New Year Issue

PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

PT

JANUARY WWW.K5PRK.NET 2026

PLANO 1973 2023 50 YEARS AND COUNTING... AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

- Winter Field Day
- Get your EXTRA!

PARK HERE

Officers (your answers begin here)		
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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

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

YOU HAVE BEEN DEPUITIZED 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

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 descriptiion of the issue.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Building a 2026 Strategy for Plano Amateur Radio Klub

By Mike Tharp KG5TJF
president@k5prk.net

As we start the new year, I've been reflecting on how we promote our hobby. In recent conversations with non-hams, it's become clear that while we love the technical side of DMR and HF, the "public" is most inspired by our **utility and education.**

We have a significant opportunity to engage the community through:

- **STEM Education:** Partnering with local homeschool groups and Plano Parks & Rec.
- **Community Resilience:** Formalizing our support for events like the Dallas Marathon and Skywarn.
- **Hands-on Mentoring:** Leveraging BJ's antenna builds, Tim's satellite work, and Dave's CW expertise.

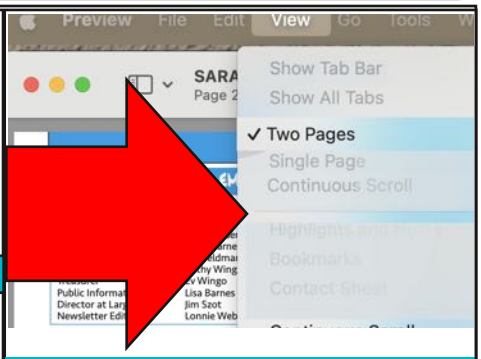
Our Next Step: I am seeking volunteers for a **Program Development Committee.** This team will be tasked with selecting 3–5 core activities to form a multi-year outreach and education strategy.

We will be discussing this at the next board and general meeting. We don't just need operators; we need builders and educators who want to see this club thrive for the next decade.

On the cover: *Astronaut **Owen Garriott W5LFL** became the first Ham to transmit from space in December 1983, aboard the space shuttle Columbia. He had been trying to use Ham radio in space for nearly twenty years. He opened the door for many Hams and Ham radio-based educational outreach programs from space. [Photo courtesy NASA]*

EVENTS

- **January 14—**Digital Traffic Net Training.
- **January 24—2026 Winter Field Day**.
- **SKYWARN** training is integral to RACES and gives you the skills to report weather events concisely with accuracy. This year's training is held **January 24**.



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Fourth Thursday Lunch: January 22, 2026

