Thankful for repeaters!

PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

PT

OCTOBER WWW.K5PRK.NET 2026



- Tis the Season for 6m
- Chromebooks and Linux
- What the Heck is ACES?!

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	Ian Duncan AE5ID	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

New Officers Installed

By Mike Tharp KG5TJF
president@k5prk.net

*H*ello All!

We'll start with our elections, which were held at the October meeting. **Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP** decided not to run for another term, and **Ian Duncan** volunteered to step in as our new communications director. Please join me in thanking Miranda for her service and in wishing Ian every success. In my opinion, communications director is the most difficult position in our club, so I'm grateful to both of them - one for the work she has done, and one for taking it on!

Next, an update on our repeater project. We have decided to end our work with the Metrocrest project. In the end, we could not provide the kind of access Metrocrest was going to need to manage the repeaters. Miranda will remove the hardware, and we will arrange to return the equipment to Metrocrest. I appreciate everyone who put time and effort into this project.

Finally, if you plan to come to the annual holiday party, here's a little incentive. You will receive one free raffle ticket when you renew your 2027 membership before the party. And "before" includes renewing at the party, so there's no reason to miss out!

Please keep reading the newsletter for more news and upcoming activities. See you at the next meeting!

CLUB ACTIVITIES

By Katherine Forson KT5KMF
activities@k5prk.net

*H*owdy everyone!

As usual, we have a lot of activities coming up!

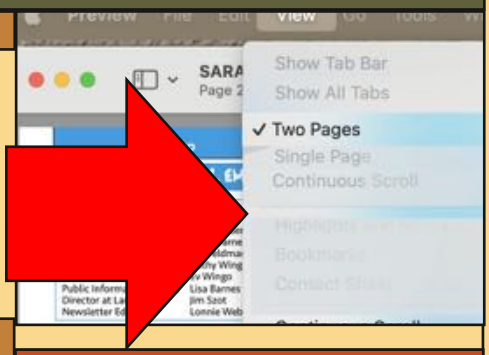
Starting with our recurring activities, we have:

- Reba the Radiosonde Fox will be going out again the weekend of November 21st-22nd.
- Starting in December, we will hopefully have our new and improved Francine ready to play, and she will start going out every weekend!
- The next installment of the PARK Trivia Net will be Sunday, December 6th at 1pm on the repeater. Thank you so much to everyone who has checked in so far, and I look forward to hearing even more in the future!

Additionally, we have some other fun weekend activities coming up in the next few months:

- Foxhunt in the Park - November 14th at 10am, starting near the Russell Creek Park pavilion for a quick demo, then moving on to a group hunt.
- Burgers on the Air simplex contest—November 28th from 9am to 10:30am, rules coming soon!
- Snowflakes and SSTV Net December 19th, time TBD. Share some holiday cheer and send your Christmas card, or anything celebrating your favorite winter holiday, over the PARK repeater on an SSTV net.
- Winter Field Day is coming up! Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 23rd-24th. More details coming soon on what PARK will be doing!

Finally, now that Novem-



HAM TRIVIA

Q. What kind of component is a Leyden jar, and why is that a fun connection for radio operators?

(Look for the answer elsewhere in this issue)

Wednesday Net at 8PM on K5PRK

Saturday Breakfast at 7:30AM at Poor Richard's

Fourth Thursday Lunch: November 26 at noon

W5YI VE Testing: November 15, 2026 at 6PM

Next Meeting: November 16, 2026 at 7PM

ACTIVITES(CONTINUED)

ber is here, hopefully along with some cooler temperatures, the holiday season is fast approaching! That means it's also almost time for the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Dallas Meals on Wheels meal distributions. This has been a PARK tradition for decades and I encourage you to volunteer if you're available.

Volunteers arrive around 7:30am, with our main task being directing traffic between 8am and 10:30am. Location is the Visiting Nurses Association on 1440 W Mockingbird - just east of I-35. Bring an HT and a safety vest along with your holiday cheer!

If you are interested in volunteering for one or both of these events, or would like more information, please email me directly as soon as possible at `activities@k5prk.net`!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events!

KT5KMF Nov 6: Reba the Radiosonde Fox is out to play this weekend!

Reba is hiding somewhere within the boundaries of Dallas North Tollway to Preston and Spring Creek to Park. She is transmitting on 433.700 and talks almost constantly (in CW, of course)! The batteries should last until at least midday Saturday and we will try to



replace them around then to hopefully keep her out until Sunday afternoon.

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

Good luck!

KI5PGM/Travis

Can confirm—Reba is still beaconing.

Also—I really enjoyed this style of hunt. The smaller search area and shorter wait between transmissions make for a better experience. I think it would be great for a "first time" hunter.

David Fedorko KF5PFC
`david.fedorko@verizon.net`

Hey Lonnie,

I found Reba this morning using a tape measure yagi I built in a workshop with LARK a couple of years ago, an old Yaesu VX-8GR HT and an Arrow Antenna Offset Attenuator (see attached).

Safe travels!

