

# News from the Club Shack

## ZERO BEAT



Combined Publications this month of the Scott County Amateur Radio Society's *News from the Club Shack* and the KARC/BMRC's *Zero Beat*

November 2011

Volume 1 Issue 11 (SCARS Newsletter)

### ***Inside this newsletter:***

Reports on Club Meetings...2011 Gray Hamfest® Successful; will return next year...Club Members assist in Bays Mtn. Park's Halloween Haunt and take part in Susan G. Komen® Race...News for all Amateurs from the FCC and ARRL...Plus a Calendar of Events!

## **The KARC/BMRC Meets at a Different Location Nov. 10**

The Kingsport and Bays Mountain Amateur Radio Clubs will meet Thursday, November 10 at 7 p.m., at the West Park Professional Building, 914 Broad Street, Kingsport, TN. The meeting will be held in a conference room in the West Park Building basement. **Because the location is part of Wellmont-Holston Valley Hospital's Education Department, the hospital policy of the prohibition of firearms is in effect.** "I hope we have a good number of members present, and visitors are always welcome," said Billy Taylor, KI4TNS, and KARC/BMRC President. Among the important items on the agenda is a report by the Nominating Committee on Club elections for 2012. We'll also have a discussion of the Club's participation in the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade on Nov. 19.

**The next meeting** of the Scott County Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) begins at 7 p.m., November 17 at the EOC Building, Gate City, VA. Be sure to attend this meeting! Bring a visitor! Introduce your friend to amateur radio!

**All amateurs** and anyone interested in amateur radio are invited to attend these two meetings.



## **Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club Minutes for the October 13, 2011, Meeting**

The Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club met October 13, 2011, at the Toy Reid Eastman Employee Center, Kingsport, TN. President Billy Taylor, KI4TNS, presided and called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. In the absence of the Club Secretary, Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, was appointed by the President to record the minutes of the meeting. Since there was not a quorum for the September meeting, there was no meeting called and no minutes taken. Phil Alley, KE4FFO, gave the invocation, and Billy led the club in affirming our Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Treasurer's Report.** Billy read the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Treasurer Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW, who was absent.

2. **Repeater Report.** There has been some noise noted on the W4TRC Repeater, and Trustee Garrett Stanley, KJ4HKL, will check on this problem. Billy and Earl, N4ZFA, believe the feed line needs sealing because some water may be affecting it. **Also**, the Club voted unanimously to buy a power supply so the radio for packet mode can be set-up at the repeater site on Bays Mountain. Earl made the motion and Walt Baldree, K4YCP, seconded for the Club to look for and to buy a power supply at the Gary Hamfest on October 15.
3. **Chapter Website.** Chapter Webmaster Earl Oaks reported that he recently renewed the hosting and domain name for the website for another three years. He also invited everyone to check out the Chapter's website at <http://w4trc.org/>.
4. **Zero Beat.** Mike KI4OJO reported he prepared and mailed out a combined newsletter (*Zero Beat* and *News from the Club Shack*, the newsletter of the Scott County Amateur Radio Society) to 50 members of both the KARC/BMRC and the Scott County Club in early October. The members at the meeting agreed this action was appropriate since both clubs are joining in many activities and programs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Events and Projects.** Earl announced that he needs volunteers to work the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade November 19. Please be at the Chamber office on Main Street no later than 11:30 a.m. Volunteers will eat at 11:30, courtesy of the Chamber, and begin lining up parade entrees at 1-1:30 p.m. The parade begins at 3:30 p.m., as the CSX Santa Train arrives from its annual trip through southeast Kentucky and southwest Virginia. Please go to the Club's website and sign up to volunteer and work the parade, <http://w4trc.org/>. **Also**, Billy and Jenni Taylor, KI4TNT, said the Club has been asked to help with parking at the Halloween Haunt at Bays Mountain Park on October 28 and 29. The Club voted unanimously to agree to help with the parking at this event (Earl made the motion and Phil seconded). Please go to the website at <http://w4trc.org/> and sign up. David Gulley, KI4AAU, commented on the Club's good work at these events and the benefits of the relationships the KARC/BMRC has formed with the Chamber and other organizations. Mike, KI4OJO, commended David for his contributions when he served as activities director. The members present at the October meeting agreed.
2. **Upcoming Meetings.** The November 10 and December 8 meetings can not be held at the Eastman Employee Center, so Betty Jackson, KI4PWN, has received permission from Wellmont-Holston Valley to hold these meetings in a conference room at her office building, the West Park Professional Building, 914 Broad Street, Kingsport. Since the December meeting is when the Christmas Party is held, the members at the October meeting discussed food plans. Phil said the BMRC has some recreation funds available that can be used to buy a ham and/or another meat. Lynn Anderson, AK4GH, will check on the prices of buying a ham from Heavenly Hams. An announcement was made that Mike Otis, K0TIS, will present the November program on solar cells.
3. **Nominating Committee.** Billy announced the time is here to think about officers for 2012. A nominating Committee was named with Phil Alley,

