

WCARG NEWS



Walker County Amateur Radio Group Newsletter

January 2020

Meetings/Nets/Test

Who: The WCARG club Members and anyone interested in Ham Radio. Anyone wishing to Test.

When: Meetings are the fourth Saturday of every month at 9:00 am. Testing starts at 10:30. Come early.

Where: Dodge Volunteer Fire Station. Dodge Texas.

28 Dodge-Oakhurst Rd, Huntsville, TX 77320. See map next page.

NET: WCARG Net meets every Monday evening at 7:00 pm on 146.860 Repeater. Come and join us

WCARG Repeaters

- **W5HVL** 146.860 Tone 131.8 – Offset
- **DIGITAL ONLY** 146.64 Digital / Wires-X
- WCARG Wires-X Room "Texas-Patriots" #60755
- Walker County Simplex 147.450 Mhz. Simplex
- EchoLink NR5US-R through 146.860

Welcome New Members

We had no new members show last meeting however we did have 2 testers Pass their Ham License test. W5QLT, Lisa Fuller from Grapeland advanced to Extra Class and 1 tester passed his Tech-

Net Control

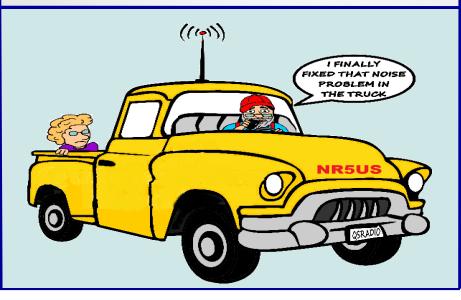
Net Control for **February** is **Russ Cooper NR5US**Net Control for **March** is **Dave Godfrey NY5A**

Published By Dave Godfrey NY5A 713-501-5980

WCARG Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2020

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by President Dave Godfrey NY5A at 9:00 AM.
- Billy Frady KF5USK requested to retire his position of Secretary/Treasurer. Diane Román KG5ZAP volunteered to take this position. Unanimous vote in favor
- President Dave requested that each member provide an autobiography so that the newsletter can highlight a different member each month.
- The club received a Letter of Appreciation from the New Waverly Junior High School for the generous gift from the club of \$300.
- **Presentation:** This months presentation was given by Allen Risler KE5FAR discussing the need for a Balun in an antenna system and how to custom build one. The presentation was videotaped by David McGann KG5ZPT and will soon be available for viewing on our web page (www.wcarg.org.)
- Next month, Craig Schlicher KB5EZQ will give us a presentation on Solar Panels for Ham Radio..
- The President handed out WCARG Member certificates for those individual who paid their dues AND, another certificate for those who have been involved in WiresX Texas Patriot Room 60755.
- Allen Risler was going to the State Park today to speak with the DD12 Book Club about members becoming involved with Amateur Radio. Many are preppers looking for communication solutions.
- There were two new individuals testing for their Amateur License and passed! WCARG application completed by one of them.
- 8:59 AM meeting adjourned by President.. Motion by Russ Cooper and Seconded by Butch Fleming.





Our Last Presentation

Januarys presentation was provided by Allan Risler KE5FAR. Allan talked about baluns and their need in antenna installations. He also showed how to build your own. It was a very informative presentation and I'm sure everyone learned something. **Thanks Allen**

Coming Next Month

Alexa & Amateur Radio

Integrating your voice commands into your hobby. Learning to write Alexa "Skills" so that other hams can access certain Amateur Radio Information like listing "Parks On The Air:.

February 2020						
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
						1
2	NET	4	5	6	7	8
9	NET	11	12	13	15	15
16	NET	18	19	20	21	22
23	NET	25	26	<i>27</i>	28	29









Do you need to have a balun on a dipole or can you feed it directly with coax?

