

The Arclite

December 2008 Christmas Edition



A monthly Newsletter of the GARC

Issue 12, 2008

Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year! May the new year bring you untold Joy and Happiness.

73's

Skywarn School

Coming in February to the Granville Arts Center.

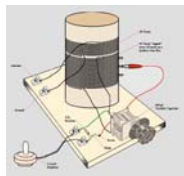
Page 2



Crystal Radio Photo

See excellent home-brew crystal radio set.

Page 3



Christmas Safety Tips

An article you wont want to miss by

David Coursey
Page 4



SOS DE WB2JSM

Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club needs your help.

Page 5



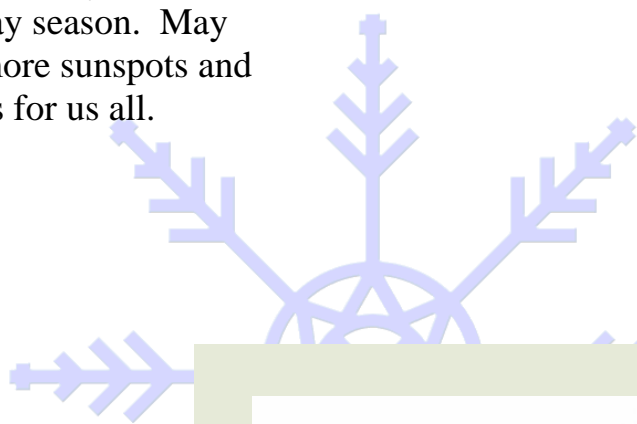
President's Pen

It was nice to see everyone at the club Christmas Party. Hopefully y'all had a good time. We happy to open our house for the event again this year.

Since the party is our December meeting we will resume our monthly meetings on Monday, January 26, 2009. I'm sure our VP Garland W5IDN will have an interesting speaker for us.

From our house to yours, have a joyous holiday season. May 2009 bring more sunspots and other goodies for us all.

73,
Bill



SKYWARN School

The Granville Arts Center in Garland, Texas

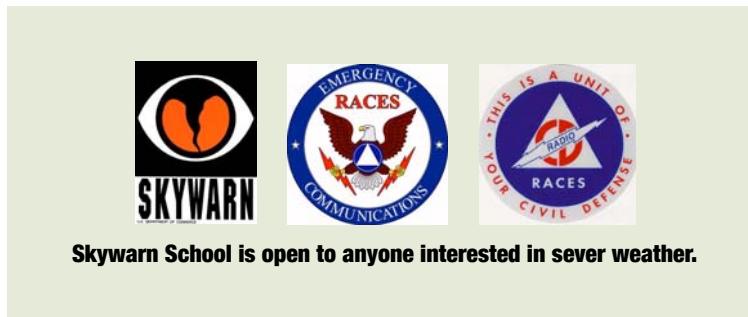
—Photo by N5GAR

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING COMING

Late winter brings a time of preparation for the spring storm season. Time to make sure our emergency equipment is in operating order and, of course, to attend Skywarn Spotter Training.

The National Weather Service will be holding day-long classes in the Metroplex counties and

shorter sessions in some of the outlying areas. 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.



Once again the Dallas County class will be in Garland at the Granville Arts Center on Saturday, February 21, 2009 from

Other area dates are: Saturday, January 24 at Collin County Community College in Plano Saturday, February 28 at

Texas Women's University in Denton Saturday, March 14 at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville in conjunction with the TESSA Storms Conference

The complete schedule is at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/sptrsch.html>.

ARRL North Texas Section <http://www.arrl.org/sections/NTX.html>

Crystal Radio Set

This is my last crystal radio. I wanted it to look old. I don't have high impedance headsets so I compensate with two transistors that are hidden on the base (hollow).