Betty Jackson, and Lynn Anderson volunteering to serve. They will contact the current officers for their plans about serving another term. In the meantime, anyone who meets the qualifications as a member can run for an office.

4. **Gray Hamfest®.** Walt invited everyone to attend the October 15<sup>th</sup> Gray Hamfest®. He noted there is no charge for tailgating that will be in the upper part of the Gray Fairgrounds at the entrance. The Gray Hamfest Association® has spent almost \$2700.00 for prizes, and Walt said he hopes everyone can be there. A change this year is that handicapped parking will be provided around the buildings for the convenience of those folks who need this service.

Having no further business to discuss, Phil Alley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Mike Jackson seconded.

Respectfully Submitted, 13 October 2011

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Mike Jackson  
Acting Secretary

Billy Taylor,  
President

## **Scott County Radio Club Selects Officer Candidates for 2012**

**By Mike Jackson, KI4OJO**

At the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scott County Amateur Radio Society (SCARS), a slate of candidates for office for 2012 was selected to be in the Society's election at the December meeting.

Vice President Garrett Stanley, KJ4HKI, presided at the meeting and led the members in the pledge to the American Flag after Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, opened the meeting with prayer.

The officer candidates selected for 2012 were Jeff Flanary, K4LMP, President, Garrett Stanley, Vice President, Robert Hickam, KE4DNU, Secretary-Treasurer, Scott Newton, W4CSN, Equipment Manager, Ken Klotz, WA8IJK, Activities Director, and Ronnie Jones, KG4EZJ, Net Manager.



The slate of officers will be presented at the December meeting during which members can nominate other candidates before voting.

**Also at the** October meeting, members voted to hold a joint Christmas Party with the Kingsport and Bays Mountain Radio Clubs on December 15 at Mama's House Buffet, 2608 N. John B. Dennis Highway, Kingsport. The details for the event that begins at 6 p.m., will be announced at the next meeting of both clubs.

### **Contest News of Local Interest**

144 MHz. Standings as of August 1st 2011

**AA4H Carl Smith, Jr. Blountville, TN**

States Worked, 38; DXCC Entities Worked, 3; Grids Worked, 169; DX, 2,007 (km)  
Credit Statement: Jon Jones, N0JK. From "The World above 50 MHz," *ARRL QST*  
October 2011, Page 93

## 2011 GrayHamfest® Now History; “We’ll be back next Year,” Chairman Says!

By Mike Jackson, KI4OJO

“At this year’s GrayHamfest® we were again very fortunate with great weather and tremendous support from the ham community,” said Charlie Stuchell, K4CWA, chairman of the GrayHamfest Association®.

In evaluating the popular hamfest, Charlie observed that “every year for the past three years we have grown in gate sales. Just over three dozen more folks coming [this year], but tailgating has taken off nicely with some really good bargains.”

Two folks became Hams at Gray, successfully passing the Technician Class test, while two Hams upgraded to General and four passed the Amateur Extra Class exam.

“We are growing slowly,” Charlie added, “and in this tough economic time that in itself is a blessing, so we thank everyone for the support.”



