



The Arclite

K5QHD
Garland Amateur Radio Club
Where Amateur Radio
is fun again

August 2010

Next GARC Club Meeting August 23

Garland Women's Activity Center
713 W. Austin Street
Garland TX 75040

Visitors are ALWAYS Welcome!
Bring a friend!!!

K5QHD 146.66-
442.7+

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Nantucket LV 112 On For International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend:

from [Bob Mannino](#) on August 19, 2010

Talk and listen to the world from Nantucket Lightship/LV-112
LV-112's Radio Control Room has been reactivated and will be participating in the International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 17, 2010

Contacts: Robert Mannino Jr., 617.797.0135, rmmjr2@comcast.net

Christine Paul, 617.797.5548, cpaul2@comcast.net

When: On August 21-22 (Saturday, 9am - 5pm; Sunday, 9am - 4pm)

What: Nantucket Lightship / LV-112, a National Historic Landmark, the most famous lightship in the world and largest U.S. Lightship ever built, has reactivated its Radio Control Room and will be participating in the International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend. Over 400 lighthouses, including lightships will be broadcasting and receiving messages utilizing voice broadcasting as well as Morse Code to and from over 45 countries all over the world (i.e., South Africa, Mexico, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Chile, Russia, Cuba, Europe, etc.) via HAM Radio from Nantucket Lightship's Radio Room. The United States Lightship Museum, stewards of LV-112, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is inviting the public to participate, especially children. Participants will be able to personally listen and talk with people from other countries on the radio. Although Nantucket / LV-112 is currently undergoing restoration, we are still scheduling events and limited tours on the ship.

LV-112's involvement in this historic event, is being made possible by the Volunteers from the USS Cassin Young (Charlestown Navy Yard / National Park Service) HAM Radio Group. The Cassin Young Radio folks are also volunteering their time and effort to restore and operate LV-112's original Radio Room.

Purpose: The basic objective of the event is to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration, to promote amateur radio foster International goodwill, and to create awareness of Nantucket Lightship / LV-112's historic contributions to the international community.

Where: Nantucket Lightship / LV-112, berthed at the Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina, 256 Marginal St., East Boston (Along the Harborwalk at the end of the pier). Closest MBTA subway stop is Maverick Squa

1st Communication Satellite: A Giant Space Balloon 50 Years Ago

By Charles Q. Choi

SPACE.com Contributor

posted: 18 August 2010

04:20 pm ET

People on Earth may take for granted today's high-tech world of cell phones, GPS and the satellites high above the planet that make instantaneous communication possible. But it all began 50 years ago with one giant space balloon.



Echo 1, the world's first [communications satellite](#) capable of relaying signals to other points on Earth, soared 1,000 miles (1,609 km) above the planet after its Aug. 12, 1960 launch, yet relied on humanity's oldest flight technology — ballooning.

Launched by NASA, [Echo 1](#) was a giant metallic balloon 100 feet (30 meters) across. The world's first inflatable satellite — or "satelloon," as they were informally known — helped lay the foundation of today's satellite communications.

"Instantaneous global telecommunications fundamentally altered our lives, and this was the beginning of it," said former NASA chief historian Roger Launius, a senior curator in the space division at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

A true communications satellite

The idea behind a communications satellite is simple: Send data up into space and beam it back down to another spot on the globe. Echo 1 accomplished this by essentially serving as an enormous mirror 10 stories tall that could be used to bounce communications signals off of.

While, Echo 1 was not the first satellite to broadcast a message from space (a recorded Christmas greeting from President Dwight Eisenhower was transmitted in December 1958 during the Project SCORE satellite test), it was the first to facilitate two-way, live communications.

Echo 1 was made of a 31,416 square-foot (2,918 square-meter) sheet of Mylar plastic film only 12.7 microns thick, or roughly one-tenth the width of a human hair. That sheet was covered smoothly with 4 pounds (1.8 kg) of reflective aluminum coating. Altogether, with inflating chemicals and two radio tracking beacons powered by five storage batteries and 70 solar cells, the balloon weighed just 132 pounds (59.8 kg).

The satellite now commonly known as Echo 1 was actually formally named Echo 1A. The original Echo 1 was destroyed after a failure in the rocket designed to launch the giant ball into space, which scientists had dubbed Shotput.



PRESIDENT'S PEN

I would like to poll the members for suggestions on what you want the GARC to accomplish the rest of the year. What guest speaker topics would interest you? Do you have an interest in EchoLink or other wireless technologies? How can we boost our training program? How can we reactivate inactive club members?

