

# KN5GRK

# Newsletter

Editor: Herman Campbell



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Website: <https://www.kn5grk.com>

February 2025

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Thursday February 6, 2024 — AARA General Meeting will be held at [Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shop](#) in Scott, LA at 6:00 PM.

## VE Testing at 6:00 PM

Come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship with other hams.



## Words from the Editor

*I am not one to get into politics, but we now have a new President and hopefully things will get better in the future. If we all work together, I am sure this will happen. President Trump started fulfilling some of his promises on day one. A lot of things are in store for this country and the world in general.*

*On January 21, South Louisiana experienced a "Artic Blizzard" which dropped a recorded 9.1 inches of snow in Lafayette Parish and a 6 degree F temperature which broke all time recorded records. Snow was coming down sideways. I have lived in Lafayette since September 1960 and have not experienced such a snowfall as this so far. I did have a back patio cover that collapsed due to the weight of snow buildup and a rotten beam framework. Apparently my coax feedlines were not damaged and I could not open my backdoor. No pipes broken but did have low water pressure during the freeze but was back to normal on Saturday.*

*Looked out the front door the morning of the "Artic Blizzard" and this is what I saw:*

*Lafayette was covered in a blanket of beautiful white snow.*

de KN5GRK



My website is hosted by:



**"February is a time to let go of the old and create space for new beginnings."** — Louise Hay

## Ham Radio - We Talk to the World!

## AARA CLUB NEWS



Walt Comeaux KI5OQE proposed that for the next meeting, everyone be thinking about ideas for future events and/or presentation topics. Michael Cavell KI5ARX proposed a raffle for all who bring forth ideas. Walt made a motion to set a \$25 cash prize, seconded by Al Matt KI5VGU.

Al Matt KI5VGU mentioned the possibility of future events/community engagement opportunities at Moncus Park in Lafayette.



You can find past 20 years of issues of the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (AARA) "LARC Newsletter" on the Internet Archive website at:

<https://archive.org/search?query=creator%3A%22Acadiana+Amateur+Radio+Association%22>

Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free texts, movies, software, music, websites, and more.

<https://archive.org/>

AARA Members that participated in "Winter Field Day 2025" at Steve Weber's farm in Church Point, Louisiana are listed below. Some photos can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.



# W5DDL

Chris Ancelet N5MCY	Arthur Lamke KJ5IWX
Remy Babineaux KE2CEM	Danny Meaux KJ5DZV
Michael Cavell KI5ARX	Laura Menard KI5FEB
Walter Comeaux III KI5OQE	Chance Odell KJ5CYB
Walter Comeaux IV KJ5GTO	Barrett Oge KG5SSO
Tom Dischler W5OHJ	Lonnie Quebedeaux KJ5HBU
Jake Domingue KI5JMD	Richard Thibodeaux N5QMF
Randy Hernandez KI5OQD	Phil Verrett KA8ZKR
Larry Kebedeaux K5KEB	Steve Weber AF5VR



## Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc. (AARA) VE Test Session Results January 2, 2025



Not a bad beginning for the year. Unfortunately only one person tested. Joey LeLeux ~ KJ5GNR of Rayne upgraded to General. Maybe that will change in the months to come.

The VEs assisting were Greg ~ K5LFT, Ray ~ N5KIR, Ken ~ KG5YYL, Larry ~ K5KEB, Michael ~ KI5ARX & John ~ K5ICU.

TNX to the VEs & Congratulations Joey !!!

73, de Greg ~ K5LFT

When possible, Amateur Radio Examinations (VE Exams) will be conducted prior to the club meetings starting at 6:00 PM. Information regarding VE Exams can be found here:

<http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

Please arrive as early as possible to help insure adequate time is available to complete your exam before the meeting starts.

