



# THE LOCAL OSCILLATOR



THE PUBLICATION OF THE PANHANDLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The next club meeting will be Tuesday, March 4. The main topic will be packet radio. There will be a short film and a live demonstration. This is the meeting to find out the what where and why of Packet radio!!  
DON, KC5EZO

## PARC OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT:

Don Bristow,  
KC5EZO

### SECRETARY:

Lalon Savage,  
KC5HKT

### TREASURER:

Robert McKee,  
KC5DKQ

### EDITOR

Barry Collyer,  
KM5ER

Need Info, Have  
Comments: Call  
Don, KC5EZO @  
381-2775

## Code Quick - A Review



Want to really get into HF? You must learn the code! I did it...so can you. I have a constant ringing in one of my ears due to my younger days when I used to shoot guns as a sport. Now I shoot off my mouth as a sport... on HF! I attempted to use code tapes from Radio Shack and the ARRL. I soon got bored...I mean I fell asleep! I couldn't tell a dash from a dit. One day I spotted an adver-

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## HAM

"Ham: a poor operator. A Plug"

That's the definition of the word given in G. M. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* even before wireless radio was

invented. The definition came from wire telegraphy. The first wireless operators were landline telegraphers who left their offices to go to sea or to man the coastal stations. They brought with them their language and much of the tradition of their older profession.

In the early days spark was the king and every station occupied the same wavelength—or, more accurately perhaps, every station occupied the whole spectrum with its broad spark signal.

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## The MARS CORNER

Challenges can be stepping stones or stumbling blocks, It's just a matter of how you view them. This idea was sent to me as a "Thought for the Day" and it has never been more applicable to Army MARS and the Amateur Radio world as it is today and will be throughout 1997. "The success and survival of the MARS program is inextricably linked to the success and survival of HAM RADIO." This statement was made by a soldier, Ralph Prickett/AAR4RE, who is a MARS member and also an Amateur Radio operator (HAM) as all MARS operators must be. Actually, the survival of both services depends upon the often unrecognized link that exists between us. He further pointed out in his message that, "We are in a time now where the hobby of Ham Radio is under considerable assault from commercial communications consortiums who would gladly occupy the Ham spectrum regardless of the benefits of Ham Radio to the community." MARS operators and the frequencies they use are part of this structure that is under assault and we must all work together to carry both services forward into the next century. "One of the defenses of the HAM frequency allocations has been the role of the HAMs in providing early on emergency communications when they were needed most." This column has often pointed out the great services rendered by the Amateur community in times of need in their communities, counties, and states. MARS serves the same need including the early entry for any emergency which could impact the preparation of the federal agencies. The Elements of Essential Information (EEI) reports give the agencies the early information and follow-up that is needed for effective preparation for response and relief. Emergency communications support is the primary mission for both groups. That mission is the reason that frequencies have historically been available for both groups. "Also, in the past, the hobby aspect of Ham radio was defended as providing a pool of trained radio operators the military could utilize in a national emergency." The training and hobby aspect of MARS serves the same purpose with the additional focus of operators being able to interface with military communications whenever necessary. "The fate of MARS and HAM radio are intertwined...I would like to see as a goal, more emphasis placed on solidifying the ties between MARS and the rest of the HAM radio world...As MARS members grow and become better skilled as Hams, they become better MARS members too!" The purpose of this column is to encourage the solidifying of the ties between MARS and the rest of the HAM radio world. The content of the column and its wide distribution within the Amateur community as well as the MARS community may help to keep all sectors of radio communications active in unity of purpose. At least that is my hope and the reason that **I invite all club newsletter editors to use the column in their publications.** Service as an Army MARS operator adds to the knowledge and experience that is not available to that operator anywhere else. All operating privileges are open to the member HAM no matter what class license he holds. He has full HF operating privileges, both phone and digital, as well as additional formal training in many aspects of radio operation. As better MARS members and better HAMS, we have much to offer our country. We also have the obligation to do what we can to offset the assaults currently taking place against Amateur Radio. Mr. Prickett writes further, "This year we have seen the assault on the 2 meter and 70 cm allocations by the 'Little Leos', all backed by commercial money. Once something like this succeeds, all HAM radio operation, as we know it, will assume the status of an endangered species." The challenge is there for all radio communities to face. Do we stumble or do we step forward? Do we act in unity of purpose and in teamwork, or do we each go our own way and hope that victory emerges like the phoenix out of chaos? The choice is ours to make. Let's hope we all make it as a team and preserve a very precious legacy that has been so dearly earned by those who came before us. Army MARS will surge forward as a team -- Proud, Professional, and Ready.