You could feed it directly and it would work, but this is poor practice, as you are adding another antenna element with the outside shield of the coax. Without a balun, or common-mode choke, the outside of the coax acts like an additional wire connected in parallel with one side of the dipole. Because it will usually hang down, its current will rotate in an omnidirectional pattern. Effectively that will reduce the directivity and nulls that your dipole could otherwise provide. Any power radiated from the coax will be power that otherwise would be available to be radiated from the dipole, making it less effective. The amount of common-mode current will be a function of the coax electrical length, and impedance to ground at the bottom, so, if its not an issue on one band, it probably will be on the other. While it would work, and was standard practice for many years, the antenna will provide better and more predictable performance if isolated from the coax shield by a common-mode choke or current balun. QST August 2019 Pg 57



Introducing the all new Yaesu FT3DR. A few of our members have upgraded to this fantastic radio to be able to communicate via WIRES-X digital. You can set it up in Access mode or communicate to WIRES-X rooms directly through the WCARG digital repeater on 146.64, no tone. The other hand held radios by Yaesu for digital use are the FT2T and the FT70. The Digital base stations are the FTM100 and FTM 400. Check them out and we will be more than happy to help you get on WIRES-X.

Good To Know

ARRL Insurance

After 45 years in amateur radio, I suffered my first lightning incident in August 2019, when lightning struck a fence post in my back yard, about 20 feet from my station. My wife and I were in our living room at the time.

We rushed into the station and discovered that we had neglected to disconnect the station power and feed lines. I always do this during "lightning season" here in Florida, but this one time I had forgotten. It cost me dearly.

The strike took out our Wi-Fi router, two computers, a monitor, and our entire station. The Icom IC-7300 was dead as a rock, the Ameritron ALS-600 was equally unresponsive, and my SteppIR vertical antenna was broken. The strike got my NVIS dipole on 75 meters as well, blowing an insulator off the fence and breaking the wire, in addition to burning out the center conductor on the feed line.

We immediately emailed the ARRL equipment insurance provider that Sunday afternoon. On Monday, we received a response from their agent in Chicago. By Wednesday we were contacted by an adjuster in Boston, and on Friday they cut us a check, which arrived 5 days later.

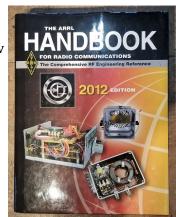
The service from the insurance company was superb — quick, painless, and much appreciated! We would urge everyone to take advantage of this low-cost equipment insurance as an alternative to funding an entire station replacement, should a disaster strike. It is a terrific ARRL member benefit.

SELL-TRADE-DONATE

Anything to Sell, Trade or Donate

If you have any equipment you would like to sell, trade, or donate, please contact Dave NY5A and it will be listed here.

You can also bring it to the monthly meeting. Think about what equipment you may have that would be useful to any new hams we may have joining our club. We all know how costly it can be to get started in Ham Radio, so if you have bought a new ARRL handbook or replaced any other technical books and want to donate your old one to a new Ham, please bring it to the next meeting. I'm sure someone could use it..



Don't forget any old antenna books too.

W1AW Schedule

PAC	MIN	CENT	EAST	UTC	MON	TUE	WED	THU	Ħ
6AM	7AM	8 AM	9AM	1400		FAST CODE	SLOW	FAST CODE	SLOW
7 AM- 1 PM	8 AM- 2 PM	9 AM- 3 PM	10 AM 4 PM	1500-1700 1800-2045	(1	VISITIN 2 PM-1 PM	IG OPERA		
1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	2100	FAST CODE	SLOW	FAST CODE	SLOW	FAST
2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	2200		α	DE BULL	ETIN	
3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	2300	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	0000	SLOW	FAST CODE	SLOW	FAST CODE	SLOW
5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	0100	CODEBULLETIN				
6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	0200	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
6 ⁶⁵ PM	745 PM	8 ⁴⁵ PM	9 ⁴⁵ PM	0245	VOICE BULLETIN				
7PM	8PM	9PM	10 PM	0300	FAST CODE	SLOW	FAST CODE	SLOW	FAST
8PM	9PM	10 PM	11 PM	0400			DEBULLE	TIN	