Anyone needing additional information regarding VE Exams should contact Greg Dolan K5LFT at:

[k5lft@arrl.net](mailto:k5lft@arrl.net)



## Thanks for the Memories - Commodore 64



The Commodore 64 That Launched 42 Years Ago Is Still Being Used In A Doughnut Shop In Indiana As A Cash Register, With No Sign Of Failing

While surfing Facebook recently, I found that that a [Doughnut Shop](#) in Indiana has been using a Commodore 64 computer for over 42 years as a cash register. This brought back a lot of memories as we had a Commodore 64 computer club in Lafayette, La for a number of years during the '90's with about 15 members..

We held a monthly meeting at my home. I had a C64 computer, a Commodore 1702 monitor, 2 - 1541 floppy disk drives, Star NX-1000 printer, 2 joysticks, EPYK Fast Load Cartridge and a ton of floppy disk programs and a subscription to ["RUN" magazine](#) plus a couple of other Commodore magazines.

Members would show up with their programs on floppys which we would copy and share with others and put a copy in our library which contained about every C-64 program.



Our club would buy 5 1/4" double sided floppy disk by the bulk and use a notch cutter so we could use both sides.



We also had a ribbon inker that we could re-ink dot matrix printer ribbons.

At one time I had a Commodore 64 Bulletin Board System (BBS) set up on a IBM PC for our club members so we could leave messages and download software. I also had a small monthly newsletter.

During those years, I had a lot of fun and miss the games I used to play on the C64. I would do some repairs on a lot of Commodore 64's and probably still have some parts in my workshop. I eventually went over to the PC's and donated all my Commodore stuff to the Lafayette Salvation Army.

There are a lot of C64 emulators that will run on Windows operating systems, just Google to find them.

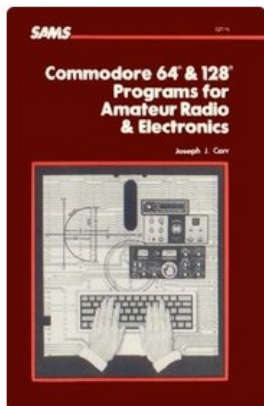
### A Little History on the Commodore 64

The Commodore 64 is the single most popular computer system ever sold. Released in 1982, the Commodore 64 had a 1MHz CPU and two big draws: a powerful, programmable sound chip and powerful graphics for a 1982 computer. Even better, the Commodore 64 cost a reasonable \$595 and had 64KB of RAM (hence the name).

There are still a few amateur radio operators still using [C64's with a TNC running PACKET](#). One of our local hams, Wiltz Hanks K5ABD, now a Silent Key lived down the street was into the C64 packet radio.

You can find this SAMS book on Commodore 64 & 128 Programs for Amateur Radio & Electronics at:

<https://archive.org/details/Commodore-64-and-128-Programs-for-Amateur-Radio-and-Electronics/mode/2up?ref=ol&view=theater>



73's de KN5GRK



# AARA Winter Field Day 2025 Photos



By Michael Cavell KI5ARX



The weather warmed up to make for a beautiful day for Winter Field day. The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association operated on 10, 15, 20, 40 meter bands working CW, SSB and Digital modes. The mission of Winter field day was embraced by club members with nearly every station testing or perfecting new components of their field portable setups. The majority of antennas were homemade, every station was running on DIY battery setups, and some working on integrating solar setups.

Since the opportunity provided itself, there was even a group that went to the Prairie Acadian Cultural Center National Park in Eunice to activate a POTA using 2M and 70cm FM. See page 2 for a listing of those that attended Winter Field Day. AARA thanks the Weber's for their generous hospitality and willingness to host Winter Field Day.



The ARES® Letter for January 15, 2025

## Essential Guide to Two-Way Radio Communication

By Scott Read, KM6RFB

Shorthand expressions and codes are useful for radio communication, especially when you need to transfer information quickly. It's important to make sure that everyone's on the same page with the terminology you're using and what it all means, so make sure all radio users know and understand all the terms in advance. You may decide to just use plain language, or use just a few of these terms instead of all of them – whichever helps your team to communicate effectively.

