Ham Radio Attack!

PAT

PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

OCTOBER WWW.K5PRK.NET 2026

- THE ATTACK OF WINLINK!
- INTRODUCING THE ZBITX V2!
- MORSERINO KILLS!

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

INFORMATION

PARK HERE

Officers

(your answers begin here)

President	Mike Tharp KG5TJF	president@k5prk.net
Vice President	Bruce Cameron K6IL	vp@k5prk.net
Secretary	Damon Koch K5OCH	secretary@k5prk.net
Treasurer	B. J. Watkins K5BJW	treasurer@k5prk.net
Activites	Katherine Forson KT5KMF	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

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

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

Winlink gateway
K5PRK-10—145.090
Vara FM & Packet

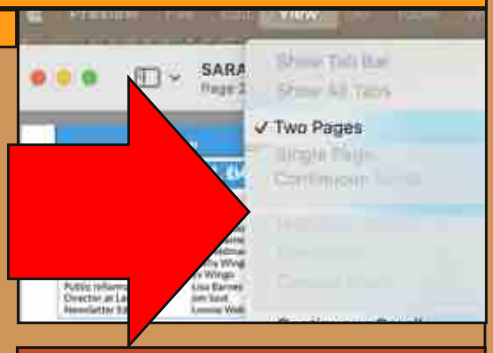
If you notice problems with any of the club's repeaters, contact communications@k5prk.net via email with a detailed descriptiion of the issue.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

By Mike Tharp KG5TJF
president@k5prk.net

access solution for MCP using LTE as the Internet connection. She will be presenting the budget numbers to the board on the 5th.

October is election month. Our incumbent board members plan to run again. At the same time, if you are interested in running, let a board member know.



HAM TRIVIA

Q. What is a YL? And what is a XYL??

(Look for the answer elsewhere in this issue)

Lunch with Hams
Poor Richard's Cafe, noon OCTOBER 22,2026

OHO
Wednesday Informal Net at 8PM on K5PRK

CERTAIN DOOM!
FREE VE Testing: October 19, 2026 at 6PM

SCARY!
Next Meeting: October 19, 2026 at 7PM

MORE!
Saturday Breakfast: Poor Richard's Cafe 7AM—noon

Hello All!

Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP and I met with Andy Smolensky and Kevin Grantham from Metrocrest on the 27th to discuss the MCP repeaters. Kevin (who is also a PARK member) noted that the repeaters are still registered with the FCC as belonging to Metrocrest. So, Metrocrest requires access to the repeater as needed. Miranda set up a meeting with Ron Vaughn of MCP to discuss access to the repeaters.

Ron made it very clear that our access is limited to those times that he can escort us.

In light of this, I have asked Miranda to put together budget numbers for a complete remote

FOXHUNT FRIDAYS

By Katherine Forson KT5KMF
activities@k5prk.net

Howdy everyone!

Francine the Fox will be out to play agin after some refactoring! She will be hiding some-where within the city limits of Plano and transmitting on 146.565. She talks every 45 seconds, but not for very long, so make sure you listen carefully! She is visible from a vehicle and will be Fridays out until at least 7pm the following Sunday.

If you need a hint, or have not foxhunted before and would like a partner, please feel free to reach out!

Good luck!

On the cover:
An undisclosed location in Texas boosts an unfamiliar aerial. Those who know know...

PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Rob Forson K5WFR

After being delegated the task by the Activities Director, Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson has been reserved for the Christmas party. Currently working on a list to send to Santa.

TBD

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH PARK

By Katherine Forson KT5KMF
activities@k5prk.net

Howdy everyone!

I have a few exciting updates this month!

First, we have finalized the membership for the EOC Liaison Committee! We had a lot of interest in the committee and I greatly appreciate everyone who reached out to me about it. I'm looking forward to working with everyone!

Additionally, we have a lot of upcoming activities!

- Francine the Fox will be going out every other weekend (October 24th-25th, November 7th-8th, November 21st-22nd)
- RWK Balloon Launch - tentatively October 24th
- PARK in the Park HF modes showcase - October 31st
- Trivia Net - November 8th
- Foxhunt in the Park - November 14th

Keep an eye out on Discord and email for more information regarding time and location for these events!

PLANO BALLOON FESTIVAL

By Katherine Forson KT5KMF
activities@k5prk.net

The annual Plano Balloon Festival was a few weeks ago, and it was an absolute blast!

Hams volunteered to help with everything from checking balloons in and out of the field area, monitoring the status of the balloons participating in the glow, and tracking them in the air to make sure they landed safely and reconnected with their crew. Thank you so much to everyone who participated, and I hope to see even more of you out there next year!