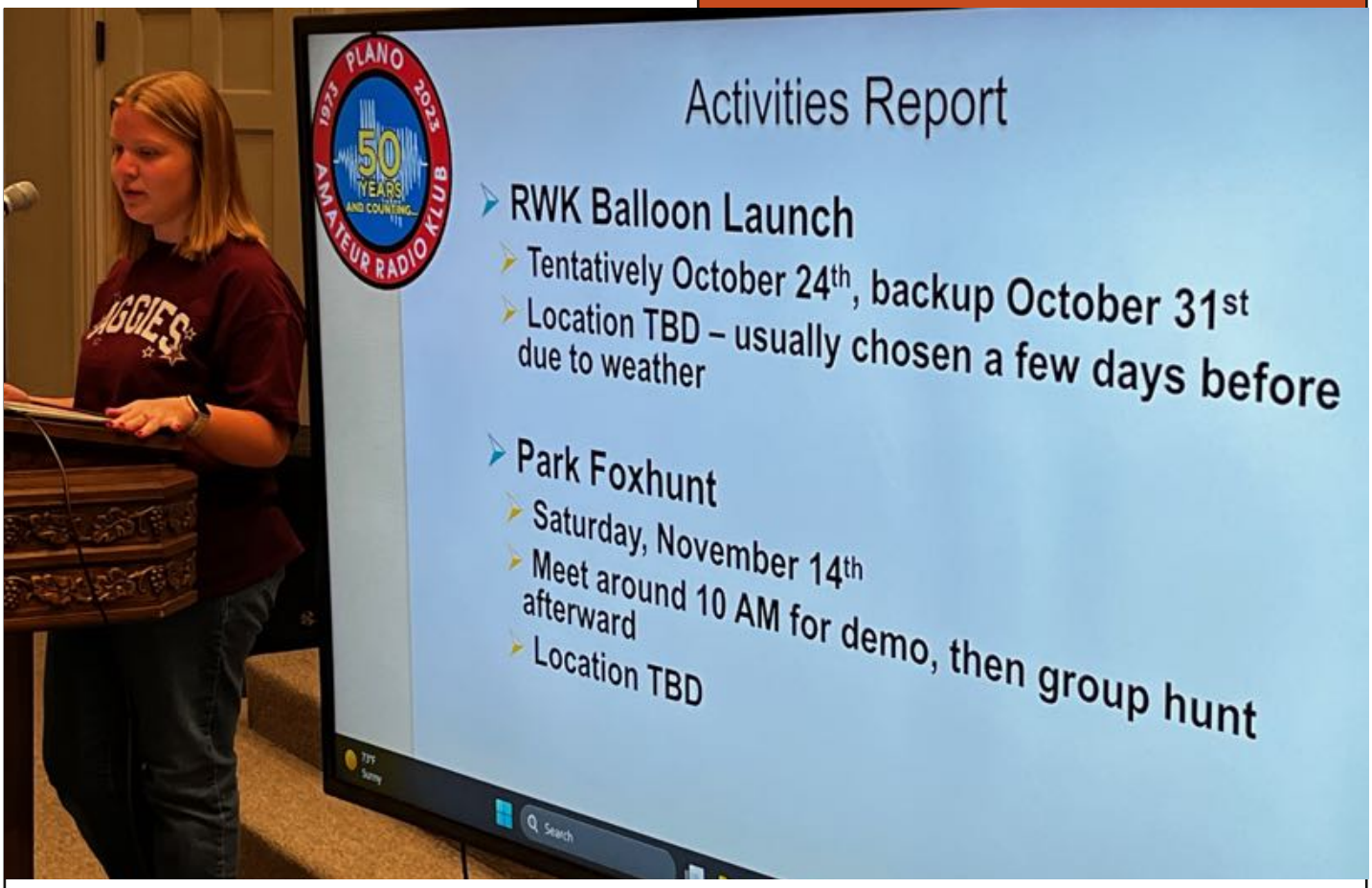
Katherin Forson KT5KMF

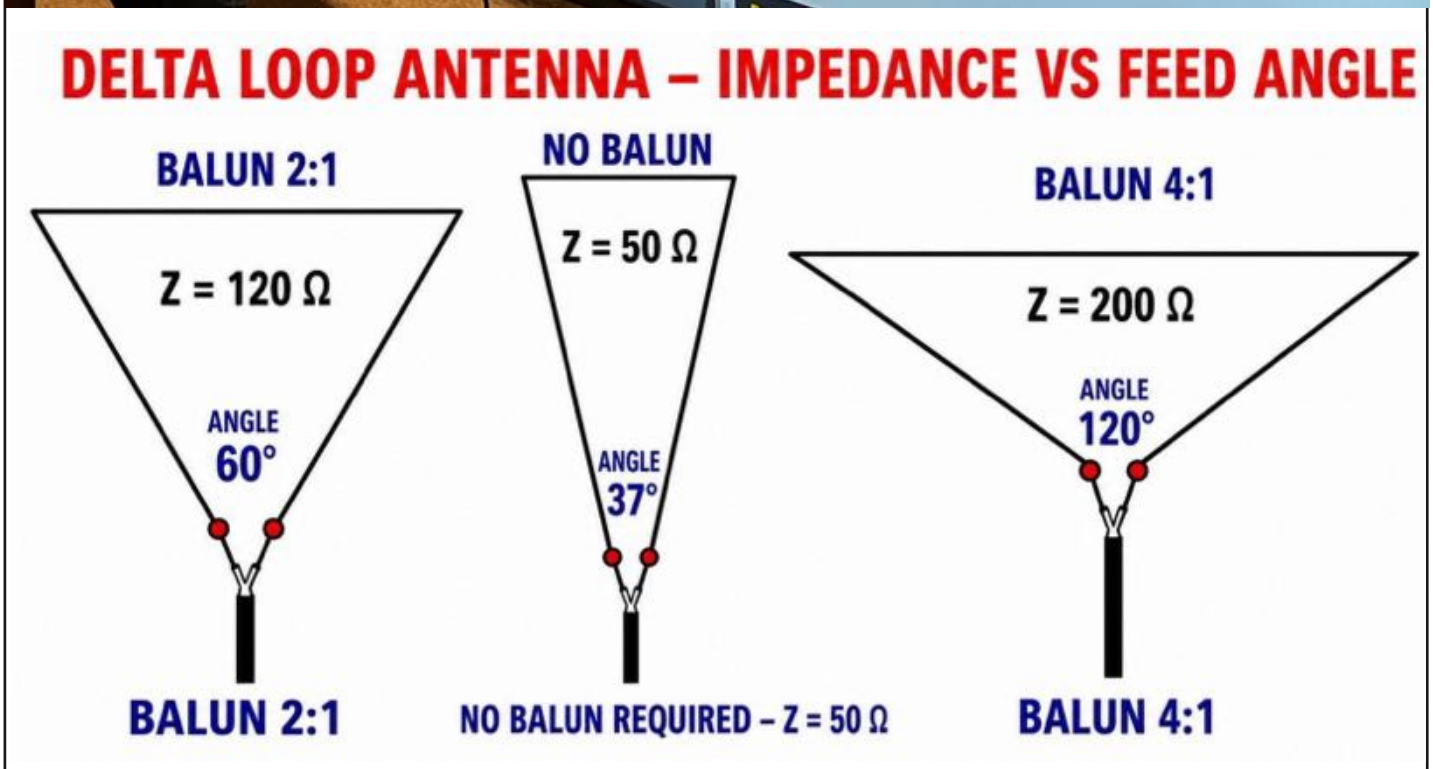
Just a reminder that our Foxhunt in the Park event is this Saturday! We will meet next to the Russell Creek Park pavilion at 10am for a quick demonstration, then we will do a group foxhunt to find a couple of hidden transmitters somewhere in the park.

Come join us to learn some foxhunting tips and tricks or even just to put your skills to the test! Whether you've never foxhunted before or you've been doing it for years, this event will be plenty of fun for everyone!

Hope to see you there!

Look at that stellar accomplishment! Has anyone else the radio chops to find a fox?
—ed


PLANO
1973
2023
50
YEARS
AND COUNTING...
AMATEUR RADIO KLUB
Activities Report
RWK Balloon Launch
Tentatively October 24th, backup October 31st
Location TBD – usually chosen a few days before due to weather
Park Foxhunt
Saturday, November 14th
Meet around 10 AM for demo, then group hunt afterward
Location TBD


DELTA LOOP ANTENNA – IMPEDANCE VS FEED ANGLE
BALUN 2:1
Z = 120 Ω
ANGLE
60°
NO BALUN
Z = 50 Ω
ANGLE
37°
BALUN 4:1
Z = 200 Ω
ANGLE
120°
BALUN 2:1
NO BALUN REQUIRED – Z = 50 Ω
BALUN 4:1

PARK GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Plano Amateur Radio Klub General Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2026

President Mike Tharp KG5TJF
- Opened the business meeting with Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.
- 24 present

Vice President Bruce Cameron K6IL
- November – Nano VNA for antenna tuning – Katherine Forson & Ian Duncan
- December – Holiday Party: Spring Creek BBQ Richardson reserved for December 21 from 6-9pm
- January 2027- Fox Hunting- Katherine Forson
- February 2027 Tape Measure Yagi- Ian Duncan
- March 2027 DMR Expert Conrad Trautman
- If you would like to present, please email me at VP@k5prk.net.