Common terminology in radio communication is crucial because it ensures clear and concise information exchange between individuals or groups, especially in critical situations like emergencies/disasters, by eliminating confusion arising from different interpretations of words or phrases, allowing for swift and effective action; essentially, everyone on the same radio channel understands the meaning of each term used, leading to better coordination and response times.

In amateur radio, we tend to use terminology that has been applied to and accepted in our community, deeply rooted in our long history, particularly from the historic use of telegraphy with Morse code stemming from the 1850s.

In the world of the public safety community we serve, however, amateur radio operators need to shift our mindset to using its language of public safety, understand agencies' requirements and how they communicate. Public safety workers generally do not understand our jargon, nor have the time to learn it. Under presidential directive after 9/11, the whole community needed to adopt common language, which ultimately embraced the NIMS/ICS terminology set.

A good example is the Q-signals table, a system of radio shorthand as old as wireless and developed from even older telegraphy codes. Q-signals are a set of abbreviations for common information that save time and allow communication between amateur radio operators. But public safety professionals are almost totally unfamiliar with it. Just the opposite is true with public safety and the use of Ten Codes, with which we as hams are mostly unfamiliar. Examples for police radio: 10-0 Use Caution; 10-1 Weak Signal; 10-2 Good Signal; 10-3 Stop Transmitting; 10-4 Affirmative; etc. [Read the police 10-codes](#). Even worse, they may not even be clear between public safety agencies. This can impede the flow of information between served agencies in a timely process.

### Key points about the importance of common radio terminology:

- **Reduces miscommunication:** Using standardized terms minimizes the risk of misunderstandings that could have serious consequences in emergency scenarios.
- **Improves interoperability:** When different agencies or teams use the same radio language, it facilitates collaboration and information sharing across groups.
- **Efficiency in communication:** Standardized phrases and codes allow for faster transmission of information, particularly when time is critical.
- **Safety enhancement:** Clear and consistent communication is essential for ensuring safety in situations like search and rescue operations or industrial work environments.

### Examples of common radio terminology:

- **Roger:** Acknowledgment of a message received.
- **Over and Out:** Indicates the end of a transmission and requests a response
- **Mayday:** Emergency distress call
- **Affirmative:** Yes
- **Negative:** No
- **Go ahead:** I am ready for your message
- **Say again:** Repeat all of your last message
- **Say all before/after:** Repeat all before/after a certain phrase or word if you didn't catch part of the message
- **Out:** Conversation is finished, no answer is required or expected
- **Radio check:** What's my signal strength? Can you hear me?
- **Read you loud and clear:** Your transmission signal is good; I can hear you fine
- **Wilco:** Abbreviation of "I will comply", means the speaker will complete the task that's been asked of them
- **Break, break:** Interruption to a transmission to communicate urgently
- **Emergency, emergency:** Distress call, only to be used when there is an imminent danger to life and immediate assistance is required
- **Stand by:** Wait
- **Wait out:** Waiting period is longer than I expected, I will get back to you as soon as possible
- **I spell:** The next word will be spelled out using the phonetic alphabet

The ITU or NATO phonetic alphabet is internationally recognized and used. If you've ever tried to spell a word over a radio, you'll understand why—it makes things much simpler. [Read the ITU phonetic alphabet list.](#)

In conclusion, we need to keep in mind that at the end of the day we work for the served agency. We should think of them as our client and the citizens we serve as our customers. It is also important to remember how we integrate into their operation and not the other way around. [[Scott Read, KM6RFB](#), is a COML, COMT, AUXCOMM cert holder, and SKYWARN operator]



# Need to Know

**2025 National Hurricane Conference**, April 14-17, 2024 (New Orleans, LA) — Make sure to attend the Amateur Radio Workshop, with presenters from the ARRL and the National Hurricane Center, among other luminaries.

