



Push To Talk

Push To Talk

Walker County Amateur Radio Group Newsletter



Issue #3
May 2023

Keep in Touch With WCARG Members

- W5HVL Repeater
146.860 DCS 631 – Offset
- DIGITAL ONLY Temp Down
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
Node 970435
- Web Page— [HTTPS://
WCARG.ORG](https://wcarg.org)
- Facebook Page—Join the Walker County Amateur Radio Group
- [WWW.Groups.IO](http://www.groups.io) — Search for W5HVL
- Telegram App on your Phone — Join the Walker County Amateur Radio Group.

Hams & Eggs Breakfast

Come join us for Breakfast 9am every Saturday morning at Denny's. Good food, good conversation and meet new friends. You might just learn something. Get on the **Hams & Eggs Breakfast** text Message reminder by contacting Dian at 936-355-4585. She needs to know how many are coming so she can reserve a table.

SHTF --- COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU SOON!

It has become painfully obvious to anyone that has been paying attention to what is going on in the world today that its time to get your Food stockpiled and your Communications needs in order. If you have not been preparing for your food needs and don't know where to start, there are many videos on YouTube that cover the subject in depth. I would highly suggest you start watching them and begin taking appropriate action. As far as preparing your communication equipment, you should consider that there could be a total lack of commercial power coming. One of the best ways to guarantee that your VHF / UHF equipment will have the necessary 12 volts to operate is by keeping a battery charged and when commercial power is out, a Solar panel will keep it going. This will allow you to at least keep in contact with other hams in the area when the need arises. I have been checking out several solar panels online and have settled on one from Amazon. It is the EBL Solar Apollo 200W Portable Solar Panel.



[EBL Solar Apollo 200W Portable Solar Panel](#)

Amazon

also has a great buy on this 1000W Portable Power Station by EBL. They also have many others to choose from. Check them out.

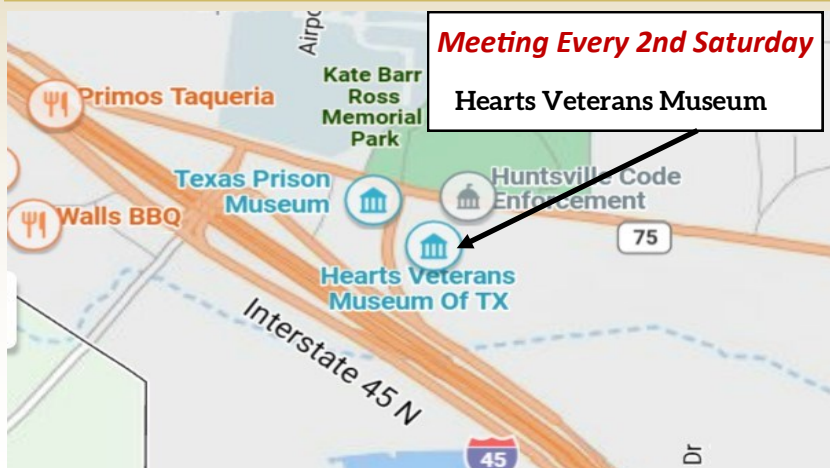


[EBL Portable Power Station Voyager 1000](#) Continued on Page 4...

Our Last Presentation



This last meeting we were honored to have "Ry-Ry The Tech Guy" Ryan, K4TXN, give a great presentation on **SHTF Comms for the Non-HAMS**. Ryan covered the MURS, FRS and Ham Radios for non Ham family and friends when the SHTF and communications are vital to survival. Check out page 6 and 7 for Ryans complete article. Thanks Ryan...



Concerning the Social Secretary's Calendar

In order to help with scheduling club activities, please submit the dates of anything you would like to put on the calendar to Diane Roman KG6ZAP, our new WCARG Social Director.

Having one person looking over all the dates helps keep the club organized and keeps us from unknowingly doubling or tripling activities on any given day. It allows for adjusting times on days that we do want to schedule multiple events. Please consult with Diane about the best possible open days.

Her email is mft4kids@mac.com and her cell is 936-355-4585. She will get back to you as soon as she can if you contact her. Thank you! - Laura

Meetings / Nets / Test

Who: The **WCARG** club Members and anyone interested in Ham Radio' Also anyone ready to take a test.

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

Where: Hearts Veterans Museum , 463 SH 75 N. Huntsville, TX See map above.

NET: **WCARG** Net meets every Monday evening at 7:00 pm on 146.860 Repeater. Come and join us You do not need to be a member of WCARG.

ARRL Field Day



Come "Tune in the World" with WCARG at the Josey Scout Lodge at 1211 22nd ST in Huntsville, TX, on June 24 for Field Day. We will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with ARRL Testing on site from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All visitors will be issued a door prize ticket and a Field Day Passport. Visit our 5 display and demonstration stations to collect all 5 passport punches and get an extra door prize ticket to enter in the drawing. This will be a fun event for all ages, so come explore the world of Amateur Radio. You can even construct your own antenna headband like I'm wearing above.

Becky KI5YAX

Words of Inspiration

My friend, my friend, you are where you are supposed to be already, do you not see? Stop looking for something else and look and feel all around. Everything is here now. Miss it, and you will have missed life.

By Brendon Burchard The Motivation Manifesto

WCARG ACTIVITIES

Huntsville Ham Hike, Huntsville Park, MAY 6TH 2023

Lone Star Hiking Field Exercise

On Saturday, May 6th, WCARG members had the opportunity to participate in a Field Training Exercise. Headed by Steven Prindle, K9UNI (AKA Bulldog), the group consisted of 8 hikers and one base station/support vehicle. They met at Trailhead 6 of the Lone Star Hiking Trail at 0900, talked about the communications plan and set up a check-in schedule to keep others apprised of their progress. They took a group picture and off they went! Leading the pack were Jesse and Josiah, followed by William Hubbard, Chris Nelson, Mike "Whitey" Nelson, Ryan Gills and Steven.



Getting a little later start but hot on their heels was Josh Hightower! He put forth extra effort and managed to catch the group at their first rest stop. They continued on to find a good spot to set up Whitey's Buddipole, which allowed them to make a 40 meter contact with NR5US Russ Cooper (AKA Savoy 6). Equipment was taken down and the hike continued, running into a section of slippery mud, swampy marshes, and creeks full of water from recent rain. Quitting was not in their vocabulary and they conquered the 2-3 miles of difficult terrain! The trail improved and was great the rest of the way.

They were able to hit the repeater consistently with Baofang AR-152 8.5 watt HTs as they traveled. Time passed quickly as ideas were swapped and stories told. At

the end of the hike they had logged 7.62 miles and were already thinking about changes to make to gear and other improvements. They were greeted at Trailhead 3 by Lee Murrah, who provided shuttle transportation, and Ryan, who was monitoring communications. A late lunch/snack was enjoyed along with a little more conversation before heading home. Fun was had, lessons learned, and plans made to make the next hike even more enjoyable. Thank you very much to Steven Prindle, Chris Nelson and Josh Hightower who were kind enough to contribute their accounts of the day. Looking forward eagerly to the next hike!



VIDEOS WORTH WATCHING

Interesting YouTube Videos

Building your own Garbage Can Faraday Cage

YouTube is just full of videos that will help you when an emergency arises. It is best to start preparing now for the inevitable hard times ahead. Depending on your individual situations, you may need to be ready to “bug out” or “stay put and hunker down”. Both require preparation but have different needs. In this issue and the next couple issues, we will cover a few general ideas to prepare for what our leaders are going to force upon us. As we have seen the last couple years, they are willing to put us through hell just to gain more power over us.



Garbage Can Faraday Cage

What's in yours?

Faraday Cage: Garbage Can <https://youtu.be/EoQZY1FtI3c>

3 Ways to Build a Faraday Cage
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-dEDCsYTKM&t=32s>

EMP Ready: DIY Faraday Cage Construction and Testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox-C5YcKKAw>

Food Storage Ideas

If you haven't started stockpiling food yet, think about storing rice, dry beans, and canned goods. Yes, canned vegetables, meat, fruit all have an expiration date on them but if they are kept in a cool place and not dented or rusted, they will actually last several years. I have actually found name brand tuna fish at Amazon for \$1.00 per can. That is half of what you pay at the grocery store. You can find deals on rice and beans there also. If you have a vacuum sealer, you can repackage the bulk packs into smaller sizes. These 27 Gal containers are just what you need and are on sale at Home Depot for \$10.98 each with lid. Each should hold enough food for 2 people for a month. You will also need to



get some oxygen absorbers to put in the vacuum packs to help keep them from going bad. You can also pick



up some food grade 5 gallon buckets at Tractor Supply or Amazon. Try to get at least a 3 month supply and work towards a 12 month supply. Don't forget about other essential needs like medicine, soap, tooth paste, etc. If you don't have a good source of fresh drinking water, then you might think about different options. All we can do now is hope for the best and prepare for the worst.



Don't Complicate Food Storage! 9 Tips to Make Food Storage Easy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uklbzm2DGA4>

Please help keep this newsletter alive by sending in any articles, Equipment For Sale, Favorite QSL Cards, Most memorable contact, or anything else you would like to have published.