Lorraine S. Matthew/N4ZCF/AAA9PR  
 Army MARS Public Relations Coordinator  
 (Submitted by N4BZ)



**NET SCHEDULE****P.A.I.N**

146.94 8:00 PM SUNDAY

**CLOUD CHASERS**

146.92 8:00 PM MONDAY

**PANHANDLE TRAFFIC  
AND EMERGENCY NET**3933 KHZ LSB 00:00 UTC  
DAILY**AMSAT**

3840 KHZ 9:00PM TUESDAY

**S W LYNX NET**

146.56 6:00 PM THURSDAY

**PAMPA TOP OF TEXAS NET**

146.90 8:00 PM WEDNESDAY

**FRITCH SIDEWINDERS NET**

147.30 8:00 PM TUESDAY

**ARES NET**444.2 or 145.35 (T88.5) 8:00 PM  
THURSDAY

FOR Sale: IBM VGA Monitor (needs to be focused) \$20, IBM 486-SLC 50mhz motherboard (ISA) \$20, Zoom 14.4 faxmodem with caller ID (no manual) \$20, Call KC5JIF (Reddy) 355-8672

Internet e-mail access (for short messages) for \$9.00 per YEAR. Modem to 806-355-6604

**WANTED/FOR SALE/TRADE/INFO NEEDED**

Your free message here!  
Contact bcollyer@fia.net

**FOR SALE:**

Tower rohm 25G, Tri-band Antenna, 2 meter antenna, 440 antenna, 2 meter omi antenna, tailtwister rotor, lightning arrester and coax. All for \$800.

Call Coleman Wingate  
@ 806-358-961

**For Sale:**

Set of Heath Twins with frequency readout.

Models 303 & 401

\$300 , OBO or Trade?

Call Dave @ 782-4168

Leave a Message -

**DO NOT USE EMERGENCY LINE**

**WANTED - HAM and Computer Related Cartoons**  
Submit to the editor!

**OSCILLATOR COMMENTS/SUBMITTALS**

Feel free to submit questions, comments and articles to: bcollyer@fia.net



*(Code - From Page 1)*

tisement in QST about a course called Code Quick....well...this boy didn't fall off that Georgia peach truck yesterday! I mean a few years back I saw this guy at the Dayton hamfest attempting to sell tapes with the code set to music. It wasn't even good music...and I did not bite at that one. But....the Code Quick advertisement kinda looked ok...and I had tried just about everything else...and it had a money back guarantee. So the most I had to loose was some time.

The day it arrived in the mail I was very skeptical. The packaged consisted of a nice binder with 6 tapes. The first 4 tapes consisted of a lesson on each side...for a total of 8 lessons. The 5th tape was lesson 9 and 10 which was called the "upgrade bonus" and the 6th tape was called the stepper tape. Also, I received a book with a bunch of tear out cards with various pictures. You used these tear out cards along with the tapes.

The reasoning behind Code Quick is to teach you the code by using all your senses and by association....the technical reason it is supposed to work has something to do with a part of the brain called the Broca area and the language center of your brain. The language center of the brain assigns meaning to the dits and dashes just as it does to every sound in our native English.

For example the course teaches you the letter D by the words DOG DID IT

(guess what picture is on the

card!).....DOG DID IT = dau dit dit.

Now ..did I feel silly!....I am a grown man, an engineer and I am looking at cards with funny pictures and saying weird phrases to learn the code. I listened to these tapes before going to bed and back and forth to work. I never fell asleep...and well....I kinda kept it a little secret...I mean after all it sure looked silly. But...it...well...it worked!....I soon had every letter, number and all the prosigns. I actually knew it. I passed my 5 wpm and the 13 wpm. Not on the first try...but on the second for each one. The only reason I haven't gone for 20 is pure laziness....I plan on it once I complete the ham shack..someday...and Code Quick will be used again.

So ....I am sure some of the Hams are snickering on my method of learning the code....but what matters is that you learn it..not how you learn it. If I can do it ...anyone can.

If the code has stopped you from HF, you no longer have an excuse. (Authors name withheld due to embarrassment.. Hi Hi)

**E-MAIL REQUEST**

I would like to list club members (and nonmember HAMS) e-mail address in an upcoming edition of the Oscillator.

If you DO NOT mind your e-mail address and call sign being listed please e-mail it to [bcollyer@fia.net](mailto:bcollyer@fia.net).

They Show Up NEXT Issue!

**Ham**

*(Continued From Page 1)*

Government stations, ships, coastal stations and the increasingly numerous amateur operators all competed for the time and signal supremacy in each others receivers. Many of the amateur stations were very powerful. Two amateurs working across town could effectively jam all other operators in the area. It was common for the commercial operators to complain about those "HAMS".