Secretary Damon Koch K5OCH
- October board minutes are posted for the newsletter
- Club membership update: 94 members

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

Communications Director Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP
- MCP and repeater microwave reports will be discussed later in the meeting when we discuss old business.
- Miranda asked that members consider Ian AE5ID to be the next Communications Director.

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

Webmaster James McCormick KG5KBP
- Website reliability monitoring is ongoing.

Public Relations Director Rob Forson K5WFR
- PR Report presented.

Activities Director Katherine Forson KT5KMF
- RWK balloon launch tentatively 10/24, backup 10/31. Location TBD.
- PARK foxhunt: 11/14 meet at 10:00 AM for a demo and group foxhunt. Location TBD
- Francine the fox disappeared at the last foxhunt. We are building another fox.
- Radiosonde fox Reba will be going out every other weekend until a new higher power fox can be built. Reba is low power so the grid will be announced before she goes out.
- Next date for Reba is 10/24.
- Park in the Park: 10/31 HF modes demo. Location TBD
- 11/28: local contest: Burgers on the Air from your local burger joint. See how many local burger joints you can contact!
- Trivia Net on the VHF repeater: 11/8

EOC Liaison Committee Katherine Forson KT5KMF
- Roster finalized with 9 members including Katherine, and committee held its first meeting. Katherine will report as the committee progresses.

VE Coordinator Daryl Morgeson AF5QJ

- Two tests tonight, both passed. Congratulations to new Technician and General licensees.

Field Day Mike Tharp KG5TJF
- No report.

Old Business
- Metrocrest and PARK have both decided to halt the MCP repeater project. The microwave link hardware will stay in place for now, but we are not going to host repeaters at MCP.
- The Richardson microwave system is on hold for additional review and approvals from the city of Richardson and the Richardson radio club.

New Business
- Microwave to W5MRC Fairview tower to link them into Skywarn is currently pending. The link will connect Melissa, Fairview and Plano for the national weather service. The McKinney club is hoping to be online in Fairview by the end of he year.
- Miranda needs to schedule 2-3 people to climb the tower and check everything at the top of the Prestige tower. We will repurpose the existing K5GTX microwave antenna to point to Fairview tower during the climb if the hardware (microwave link and existing cameras) still works.

Odd-Year Election Results
- Vice-president: Bruce Cameron K6IL
- Secretary: Damon Koch K5OCH
- Communications Director: Ian Duncan AE5ID
- Public Relations Director: Rob Forson K5WFR
- Web Master: James McCormick KG5KBP

50/50 Raffle
- Mystery prize or cash? First winner Rob K5WFR. Rob took the $20
- Second winner was Bruce K6IL who won a cool Anderson to Wago power connector.

Program
- K5PRK Discord Group Explained – Katherine Forson KT5KMF

Adjourn
- Motion by Larry KI5UXC, second by Daryl AF5QJ. Adjourned at 8:45 PM.

PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Plano Amateur Radio Klub
Board of Directors Meeting
November 2, 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
Ian Duncan AE5ID, Communications Director
Tim Johnson K5TCJ, Immediate Past President
James McCormick KG5KBP, Webmaster
Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP
Mike Huneycutt, KJ5NNL

Absent
N/A

President
• Brought meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Vice President
• Updated program schedule:
• November—Nano VNA Antenna Tuning—Ian Duncan
• December—PARK Christmas party
• January—Foxhunting techniques—Katherine Forson
• February—Tape measure Yagi build—Ian Duncan
• March—DMR Expert Conrad Troutman
• April—How to Energize a Ham Club by AA3B

Secretary
• October club meeting minutes posted to the board and submitted to the newsletter.
• Membership update: 94 members.

Treasurer
• Treasurer report presented via email.

Public Relations
• Rob continues to pursue Christmas raffle items.

Communications
• There was an issue with the weather alert system on the repeater. Ian implemented a fix and also implemented a time/temp announcement on the :30 that uses the McKinney Airport temperature.
• The McKinney link is at the point of climbing the tower, Miranda will give the McKinney club Ian's contact info for coordination.
• MCP: Miranda hasn't been to the hospital yet to pull the hardware for Metrocrest. We will schedule a hardware handover to them.

Activities
• PARK in the Park event Sunday had low turnout but had fun showing FT8 and SSTV on HF. Schell Park was a great place for the event and we will try to host further activities at the park.
• 11/8 is next trivia net. Tentative 1:00 PM on the VHF repeater.
• 12/6 is the December trivia net. Tentative 1:00 PM on the VHF repeater.
• 11/14 in the park foxhunt demo and training at Russell Creek Park tentative for 10:00 AM
• Thanksgiving weekend: Burgers on the Air! 90-minute contest to work burger joints in the area.
• Meals on Wheels coordination will happen this year. Katherine is now the contact person for this event.
• The Plano police are investigating the Francine the Fox theft from last month.
• January 9, 2027 will be a VNA workshop in McKinney fire station 10.
• EOC update: recurring meeting schedule will go out soon.

Website
• The club website is up, and James is building a new image that takes advantage of recent security upgrades and a MySQL upgrade. The site will swap to the new image once James has it complete and tested.

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

Field Day
N/A

Past President
N/A

Old Business
• 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 has the SIM card. The risk is no public IP address, so we have to tunnel out from Prestige to our Digital Ocean

instance. It shouldn't be a problem. The device could lock up but that's the same problem we have with the current DSL modem. We can run in parallel with the current DSL service for a month or two to test. Ian is looking at devices.

• Motion to turn on the LTE internet with a burn-in period by Lonnie. Second by Rob. Unanimous approval.

New Business

• The board would like to move to Google docs for more storage. Ian motion, second by Rob and passed via unanimous vote.

• In addition to the $300 already approved, do we want to allocate more to the holiday party raffle? We were saturated last year, so this year how about fewer gifts that are more expensive? Rob is waiting for Black Friday to buy anything. An additional $750 will need to go to the general membership for approval.

• Katherine would like to buy some Quansheng HTs for foxhunt prizes. They are great radios for foxhunting and have cool firmware updates. We would like 8. They should be ~$25 on Black Friday. 6 for fox hunts, 2 for the Christmas party.

• Lonnie moves to submit another $1000 budget for this year's holiday party. Second by Damon. This includes fox hunt radios in the budget.

