



Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

DETARC, Inc.
Lufkin, TX

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Roger K0YY Editor,
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President's Comments:

Steve KG5ODZ, kg5odz@arrl.net



I hope that 2017 is a prosperous and healthy year for everyone.

Starting a new year wouldn't be complete without resolutions, so I'd like to reach out to everyone to see what we'd like to do this year with our hobby, as a group and individually.

We are blessed with a wonderful group of amateur operators and aficionados, aka "Elmers" that are more than willing to help and share their knowledge and experience.

We now also have the facilities, with the Armory (which after some work and tinkering) will allow us to have our very own DETARC HF/VHF/UHF station for learning and fun.

Essentially, we have a blank slate to take this wherever we want to go, but we need feedback from the group regarding goals, objectives, and individual interests to make this both fun and beneficial for the group.

It's also going to need some commitment and some occasional elbow grease, from everybody, to pitch in to the best of their abilities to get things going-- but it all starts with your input.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the officers via the email reflector or on our nets with any ideas or goals you might have or want to share.

2017 is going to be an exciting year for our group, so stay tuned!

73, Steve Capp, KG5ODZ, DETARC, President

Club Officers: President- Steve KG5ODZ, Vice President/Repeater Trustee- Mike WD5EFY, Secretary- RM K5AGE, Treasurer- Randy N5CRW.

DETARC Club Web Page: www.detarc.net

DETARC Email Reflector: To join send an email request to: detarc@detarc.net

DETARC Meeting Times/Location: Fourth Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the old armory on Tulane Drive, across from Kiwanis Park.

DETARC/ARES Net: 146.940 MHz-600, 141.3 CTCSS. Every Tuesday at 8 PM, alternates 147.360+600 MHz, 141.3 CTCSS, or 146.42 Simplex.

ARES Wide Area Net: The third Monday at 8:30 PM on the 94 repeater. The 94 repeater is linked to several regional repeaters for this wide area net.

Texas ARES HF Net: Mondays 7:30 PM, 3.873 MHz. Lufkin is in District 2. Check in by district.

DETARC Repeaters: 146.940 MHz-600, 141.3 CTCSS, W5IRP-R, high level repeater with emergency linking to most regional repeaters. 147.360+600, 141.3 CTCSS, local coverage. 146.980-600, CTCSS 141.3 (in Alto). 444.975+5 MHz, CTCSS 107.2 local coverage with an Echolink node and an Allstar link node. Allstar

Sysop- Kris K5KRK, Echolink node-- K5KRK-R,
Allstar node-- 27272.

DETARC also supports APRS and WinLink:
APRS Digipeater and Igate 144.390 MHz (Lufkin)
WINLINK node 145.050 MHz (Lufkin)
(Packet Radio repeater/node)

DETARC News:



Great news, the city has installed bars on our armory Comm Room window. We can now start working on the room to get our station installed— Thanks to Mike WD5EFY.

DETARC/ARES upcoming projects:

Old Armory ARES Comm Room work party, stay tuned. Check on the nets for further information.

FIELD DAY, June 24-25th. Possibly at our new armory station.

Upcoming Contests/Events:

CONTESTS:

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest Feb 11 to Feb 12
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW Feb 18 to Feb 19
North American QSO Party, RTTY Feb 25-Feb 26

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Local events—The Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club will sponsor 2 Special Event Stations (SES) in 2017. The Space Shuttle Columbia SES will be Feb. 4-5 using the call K5C, and a new San Jacinto Day SES will be Apr. 21-23 using the call K5T. See here for details. <http://w5nac.com/news/02/04/2017> | Groundhog Day Special Event Station 02/13-17/2017 ARRL School Club Round Up 02/22/2017 | 59th Daytona 500/2017 Speedweeks

HAMFESTS:

Orange Hamfest, Saturday February 25th, 2017, Orange County Convention Center, 7:30 AM to 2 PM, 11475 FM 1442, Orange, TX.
http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20NFO/hamfest%20info.htm

ARRL State Convention Hamfest: March 24 & 25, 2017 County Fairgrounds. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, TX. Presented by the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. See <http://houstonhamfest.org/> for more info.