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AIRVIEW
A/C
WE TAKE CARE OF YOUR HOT AIR!
•AC & HEATING INSTALL
•REPAIR •MAINTENANCE

LOCAL HAMFESTS

HAM RADIO TAILGATE SALE
OCTOBER 31, 2026

TEXAS BROADCAST MUSEUM

416 EAST MAIN STREET, KILGORE, TX 75662

FROM 9 A.M UNTIL 11 A.M.

THERE WILL BE A HAM RADIO TAILGATE SALE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST AT THE TEXAS BROADCAST MUSEUM LOCATED AT 416 EAST MAIN STREET, KILGORE, TX 75662

FROM 9 A.M UNTIL 11 AM

TAILGATE ADMISSION AND TABLE SETUP IS ***FREE*** AND DOOR PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN FROM A SIGN-IN SHEET, ALSO FREE.

MUSUEM ADMISSION HAS BEEN DISCOUNTED TO $5.

REACH OUT TO ***DON KG5CMS*** FOR QUESTIONS
GAMBLEDON@GMAIL.COM (903)235-7042

for more details please contact Don KG5CMS
-73 de Don KG5CMS.

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

MEETING PHOTOS

PARK GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Plano Amateur Radio Klub
General Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2026

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m.

NOTE Since our speaker is joining us online, we will do the business meting after the main program.

Program
- Triband Antenna Design by **Edison Fong, WB6IQN**

See March 2017 QST article

Roll call

Break

50/50 Raffle
- First prize won by **Becky N2JWT**
- Second prize won by **Neil NE5IL**

President Mike Tharp KG5TJF
- Opened the business meeting. 25 present.

Vice President Bruce Cameron K6IL (absent)
- September—Edison Fong–Triband Antenna Design
- October—K5PRK Discord Group Explained–Katherine Forson
- November—Nano VNA Antenna Tuning–Ian Duncan
- December—Christmas Party

If you would like to present, please email me at VP@k5prk.net

Secretary Damon Koch K5OCH
- September board minutes are posted for the newsletter
- Club membership update: 94 members.
- Welcome three new members tonight!
  - **Stephen Banko KI5IIL**
  - **Robert Barnett AE5HX**
  - **Mike Huneycutt KJ5NNL**

Treasurer B. J. Watkins K5BJW
- Finance report presented.

Communications Director Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP (absent)
- Prestige water tower microwave link is in progress and there is possible work needed to the 5.8GHz hardware at the tower. Estimated hardware cost ~$100.
- Motion by Connor to allocate up to $200 for hardware. Second by Tim. Passed via unanimous voice vote.
- Metrocrest/MCP work continues.

Newsletter Editor Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ
- Please submit your ideas, pictures, and articles to the newsletter.

Webmaster James McCormick KG5KBP
- Email address forwarding continues to be a problem.

Public Relations Director Rob Forson K5WFR
- Rob is looking for a location for the Christmas party.

Activities Director Katherine Forson KT5KMF
- EOC Partnership steering committee is forming. Thank you everyone who is interested in the steering committee. The committee will focus on how we can work together with the city and keep building a long-term relationship between the EOC and PARK.
- RWK POTA event, October 17th @ Spring Creek Forest Preserve
- RWK Balloon launch October 24th, alternate date October 31.
- Plano City-Wide Foxhunt Saturday, September 26. VHF 146.565
- PARK Foxhunt November 14. Meet at 10:00 at Russel Creek Park for a demo and group hunt.
- PARK in the Park should resume on October 31 with HF modes demo (weather permitting)
- November 28 – Tape measure yagi build
- Trivia Net – First Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM K5PRK VHF Repeater
- October 4, November 8 upcoming dates.

VE Coordinator Daryl Morgeson AF5QJ
- No tests tonight.

Field Day Mike Tharp KG5TJF
- No report.

Old Business
- We continue to work with MCP and Metrocrest. We are captive to the MCP schedule. 146.64 is operating standalone at MCP but isn't connect to the Internet. Lonnie was running cables at the hospital today, but they aren't connected yet.

New Business
- Club Elections! October is election month. If you're interested in any of the below positions, please let a board member know.
  - VP
  - Secretary
  - Web Master
  - PR Director
  - Communications Director

Adjourn
- Motion to adjourn by Lonnie, second by James. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Plano Amateur Radio Klub Board of Directors Meeting October 5, 2026

Present:
Mike Tharp KG5TJF, President
Bruce Cameron K6IL, Vice President
Damon Koch K5OCH, Secretary
B. J. Watkins K5BJW, Treasurer
Rob Forson K5WFR, Public Relations Director
Katherine Forson KT5KMF Activities Director
Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ, Newsletter Editor
Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP, Communications Director
James McCormick KG5KBP, Webmaster
Ian Duncan AE5ID

Absent
Tim Johnson K5TCJ, Immediate Past President

President
- Brought meeting to order at 7:01 PM
- October is election month. VP will stay until his house sells and he moves to Florida. Ballots need to be sent to all members tomorrow to meet the two week requirement.

