



ARRL The national association for
Amateur Radio®
CENTENNIAL
Advancing the Art and Science of Radio—Since 1914

ARRL West Gulf Division

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Director

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Vice Director

September 2013

Issue: 7

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2014 WGD / Delta Division Regional ARRL Centennial Convention



HamCom 2014 has been designated as the 2014 ARRL Delta and West Gulf Division Regional Centennial Convention. Collectively the Delta and West Gulf Division's

in cooperation with HamCom is seeking forum presenters that want to participate in HamCom 2014, June 13-14th in Plano, Texas.

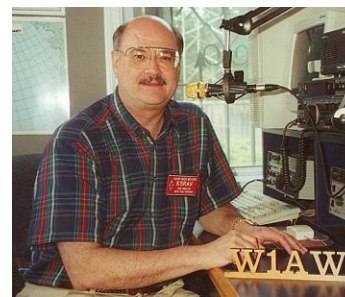
Please watch the WGD and HamCom websites for presenter registration information!

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From the Directors Chair



Fall has finally arrived in the WGD! Like a breath of fresh air, it brings a bounce to our steps and makes us look forward to the Fall Hamfests!

Vice Director Stratton and I would first like to thank the members that signed our nomination petitions for the current election cycle. The Ethics and Elections Committee did not receive any other Petitions for Nomination, and we were declared re-elected for the new term which starts on January 1, 2014. We have enjoyed our service and look forward to the next three years! Thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement in this process.

As you know, the ARRL will be celebrating its Centennial birthday in 2014. While we hope that everyone can attend the National Convention / Centennial Celebration "Advancing the Art and Science of Radio" in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-19, 2014, we recognize that this might not be possible. The ARRL Board of Directors has sanctioned Regional Centennial Conventions and the West Gulf Division has asked the Delta Division to join together to host a Regional at HamCom June 13th and 14th, 2014. We hope that you will plan on attending!

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Starting this month we showcase the new look for the Division Newsletter. The former distribution system from HQ has not kept up with today's technology. In this format, we no longer have to worry about errant "hieroglyphics". We can provide better content, have the ability to use photos and use live web links. Most of all, we can avoid delays in HQ's publishing the newsletter, which has caused important information to be delivered after an event has occurred. Now, we can immediately publish to the WGD website and only the link will have to be put into the HQ system. Please share your feedback with me on our new format by using the contact information found at the bottom of Page 5.

See you in Ardmore! 73's,
K5RAV

NG5V Rick Kirchhof Appointed



Rick Kirchhof holds the Amateur Extra call NG5V and resides in Austin, TX. He was first licensed in 1997 as KD5ABM. This was about the

time of the F5 tornado in Jarrell, TX. He got a quick taste of what emergency communications could mean in dire times. He became active in Travis County ARES and also the Austin Amateur Radio Club. Travis county ARES was the developer of the ARCHES hospital communication program. Rick did the original installs in several hospitals and developed process scripting and network management tools for the network. That program is still in use and has been copied as a blueprint for regional hospital backup communications in a number of cities.

He worked for Dell for almost 15 years and wrote their original network card test

procedures for returned service parts. Seeing the need for data comms in emergency response, Rick had been active in the original ARRL High Speed Multimedia working group along with several other Austin hams. When that group was disbanded, Rick and the others continued development. He and others formed the Austin HSMM development group which later published specific software for mesh networking using inexpensive consumer WiFi gear. That software is free and is in use by hams world-wide. It is available from Broadband-Hamnet.com

Rick currently serves on the board of the Texas Star Party, where he and fellow hams put up a portable WiFi Internet system for one week each year. It serves over 500 users and is the largest Internet cafe in West Texas. He is currently employed by a major TELCO and works in Austin. He is also an AEC with TCARES and is anxious to share the uses of broadband networks with hams in the West Gulf Division.