**Left, are some of the Tailgaters who were at the 2011 GrayHamfest this year. Right, are the new Baofeng UV-3R radios that Billy KI4TNT and Mike KI4OJO bought at Gray.**

Prize winners were Jerry Littlejohn, KK4DWW, Kingsport, TN, who won the first prize, an ICOM IC-7000; Terry Richardson, KJ4ZGP, Whitesburg, KY, and Charlie Wicker, K4ITV, Bristol, VA, who each won the second place prize, a Wouxun KG-UV2D radio; Frances Waddle, KC4JFH, Chucky, TN, who won the third place prize, a 32 amp Alinco Power Supply; and, Tom Shuttars, K4FJW, Bristol, VA, who won a \$125.00 gift certificate from the Wireman. Hourly door prizes were also given away during the GrayHamfest®.



On the website at <http://www.grayhamfesttn.org/> is this note: **As the 2012 GrayHamfest® approaches, this page will begin to once again provide specific information. See you then.**

**As Charlie’s concluded his assessment of the 2011 hamfest, he emphasized “We will be back next year with great prizes and good times. MOST important is a chance to see old friends and to help St Jude’s Hospital.”**

My thanks go to Charlie, Walt K4YCP, and all the members of the committee for their hard work in providing another great hamfest, and I thank club photographer Jenni Taylor, KI4TNT, for taking these great pictures. I look forward to another great hamfest next year!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Nov.- Dec. 2011</b>	<b>Nov. 7</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>8</b> Election Day	<b>9</b> Nation- wide EAS Test, 2 PM	<b>10</b> US Marine Corps Day KARC/BMRC Meets, 7 PM Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>11</b> Veter- ans' Day	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> KARC/ BMRC Net, 146.970 MHz, 8:30 PM Game and Puzzle Week, 13-19	<b>14</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> SCARS Meets, 7 PM, Gate City, VA Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Kings- Port Christ- mas Parade, 3 PM
<b>20</b> KARC/BMRC Net, 146.970, 8:30 PM	<b>21</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>25</b> Black Friday	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> KARC/BMRC Net, 146.970, 8:30 PM First Sunday Advent	<b>28</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Dec. 1</b> WSCARES® Meets, 7 PM Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> KARC/BMRC Net, 146.970, 8:30 PM Second Sun. Advent	<b>5</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Day	<b>8</b> KARC/BMRC Meets, 7:00 PM Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> KARC/BMRC Net, 146.970, 8:30 PM Third Sun. Advent	<b>12</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> SCARS Meets/ Joint Clubs' Christmas Party at Mama's House Buffet, 6 PM Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> KARC/BMRC Net, 146.970, 8:30 PM Fourth Sun. Advent	<b>19</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>20</b> Hanukkah Begins for 8 Days	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christ- mas Eve
<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820, 8:30 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Hanukkah Ends	<b>29</b> Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Years Eve
<b>Jan. 1, 2012</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b> Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net, 146.820.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Skywarn™ Net, 146.700, 9 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**Scott County Amateur Radio Society Officers 2011**

Jeff Flanary, K4LMP, President  
Garrett Stanley, KJ4HKI, Vice President  
Scott Newton, W4CSN, Secretary/Treasurer  
Robert Hickam, KE4DNU, Equipment Manager  
Randy Smith, KR4AZE, Activities Director  
Ronnie Jones, KG4EZJ, Boone Trail Ares@/Races Net Manager  
Appointed Positions  
Jenni Taylor, KI4TNT, Club Photographer  
Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, Newsletter Editor

**Kingsport/Bays Mountain Radio Clubs' Officers 2011**

Billy Taylor, KI4TNS, KARC President  
Jeff Flanary, K4LMP, Vice President  
Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX, KARC Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW, KARC Treasurer  
Garrett Stanley, KJ4HKI, KARC/W4TRC Club License Trustee  
Rick Light, KG4WZG, BMRC Vice President  
Dave Stevens, WB2SIN, BMRC Secretary/Treasurer  
Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, W4TRC Webmaster/Net Controller  
Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, Newsletter Asst. Editor  
Billy Taylor, KI4TNS, Station Committee Chair  
Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, Activities Manager  
Jenni Taylor, KI4TNT, Club Photographer  
Walt Baldree, K4YCP, West Sullivan County ARES® Coordinator  
David Gulley, KI4AAU, W. Sullivan County ARES® Asst. Coordinator  
Betty Jackson, KI4PWN, W. Sullivan County ARES® Secretary  
Allen Lark, N4TBI, District 9 ARES® Coordinator