Your WCARG Officers

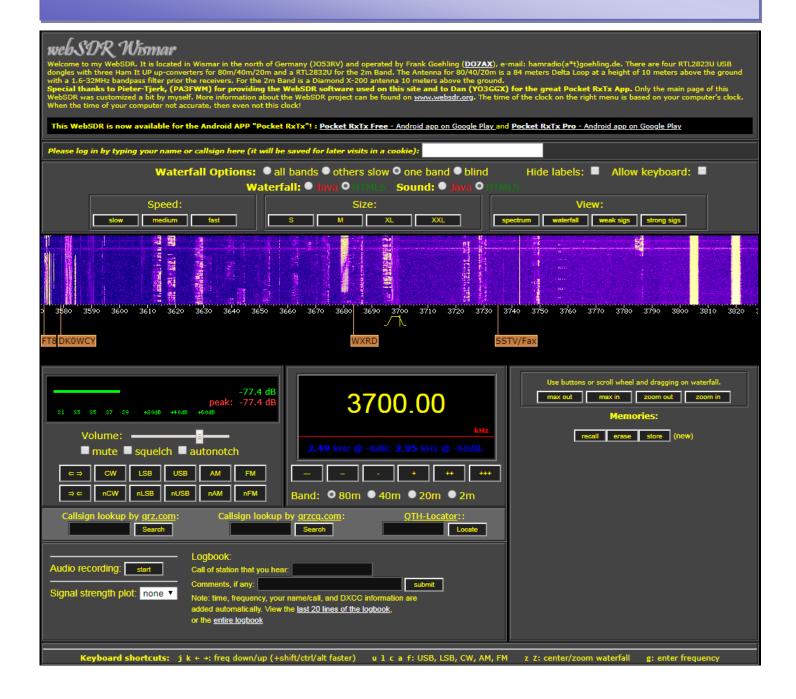
President: NY5A Dave Godfrey
Vice Pres: KF5ZIP Butch Fleming
Sec./Tres: KG5ZAP Diane Roman

NO RADIO?

No Radio, No Antenna, No Problem!

Don't have a radio yet? Don't have an antenna up yet?

Don't let that stop you from listening to the world. You can listen by going to *WWW.WEBSDR.ORG* and picking a station to listen to. WebSDR is a Software-Defined Radio receiver connected to the internet, allowing many listeners to listen and tune it simultaneously. SDR technology makes it possible that *all listeners tune independently*, and thus listen to *different* signals; this is in contrast to the many classical receivers that are already available via the internet. Give it a try and become a SWL (Short Wave Listener) This could be a whole new Ham Radio experience. Good Luck and let us know what you think.



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

This Months member highlight is NR5US, Russ "Captain" Cooper



Greetings from Russ, NR5US.

I grew up in rural Pike County, Arkansas where I cut my ham radio teeth with my dad, W5TLV. We spent many hours in my grand-dads garage tuning around the bands using an old Elmac transmitter with a commercial "Realistic" (Radio Shack) hand held receiver. Building a fire in the stove and lighting the fire in the tubes of that Elmac are great memories. At a young age, I realized the worth and practicality of amateur radio.

After graduating high school, I enlisted in the United States Navy to become an air traffic controller. They were all too happy to have me as then President Regan fired more than 17,000 controllers for an illegal "job ac-

tion". As part of the crew of the U.S.S. Nassau, LHA-4, I became one of the volunteer MARS operators, as my experiences with my dad and ham radio compelled me to do my part. I, myself completed over 5000 phonepatch, phone calls for our sailors and marines while deployed. We had no cell phones or internet at that time and my appreciation for radio and desire to become a licensed ham grew strong.

