



The Shamrock

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Volume 19, No. 4

May 2001

First HF Amateur Radio contact from Guadalupe Peak

Respectfully submitted by Bill Bentley, N5POB

History was made on April 28, 2001, at 12:28 P.M. CST as Bill Bentley, N5POB, worked Amateur Radio Station, NJ2R, in Naples, Florida on 21.314 MHz in the 15 Meter band.

I left Midland on Thursday, April 26th and drove the 180 miles to Guadalupe Mountains National Park stopping only for gas in Kermit, Texas. I passed through the familiar towns of Mentone and Orla. The State line Café & Grill was closed and had a sign that said "Opening soon under new management" on it. I made the drive in



Campsite in the NPS Area

about three hours and soon found myself at Pine Springs Campground in the park. This is an area near where the Butterfield Overland Stage stopped at "The Pinery" in the late 1800s. I can only imagine how the terrain looked then. I found a campsite and started setting up my tent, when a white NPS (National Parks Service) truck pulled up behind me. I heard a voice say "You are going to have to leave as we don't allow Amateur Radio Operators to stay here!" I said "What?" A friendly hand reached out and said "AB7UQ here!" Tom Weber from Atlantic City, Wyoming was the volunteer campground host, and he quickly became someone, who it is nice to chat with about ham radio, hiking, 6 meters, and rare grids squares. Tom called Peter Pappas, KC7QMF, one of the law enforcement park rangers, and we chatted some more about ham radio. They said that this evening, was the last of a series of classes for 12 people studying for their amateur radio licenses. They left, and I finished setting up my

camp. I cooked the evening meal and relaxed in my tent to read the latest copy of the National Geographic magazine. It was quiet in the campground except for the occasional car that would drive through and the chirping of a Cactus Wren somewhere nearby. The temperature was in the mid 70s, and it was calm with nearly no wind at all. The weather was "remarkable" for an area that usually has super winds and is known for being hotter than hell. Darkness came around 9:00 p.m. along with a drop in the temperature. It was downright cool and I soon bore a jacket. The night sky was magnificent in its beauty. There were billions and billions of stars. Like diamonds against a black velvet "cloth"! I realized that there are certain advantages to being far away from city lights. I read a while more in the tent and watched Ch 9 on the small battery powered 2" LCD TV, that I always carry with me when I go traveling. Soon I was asleep and it was peaceful and

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MARC Meetings

Clubhouse - 7:30 P.M.

May 14, 2001

To be announced

May 28, 2001

To be announced

MARC Happenings

May 18-20 - Ham-Com 2001,
Arlington

June 23-24 - Field Day

July 21-23 - MS Cactus & Crude 50
Mile Bike Tour

Message from Your President



The 2001 Hamfest has come and gone, and I hope that it was enjoyed by all. We had a very good turn-out, not the largest, but a good one. I got to see lots of old faces and a bunch of new ones. This was a new experience for me to be out mingling with the crowd. Years before, I have in the concession most of the time. It was a complete sell-out as for as table rental was concerned. Every dealer that I talked to said they had a good two days. As you know Pete was not able to attend due to his new job, which is in New Mexico, he was surely missed. The weather tried not to cooperate, but it could have been worse for West Texas. Riley Hollingsworth was very impressed with our Hamfest, or so I was told. I did not meet him personally. The ARRL group was, also, impressed as I did talk to them. I did invite them back next year. If you get a chance tell our Chairman or "person", that you appreciated her tireless hours, that she spent making it what it was. Thanks, Bev. As most of you know, this is nearly a year round job, so let's start thinking what we can do next year to make it better. There is always room for improvement. We have been having some good programs, so let's help Dwayne, W5ZOX, by showing up at the meetings. See you at the next meeting on April 9th.

73, Joe, KK5ZG

(Article for April)

Club needs overhead projector

The club needs an overhead projector for the licensing classes and etc. If you know where one is available, please contact Dewey, WB5CDD. Remember the club can accept items as tax write-offs.