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Starting Saturday January 11, 2025, the **Louisiana Traffic Net** is now back each evening of the week. Early check-ins and rag chewing start at 1800 hrs Central, net starts at 1830 hrs Central on 3910 KHz.

We have a trivia question each day and a weather report from our amateur meteorologist, Dominic W5DGM, of Slidell, Louisiana, who has a professional radio voice. I encourage each and every one of you to join us and making this a great net.

A very nice prayer once used by one of the NCS on the Louisiana Traffic Net, Bill Orehowsky N5GQ a.k.a. Wyle Bill. I thought it would be nice to pass on to other hams.



Dominic W5DGM

*“Heavenly Father, as we turn on our radios today, guide our communications with clarity*

*and kindness. May our signals reach far and wide, connecting us with fellow operators across the globe. Grant us the ability to listen attentively, offer helpful information, and foster a spirit of camaraderie within the ham radio community. Keep us all safe in our pursuits, and may our hobby always be a beacon of goodwill.*

*Amen”*

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Beginning January 20, 2025, the **Texas Traffic Net** that has been meeting on 3.873 MHz Monday thru Saturday will move to 7.285MHz at 0830-0930 mornings and 1830 to 1830. This change was due to QRM on 3.873 MHz frequency. This will remain in effect until further notice. .

## How to Keep RF Out of Your Rig

Created by Sherlock on 2024-11-20



If you are getting RF Feedback on your microphone and get squealing when you transmit, you probably don't have a good match to your antenna. You probably have high SWR and your microphone is trying to be part of your counterpoise. The best solution is to fix your antenna.

When you have a marginal ground, which you might have when operating POTA or Sota:

You can try a clamp-on ferrite bead. This will keep RF from being picked up by your microphone, or from your FT8 Computer or Modem.

Use shielded cable for your microphone or paddle or data cable and make sure it has a separate ground return wire for the microphone or data input.

If that doesn't work and you have really high levels of RF here is a sure-fire way to eliminate the RF feedback. You must be using shielded microphone or data cable, then you wind up the cable to make a trap to keep the RF out.



For 20 meters, wind 4 turns of the cable into a loop (3 inches in diameter), cut back the insulation to expose the braid on each side of the coil, and resonated it with a capacitor. It took about 100 pF for 20 meters. See picture.

You will need a unique trap for each band.

A grid dip meter is helpful to find resonance. This parallel trap will block all the RF.

If your CW Keyer is behaving erratically, you can try a 0.01 MFD ceramic capacitor across the shielded key line (or 2 capacitors across the iambic lines) or use this trap filter.

## **Jackson MS Capital City Hamfest 2025**

**Sponsor:** Jackson Amateur Radio Club  
ARRL Mississippi State Convention



**Friday** January 31, 2025 ---- 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Saturday** February 1, 2025 ---- 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Location:** Trademart on the Fairgrounds  
1200 Mississippi St.  
Jackson, MS 39201

**Admission:** \$10.00 for both days - Children under 12 get in free

**Tables:** Dealer \$30.00 - Flea Market \$25.00

**VE Testing:** Saturday 8:00 AM

**Hamfest Flyer:** [https://www.msham.org/sites/default/files/Hamfest\\_2025\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.msham.org/sites/default/files/Hamfest_2025_flyer.pdf)

**Website:** <http://www.msham.org>

**Talk-In:** 146.76 - 77 Hz

**Public Contact:** Jim Armstrong AK5J  
1103 Pinehurst Place  
Jackson, MS 39202  
Phone: 601-709-6740  
**Email:** [ak5J@arrl.net](mailto:ak5J@arrl.net)

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## **Orange (Texas) Hamfest 2025**

**Sponsor:** Orange ARC, Jefferson County ARC and Beaumont ARC



**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 from 1:00 PM — 6:30 PM

Saturday, February 22, 2025 from 7:00 AM — 2:00 PM

**Admission:** \$10.00 per person - Age 12 and younger free admission

**Talk-in:** 147.180 + 600 Hz PL 103.5

**VE Testing: Saturday @ 10:00 AM - No registration required**

The FCC now requires new amateur radio applicants to create a FCC user ID and register for a FCC Registration Number (FRN) on the FCC registration website before taking their examination.