I left the NAVY in 1987 and used my training to become an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration. In 1991, I received my technician class (KB5SSZ) license and shortly thereafter became a code general class operator while living in Benton, Arkansas. I retired from the FAA and the Houston TRACON in 2012 and now fly as a corporate pilot. I am certificated in the Lockheed Jetstar L32B, Challenger CL-60 series, Learjet 60/XR, Phenom 300/100, King Air 350 and Pilatus PC-12NG. All of these aircraft have Collins HF radios in them!! I spend many hours hamming while making the long trips across North America or the North Atlantic.

When I am not in the airplane, I enjoy spending time with my wonderful wife, kids and of course rag-chewing on the radio. And, I am now enjoying digital PSK-31 as well as hamming it up using FT-8. Hope to see you on the waterfall! My rigs are Yaesu FT-991, FT-900CAT, Ameritron ALS500M . I am active with the Walker County Amateur Radio Group and love being radio-active. I maintain one APRS I-gate in Walker County named "AIRPRK"(pronounced Airpark). I am the Sysop for the WCARG Echolink node (970435) attached to the 146.860 repeater in Huntsville, Texas. Additionally I maintain the hardware for our club WIRES digital repeater (146.640 mhz.) room 60755 which is hosted by NY5A. Please feel free to stop by the Texas patriot room 60755 via WIRES-X if you are able and say "Howdy!"

All the best and 7 3 from ARS NR5US in New Waverly, Texas, USA. GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES!!!

On December 29, 2016, my dad W5TLV became a silent key. He was my inspiration to do my best and never stop until you reach your dreams. He was my elmer and I could always count on him to fix my radios. He was a whiz at electronics, courtesy of the U.S.A.F. He always told me...."Russ, old hams never die.....they just move to a higher frequency". 73 Dad.......I am listening for your CQ.

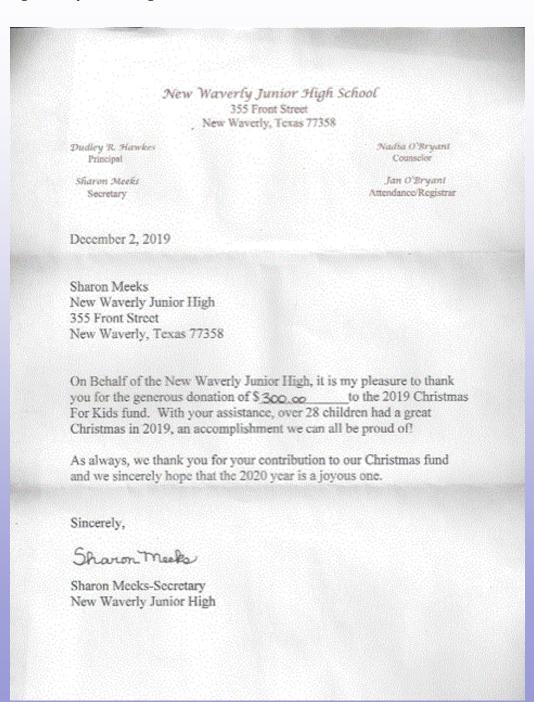
Please submit your Bio and station pictures for our next month's Newsletter.

Please eMail to Dave, NY5A at davegodfrey49@gmail.com

WCARG DONATIONS

WCARG Donations for Needy Families during Christmas 2019

Here is a big **THANK YOU** to the members of WCARG for their donations to the New Waverly Junior High School 2019 Christmas for Kids fund. Being an Amateur Radio operator has taught us the spirit of helping others in need, be it during natural disasters or just helping others less fortunate than us. Thank you all again for your caring donations.



PLEASE QSL

Share your favorite QSL Cards...



COMMUNITY

Spreading the word about Ham Radio in the community

Allen Risler KE5FAR had a busy day Saturday. After giving a presentation to the club about baluns, he went on to visit a group of individuals, some preppers, at the Huntsville State Park and gave them a presentation about ham radio. *Great job Allen*. If there is anything our members can do to help you, please let us know.