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quiet. On the 2nd day, I regained consciousness Friday Morning at around 7:30 a.m.. Within a few minutes I had coffee and breakfast going. Slowly my camp neighbors started waking up and several of them went off donning backpacks and day packs on their journeys to points beyond. Tom Weber showed up again, and told me there was a VW camper in the RV parking area that had come in during the night. Also, they had a dipole strung up in the trees. Aaaaah more Hams! I met Bill Fogg, N5SDW, shortly thereafter. He was from Richardson, Texas, and had just stopped in for the night on his trip of 10 days and several thousand miles. As he left, he mentioned that he had known my dad from many years ago. Later that afternoon another ham, Paul Green, KD5EBU, came driving up. He ended up camping at the other end of the campground. Paul works for AMD, and was an engineer for the K-7 Pentium processor project and he lives in Austin, Texas. About an hour after he arrived, Bill Lawless, W5WRL, arrived and we ate supper. Soon, Bill, had several satellite contacts worked on a "passover" of UO-14. Satellite DX is neat stuff. He explained all of the "ins and outs". We had a nice visit. Soon, Tom came back by, and we all chatted about ham radio some more. Tom commented that during this April, the Guadalupe Mountains area had seen more hams, than in the last few years. He said that he felt like he was in a "candy store" with all the ham radio gear. There was a large concentration of Yaesu VX-5R, triple band handi-talkies. Every ham in the area had one this weekend. We used the 444.050 MHz repeater to coordinate our activities. After deciding that the 12:00 a.m. passover of the satellite was not worth staying up for, we went to bed and decided to try to

rest. I slept again in my tent and Bill stayed in the back of his vehicle. I don't think it was as cool as the night before or was I becoming acclimatized? I slept well.

We awoke on the 3rd day to a cold sunrise on Saturday April 28, 2001. Officially we were about 30 minutes behind the desired departure, but not deterred in the least. We ate breakfast and downed our coffee and were soon on our way. No one in the campground at Pine Springs was awake, as we quietly made our way to the trail head. We signed in, and soon were on the trail with 50 lb packs of batteries, antennas and radio gear. Before us lay the 3,600 foot elevation and over 4.2 miles of rough and rocky trail. The trail up to Guadalupe Peak is much better than the trail of "not too" many years ago. Originally, before the Guadalupe Mountains actually became a part of the National Park System, in 1979, the trail up to Guadalupe Peak was a mere goat trail used by boy scouts, and was in a canyon between El Capitan and the Peak itself. It was very steep, and by most people's sense of the nature of trails, it was not considered a good one.

The other trail, that was used by the NPS soon after the Park was formed, was the old 8.5 mile trail that circled off the Devils Hall Hiking Trail, and went around the back or Western side of the Peak. It was just slightly better than the old boy scout trail. The new trail which was made in 1981-2 by the NPS, and is now journeyed by thousands of intrepid hikers each year. I had been up this particular trail many times before and during 1982 through 1991. I "climbed" it at least once each year and sometimes more than once in a single year. Of course, I was younger then, too. In 1987, at the best of my physical condition, I made it up to the Peak in 1 hour and 41 minutes, and was lucky enough to be able to see the sunrise one fine

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morning in May that year.

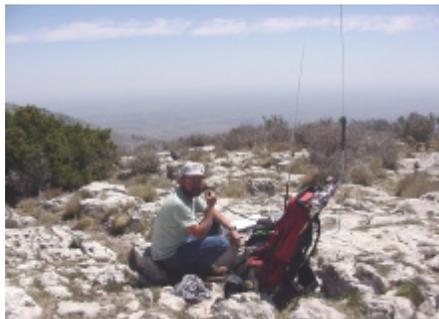
I compare the trail up the Peak to a symphony, in as much as the slow steady sloping trail that starts up to the edge of the mountain, as a prelude of what's to come, and then the switch backs of the trail, that are very steep as the crescendo. The part of the trail "sort" of winds up around the side of the mountain as the part leading to the climax and then across a bridge as the lull in the melody. Lastly, as you go up more steep switch backs, which are compared to the grand finale, loudness, as it ends when one finally reaches the top. Ok, maybe the altitude did make me a bit light headed. It was a grueling 4 and 2/10th miles up to the peak. At first the rest stops were few and far between, but they became more and more frequent as we went. At approximately 1/3 of the way up, Bill told me to go on ahead and he would catch up later. I was in the lead, and saw that there were many people on the trail down below me. At some point about half way up, I started being passed by teenagers from Wall, Texas. Most of these teens had nothing more than a bottle of water or a small nearly empty pack on their back. I envied them, and for several moments, I wished that I had their youth, and they had my 50 lb pack. But I endeavored to persevere. I can't begin to describe the pain in my leg muscles. I remembered what a professor at the WKU during a course in Speleology once said about an extremely



Bill Lawless, W5WRL, on peak

strenuous cave trip. He said "the human body has amnesia or you would never do the same strenuous trips again."

