



March Newsletter **2022**

KCARC Meeting
Monday, March 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

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The Prez Sez ...CQ CQ CQ...

The National Weather Service (NWS) from San Angelo gave an outstanding presentation for those that wanted to become Severe Weather Storm spotters for the upcoming severe weather season that will soon be upon us. I saw many club members present and I hope you took some information away from the presentation. I know I did. For those that have never spotted before during severe weather for the NWS then I suggest you pair up with an experienced spotter. I do not encourage you to do it alone because there are pitfalls to storm spotting and knowing when and where to position yourself to observe a storm is important as well as leaving oneself an escape route. That is why I suggest to spot with an experienced severe weather spotter.

The “Steam-N-Wheels” Bicycle Race will be held Saturday March 26th. We need volunteers to help with the race and to keep all participants safe along the route. One thing has changed! TXDot has started construction on the routes along FM-600. Therefore, a change to the route has to be made. I have a meeting with Abilene Parks Division Wednesday and during the March Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting, I will advise those that wish to volunteer for the race on the new route.

The club needs volunteers to be the “Net Control Station” (NCS) on Thursday night’s Key City Amateur Radio Club Information Net. It is easy to be the NCS, just have the gift of gab and take check-ins and ask for any information that “Hams” have of interest to all.

I have inquired about using the Hamby Fire Department facilities for our Field Day Operations. I should hear soon if we have been granted to utilize those facilities. More information to follow at our next club meeting.

Randy, N5JZH, and myself as well as others are planning on starting a Technician Class License study program. It is in its planning stage but I’m sure we will kick it off this summer to get more folks involved with our WONDERFUL hobby!!!!!!

Lastly, we have our next Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting this Monday night at 7:00 pm or for us military folks at 1900 hrs at the South Side Library in the Mall of Abilene. I hope we have a record crowd and bring a friend that is not a ham operator.

David Andrews – WB5VIH
President, Key City Amateur Radio Club

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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. 4th 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>

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 Continues



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



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Crozet Island DXpedition Preparations are Moving Forward *

02/24/2022

The upcoming solo [Crozet Island DXpedition](#) spearheaded by Thierry Mazel, F6CUK, will likely arrive on the island around Christmas. While traveling aboard the *Marion Dufresne*, Mazel will make stopovers at other remote islands that are also rare DXCC entities, including Tromelin Island. The Crozet and Tromelin islands are administered as part of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (abbreviated in French as TAAF).

“After the permission granted by the TAAF and the DXpedition announcement, [the] time has come to gather the equipment and move forward with the preparations,” Mazel said. “The *Marion Dufresne* will leave Réunion Island on December 8, with a stopover at Tromelin to resupply the people there, then head for Crozet.”

Mazel expects to spend a solid 3 months operating from the Alfred-Faure base on Crozet. The *Marion Dufresne* will return on March 26, 2023, after stopovers at the Kerguelen Islands and Amsterdam, arriving at Réunion Island on April 16, 2023. He said dates may vary depending upon weather conditions.

His first task upon arrival will be to erect antennas and set up his station, for which he’ll need to enlist help from others. He’ll also have to contend with the weather, as Crozet is subject to strong winds.

No call sign has been issued at this point, although Mazel has requested one that will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the first amateur operation from Crozet in 1961 and 1962. To head off problems with pirates, the call sign won’t be released until after Mazel has arrived on Crozet, and just hours before he begins operation. Paul Granger, F6EXV, and Jean-Michel Duthilleul, F6AJA, will spread the word once that happens. Mazel had hoped to use an Elecraft K3 transceiver, but will use a pair of Kenwood TS-590 transceivers instead. He’s settled on 500 W ACOM 1010 tube amplifiers.

“I have asked the TAAF [for] permission to send part of the equipment with the previous ship supply mission leaving in November,” Mazel said. “It sometimes happens that, because of the weather during landing, not everything can be brought to the island. Imagine being on the island without a station!”

Mazel said much remains to be done, including finalizing antenna designs, securing winter clothing, and organizing scheduled contacts with school children via the QO-100 geostationary satellite.

“Crozet will be an ATNO [All-Time New One] for many, and you can’t afford missing it, as nobody knows when the next ham operation will take place from this #3 most-needed,” Mazel said in urging contributions to the DXpedition effort.

The last ham radio activity from Crozet was in 2009 by Florentin Bard, F4DYW, who operated as FT5WQ. The 2022 – 2023 solo DXpedition is anticipated to cost upward of \$60,000.

For additional information, visit the [Crozet Island DXpedition](#) website.

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The 5 MHz Newsletter Marks 10 Years*

02/23/2022

The first edition of [The 5 MHz Newsletter](#) appeared in the autumn of 2011, heralding the growth of the new 60-meter band to serve as a

propagation bridge between 40 and 80 meters. The newsletter, edited by Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, offers official news of new allocations and regulations as well as feedback from operators. [The latest edition](#) is No 28.

