



# The Local Oscillator

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## Meet The Voice Of Our 146.94 Repeater: Kimberly Zeis

When the technical committee was performing final adjustments on the Club's new repeater controller, the most pleasant voice present was that of 13-year-old Kimberly Zeis, niece of Jerry Zeiss, KD5LII. After some persuasion and the writing of a few short scripts, Kimberly's voice was recorded into the digital memories of the NHRC-10!

Kimberly's Technician license and KD5TNJ call became effective on August 8. She had taken her VE-administered FCC test the previous Saturday.

Kimberly is an 8th Grade student at Travis Middle School. She attends church and enjoys singing at Harvest Life Center. She received an award for working this summer as a volunteer at Amarillo's Cornerstone Outreach Center which distributes food to the needy in the Amarillo and Panhandle area.

Our Club is also proud to have another young teen operator who earned his Technician license (at the age of 12) back on June 2, 2000. He is John Michael White, KD5KIJ, son of last year's PARC President Steve White, W5SAW.



## October 5th Meeting To Be Held At Different Location!

Today, it's normal to expect hams to watch the weather and be well-prepared for emergencies. But another public service we should be prepared to do is help mobiles in our area with directions to Panhandle points of interest.

Our next Club meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. (30 minutes earlier than our usual time), and will be held in the conference room at Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, one of our less-well-known tourist attractions.

Following our regular meeting, we will be taken on a guided tour which will involve walking .8 of a mile out and the same back in, for a total of 1.6 miles. The tour is optional, and you may walk a longer or shorter route if you wish.

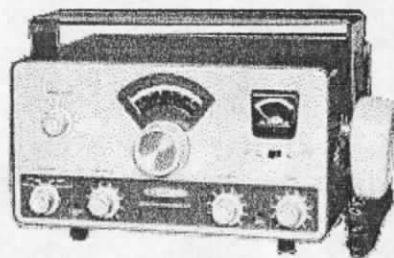
All attending should wear long pants and walking shoes. Although it should be cooler in October, the WBNC staff suggests that you also bring a bottle of water and wear sun protection.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-40 West, go north on Soncy about three miles. Just before you reach the intersection with Tascosa Road, you must watch carefully for a sign which will be on your left.

As the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center website (<http://www.wildcatbluff.org>) advises, "Reconnect with the timeless rhythm of the natural world and ponder again the impact of civilization." See you there Saturday, October 5th!

## Bitner's Bandwidth

By Gene,  
WA5ETK



I really miss building kits. I have fond memories of my Heathkit HW-32, a 14-tube 20-meter xcvr which I built back in the winter of 1972. I was totally amazed that it worked right from the start!! 200 watts P.E.P. from a pair of 6GE5 finals-- It would really be expensive to buy those today.

There are still a few kits available. Just go to <http://www.google.com> and type in "ham radio kits". You will be surprised at the links which appear that are related to kit building!

If you want to get a mobile APRS beacon going, I strongly recommend the TinyTrakII available from <http://www.byonics.com>. It's a \$30 wonder!

## A Short Trip Down Memory Lane...

Here are a few excerpts from the PARC Past, as taken from Club records:

SEPTEMBER, 1993: Meeting at the Red Cross, the Club discussed a letter from Red Cross officials which stated that the PARC would no longer be allowed to use the "Radio Room" because it would be needed for storage space. John London, KB5JJB, asked members to find a new meeting place.

SEPTEMBER, 1994: Meeting at Texas State Technical College, Joe, KA0YOS, gave a program on satellite operations. The program included video footage of actual antennas, radio equipment and satellite contacts. The video also included a "rare and thought provoking interview with local ham celebrity Len Parsons, W5AL."

SEPTEMBER, 1995: Meeting at Southwest Library, W5WX Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Ken Hanson, WB5QLI, "for climbing 450 feet on the Channel 7 tower to repair the 146.94 repeater antenna; and to Chip Andrews, N5LTZ, for "hosting a fantastic Field Day and Barbeque at his ranch."

### Lubbock's .94 Repaired

Those of you who travel south may have a better chance of finding someone on Lubbock's 146.94 repeater. WB5R reports:

"I am pleased to announce that the 146.94 repeater has been repaired. Previous audio problems have been corrected.