Bring your FRN, the original and a copy of any current FCC License and any C.S.C.E.'s, picture ID, and \$15 (cash preferred) testing fee. We will have the latest forms available. VE Testing to be held in Agri-Life Room

**Location:** Orange County Convention & Expo Center  
11475 FM 1442  
Orange, TX 77630

**For more extensive details and reservation forms go to their website at:**

**Website:** [https://www.gsl.net/w5nd/index\\_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm](https://www.gsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm)

**Public Contact:** Phil Pollock AF5DT

8678 Turtle Road  
Orange, TX 77632  
Phone: 409-988-9898  
**Email:** [pollock.AF5DT@gmail.com](mailto:pollock.AF5DT@gmail.com)



## Acadiana DX Association Hamfest & Swapmeet



# 2025

**Sponsor:** Acadiana DX Association  
ARRL Louisiana State Convention  
Rayne, Louisiana



**This year's hamfest is dedicated in the memory of Silent Key  
Art Mouton K5FNQ**

**Date:** Friday March 21, 2025

3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Crawfish Boil:** 6:00 PM - On Pre-Order Basis

Saturday March 22, 2025

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Admission:** \$10.00 12 and younger free with paid adult

Free Admission to Scouts in uniform

**Raffel Tickets:** \$5.00 each - Drawing on Saturday at 1:30 PM

**Talk-in:** 147.040 PL 103.5 W5EXI

**Bingo:** Saturday 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

**VE Testing:** Saturday 9:00 AM

**Tables:** \$15.00 each - 6 foot with chairs

**Hamfest Flyer:** <https://www.kn5grk.com/hamfests/images/ADXA 2025 Flyer.pdf>

**Reservation Application for Crawfish & Swap Tables:**

<https://www.kn5grk.com/hamfests/images/ADXA 2025 Reservations.pdf>

**Location:** Rayne Civic Center  
210 Frog Festival Dr.  
Rayne, LA

*Coffee, Food, Snacks & Refreshments will be  
served by Scouts from Troop s 61B and 77G*

**Website:** <https://www.acadianadx.org/>

**Contact:** Ken Turner KG5YYL

Phone: (337)298-2755

E-mail: [acadianadx@gmail.com](mailto:acadianadx@gmail.com)

**NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge**

# SKYWARN Newsletter



**Program Update: 2025 Edition**

**IN-PERSON COURSE SCHEDULE:** Terrebonne Parish, LA  
**BASIC COURSE**

**Date:** Thu, Feb 13th 2025 4:30-6PM CT

**Address:** Terrebonne Parish EOC:

101 Government St.

Gray, LA 70359

**Fall 2024/Winter 2025 Virtual Classes Announced!**

**For more info and schedules, check out this website:**

<https://files.constantcontact.com/fad86b0e901/8e8e375a-6f53-4968-8df6-abf498f3a2f8.pdf>





# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## Schedule of Events

- ♦ January 31 & February 1 — Capitol City Hamfest — Jackson MS
- ♦ February 2 — Groundhog Day
- ♦ February 6 — AARA General Meeting at [Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shop](#) in Scott, LA at 7:00 PM
- ♦ February 9 — Super Bowl Sunday
- ♦ February 14 — Valentine's Day
- ♦ February 21 & 22 — Orange Hamfest

I watch so many crime TV shows, that when I turn off my ham radio, I wipe my fingerprints off the microphone.