Amateurs, possibly unfamiliar with the real meaning of the term, picked it up and applied it to themselves in true "Yankee Doodle" fashion and wore it with pride. As the years advanced the original meaning disappeared.

(KM5ER)



## QSL?



Looking for some QSL cards? This article will review the products offered by five QSL card vendors. In addition the article will provide you with their latest prices. The vendors are [Mahre & Sons Print Shop](#) (Minnesota), [Colorful QSL Printing](#) (Indiana), [WorldWise Services](#) (Delaware), [Brownies](#) (Pennsylvania) and [QSLs by N0TT](#) (Missouri). The cards offered by these vendors range from inexpensive mass mailing cards to high quality very detailed cards. There are several other vendors out there...so this is just a limited sample! The prices mentioned are for the minimum order. Larger orders are cheaper per card. Pick the one you want!

[Mahre & Sons](#) provides you with 13 selection sheets with tons of clip art and text styles. You can choose two ink colors for use on the front. You can use any number of clip art designs at no extra cost. They will do custom work if you provide camera ready artwork. They charge anywhere from \$6 to \$15 for the custom artwork. They have a minimum order of 250 cards at \$33.20. Special color cards will cost you an extra \$10.50 for 250 cards. This company also offers "eyeball QSO" cards (Business card size cards). Opinion: Nice cards, but nothing special.

[Brownies](#) provides you with a nice sample of cards and a small pamphlet of clip art and text styles. Their clip art seems to be a little more unique and has a more crisp appearance. They charge from \$13 to \$20 for custom artwork. One color cards are \$17 per hundred, two color cards are \$19 per hundred, three color cards are \$20 per hundred, four color cards are \$22 per hundred and five color cards are \$23 per hundred. Color card stock (yellow, red, green, blue, pine and red velva-glo) costs an extra \$1.50 per 100 cards. Opinion: Very Nice cards, some of the text colors on the sample cards were not as rich and dark as the other vendors.

[Colorful QSL Printing](#) provides a limited selection of choices in artwork and text. In fact the way you choose what you want is by marking up a sample card (10 provided). The samples provided are very high quality on heavy card stock. The colors

Opinion: Very Nice cards, but limited selection. Offers a lot in colors.

[WorldWise Services](#) provides you with six samples which are your only choices. These are very basic cards. Prices are \$13 per 200. A thousand cards from this company only costs \$36. Cards can be white, ivory, tan, yellow, gray, blue or green. Opinion: OK..only if you send out a bunch of cards. You get what you pay for!

[QSLs by N0TT](#) provides you with several samples and a nice selection sheet that shows 60 QSL cards. You can take any of the samples and arrange and rearrange as you like. They also have a set of special cartoon cards and some unique license plate cards. They offer several types of paper including an old aged parchment-like look. This company also offers the "eyeball QSL" cards. How much....well... expect to pay about \$39 for 250 cards (Confession: I ordered these and as such do not have the price list!). Opinion: Very Nice Cards. Nice selection.

Contacts:  
WorldWise Services  
107 Giles Court  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5373

QSLs by N0TT  
RR1 Box 108-B  
Napoleon, Missouri 64074  
(816) 625-4889

Colorful QSL Printing  
P. O. Box 4027  
Lafayette, IN 47903  
(765) 423-1035

Brownies  
3035 Lehigh St.  
Allentown, PA 18103  
(610) 434-4138

Mahre & Sons Print Shop  
2095 Prosperity Avenue  
Maplewood, Minnesota 55109  
(612) 777-6463

(KM5ER)





PARC  
PO BOX 10221  
AMARILLO TX  
79116



Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here

**In This Issue...**

QSL Card Reviews, Code Quick Review, MARS Letter, Net Information and more!

*RECENT NEWS*

ARRL members are being invited to add their ideas, comments and recommendations to those of the ARRL WRC-99 Planning Committee, which has suggested sweeping--and potentially controversial--changes to the Amateur Radio licensing structure in the US. On the table for open discussion and debate are proposals that include:

\* elimination of the Novice

license

\* creation of a new Intermediate license to replace the Technician Plus

\* greater hf privileges for intermediate licensees than for the existing technician plus, including phone on 160, 75 and 15 meters

\* a 10-wpm General CW test (with more stringent testing standards for all CW exams)

\* expanded phone privileges for General-class and higher

licensees

Details of the plan, discussed during the recent ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will appear in the March QST.

**NEW!**  
**A NEW HAM GETS  
FULL MEMBERSHIP  
FOR THE FIRST  
YEAR AT A RE-  
DUCED RATE: \$10**