SCHOOL ROUNDUP February, 2013

Once again the WGD had a strong showing in the February 2013 School Club Roundup Contest. The Viking ARC (KF5CRF) out of Eisenhower Middle School Lawton, Oklahoma, achieved its first place finish in the Middle/ Intermediate /Junior High category with a score of 236,520 points having accomplished 810 QSO's while operating for a full 24 hours. Coming in second place was the Lampasas Middle School Youth ARC (K5LMS) with 103,360 points after operating 22 hours. KC5KBO League City Intermediate School placed 7th with 30,267 points and Thornton Middle School Wireless Technology Club placed 13th with 6,006 points.

In the Senior High Division, K5LJB High School ARC at the Liberal Arts & Sciences Academy High School in Austin placed 2nd with a score of 142,824 points, having operated 24 hours during the contest.

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In the College/University category, the UT Dallas ARC (K5UTD) placed 1st with a score of 222,234 points over a 23 hour time period. Joining them were WD5AGO Tulsa Community College and W5UNT, Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at University of North Texas, in 15th and 16th place respectively.

And finally in the Individual category, KF5SPP Mark Williams of Abilene finished in 5th place having scored 1,854 points in a 13 hour time period.

Congratulations to all of the WGD schools that participated in the 2013 February School Roundup!

(Results contributed by Paul Goulet, KC5CYY)

Got a Hook?

We would love to share your story, Amateur Radio thought or club activity with all of the West Gulf Division members – in the Newsletter, on our website, Twitter and/or Facebook. We would even love to see your best video work for consideration on the WGD YouTube Channel. Please send your proposed contribution to Director Woolweaver for consideration at K5RAV@arrl.org. Volunteer content contributors, please apply!

Texas QSO Party

It's that time of year again when the world works Texas, and Texas operators try once again to put all 254 counties on the air. In the last few years we've come close with several years above 250 but we haven't, in recent memory, put all 254 in the submitted logs. Therefore, I hope everyone is making plans to participate again this year on the weekend of September 28-29. I've volunteered to again keep track on the web of who is going to be operating from where by publishing the Active Stations Map - available on <http://www.txqp.net/> -- and to do that we need your input.

Once your plans are finalized, please send Chuck Sanders a note (the sooner the better and preferably no later than the Wednesday before the party) with the following information and he will add your operations to the map.

Fixed Stations:

1. Your call
2. Modes of Operation: CW Only, Phone Only, Mixed
3. Bands of Operation: HF only, HF+6m, HF+2m
4. Days of Operation: Both days, Saturday Only, Sunday Only
5. The county you will be operating from

Mobile Stations:

- 1-3 same as above
4. Saturday counties in the order you plan to activate them
5. Sunday counties in the order you plan to activate them

In listing the counties please use the full name of the county, not the abbreviation.

If the information is available early enough, the Active Stations Map can be a great tool for seeing where activity is currently planned and where more activity is needed. If you are a mobile and have flexibility in your route, check the Active Stations Map from time to time to see where additional activity is needed.

Please talk up the TQP in your club meetings. Questions can be directed to Chuck Sanders, N05W or to Keith Dutson, NM5G through the <http://www.txqp.net/> website.

73's, N05W



Broadband Networks

By, Rick Kirchof

NG5V

**Special Services Assistant Director
Broadband Networks**

Welcome to the broadband networks column. During Austin Summerfest, I was appointed as Special Services Assistant Director - Broadband Networks by West Gulf Division Director, David Woolweaver, K5RAV. I'll be providing material in this column to share ideas on amateur radio communications techniques gaining popularity in different areas across the country.

I believe amateur radio has reached an important turning point, one that has implications for all served agencies and hams who are involved in disaster response. This turning point is the concept of broadband awareness. Let me explain, If you have a home wireless network fed by a cable modem, DSL link or a fiber feed from your TV provider, you already use broadband. If you set up your wireless router yourself, you have already configured a broadband network. If you use a smart phone, laptop or tablet computer to connect to the Internet, you use broadband to do so.