**At the GrayHamfest® . . . . .**



**At Gray, (above left)** Ron Jones KG4EZJ, Phil Alley KE4FFO, Mike and Betty Jackson KI4OJO and KI4PWN look at the pocket-size Baofeng HTs. **Right,** discussing “Matters of grave concern [that] were weighed with dedicated caution,” as Ray Stevens sings in “Shriner’s Convention” are clockwise Phil KE4FFO standing, Billy Taylor KI4TNS, Tom Price KI4CVU, David Gulley KI4AAU and John Taylor KJ4KYM. **Congratulating Tom KI4CVU (left)** for passing his Amateur Extra Class Exam is Earl Oaks N4ZFA. Photos by Jenni Taylor, KI4TNT.

## Over 900 at Bays Mountain Halloween Haunt, October 29



**Eleven Members** of the KARC/BMRC assisted Jenni Taylor KI4TNT and Club President Billy Taylor KI4TNS with parking and guiding visitors to Bays Mountain Park on October 29 during the Park's Halloween Haunt. **Seated at left** are members Earl and Robin Oaks, N4ZFA and KJ4NAW. **Standing** are Dave and Anita Gulley, KI4AAU and KI4MKM. Manning the overflow parking lot with Brenda and Ron Jones KG4EZJ (**inset left**) was Ken Klotz WA8IJK, **below**.



**Below** are some of the visitors and volunteers at the Bays Mountain Halloween Haunt. Jenni KI4TNT said over 900 visitors attended the event, and she thanked the KARC/BMRC volunteers who braved the cold that night!



The West Sullivan County ARES® Meeting on November 3 is cancelled. Walt Baldree, K4YCP, will have more information on future ARES® events later.

**A special thank you goes to Karen Fox, our PDF Converter this month!**

## KARC/BMRC Members Join Thousands in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® on Oct. 23



KARC/BMRC and Scott County Radio Club Members Robin KJ4NAW and Earl Oaks N4ZFA participated in the Tri Cities' Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® in Kingsport on October 23. Robin and Earl represented "W3's Angels" at Wellmont-Holston Valley Hospital in the event that drew an estimated 6,000 participants. Photo taken by Kathy Visneski, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Oncology Services

Also walking in the event were Betty KI4PWN and Mike Jackson KI4OJO who joined Betty's co-workers from Wellmont-Holston Valley's Education Department. From left to right are Betty, Mike, Karen Fox, Education Dept. Coordinator, Priscilla Redwine, Clinical Education Dept. Director, and Catherine Redwine, Priscilla's daughter. Photo taken by Allen Greene Photography.



Photos on this page are used with permission.

For more information on the Susan G. Komen® event go to <http://komentricities.org/>.

**Kingsport and Bays Mountain and Scott County Radio Clubs—  
Dedicated to Serving our Community!**

**KARC/BMRC Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Each Month.  
Scott County Amateur Radio Society Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.**



## News for all Amateurs from ARRL and the FCC!

### Nationwide EAS Test Scheduled Nov, 9

**WASHINGTON, DC—** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The nationwide test will occur on **Wednesday, November 9 at 2 p.m. eastern standard time** and may last up to three and a half minutes.

The EAS is a national alert and warning system established to enable the President of the United States to address the American public during emergencies. NOAA's National Weather Service, governors and state and local emergency authorities also use parts of the system to issue more localized emergency alerts. Similar to local EAS tests that are already conducted frequently, the nationwide test will involve broadcast radio and television stations, cable television, satellite radio and television services and wireline video service providers across all states and the territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

On November 9, the public will hear a message indicating that "This is a test." The audio message will be the same for both radio and television. Under the FCC's rules, radio and television broadcasters, cable operators, satellite digital audio radio service providers, direct broadcast satellite service providers and wireline video service providers are required to receive and transmit presidential EAS messages to the public. A national test will help the federal partners and EAS participants determine the reliability of the system and its effectiveness in notifying the public of emergencies and potential dangers nationally and regionally.