Forward to Dave NY5A at davegodfrey49@gmail.com

This Months Tech Talk is about "SHTF Comms for the Non-HAM"



Ryan, K4TXN

GMRS - WQZF521

WCARG Teck Coordinator

SHTF Comms for the Non-HAMS

Communicaitons is a perishable resource. Most preppers buy a bunch of Baofeng UV-5Rs and say "We'll use them when we need them". Not so much sparky. You need experience with the radio! Programming, battery life, distance in your particular area, black zones in your area, modes, frequencies, power level considerations, antennas (on radio, external), time/power sensitive comms plan, etc...

The list of what goes along with radio communications is tremendous. As HAMS we know this, but your family and friends most likely are not privy to the subject. If we wish to introduce them to the subject, what radios do we introduce them to? Not everyone wants to take a test to use a radio. There are options! CB is omitted due to sheer ridiculous amount of fools already on it. Use HAM for HF.

Multi Use Radio Service (MURS)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-95/subpart-J>

5 VHF Channels at 2 watts.

151.820 MHz (11.25 kHz) 151.880 MHz (11.25 kHz) 151.940 MHz (11.25 kHz)

154.570 MHz (20.00 kHz) 154.600 MHz (20.00 kHz)

Pros: No license necessary. Simple inexpensive radio purchase. Easy to use. May be used to transmit voice, data or image signals. May be used for telecommand and telemetry functions. While normally against FCC Regulations, during a SHTF scenario MARS modded HAM radios can communicate on these frequencies.

Cons: Not repeater capable. Low power. No removeable/external antenna. Only 5 channels for any number of people in highly populated area.

Family Radio Service (FRS)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-95/subpart-B>

22 UHF Channels, all FM Narrow 12.5kHz. 1-7 2 Watts, 8-14 0.5 Watts, 15-22 2 Watts.

Pros: No license necessary. Inexpensive radios. 22 channels. CTCSS/DCS Capable to squelch out other users in high population areas. Short data burst allowed (APRS, Packet). While normally against FCC Regulations, during a SHTF scenario MARS modded HAM radios can communicate on these frequencies.

Cons: Not repeater capable. Low power. No removeable/external antenna.

Continued Next Page

SHTF Comms for the Non-HAM continued...

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-95/subpart-E>

License purchase required. Covers entire immediate family for 10 years.

Shares the same 22 UHF channels as FRS, but...1-7 5 Watts, 8-14 0.5 Watts, 15-22 50 Watts.

Pros: Repeater capable. Removable/External antenna capable. Higher power. Handheld 5 watts, Mobile 50 watts, Base 50 watts radios available. Short data burst allowed (APRS, Packet). While normally against FCC Regulations, during a SHTF scenario MARS modded HAM radios can communicate on these frequencies. Think HAM Radio UHF Repeater...No Test...Families can use.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sj9Rn0ccouI>

Cons: License purchase required. Repeater equipment availability and cost.

FRS/GMRS Shared Channel List

https://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/FRS/GMRS_combined_channel_chart

Resources:

Get your GMRS License - <https://quality2wayradios.com/store/GMRS-FCC-License>

<https://mygmrs.com/>

<https://www.texasgmrs.net/>

<https://gmrs.yolasite.com/Photo-Gallery.php>

Search Amazon if you want, but I highly recommend searching YouTube for the radio you're looking at purchasing before you click BUY. You can find GMRS radios from entry level \$30 submersible HT to mid level \$140 HT with GPS to HAM radio level \$400 mobile.

<https://www.radioddity.com/collections/consumer-radios>

<https://www.buytwowayradios.com/consumer.html>

<https://baofengtech.com/>

<https://dpdproductions.com/collections/gmrs-base-mobile-antennas#gmrs58mobile>

<https://dakotaalert.com/product-category/murs-alert/>

<https://portableuniversalpower.com/store/MXPW500-Ammo-Can-Base-Station-for-MXT500-p482922610>

<https://radiofreeeq.wordpress.com/2013/06/29/shtf-survivalist-radio-frequency-list/>

https://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/Multi-Use_Radio_Service

Here are the links for the hardware Ryan K4TXN mentioned at the Saturday meeting presentation.

Icom:

https://www.amazon.com/AEcreative-Battery-Charger-Adapter-IC-91AD/dp/B07NTPBLWL/ref=sr_1_4?crid=TWUCIUQAP040&keywords=icom+id-51+usb&qid=1683997686&srefix=icom+id-51+usb%2Caps%2C97&sr=8-4

https://www.amazon.com/Yustda-Adapter-Replacement-Charger-Transceiver/dp/B08F363Z53/ref=sr_1_4?crid=1LO9M084C71N8&keywords=icom+id-51+accessories&qid=1683997596&srefix=icom+id-51+accessories%2Caps%2C111&sr=8-4

Baofeng:

https://www.amazon.com/BAOFENG-BaoFeng-BF-F8HP-UV-82HP-Compatible/dp/B08LPP74LQ/ref=sr_1_19?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng%2Buv-5r%2Baccessories&qid=1683951517&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-19&th=1

https://www.amazon.com/Mirkit-Baofeng-accessories-set-Compatible/dp/B082PWZ4PJ/ref=sr_1_15?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng%2Buv-5r%2Baccessories&qid=1683951034&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-15&th=1

https://www.amazon.com/Battery-Portable-Baofeng-Transceiver-Walkie/dp/B01NALY5W7/ref=sr_1_27?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng+uv-5r+accessories&qid=1683951517&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-27

https://www.amazon.com/Battery-Eliminator-Charger-BAOFENG-UV-5RA/dp/B00DGW6ODG/ref=sr_1_11?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng+uv-5r+accessories&qid=1683951034&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-11

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Ryan Gills

Amateur - K4TXN

GMRS - WQZF521

k4txn@yahoo.com



Just got an emotional support animal.



It's a pig. Not the whole pig.



Okay, it's bacon.

MAY MEETING MINUTES

WCARG Minutes from our May 2023 Meeting.

By Laura WW700



Laura McDonald
WW700
WCARG Secretary

WCARG May Monthly Meeting Minutes

Convocation- Steven Prindle
Pledges

Visitors- John Phillips, Mark and Carolyn Green

Health/Welfare- no report

Tyson Eppink thanks everyone for the condolences he received on the death of his father-in-law

Hamfests- Hamvention Dayton, Ohio May 19-21, one in San Antonio in about a month, Museum Ship Event June 3-4

Secretary reads minutes of last meeting, Russ Cooper motions to approve, Jim Lanier 2nds, passes

Treasurer's Report- Stephen Farlow- filed 990, \$1038.70 in raffle related expenses, \$558.30 in testing equipment expenses, received \$80 in membership dues, received \$235.00 for the Veteran's testing fund, balance- \$4181.45

Repeater Report- Russ Cooper- all is ready to go for antenna project when weather permits, he and Butch have some improvements planned when conditions are right and might call on some people to help

Net Control Report- Glenn Rayfield- Gary Joyce will do June, we need volunteers for July and beyond, invitation to all to join us on the Monday night net

ARES/RACES- Greg Colson- there is an exercise planned, participants already have instructions

HF Net- Russ Cooper- encourages everyone to try it out, frequencies go out every Monday

VEC- Tyson brought the case the club purchased for the testing equipment if anyone wants to see, need VE's for Field Day

Lee gives a reminder about the Hams and Eggs breakfast at Denny's on mornings when there is no meeting, 9 am

Newsletter Report- Dave Godfrey- coming along well, would like to have people send pictures of interesting or unique QSL cards for it, should go out around Friday

Field Day Report- Becky Flarity gives a wonderful presentation on what has been done already and where help is still needed, there are sign up sheets available for people to choose where they would like to assist

Raffle Report- Jim Thompson- talked about the tickets and Lee showed one, mentioned separate raffle for club members for selling tickets

Shirt Report- Steven Prindle- he has gotten pricing that looks good, will order a few as prototypes, will have a few hats made also, has a file available to use for making other items such as vinyl decals

National Forest hike- it was a lot of fun! There will be another soon, come join us!

Winery Event Reminder- West Sandy Creek Winery at 11 am this coming Saturday, bring your mobile unit if you want, the winery has snacks for sale and wine tastings are available

Ryan Gills gave a great presentation on powering your HT using a rechargeable battery pack. Links to the things he referred to were emailed out after the meeting

Becky Flarity asked for authorization to spend \$350 for Field Day expenses (portapotty, signs, etc.) Lee made a motion, Jim Lanier 2nd, passed

Mark and Wes made motion to adjourn, several 2nd, passed and everyone headed home!

THIS MONTH TESTERS & NEW MEMBERS

A big Congratulations to our new Hams and Upgrades



Roy Pryor Jr.

KJ5AYK

Roy is retired from the Navy. He wants to be able to help with search and rescue.

Roy got his Technician license last month and his General license this month



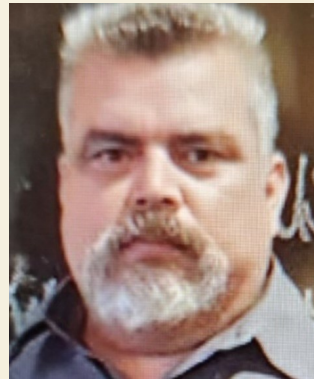
A big Congratulations to our new WCARG Members



Mark Green

KB7OUZ

Mark holds a General Class License. Welcome Mark to our club.



Johnny Phillips

No License as of now.

Johnny is studying for his License. Welcome Johnny to our club. We will be more than happy to help you get your license.



Bailee Creasey

KG5AVG

Bailee holds a Technician Class License. He is Jim Thompson's grandson. Welcome Bailee to our club.