Interested in going? Speak up, maybe a group will get together from Lufkin.

For further details on contests/special events:

www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

Amateur Radio Emergency

Service® (ARES) Roger K0YY,
Emergency Coordinator (EC). k0yy@arrl.net

Steve KB8QWN Assistant EC (AEC)



Come Join Us!

Did you know: ARES is a part of the ARRL national organization for Ham Radio with support at the state and district level. Roger K0YY is the Angelina County EC — Mike WD5EFY is the District 2 District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the surrounding Counties – ARES District 2 is part of the South Texas Section (STX) -- the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) is Jeff KE5FGA. More STX ARES information is at www.arrlstx.org

Trained and Ready? ARES members, are you prepared for an emergency? Do you have an equipment Go Kit set up? Is your family and home covered while you are supporting emergency operations? Do you understand ARES Operating Principles and Operational Procedures? Check them out on the ARES Page at www.detarc.net. Bring up questions at the ARES meetings.

ARES goals for 2017 include:

1. Training and on-the-air operation on the WinLink (old RMS) software for both VHF and HF operations

2. An SET with operators at actual deployed locations such as hospitals, shelters, and EOCs.
3. Establishing the ARES Comm Room at the old armory and getting VHF/UHF and an HF station on the air.
4. Net Control training for all members.

To join our **ARES email reflector**, send an email request to ares@detarc.net.

Did you know: The ARRL sends out a monthly ARES E-letter with information for ARES members who are members of ARRL. See page 5 for an excerpt from the ARES E-Letter.

ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/>

OPERATING:

Tone Decode--CTCSS Tone Usage on VHF/UHF:

Most operators know about using a Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS) tone, often called Tone Encode, to activate repeaters. Our own DETARC repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 141.3 Hz to "open up" the repeater and allow user transmitted signals to be repeated.

Some operators aren't familiar with using Tone Decode, some manufacturers call it Tone Squelch, to block undesired signals from competing with local desired repeater signals. This is the case locally when distant signals from the Houston or Austin 146.94 repeaters reach our location through propagation ducting.

Tone Decode works when a local repeater either generates a CTCSS tone or passes it through from a user's transmitted signal to be received by other user's radios. When users turn on Tone Decode in their radios, only a repeater signal with the selected tone (a 141.3 tone is generated by our 94 repeater) will be passed through that user's radio.

To summarize, local operators can usually block these distant interfering signals by using the Tone

Decode feature on their radios. This is done by turning on the Tone Decode feature of your radio **AND** selecting CTCSS tone 141.3 for the Decode tone. Check your radio's manual for how to turn on this Tone Decode feature.

When you use Tone Decode, the Houston and Austin repeaters won't be heard since they are not transmitting a 141.3 tone. Their signals will not normally pass through your radios receiver to be heard by you locally.

Using Tone Decode may not solve the interference issue in certain cases, but it will work for most instances.

Factoid: Some old timers refer to CTCSS as "PL" for "Private Line" one of the first commercial uses of tone squelch systems.

Chasing Paper:

Many Hams enjoy chasing paper. That is, they enjoy working for operating awards such as DXCC, WAS, WAZ, VUCC, IOTA, SOTA, and many more.

Both the ARRL and CQ Magazine sponsor several major awards. The County Hunters Group holds HF SSB and CW nets to assist members in working the over three thousand counties in the US. There are also many individual awards from around the world from other organizations.

The ARRL DX Century Club (DXCC) provides award certificates for confirming contact with 100 countries around the world, and has additional awards for successive countries in increments of 50 or so.

The ARRL Worked All States (WAS) award provides certificates for working all 50 states and has additional awards for individual bands and ultimately the five non-WARC band, 5 Band WAS Award.

The CQ Worked All Zones award (WAZ) is for confirming contacts with all 40 CQ International Zones.

The VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) award is for confirming 100 or more grid squares on the VHF/UHF bands. Technician Class operators, this award is available to you.

The Islands On The Air (IOTA) program provides award certificates for confirming 100 or more international islands in oceans around the world.

The Summits On The Air (SOTA) program provides certificates for confirming contact with mountain top summits around the US.