"The upcoming national test is critical to ensuring that the EAS works as designed," said Jamie Barnett, Chief of the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. "A national test of our Emergency Alert System, with the vital communications support and involvement of participants, is a step towards ensuring that the alert and warning community is prepared to deliver critical information that can help save lives and protect property," said Damon Penn, FEMA's Assistant Administrator of National Continuity Programs.

As the federal, state, tribal, territorial and local governments prepare for and test their capabilities, this event serves as a reminder that everyone should establish an [emergency preparedness kit](#) and [emergency plan](#) for themselves, their families, communities, and businesses. Anyone can visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) for more information about how to prepare for and stay informed about what to do in the event of an actual emergency. FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

**NEWINGTON, CT--**As the third quarter of 2011 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, began calculating the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, as well as the number of new licensees. "At the end of September, I saw that the number of hams in the US was high," she said. "When I started comparing that number with other years, I found that it was an all-time high." For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US.

"When looking at the three current license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- these numbers are impressive," Somma explained. "The number of Technicians peaked in March 2011 at 342,572, while in September 2011, we saw both Generals and Extras peak at 159,861 and 125,661, respectively. As new Technicians

earn their Amateur Radio licenses, and current Technician licensees move on to General and Generals upgrade to Extra, this can cause up-and-down fluctuations for these totals."

**GREENEVILLE, TN**—*The Greeneville Sun* newspaper recently ran a front page story on longtime amateur radio operator Charles "Cliff" Kayhart, W4KKP, who observed his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday October 14, 2011. According to the article, written by the *Sun's* assistant managing editor, Rich Jones, Charles is still active on amateur radio and has been active since he received his first license in 1937. Currently, he holds an Advanced Class license! Charles has displayed more than 300 QSL cards in his ham shack that is located in a former bedroom in his house. "Each card has a story attached to it," Charles told the *Sun*. The World War II veteran said he will remain active in ham radio, and that he is proud of his involvement and achievements since the 1930s. Furthermore, Charles pointed with pride to his Toyota Avalon and the license plate—W4KKP—"just like all Hams," he said.

## **NASA Announces Two Contests for Students**

### **GRAIL Spacecraft Naming Contest**

**NEWINGTON, CT**—The Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL) mission to the moon, also known as GRAIL uses two twin spacecraft orbiting the moon at very precise distances to create a gravity map of the moon. Accurate knowledge of the moon's gravity could also be used to help choose future landing sites on the moon. Now that they're on their way to the moon, the two robotic space-craft, currently dubbed GRAIL-A and GRAIL-B, need real names, ones that capture the spirit and excitement of lunar exploration. And NASA is looking for students to help with the naming duties.

U. S. students in grades K-12 are eligible. Entries should include the chosen names for the spacecraft, along with an explanation of why those names should be selected. Justification can be any length, from a short paragraph to a 500-word essay.

Entries are due Nov. 11, 2011. All entries must be submitted by teachers. For more information about the GRAIL mission and to submit entries via the online entry form visit: <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/grail/namingcontest.cfm>. If you have questions about the GRAIL Naming Contest, please email: [grailcontest@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:grailcontest@jpl.nasa.gov).

**Contributed by David Gulley, KI4AAU**

## **CW – the Old Twitter: in Code, Concise is Key**

**By Rick Lindquist, WW3DE**

I have to chuckle whenever I see the abbreviations texters use.

Morse code – CW – is the *old* Twitter. Many of texting's short forms are identical, or nearly so, to the ones CW operators have used for decades. Okay, Amateur Radio (or earlier) telegraphers did not invent the now ubiquitous LOL ("laughing out loud"), but C for see and U for you are veritable antiques. *The ARRL Operating Manual* provides a comprehensive list of common CW abbreviations; at least a few will look familiar to Twitter aficionados trying to stay within 140 characters. Hams also employ Q signals (often inappropriately on phone) that abbreviate commonplace questions and answers. Today's CW operators could take some lessons from Twitter users.