As a band, the US authorized a group of Experimental License operators to use 60 meters, while the UK discussed the issue, deciding that a number of channels could be feasible. UK hams had five 3-kHz wide channels to start.

Similarly, a band was not possible in the US, which settled on five channels. Other countries followed suit — sometimes with channels, sometimes a band, with a variety of power limits and modes. According to the newsletter, 85 countries currently have a presence on 60 meters. In 2017, the FCC invited comments on ARRL's *Petition for Rule Making* to allocate a new, contiguous secondary band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Service in addition to four of the current five 60-meter channels (one would be within the new band) as well as current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. In the US, the federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The FCC designated ARRL's *Petition* as RM-11785 but has not acted on it.

At last report, the Malaysian Amateur Transmitters Society (MARTS) said its telecommunications authority MCMC has approved a secondary 60-meter allocation based on the WRC-15 template. Radio amateurs there were waiting for formal paperwork to be completed before they could use the band. However, MCMC granted MARTS temporary licenses that permit the use of 60 meters for emergency communication and emergency communication drills.

“Hardly had this been granted than it was activated,” the latest edition of the 5 MHz Newsletter reported. “During the MARTS Annual

General Meeting on December 18, 2021, heavy rain began to fall, and MARTS activated its MDECC (MARTS Disaster and Emergency Communications Centre) under the call sign 9M4D. A significant number of Malaysian states were flooded, communities evacuated, and telecommunications lost. “The MDECC remained open for a number of days carrying their own as well as third-party traffic concerning situation reports and aid requests to the national disaster management agency,” the newsletter said.

MARTS now is transmitting in WSPR mode “from time to time” on 5364.7 kHz as 9M4BQC. The authorization is temporary. The beacon has been heard in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canary Island, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hawaii, Italy, Luxembourg, Manchester, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, UK, and in the US. Reception reports are welcome directly via [WSPRnet](#) or [email](#). — Thanks to *The 5 MHz Newsletter*

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[Ukraine Maintains Ham Radio Silence in State of Emergency*](#)

03/03/2022

Radio amateurs in Ukraine appear to be diligently maintaining radio silence as the state of emergency declared there just prior to the Russian military invasion remains in effect. A February 24 decree from President Volodymyr Zelensky included “a ban on the operation of amateur radio transmitters for personal and collective use.” The Ukraine Amateur Radio League ([UARL/LRU](#)) reported this past week that it has received many messages of encouragement from the worldwide amateur radio community.

“The LRU informed international amateur radio organizations about Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine,” said the message from UARL Vice

President Anatoly Kirilenko, UT3UY. “To date, there have been many reports from radio amateurs around the world in support of Ukraine.”

The International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) has adopted a neutral stance. “IARU is an apolitical organization focused on promoting and defending amateur radio and the amateur radio services,” the IARU said. “The amateur radio service is about self-instruction in communications and friendship between people.” IARU Region 1 has said it continues to monitor the development and expects all radio amateurs “to follow their national laws and regulations.”

IARU Region 1 also re-posted part of an [advisory](#) from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) HF Committee on February 27. “Any radio amateur currently transmitting from Ukraine is risking his or her life. If you hear a Ukrainian station, do not broadcast its call sign, location, or frequency — whether on the band, in a cluster, or on social media. You may be putting lives at risk.” The DARC’s overarching advice: “In the current situation, the best we can do is listen.”

Ukraine’s assigned amateur radio call sign prefixes include EMA – EOZ and the more commonplace URA – UZZ. Some stations with Ukrainian call signs may still be active, because an exception to the amateur radio ban was made for stations in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (eastern Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts), which have special legal status owing to Russia’s occupation since 2014.

In a Facebook [post](#), Poland’s IARU member-society PZK has offered available Winlink nodes in Poland for any licensed refugees. If you are a licensed amateur radio operator, you can send information by email to your relatives in Poland or Emergency Services via the [Winlink](#) system. Polish Winlink nodes are active on 160, 80, and 20 meters: SR5WLK, 3.5955 MHz USB;

SR3WLK, 14.111 MHz USB, and SP3IEW, 1.865 MHz USB.

W9IMS, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club — known for its special events commemorating major races at the Speedway — has posted a statement on its [QRZ.com profile](#) expressing its concern for well-known QSL maker Gennady V. Treus, UX5UO. The statement reads in part, “His last email to us said: ‘This moment we are safe, but we hear strong explosions near Kyiv. Do not know what will happen in nearest hours/days.’ We have not heard from him for days now. We are greatly concerned for Gennady and his family along with all the other citizens of Ukraine.” — *Thanks to [The Daily DX](#), PZK, and to Brian D. Smith, W9IND,*

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* **From ARRL website**