FAVORITE QSL CARDS

Some Favorite QSL Cards from Josiah KI5QBQ



Here is some of Josiah's "KI5QBQ" favorite QSL Cards. Josiah has been a great inspiration to all of us in the WCARG club. He is only 12 years old and has already received his General license. Josiah loves to work 20 meters and has had great success working other countries as well as around the US. We are all very proud of Josiah and look forward to him being the WCARG President some day. Keep up the good work Josiah.



Please submit your favorite QSL Card pictures for our next month's Newsletter.

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

Albert Wiggers N5URR



**Albert Wiggers
N5URR**

After Fifty Some Years, My Hobby Becomes A Family Affair!

It would be difficult to tell the end of the story without giving you the beginning... and it started at my hometown, Union City, Pa, when as a kid of about 11 I had a paper route that included Chuck, call sign long forgotten, who was on my route and had this huge, to me, antenna behind his home. My curiosity peaked, I asked him about it and he took me into his shack. Wow, was I impressed! Years later at my first military assignment at Pittsburgh Airport, Pa, my supervisor was TJ O'Tool, W3SHT and he had this on his license plate. He was a bachelor and we delighted in marking the needed "I" to his plate...he did tell me a lot about the hobby and many years later, I was privileged to make on air contact with him. Later I was assigned to Harmon AFB, Newfoundland in 1963 when, as an Aircraft Electrical Technician, I had a friend named "Gabby Hayes" who was a ham. We happened to live close to each other and I again was exposed to Ham Radio. After a short while, I tested and was awarded with call sign K3YBI, which was promptly designated "young blooming idiot"..I built my first set from a "Radio Shack" kit and ran at 50 watts, AM. We had many folks nearby on the air and usually "piggybacked" to make contacts. They had a MARS station there that Gabby and a Major Stallmaster ran. I learned a lot about phone patches there. One Newfoundlander bought an old set from Gabby and would test with "helllllooo" " hellllloo" and he was located in the middle of Stephenville using a longwire. Gabby called me one evening and asked me to go pick up the radio set and bring it home, tear it apart and wait for additional info. I did so, confusing the local, and later found out he was on a frequency that harmonized to the alert signal and set off the base klaxons, thereby sending alert teams to their airplanes. The military was actively looking for the radio with signal seekers. Pretty exciting! Sadly, Gabby was one of the first volunteers to a place called Vietnam, where as a Staff Sergeant, he would be promoted to a Warrant Officer, Army, and train soldiers in his specialty. Several of us likewise applied and before my application was approved, we learned Gabby had been killed. We pulled our apps.



Finally leaving Newfoundland, I was assigned to Ohio and reassigned call sign W8IMV at Lockbourne AFB. I set up my station in my mobile home and added a Hi-Gain Vertical on top. Worked well. Worked many stations to include Barry Goldwater and a Mexican named Alberto XE1NE..Alberto would tell us his station was a old unit with 7 miles of railroad wire as an antenna. When he hit the switch, as we did in the old days, the resultant thunk would rattle the room! One day in QST magazine, I spotted Barry Goldwater and he is in Mexico City talking to Alberto...outside his 7 story hotel with the antenna on top. Railroad wire indeed! You never know who you are really talking to with Ham Radio...I went mobile when I could and one assignment to Montgomery, Al, I hooked my in room radio via cable to my car's antenna and worked the world. One contact was from the northeast and was sorta short, but when I got home there was a package waiting for me that contained a book "How I turned \$4000 into \$400 million" by Ernie who established the Sheraton Hotel Chain. In the book, Ernie told of his adventure getting into Ham Radio and stated he had talked to a guy from Cleveland who told him he and a few friends were going to Detroit that weekend to pick up a boat. Ernie promptly asked where they were staying and was told they were not sure yet. Ernie said he had a friend at the Sheraton and asked them to go there and tell them Ernie sent them. Free Rooms. The manager called Ernie to say there were 40 men and they were launching a 60 ton oarship and had pretty much taken over the hotel. You never know.

In 1977. I retired and got a job...not leaving much time for Ham Radio. What time I had was usually via mobile radio as I kept my set in the car. Eventually, I moved to Arizona and California and decided I didn't want to change my callsign...was not too active anyway. In 1986, I bought my first radio that wasn't a kit and it was beautiful. Had a new Oldsmobile to put it into and did so with exception of the power supply.

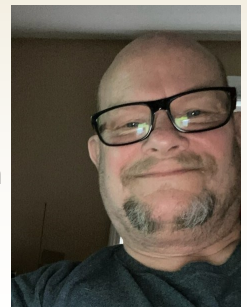
Continued on Page Next Page ...

Continued from Page 12...

Covered with a leather cover matching the dash. My brother and I went to Ohio with his car and I left mine with a friend. When I returned, I found the radio had been stolen and sadly enough, they had not taken a power supply so it probably ended up in a dumpster. Ham Radio and me parted company for a long time. Gave away all my stuff to a club and my eldest son in his barn. I just remembered having a Pink and white 4 door Cadillac Hard top...about a 56, I think, and I put my radio into it with a "Saturn Six" antenna...fit on rear bumper and was about 5 feet tall with a three ring circle about the size of a basketball hoop. Horrible looking and my wife made me take it off after about a week.

About 20 years ago, Jim Jackson, K3VRU, with his wife was visiting near here. He and I met and I got hooked again. We contacted FCC to see if I was still current and when informed I could be assigned call sign N5URR. My, how things have changed! I found I was not up to all the new lingo and procedures. I bought a couple new radios after seeing what was available thinking I would go mobile again but that is not as easy as it once was. In any case, I have a IC 7300 that seems to work well with a end fed long wire stretched about 35 feet up. I've added a AL-80B Amp, but thus far, I haven't used it. (really not needed)

That sort of brings me up to date. My wife is not really into this and we like to spend time together, so I am not very active, however, Monday nights and the Echolink hookup have brought me to WCARG. There are some very nice folks there and I enjoy the time together. Well, a few years ago, I was pleasantly surprised to find our my eldest son, Bill, had become interested in Ham Radio...he became licensed and much to my surprise, requested and received call sign K3YBI, my first is back on the air...my youngest son, Albert or Butch lives near Bill and they got together and Butch ends up with W8IMV! Both old call signs live again. My other son, though well qualified, isn't interested, but I don't have any more callsigns to spare, yet.



Butch Wiggers
W8IMV



Bill Wiggers
K3YBI

Bill was old enough to remember the old stations. My first was in our built-on door extension room and often would be so cold in Newfoundland that I couldn't operate. He especially remembers Ohio and the shack I built outside our mobile home. It was about 8 X 5 and tight. Same antenna, Hi-Gain. I've had great luck with them. A friend and I went mobile out to a cave for field day and Bill went with us. He remembers the friendly bull who ventured near and looked into the tent. The bull got near our antenna and we gave him a jolt...he left...great memories. I also met a Len Malone, from Texas, who was in Ohio working and had a small aircraft. We made contact pretty much daily and became good friends. We decided to take on a small excursion to DX on an island in Lake Erie accessible only by boat or airplane. Called Pelee Island, actually in Canada, we landed and set up our radios to work the world..portable VO1, if I remember correctly. We made some special QSL cards and sent out a bunch. A wonderful experience. Spent the weekend there.

So, this brings us up to date. There are other memories, such as operating in Europe while deployed and also in a KC-97 Tanker at 28,000 feet...aeronautical mobile for sure...laying on the boom operator's back..Ham radio has allowed me to experience many adventures and meet great folks...remember going to Texas for the first time as I took basic at Sampson AFB, NY and was headed to Lackland for Recruiter School...had a new '67 Mustang that I equipped with a mobile and on 20 mtrs made contact with a navigator from Maine who stuck with me and was telling me what I would see before I got to it...it was so good a connection that I slept and woke up to find him on frequency the next morning..

I've rambled enough. Thanks for reading what you have and you can edit as necessary.

Albert Wiggers
N5URR

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

“Push To Talk” Editor ... Dave Godfrey-NY5A



**Dave Godfrey
NY5A
WCARG Newsletter Editor**

As a member of the WCARG for at least the last 10 years, I have seen this club grow more than I ever expected. We have gained a lot of new members and sadly we have lost a few. We do want to welcome all our new members this year and give a hearty Congratulations to all those that have passed their first test to become hams and to those who have upgraded their li-

icense. Since there are so many interesting aspects to Ham Radio, we will strive to make each meeting an interesting one and each presentation will be a new learning experience for everyone. The purpose for the Push To Talk Newsletter is to help keep all members informed of our many upcoming activities, show off items that members might have for sale, bring new and interesting articles from our technical members, and anything else that our members would like to contribute. Thank ya'll for your continued support.

**Dave Godfrey NY5A
713-501-5980 davegodfrey49@gmail.com**



Your WCARG Net Control

146.860 DCS 631 (— Offset)

April	Russ Cooper	NR5US
May	Laura McDonald	WW7OO
June	Gary Joyce	KI5RMO
July	Need Volunteer	
August	Need Volunteer	

**Please Contact Glenn Rayfield
KC5JLN if you wish to volunteer.**

Your WCARG Officers And Directors

President:	KV5M	Lee Murrah
Vice Pres:	KG6YYT	Rene Roman
Secretary:	WW7OO	Laura McDonald
Treasurer :	KJ5YN	Steve Farlow

Repeater	NR5US	Russ Cooper
Testing	KG6YYT	Rene Roman
Social	KG6ZAP	Diane Roman
Net Control	KC5JLN	Glen Rayfield
Newsletter	NY5A	Dave Godfrey

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Items listed here are for sale by our members to our members.