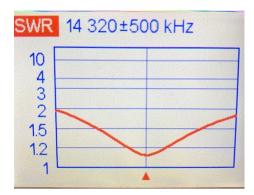
Below is the letter Allen submitted.

My Demo at the Huntsville State Park went very well. There were about 20 people in this little shelter. Several of the guys are local, one in Conroe, one in Huntsville, one in Crockett. All of them are very motivated to get there license. One from Conroe should be at our next meeting to take his technician test. He felt like he was al-

most ready and I gave everyone some excellent tips for getting their license. The guy in Huntsville, Richard Rush, is the guy that works with the boy scouts. He said they have a Jamboree in October that is like Field Day for scouts to talk to other scouts all over the country but since they have no Ham Radio they use the



Internet. I assured him it will be different this year. He and his wife both want to get their license. When it came time for the HF demo I quickly made a contact in Santa Barbara. He was calling CQ for Winter Field day and came in very strong. I gave him a 5/9 signal report. He gave me a 5/8 and asked me where I was. I told him I was in Huntsville Texas broadcasting from a portable dipole up at about 12 feet and he said that was amazing!





Today I setup the tripod and antenna in an open area away from the house and used Dave NY5A's antenna analyzer. It was resonant at 13.937. I trimmed it back a little at a time and got it 1.12:1 right where I like to talk and below 2:1 across my band plan.



WIRES-X NEWS

Here is a List of Popular Wires-X Nets

Net Name	Day of the Week	Mode	Room - Place	Central
YouTubers Net	01 - Sunday	Wires X	YouTubers - 40448	12:00
Phillipines Link	01 - Sunday	Wires X	Phillipine-Link - 43534	14:00
QCWA D-STAR Net	01 - Sunday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058	16:00
Young Operators Digital Voice Net	01 - Sunday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058	18:00
N2EUS Informational Tech Net	01 - Sunday	Wires X	N2EUS Room - 40963	19:00
Ohio Link Net	01 - Sunday	Wires X	Ohio-Link - 40557	19:30
Oklahoma Link Net	01 - Sunday	Wires X	OklahomaLink2 - 28292	20:00
RV Net	01 - Sunday	Wires X	RV Net on QuadNet Array, XRF 735A	20:30
MNWIS Tech Net	02 - Monday	Wires X	MNWIS - 21493	19:30
Net With No Name	02 - Monday	Wires X	QSO America - 43815	20:00
Fusion Confusion Net	02 - Monday	Wires X	Phoenix Fusion Group - 28592 (KD8PC)	21:00
The North Ottawa Digital Net	03 - Tuesday	Wires X	WM-Connect - 21335	18:00
Races/Marc Digital Net	03 -Tuesday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058	18:30
Nebraska Ragchew Net	03 - Tuesday	Wires X	Nebraska-Hub - 21659	19:30
Stealth Radio Net	03 - Tuesday	Wires X	INFO-LINK - 62118	20:00
Tri-Cities /Mountain Empire Fusion Net	03 - Tuesday	Wires X	Bristol ARC - 61243	20:30
Easy To Hear Net	03 - Tuesday	Wires X	America Ragchew - 28299	20:30
NorthWest Fusion Group Net	03 - Tuesday	Wires X	North West Fusion Group - 41755, DMR TF 429	20:30
The Maritime Fusion Net	04 - Wednesday	Wires X	Westcumb Amateur Radio Club - 60207	17:00
SWAT Digital Roundtable	04 - Wednesday	Wires X	SWAT-LINK - South/West - USA - 43197	19:30
Tech/Social Net	04 - Wednesday	Wires X	Yarddogs-RPTR - 40383	20:00
Net With No Name	04 - Wednesday	Wires X	Q5O America - 43815	20:00
Amateur Astronomy Digital Voice Net	04 - Wednesday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058	20:00
San Antonio Digital Net	04 - Wednesday	Wires X	San Antonio Digital Club - 40324	20:30
The Ham Nation After Show Net	04 - Wednesday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058	21:00
Thursday Morning Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	QSO America - 43815	7:00
Cross Canada Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	CQ Canada- 40678	15:00
Zombie Allert Network Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	Zombie Alert Network - 28298	18:00
Very Welcome Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	INFO-LINK - 62118	18:30
South Florida Fusion Digital Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	W4WJN - 21805	18:30
Four States Fusion Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	SE-Kansas - 46341	19:00
KSTAL - TALARC Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058	19:00
Illinois Tech Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	Illinois-Link - 21565	20:00
KC2RC Fusion Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	KC2RC Room - 40821 and YSF-04438, DCS 369A	20:00
WV System Fusion Information Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	WV-Link - 46488	20:00
Easy To Hear Net	05 - Thursday	Wires X	America Ragchew - 28299	20:30
Magic Valley Amateur Radio Club	05 - Thursday	Wires X	MVARC-IDAHO - 43210	21:45
Kentucky All Digital Net	06 - Friday	Wires X	Kentucky Fusion Network - 40806	19:00
Teapot's Tech Net	06 - Friday	Wires X	QSO America - 43815	19:00
The Trains Net	06 - Friday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058	19:00
RED-RVR-OK-TX	06 - Friday	Wires X	RED-RVR-OK-TX Room - 43572	20:00
Fusion Confusion Net	06 - Friday	Wires X	Phoenix Fusion Group - 28592 (KD8PC)	22:00
Easy To Hear Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	America Ragchew - 28299	13:30
Multimode Digital Voice Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058, XRF 735A	17:00
The Food Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	Quadnet-Array - 45058, 1st Saturday of Month	19:00
Saturday Night Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	KC8MTV Virginia Digital Net	19:00
Keystone West Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	Keystsone - 60328	19:00
Net With No Name	06 - Saturday	Wires X	QSO America - 43815	20:00
Wolf Pack Fusion Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	The Wolf Den - 28941	20:00
International Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	America-Link - 21080	20:00
DARC Digital Net	06 - Saturday	Wires X	DARC Room - 28439	20:15