Next Meeting: January 19, 2026

ARRL NORTH TEXAS SECTION NEWS

By Steven L Smith KG5VK
ARRL North Texas Section
Section Manager
kg5vk@arrl.org

Happy New Year! ARRL Year of Clubs & Cowtown Ham fest

ARRL North Texas 2025 Ham of The Year is Robert DeVance from the McKinney ARC2026 is the ARRL's Year of the Clubs....2026 is ARRL's Year of the Club -- A Celebration of Amateur Radio Clubs01/02/2026ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is launching ayear-long celebration that puts the spotlight squarely where it belongs— on radio clubs. Beginning January 1, 2026, ARRL officially recognizes the Year of the Club, an initiative designated by the ARRLBoard of Directors to honor the vital role clubs play in sustaining,growing, and energizing amateur radio.Radio clubs are the backbone of ARRL and of the Amateur Radio Serviceitself. For countless hams, a club is the first welcoming doorway intothe hobby — a place to learn, to operate, to build, and to belong.Clubs create opportunities for mentoring, public service, technical exploration, and lifelong friendships. Simply put, when clubs thrive,amateur radio thrives.Throughout 2026, all ARRL Affiliated Clubs are invited to participate inspecial programs, operating events, and recognition opportunities designed to celebrate club accomplishments and inspire new ideas. ARRL will be rolling out initiatives focused on supporting club growth,strengthening activities, and recognizing clubs that help expand ARRL membership or reach significant milestones, including 100 years of ARRLAffiliation. New Ways to Celebrate and CompeteTwo exciting contests are already under way to kick off the Year of theClub, highlighting how clubs connect with members and the broadercommunity. Details for entering the ARRL Club Newsletter Contest and ARRL Club Website Contest are available now, with a shared submissiondeadline of January 30, 2026, at 4 PM Eastern Time.The ARRL Club Newsletter Contest recognizes that newsletters are oftenthe heartbeat of a club — sharing news, and keeping members connectedand involved.Does your radio club have a great website that supports club members butalso attracts attention for your club? Consider entering the ARRL ClubWebsite Contest. Club websites play an increasingly important role in outreach, public service visibility, and attracting new members to amateur radio. Winners will be notified in May 2026, honored at the ARRL NationalConvention being hosted by the Huntsville Hamfest in August, and featured in QST. A New Home for Clubs Online In preparation for the Year of the Club, ARRL has launched a new Clubswebsite, offering a modernized, accessible hub for Affiliated Clubs, prospective clubs, and individual hams looking to get involved with aclub. The site brings together information about club benefits,locations, resources, and ARRL Affiliation — all in one place. A standout new feature is the Club Map search tool, which lets userslocate radio clubs by ZIP code and displays both an interactive map anda list of nearby clubs. Try it at clubs.arrl.org/map. A new, streamlined, online application also simplifies the process forbecoming a new ARRL Affiliated Club. And all clubs can use the newMember Verification tool as they set a club goal to increase ARRLmembership among club members. The result is faster service, easier updates, and better support for the Affiliated Clubs. Everyone is encouraged to explore the new site and pages at clubs.arrl.org and affiliated-clubs.arrl.org. Be Radio Active in 2026The message for 2026 is clear: Celebrate what your radio club already does well, try something new, and be radio active. Whether your club issmall or large, new or nearing a century as an ARRL Affiliated Club, theYear of the Club is an invitation to connect, innovate, and share yourstory. Club Officers should take a look athttps://clubs.arrl.org/year-of-the-clubContact myself with any questionsWe also have Roving W1AW/5 back in play twice during this year for eachState and Province within the ARRLfor Texas Roving W1AW/5 Texas will be February and DecemberPermission to use W1AW/# is strictly controlled

For permission to use W1AW/5 in Texas Contact KG5VK@ARRL.ORG Your request must contain....Which band slots you desire and Modes (Bands, Times, and Modes are allconsidered a Slot per hour)How many OPS will participate and will this be a Club sponsored event.

The Name and Phone number where I can reach the Control op during theuse of W1AW/5 February Block is 18-24December Block 9-15. Questions email me direct.

Ensure you use the subject line of "W1AW/5 Texas Request (or Info)"Cow Town ARC Ham fest is less than two weeks awayJanuary 16-17 I will be there both Days.

The ARRL NTX presentation/meeting is at High Noon on Saturday the 17th https://www.cowtownhamfest.com/

DIGITAL TRAFFIC NET TRAINING JANUARY 14

ARRL—One of the goals of RRI is to ensure full interoperability between all common modes of communications used for traffic handling and emergency communications. This requires standardized message formats and protocols and the capability for message traffic exchange between various networks within the overall traffic system. Within NTS, the Digital Traffic Network (DTN) handles thousands of messages per month. It is therefore essential that liaison can take place between local/section nets and DTN to ensure that last mile connectivity is in place. This is where the Digital Traffic Station (DTS) function comes into the picture. Under routine conditions, the DTS connects to the region digital hub before his daytime or evening net cycle and downloads the traffic for his/her service area. He can then route the traffic using the most efficient or expedient network. The DTN is also a very efficient system for dispatching traffic to its destination outside one's state or section due to its automated capabilities. The DTS may also play an important role during a major disaster during which larger volumes of message traffic might be conveyed.

Our goal for 2026 is to have three Digital Traffic Station volunteers in each state/section. Ideally, these DTN volunteers will act as a team, coordinating net liaison, sharing the workload and scheduling a duty roster so that no one individual will "burn out" over time. During an emergency, they will coordinate amongst themselves to keep the DTS function staffed throughout the event while coordinating with ARRL section staff to help support ARES functions.

Getting involved in DTN is actually quite easy. The process is very similar to using a common email or packet radio program. If you have an interest in possibly serving as a DTS for your section nets or local EmComm group, please make plans to attend this class. We have no doubt that it will demystify DTN and help you get involved.