I hope you like it
Cheers,
Enrique

LU3MFE

A crystal radio receives programs [broadcast](#) from [radio stations](#). Radio stations use [sound](#) waves to modulate the [amplitude](#) of [radio waves](#) and transmit them from their antennas. Radio waves from all stations in range of the receiver travel across the crystal radio [antenna](#) and

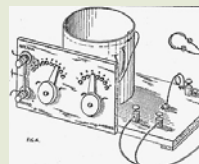
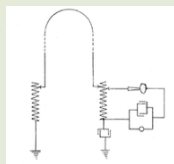
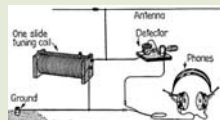
induce electric current between the antenna

wire and the [ground](#) wire. A [tuner circuit](#) is used to [select](#) the radio-frequency energy

from just one station. The [crystal detector](#)

(such as a [Cat's whisker detector](#) or [diode](#)) recovers the original sound

frequency current from the radio frequency carrier. The [earphones](#) then convert the recovered audio-frequency current back into sound.



Countless in depth articles on how to build your own crystal radio receiver are available on the World Wide Web.





Don't Let your Holiday Go Up In Smoke

By David Coursey david@coursey.com



Here's [a video I want you to see](#). It was made with your tax dollars and shows just how quickly a dry Christmas tree can burn. By 25 seconds, no one is getting out of the room alive.

Here is [another video](#), this one comparing a well-watered tree to the flammability of a dry tree. It is absolutely compelling in making the point that while a well-watered tree will burn, it burns slowly enough for your family to escape and the fire department to save some of your belongings.

The National Fire Protection Association offers some [safety tips](#) for Christmas trees. While I am sure that every reader of this newsletter knows everything that appears below, humor me, OK?

Last year in my community just after New Year's, an 18-year-old woman died and her two school-age cousins were sent to a burn unit. Guess why?

Picking the tree

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1-2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory (such as UL). Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use,

but not both. They should be labeled as such.

- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE AMATEUR RADIO STATION

Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club

founded in the 1970's and is a working exhibit at the New York Hall of Science, located in Flushing Meadow, Corona Park, in the boro of Queens, New York City.

Dear Fellow Amateur,

The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club-WB2JSM is putting out an SOS (save our station) call for your help. The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club has been demonstrating amateur radio to the visiting public for over 35 years as an independent exhibit at the New York Hall of Science Children's Museum located in Queens, New York. The museum is undergoing a major renovation project and wants us out for good. We have started a petition which we want you to sign and

circulate for us in order to help preserve a great ham radio asset by showing officials at the museum that you value what we do.

Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/6ljost> to read more about our plight and sign our petition. We have logged over 10,000 contacts from the station and even if you're not in our log your help will let us continue to talk up amateur radio and create the next generation of ham radio operators.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Golero KC2CBA Club Liaison Officer

Editors Note:

I suggest you send a christmas card with your support for the club. Written correspondence carries much more weight than anything sent via email.



www.hosarc.org

www.nyhallsci.org

GARC GENERAL INFO

Repeaters:

The GARC operates two open repeaters for it's members and guest amateur radio operators on 146.66 (-) and 442.7 (+) Both with PL Tone 110.9 Trustee: Bob Jones W5BJ

trustee@k5qhd.org

INTERNET:

See us at <http://www.k5qhd.org> also on Yahoo groups

Newsletter:

The Arclite is published monthly for the members of the Garland Amateur Radio Club. The contents of this newsletter are copyrighted the date of publication, but may be reprinted without permission in any Amateur Radio Publication provided proper credit is given and the motive is the advancement of amateur radio. The deadline for Arclite materials is the 2nd monday of each month.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership forms are available at the GARC monthly meetings or the GARC website. Members can be voted in at each meeting. Club Rosters for non commercial uses can be obtained by club members by contacting a board member.

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Garland, TX. 75040-5608

Where Ham Radio is Fun Again!

K5QHD is the Bill Folsdtadt Memorial Station



PLEASE RUSH!!!

Donate your excess goods to the GARC. Don't forget the club is a 501(C)(3) organization and that all your donations can be tax deductible.