Vice President
- Updated program schedule:
  - October—K5PRK Discord Group Explained–Katherine Forson

Join us for Forth Thursday Lunch at Poor Richard's Cafe.
Lunch starts at noon!
(pictured here: **George Martindale N5VVL, Johnnie Young KG5CQO, Larry Pollis KI5UXC, KG5WHQ, Ann Fiorda KJ5LWR, and Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI**)

  - November—Nano VNA
  - Antenna Tuning—Ian Duncan
  - December—PARK Christmas party
  - January—Foxhunting techniques–Katherine Forson
  - February—Tape measure Yagi build–Ian Duncan

Secretary
- September club meeting minutes posted to the board and submitted to the newsletter.
- Membership update: 93 members.

Treasurer
- Treasurer report presented via email.

Public Relations
- Budget discussion for raffle items. We can get a few items now during the Amazon sale. Motion for $300 to Rob to begin buying gifts: Lonnie motion/B.J. second. Passed by unanimous vote.

Communications
- SIM card for Prestige: We can drop the DSL and go to a SIM card for $85/year. This would be more reliable than the DSL we have now and cheaper. The downside would be carrier outage like we've seen with AT&T recently. Miranda is investigating this.

Activities
- Foxhunt last weekend was a success; 8 people found the fox.
- Next foxhunt is October 10. Katherine wants to involve the EOC in future hunts. The fox transmits on 146.565 FM.
- Next RWK balloon launch is 10/24. Anyone want to run a watch party? Start time is weather dependent. Watch party would be at Hoblitzelle park. Mike might be able to help. It will have a crossband repeater onboard and slow scan TV transmit.
- PARK in the Park resumes soon. 10/31 HF modes showcase. EOC is invited.
- 11/28 tape measure yagi build.
- 11/8 is next trivia net weekend.
- 11/14 in the park foxhunt training.
- EOC update: Ashley from the EOC will try to come to the next club meeting. The initial proposal for radio checks won't work so will be scheduled soon.
- Committee update: Roster is finalized. 9 people on the committee.
- January 9, 2027 will be a VNA workshop in McKinney fire station 10.

Website
- Website is up and running.

Newsletter
Lonnie wants to publish this weekend. Send him your contributions now!

Field Day
N/A

Past President
• N/A

Old Business
• None

New Business
• All Star, Audio, Video links between PARK and MARC
• Ron Carlson and Dick Price from the McKinney club have been talking with Miranda about a repeater link between McKinney, their new tower in Fairview, and Prestige.
• McKinney ARC approached Fairview to use the tower at Fairview Fire Station 2 Stacey Rd) for amateur use. They can microwave link between Melissa, Fairview, and the Prestige tower. McKinney is about to mount antennas in the near future.
• This directly supports ARES. There will be repeaters and weather cameras.
• The link from Melissa to Fairview is covered by McKinney. We will have to do a climb at Prestige and deploy a Microwave antenna pointed at Fairview. This will tie Melissa, Fairview, Prestige (and maybe someday MCP) for ARES and SkyWARN.
• The ask from McKinney is to approve them making the connection to us, approve use of AllStar for the connections, and we allocate funding to run the cable and dish at Prestige and make the interconnect live.
• The Fairview site has UHF online, VHF waiting for frequency pair. They will have 3 cameras on the tower that they want to link voice and video to us and NWS.
• They have a climber from the Grayson County club. We need his name.
• Net control would be CC ARES net control.
• Plano Prestige would need a 5.8GHz dish/panel pointed at Fairview and Cat5 down the tower.
• Action: We need to look at the microwave antenna we already have and what we would need if what we have doesn't get it done.
• Budget would be for ethernet cable, antenna, and seal. McKinney donated $300 to PARK at some point in the past for this effort.
• MCP update
• Mike met with Metrocrest club leadership, and Mike and Miranda met with MCP asking for unescorted access. This was declined.
• Metrocrest is the repeater custodian, not PARK so they have to meet 24-hour access requirements. To accommodate the requirement, Mike and Miranda are working to provide robust remote access for Metrocrest to be able to work on the repeaters. The solution would be an LTE connection to the internet that avoids hospital Internet access. The estimated cost is ~$1000. Given all the time this has been in work, and the requirement for Metrocrest to have access to the devices, is this worth it? We may never have hospital-provided Internet or 24 hour access.
• Children's in Frisco may be an alternate. We need a point of contact.

After discussion, motion for a vote to terminate our agreement with Metrocrest and remove our hardware. Motion by Lonnie, second by B.J. unanimous vote. We will back out of this agreement and let Metrocrest have their repeaters back.
• Richardson Microwave discussion is on hold.

