



## **February Newsletter** **2022**

KCARC Meeting  
Monday, February 14, 7:00 PM  
Abilene Public Library - South  
At the Mall

WEEKLY NET TIME  
Thursday, 8 PM on 146.76 repeater  
(146.2 Hz tone)  
Club Website:  
<https://keycityarc.org/>

### **2022 Officers:**

David Andrews, WB5VIH, President  
Randy Robinson, N5JZH, Vice President  
Jacob Bachmeyer, KE5WHG, Secretary  
Tammy Harden, KB5NLP, Treasurer

### **The Prez Sez ...CQ CQ CQ...**

Greetings ... I want to thank Randy for conducting the January KCARC meeting in my absence. I caught COVID plus developed pneumonia. I was a very sick puppy. I even had turkey buzzards flying over the ham shack – they went away!! LOL!! The February agenda will be exciting. I am going to point a committee to update our club constitution and by-laws. We also need to discuss the upcoming 2022 Field Day plus, if we have time, I would like to present a program about the National Traffic System (NTS) and how to properly fill out the ARRL Amateur Radiogram. Once again, the best way to grow our AWESOME club is to get everyone involved in some sort of activity. I hope to see all on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February at 7:00 pm at the next club meeting at the South Side Library at the Abilene Mall. 73,

**David Andrews – WB5VIH**

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### **A Word from Tammy ...**

Reminder that 2021 dues are payable at \$20.00 per family, all living at one address, or \$15.00 per individual for the year. You can mail to:

Tammy Harden , KB5NLP  
KCARC Treasurer  
424 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Baird, TX 79504

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### **Upcoming Hamfests:**

#### **03/05/2022 - Irving Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**

**Location:** Irving, TX  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
**Website:** <http://irvingarc.org>

#### **03/19/2022 - 66th Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest, ARRL West Texas Section Convention**

**Location:** Midland , TX  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Midland Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <https://hamfest.w5qgg.org/>

#### **03/26/2022 – Belton HamEXPO**

<https://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/>

#### **04/23/2022 - Emory Hamfest**

**Location:** Emory, TX  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Rains Amateur Radio Association  
**Website:** <http://w5ent.org>

#### **06/17/2022 - 06/18/2022**

#### **Radio Fiesta**

**Location:** Schertz, TX  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** San Antonio Radio Club

**Website:** <https://w5sc.org/>

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## CONTESTS:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

### JANUARY

- *Straight Key Night:* 0000 UTC - 2359 UTC January 1
- *RTTY Roundup:* First full weekend of January, but never on January 1, 1800 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.
- *January VHF Contest:* The third or fourth weekend in January. See the [current rules](#) for this year's exact date. 1900 UTC Saturday through 0359 UTC Monday.

### FEBRUARY

- *International DX Contest - CW:* Third full weekend in February, 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

### MARCH

- *International DX Contest - Phone:* First full weekend in March, 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

### APRIL

- *Rookie Roundup:* Third Sunday, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

### JUNE

- *June VHF Contest:* Second full weekend in June, 1800 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday.
- *Kids Day:* Third Saturday in June, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC
- *Field Day:* Fourth full weekend in June, 1800 UTC Saturday through 2059 UTC Sunday.

For a more extensive Ham Radio Contest Calendar, check this website:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

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### CW Class Underway



Our KCARC president is teaching a CW class on Monday evenings at 6 pm at the library. Come early this Monday, February 14, and sit in on the class.



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### Geomagnetic Storm Leads to Loss of up to 40 Starlink Satellites\*

02/10/2022

A geomagnetic storm on February 4 “significantly impacted” the launch of some 49 Starlink

satellites. The company said the satellites were intended to achieve low-Earth orbits after being sent aloft on a Falcon 9 launcher. Starlink is a satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX to provide satellite internet access. SpaceX said it initially deploys its satellites into low-Earth orbit so that “in the very rare case any satellite does not pass initial system checkouts, it will quickly be deorbited by atmospheric drag.” All did not go as planned, however.

“Unfortunately, the satellites deployed on February 3 were significantly impacted by a geomagnetic storm on Friday [February 4],” SpaceX announced this week. “These storms cause the atmosphere to warm and atmospheric density at our low-deployment altitudes to increase. In fact, onboard GPS suggests the escalation speed and severity of the storm caused atmospheric drag to increase up to 50% higher than during previous launches.”

The satellites were commanded into a safe mode, where, as SpaceX explained, “they would fly edge-on (like a sheet of paper) to minimize drag — to effectively ‘take cover from the storm’ — and continued to work closely with the Space Force’s 18th Space Control Squadron and LeoLabs to provide updates on the satellites based on ground radars.”

A preliminary analysis showed that the increased drag at the low altitudes prevented the satellites from being moved into higher orbit, and up to 40 of the satellites will reenter, or already have reentered, Earth’s atmosphere.