"This frequency is recognized nationally as a repeater pair and is generally the first place newcomers to any area look for a repeater on which to ask for assistance or aid. You should have this pair in your scanner so that you can assist others when necessary.

"I will be utilizing this frequency to chat locally. The repeater has great coverage and now is a great 'get together' machine."

The repeater is operated by the Caprock Repeater Club, and it has a 179.9 tone access.

### 3.933 Net Welcomes You!

One constant over the past decades has been the 3.933 net, currently called the Panhandle Traffic and Emergency Net. The net meets seven days a week at 0000 Hours UTC, which is currently 7:00 p.m. CDST.

Back before Internet and weather satellites, the net collected precipitation reports, 'highs' and 'lows' from Panhandle and South Plains communities. These were then given to Amarillo's TV stations.

Although the net does handle occasional traffic, it has evolved into mostly a fellowship opportunity for area hams. The list of 'regulars' changes from time to time, but there is always a good variety of towns represented. It's a good means of checking on the latest weather happenings or to learn who just erected a new antenna or made a cruise to Alaska.

There's no roll-call. Just come with your call when requested by Net Control.

## UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

OCTOBER 5, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Regular Club meeting at Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, near Soncy and Tascosa Road. (See front page story.)

OCTOBER 8, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. - ARES meeting at Red Cross, 1800 South Harrison. Everyone interested in emergency communications is invited.

OCTOBER 26, Saturday - Socorro, New Mexico Swapfest. For info e-mail [ac5bx@juno.com](mailto:ac5bx@juno.com) or phone (505) 835-3370.

NOVEMBER 1-2, Friday and Saturday - Odessa Swapfest. For info e-mail [w5bu@arrl.net](mailto:w5bu@arrl.net) or phone (915) 366-4521.

NOVEMBER 9, Saturday - Panhandle Amateur Radio Club meeting (which was postponed a week so officers and members can attend the Odessa 'Fest).

NOVEMBER 12, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. - ARES meeting at Red Cross.

DECEMBER 7, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Regular Club meeting at Red Cross.

DECEMBER 10, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. - ARES meeting at Red Cross.

DECEMBER 12, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - PARC Christmas Dinner at Desperado BBQ & Steaks, 16th and Madison. We will be ordering from the menu.



## We're Also On The Internet!

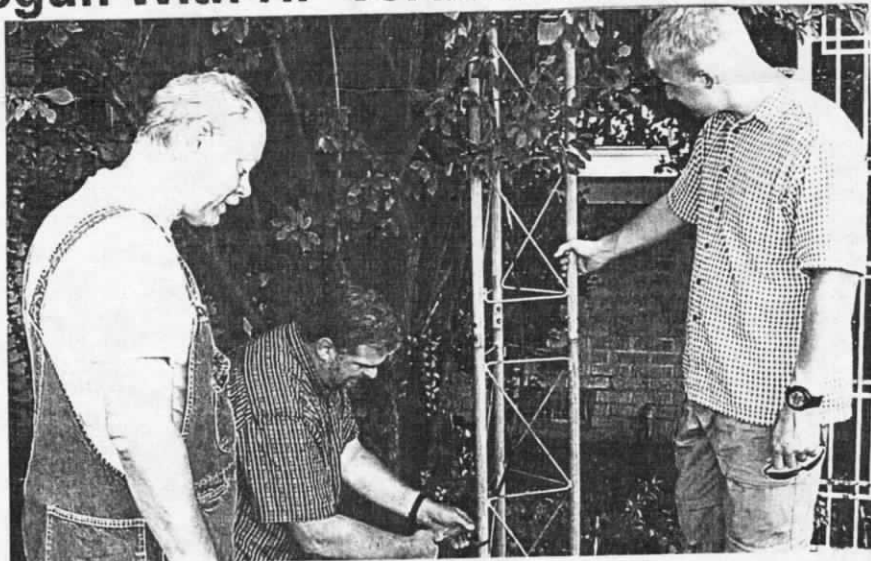
**YAHOO! Groups** 

We are really going to try mailing out "The Local Oscillator" on a quarterly or near-quarterly basis from now on. But if you would like to know of Panhandle amateur radio events almost as they happen, then you are most welcome to join our parc-hams internet group! Once a member you are invited to contribute information related to ham radio and weather. The system rejects attachments, so there is little worry about getting a virus. If interested, just e-mail the group manager at [wa5etk@c1ama.com](mailto:wa5etk@c1ama.com).