Picture of the complete station setup at NY5A's Ham Shack

This above station is for sale by Dave Godfrey NY5A. Please Make Offer for complete station. I would just hate to break up this beautiful set. It is a complete Kenwood TS-830 Station which includes a TS-830 Transceiver with tube finals, MC-60 Microphone, AT-230 Antenna Tuner, SP230 Speaker, and SM220 Station Monitor. All have Instruction manuals and associated interconnect cables.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Items listed here are for sale by our members to our members.



LDG AT-100 Pro II Autotuner

For more specifications, follow this link.

LDG AT-100PROII Auto Tuner 125W GigaParts.com

List Price New \$249.00, Will sell for \$175.00

Contact Dave Godfrey NY5A at 713-501-5980 for details

The LDG AT-100 Pro II is a general purpose automatic tuner suitable for many amateur applications. It covers 1.8-54 MHz, and features a two-position antenna switch allowing instant switching between two antennas. The **AT-100ProII** requires just 1 watt for operation but will handle up to 125 watts, making it suitable for everything from QRP to a typical 100 watt transceiver.

Like most LDG tuners the **AT-100ProII** operates automatically, beginning a tuning cycle whenever the SWR exceeds a preset limit. The AT-100ProII also features LDG's advanced memory tuning, providing 2,000 memory locations; when tuning near a previously used frequency it will recall the settings for nearly instant tuning. It learns your favorite frequencies and bands as you use it. You can also start a tuning cycle manually whenever necessary.

Large, easy-to-read LED bargraphs show forward and reverse power in peak or average mode, and SWR. Two power scales are provided: 12.5 watts and 125 watts. The bargraphs also indicate tuner status and input confirmations.

The **AT-100ProII** uses LDG's state-of-the-art, processor-controlled Switched-L tuning network. It will match dipoles, verticals, inverted-Vees or virtually any coax-fed antenna. With an optional LDG balun, you can also use longwires or antennas fed with ladder-line. It handles 100 watts SSB or 50 watts FM/Digital when used with a solid-state transceiver; vacuum tube transmitters cut the power ratings about in half.

The **AT-100ProII** uses latching relays which retain the tuned configuration indefinitely even when the unit is powered down. The latching relays also enable extremely low power consumption; when not actively tuning the **AT-100ProII** draws next to no power at all. This makes it suitable for portable or mobile operation from batteries.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Items listed here are for sale by our members to our members.

LDG IT-100 Autotuner



For more specifications, follow this link.

[LDG Electronics IT-100 LDG Electronics IT-100 Automatic Antenna Tuners | DX Engineering](#)

List Price New 180.00, Will sell for \$100.00

Contact Dave Godfrey NY5A at 713-501-5980 for details

LDG Electronics IT-100 Automatic Antenna Tuners

LDG Electronics **IT-100** Automatic Antenna Tuners are the ideal tuners for your ICOM radio. They will match up to a 10:1 SWR (3:1 on 6 meters), so just about anything you can feed with coax is good to go.

They also have 2,000 memories--enough for every DXpedition, RTTY spot, and radio buddy you've got. Just hit the tune button on the radio, and your IT-100 will set tuner parameters in less than a second if you've been there before. If not, the tuner kicks off a full tuning cycle that will be over in about 3 seconds.

Don't need the tuner now? Just tap the tune button briefly and the tuner goes into bypass mode. Press it again to bring the tuner back on line--it's just that simple.

IT-100 ATUs weigh only 1.5 lbs. and get their DC power directly from the radio, so no separate power supply is required. IT-100 tuners work with any ICOM radio that supports AH-3 or AH-4 ICOM antenna tuners. Including; IC-7000, IC-7100, IC-7200, IC-7300, IC-706MkIIIG, IC-718, IC-746, IC-756ProIII and all others that are AH-4 compatible.

IT-100 tuners come fully assembled, aligned, and ready to use. The packages include a 14 in. ICOM radio interface cable, so you're ready to operate right out of the box. LDG Electronics IT-100 tuners are clearly the tuner of choice for your ICOM radio!

Additional features include:

- * 0.1 to 125 watt power range (SSB and CW), 100W on 6M.
- * Controlled from ICOM tuner button on radio OR push button on tuner.
- * Compatible with any ICOM radio that is AH-4 or AH-3 compatible (6M tuning from tuner button for radios that are only AH-3 compatible).
- * Tuning time is 0.1 to 6 seconds full tune, 0.1 seconds memory tune.
- * 1.8 to 54.0 MHz coverage with built-in frequency sensor 160—6 meter.
- * Tunes 4 to 800 ohm loads (16 to 150 on 6M), 4 to 3,600 ohms with optional 4:1 balun.
- * Optional external balun allows tuning of random length, long wire, or ladder line fed antennas.

US Amateur Radio Bands

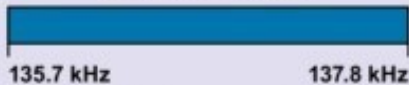
Operator license classes: **E** = Amateur Extra **A** = Advanced **G** = General **T** = Technician **N** = Novice
 CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands. Except as noted, all frequencies are in megahertz (MHz).

■ = RTTY, data, phone, image
 ■ = USB phone, RTTY, data and CW
 ■ = RTTY and data
 ■ = phone and image
■ = SSB phone
 = CW only

LF – Low Frequency band

MF – Medium Frequency bands

2200 Meters (135 kHz) E,A,G
 1 W EIRP maximum



Amateurs wishing to operate on **2200 or 630 meters** must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>. You need only register once for each band.

630 Meters (472 kHz) E,A,G

5 W EIRP max, except in Alaska within 496 miles of Russia where the limit is 1 W EIRP

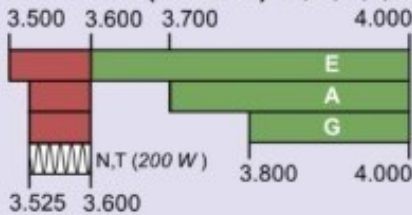


160 Meters (1.8 MHz) E,A,G

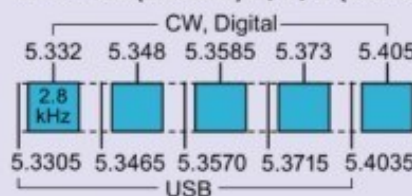


HF – High Frequency bands

80 Meters (3.5 MHz) E,A,G,T,N

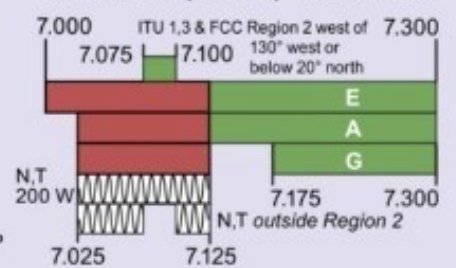


60 Meters (5.3 MHz) E, A, G (100 W)



General, Advanced, and Extra licenses may operate on a secondary basis with a maximum ERP of 100 W (relative to a half-wave dipole antenna).

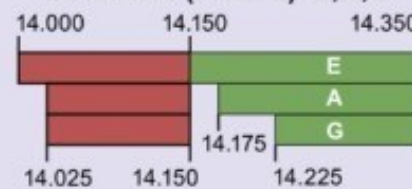
40 Meters (7 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



30 Meters (10.1 MHz) E,A,G



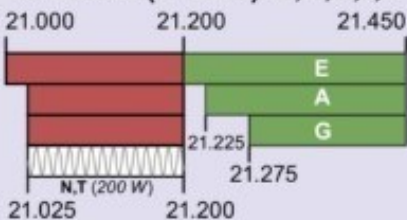
20 Meters (14 MHz) E,A,G



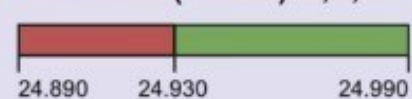
17 Meters (18 MHz) E,A,G



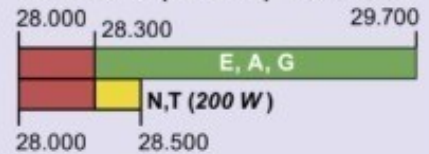
15 Meters (21 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



12 Meters (24 MHz) E,A,G



10 Meters (28 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



VHF – Very High Frequency bands

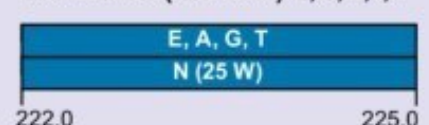
6 Meters (50 MHz) E,A,G,T



2 Meters (144 MHz) E,A,G,T

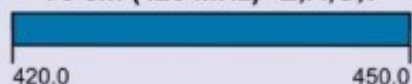


1.25 Meters (222 MHz) E,A,G,T,N

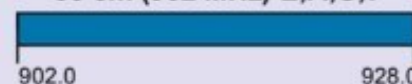


UHF – Ultra High Frequency bands

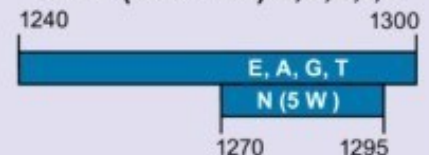
70 cm (420 MHz) E,A,G,T



33 cm (902 MHz) E,A,G,T



23 cm (1240 MHz) E,A,G,T,N





Push To Talk

Push To Talk

Walker County Amateur Radio Group Newsletter



Issue #3
May 2023

Keep in Touch With WCARG Members

- W5HVL Repeater
146.860 DCS 631 – Offset
- DIGITAL ONLY Temp Down
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
Node 970435
- Web Page— [HTTPS://WCARG.ORG](https://wcarg.org)
- Facebook Page—Join the Walker County Amateur Radio Group
- WWW.Groups.IO — Search for W5HVL
- Telegram App on your Phone — Join the Walker County Amateur Radio Group.