The one popular Net that Is listed as "Tech/Social Net" is my favorite, the "YARDDOGS NET". A few of us try to catch this net every Wednesday night at 8:00 pm in room #40383. Chris, K1KC puts on a great Ham Lesson at the start of the net. We learn something new every week. If you can get on Wires-x, come join us.

CODE CERTIFICATE

Learn Morse Code... Get a Certificate for your proficiency

Certificate of Code Proficiency

Recipients

Sponsored by VIBROPLEX

www.vibroplex.com

This month, ARRL and Vibroplex recognize merit and progress in Morse code proficiency on the part of the following individuals, who have achieved proficiency at the following rates, in words per minute.

September 2019	
Howard D. Campbell, NØKOE	10
Wayne Chapman, KG5WU	10
Martin R. Griek, KØMRG	10
Eddie R. Lary, WS4I	10
Marcus R. Singh, ACØBZ	10
William B. Dick, WD6EGW	15
Robert E. Gardner, Jr., WA8PCW	15
Stanley Alan Sines, W3AL	15
Lloyd G. Gipson, AKØRK	20
Roy E. Gothberg, W7HJL	20
Robert Alan Griffiths, NE3I	20
Brian K. Moore, KM6ZYC	20
David W. Wilkins, WØPF	20
Daniel J. Sands, Sr., N7SU	25
Earl D. Wilson, Jr., K6GPB	25
William J. Wrbican, K3QP	25
Stephen R. Gross, N4PZ	35
Michael E. Kelly, VE3FFK	35