You can email me directly at president@k5qhd.org or the whole board at board@k5qhd.org

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UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Public service events are an excellent way to hone your communicating skills so you can be a valuable resource in an emergency situation. If you are a first timer let the coordinator know and you will be assigned accordingly.

Blackland Triathlon

Monday
September
6
2010

The Blackland Triathlon will be held Monday, September 6, Labor Day. The Kids race starts at 7:00 a.m. sharp and the Adult race starts at 8:45 a.m. It should be over before Noon. The website is: www.blacklandtri.com/ Easiest parking is at the Plano Center, and walk across Jupiter. There is also parking at CCCC, but you have to get there early, and will not be able to leave until everything is over as the CCCC streets are closed during the event.

Net control will be located near Oak Point Recreation Center. Briefing for all Amateur Radio volunteers will be there at 6:15 a.m. At 6:30 a.m. you will head to your assignments.

Some assignments will be shadows, where you follow the person you are assigned. And other assignments will be stationary, watching and helping at certain intersections. If you have a stationary assignment bring something to sit on. If you have any special needs let us know and we will assign accordingly.

Everyone should be able to talk to net control with a HT and we will operate on simplex and if necessary the K5PRK UHF repeater. Sign up with Kipton Moravec kip+kdream.com or John Galvin n5tim+arrrl.net. We will need about 20 people.

Saturday
September

11
2010

Cowtown Classic Bicycle Ride

Communicators,

The Cowtown Classic Bicycle Ride is only a little over a month away on 11 Sept 2010. This is an annual event organized by the Kiwanis Club of Fort Worth Southwest. It benefits the Cook Children's Hospital Life after Cancer Program and Kiwanis Sponsored Youth projects. Again this year it will operate out of North Crowley High School. The three courses will cover parts of Tarrant and Johnson counties. We will need approximately 35 operators to take care of all of the assignments. Assignment times range from 0600 until about 1400 on Saturday, 11 Sept. Please help pass the word and let me know if you can work the ride as soon as possible. I can be reached at 817-292-5633 or by e-mail at w5iu+swbell.net.

73, Keith, W5IU
Communications Coordinator

More public service information available at <http://www.qsl.net/n5tim/uplist.html>



GARLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Board Meeting MINUTES

Monday, August 2, 2010

Attendees Present: John Honeycutt(W7ZTF), President
Rosina Will (N5ROS) Vice President
Bob Brunskill (KC5GM) Treasurer
Ralph Brown (K5WRB) Communications Officer
Allen Yoder(NG5Y), Arclite Editor
George Norwood (KE5KDO) Education Officer

Attendees Absent: Lowell Allen (KD5RFD), Secretary'

Visitors: EH Nail (WT5Q)

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm, by the President. A quorum of members were present.

Repeater Report:

EH Nail reported that someone has been interfering with the repeater. Unfortunately it is someone who has the codes to access the repeater. The issue was discussed in detail and a couple of options to address the issue were noted and was going to be attempted.

Treasurers Report:

The Treasurers Report was given by Bob Brunskill KC5GM. Mr. Brunskill reported the financials from the Repeater Fund and General Fund. Details regarding the current membership was discussed. The report was supplied and noted.

A motion was made and carried that the report the report be approved as reported.

Report from the Education:

George Norwood commented that he is going to publish the training sessions and would come up to the ECC if someone said they would be there for training. More times than he comes over for training and no one shows up. This was discussed and agreed upon that George would not make the trip and use the electricity to light and cool/heat the club.

Arclite Report:

Allen would have the minutes and items published in the Arclite when available.

Communications Report:

Ralph gave a report that certain tools were needed for the antenna trailer as well as the fenders for the trailer. Also noted was

an inventory of items in the club and at different offsite locations were in need of an update. It was also noted that anything taken from the club for an event needed to be checked out and approved by the Board. This has not been done in recent events and a form was there for such events. We needed to start keeping a log again.

Fire inspection showed our Fire Extinguisher needed to be checked. The members voted to get the Extinguishers up to code.

Vice President Report:

Discussed the direction of General meetings and topics planned. Have approached several people as speakers for the topics have not gotten dates back yet from those speakers. The Kroger program is in process and should have an update before the meeting.

President Report and Discussions:

John reported on several items that were discussed at meetings. And the members of the Board discussed in greater detail.