## ACADIANA 2 METER NET REPORTS JANUARY 2025

Net Name	Sessions	Check-ins	Total Time
AARA Monday Night Net - 146.820 @ 7:00 PM Monday	4	75	201
Acadiana SkyWarn Net - 147.040 @ 7:00 PM Tuesday	4	54	171
Silent Key Memorial Net - 146.820 @ 7:00 PM Wednesday	4	58	166
Rag Chew Net - 147.040 @ 8:00 PM Thursday	4	41	486
Weekend Rag Chew Met - 147.040 @ 7:00 PM Saturday	4	43	857

Results posted on the 1st of the following month.

If the 146.820 is having problems, the alternate frequency will be the 147.040 repeater located in Duson, LA.

Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (AARA) members celebrating birthdays.



2/4	KA5QME	Ann	Langston
2/4	WA5TAQ	Glynn	Langston
2/4	KI5NTF	Stanley	Lee
2/15	K5ZRA	Greg	Linscombe
2/16	KD5NVC	Glenn	Breaux
2/18	AF5VR	Steve	Webre
2/24	KD5JSM	Danny	Daigle
2/24	KN5LSU	Chester	Young

### Pluto Discovery Anniversary Special Event

Feb 15-Feb 23, 0000Z-1259Z, W7P, Flagstaff, AZ. Northern Arizona DX Association. 7.290 14.090 14.290 21.290; all bands, all modes. Certificate & QSL. W7P c/o NADXA, 6315 Townsend Winona Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86004-1493. Operating from the Lowell Observatory, and club member's home QTHs. [www.qrz.com/db/w7p](http://www.qrz.com/db/w7p) or [www.nadxa.com](http://www.nadxa.com)

### USS Midway's final departure from Viet Nam in 1973

Feb 8, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 14.070 PSK31 DSTAR on Papa System Repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. [www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)

### George Washington's Birthday at Mount Vernon

Feb 15-Feb 16, 1500Z-1600Z, K4US, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. 7.042 7.242 14.042 14.242. QSL. MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. MVARC will host a special event station to commemorate our

first president's 293rd birthday. Members will be at the Mount Vernon greenhouse on the original grounds of the former plantation of George Washington and his wife, Martha Washington [mvarc.org](http://mvarc.org), [K4US@mvarc.org](mailto:K4US@mvarc.org)

### The White House Communications Agency Amateur Radio Club Presidents Day 2025 Commemoration

Feb 16-Feb 18, 0000Z-0000Z, W0H, Jackson, OH. White House Communications Agency Amateur Radio Club. 3.875 MHz 7.275 MHz 14.250 MHz 28.550. Certificate. Lowell Yates, 6809 Four Mile Rd, Jackson, OH 45640. The White House Communications Agency Amateur Radio Club is excited to honor all of our Presidents this Presidents Day. We would like to especially recognize the Presidents for whom the White House Communications Agency "(WHCA) has provided communications support since its founding in 1942. A WHCA-ARC Special Event certificate will be awarded to commemorate this special occasion. For more information, please visit our events page. <https://whitehousecomms-arc.org/events/whca-arc-presidents-day-special-event/>

<https://whitehousecomms-arc.org>

### 21st Annual Freeze Your Keys winter operating event

Feb 22, 1400Z-2200Z, W0EBB, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club. 7.035 CW 7.240 SSB 14.058 CW 14.325 SSB. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Please send a SASE for a return QSL card. [w0mna74@gmail.com](mailto:w0mna74@gmail.com)

### 2025 Rare Disease Day SES

Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z, N4R, Sparta, TN. KR4EE. 14.074. QSL. Jill Dybka, 7737 Sparta Hwy, Sparta, TN 38583. Mainly digital PSK, FT4, FT8 but other modes possible, incl. 10M tech subband SSB. QSL to home call, SASE & LOTW. [www.qrz.com/db/kr4ee](http://www.qrz.com/db/kr4ee)



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Complimentary  
Issue