• We need to cultivate new locations for what was planned to go to MCP. LVL 29 is tall and in a perfect spot. Another would be Scottish Rites or Plano Children's at Preston and Hedgecoxe. Ian will talk with Connor about other buildings in that area that have been receptive in the past to hosting. Can this go to the EOC committee for possible contacts?

Adjourn

• Motioned by James., Bruce second. Adjourned at 8:24 PM.



(above: **Craig Young, Johnnie Young KG5CQO, George Martindale N5VVL, Ann Fiorda KJ5LWR**)

Join us for Forth Thursday Lunch at Poor Richard's Cafe.
Lunch starts at noon.

(below:**Ann Fiorda KJ5LWR, Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI, Larry Pollis KI5UXC, KG5WHQ, and Ray Hackney WD4MDQ**)

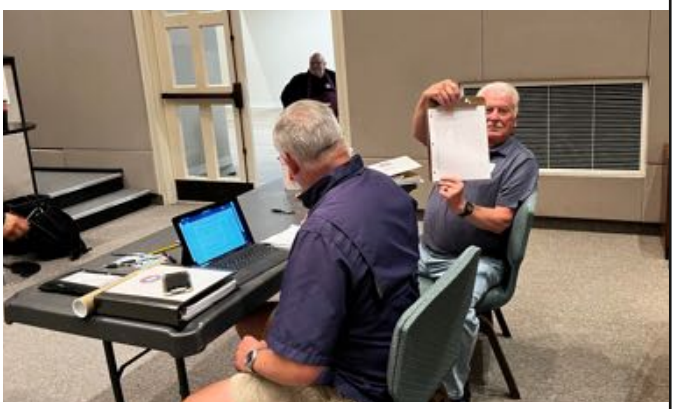


Also, join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Poor Richard's Cafe.
People start arriving about 7:30 AM.











ACES

A Review For Weather Spotting

By Scott Whitfield KE5AYC
SSW ACES Training

Awareness means you are constantly observing the situation around you. This type of observation is sometimes referred to as situational awareness. Continuously monitoring the risks around you can save your life, especially in rapidly changing weather conditions. Knowing that there is a river crossing, or observing the street is lined with power poles and trees, can prepare you for the hazards of severe weather. When you are aware of the imminent threats, and you are thinking ahead about possible outcomes, you can position yourself better to minimize these threats.

Communicating your whereabouts to others on a regular basis and having multiple lines of communication available can keep you and others safe from hazards.

Escape Routes are vital when you are entering a potentially dangerous area. As part of awareness, note the escape routes available to you, making sure you always have more than one and the safest way to get to that escape route.

In the event you cannot get to escape routes due to rapidly changing conditions, find your closest, safe zones or shelters.

Safe zones are the areas where you will be safest if you need to get to immediate shelter. Knowing these locations will limit your risk.

Remembering

ACES: to remain aware of your surroundings, have open lines of communication, know your escape routes, and know your safe zones wherever you are can increase your safety.

Here are a few basic tips that could save your life if you are watching a storm from your vehicle.

Keep a buffer zone between you and the storm to allow for changes in storm movement and to keep your options open for an escape route.

Travel in pairs so the driver can concentrate on driving, and so you can observe multiple areas of the storm.

Always know where you are in relation to the storm, and which way the storm is moving. Remember that storms can change direction and speed.

Never drive through the core of the storm, e.g., through heavy rain and/or hail, to get a better vantage point.

Have a source of current local weather information, such as a NOAA Weather Radio, to be sure you have critical storm information.

If possible, observe a storm from a four-way intersection to facilitate escape in multiple directions.

Nighttime storm spotting in a vehicle can be dangerous and is not recommended. It is difficult to observe key storm features at night and harder to safely maneuver around the storm.

Be alert for emergency vehicles, pedestrians, and other road and traffic hazards.

If you stop, remember to watch for traffic and to be aware of the potential effects of the storm. Pull out of traffic and keep away from trees, power lines, and signs.

Never stay in a vehicle under large trees or signs in high wind conditions. Get into a sturdy structure.

Always be prepared for all of the hazards associated with thunderstorms.

If close to or in the path of a storm, **do not turn off your vehicle.**



Put That Old Chromebook to Use

By Rob Forson K5WFR

TLDR:

Ressurect forgotten Chromebooks with this process to make it into a perfectly serviceable Linux device. And cheaper than buying a Raspberry Pi.

Got an old Chromebook sitting around collecting dust? Especially one that no longer receives security updates? Why not convert it into a low powered laptop that will continue to receive updates and, if you're not already familiar with Linux, give you an easy way to learn it? This has been the best way for me to learn more about an alternative to Windows.

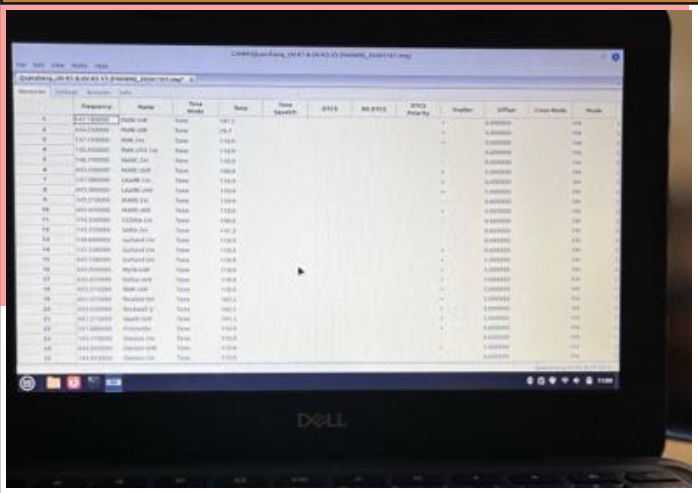
It is possible on some Chromebooks to unlock the system to allow you to boot from a flash drive or SD card, or even update the BIOS/firmware and install a different operating system to the internal storage. This is typically a version of Linux - or, in some cases, even Windows [though there could be issues with drivers.]

Older Chromebooks typically have 16 or 32GB eMMC soldered onto the motherboard and no way to increase storage except with an SD card [if there is a port for one] or a flash drive. It is possible to boot and run Linux from a flash drive or SD card, though it would be slower than using the internal storage. Most Raspberry Pi's boot and run from an SD card.

The website mrchromebox.tech has information about which Chromebooks can be unlocked, the method to unlock them [which typically involves opening up the bottom cover and either removing a write protect screw or disconnecting the internal battery until the new firmware is installed], the steps to convert the laptop along with firmware that allows either a dual boot system or the removal of the Chrome OS and complete installation of an alternate operating system.