WinLink Station: Why is it locked? This computer is the property of RACES and was agreed upon to be in the club. Certain protected information is on that computer. Signage is on the computer already.

Club Room: It was discussed that the inside and a couple of items were needed to improve our room.

- Chain put back on door to keep from slamming. (Thank you to Ralph).
- The window that holds the air conditioner needs to be repaired Tinting the window after would cut down on the amount of heat and provide some security.
- Painting and carpet cleaning was needed

Bylaws: At the last meeting we discussed the dues. The bylaws state that dues were \$ 12.00 and we were charging more than that. Several Board members remember that this was discussed and voted on. Mr. Brunskill would look at past minutes to verify and get back to the Board.
Charter membership needed to be added in a couple locations.
Instead of Novice: Minimum license recognized by the FCC would be used.

Roster: Needed to be updated. Several items were noted in the past that still were not updated. Allen has sent a couple of e-mails on his own accord asking for updates several responses received were positive and membership can be changed accordingly. from members; on his own.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm being there was no other business to discuss.

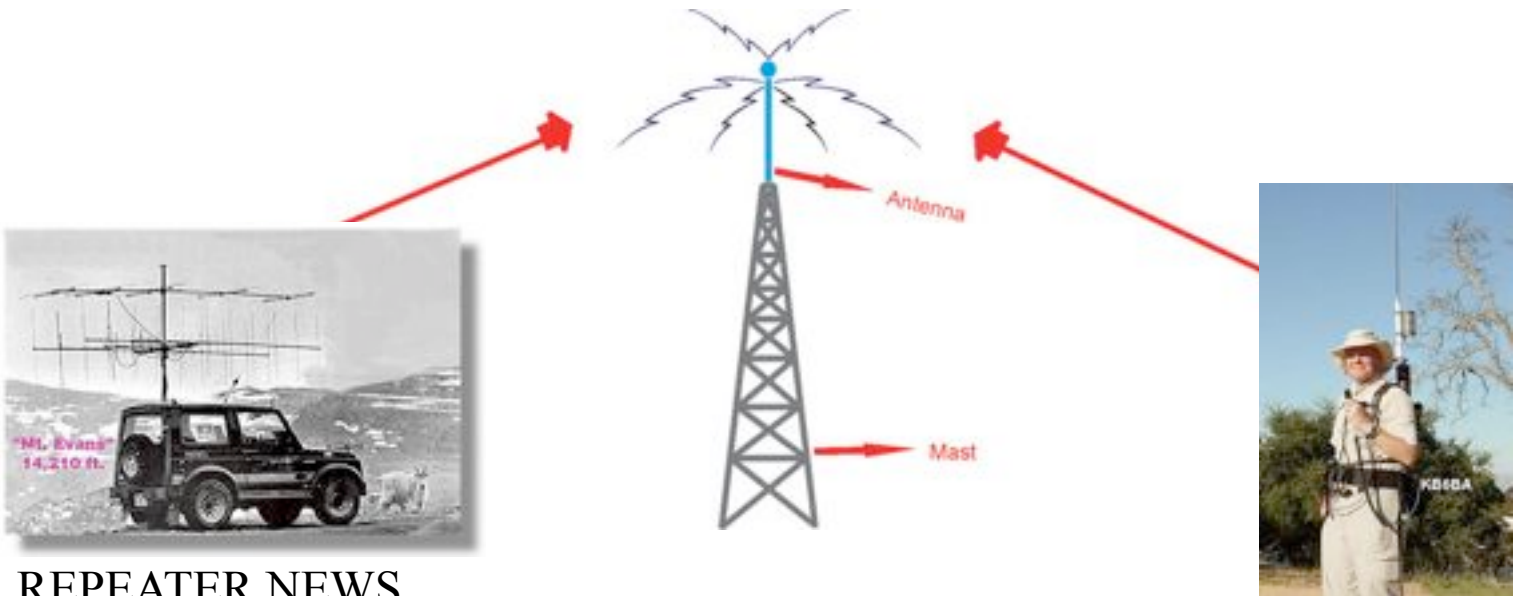
Strays:

Alex Cole NX5C: I was a member of the GARC in the 80's. The other day I was talking with EH Nail and in passing asked him if he knew anyone who has a house bracket for a tower and he asked me to contact you to see if this request could get included in you news letter since the GARC no longer has the Monday night net.

e mail ACole73968@aol.com



Thanks, 73's Alex



REPEATER NEWS

The club operates two open repeaters for use by any licensed amateur radio operator. One is on 146.660 MHz with a negative 600 KHz offset and the other is on 442.700 MHz with a positive 5 MHz offset. Both repeaters require a PL tone of 110.9 Hz. Additionally the 146.660 repeater transmits a tone of 110.9 Hz to enable use of tone squelch found on most receivers. On occasion, the “friendly” 146.660 backup repeater is put into service. Operationally, it functions just like the primary.