The Lighthouses On The Air (LOTA) program provides certificates for confirming contact with lighthouses around the US and the world.

The US Islands On The Air (USIOTA) program provides certificates for confirming contact with islands in US state waters.

For more information on awards:

ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/awards>

CQ Magazine: http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/index_cq_awards.htm

For information on individual awards like IOTA, SOTA, LOTA, and USIOTA do an Internet search to find their web sites.

World Radiosport: --RM K5AGE, Secretary Contesting: A Book review, [A Contact Sport](#)

This book is named Contact Sport. It is about the World Radiosport Team Championship, which is held every 4 years. The WRTC is held during the normal IARU contest, which occurs annually. The IARU and WRTC are a 24h contest. In fact, the regular annual IARU was just held in June. I lightly participated (35 contacts) but mostly I learned about correctly submitting a log. My greatest feeling was seeing my score posted on "logs received".

As stated before, the WRTC is held every four years in changing venues. The teams are a two-operator group, using "standardized" locations, provided standardized antenna setups, power limit of 100w, and a large empty tent. I picked the book up used, on impulse because the cover looked interesting, and I am somewhat attracted to contesting. The book is a great read, and the author has writing style that is easy to read. I read it in couple of days' time.

This sporting event is the only event where the audience, you and I, get to participate! In fact, I won't spoil it, but these guys make a ton of

contacts, and the operators are so top notch, that many of the scores can be quite close! Some hearts were elated or broken depending on the confirmation of a contact by us, (the audience) correctly submitting our logs! How cool is that!?

REPEATER NOTES:

--Mike WD5EFY, Repeater Trustee



DETARC repeater history continued from last month:

The 34/94 repeater changed locations a few times and was running at a low power TV station until they changed owners and the decree came that everything on the tower had to go!

The repeater and many other pieces of gear were put on pallets for disposal. Someone found out about the nearing demise of the repeater and made some phone calls. A go team was quickly assembled and the repeater was successfully recovered!

It was decided to ask if we could locate it at the tower owned by Sumner's Air Conditioning (on Denman Avenue) where we had previously had a 28/88 repeater for a short time. The answer was YES so, we did some quick planning and one of the members made a cabinet for it so that it could be housed inside the facility and it was put on the air there. Not sure of the dates.

After a period of time we started having trouble with noise on the machine and it was determined there was an antenna or feedline issue. A couple of climbers looked at the tower and decided it was unsafe to climb so we decided to abandon that site and start looking for tower space elsewhere. About that time, we were approached by the Lonestar Amateur Radio Club here in Lufkin to see if we wanted to move the 94 repeater to the Hudson tower site that they managed. Well, that was an easy YES!! The repeater was moved to the Hudson site and put on the air there, where it remains today.

More on the other W5IRP repeaters next month!

73, Mike – WD5EFY

EMERGENCY

COMMUNICATIONS:

Message Handling-- Using WinLink Express, formerly RMS Express:

--Roger K0YY, ARES EC

WINLINK Express is a special piece of Ham software developed by the WinLink Development Team, designed to facilitate text-type message handling over VHF/UHF and HF radio. WINLINK Express greatly simplifies the process of creating and sending messages over Ham Radio compared to previous capabilities.

WINLINK Express is particularly suited for emergency communications since it doesn't tie up a voice channel and it can provide hard copies of messages for emergency management personnel. WINLINK Express allows the use of attachments like the ICS 213 Message Form. It is especially useful for requesting resources and sending lists of items.

Our Angelina County ARES Group has an WINLINK (RMS) Procedure for **VHF/UHF Operations** on the DETARC web site on the ARES Forms and Lists page at <http://detarc.net/index.php/ares-forms-and-lists/>.

There are also excellent videos on setting up and using WINLINK Express out on the WinLink.org web site at--
https://www.winlink.org/content/k4ref_how_to_video_series_winlink_winlink_express

There are South Texas (STX) Section WINLINK stations available on VHF and HF. Our own W5IRP-10 high level node is on 145.05 simplex and the K5KRK-10 node is on 145.070 simplex.