At 11:31 a.m. CST, I reached the summit, and there before me was the familiar 3 sided spire with its triangle shaped flat smooth sides, aiming up to the clear blue sky. This was placed there by someone long ago, and has a tribute inscribed on it to the American Indians on one side, and American Airlines and the Pony Express on the others. After catching my breath and getting plenty to drink, I slowly began to set up my equipment. The Radios used were the new Yaesu FT 817 (HF+6, 2, & 70cm all mode), the Yaesu VX5R triple band handy and



Bill, N5POB operating from the peak

a Icom T2H 2 meter handy. The antennas used were the MP-1 made by Superantennas and a ATX Walkabout by Waters and Stanton. At "around" noon, I had everything set up and began calling CQ. The HF bands were not too active, but there were a few stations on the band. However, with the mere 5-8 watts of power I was using, I knew there was a slim chance of being heard, and there was not much of a ground plane, since we were setting on top of a solid piece of rock, a very tall piece of rock, but still none the less just a rock!.

There was some kind of Florida QSO party contest going on. Then suddenly after repeated attempts to contact a strong signal station in Naples, Florida, I soon had him calling back. He gave me quick 59.

I was sorely disappointed that he could have cared less that he had just made history in being the first HF contact from Guadalupe Peak. Bill Lawless arrived about an hour and a half after I did. Soon, he set up his radios and antennas and quickly worked a satellite pass and was able to make the full pass, since he could literally work the satellite path from horizon to horizon. We made a total of 5 contacts 2 on 15 meters USB and 2 on 10 meters USB the last one was on 6 meters FM.

About 3:00 a.m., we started down and soon realized that going down was going to be equally as difficult as coming up was. Gee, there was a whole new set of muscles to make tired and sore. It only took me about 2 hours to make it back to camp. An ice cold coke was the driving force, that helped me make it back to the campsite. I did very well since having broken my leg last June. I was impressed, that it was not bothering me, as I had feared it might. I slipped down and landed on my back side about 600 or so feet from the trail head on a not so steep part of the trail. Other than a little embarrassment I was unscathed. When I reached the trail head and walked across the parking lot and RV campground area, I noticed that Tom had been scolding and warning several young military folks from Ft Bliss. They had been playing their music loudly. I finally made it back to camp and had my ice cold coke, and soon saw Bill Lawless walking up the road, and I waved a cold coke for him.

Tom joined us as we unloaded packs and packed up our campsite and discussed the day's activities. Bill left for back to Midland. The young people from Ft Bliss drove past us and stopped at the group campground, and then proceeded to drink and become loud again, and to make a long story short, they

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ended up being arrested for possession of narcotics and were escorted from the campground in cuffs.

I left shortly afterward at approximately 6:00 p.m. and just as a huge thunderstorm had crept over the ridge. It gave the thirsty mountain desert a badly needed drink. On the drive into Carlsbad, NM. I watched as 2 big thunder heads converged to the North and over the mountain range. I made it to Carlsbad, NM. and got a motel room and soon was soaking in a hot bath! I was sore and had a few blisters and abrasions from the pack, I was tired and exhausted.

On the 4th day I made my way home to Midland by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. It was a fun trip, and it will be long remembered by both Bill Lawless and me. So, if you ever happen to be on US Hwy. 62-180, and just so happen to be traveling near the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, stop in and visit. The trails there have been compared to others in the U.S.A., and are said to be some of the most strenuous.

Missionary-ham, infant, die when plane is downed in Peru

Published by permission of The ARRL Letter, Vol. 20, No. 17, April 27, 2001

A missionary from Michigan, killed after the plane in which she was a passenger was shot down last week in Peru, was an Amateur Radio operator. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, identified the dead as Veronica "Roni" Bowers, 35, and her infant daughter, Charity, seven months. Roni Bowers was KD4CKM, a Tech Plus licensee.

The Cessna 185 float plane ditched in the Amazon River after being fired upon. Bowers'

See Missionary page 5

Fantastic program presented by New West 9 weather

News West 9 Weather presented the Midland Amateur Radio Club a program on their "chase" van. Tom Tefertiller and friend, Tim Rosebrough, spoke to the 35 in attendance. The van was originally used in producing live "remotes". Tom Tefertiller came up with the idea to use the van to provide public information on severe weather. The van became operational in 1998.



Tom & Tim

Tom Tefertiller and Tim Rosebrough demonstrated the van, and how it was used during severe weather. The van is set up to the "internet feed" for radar updates. The van is operated under direction of Tom Tefertiller during severe weather. The program was excellent. On behalf of the MARC members, I want to thank the New West 9 weather team for bringing us a very informative program.

For those that remember the News West 9 Weather in April,



**Inside News West Van
See Program next column**

Program from 2nd column

the handouts promised are here, and will be available at the next club meeting on the of May 14.

