



W5PC

THE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY NEWSLETTER

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 18, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2008

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HAM FEST

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NEWSLETTER- HISTORIAN

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PUBLIC RELATIONS



USS New York (LPD-21), a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, is the fifth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the state of New York. The ship is designed to deliver a fully-equipped battalion of 700 Marines.

Shortly after 11 September 2001, Governor of New York George E. Pataki wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England requesting that the Navy bestow the name USS New York on a surface warship involved in the War on Terror in honor of September 11's victims. In his letter, the Governor said he understood state names are currently reserved for submarines, but asked for special consideration so the name could be given to a surface ship. The request was approved 28 August 2002.

Oddly enough, a previous holder of the name, USS New York (BB-34), had its keel laid on September 11, 1911, exactly 90 years to the day before the WTC was attacked.

Twenty-four tons of the steel used in its construction came from the rubble of the World Trade Center. Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, LA to cast the ship's bow section. It was poured into the molds on Sept 9, 2003. With seven tons melted down and cast to form the ship's "stem bar" — part of the ship's bow. The shipyard workers reportedly treated it with "reverence usually accorded to religious relics", gently touching it as they walked by. On 9 September 2004, the Secretary of the Navy announced that two of her sister ships will be named Arlington and Somerset, in commemoration of the places two of the other planes used in the attack came down: Somerset, Pennsylvania and Arlington, Virginia.

The contract to build New York was awarded to Northrop Grumman Ship Systems of New Orleans, Louisiana in 2003. The ship also survived Hurricane Katrina

- Information from Wikipedia



LONG TIME ARCPC MEMBER BETH THOMPSON K5BLT BECOMES A SILENT KEY

Bethelda Laverne Williams was born near Sipe Springs in Comanche County, Texas on December 11, 1942 to George Harold and Faye Alice (Dunn) Williams. Beth married Jerry Thompson W7JT on June 21, 1976 in Nacogdoches, Texas. Her and Jerry became interested in Amateur Radio in early 1978. They took a novice class at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, LA. The class was taught by Larry Stanley WA5LGO. Beth passed the test before the class ended. Beth was issued her first call KA5AHO which she kept after upgrading to Technician class in 1979. Beth upgraded to General class in the late 1990s and on July 4, 2000 received the vanity call using her initials K5BLT. Beth had many interests related to ham radio. She was primarily interested in public service and emergency service communications. She was active in Army and Air Force MARS and Civil Air Patrol on VHF and HF. She worked disaster relief in Bossier City and Shreveport tornadoes and flood relief here in Parker County. She was a frequent operator at the National Weather Service while living in Shreveport, LA. She was a member of both Parker County clubs, The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County and the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club. She was also a Life Member of QCWA.

Other interests included hunting and fishing and was a Life Member of the National Rifle Association. She loved to watch the birds and had feeders and bird baths outside her bedroom windows. She also loved cats and fed many strays as well as her own for many years, but would not let them near her birds. She was a member of the Red Hat Society, a social group of ladies over fifty. She joined the Texas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (131st Air Search & Rescue Composite Squadron-now the 131st Johnson County Composite Squadron) in October 1986. She advanced to the rank of Captain while serving in communications, administration and information systems staff positions.

Beth was very active as a member of ARCPC for many years and will be greatly missed by the membership.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM "ELMER"

From: The ARRL's Web Page

The term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams--first appeared in QST in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world:

"Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'"

Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."--Rick Lindquist, N1RL

As you can see, the term is not very old. Prior to the first use of Elmer as the one who guided and encouraged us, what were these folks called? I have received a lot of suggestions; teacher, mentor, tutor, guide, helper, sage? All are appropriate but my guess would be that first and foremost they were called friend.

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

THE DOCTOR IS IN

From: The ARRL Letter Vol.27 No 34
Friday August 29, 2008

Question -- John Hoffman, KJ4GER, of Woodstock, Georgia, asks: I am reading the "ARRL General Class License Manual" In a few places, it mentions the 75 meter band. On my ARRL-provided "US Amateur Radio Bands" chart, it shows an 80 meter band and a 60 meter band, but no 75 meter band. What is the 75 meter band, and why does it not show up on the official band chart?