Hams & Eggs Breakfast

Come join us for Breakfast 9am every Saturday morning at Denny's. Good food, good conversation and meet new friends. You might just learn something. Get on the **Hams & Eggs Breakfast** text Message reminder by contacting Dian at 936-355-4585. She needs to know how many are coming so she can reserve a table.

SHTF --- COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU SOON!

It has become painfully obvious to anyone that has been paying attention to what is going on in the world today that its time to get your Food stockpiled and your Communications needs in order. If you have not been preparing for your food needs and don't know where to start, there are many videos on YouTube that cover the subject in depth. I would highly suggest you start watching them and begin taking appropriate action. As far as preparing your communication equipment, you should consider that there could be a total lack of commercial power coming. One of the best ways to guarantee that your VHF / UHF equipment will have the necessary 12 volts to operate is by keeping a battery charged and when commercial power is out, a Solar panel will keep it going. This will allow you to at least keep in contact with other hams in the area when the need arises. I have been checking out several solar panels online and have settled on one from Amazon. It is the EBL Solar Apollo 200W Portable Solar Panel.



[EBL Solar Apollo 200W Portable Solar Panel](#)

Amazon

also has a great buy on this 1000W Portable Power Station by EBL. They also have many others to choose from. Check them out.

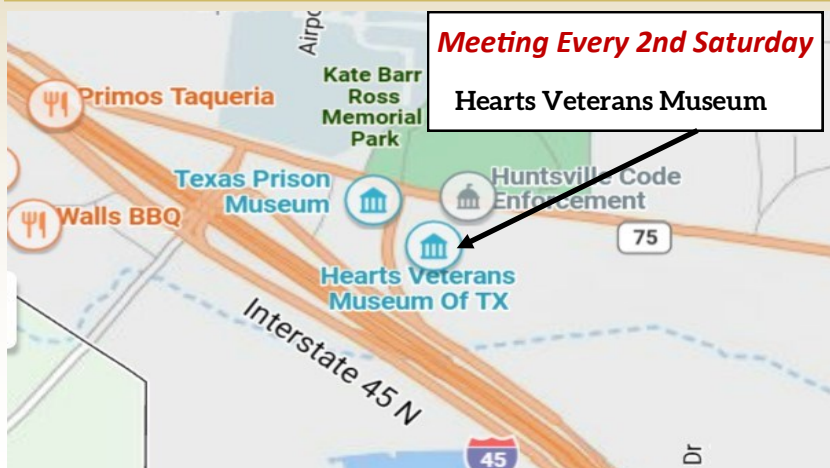


[EBL Portable Power Station Voyager 1000](#) Continued on Page 4...

Our Last Presentation



This last meeting we were honored to have "Ry-Ry The Tech Guy" Ryan, K4TXN, give a great presentation on **SHTF Comms for the Non-HAMS**. Ryan covered the MURS, FRS and Ham Radios for non Ham family and friends when the SHTF and communications are vital to survival. Check out page 6 and 7 for Ryans complete article. Thanks Ryan...



Concerning the Social Secretary's Calendar

In order to help with scheduling club activities, please submit the dates of anything you would like to put on the calendar to Diane Roman KG6ZAP, our new WCARG Social Director.

Having one person looking over all the dates helps keep the club organized and keeps us from unknowingly doubling or tripling activities on any given day. It allows for adjusting times on days that we do want to schedule multiple events. Please consult with Diane about the best possible open days.

Her email is mft4kids@mac.com and her cell is 936-355-4585. She will get back to you as soon as she can if you contact her. Thank you! - Laura

Meetings / Nets / Test

Who: The **WCARG** club Members and anyone interested in Ham Radio' Also anyone ready to take a test.

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

Where: Hearts Veterans Museum , 463 SH 75 N. Huntsville, TX See map above.

NET: **WCARG** Net meets every Monday evening at 7:00 pm on 146.860 Repeater. Come and join us You do not need to be a member of WCARG.

ARRL Field Day



Come "Tune in the World" with WCARG at the Josey Scout Lodge at 1211 22nd ST in Huntsville, TX, on June 24 for Field Day. We will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with ARRL Testing on site from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All visitors will be issued a door prize ticket and a Field Day Passport. Visit our 5 display and demonstration stations to collect all 5 passport punches and get an extra door prize ticket to enter in the drawing. This will be a fun event for all ages, so come explore the world of Amateur Radio. You can even construct your own antenna headband like I'm wearing above.

Becky KI5YAX

Words of Inspiration

My friend, my friend, you are where you are supposed to be already, do you not see? Stop looking for something else and look and feel all around. Everything is here now. Miss it, and you will have missed life.

By Brendon Burchard The Motivation Manifesto

WCARG ACTIVITIES

Huntsville Ham Hike, Huntsville Park, MAY 6TH 2023

Lone Star Hiking Field Exercise

On Saturday, May 6th, WCARG members had the opportunity to participate in a Field Training Exercise. Headed by Steven Prindle, K9UNI (AKA Bulldog), the group consisted of 8 hikers and one base station/support vehicle. They met at Trailhead 6 of the Lone Star Hiking Trail at 0900, talked about the communications plan and set up a check-in schedule to keep others apprised of their progress. They took a group picture and off they went! Leading the pack were Jesse



and Josiah, followed by William Hubbard, Chris Nelson, Mike "Whitey" Nelson, Ryan Gills and Steven. Getting a little later start but hot on their heels was Josh Hightower! He put forth extra effort and managed to catch the group at their first rest stop. They continued on to find a good spot to set up Whitey's Buddipole, which allowed them to make a 40 meter contact with NR5US Russ Cooper (AKA Savoy 6). Equipment was taken down and the hike continued, running into a section of slippery mud, swampy marshes, and creeks full of water from recent rain. Quitting was not in their vocabulary and they conquered the 2-3 miles of difficult terrain! The trail improved and was great the rest of the way.

They were able to hit the repeater consistently with Baofang AR-152 8.5 watt HTs as they traveled. Time passed quickly as ideas were swapped and stories told. At

the end of the hike they had logged 7.62 miles and were already thinking about changes to make to gear and other improvements. They were greeted at Trailhead 3 by Lee Murrah, who provided shuttle transportation, and Ryan, who was monitoring communications. A late lunch/snack was enjoyed along with a little more conversation before heading home. Fun was had, lessons learned, and plans made to make the next hike even more enjoyable. Thank you very much to Steven Prindle, Chris Nelson and Josh Hightower who were kind enough to contribute their accounts of the day. Looking forward eagerly to the next hike!



VIDEOS WORTH WATCHING

Interesting YouTube Videos

Building your own Garbage Can Faraday Cage

YouTube is just full of videos that will help you when an emergency arises. It is best to start preparing now for the inevitable hard times ahead. Depending on your individual situations, you may need to be ready to “bug out” or “stay put and hunker down”. Both require preparation but have different needs. In this issue and the next couple issues, we will cover a few general ideas to prepare for what our leaders are going to force upon us. As we have seen the last couple years, they are willing to put us through hell just to gain more power over us.



Garbage Can Faraday Cage

What's in yours?

Faraday Cage: Garbage Can <https://youtu.be/EoQZY1FtI3c>

3 Ways to Build a Faraday Cage
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-dEDCsYTKM&t=32s>

EMP Ready: DIY Faraday Cage Construction and Testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox-C5YcKKAw>

Food Storage Ideas

If you haven't started stockpiling food yet, think about storing rice, dry beans, and canned goods. Yes, canned vegetables, meat, fruit all have an expiration date on them but if they are kept in a cool place and not dented or rusted, they will actually last several years. I have actually found name brand tuna fish at Amazon for \$1.00 per can. That is half of what you pay at the grocery store. You can find deals on rice and beans there also. If you have a vacuum sealer, you can repackage the bulk packs into smaller sizes. These 27 Gal containers are just what you need and are on sale at Home Depot for \$10.98 each with lid. Each should hold enough food for 2 people for a month. You will also need to



get some oxygen absorbers to put in the vacuum packs to help keep them from going bad. You can also pick



up some food grade 5 gallon buckets at Tractor Supply or Amazon. Try to get at least a 3 month supply and work towards a 12 month supply. Don't forget about other essential needs like medicine, soap, tooth paste, etc. If you don't have a good source of fresh drinking water, then you might think about different options. All we can do now is hope for the best and prepare for the worst.



Don't Complicate Food Storage! 9 Tips to Make Food Storage Easy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uklbzm2DGA4>

Please help keep this newsletter alive by sending in any articles, Equipment For Sale, Favorite QSL Cards, Most memorable contact, or anything else you would like to have published.