A list of STX WINLINK VHF stations is on the STX web site at <http://n5tw.ecpi.com/RMSstatus/>

Peer to Peer (P2P) (direct) WINLINK operations are also possible using direct contacts between local

stations. See our WINLINK (RMS) Procedure on how to conduct P2P operations.

HF WINLINK Operations provide longer distance message handling to distant agencies such as other County Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) or the State EOC.

There are STX HF stations available to practice WINLINK message handling on these frequencies.

STX HF WINLINK STATIONS:

Call Sign	Mode	Center Frequency	Day	Time	County/Affiliation
N5MD T-1	P1,P2, P3 Winmor	3596.0 CF 7082.0 CF	7 days	24 hrs.	Montgomery County ARES
N5KWN	Winmor	3588.5 CF	Tuesday	1800-2000 CDT	Montgomery County ARES

Practicing using WINLINK Express is a goal for our Angelina County ARES group in 2017. We plan to set up special workshops on WINLINK and hold exercises to facilitate using this special advantageous mode. Contact Roger K0YY for further information at k0yy@arrl.net.

Looking Out for Number One in a Disaster. — from the ARRL ARES E-Letter By Mike Burg, N8QQN.

All of us who have had even minimal experience at the scene of any form of disaster, man-made or natural, know just how rapidly things can change in that environment. We have our "go bags" ready for what we believe we will need to get us through the situation/deployment.

But have we given any thought about what would happen if, during our deployment, something were

to happen to us, both on a minor scale and a larger scale?

For the minor scale issues, I suggest what I call a personal comfort pack. This would include items such as pain killers, cough drops, Antacid, lip balm, sun screen, any prescription drugs you may need, a few Band-Aids®, a few granola or power bars, and anything else you think may make your deployment a little easier and more comfortable for you, such as eye drops if you wear contact lenses.

These items can fit into a small pouch: I use a nice weather proof camera case I found in a local thrift store! Many of the items listed can be found in small quantities in the travel section of some stores. These smaller versions are ideal for your kit. Of course, your kit doesn't have to be small. If you want more comfort items than can fit into a small pouch you could always go bigger. Popular now in some sporting goods stores are the plastic military style "ammo cans." These would also be a good choice for your personal comfort kit. They are inexpensive, light weight and have a rubber gasket around the lid to give it some degree of water resistance. These "cans" can even hold a bottle of water if you wanted one.

Now that you have taken care of the little things, what can you do to help yourself if something more serious happened to you during your deployment and you were unable to communicate? Most Emergency Medical Technicians are used to looking at a person's wrist or neck for a medic alert bracelet or necklace, so I got a very small brightly colored flash drive and labeled it on both sides, "Mike B. MEDICAL."

Since there are laptops everywhere now, from mobile data terminals (MDT's) in the squad emergency transport vehicles to the desks in the trauma center, you can communicate a great deal of information without being conscious by having it readily available on the little flash drive.

On mine, I have the following: Page one has my name, address, home phone and date of birth. It also lists the names and cell phone numbers of my wife and daughters. At the bottom, in red and in all caps, I have listed no allergies and my blood type.

The next few pages list my personal medical history to include the type of medical incident (broken bones, surgeries, etc.) the attending physician's name, the date and location of treatment. After that I have a sheet with a copy of the labels of all prescription medications I am currently on. This gives the hospital the type of medication, dose, and the name of the physician who prescribed it.

Next I have a page that has a copy of all my doctor's business cards, from my family doctor to a specialist, my dentist and even my optometrist. I provide this so that if a trauma center or ER doctor has a specific question, he/she can contact my doctor directly. Lastly, I provide a page of family medical history. Depending on what has happened to you, this information could be very important.

You might say, well I have a card in my wallet with my spouse's contact information -- they can just call him/her and get the information needed, and you would be correct, they could. However, in some medical situations, time is of the essence and if they had any difficulty contacting your spouse, they are using up critical time.

Conclusion: It takes very little effort to put together a personal comfort pack and personal medical information onto a flash drive. Do it for yourself and your family.

-- Mike Burg, N8QQN

Ham Questions of The Month:

On a 2-meter radio, what is the Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) capability typically used for?