Also, Tom is looking for a good radio vhf for the studio. If any one has one, that they would be interested in selling, contact me, W5ZOX . Their budget for this a radio is around \$100.00. The radio can be in used condition.

—Dwayne T Fox, W5ZOX , Vice President

Update on W5ZOX Web Page

W5ZOX West Texas Amateur Radio Page site has a new addition to the page. Click on the A.R.E.S Logo to get radar. Click on the Skywarn Logo and get News West 9 News and weather. On that same page click on email gif and get intellicast weather. A.R.E.S bulletin board is open. The URL is [Http://hamradio.htmlplanet.com](http://hamradio.htmlplanet.com) Pat England has a repeater map now.

—Dwayne, W5ZOX

VE Testing Results



3/17/01
Edward S. Bashur II, WB5GJK, Gen.
M.L. McCauley, WB5MY, Gen.
W.R. Loper, Sr., KD5EKO, Extra
Virginia Smith Byrd, Tech.
David R. Opitz, KB5IAS, Gen.
Kyle Edward Meyers, Tech.
Nathan T. Rosenborrough, Tech.
Jerry L. Schwartz, Tech.
Robert Glen Carey, Tecg
David A. Cain, WA5MKZ, Extra
C. Grayson Schlicting, Tech
Robert p. Thorn, Jr. Extra
John L. Moon, KA5HND, Gen.

4/14/01
Richard L. Raymond, KA5ZGI, Gen.

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NETS

Big Bend Emergency Net meets at 8:30 A.M. (Central) Every Sunday Morning. The frequency is 3922.

The West Texas Connection Sunday Morning Net meets at 0900 (Central) every Sunday morning. The net is informal and open to all. Check in for local ham news and events. Midland frequency is 147.220, + offset, 88.5 tone or 444.100 + offset, 162.2 tone. Mike Smith, W5MLS, is Net Control.

The Southwest Lynx System Net meets at 12:00 noon, Sunday. The net meets at 145.130, - offset, 88.50 tone and 440.200, + offset, 162.2 tone. Dwayne Fox, W5ZOX is net control.

West Texas Amateur Radio Club Net, Odessa, meets each Monday at 9:00 P.M. The frequency is 145.470 with an 88.5 tone. Needs a Net Control.

Big Spring 10 Meter Net is at 8:00 P. M on Tuesday evening at 28.485 up or down a few.

Midland 2 Meter Net meets each Tuesday night at 9:00 P.M. on 147.300, offset: - 600 Mhz. Mike Smith, W5MLS is Net Control.

Ares Net meets each Wednesday night at 9:00 p.m. on 147.300, offset: -600 Mz. Dwayne T.Fox, W5ZOX, is Net Control.

ARES 70 Centimeters Net (West Texas & Southwest New Mexico) meets on Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. on 444.925 UHF with a 2146.2 tone. Net Control is Mark Smith, N5UNH.

New Net. Midland County ARES Packet Net meets on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on 144.970. Check-ins go through MIDTEX on the talk mode. No net control. Leave your check-ins at Dwayne's mail drop.

Howard County Net meets each Thursday at 8:00 P.M. on 146.820.

Pay Your Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 2001, please do so.

April and May Birthdays



April

STEVE HOPKINS, 29, K5RS
FRED COONCE, 26, K5WTC
LONDON SOLES, 22, KA5IPM
JAMES GREGORY, 19, KA5VYR
SARA LARKIN, 16, KB0TZP
GARY RUBACK, 06, KB5JEZ
DAVID THOMAS, 20, KB5MFN
RICK WATT, 17, KB5MHP
ANGEL KARCH, 11, KB5RGR
WILLIAM WINSLETT, 10, KB5RTN
DALE SOLES, 14, KC5NHY
BRIAN HILDEBRAND, 30,

KC5ZOM

JAMES HUNT, 07, KI5DQ
DENNIS DINGUS, 23, KK5DJ
KAREN MEYER, 21, N5GVB
DAVID CAMPBELL, 10, N5IDJ
LES BLALOCK, 05, N5KOA
EDWARD CURRAN, 27, N5NSJ
RAY SCHULZE, 16, N5SR
LELAND CARPENTER, 09, N5VRN
JAMES PURCELL, 24, WA0OUL
MITCHELL MARTIN, 08, WA5ZAP
GAYLEN PEARSON, 26, WB0W
ROY CHAMBERLAIN, 02, WD5HZJ