Adjourn
• Motioned by B.J., Bruce second. Adjourned at 8:51PM. PM.

Are you a sad ham?

You can tell us!

Do you miss Spark Gap?

Write to your caring newsletter editor..everyone else does!

Do you have to cling to your KEY when you hear a voice call??

And we won't make fun of you here...

Ed Fong (WB6IQN) is a renowned amateur radio antenna designer known for creating high-performance, radial-free antennas that are widely praised for their value and ease of construction. His designs, often published in QST magazine and protected by US patents, utilize unique matching techniques to achieve excellent SWR across multiple bands without the need for ground radials or complex traps.

The TBJ-1 is his premier tri-band base antenna, covering 2 meters (144-148 MHz), 220 MHz (1.25m), and 70cm (440-450 MHz) in a single 5 ft 8 inch PVC pipe structure. Designed for FEMA/ARES emergency readiness and ideal for tri-band handhelds like the Anytone AT-D578UV and Baofeng UV5Rx3, it offers 2.1 dBi gain and handles up to 75 Watts with SWR less than 1.5:1 across its bands.

Other notable designs include the DBJ-1 and DBJ-2 dual-band VHF/UHF antennas, with the DBJ-2 being a portable roll-up version. Fong also developed the DBJ-3, a tri-band variant mentioned in community discussions, though the TBJ-1 remains the most commercially available and reviewed tri-band option. His antennas are frequently cited by users as superior to more expensive commercial alternatives due to their durability, low cost, and reliable performance.

Contact the president or VP for antennas and radios(I think, including the truSDX) Ed offers our club at a special rate.

Letters

1090 ADS-B and Park

Hello, according to your home page (https://k5prk.net), PARK runs five repeaters in Allen, about 180 feet above ground level, and all of them are open. That's a fair bit to keep on the air for everyone. I'm the person behind map.flights, a free live flight map without ads, fed by its own network of receivers.

My question is a simple one: does anyone in PARK run an ADS-B receiver on 1090 MHz? If it is already feeding FlightAware or ADS-B Exchange, adding us next to them is a few minutes' work and leaves those feeds untouched: https://map.flights/en/pair

A short note in the club newsletter would help too, if you think members would care. Since this goes to the secretary address, please feel free to pass it on to whoever puts the newsletter together.

Of course, if it's not something for you, no worries at all.

Thanks, and 73,
Lubos Kovar
map.flights s.r.o.
https://map.flights

Sunday Trivia Net

Hello PARK members!

I wanted to let everyone know (if you didn't know) about PARK's new Sunday afternoon Trivia Net at one o'clock in the afternoon (1:00pm) on the first Sunday of each month.

This recent Trivia Net was the second net that was held, and they are planning more. Be sure to look at your email inbox for future Trivia Nets. Ian Duncan AE5ID, is the net control person. If you would like to be net control operator, just contact Ian and he will get you started.

Keep an eye on your email inbox for next months' date and we will see you then!

73,
Michael Payne K5MFP

QSL CARD AND AI

As an experiment, I asked ChatGPT to create a QSL card for me.It took 15 minutes to create the attached. Included are the prompts I used to work through the process. It is incredible, to me, that I started with the simple command "create a qsl card for NE5IL" and came back quickly with the first version.

Now the chat is saved and I can go back anytime to make and changes.

NE5IL QSL CARD — CHAT EXPORT

I like it! How to you print the cards?

Good question. I haven't tried yet but this file was also created as standalone.
I will have to see if card stock can be printed.

It could also be uploaded to printers that take care of it.

Neil Gould NE5IL

Generated QSL Card Images

QSL card version 1

Introducing the zBitx v2

The latest from the *u*Bitx people

By KG5WHQ

TLDR:
A Radio That's Really a Computer
Out of the box it an all-in-one portable HF radio, minus batteries and a long wire.
Quirks: up to 9v instead of 12v! Can be powered by USB with a trigger cable. Built-in battery compartment takes two 18650s.
Price: $269, shipping included.
`https://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/zbitx-v2/`

Months ago, my anonymous benefactor from the PaRK club (maybe? I really don't know) placed a zBitx v2 in my mailbox. This little jewel comes from HF Signals, the same people behind the uBitx radio. Y'all know I like a radio that'll work the first day out of the box. But I like one better that doesn't mind me taking a screwdriver to it.

This radio just needs power and it puts everything else in your hands, including an EFHW transformer and tuner. The zBitx v2 is all these things in a tiny shoe-sized rectangle, and that's why I'm writing about it.

What Is This Thing?

The zBitx v2 comes from HF Signals, the folks behind the uBITX line of radios. It's a pocket-sized QRP rig, and it puts out 5 watts on 80 through 10 meters with a 480x320 touchscreen. The v2 has a more efficient LDMOS final stage, so it runs cooler and sips less power. It even has a matching transformer for an end-fed half-wave antenna built into the antenna port. It runs on a pair of 18650 cells, so it's a natural for the field.