I have converted several 32GB Dell Chromebook 3100s and have installed Linux on each of them. These require disconnecting the battery to update the

CHROMEBOOK(CONTINUED)



firmware. These fairly rugged units [they were designed with the education market in mind] come with 4GB memory, either 16GB or 32GB eMMC storage, have both USB A and USB C ports and charge with one of the USB C ports. For those that don't have one but want to try this, hundreds are available on eBay, Amazon etc in various conditions—I got one in excellent condition from Woot for $40. I have also converted an older Samsung Chromebook—this involved pulling the motherboard and removing the write protect screw, which then required follow up surgery to remove the metallic fibers from the washer that were left behind.

On this, I have installed Linux Mint, both with the Cinnamon and XFCE desktops since they look similar to Windows and take less than half of the 32GB storage, and have also installed Linux Mint Debian Edition [LMDE]. With Linux about the only issue I have found is occasionally the driver for touchscreens, so in those cases I just disable that driver. Some of the Dell 3100s do have a touchscreen.

I use a Chromebook running Linux to check and wipe unknown flash and solid state drives before plugging one into a computer on my network. A number of radio related programs, including WSJT-X and Chirp, are available for Linux.

For me, a Chromebook with Linux as kind of like having a Raspberry Pi with a display, keyboard and a battery. No GPIO pins, though.

I have installed the Project Horus auto rx software (intended for a Raspberry Pi) that, along with an SDR dongle, allows me to track and receive the data from the radiosondes the National Weather Service typically sends up twice daily. If you add a GPS, you can also set up the unit with Chasemapper, which can be used to chase the sondes to landing if you have an interest in recovering one. (Recovered sondes can be converted into trackers, either Project Horus or APRS, or even a transmitter for a fox hunt.) The Project Horus software also is used for the local Balloonatics high altitude balloon launches that typically use converted NWS sondes for tracking. The RWK club website provides instructions to configure a system for reception of the payloads on a HAB launch.

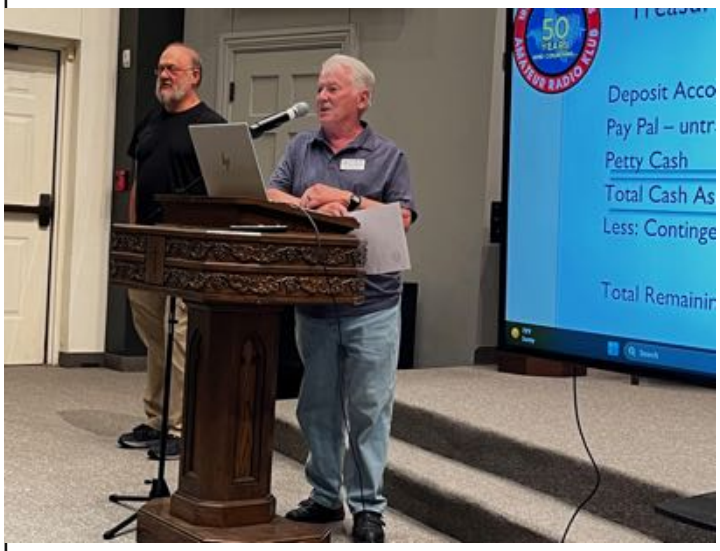
Note: Converting will require two flash drives—one to create a backup of the Chrome OS [recommended] and one to boot and install your alternate operating system.

This is a great project for an unused Chromebook, especially those older units that no longer receive security updates.

Rob
K5WFR






50
Deposit Acco
Pay Pal – untr
Petty Cash
Total Cash As
Less: Continge
Total Remainir



Local Send

App Recomendation

By KG5WHQ

TLDR:
Share information from phone to computer and back again.
Out of the box, LocalSend gives all computers and nearly all phones the ability to share files with no regard for operating system. Think of it as a universal Airdrop for normies.
Use brew or your trusted App Store.
`https://www.localsend.org/`

LocalSend in the Field: Fast, Offline File Sharing for Ham Radio, CERT, and RACES Responders

When the internet is down, cell service is overloaded or nonexistent, and commercial networks are unreliable, emergency communicators still need to move critical information quickly and securely between devices. Photos of damage, ICS forms, maps, radio logs, resource status boards, and short text messages often need to jump from a phone to a laptop, from an Android tablet to a Windows netbook, or from a Macbook to a Linux machine running Winlink or other tools.

LocalSend is a free, open-source, cross-platform file- and message-sharing tool that solves this problem cleanly. It works entirely on a local network (or a phone hotspot with no internet), requires no accounts or cloud services, uses HTTPS encryption, and supports Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, and iOS. From a ham radio operator, CERT, or RACES perspective, it is one of the most practical "go-kit" software tools available today.

How It Fits Emergency Communications

Completely offline: Transfers stay on the local Wi-Fi or hotspot network. Nothing leaves the LAN, and no internet connection is required.

No accounts or servers: Zero configuration beyond installing the app and joining the same



network. This is ideal when time is short and systems are stressed.

Cross-platform: Teams rarely have identical devices. An iPhone can send a damage assessment photo to a Windows laptop; an Android phone can push a PDF ICS-213 to a Mac; a Linux machine can share a folder of maps with tablets.

Encrypted: Transfers use HTTPS with certificates generated on each device. Optional PIN protection adds a simple confirmation layer when needed.

Fast and unlimited by design: It uses the full

speed of the local network with no artificial bandwidth caps, making it suitable for larger files such as high-resolution photos or folders of documents.

Open source and free: No ads, no tracking, Apache 2.0 license. Source is available on GitHub for those who want to inspect it.

These traits align directly with the needs of emergency response: simplicity under stress, independence from external infrastructure, and interoperability across whatever hardware volunteers bring.

Getting Started on Every Platform

Download only from official sources: localsend.org or the project's GitHub releases. Prefer app stores or package managers when possible, as the app does not auto-update on every platform.

Android: Google Play Store, F-Droid, or direct APK. Works well with Quick Settings tiles in recent versions for rapid launch.

iOS / iPadOS: App Store. Requires a relatively recent iOS version (check current requirements).

Windows: Official installer (EXE), portable ZIP, Winget, Scoop, or Chocolatey. Portable mode is especially useful for USB go-kits—settings travel with the app.

macOS: App Store or DMG/Homebrew. Note firewall prompts; the app includes a shortcut to open firewall settings if discovery fails.

Linux: Flathub, Snap, AppImage, DEB, AUR, Nix, etc. Excellent for field laptops running Linux-based radio software.

Install LocalSend on every device that might be used in an activation before the event. Test it during training or drills so the interface is familiar.Basic

Workflow in an Incident

• Create or join a local network. This can be a regular Wi-Fi router (even with no internet uplink), a travel router, or a phone/tablet hotspot. One device can create the hotspot; others join it. No data plan usage is required.

• Open LocalSend on the sending and receiving devices. Devices on the same network usually appear automatically under "Nearby devices."

• On the sender, choose Send → select files, a folder, media, or text/clipboard content → tap the target device.

