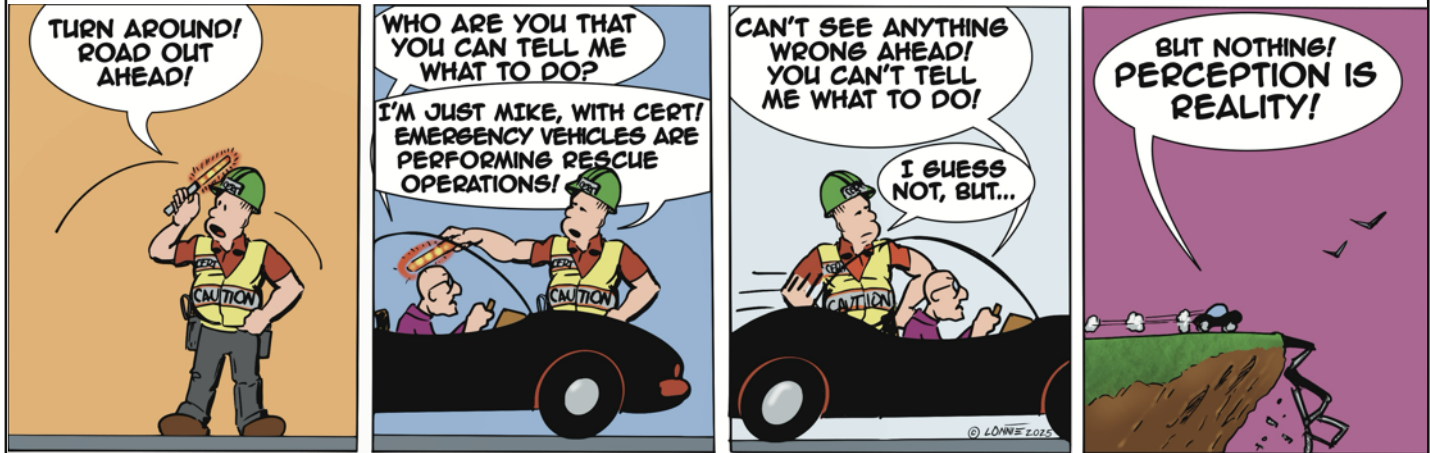
Spotters and their actions were attributed to saving lives as well as aiding university research groups, who would drop sensors such as TOTO in the path of tornadoes and at times fire rocketsondes directly at or very close to tornadoes. At about the same time, early storm chasers were popularized and associated with spotters. It is believed this association is what has led many in the present era to associate storm chasers and storm spotters as carrying out the same actions or having the same goals.

Scott Whitfield KE5AYC is an American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame Inductee of 2021, a weather junkie, teacher, and serves the ham radio community as a weather spotter and storm chaser.

All typos are intentional & have secret meanings... ☎

MIKE CALL

Copyright ©2025 Lonnie Webb. All Rights Reserved. LONNIE@LONNIEWEBB.COM



***Fourth Thursday Lunch: September 25, 2025
Poor Richards @ 11:30a***

***Next Meeting:
September 15, 2025***