Radio Relay International

CREDENTIALS:

Topic: Digital Traffic Net Training

Date: Wednesday, January 14 at 8:00 PM EST (150100Z)

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8097670691?pwd=U0NuZm00UWhKUmJubDVVUjE1aEVIZz09

Meeting ID: 809 767 0691

Passcode: Vibroplex --- One tap mobile +13052241968,,8097670691#,,,,*278063179# US +13092053325,,8097670691#,,,,*278063179#

US Join instructions https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/8097670691/invitations?signature=FXZEkZbGjEkGcnC2OaHRmERIRtgw_eVlUq1FI5jZUmw

WINTER HEAT

By David Ricker KG5VSR
kg5vsr@arrl.net

Winter Heat is here! For the month of January the WRLARC will be participating in this month long event (https://www.hamactive.com). It is a simplex event on VHF/UHF and 6m. Every evening at 8pm local we gather on 147.520 and then "walk the frequencies" making as many QSOs as possible. We log them on the Hamactive website. It is a bunch of fun and a great way to improve your simplex comms. Everyone is welcome.

73, David KG5VSR

Winter Heat is here! For the month of January the WRLARC will be participating in this month long event (https://www.hamactive.com). It is a simplex event on VHF/UHF and 6m. Every evening at 8pm local we gather on 147.520 and then "walk the frequencies" making as many QSOs as possible. We log them on the Hamactive website. It is a bunch of fun and a great way to improve your simplex comms. Everyone is welcome.

FT8 ETIQUETTE FOR DXERS

By ANTOINE DE RAMON N'YEURT 3D2AG

Digital modes such as 'FT8' having become very popular, below are some tips to make our mutual experience of this exercise the most enjoyable and productive:

1. Foremost, PLEASE CALL THE DX STATION ON A DIFFERENT DF QRG! Otherwise it will be impossible for the DX to decode your signal among the many calling on his own DF, and for some obscure reason decodes are much more difficult when both parties are exactly on the same DF QRG. Select a clear spot on the waterfall in the Wide Graph to set your transmit DF frequency (in Hertz), and call the DX there. If the DX is using Fox and Hound (F/H) call above 1000 Hz (WSJTx, JTDX); if using multistreaming FT8 (MSHV, WSJTz) call anywhere on a clear spot but of course on the opposite cycle. Repeat: DO NOT CALL THE DX ON HIS TX QRG! This will avoid a lot of wasted time trying to decode on both sides!

2. When calling, if the DX is using F/H mode, in "DXpedition" menu tick "Hound Mode", find a clear spot above 1000 Hz on the waterfall and send with your grid. If the DX is using MSHV (Multi Answering Auto Sequencing Protocol), SEND A REPORT, not your grid, along with your call (e.g. W1AW 3D2AG -17). This will greatly reduce the number of exchanges and time per QSO, enabling more stations to work the DX in the available propagation window. Click the “Next” button under “Generate Std Msgs” for the “Tx2” message. This will generate a signal report with your call instead of a grid square. Major DXpeditions now use either MSHV or F/H mode on FT8, and it should be announced beforehand on their website or QRZ page. If in doubt, call using F/H as it will be compatible with both programs.

Typical FT8 'ideal' short QSO (75 Seconds long):

```
CQ 3D2AG RH91
3D2AG W1AW -17
W1AW 3D2AG R-20
W1AW 3D2AG RR73
3D2AG W1AW 73
```

Extended long QSO (105 seconds):

```
CQ 3D2AG RH91
3D2AG N6TE DM12
N6TE 3D2AG -20
3D2AG N6TE R-15
N6TE 3D2AG RRR
3D2AG N6TE 73
N6TE 3D2AG 73
```

Note that the above times can be much longer if there are improper decodes needing repetitions (please refer to point (1) above!). Please note that for a good QSO, the '73' is optional, so if you cannot manage to copy the final '73' do not worry you are in the log. Usually after attempting to send 3 or 4 times the final 'RR73', the DX will move on to the next station.