• On the receiver, accept the transfer (or configure auto-accept for trusted/favorite devices). Files default to the Downloads folder; change this in Settings for a dedicated incident folder.

• Confirm receipt and move on.

You can also send short text messages or paste clipboard content—handy for quick coordinates, frequencies, or status notes.

Getting the Most Out of It in Emergency Operations Pre-event Preparation

• Install on all personal and team devices and test transfers between every platform combination you might encounter.

• Create a standard naming convention for devices (e.g., "EOC-Laptop-Win," "Team3-Android," callsign-based names) so operators can identify targets quickly under stress.

• Configure a consistent save location (e.g., a folder named "Incident-YYYYM-MDD") on each device.

• Enable optional PIN if your team wants an extra verification step.

• Favorite frequently used devices for faster selection and automatic acceptance if desired.

• Carry a portable Windows or Linux version on a USB stick as a backup.

• Practice creating a phone hotspot and connecting multiple devices to it.

During response

Use a dedicated travel router or one phone as a controlled hotspot for the team so discovery is reliable and isolated from public networks.

Keep LocalSend open (or easily accessible

via Quick Settings on Android) while moving around the site.

Prefer folders over individual files when sharing sets of ICS forms, maps, or photo batches.

For very large transfers, ensure devices stay awake and connected; recent versions improved background transfer behavior on Android.

Combine with radio operations

Photograph a whiteboard status board or handwritten log, send it via LocalSend to the laptop operator who will digitize or forward via Winlink/packet, then delete sensitive local copies as needed per your data-handling procedures.

Text/clipboard sharing is excellent for short, time-sensitive items that do not need a full document.

Platform-specific tips

iOS: LocalSend works reliably once both devices are on the same network. Background restrictions can sometimes require the app to stay in the foreground during long transfers—test this.

Android: Background transfers and the Quick Settings tile make it smoother for phone-to-anything workflows.

Windows / Mac / Linux: Firewall rules sometimes block discovery (port 53317 is commonly involved). Allow LocalSend through the firewall on first run. Portable Windows builds are ideal for shared EOC machines.

Mixed environments: Discovery relies on the local network (multicast). Guest networks, some hotel/public Wi-Fi, or aggressive isolation features can block it. A private hotspot or travel router avoids most of these issues.

Web option: There is a web version (web.localsend.org) that can work in browsers on the same network, useful if a device cannot install the native app.

Reliability practices for the field

Test discovery and transfer immediately after setting up the network.

If devices do not appear, confirm they are on the same SSID/subnet, disable VPNs, check firewalls, and try manual IP entry if available in troubleshooting options.

Battery and heat matter: keep devices powered or have power banks ready during sustained operations.

Have a fallback (USB cable, SD card, or verbal relay) ready, but LocalSend dramatically reduces the need for them.

Document your team's LocalSend procedures in the go-kit checklist and communications plan.

Limitations to Keep in Mind

LocalSend requires a shared local network path—it is not a long-range or internet-based tool. It will not replace packet radio, Winlink, or voice nets for beyond-line-of-sight needs. Multicast discovery can fail on restrictive networks, which is why controlled hotspots or travel routers are recommended in the field. Always verify file integrity for critical documents (recent versions include checksum support).

Closing Thoughts

In emergency communications we train to work with what is available and to keep information flowing when infrastructure fails. LocalSend gives mixed-device teams a simple, private, high-speed way to move files and short messages without relying on the cloud or cellular data. Install it now, practice it in drills, add it to your go-kit software list, and it will be ready when the power is out and the only network you have is the one you create yourselves.

Download it from the official site, test it across your team's phones and laptops, and incorporate it into the next training exercise. When seconds count and the internet does not, having a reliable local transfer tool can make a meaningful difference.

A HAM'S GUIDE TO LEO.SPACE: YOUR FREE COMMAND CENTER FOR SATELLITE OPS

By KG5WHQ



You've just finished a solid pass on SO-50 or RS-44. The Arrow is still warm in your hands, the dual-band HT is cooling down, and you're already wondering about the next workable bird. Or maybe you're a Technician who's heard the stories about working the ISS or linear birds and you're tired of jumping between Heavens-Above, AMSAT status pages, Doppler calculators, and space-weather sites.



That's where LEO.space lands. Launched as a free, independent plat-form in 2026, it was built exactly for people like us—hams who want clean, practical tools for Low Earth Orbit without the usual scavenger hunt across specialized databases.

From the home page the site greets you with the essentials: live ISS position (NORAD 25544), next launch info, Kp index, and a "Your Sky Now" panel that shows which amateur satellites are currently above your horizon. It fuses live orbital data, community status, and space-weather so you know what is potentially workable before you even pick up the radio.

The Ham Radio Heart of the Site

Head straight to /ham/passes. This is the operating desk.

Enter your location (GPS or search) and the site computes upcoming passes for tracked amateur satellites.

Each pass card gives AOS / MAX / LOS times, azimuths, a clear sky-arc diagram (horizon outer ring, 30° and 60° elevation rings), and the frequency plan you'll need.

Pass quality is graded: Overhead (60°+), Good (30–59°), Low, Marginal—so you instantly know which contacts are worth chasing.

The Contact Console is built for real-time work. Set your callsign and grid, filter by mode (FM, SSB/CW, APRS, SSTV, Beacon),

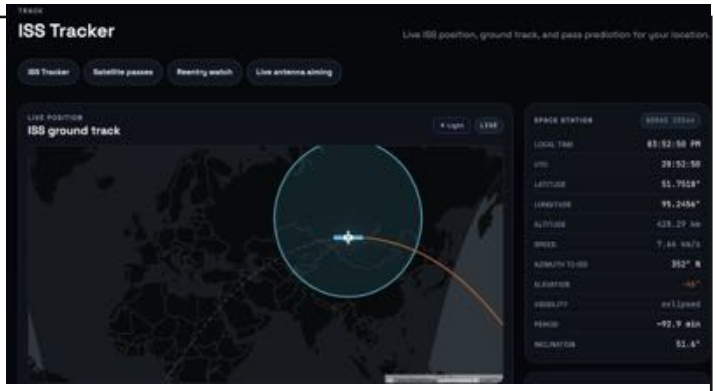
then hit “Start tracking.” You get live compass bearing, elevation, AOS/LOS countdowns, and uplink/downlink frequencies that are Doppler-corrected every second. Perfect for full-duplex handheld or mobile setups.Supporting field tools include:

Live antenna aiming (real-time az/el + countdown)
- Mutual-pass sked finder (enter two Maidenhead grids and see overlapping windows)
- Address-to-grid converter and grid distance/bearing solver
- Linear transponder passband matcher (shows where your uplink and downlink sit in an inverting passband and accounts for Doppler phase)
- Session log that exports to ADIF