What HF bands are known as the WARC bands?

Answers at the next meeting. Come join us!



Editor's Notes:

If you have an idea for the Newsletter or a question about Ham Radio of general interest to the members, drop a line to the editor at k0yy@arrl.net. We'll try to include the topic or answer the question in a future Newsletter.

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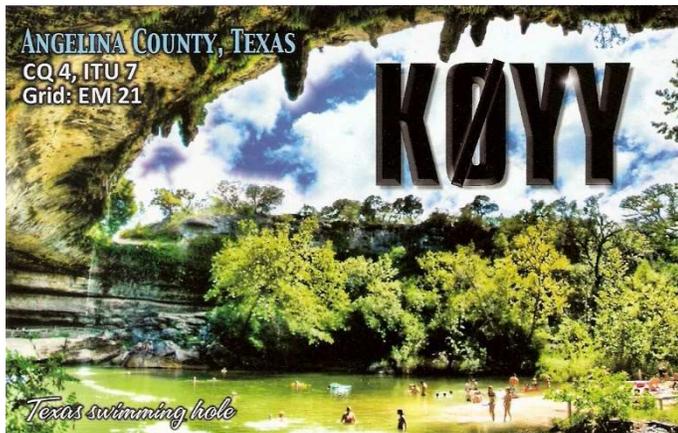
60 years in Ham Radio and still loving it!
DXing is my main interest in Ham Radio.
275 DXCC Countries confirmed/284 worked.

73, Roger K0YY, Editor,
Licensed as KN0PYM in 1957 in Minnesota.

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QSLing, what are all those cards?

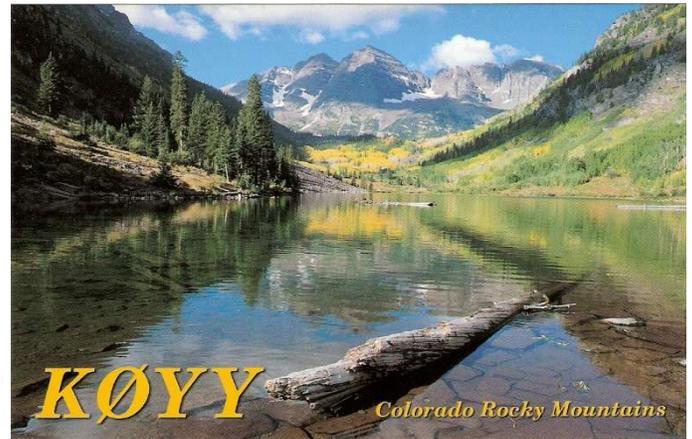
Here is my current QSL card exchanged with DX stations or award chasers--



All the contact information is on the back of these cards.

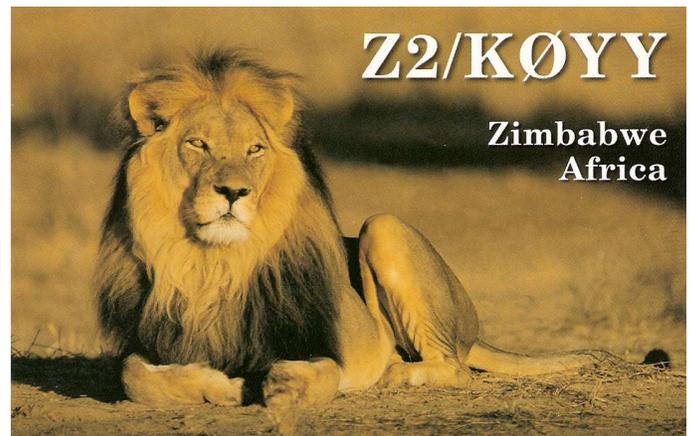
Question: What is that CQ 4, ITU 7 info on the QSL card above? What does it mean

Here is my old QSL card from the Colorado QTH.



Here is my card from a DX-pedition to Africa when we visited our son's family. He works for World Vision in Africa.

What a difference to be on the receiving end of a huge DX pile-up from a rare country. Awesome!



Questions on QSLing? Maybe we should have a future Newsletter article or meeting presentation if there is interest?