3. If you cannot stay around more than 5 minutes, please do not call! A FT8 QSO takes a minimum of 60 to 105 seconds, and if there are repetions, up to 2 or 3 minutes, even 5. A lot of patience is required. If there are 4 or 5 stations calling at the same time (hopefully split!) the DX station will put them in a queue and answer them in the order they appeared on his waterfall, so your turn will eventually come. The DX could be wasting a lot of precious on-air time calling absentee stations, at the same time denying others waiting patiently a chance of contact!

4. To make the QSOs smoother and faster during a DXpedition, the 'RRR' and '73' lines are usually combined as 'RR73' so please be prepared for this. For proper interpretation of 'RR73' please always use the latest version of WSJTx: (https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html) or JTDX / MSHV.

5. The "RR73 Syndrome" - the good, and the bad: With multi-stream QSOs, once the DX station sends out 'RR73', the QSO is logged and the software moves on to another station, assuming that the other party has received it. However, in many cases band conditions and QRM prevents the calling station from getting the RR73, and a "R-" report keeps being sent for a long time by the caller. Sometimes if not busy the DX station can override the auto TX mode and send again "RR73" a few times to enable the calling station to log the contact and be at peace, but in most cases this is not possible. However, the good news is, your QSO will be in the DX log. In case of doubt, check on ClubLog a few hours later to verify your QSO. Now for the bad part...sometimes, the DX station will send you a R-report, which you may receive and reply with "RR73", the QSO being logged on the caller's side. However, QRM/QSB might prevent the DX station from receiving your "RR73", and consequently, the software will NOT log the QSO on the DX side. In such a case, please email the DX station with a screenshot of the QSO and/or an extract from your ALL.txt record file (found in the same directory as your FT8 log) so that the DX station can manually enter the contact in the log (Ham Spirit willing). If reports were correctly exchanged, from a human perspective a valid QSO took place, irrespective of the software's tantrums.

6. Last, but not least: after making a simplex QSO with the DX, please QSY - DO NOT start calling CQ on his frequency forcing him to shift elsewhere (yes, this happens too often!!). The FT8 spectrum is already very crowded as it is, so please do not deprive the DX of his hard-earned 'parking space'! And if the DX is repeatedly calling another rare DX station himself, please do not start calling him; have the courtesy to let him finish what he started without distractions. Thank you very much and let's enjoy FT8 Mode!.

TIME SERVER OUTAGE

By Amado Pereira (KJ5DGS)
amado.pereira@gmail.com

If you rely on internet time to synchronize your devices, this could be affecting you. For those who use FT8, I know most people sync using the following servers. Hopefully this helps explain why things may be out of sync. You can always use GPS time as an alternative.

Dec 19, 2025, 7:18:52 PM
to Internet-time-service
Dear colleagues,

In short, the atomic ensemble time scale at our Boulder campus has failed due to a prolonged utility power outage. One impact is that the Boulder Internet Time Services no longer have an accurate time reference. At time of writing the Boulder servers are still available due a standby power generator, but I will attempt to disable them to avoid disseminating incorrect time.

The affected servers are:
time-a-b.nist.gov
time-b-b.nist.gov
time-c-b.nist.gov
time-d-b.nist.gov
time-e-b.nist.gov
ntp-b.nist.gov (authenticated NTP)

No time to repair estimate is available until we regain staff access and power. Efforts are currently focused on obtaining an alternate source of power so the hydrogen maser clocks survive beyond their battery backups.

More details follow.

Due to prolonged high wind gusts there have been a combination of utility power line damage and preemptive utility shutdowns (in the interest of wildfire prevention) in the Boulder, CO area. NIST's campus lost utility power Wednesday (Dec. 17 2025) around 22:23 UTC. At time of writing utility power is still off to the campus. Facility operators anticipated needing to shutdown the heat-exchange infrastructure providing air cooling to many parts of the building, including some internal networking closets. As a result, many of these too were preemptively shutdown with the result that our group lacks much of the monitoring and control capabilities we ordinarily have. Also, the site has been closed to all but emergency personnel Thursday and Friday, and at time of writing remains closed.