“The deorbiting satellites pose zero collision risk with other satellites, and, by design, [burn up] upon atmospheric reentry — meaning no orbital debris is created and no satellite parts hit the ground,” SpaceX said.

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## Some New Rules Going into Effect this Year for ARRL Field Day\*

02/09/2022

After taking a few detours over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [ARRL Field Day](#) rules are being updated on a permanent basis starting this summer. ARRL conducted a Field Day community survey with invitations propagated far and wide, and direct emails sent to more than 15,000 individuals and ARRL-affiliated clubs. After sorting through, reviewing, and discussing the survey results, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee recommended a number of rule changes for ARRL Field Day, which will take place this year over the June 25 – 26 weekend.

Starting this year, the maximum PEP output for a transmitter used by anyone submitting a Field Day log will be 100 W. The power multiplier of 2 will remain in place, and the high-power category will be removed from the rules. Until this year, the maximum low-power limit had been 150 W for most ARRL-sponsored operating events. The power multiplier will remain at 5 for QRP participants running a maximum of 5 W or less. As previously announced, 100 W is now the low-power category limit for all ARRL and IARU HF Contests, effective January 1, 2022.

A couple of changes instituted initially as accommodations for the COVID-19 pandemic will remain. Class D (Home) stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations. The club aggregate scoring change initiated in 2020 as a temporary measure will become part of the permanent rules. In the aggregate scoring plan, the scores of individual stations are combined under the score of a single club.

Another change, involving Rule 7.3.2 Media Publicity, has been modified. Rules to date have

offered 100 bonus points for attempting to obtain publicity and demonstrating same. With the ease of posting via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and various other media websites, Field Day participants will now be required to obtain publicity, not just try to do so. Any combination of bona fide media hits would qualify for the bonus points. For example, posting the details of your upcoming or ongoing Field Day activity, or your Field Day results, on a club or news media site, on Facebook, or via Twitter and Instagram would meet the bonus criteria. Photos and videos are encouraged as part of media posts.

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## Heil Sound Changes Hands

02/09/2022

[Heil Sound](#) has changed hands. Founded by Bob Heil, K9EID, and based in Fairview Heights, Illinois, Heil Sound is a manufacturer of microphones, microphone accessories, and audio accessories for both professionals and amateurs. The new owners are Heil Sound President and CEO Ash Levitt and Director of Operations Steve Warford. Sarah Heil, who was co-owner of Heil Sound, has retired, but Bob Heil will continue to do outreach work and amateur radio product design as Founder and CEO Emeritus.

“My life has been about achieving great sound, whether on the concert stage or in the amateur radio world,” Bob Heil recounted. “I’ve watched Heil Sound go from a regional sound company to a world-class microphone manufacturer. This company has been my passion, but it is time for me to step aside. There is no better team to carry the company forward than Ash and Steve, and I have the utmost confidence in them.”

Heil Sound is a name well known within the worldwide amateur radio community for its microphones and “boom set” microphone/headset combinations. The company marked its 50th

anniversary in 2016. The company began in 1966 as Ye Olde Music Shoppe — a music store in Marissa, Illinois, Heil’s hometown.

Heil initially made a name for himself working with music performers to provide sound reinforcement for their live gigs, initially supplying full sound system packages for venues and festivals throughout the Midwest and later working with world-class acts such as Humble Pie, The Who, The Grateful Dead, and Joe Walsh, WB6ACU. Heil said it was the Dead’s Jerry Garcia who suggested the Heil Sound name. Among other innovations, Heil created the quadraphonic sound system for The Who’s “Quadrophenia” tour as well as the Heil Talk Box, made famous by Joe Walsh and Peter Frampton.

Levitt and Warford both started working with Heil Sound as teenagers, building and packaging products. Levitt took a different career path in academia for several years but continued to regularly consult with Heil Sound. He returned to Heil Sound full time in 2017 and assumed the role of president in 2020. Warford worked his way up in the company over the course of his tenure and, for the past several years, has been responsible for daily operations.

“Steve and I are honored to carry forward the legacy of Heil Sound,” Levitt said. “We care very deeply about Heil Sound’s role in the industry and intend to build on that going forward with new products and greater distribution. An important part of that role that we pride ourselves on is the connection we have with professionals and end-users. As a musician and former broadcaster, I have spent a lot of time on stages and in studios in front of a microphone and understand our users’ needs. I and everyone at Heil Sound share a passion for what we do because it helps others achieve their creative endeavors.”

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## **March 2022 Issue of QST to Mail Mid-February\***

02/04/2022

Due to the widespread paper shortage and related supply chain issues, the March 2022 issue of *QST* will mail approximately 10 days later than usual, arriving in homes the week of February 22. ARRL members can read the [digital edition](#) of the March issue now.

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\* **From ARRL website**