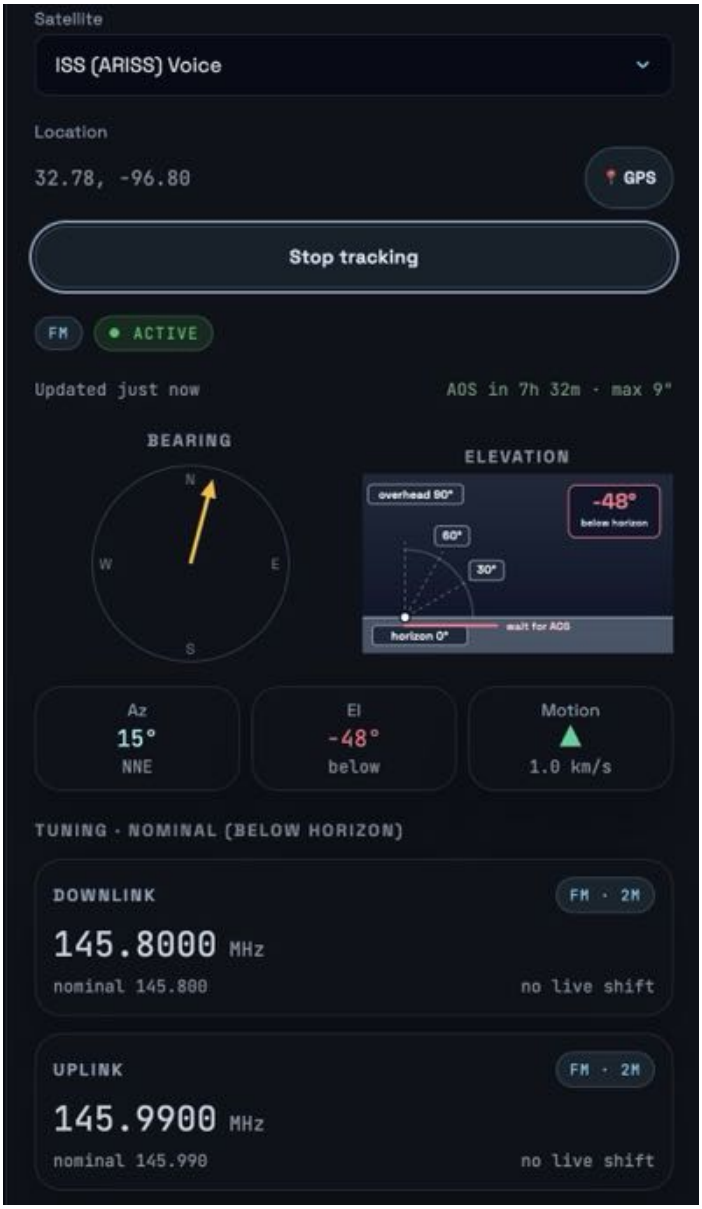
There’s even a practical pre-pass checklist: verify the bird is active (AMSAT status), program memories, set CTCSS (SO-50’s 74.4 Hz burst + 67.0 Hz, AO-91/92 67.0 Hz, ISS none), pre-aim at AOS azimuth, start low power, keep the contact short.

Space Weather That Actually Matters to Hams

The /space-weather page pulls live NOAA SWPC data: planetary Kp index and 72-hour forecast, real-time solar wind from DSCOVR, NASA SDO solar imagery (304 Å, 193 Å, visible), storm scales, and HF band-condition outlooks. High solar activity inflates the thermosphere and increases drag on low satellites while also affecting propagation and radio blackouts—exactly the information you need before planning a long session or a high-elevation pass.



ISS Track on leo.space



ISS tracking and connection information

Satellite Catalog and Tracking

Browse the catalog at /sats for amateur satellites (SO-50, AO-91, AO-92, FO-29, AO-7 and others), ISS, and major constellations. The dedicated ISS tracker

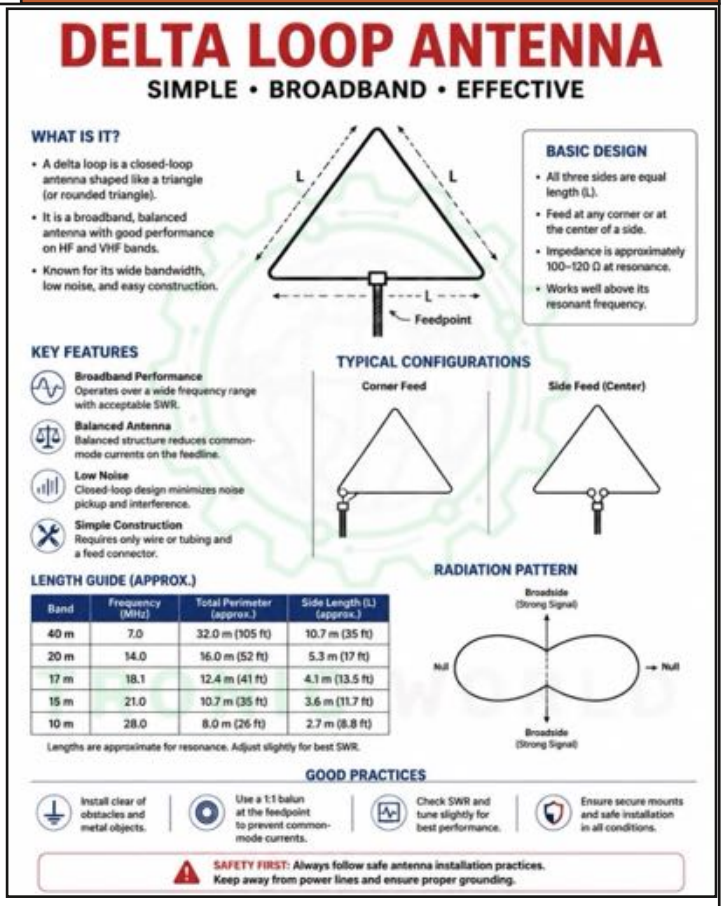
shows live position, ground track, and location-specific pass predictions. leo.space +1News and editorial content keep you current on launches, new CubeSats carrying amateur payloads, and broader LEO activity without leaving the site.