Forward to Dave NY5A at davegodfrey49@gmail.com

This Months Tech Talk is about "SHTF Comms for the Non-HAM"



Ryan, K4TXN

GMRS - WQZF521

WCARG Teck Coordinator

SHTF Comms for the Non-HAMS

Communicaitons is a perishable resource. Most preppers buy a bunch of Baofeng UV-5Rs and say "We'll use them when we need them". Not so much sparky. You need experience with the radio! Programming, battery life, distance in your particular area, black zones in your area, modes, frequencies, power level considerations, antennas (on radio, external), time/power sensitive comms plan, etc...

The list of what goes along with radio communications is tremendous. As HAMS we know this, but your family and friends most likely are not privy to the subject. If we wish to introduce them to the subject, what radios do we introduce them to? Not everyone wants to take a test to use a radio. There are options! CB is omitted due to sheer ridiculous amount of fools already on it. Use HAM for HF.

Multi Use Radio Service (MURS)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-95/subpart-J>

5 VHF Channels at 2 watts.

151.820 MHz (11.25 kHz) 151.880 MHz (11.25 kHz) 151.940 MHz (11.25 kHz)

154.570 MHz (20.00 kHz) 154.600 MHz (20.00 kHz)

Pros: No license necessary. Simple inexpensive radio purchase. Easy to use. May be used to transmit voice, data or image signals. May be used for telecommand and telemetry functions. While normally against FCC Regulations, during a SHTF scenario MARS modded HAM radios can communicate on these frequencies.

Cons: Not repeater capable. Low power. No removeable/external antenna. Only 5 channels for any number of people in highly populated area.

Family Radio Service (FRS)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-95/subpart-B>

22 UHF Channels, all FM Narrow 12.5kHz. 1-7 2 Watts, 8-14 0.5 Watts, 15-22 2 Watts.

Pros: No license necessary. Inexpensive radios. 22 channels. CTCSS/DCS Capable to squelch out other users in high population areas. Short data burst allowed (APRS, Packet). While normally against FCC Regulations, during a SHTF scenario MARS modded HAM radios can communicate on these frequencies.

Cons: Not repeater capable. Low power. No removeable/external antenna.

Continued Next Page

SHTF Comms for the Non-HAM continued...

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-95/subpart-E>

License purchase required. Covers entire immediate family for 10 years.

Shares the same 22 UHF channels as FRS, but...1-7 5 Watts, 8-14 0.5 Watts, 15-22 50 Watts.

Pros: Repeater capable. Removable/External antenna capable. Higher power. Handheld 5 watts, Mobile 50 watts, Base 50 watts radios available. Short data burst allowed (APRS, Packet). While normally against FCC Regulations, during a SHTF scenario MARS modded HAM radios can communicate on these frequencies. Think HAM Radio UHF Repeater...No Test...Families can use.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sj9Rn0ccouI>

Cons: License purchase required. Repeater equipment availability and cost.

FRS/GMRS Shared Channel List

https://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/FRS/GMRS_combined_channel_chart

Resources:

Get your GMRS License - <https://quality2wayradios.com/store/GMRS-FCC-License>

<https://mygmrs.com/>

<https://www.texasgmrs.net/>

<https://gmrs.yolasite.com/Photo-Gallery.php>

Search Amazon if you want, but I highly recommend searching YouTube for the radio you're looking at purchasing before you click BUY. You can find GMRS radios from entry level \$30 submersible HT to mid level \$140 HT with GPS to HAM radio level \$400 mobile.

<https://www.radioditty.com/collections/consumer-radios>

<https://www.buytwowayradios.com/consumer.html>

<https://baofengtech.com/>

<https://dpdproductions.com/collections/gmrs-base-mobile-antennas#gmrs58mobile>

<https://dakotaalert.com/product-category/murs-alert/>

<https://portableuniversalpower.com/store/MXPW500-Ammo-Can-Base-Station-for-MXT500-p482922610>

<https://radiofreeeq.wordpress.com/2013/06/29/shtf-survivalist-radio-frequency-list/>

https://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/Multi-Use_Radio_Service

Here are the links for the hardware Ryan K4TXN mentioned at the Saturday meeting presentation.

Icom:

https://www.amazon.com/AEcreative-Battery-Charger-Adapter-IC-91AD/dp/B07NTPBLWL/ref=sr_1_4?crid=TWUCIUQAP040&keywords=icom+id-51+usb&qid=1683997686&srefix=icom+id-51+usb%2Caps%2C97&sr=8-4

https://www.amazon.com/Yustda-Adapter-Replacement-Charger-Transceiver/dp/B08F363Z53/ref=sr_1_4?crid=1LO9M084C71N8&keywords=icom+id-51+accessories&qid=1683997596&srefix=icom+id-51+accessories%2Caps%2C111&sr=8-4

Baofeng:

https://www.amazon.com/BAOFENG-BaoFeng-BF-F8HP-UV-82HP-Compatible/dp/B08LPP74LQ/ref=sr_1_19?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng%2Buv-5r%2Baccessories&qid=1683951517&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-19&th=1

https://www.amazon.com/Mirkit-Baofeng-accessories-set-Compatible/dp/B082PWZ4PJ/ref=sr_1_15?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng%2Buv-5r%2Baccessories&qid=1683951034&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-15&th=1

https://www.amazon.com/Battery-Portable-Baofeng-Transceiver-Walkie/dp/B01NALY5W7/ref=sr_1_27?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng+uv-5r+accessories&qid=1683951517&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-27

https://www.amazon.com/Battery-Eliminator-Charger-BAOFENG-UV-5RA/dp/B00DGW6ODG/ref=sr_1_11?crid=116FZ0GNIQTLI&keywords=baofeng+uv-5r+accessories&qid=1683951034&srefix=uv-5r%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-11

--

Ryan Gills

Amateur - K4TXN

GMRS - WQZF521

k4txn@yahoo.com



Just got an emotional support animal.



It's a pig. Not the whole pig.



Okay, it's bacon.

MAY MEETING MINUTES

WCARG Minutes from our May 2023 Meeting.

By Laura WW700



Laura McDonald
WW700
WCARG Secretary

WCARG May Monthly Meeting Minutes

Convocation- Steven Prindle
Pledges

Visitors- John Phillips, Mark and Carolyn Green

Health/Welfare- no report

Tyson Eppink thanks everyone for the condolences he received on the death of his father-in-law

Hamfests- Hamvention Dayton, Ohio May 19-21, one in San Antonio in about a month, Museum Ship Event June 3-4

Secretary reads minutes of last meeting, Russ Cooper motions to approve, Jim Lanier 2nds, passes

Treasurer's Report- Stephen Farlow- filed 990, \$1038.70 in raffle related expenses, \$558.30 in testing equipment expenses, received \$80 in membership dues, received \$235.00 for the Veteran's testing fund, balance- \$4181.45

Repeater Report- Russ Cooper- all is ready to go for antenna project when weather permits, he and Butch have some improvements planned when conditions are right and might call on some people to help

Net Control Report- Glenn Rayfield- Gary Joyce will do June, we need volunteers for July and beyond, invitation to all to join us on the Monday night net

ARES/RACES- Greg Colson- there is an exercise planned, participants already have instructions

HF Net- Russ Cooper- encourages everyone to try it out, frequencies go out every Monday

VEC- Tyson brought the case the club purchased for the testing equipment if anyone wants to see, need VE's for Field Day

Lee gives a reminder about the Hams and Eggs breakfast at Denny's on mornings when there is no meeting, 9 am

Newsletter Report- Dave Godfrey- coming along well, would like to have people send pictures of interesting or unique QSL cards for it, should go out around Friday

Field Day Report- Becky Flarity gives a wonderful presentation on what has been done already and where help is still needed, there are sign up sheets available for people to choose where they would like to assist

Raffle Report- Jim Thompson- talked about the tickets and Lee showed one, mentioned separate raffle for club members for selling tickets

Shirt Report- Steven Prindle- he has gotten pricing that looks good, will order a few as prototypes, will have a few hats made also, has a file available to use for making other items such as vinyl decals

National Forest hike- it was a lot of fun! There will be another soon, come join us!

Winery Event Reminder- West Sandy Creek Winery at 11 am this coming Saturday, bring your mobile unit if you want, the winery has snacks for sale and wine tastings are available

Ryan Gills gave a great presentation on powering your HT using a rechargeable battery pack. Links to the things he referred to were emailed out after the meeting

Becky Flarity asked for authorization to spend \$350 for Field Day expenses (portapotty, signs, etc.) Lee made a motion, Jim Lanier 2nd, passed

Mark and Wes made motion to adjourn, several 2nd, passed and everyone headed home!

THIS MONTH TESTERS & NEW MEMBERS

A big Congratulations to our new Hams and Upgrades



Roy Pryor Jr.

KJ5AYK

Roy is retired from the Navy. He wants to be able to help with search and rescue.

Roy got his Technician license last month and his General license this month



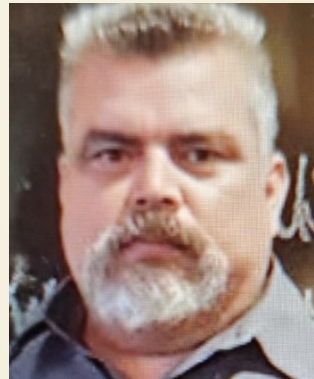
A big Congratulations to our new WCARG Members



Mark Green

KB7OUZ

Mark holds a General Class License. Welcome Mark to our club.



Johnny Phillips

No License as of now.