Why Morse Code?

Some may ask, "Why CW?" I like to quote MFJ Founder and President Martin Jue, K5FLU. He once told me that he enjoys CW because "it's different from any other way we communicate." Come to think of it, this may be why texting and Twitter are so popular.

Let's face it, though, hams are talkative. They love to sit and gab on the air, even on CW. But too many operators, even those spawned before Morse code disappeared as a licensing requirement for HF privileges, have not mastered the art of brevity, although the means to be brief are right at hand. Merely being proficient at sending and receiving at lightning speed does not, in and of itself, make you a great CW operator. Most of us can speak with reasonable skill, but few of us are renowned orators.

#### Deconstructing the Typical CW Contact

Far too many CW operators, oldsters and newbies alike, hew to the tried-and-true CW contact formula (report, location, name---*booooooring!*), and yes, *The ARRL Operating Manual* reinforces this approach. This format is not engraved in stone. Nor is it written that you have to send everything more than once on CW. This habit seems to be a holdover from the Novice days of yore, when the other station was far more likely than not to have poor CW skills or limited readability (how well you could *really* hear on that S-38C receiver?) --- or both.

As it is with texting and Twitter, brevity is a virtue on CW, even if you stick to basics. You may speak 150 WPM but send only 30 WPM on CW. *Tick-tock, tick-tock!* In my mobile CW days, I'd often reach my destination by the time the other operator has transmitted my report, his location and his name three times apiece (despite the fact that I'd sent a 599 report.

On the first go-around, do not send *anything* more than once! I say, *do not send anything more than once!* The other operator can ask for any repeats. Avoid unnecessary verbiage and pretty much all punctuation. For example, send QTH SEAFORD DE or UR 599 IN SEAFORD DE. There is no need for IS after QTH or even a comma between city and state. In like fashion, quickies such as UR 599 NAME [or OP] RICK BTU (back to you) BK (break) help to maintain the momentum.

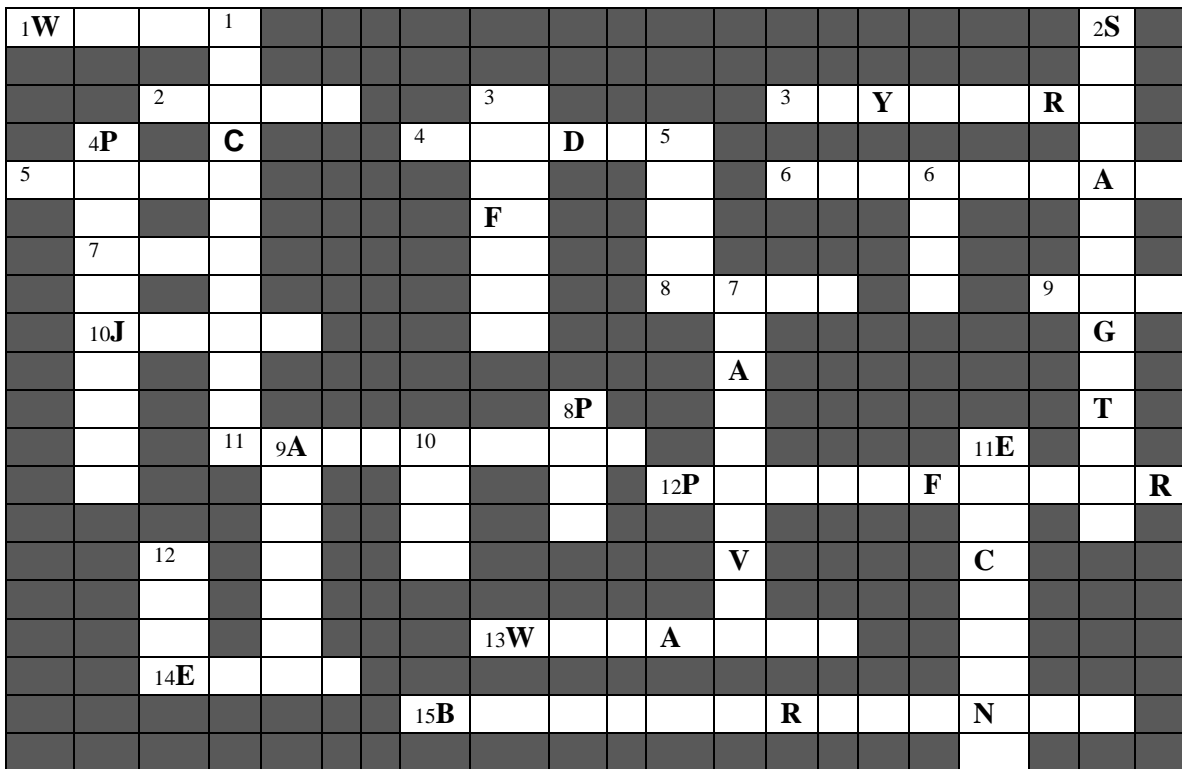
The FCC does not require a full-blown recitation of call signs after each transmission, so avoid cluttering up the ether with it (or causing the other operator to nod off). With full break-in (QSK) keying now common, a CW contact now can be much more like an SSB contact using VOX --- in short, more like a real conversation instead of a cryptic military communiqué'. One of my pet peeves is the tendency of keyboard CW operators is (1) spell out everything and (2) insert every comma, period and question mark. These are immediate cues that the other station is using a CW keyboard --- not that there's anything wrong with that. If you're a keyboard operator, resist the temptation.