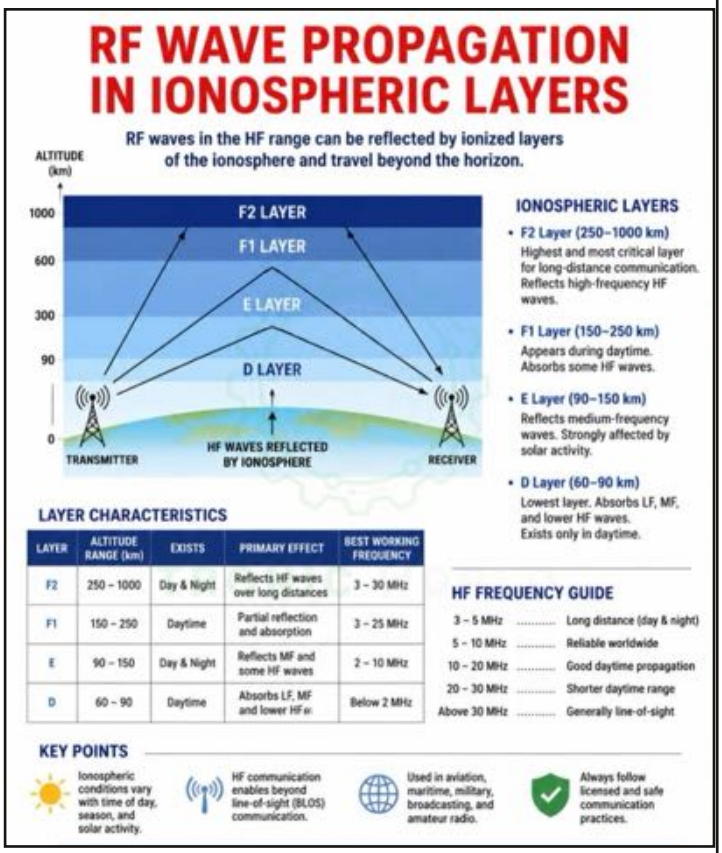
How to Get the Most Out of It

- Bookmark /ham/passes and /space-weather on your phone.
- Set your location and callsign once—the settings stick in the URL and cookies so you can share a pre-configured view.
- Use the date-range planner for Field Day or multi-day portable ops.
- Cross-check satellite health with AMSAT status before transmitting.
- Pair the live Doppler-corrected frequencies and passband matcher with your dual-band HT or full-duplex setup (Arrow/Elk + diplexer is still the classic portable combination).
- Log on-site and export ADIF later.
- Watch the “best pass in 24 h” and overhead-now panels so you never miss an easy high-elevation opportunity.

LEO.space doesn’t replace your radio or your antenna, but it collapses the planning friction that used to eat half the short 8–15 minute LEO window. One free browser tab now gives you passes, Doppler, aiming, weather, and status—exactly what a working ham needs.

Visit https://leo.space and start tracking.





JOIN THE ARRL

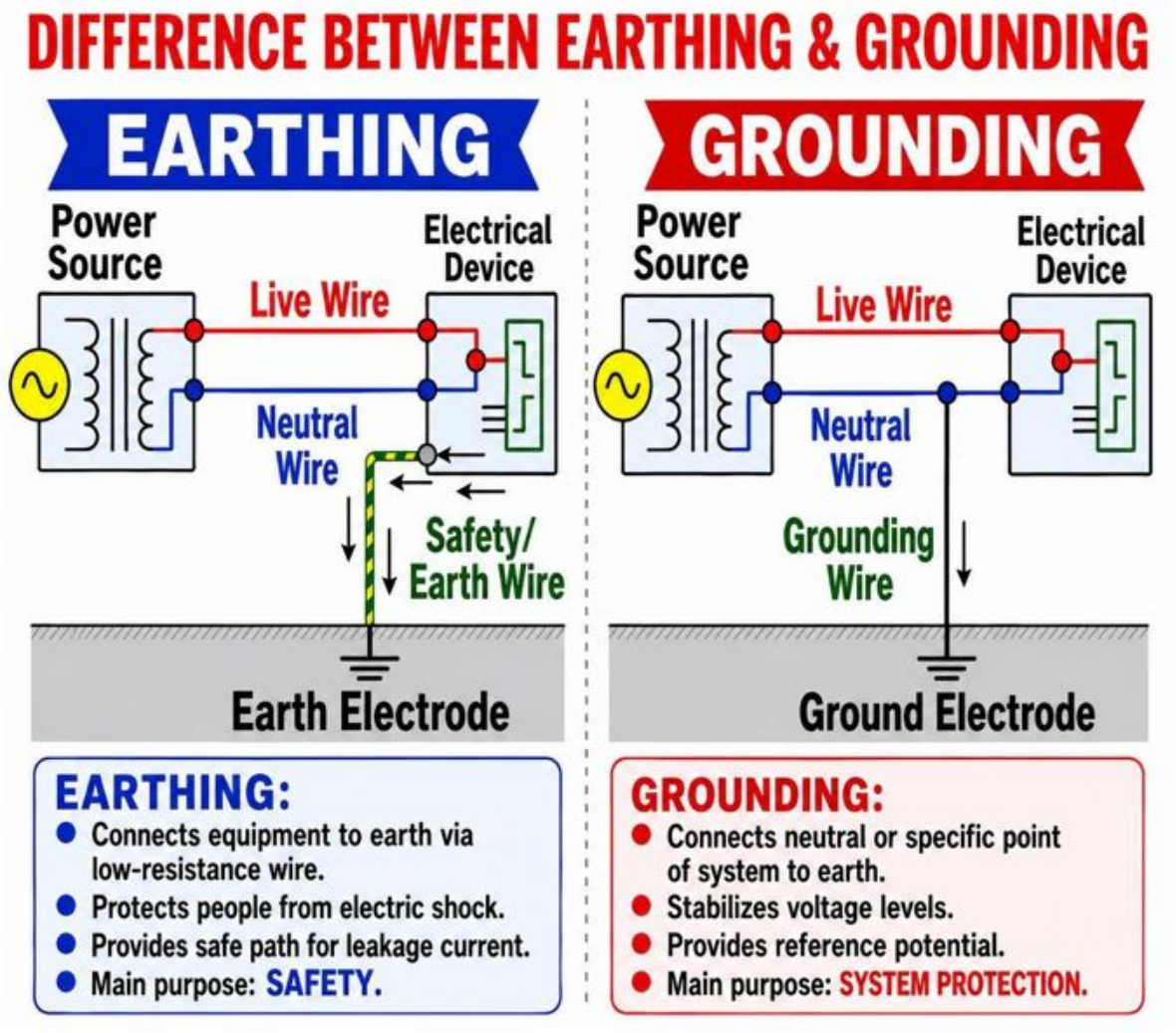
American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the leading organization for radio enthusiasts across the United States. The ARRL invites you to join a vibrant community of innovators, communicators, and explorers who connect the world through the airwaves. Whether you're passionate about emergency communications, 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!



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

A. A capacitor: it stores electric charge. It's a reminder that some basic ideas behind modern radio circuits were being explored long before radios existed.

PROGRAMS

Vice President Bruce Cameron K6IL (vp@k5prk.net) brings us a list of programs to look forward to this upcoming year.

- November – Nano VNA for antenna tuning – Katherine Forson & Ian Duncan
- December – Holiday Party
- January 2027- Fox Hunting- Katherine Forson
- February 2027 Tape Measure Yagi- Ian Duncan
- March 2027 DMR Expert Conrad Trautman
- April 2027 How to Energize a Ham Radio Club- Bud Trench AA3B
- May TBD
- June- Field Day Prep
- July Auction

SEE YOU AT THE

K5PRK Regular Meeting On

November 16, 7pm