You can also find a lot of information at our W5WX Website, managed by Cynthia, N5SSG. There you will find current membership lists, reports on recent Club meetings and information on upcoming events. The URL is: <http://www.qsl.net/w5wx>

## W5WX Club Station Begun With HF Vertical Installation

Thirteen hams from Amarillo and Canyon turned out Sunday, September 8 to begin "Phase One" of construction on our Club Station at the American Red Cross, 1800 South Harrison. A Cushcraft 10-40 meter vertical was erected on the roof. Our next step will be bringing coax or hardline into the building's southwest corner office area which will be shared by Red Cross and PARC equipment. It was decided to make HF operations happen first because we already had the vertical antenna and a complete Yaesu station. The Club also has an extra Harris RF-3200 transceiver.



In the picture above, Steve, W5SAW, secures both of the hardline conductors to the Red Cross tower. It was then extended to an 8-foot ground rod which was inserted into the earth a few feet from the tower base. At left, Don, WD5ILA looks on, as does Brandon, AD5ER, at right. Chip, N5LTZ, brought the antenna base and blocks for anchoring. Steve provided the hardline, which was used to ground the roof antenna, and some mast. Others on hand to help were John, N5BNU; Vernon, N5LRH; Bernadine, KB6YDK; John, KD5AZO; Brad, N5LUL; David, KB5WUF; Henry, N5HPJ; Gene, WA5ETK; and Richard, former KB5FYD.

## Special Honor for Laird Campbell, W1HQ, SK

W1HQ, the call sign of the late Laird Campbell, a former ARRL staff member who died April 26, has been granted—with the blessings of Campbell's family—to the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club at ARRL Headquarters. Trustee is ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI.



"It will be the primary call sign used by ARRL Headquarters staff members as they operate the HQ club station," Hare explained.

W1HQ will supplant the W1INF call sign now in use for the ham station inside ARRL Headquarters (and separate from Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, which is in another building adjacent to the ARRL HQ parking area). Hare says to keep an ear open for W1HQ on the air during lunch hours and after normal business hours. The W1INF call sign will be used by the ARRL Laboratory staff for on-the-air operations and tests, Hare said.

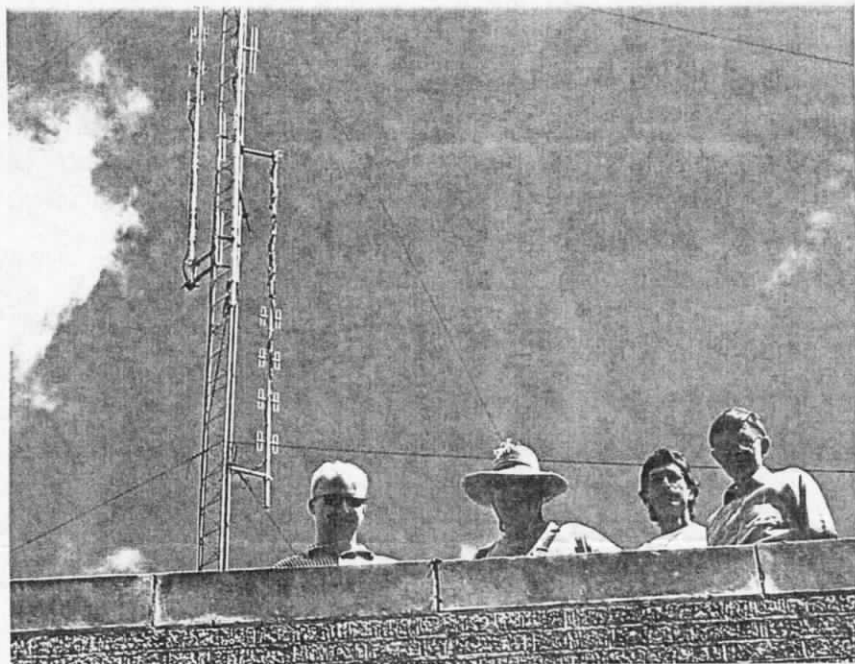
Laird Campbell's ARRL career spanned 35 years. He served in a variety of roles at ARRL Headquarters including QST managing editor and ARRL advertising manager. He was an ARRL Charter Life Member.