For many years I took part in a morning roundtable of veteran CW operators on 40 meters and it was most influential in augmenting my code skills and knowledge of abbreviations. It was there that I first heard --- and learned --- the Morse prosign for the quotation mark (AF), for example, although you need not get *that* complicated. A few of the short forms that you might want to get into the habit of using include TMW for tomorrow, YDA for yesterday, GG for going, TK for take, GV for give, THOT for thought, TT for that, WNT for want, DE or FM for from (depending upon the context) and MITE for might. Some common CW abbreviations have the same number of letters as a full word, but fewer character elements, such as FER instead of for (texters use 4, which is shorter still). You may hear *real* OTs send EEK --- OK in *American* Morse code, but I haven't heard any younger operators use GR8 for great --- yet. Some Twitter and texting abbreviations may in time gravitate to CW, and that's fine too.

Think about what you want to say and consider ways to send that information more concisely. With a little practice, you'll find yourself getting a lot more out of each CW contact and add to your enjoyment of this vintage mode.

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**This article provided to the *ZERO BEAT* and *News from the Club Shack* newsletters by Paul Marcum, AC4QZ, Former *Zero Beat* Editor, - - . . . / . . . - -**



**November 13-19 is National Game and Puzzle Week!**  
**A HAM Radio and a “Bath Tub” Crossword Puzzle by KI4OJO**

**ACROSS**

- (1) WSCARES Coordinator
- (2) He’s K4LMP
- (3) On 146.700
- (4) Tracks Storms
- (5) He’s KE4FFO & Likes Deviled Eggs
- (6) Held in June
- (7) Bath \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) He’s KG4WZI
- (9) He’s K4GV
- (10) He’s KJ4KYM
- (11) Meets the Second Thursday
- (12) KI4CVU’s Other Hobby
- (13) Meets the First Thursday
- (14) He’s KARC/BMRC Webmaster
- (15) Held on 146.820

**DOWN**

- (1) News from \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Held on 146.970
- (3) Gray \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) She’s KI4TNT
- (5) Ham \_\_\_\_\_ Outlet
- (6) Married to Bonnie, KB4LAL
- (7) AC4QZ’s Other Hobby
- (8) KI4TNS’s Office
- (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Radio
- (10) Zero \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) Held at December’s Meeting
- (12) He’s KI4AAU

**“America’s quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies – amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes. After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. They are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public.” — Paul Harvey News and Comment, ABC Radio, March 19, 2003.**