If you are not familiar with the Club's guidelines for usage of our repeaters please take a few minutes to look them over. They are accessible on our web site under “Club Information” then “Repeater Use Guidelines.”

Please thank our communications officer, Ralph K5WRB, for his efforts in keeping our repeater system up and running.

Tuner Adjustment Procedure

By Bob Jones, W5BJ

The purpose of this procedure is to properly adjust manual tuners (commonly referred to as antenna tuners) to achieve optimum performance from the tuner and present a favorable load for the transmitter. This procedure applies to all manual tuners regardless of type.

Presets:

- A. Configure equipment as shown in the Figure.
- B. Set signal source (transmitter/transceiver) to desired frequency.
- C. Set signal source up in cw mode to deliver enough power to give a clear indication of reflected power on the VSWR meter. This should be no more than 15 watts.

Hint - An excellent signal source and VSWR indicator is an antenna analyzer, such as the MFJ-259. Others makes will work equally as well.

- D. Set capacitor(s) on tuner to mid scale (half mesh).
- E. Set inductor to one end of its range (either end - it doesn't matter).

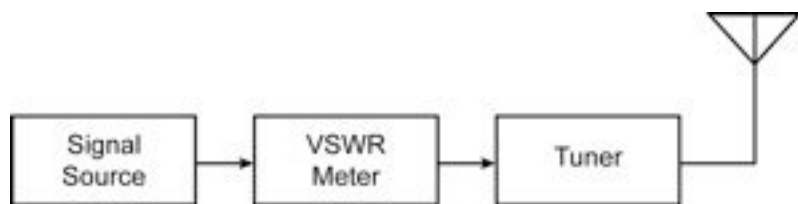
Procedure:

1. If you have a receiver connected, adjust the inductor for maximum receive noise or signal strength if you have a signal present.
2. Apply a cw signal and adjust inductor for minimum reflected power as shown on the VSWR meter.
3. Alternately adjust capacitor(s) for minimum reflected power.

CAUTION - PAY NO ATTENTION TO FORWARD POWER INDICATION WHILE ADJUSTING FOR MINIMUM VSWR.

4. It may take several repetitions of Step 3 to achieve the lowest VSWR. If a roller inductor is used, it may be necessary to readjust the inductor again for minimum reflected power.
5. If using a transmitter/transceiver as a signal source, return it to its normal operating condition.

End of Procedure



Figure



Upcoming VE Exam Sessions

Upgrade!

1 EXAM SESSION

08/26/2010 | Garland TX 75040-4903

Sponsor: K8DNE VE Team

Location: Freeman Heights Baptist Church

Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

2 EXAM SESSION

09/11/2010 | Dallas TX 75209-2652

Sponsor: Dallas ARC

Location: Business Jet Center

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

3 EXAM SESSION

09/12/2010 | Plano TX 75074-5078

Sponsor: North Texas VE Team

Location: 4th House on Left East of Avenue P

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

4 EXAM SESSION

09/16/2010 | Desoto TX 75115-3838

Sponsor: SW Dallas County ARC

Location: Windsor Park Baptist Church

Time: 7:00 PM (No walk-ins)

[Learn More](#)

5 EXAM SESSION

09/18/2010 | Irving TX 75061-4255

Sponsor: Irving ARC

Location: Betcha Bingo #2/Mapsco 31A-Q

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

6 EXAM SESSION

09/18/2010 | Wylie TX 75098-7704

Sponsor: Plano Amateur Radio Klub

Location: Wylie Methodist Church

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)



HMMM... "A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion."

Upcoming Birthdays

Garland Newman W5IDN



GARC K5QHD

June 2010

Garland Amateur Radio Club
Emergency Communications Center
(ECC)
1027 Austin Street Suite B.
Garland, TX. 75040-5608
Where Ham Radio is Fun Again!

**K5QHD is the Bill Folsdtadt
Memorial Station**



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.

Note: No trees were killed in the sending of this message. However, a large number of electrons were terribly inconvenienced.