At initial power loss, there was no immediate impact to the NIST atomic time scale or distribution services because the projects are afforded standby power generators. However, we now have strong evidence one of the crucial generators has failed. In the downstream path is the primary signal distribution chain, including to the Boulder Internet Time Service. Another campus building houses additional clocks backed up by a different power generator; if these survive it will allow us to re-align the primary time scale when site stability returns without making use of external clocks or reference signals.

Best wishes,
Jeff Sherman

THE "NEW" HAM BAND

FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz Coordination Information

(12/11/2025) The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited Report and Order adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2015) Final Acts. The Commission also agreed with a petition from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. ***The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.***

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.

Amateurs are cautioned that this allocation is strictly on a secondary basis, and amateurs must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. This obligation includes the responsibility to monitor for such stations using appropriate receiver bandwidths. The FCC emphasized that "allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is our priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations."

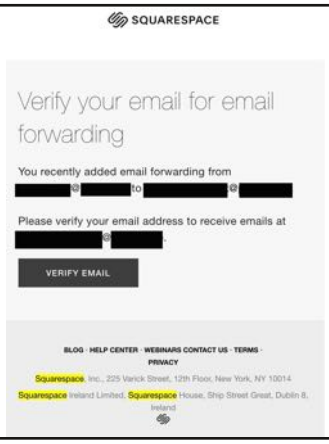
The Commission left open ARRL's 2017 Petition for Rule-making to implement this WRC allocation (RM-11785), stating that "we expect the Commission may address any necessary power adjustments for the new 15 kilohertz international allocation in that proceeding." ARRL will be observing operations in the new band to evaluate the effect of the 9.15-watt limit and already has been monitoring the regulations and experiences of amateurs in other countries.

Finally, in the same Report and Order, the FCC updated 420 - 450 MHz coordination and contact information for geographic areas where the peak envelope power (PEP) of amateur stations operating is generally limited to 50 watts. There was no substantive change to the areas covered by the power limitation.

Source: https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-allocates-60-meter-world-wide-amateur-band-approved-at-wrc-15-continues-amateur-use-of-four-addi

NEW PHISHING ATTACK

I recently got the following very convincing email attack. Watch for this kind of thing. Ham radio clubs are getting hit harder and harder.



Subject: *[Action Required] Verify your email forwarding address*

Body: *Verify your email for email forwarding*

You recently added email forwarding from [your real user@org] to [club username@org].

Please verify your email address to receive emails at [club username@org].

[VERIFY EMAIL]

The email appeared to come from Squarespace which is a real web hosting company. Luckily, we don't use them for handling

email or web hosting. It was a dead giveaway.

Your affiliations have technology contacts to handle this sort of email. You can assume a third-party reaching in is something that will never happen.

Always ask your technology people before interacting with people that claim to be your technology company.

WHO WANTS TO UPGRADE TO AMATEUR EXTRA?

(12/20/2025) If you or anyone you know is interested in attending an **Amateur Extra Class licensing course**, please pass along the following information, and feel free to publicize it with your radio club or any group you feel would benefit.

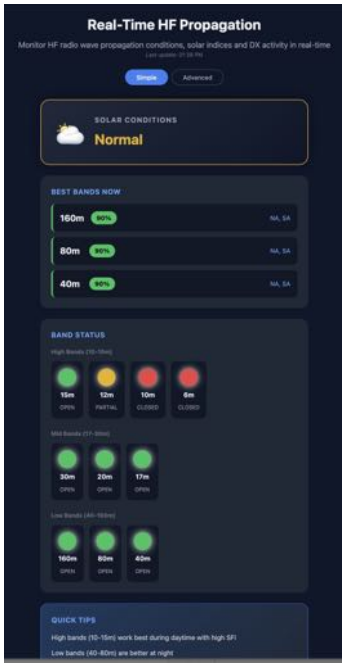
A free, weekly, live, **Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom** will begin on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and will run through Thursday, March 26. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time and will also be recorded. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum.

Note: Attendees should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License.