But here's the part that got me. Underneath all that, it's a real Linux computer on a Raspberry Pi. Not a radio with a computer bolted on. A computer with a radio attached.

It even has a HDMI port!

ICOM was slumbering when this one

landed.

On the Air

I put it through its paces on 20 meter FT8, and the built-in Fldigi suite did great. Now, I wasn't running a tower and a beam. I was on what I jokingly refer to as the Lonnie Commander, which is a silly name for an automotive wire vertical. It's not pretty, but it's got character, and the zBitx didn't care one bit.

CW is where it really surprised me. I've used a few decoders, and this one is about the best I've seen for picking characters out of the noise. If you like CW and you're tired

of decoders that turn "CQ" into a grocery list, you'll appreciate it.

The Warts

It is not perfect but as an experimenter's radio it is way better than Yeasu's awful Optimus release. After the software upgrade, my screen froze up on me. That's no fun, but it wasn't a deal breaker. Because of the screen size I already use my iPad for a larger screen. It runs a hotspot and a port 80 remote control you can drive with any browser. I just hop on the zBitx WiFi with my iPad and run the radio from there. It's a computer, remember, so there's usually another way in.

The logging features are clunky too. They work, they just ain't pretty. But I'll get to why that doesn't bug me as much as you'd think.

Why the V2?

This version added a power switch. Previously, the power switch was the exterior cable that connects the battery comparment. The new badly needed power switch above the EFHW post removes the risk of shorting the radio from unplugging the dangly power cable.

NOTE: Turning the battery backwards or feeding 12v WILL for sure blow up your radio.

Why It's an Experimenter's Radio

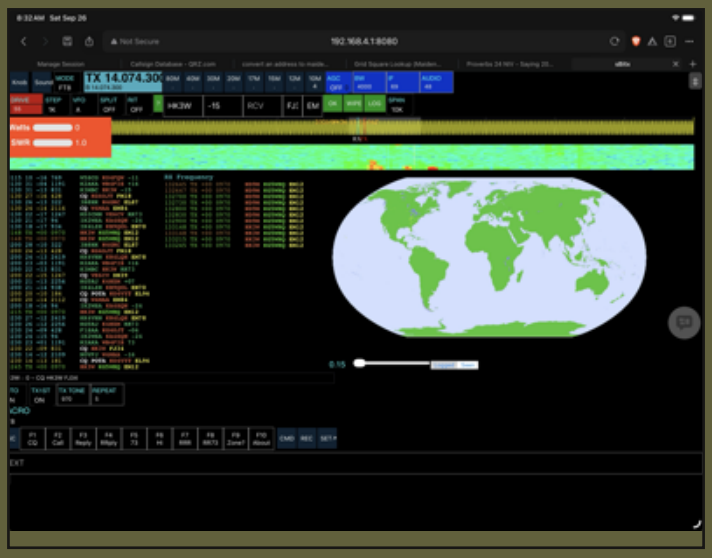
Here's the heart of it. This radio works out of the box for any ham. Tune to FT8(or SSB, CW, etc.), tap a callsign, make a contact. You don't need to know a lick of Linux.

But that's not really what it's for. The zBitx is an experimenter's radio. It's meant to be hacked, poked at, and used for experiments. And experimenting is what ham radio is for. That's the whole reason we got the privilege in the first place.

So here's how I have customized it from a SSH terminal:

- WiFi both ways. A Pi usually does one thing, networking-wise: join your network or host its own hotspot. On the v2, the hotspot matters because the Pi acts as a WiFi access point that the front-panel screen connects to. The RF radio is probably a ESP32 hat inside the case. I got it logged into my home WiFi and offering the zBitx hotspot at the same time.
- VNC and SSH. Both are turned on, so I can see the screen or get a command line from anywhere on the network.
- The fish shell. I installed it because I like nice things, and fish is a whole lot friendlier than the default.
- Custom scripts. I've started customizing the on-board scripts to fit how I actually operate.

It comes with a good toolbox already. Fldigi, FreeDV, and QSSTV come preinstalled, and the software is fully open source. That means those clunky bits are things I can dig into and fix, not just put up with.



What's Next

I've still got one project on the bench: getting the zBitx to work as a TNC. I haven't cracked it yet, but that's the fun of it. If any of you have done it or want to tackle it with me, come find me at the next meeting. That's the kind of thing a club is good for.