Johnny is studying for his License. Welcome Johnny to our club. We will be more than happy to help you get your license.



Bailee Creasey

KG5AVG

Bailee holds a Technician Class License. He is Jim Thompson's grandson. Welcome Bailee to our club.



FAVORITE QSL CARDS

Some Favorite QSL Cards from Josiah KI5QBQ



Here is some of Josiah's "KI5QBQ" favorite QSL Cards. Josiah has been a great inspiration to all of us in the WCARG club. He is only 12 years old and has already received his General license. Josiah loves to work 20 meters and has had great success working other countries as well as around the US. We are all very proud of Josiah and look forward to him being the WCARG President some day. Keep up the good work Josiah.



Please submit your favorite QSL Card pictures for our next month's Newsletter.

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

Albert Wiggers N5URR



**Albert Wiggers
N5URR**

After Fifty Some Years, My Hobby Becomes A Family Affair!

It would be difficult to tell the end of the story without giving you the beginning... and it started at my hometown, Union City, Pa, when as a kid of about 11 I had a paper route that included Chuck, call sign long forgotten, who was on my route and had this huge, to me, antenna behind his home. My curiosity peaked, I asked him about it and he took me into his shack. Wow, was I impressed! Years later at my first military assignment at Pittsburgh Airport, Pa, my supervisor was TJ O'Tool, W3SHT and he had this on his license plate. He was a bachelor and we delighted in marking the needed "I" to his plate...he did tell me a lot about the hobby and many years later, I was privileged to make on air contact with him. Later I was

assigned to Harmon AFB, Newfoundland in 1963 when, as an Aircraft Electrical Technician, I had a friend named "Gabby Hayes" who was a ham. We happened to live close to each other and I again was exposed to Ham Radio. After a short while, I tested and was awarded with call sign K3YBI, which was promptly designated "young blooming idiot"..I built my first set from a "Radio Shack" kit and ran at 50 watts, AM. We had many folks nearby on the air and usually "piggybacked" to make contacts. They had a MARS station there that Gabby and a Major Stallmaster ran. I learned a lot about phone patches there. One Newfoundlander bought an old set from Gabby and would test with "helllllooo" " hellllloo" and he was located in the middle of Stephenville using a longwire. Gabby called me one evening and asked me to go pick up the radio set and bring it home, tear it apart and wait for additional info. I did so, confusing the local, and later found out he was on a frequency that harmonized to the alert signal and set off the base klaxons, thereby sending alert teams to their airplanes. The military was actively looking for the radio with signal seekers. Pretty exciting! Sadly, Gabby was one of the first volunteers to a place called Vietnam, where as a Staff Sergeant, he would be promoted to a Warrant Officer, Army, and train soldiers in his specialty. Several of us likewise applied and before my application was approved, we learned Gabby had been killed. We pulled our apps.



Finally leaving Newfoundland, I was assigned to Ohio and reassigned call sign W8IMV at Lockbourne AFB. I set up my station in my mobile home and added a Hi-Gain Vertical on top. Worked well. Worked many stations to include Barry Goldwater and a Mexican named Alberto XE1NE..Alberto would tell us his station was a old unit with 7 miles of railroad wire as an antenna. When he hit the switch, as we did in the old days, the resultant thunk would rattle the room! One day in QST magazine, I spotted Barry Goldwater and he is in Mexico City talking to Alberto...outside his 7 story hotel with the antenna on top. Railroad wire indeed! You never know who you are really talking to with Ham Radio...I went mobile when I could and one assignment to Montgomery, Al, I hooked my in room radio via cable to my car's antenna and worked the world. One contact was from the northeast and was sorta short, but when I got home there was a package waiting for me that contained a book "How I turned \$4000 into \$400 million" by Ernie who established the Sheraton Hotel Chain. In the book, Ernie told of his adventure getting into Ham Radio and stated he had talked to a guy from Cleveland who told him he and a few friends were going to Detroit that weekend to pick up a boat. Ernie promptly asked where they were staying and was told they were not sure yet. Ernie said he had a friend at the Sheraton and asked them to go there and tell them Ernie sent them. Free Rooms. The manager called Ernie to say there were 40 men and they were launching a 60 ton oarship and had pretty much taken over the hotel. You never know.

In 1977. I retired and got a job...not leaving much time for Ham Radio. What time I had was usually via mobile radio as I kept my set in the car. Eventually, I moved to Arizona and California and decided I didn't want to change my callsign...was not too active anyway. In 1986, I bought my first radio that wasn't a kit and it was beautiful. Had a new Oldsmobile to put it into and did so with exception of the power supply.

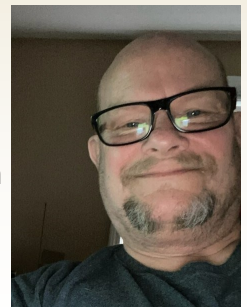
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Covered with a leather cover matching the dash. My brother and I went to Ohio with his car and I left mine with a friend. When I returned, I found the radio had been stolen and sadly enough, they had not taken a power supply so it probably ended up in a dumpster. Ham Radio and me parted company for a long time. Gave away all my stuff to a club and my eldest son in his barn. I just remembered having a Pink and white 4 door Cadillac Hard top...about a 56, I think, and I put my radio into it with a "Saturn Six" antenna...fit on rear bumper and was about 5 feet tall with a three ring circle about the size of a basketball hoop. Horrible looking and my wife made me take it off after about a week.

About 20 years ago, Jim Jackson, K3VRU, with his wife was visiting near here. He and I met and I got hooked again. We contacted FCC to see if I was still current and when informed I could be assigned call sign N5URR. My, how things have changed! I found I was not up to all the new lingo and procedures. I bought a couple new radios after seeing what was available thinking I would go mobile again but that is not as easy as it once was. In any case, I have a IC 7300 that seems to work well with a end fed long wire stretched about 35 feet up. I've added a AL-80B Amp, but thus far, I haven't used it. (really not needed)

That sort of brings me up to date. My wife is not really into this and we like to spend time together, so I am not very active, however, Monday nights and the Echolink hookup have brought me to WCARG. There are some very nice folks there and I enjoy the time together. Well, a few years ago, I was pleasantly surprised to find our my eldest son, Bill, had become interested in Ham Radio...he became licensed and much to my surprise, requested and received call sign K3YBI, my first is back on the air...my youngest son, Albert or Butch lives near Bill and they got together and Butch ends up with W8IMV! Both old call signs live again. My other son, though well qualified, isn't interested, but I don't have any more callsigns to spare, yet.



Butch Wiggers
W8IMV



Bill Wiggers
K3YBI

Bill was old enough to remember the old stations. My first was in our built-on door extension room and often would be so cold in Newfoundland that I couldn't operate. He especially remembers Ohio and the shack I built outside our mobile home. It was about 8 X 5 and tight. Same antenna, Hi-Gain. I've had great luck with them. A friend and I went mobile out to a cave for field day and Bill went with us. He remembers the friendly bull who ventured near and looked into the tent. The bull got near our antenna and we gave him a jolt...he left...great memories. I also met a Len Malone, from Texas, who was in Ohio working and had a small aircraft. We made contact pretty much daily and became good friends. We decided to take on a small excursion to DX on an island in Lake Erie accessible only by boat or airplane. Called Pelee Island, actually in Canada, we landed and set up our radios to work the world..portable VO1, if I remember correctly. We made some special QSL cards and sent out a bunch. A wonderful experience. Spent the weekend there.

So, this brings us up to date. There are other memories, such as operating in Europe while deployed and also in a KC-97 Tanker at 28,000 feet...aeronautical mobile for sure...laying on the boom operator's back..Ham radio has allowed me to experience many adventures and meet great folks...remember going to Texas for the first time as I took basic at Sampson AFB, NY and was headed to Lackland for Recruiter School...had a new '67 Mustang that I equipped with a mobile and on 20 mtrs made contact with a navigator from Maine who stuck with me and was telling me what I would see before I got to it...it was so good a connection that I slept and woke up to find him on frequency the next morning..

I've rambled enough. Thanks for reading what you have and you can edit as necessary.

Albert Wiggers
N5URR

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

“Push To Talk” Editor ... Dave Godfrey-NY5A



**Dave Godfrey
NY5A
WCARG Newsletter Editor**

As a member of the WCARG for at least the last 10 years, I have seen this club grow more than I ever expected. We have gained a lot of new members and sadly we have lost a few. We do want to welcome all our new members this year and give a hearty Congratulations to all those that have passed their first test to become hams and to those who have upgraded their li-

cence. Since there are so many interesting aspects to Ham Radio, we will strive to make each meeting an interesting one and each presentation will be a new learning experience for everyone. The purpose for the Push To Talk Newsletter is to help keep all members informed of our many upcoming activities, show off items that members might have for sale, bring new and interesting articles from our technical members, and anything else that our members would like to contribute. Thank ya'll for your continued support.

**Dave Godfrey NY5A
713-501-5980 davegodfrey49@gmail.com**



Your WCARG Net Control

146.860 DCS 631 (— Offset)

April	Russ Cooper	NR5US
May	Laura McDonald	WW7OO
June	Gary Joyce	KI5RMO
July	Need Volunteer	
August	Need Volunteer	

**Please Contact Glenn Rayfield
KC5JLN if you wish to volunteer.**

Your WCARG Officers And Directors

President:	KV5M	Lee Murrah
Vice Pres:	KG6YYT	Rene Roman
Secretary:	WW7OO	Laura McDonald
Treasurer :	KJ5YN	Steve Farlow

Repeater	NR5US	Russ Cooper
Testing	KG6YYT	Rene Roman
Social	KG6ZAP	Diane Roman
Net Control	KC5JLN	Glen Rayfield
Newsletter	NY5A	Dave Godfrey

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Items listed here are for sale by our members to our members.