Please publicize this with anyone that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net

CHECK OUT DXPREDICTOR

By Amado Pereira KJ5DGS



A Great Propagation Tool

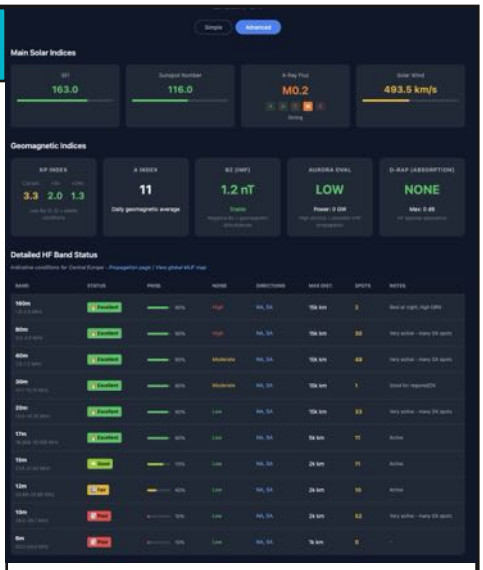
Hi all, I wanted to share a propagation tool that I've been using recently that's a nice step up from some of the traditional sites we've monitored.

https://www.dxpredictor.com/

This website gives you a modern, graphical view of propagation conditions including:

- real-time maps of ionospheric conditions
- propagation predictions for different bands
- color-coded overlays that make it easy to see where the bands might be open
- quick access to solar and geomagnetic data
- band progration forecast

We're used to checking things like grayline maps and spotter networks, but DXPredictor adds another layer of visual insight that's often easier to read and



interpret at a glance — especially if you're planning HF activity and/or contests.

Give it a look next time you're trying to figure out where the bands might be open.

Wanted to share in case you find it as useful as I have!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

JOIN THE ARRL

American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the leading organization for radio enthusiasts across the United States. The ARRL invites you to join a vibrant community of innovators, communicators, and explorers who connect the world through the airwaves. Whether you're passionate about emergency communications, cutting-edge technology, or simply connecting with fellow hams across the globe, the ARRL offers unparalleled resources, training, and opportunities to fuel your curiosity.

By becoming a member, you'll gain access to exclusive publications like QST, hands-on support for licensing and operating, and a network of over 150,000 members who share your passion.

ARRL has an active lobby in government and aggressively acts for our benefit sharing our voices in Congress.

Additionally, the the ARRL equipment insurance program is quite superior. Investigate it and stor you receipts away in accordance with their requirements. When lightning strikes you will want them.

Join the ARRL today and amplify your voice in a timeless hobby that bridges distances, builds skills, and creates lifelong friendships—your adventure in amateur radio starts here!

RADIO QUEST
TECHNICIAN LEVEL

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

You can't think of anything new to do with your radio?

Here are a lot of suggestions. Should you come up with a new one, let me know.

BTW, If you have done all these things, it's time to level up! We have a testing sessions in the area just about every week.

RADIO QUEST
GENERAL LEVEL

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

PLAN FOR SKYWARN

CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY

Sunday 28	Monday 29	Tuesday 30
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	**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
4 **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 **RTTY Roundup**	**5** **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	**6** **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
11 **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	**12** **7p CERT Training** **7:30p** Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz **8:30p** MARC Simplex net	**13** **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
18 **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 Training Net @ W5MRC **January VHF Contest**	**19** **6p** VE Testing @ K5PRK **7p PARK Monthly Meeting** **8p** American Legion Post 315 Radio Club Net @ W5SRA **January VHF Contest**	**20** **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
25 **12 noon ARRL FIELD DAY (ends)** **1p** Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A **2p** Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255 MHz **7p** Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C **8p** K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B	**26** **7p** DARC (Dallas) Geek Net **7p** GARC (Garland) Club Meeting **7:30p** Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz **8:30p** MARC Simplex net	**27** **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