(continued)

Morserino Pocket 32

An Introductory Review—By KG5WHQ

TLDR:
The Ultimate Fidget Spinner For Ham Radio
Morse trainer, Koch Trainer, LICW trainer, games, CW decoder, CW keyer, built-in key/paddle/sideswiper, USB/Bluetooth keyboard, VBand add-on, minus batteries.
Quirks: uses an internal 14500 (not AA) but can be powered by USB.
Price: $80, tarrifs/taxes not included.
`https://www.morserino.info`

I think this thing has a toothbrush hidden in it!

A box appeared, drop-shipped from me(??) This has happened before... My anonymous benefactor had struck again!

Inside the box was a toy-looking thing that made me think of the 80's Merlin game. Along woth that, tiny slip of paper telling me to look at the user manual at morserino.info. There was no battery but the thing has USB-C a port.

Turns out, this odd palm-sized video game toy thing is called a *Morserino*. It has a huge user community and can serve as a CW key, paddle, or trainer. And it's loaded with options!

Additionally, if you're working through the Long Island CW Club (LICW) method (as I have been for a couple of months) and looking for a compact, versatile practice tool that goes far beyond a simple code oscillator or fidget spinner, **the Morserino Pocket M32** is worth a close look. Designed by Willi OE1WKL (with contributions from the community) and now produced by QRP Labs, it is a multi-function CW device that serves as a trainer, keyer, decoder, and even a networked transceiver in one small package.

Most importantly, ***this thing is FUN!***

What It Is

The Pocket M32 is the latest generation of the popular Morserino-32 series. It comes fully assembled in a compact 3D-printed enclosure (roughly 100 g) with an integrated capacitive touch paddle. Key hardware upgrades over earlier models include a larger, high-contrast 1.9" color TFT display, clean sine-wave sidetone generation via a digital codec, USB-C, and support for a standard 14500 Li-ion battery (not included). It also has jacks for external paddles or straight keys, a connection to key a transmitter, and audio I/O. Core capabilities include

- **CW Keyer—**5–60 WPM, Iambic A/B or Ultimatic modes, memory keyer functions, and support for both the built-in touch paddles and external keys.
- **Training modes—**Koch method character introduction, CW Generator (random characters, callsigns, abbreviations, common words, or uploaded text files), and the

highly useful Echo Trainer (it sends something; you must key it back correctly).

- **Decoder and transceiver** functions.
- **Networking—**Direct peer-to-peer via ESP-NOW (2.4 GHz), WiFi for internet-based operation (chat servers, QSO bots), and Bluetooth options.

Firmware is open-source and actively developed, with the same core training features available across Morserino versions (Pocket adds the color display, improved audio, games, practice statistics, and better pocketability).

How It Complements LICW Practice

LICW emphasizes sound-first learning, character recognition at proper speed, flow, and progressive development rather than pure visual or isolated drills. The Morserino fits this well. The Koch Trainer and Echo Trainer modes let you work the characters and combinations you're covering in class or the Carousel, with adjustable speeds, Farnsworth-style spacing options, and immediate feedback on your sending accuracy. The Echo Trainer is particularly effective for building both receiving and a clean fist—something a passive listening app or simple oscillator can't match. Many operators find the built-in touch paddles surprisingly usable for short practice sessions, and you can of course plug in your preferred external paddle or straight key. Being able to use the same device as a keyer into a rig makes the transition from practice to on-air smoother.

Beyond Basic Practice

It is far more productive than a fidget spinner. You can generate targeted practice material, drill echo responses, review abbreviations and common words, or load custom text. The games (Pocket-specific) add variety while still reinforcing the characters you're learning. Memory keyer functions and the ability to key a transmitter turn it into a practical station accessory. Internet and networked features open additional practice avenues. The WiFi transceiver supports connections over the internet, and Bluetooth includes a VBand option that can let the device act as a VBand dongle—making remote or virtual practice sessions feasible.

Practical Notes

- Battery is a (not included) 14500 Li-Ion cell; USB-C handles charging and computer connectivity.
- Operation is via a rotary encoder and button—straightforward once you spend a little time with the menus.
- Firmware updates are easy (WiFi or browser/USB).
- Documentation, source, and community support are solid via the official sites and groups.

Bottom Line

For LICW students and anyone serious about building solid CW skills, the Morserino Pocket M32 is an excellent companion device. It encourages active sending and receiving practice in a form factor that actually gets used, doubles as a capable keyer, and adds internet/networked options (including potential VBand use) that keep practice flexible. It won't replace structured classes or on-air time, but it makes the daily work more effective and engaging than passive tools. If you're looking for a single portable unit that covers keyer, trainer, and more while supporting the sound-and-flow approach LICW teaches, the Pocket M32 is a strong recommendation. Check qrp-labs.com or morserino.info for current availability, manuals, and the latest firmware details.

The price, at $80 is a price that stings, but I assure you the value is there.

If anybody knows how to use VBAND, I would like to know how. I think kids would love this even more than I do!

JOIN THE ARRL

BELONG!

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!