Picture of the complete station setup at NY5A's Ham Shack

This above station is for sale by Dave Godfrey NY5A. Please Make Offer for complete station. I would just hate to break up this beautiful set. It is a complete Kenwood TS-830 Station which includes a TS-830 Transceiver with tube finals, MC-60 Microphone, AT-230 Antenna Tuner, SP230 Speaker, and SM220 Station Monitor. All have Instruction manuals and associated interconnect cables.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Items listed here are for sale by our members to our members.



LDG AT-100 Pro II Autotuner

For more specifications, follow this link.

LDG AT-100PROII Auto Tuner 125W GigaParts.com

List Price New \$249.00, Will sell for \$175.00

Contact Dave Godfrey NY5A at 713-501-5980 for details

The LDG AT-100 Pro II is a general purpose automatic tuner suitable for many amateur applications. It covers 1.8-54 MHz, and features a two-position antenna switch allowing instant switching between two antennas. The **AT-100ProII** requires just 1 watt for operation but will handle up to 125 watts, making it suitable for everything from QRP to a typical 100 watt transceiver.

Like most LDG tuners the **AT-100ProII** operates automatically, beginning a tuning cycle whenever the SWR exceeds a preset limit. The AT-100ProII also features LDG's advanced memory tuning, providing 2,000 memory locations; when tuning near a previously used frequency it will recall the settings for nearly instant tuning. It learns your favorite frequencies and bands as you use it. You can also start a tuning cycle manually whenever necessary.

Large, easy-to-read LED bargraphs show forward and reverse power in peak or average mode, and SWR. Two power scales are provided: 12.5 watts and 125 watts. The bargraphs also indicate tuner status and input confirmations.

The **AT-100ProII** uses LDG's state-of-the-art, processor-controlled Switched-L tuning network. It will match dipoles, verticals, inverted-Vees or virtually any coax-fed antenna. With an optional LDG balun, you can also use longwires or antennas fed with ladder-line. It handles 100 watts SSB or 50 watts FM/Digital when used with a solid-state transceiver; vacuum tube transmitters cut the power ratings about in half.

The **AT-100ProII** uses latching relays which retain the tuned configuration indefinitely even when the unit is powered down. The latching relays also enable extremely low power consumption; when not actively tuning the **AT-100ProII** draws next to no power at all. This makes it suitable for portable or mobile operation from batteries.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Items listed here are for sale by our members to our members.

LDG IT-100 Autotuner



For more specifications, follow this link.

[LDG Electronics IT-100 LDG Electronics IT-100 Automatic Antenna Tuners | DX Engineering](#)

List Price New 180.00, Will sell for \$100.00

Contact Dave Godfrey NY5A at 713-501-5980 for details

LDG Electronics IT-100 Automatic Antenna Tuners

LDG Electronics **IT-100** Automatic Antenna Tuners are the ideal tuners for your ICOM radio. They will match up to a 10:1 SWR (3:1 on 6 meters), so just about anything you can feed with coax is good to go.

They also have 2,000 memories--enough for every DXpedition, RTTY spot, and radio buddy you've got. Just hit the tune button on the radio, and your IT-100 will set tuner parameters in less than a second if you've been there before. If not, the tuner kicks off a full tuning cycle that will be over in about 3 seconds.

Don't need the tuner now? Just tap the tune button briefly and the tuner goes into bypass mode. Press it again to bring the tuner back on line--it's just that simple.

IT-100 ATUs weigh only 1.5 lbs. and get their DC power directly from the radio, so no separate power supply is required. IT-100 tuners work with any ICOM radio that supports AH-3 or AH-4 ICOM antenna tuners. Including; IC-7000, IC-7100, IC-7200, IC-7300, IC-706MkIIIG, IC-718, IC-746, IC-756ProIII and all others that are AH-4 compatible.

IT-100 tuners come fully assembled, aligned, and ready to use. The packages include a 14 in. ICOM radio interface cable, so you're ready to operate right out of the box. LDG Electronics IT-100 tuners are clearly the tuner of choice for your ICOM radio!

Additional features include:

- * 0.1 to 125 watt power range (SSB and CW), 100W on 6M.
- * Controlled from ICOM tuner button on radio OR push button on tuner.
- * Compatible with any ICOM radio that is AH-4 or AH-3 compatible (6M tuning from tuner button for radios that are only AH-3 compatible).
- * Tuning time is 0.1 to 6 seconds full tune, 0.1 seconds memory tune.
- * 1.8 to 54.0 MHz coverage with built-in frequency sensor 160—6 meter.
- * Tunes 4 to 800 ohm loads (16 to 150 on 6M), 4 to 3,600 ohms with optional 4:1 balun.
- * Optional external balun allows tuning of random length, long wire, or ladder line fed antennas.

US Amateur Radio Bands

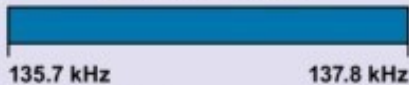
Operator license classes: **E** = Amateur Extra **A** = Advanced **G** = General **T** = Technician **N** = Novice
 CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands. Except as noted, all frequencies are in megahertz (MHz).

■ = RTTY, data, phone, image
 ■ = USB phone, RTTY, data and CW
 ■ = RTTY and data
 ■ = phone and image
■ = SSB phone
⋯ = CW only

LF – Low Frequency band

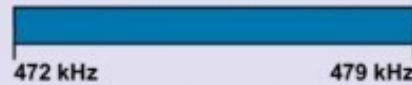
MF – Medium Frequency bands

2200 Meters (135 kHz) E,A,G
1 W EIRP maximum

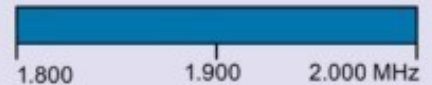


630 Meters (472 kHz) E,A,G

5 W EIRP max, except in Alaska within 496 miles of Russia where the limit is 1 W EIRP



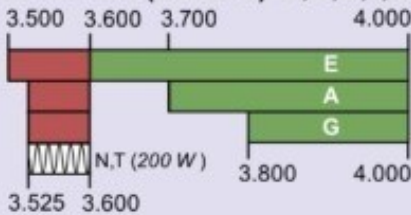
160 Meters (1.8 MHz) E,A,G



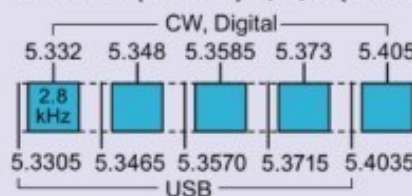
Amateurs wishing to operate on **2200 or 630 meters** must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>. You need only register once for each band.

HF – High Frequency bands

80 Meters (3.5 MHz) E,A,G,T,N

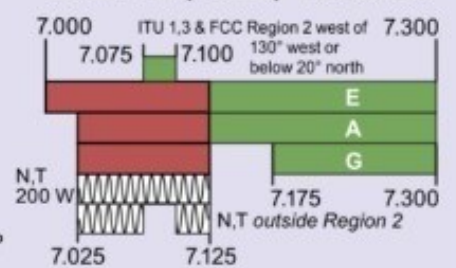


60 Meters (5.3 MHz) E, A, G (100 W)



General, Advanced, and Extra licenses may operate on a secondary basis with a maximum ERP of 100 W (relative to a half-wave dipole antenna).

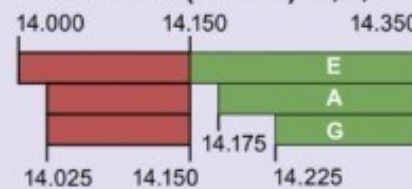
40 Meters (7 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



30 Meters (10.1 MHz) E,A,G



20 Meters (14 MHz) E,A,G



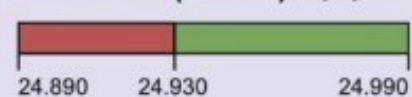
17 Meters (18 MHz) E,A,G



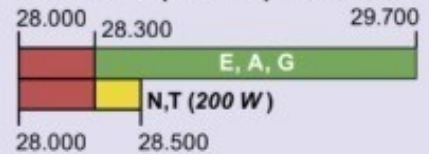
15 Meters (21 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



12 Meters (24 MHz) E,A,G



10 Meters (28 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



VHF – Very High Frequency bands

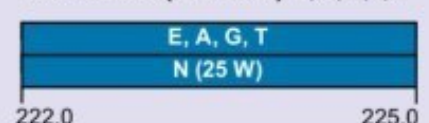
6 Meters (50 MHz) E,A,G,T



2 Meters (144 MHz) E,A,G,T

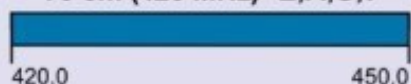


1.25 Meters (222 MHz) E,A,G,T,N

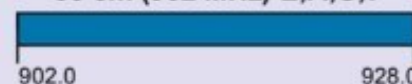


UHF – Ultra High Frequency bands

70 cm (420 MHz) E,A,G,T



33 cm (902 MHz) E,A,G,T



23 cm (1240 MHz) E,A,G,T,N