The Doctor Answers -- John, 75 meters is an designation for the 3.6-4.0 MHz phone band, a portion of the 3.5-4.0 MHz 80 meter allocation. If you convert 4.0 MHz to wavelength (300/4) you will find that the top end of the band has a wavelength of 75 meters.

Historically, 75 meters refers to the voice portion of the "official" 80 meter band. The term 80 meters is often used to refer to the entire band. Most HF radios have a bandswitch position for 80 meters that covers the entire band, not one for 75 meters. Unlike any other band, you will rarely hear anyone refer to "80 meter phone." I cannot offer any logical explanation for the anomaly -- perhaps someone will fill us in on how this came to be.



SECRETARY'S NOTES

Minutes of the August 2008 Meeting

The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County met on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at the Weatherford Community Center. President Al Warren WR5AW called the meeting to order at 19:16. There were 22 members and 5 guest present. Al Warren WR5AW gave the invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Al Warren WR5AW presented a "hams eulogy" in honor of our recently lost club member Beth Thompson K5BLT. The message was given in CW as a last CQ to Beth from W5PC. We will all miss Beth and express our sincere condolences to Jerry Thompson and the family. Al Warren WR5AW made a motion to the members present for the club to send a donation to the ARRL Foundation in honor of Beth Thompson. Will Teague W5CX suggested the amount of \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Jim Spaulding W0UO and passed by voice vote. Will Teague W5CX gave an update on the "Ask the Elmer" addition to the club newsletter and asked for members to contribute their experience and individual expertise to the effort. The addition to the news letter was proposed in the August edition.

OLD BUSINESS: None

The minutes of the July 2008 meeting were approved by the members present.

NEW BUSINESS: There were no new business items presented to the club at this meeting.

The clubs' annual ice cream social was enjoyed by all instead.

PROGRAM: A slide presentation about a past DXpedition to East Kiribati (also known as Christmas island) was given by Bob Gill K5BG. Bobs call sign was T32BO while operation from the island along with Lee Ward T32PO and Paul Lange T32BE.

Hopefully the show will spark an interest in DXing among those members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:35

Respectfully submitted
By Keith Sunday, N5LGV, Secretary/Treasurer

**ARCPC
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The September Program will be "200 Meters and Beyond" originally present by Ward Silver N0AX at HamCom and will be presented by ARCPC's own Jim Spaulding W0UO. The general subject is a discussion about where we have been, what important transitions have taken place, and where we might go. It also deals directly with our attitudes about change.

ASK THE ELMER

This month's "Ask the Elmer" was not included in the newsletter. The newbies in the club need to ask questions so that the Elmers can provide answers. The "Ask The Elmer" page can only be included when there is questions and answers to put to print..... Thanks the Editor

PARKER/PALO PINTO INFORMATION NET

Mondays at 7:00 pm on 147.040 (tone 110.9) Alt: 146.900 or 443.800

ARCPC VE TESTING

VE testing for all license classes and upgrades will be conducted on the third Thursday of each month, except November and December, at 7:00 pm at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1706 S. Main St. Weatherford. Enter side door of main building.



ARCPC HOSPITALITY

September, 2008 Meeting


Refreshments including, coffee, soft drinks and cookies.



Judy

KB5JEY

Jake Sez!



"Practice makes perfect, so be careful what you practice"

= NOTICE =

**The next club meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday September 9, 2008
at , Weatherford, TX
Talk-in 147.04 and Tone 110.9**

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
LICENSE CLASS: (E)(A)(G)(T)(N) ARRL MEMBER: (YES) (NO) STATUS: (NEW) (RENEWAL)
(CIRCLE APPLICABLE ANSWERS ON ABOVE LINE)
ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP (plus 4): _____
PHONE: HOME: _____ WORK: _____

INITIATION FEE: One time initiation fee per family - \$5.00

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00. HAM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 (+ 1 same household or full time college student) (Add an additional \$5.00 if you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter).

HAM FAMILY MEMBER NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

Cut out and mail this application to the ARCPC Secretary/Treasurer along with you check or money order for the amount due. Or, bring it to the next regular club meeting.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JUNE

W5PC

**FIRST CLASS
MAIL**

**AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1795
WEATHERFORD, TX 76086**



www.qsl.net/w5pc