RADIOGRAM

The American Radio Relay League

RADIOGRAM

Amateur Radio Station

K5ANP - Alan Prager

Preamble: 2520 R HXG KB1OBI 15 LONGMEADOW MA OCT5
Going To: RON M SEIXAS NY2B
Address: 3825 MAPLESHADE LANE APT 2314
City / State: PLANO TX 75075
Phone: EMAIL: NY2B ATSIGN ARRL DOT NET
BT
THANK YOU FOR CONTACTING W1AW/1
MASSACHUSETTS DURING THE AMERICA 250
OPERATION X PLEASE SUPPORT ARRL
BT
LARRY KRAINSON W1AST W1AW/1 MA COORDINATOR
OP NOTE: SERVICE REPLY VIA NTS TO KN1OBI
WORCHESTER MA
01603 NOT TO W1AST

Rcv'd From:	Via	Date	Time
KE5YTA	DFW EARLY	10/08/26	2355

Notes / Extended Text
RON, THIS MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AS A RADIOGRAM THROUGH THE AMATEUR RADIO NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM (NTS) AND I WAS REQUESTED TO DELIVER IT TO YOU. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MESSAGE OR RADIOGRAMS IN GENERAL FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT 972-741-1756. THANKS AND 73S, ALAN K5ANP.

RTC Message ID 261008001

Send your own radiograms:
https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram

ZBITX(CONTINUED)

Who Should Buy One?

After using it for several months, I am content with this being my travelling rig.

If you want a plug-and-play rig, it'll do the job. If you want something to learn on and tinker with, it is a real treat. It's the kind of radio hams used to build on the kitchen table, except you don't have to wind your own toroids.

SDRs are a God send!

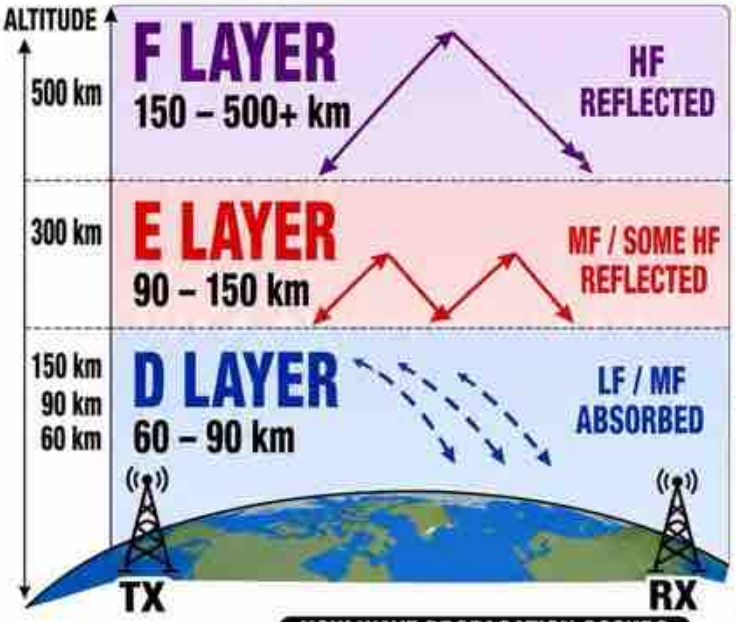
Now if you'll excuse me, I've got some scripts to break.

Ham Trivia:*(Look for the question on page 3)*

A. A YL is a young, unmarried female ham. An XYL is no longer unmarried.

Suggested by The Un-named Ham.

RF WAVE PROPAGATION
IN IONOSPHERIC LAYERS



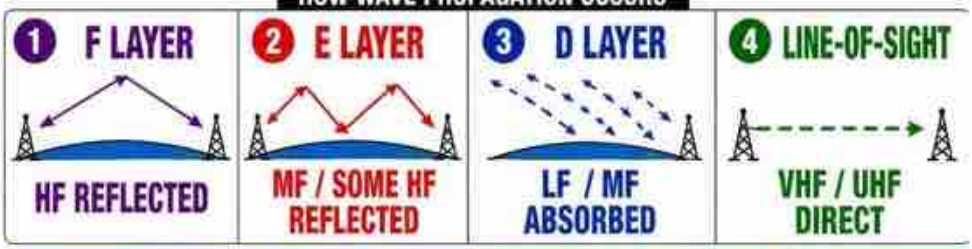
LAYER SUMMARY

F LAYER
150 – 500+ km
HF REFLECTED
LONG DISTANCE

E LAYER
90 – 150 km
MF / SOME HF REFLECTED

D LAYER
60 – 90 km
LF / MF ABSORBED
(DAYTIME)