October 2019 Dennis J. Niles, WV7S James A. Standish, K4TUW Russell W. Tine, K1RWT Geo. Wayne Moore, W8SUN Donald J. Backys, K9UQN	10 10 10 15 20
November 2019 David A. Bamford, W2DAB Michael J. Erskine, W4MHZ Mark G. Feuerstein, N7MMO John F. Johnson, N8JFJ Michael W. Geoghegan, KX6A Donald E. Kirby, KR3A William A. Miller, W6QA James D. Russ, AB4KA Warren T. Seeley, W4FLL Stephen P. White, KL3MM David J. Wise, KD6EOD Frank P. Arciuolo, W1ZAH Keith Austermiller, KB9STR	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 15 15

Michael J. Erskine, W4MHZ	15
Paul W. Peterson, K1HIS	15
John F. Wasciuk, WASTON	15
Stephen M. Zappe, WA3GQA	15
Joe P. Bratton, AA5AD	20
Raymond T. Henderson, WA3PRR	20
Michael Terry Jones, W4TL	20
Roy S. Ludwig, KN4WOJ	20
Stephen J. Mlecik, K1NA	20
Akihiro Akai, JQ2UOZ	25
Donald J. Backys, K9UQN	25
Michael Terry Jones, W4TL	25
December 2019	
James T Griffin NA IG	10

Congratulations to all the recipients.

10

10

February 2020 W1AW Qualifying Runs

W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, transmits Morse code Qualifying Runs to assist ham radio operators in increasing and perfecting their proficiency in Morse code. Amateur radio operators can earn a Certificate of Code Proficiency or endorsements by listening to W1AW Qualifying Runs.

February Qualifying Runs will be transmitted by W1AW in Newington, Connecticut at the times shown at 1.802.5, 3.581.5, 7.047.5, 14.047.5, 18.097.5, 21.067.5, 28.067.5, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz. The West

50.350, and 147.555 MHz. The West Coast Qualifying Runs will be transmitted by KH6TU on Wednesday, February 26 at 6 PM HST (0400 UTC February 27) on 7047.5 and 14047.5 kHz. Unless indicated otherwise, sending speeds are from 10 to 40 WPM.

Amateur radio operators who participate in Qualifying Runs may submit proof of 1 minute of the highest speed they have copied in the hope of qualifying for the Certificate of Code Proficiency, or an endorsement to their existing Certificate.

Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by hand, and mail the sheet to: W1AW Qualifying Runs, 225 Main St., Newington, CT USA 06111.

Include \$10 (check or money order) if this is a submission for your initial Code Proficiency certificate; \$7.50 if you are applying for an endorsement (available for speeds up to 40 WPM). Your test will be

checked against the actual transmissions to determine if you have qualified.

Martin Hickey, AJ6CL

Steve M. Kuzyszyn, KB2WQ Steven G. Fein, KM6VOV

Stanford H. Rowe, K6VWE David J. O'Farrell, WB0IXV

For more information about Qualifying Runs, please visit www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule.

For information about how to qualify for the Certificate of Code Proficiency, please visit www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate.



(All times in				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2/3 4 PM – 2100Z 10 – 35 WPM	2/4 7 PM - 0000Z (2/5 - UTC) 35 - 10 WPM		2/6 10 PM - 0300Z (2/7 - UTC) 10 - 40 WPM	2/7 9 AM - 1400Z 10 - 35 WPM
	2/11 4 PM – 2100Z 10 – 35 WPM	2/12 7 PM - 0000Z (2/13 - UTC) 10 - 40 WPM	2/13 9 AM – 1400Z 35 – 10 WPM	2/14 10 PM - 0300Z (2/15 - UTC) 10 - 35 WPM
Presidents Day	2/18 9 AM - 1400Z 10 - 35 WPM	2/19 10 PM - 0300Z (2/20 - UTC) 35 - 10 WPM		2/21 4 PM – 2100Z 10 – 40 WPM
2/24 10 PM - 0300Z (2/25 - UTC) 10 - 40 WPM		2/26 9 AM - 1400Z 35 - 10 WPM	2/27 4 PM – 2100Z 35 – 10 WPM	2/28 7 PM - 0000Z (2/29 - UTC) 10 - 35 WPM