"Laird was an uncommonly decent human being—I was proud to call him my friend," said current QST Managing Editor Joel Kleinman, N1BKE. "Despite the setbacks he had after he left the ARRL HQ staff, he never lost his sense of humor. He was the quintessential gentleman."

Steve White, W5SAW, said, "Laird was a friend to everyone he met. I have already missed hearing, "W1HQ in and out," on the Sunday evening Panhandle Amateur Information Net. I wish to extend my personal gratitude for the support he gave the Panhandle Amateur Radio Club here in Amarillo as well as other Amateur Radio Clubs and Organizations across the nation."



*When you call someone or say, "— monitoring." it is a good idea to WAIT a while before giving up. Not all operators are in their vehicles within easy reach of a microphone. Others may be monitoring from another room. Waiting only a few more seconds could bring a reply!*



## Hello up there!!!

These hams were on top of the Red Cross roof Sunday, September 8 to find the best location for the Club HF vertical antenna. Pictured (l. to r.) are Brandon, AD5ER; Don, WD5ILA; Brad, N5LUL; and John, KD5AZO. The antennas you see are on the Red Cross tower. Our vertical was installed northwest of them.

### P.A.I.N.

Be sure to remember our Panhandle Amateur Information Net which meets every Sunday evening on the Club's 146.94 repeater. Swap, sell or trade announcements are welcome. It all begins at 8:00!

## CONTROLLER COMMENTS...

As most of you know, a new controller was installed on the W5WX 146.94 repeater in late July. It is working great!!!

There are many features available on it, but the ones I am focusing on are the AutoPatch, AutoDial, and ReversePatch.

Combined with the efforts of Gene (WA5ETK), and John (W5BNU), I now have a current list of members who are entitled to use these features (provided they are full members). If any Individual member or Family qualified member has an interest in obtaining the code to access these features, please contact me (Brad-N5LUL) at [n5lul@juno.com](mailto:n5lul@juno.com) or by phone at 383-3783.

There are a couple of test functions that are available to all:

The DTMF test will read back all the DTMF tones it hears input. Try it. It's a good test to make sure all the buttons on your keypad are working properly.

To do the test, key up, hit 55, and any other numbers or letters (A thru D), \* or #, unkey. The controller will say what it heard.

For example : key up, hit 551234321D, unkey. The controller will read back one, two, three, four, three, two, one, dee if that is what it heard. \* is spoken as ee and # is spoken as eff.

The Audio test is simple. Key up, hit 608, and unkey. Then follow the directions spoken. Key up again, talk, unkey. Your audio as heard by the receiver will be replayed.

A list of the AutoPatch, AutoDial, AutoDial #s (who and what number) access codes will be made available to anyone entitled to them. Please let me or any of the Officers know if you want to be included. We MUST HAVE your name, call, and the phone number you want dialed. This seems obvious, but in the past, I have had requests from three different people wanting an AutoDial slot, yet, what number do you want me to call? And who are you?

There is now a command that can be enabled to silence the voice id's during the Sunday night nets and the Weather Spotting nets. The extra chatter on the air during those times seems unnecessary.

Until next time 73, Brad Miskimen N5LUL

## The "Ratchet Jaw Net" Ideal For Early Risers!

If you "rise and shine" early in the mornings (or have possible sleep disorders), Dick Reimund, N5AE, has just the Net for you. The Ratchet Jaw Net has been meeting for fifteen years on 75 meters. The Net officially begins at 6 a.m. local time, but a few gather on the frequency of 3934.5 as early as 5:30. "It's a very friendly group," says Dick, "and we would really like to have more people join us. The only requirement is being licensed to operate on the frequency."



There are usually three "rounds"-- the first one being check-ins and "good mornings". A topic is then presented which can be anything from serious to frivolous, and everyone makes their comments on that. The final round is for any additional comments and goodbyes.

Recent participants have been from Arizona, Utah, California, and of course New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.