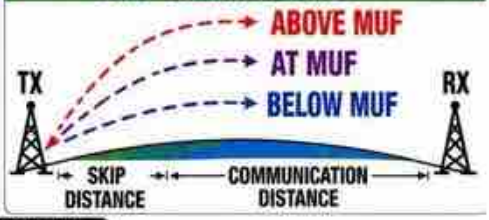
HOW WAVE PROPAGATION OCCURS



FREQUENCY GUIDE

BAND	FREQUENCY	PRIMARY LAYER	PROPAGATION
LF	30 – 300 kHz	D (ABSORBED)	GROUND WAVE
MF	0.3 – 3 MHz	E (REFLECTED)	SKYWAVE
HF	3 – 30 MHz	F (REFLECTED)	SKYWAVE
VHF	30 – 300 MHz	NONE	LINE-OF-SIGHT
UHF	300 MHz – 3 GHz	NONE	LINE-OF-SIGHT

SKIP DISTANCE & MUF



KEY TAKEAWAY

- F LAYER LONG-DISTANCE HF
- E LAYER MF & SOME HF
- D LAYER ABSORBS LF & MF (DAY)
- VHF / UHF LINE-OF-SIGHT ONLY

SEE YOU AT THE

Scary Regular Meeting On

October 19, 7pm

Harris W. "Bill" Swan, K5MWC,SK
Former ARRL North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator

It is with deep sadness and regret that we share the news of Harris W "Bill" Swan, K5MWC, Silent Key - Tuesday 29 September 2026 at age 83.

Our thoughts are with Bill's family and friends during this difficult time. Let's remember the moments we shared, and the impact Bill had on many of us. We have no arrangement information at this time.

Bill was born August 20, 1943, in San Antonio. He graduated from Texas A&M University - Class of 1965 with a BSEE, and later became a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. Bill had a stellar 44-year career with Collins Radio, later becoming Rockwell Collins. He has travelled all over the Far East for them. where he oversaw program development of major HF communications systems for military and commercial applications. One of which was the development of HFGCS (High Frequency Global Communications System) which is a network of USAF SSB transceivers for communicating with aircraft, some USN surface assets, and terrestrial stations, that are remotely controlled from Andrews AFB, and Grand Forks AFB.

- Licensed amateur radio operator since September 1957, originally as KN5MWC; later held K5MWC. He was also a Life Member of ARRL.
- He was a member of the Brazoria County ARC and then held posts as Treasurer and a member of the Board of the Houston ARC for five years
- **Founding member of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK). Historical PARK records identify Swan as one of the first people contacted when the club was being organized in 1973. He served as PARK Treasurer during its initial organization and later as President, 1975–1976.**
- Helped establish Collin County ARES in March 1973 and served as its Emergency Coordinator for approximately 27 years, through 2000.
- Served as ARRL North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), 2000–2010, responsible for emergency-communications coordination across the section's 68 counties. ARRL records confirm him in that leadership role.
- During major disasters, he coordinated amateur-radio resources with emergency-management agencies. He coordinated the only working communications available in or out of Wichita Falls TX in April 1979 using the Collins Radio HF station in Richardson in response to the F4 tornado. During Hurricane Ike in 2008, for example, he reported on Red Cross shelters, ARES communications, FEMA coordination, and deployment of communications resources.
- He was involved in Texas RACES, serving as a District Radio Officer and Region Radio Officer, Region 2, and participated in FEMA-related emergency communications activities.
- Served as Assistant Director for Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) in the ARRL West Gulf Division, 2010–2013.
- Completed extensive emergency-management training, including ARRL Emergency Communications EC-01 through EC-03 and FEMA NIMS/ICS 700, 100, 200 and 400 courses.
- Participated in Army MARS and served as a point of contact/entity-approval liaison involving Army MARS Region 6 and the DHS SHARES HF network South Regional Coordinator, FEMA Region VI.
- Worked on amateur-radio/antenna ordinance issues for the City of Plano, including serving on and chairing committees involved in drafting antenna ordinances.
- Remained active in the amateur-radio community into his later years. In 2020, he presented on the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), sharing his experience with other hams.
- The Collins Amateur Radio Club lists K5MWC as its immediate Past President.
- He subsequently served as President of the Collins Amateur Radio Club (CARC). A July 2023 club newsletter records him presiding over a board meeting as president, and the club currently lists him as Immediate Past President.

HIS BROADER LEGACY

Perhaps the most important theme is that Bill wasn't simply an active "ham"; he helped build the emergency-communications infrastructure and organizations that North Texas amateurs still use today. His work connected local clubs such as PARK with ARES, RACES, FEMA, the Red Cross, law enforcement, and other served agencies. PARK itself continues that community-service tradition today.

In short: K5MWC's legacy spans roughly seven decades of amateur radio, with particular emphasis on emergency communications, organizational leadership, disaster response, public service, and mentoring the North Texas amateur-radio community.