Amateur radio is quickly able to deliver a range of standard services. We come to the scene with VHF and UHF voice nets, situational awareness, position reporting via APRS and long-distance communications via Winlink over HF. We can quickly organize ourselves to assist in site to site communications, event status reports, and the transport of small attachments along with email over Winlink. However, our served agencies don't normally operate in that manner. They have laptops and cameras. They request supplies and turn in reports via email. They call people in other offices or join conference calls, and view video clips or presentations of each other's pictures. This information moves between computers at an office and from this office to other locations via Internet protocol at broadband speeds. What amateur radio does NOT bring to the table is a data network that is faster than a dial up modem.

However, amateur radio can do more. New tools are now available to deliver broadband speeds in the field via battery-powered, portable computer networks that are quickly set up and used at the site. Tools available on these networks include Web servers to share information, network drives to provide reference documents, IP cameras showing live video, VoIP telephone systems complete with a portable PBX, ham responder tracking databases and keyboard chat services to assist hams who administer the network. These networks are set up and operated by network skilled amateur radio operators. When needed, the laptops, document scanners and local printers needed by our served agencies can be attached to these networks and used on-site.

To remain relevant in a data-driven world we need to expand the skill set of at least a portion of our member hams to deliver broadband services that allow served agencies to use similar tools to the ones employed in their offices.

Amateur radio benefits by raising the skill level of hams able to respond to disasters or specific events. Becoming broadband aware also presents amateur radio to the non-ham public filled with computer programmers, network engineers, and wireless or Wi-Fi specialists who believe amateur radio has nothing to offer in their world. It will also appeal to the young people who are smart phone users because they regard fast networks as second nature. These users aspire to be programmers and network specialists, systems administrators, and application developers, or authors of the next killer smart phone app. These non-hams should become members of the amateur radio community and contribute their skills doing something they enjoy. The "broadband aware" viewpoint needs to become a part of our public service activities.

In future columns, I will cover details of what now exists, how it can be used, and the training we need to undertake to do so.

73, NG5V

Planned ARRL Events for K5RAV and N5AUS

Director Woolweaver, K5RAV and Vice Director Stratton, N5AUS plan to attend the following upcoming events:

K5RAV

- Executive Committee Meeting, October 5, Denver, CO
- Texoma Hamarama, October 25, Ardmore, OK
- ARRL Annual Board Meeting, January 17-18, Windsor, CT

N5AUS

- Texoma Hamarama, October 25, Ardmore, OK
- 2014 Amateur Radio Fiesta, January 11, Schertz, TX
- ARRL Annual Board Meeting, January 17-18, Windsor, CT

ARRL Convention and Hamfest events are a great place to visit with the Division and Section Leadership! Each event will also include an ARRL forum where you can receive additional insight into Division and Section matters.

At anytime that you have a concern or just want to say hello, contact Director Woolweaver at K5RAV@arrl.org.

-- Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

10/25/2013 | Texoma Hamarama

Location: Ardmore, OK
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Texoma Hamarama Association
Website: <http://texomahamarama.org>

11/02/2013 | 15th Annual Coastal Bend Hamfest

Location: Aransas Pass, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: South Texas Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://n5crp.org>

11/09/2013 | NCTECH 2013

Location: Azle, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Tri-County Amateur Radio Club (WC5C)
Website: <http://www.wc5c.org/WC5CClub/NCTECH/tabid/152/Default.asp>

01/11/2014 | 2014 Amateur Radio Fiesta

Location: Schertz, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club
Website: <http://w5sc.org>

01/17/2014 | North Texas Section Convention (Cowtown Hamfest)

Location: Fort Worth, TX
Type: ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval
Sponsor: Lockheed Martin Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.cowtownhamfest.org>

03/01/2014 | 25th Elk City Hamfest

Location: Elk City, OK
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: West Central Oklahoma Amateur Radio Club

03/08/2014 | Williamson County ARC Hamfest

Location: Georgetown, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Williamson County Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://wcarc.com>

Contact Your Leadership

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