JANUARY

Wednesday 31	Thursday 1	Friday 2	Saturday 3
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB **8p N5SAC Weekly Info Net @ W5SRA** **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 **Straight Key Night**	***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 **Kids' Day** **RTTY Roundup**
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB **7** **8p N5SAC Weekly Info Net @ W5SRA** **8p** PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) **8p** Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	**11a** GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe **8** **8p** GARC (Garland) InfoNet **8p** Denton County ARES Training Net	***8:30,9a*** North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in **9**	**9a** W5YI VE Test Session @ Wylie **10** **7p** DARC (Dallas) Tech Net **9p** Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB **14** **8p** N5SAC Weekly Info Net @ W5SRA **8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2)** **8:30p** NTx ARES Net **8p** Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	**11a** GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe **15** **8p** GARC (Garland) InfoNet **8p** Denton County ARES Training Net	***8:30,9a*** North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in **16**	**9a** W5SRA Laurel VE Test Session **17** **9a** GARC (Garland) ECC Open House **7p** DARC (Dallas) Tech Net **9p** Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A **January VHF Contest**
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB **21** **7p** Murphy CERT Net @ W5SRA **7p** N5SAC Club Meeting **8p** PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) **8p** Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	**11a** GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe **22** **12p Fourth Thursday Lunch @ Poor Richard's Cafe** **8p** GARC (Garland) InfoNet **8p** Denton County ARES Training Net	***8:30,9a*** North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in **23**	**12 noon ARRL FIELD DAY** **9a SYWARN Training @ McKinney** **24** **7p** DARC (Dallas) Tech Net **9p** Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB **28** **8p N5SAC Weekly Info Net @ W5SRA** **8p** PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) **8p** Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	**11a** GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe **29** **8p** GARC (Garland) InfoNet **8p** Denton County ARES Training Net	***8:30,9a*** North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in **30**	**7p** DARC (Dallas) Tech Net **31** **9p** Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A

JIM HEATH W6LG, the YouTube Elmer, SK

Jim Heath, W6LG, passed away peacefully at his home on December 22, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He had been a ham since getting his license in 1964 with the callsign WN6JZC. He had held his well-known vanity callsign, W6LG, since 2004. He also grew to love chasing DX and counted among his collection the QSL cards of King Hussein of Jordan JY1 and Father Marshall D. Moran 9N1MM, the first ham radio operator in Nepal.

Jim had also been the owner of High Sierra, which made one of the first screwdriver antennas for mobile HF use.

Over much of his adult life, Jim faced numerous health challenges -- a disabling fall from a roof in 1998 while working as a building inspector; and a series of health crises later, including pulmonary embolisms, congestive heart failure and severe osteoporosis. Then came the news he had leukemia.

He was a beloved figure in the amateur radio community, known affectionately as a "YouTube Elmer" who made ham radio accessible and engaging for countless enthusiasts through his clear, personable, and educational content. With his ham radio license since 1964, Jim dedicated decades to the hobby, eventually adopting the well-known vanity call sign W6LG in 2004.

Throughout his life, Jim faced numerous health challenges, including a disabling fall in 1998, pulmonary embolisms, congestive heart failure, severe osteoporosis, and ultimately leukemia. Despite these adversities, he remained active and committed to sharing his knowledge, even appearing on the Ham Smarter YouTube channel in his final months, where he was described as "a good friend to many and an Elmer to all". His final video, posted just days before his passing, reflected his enduring spirit and dedication to the hobby.

His legacy lives on through his extensive YouTube channel, which continues to serve as a vital educational resource for new and experienced hams alike. The channel is expected to provide a revenue stream to his wife, ensuring his work remains accessible.

The amateur radio community has mourned his passing with deep respect and affection, remembering him as a mentor, a pioneer, and a true ambassador of the hobby. His final message to the community, echoed by friends and fellow hams, was to continue visiting his YouTube channel and learning from the best.

In many of the videos on his channel, Jim Heath W6LG, introduces himself as "your YouTube Elmer for ham radio basics." In his easygoing, personable style, Jim explained, in plain and basic language, the mysteries of SWR, grounding, antennas and dummy loads. A popular presence on YouTube, Jim brought viewers directly into his radio room via a YouTube studio inside his shack.

In his final months he appeared on Ham Smarter, the YouTube channel of Vince D'Eon VE6LK, and the two became friends. Vince described Jim as [quote] "a good friend to many and an Elmer to all." Announcing Jim's death, Vince urged hams to continue visiting the W6LG channel so they can "learn from the best."

Jim was in his mid-70's.

Jim Heath, W6LG, will be deeply missed, but his wisdom, kindness, and passion for ham radio will endure for generations to come. 73.