May

JERRY ALTMAN, 28, KB5JIP
NORESSA CARSON, 13,
KB5RTX
RICHARD BIDDLE, 17,
KB5WLH
RAYMOND FAGEN, 12,
KC5JHC

GEORGE SITTON, 13, KC5KZJ
JIM YELEY, 22, KE5WM
DAN PIPKIN, 22, KK5PX
DAVID VOTAW, 26, N5CRA
BILL MEWHORTER, 17, N5QB
WADE HOWELL, 29, N5SVE
LARRY NIX, 03, N5TQU
STEVE BAKER, 29, N5VCH
JIM WILLIAMS, 29, W5BPA
HUGH EUDY, 24, W5KBW
ORR SWINFORD, 16, WB5IZC
AUBREY CARDWELL, 27,
WB5MDL

Ted Hardwood, W5WTX, thank you for doing the research and computer work on the 2001 Roster.

The Shamrock

The Shamrock is published monthly by the Midland Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 4401, Midland, Texas 79704-4401. The phone number is (915) 685-3372.

Articles and other information are solicited. Send articles to Dewey D. and Daphne Baucum, Co-Editors, 707 Spraberry Drive, Midland, Texas 79703-7060. Telephone number is (915) 694-3162. Call about format. My E-mail address is: cooldewey@apex2000.net.

Member of



Midland VE Team

Testing is conducted at the Red Cross Building on Elizabeth Street at 8:30 A.M. on the second Saturday of every month. (Other times may be arranged.) A total of \$10.00 will be charged for each session. All elements and code use the multiple choice format. Individual ear phones are used for code testing. Testing is always sponsored by the ARRL-VEC. For more information call Mitch Martin, WA5ZAP @ 561-9397, Email: wa5zap@apex2000.net or Sterling Talley, Contact Person, WB5G @ 684-6994, Email: sterling@apex2000.net.

Missionary from page 4

husband, Jim, and their son, Cory, 6, were not seriously injured in the incident. Jim Bowers is KD4CKN, a General licensee. Pilot Kevin Donaldson was shot in the leg in the incident but survived.

Officers for 2001

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Hollingsworth heaps praise on Official Observers

Published by permission of The ARRL Letter, Vol. 20, No. 13, March 30, 2001

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth this week offered high praise for the work of the volunteer ARRL Amateur Auxiliary's corps of Official Observers. Long a strong supporter of the OOs, Hollingsworth's most recent burst of appreciation was inspired by investigative footwork done by an OO team that's assisting the FCC in an enforcement inquiry.

"It makes me realize that if it weren't for the OOs over the past 10 years, Amateur Radio would probably have imploded long ago and disintegrated from its own chaos," Hollingsworth said. "We really thank them very much for their work here."

The Amateur Auxiliary is composed of approximately 700 ARRL Official Observer volunteer appointees across the US. The program was developed as a result of a formal agreement between the FCC and the ARRL.

OOs function as helpers and advisors, not enforcers. They monitor the bands and notify amateurs of technical and operating discrepancies as a service. In cases involving serious rule violations such as malicious interference, however, they are trained and certified

to gather and forward evidence that can be used by the FCC in enforcement actions. All OOs must pass a comprehensive examination before they can be certified as members of the Amateur Auxiliary.

In recent months, Hollingsworth's office has been attempting to make greater use of the Amateur Auxiliary in tackling enforcement issues. He says the Official Observer program offers a way for amateurs to solve their own problems internally, without bringing in the FCC, but he notes that OOs often can provide valuable local perspective during enforcement inquiries.

"It's this type of devotion of personal time to Amateur Radio and to helping us that gives me enough adrenaline to last for months," Hollingsworth said.

The bottom line, according to Hollingsworth, is protecting the future of Amateur Radio for those who enjoy it. "Radio spectrum has extremely high visibility, and every time an operator gets on and degrades the bands, that operator is not only making Amateur Radio less enjoyable but endangering it as well."

For more information on the Amateur Auxiliary program, visit the ARRL Web site, http://www.arrl.org/FandE/field/org/am_aux.html.

**Become a member of MARC.
Your membership gives you a
voice in the "amateur
community" in Midland.**



Midland Amateur Radio Club Application Form

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address _____ ARRL Member _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Do you wish to purchase a speed call? _____

Names and Calls of Additional Family Members:

Number of Years _____ X \$15.00 _____

Addl Members X Years X \$3.00 _____

Speed Call at \$5.00(Optional) _____

Make checks Payable to Midland Amateur Radio Club. Thank You

and Send TO

P O BOX 4401 MIDLAND TX 79704-4401

Total Enclosed: _____