

# ECHO Society – June/July Newsletter

## “Field Day to focus on making Qs”

Web site: <https://www.qsl.net/w5eco/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/W5ECO>



### From the club president, de AG5T

Monday, June 8 meeting – N5AMS, Aaron Siller, is scheduled for the June ECHO meeting (and on zoom) with a presentation about scanner radios and a focus how P25 technology changed two-way radio for government and businesses and many other aspects of communications via radio.

The final Tour duRouge bicycle ride from Houston to New Orleans on the first Sunday in May was a success. The Houston ECHO Society and ham radio friends provided communications for the Houston to Beaumont for the first day of the ride. Thanks to Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE for coordinating the operators and also to those who worked the event (See article on page 2 for more about the Tour duRouge).

We had a great presentation at the May club meeting ND0C, Randy Shirbroun, gave a zoom presentation on the many aspects in QRP (low power) operations. He talked about what defines QRP, the importance of antennas and much more. Very good attendance at the meeting!

Field Day, on June 27/28 will be at the Red Cross N5WAJ Radio Room. ECHO plans to focus on making contacts (Qs, operating). The Oak Forest Ham Radio Club will join us again this year. One thing discussed at the last meeting was sign-up sheets for one hour (operators and helpers at three stations) starting at 1 pm Saturday when Field Day begins (more discussion at next club meeting).

Field Day is one of the largest amateur radio gatherings in North America, bringing together over 30,000 operators to set up temporary stations in parks, fields, and public spaces. ECHO will be at the Red Cross as a Class F station (emergency operation centers are F). The theme for 2026 is “Amateur Radio: A National Resource”, highlighting the role of ham radio in community service and emergency preparedness. **(Continued on page 2)**

### ECHO Officers

President  
Marty Blaise, AG5T

Vice President  
Mark Collins KT1KKA

Recording Secretary  
Correspond Secretary  
Lee Gaspard WA5QXE

Treasurer  
Mike Nault W5OFT

Parliamentarian open

### ECHO's Repeaters

147.08 tone 103.5  
147.32 tone 100.0  
224.26 no tone  
444.40 tone 103.5

### Meeting schedule

The Houston ECHO Society meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7 pm at the American Red Cross, SW Freeway, for the months of January through November. December is a dinner meeting at a cafeteria.

## From the president, continued

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This year, ECHO is going to have Y-splitters at each station so two people can work using headphones. One will be the operator and one will be the helper. Another plan is to use computers for logging and networking the computers. Most likely there will be three stations, so the operation will be 3F South Texas and use the call sign N5WAJ. More Field Day planning at June meeting.

See information about a FIFA ham radio special event on the next page.

ECHO meeting presentations scheduled are: GMRS (July) and Jamboree on the AIR (August). We have arranged for backup presentations in case of any possible issues.

## Tour duRouge bike ride is safe and successful

ECHO and ham volunteers collectively helped get 52 Tour duRouge participants from Kingwood to Beaumont and beyond. Amateur radio operator dedication to public safety and service is commendable and is definitely noticed by the Tour duRouge participants. Immediate feedback indicated that the first leg of the event went very smoothly! This was the "Farewell Tour" for the Houston to New Orleans ride. The ride raised over \$200,000 for the ARC that helps people with intellectual and learning disabilities. Houston and Beaumont Hams supported the ride on Days 1 and 2.

Surprisingly, this was the first year since we started in 2009 that we did not have rain on any of the six ride days. We encountered rain at the end in New Orleans after we finished and were loading the bikes on the truck for the return trip. A big thank you to the repeater trustees for their tireless efforts to keep up systems that enable public service events to happen. We are thankful to have used the Hamshire repeater while the Devers repeater was down.

Thanks again to the Beaumont amateurs for their continued superb support of the ride on both Day 1 and Day 2. Their knowledge of the construction situations, road dangers, back roads east of Devers and operating skills are invaluable.

I look forward to your possible assistance next year. The new ARC Ride is moving from their current May time slot to another time in the Fall. Stay tuned!  
If you have photos [you can share with me](#), please do so. – Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE



## FIFA soccer ham radio special event station operators needed

You are invited to volunteer for the 2026 World Soccer Tournament Ham Radio Special Event, with volunteer operators to staff the event from your own shack or preferred location using your own equipment, across the USA, Canada and Mexico, with 16 cities participating and a QSL card collection. [Volunteer link to join the event.](#)

- Visit the [schedule page](#) to sort by the event you are chasing.
- Contact WA5LEE for access code. [wa5lee@wa5lee.com](mailto:wa5lee@wa5lee.com)
- Contact [W5OFT](#) or [WB5HJV](#) for Red Cross station scheduling.
- Contact Lee Glassman for individual access code. [wa5lee@wa5lee.com](mailto:wa5lee@wa5lee.com)
- Attend the Houston event using W5C/H.



For Houston area hams, we will be using W5C/H, with a scheduling calendar covering the soccer match days in Houston of June 14th, 17th, 20th, 23rd, 26th, 29th and July 4th. The website for the Houston operating sign-up schedule is <https://wc2026ses.org>. To obtain an access code for individual access contact Lee Glassman, WA5LEE at [wa5lee@wa5lee.com](mailto:wa5lee@wa5lee.com). For individuals interested in operating at N5WAJ Red Cross Houston station during this event, W5OFT or WB5HJV can assist in scheduling the operation on the calendar.

## Amateur radio upcoming test sessions

- June 13, 2026 (9:00 AM): Hosted by the Clear Lake ARC / JSCARC at the Gilruth Center (18600 Space Center Blvd, Houston). Walk-ins are allowed.
- June 13, 2026 (10:30 AM): Hosted by the Brazos Valley ARC (BVARC) at the Bayland Park Community Center (6400 Bissonnet St, Houston).
- Testing fees are typically \$15. You should bring a photo ID (driver's license, passport, or school ID), a basic calculator (with memory cleared), and your FRN (Federal Registration number).



Planning for Field Day a few years ago. ECHO members work on the antenna.

## Are you working on a project?

Working on a ham radio project? Share your experience in the next newsletter. Email it to [w5eco@qsl.net](mailto:w5eco@qsl.net) or bring a flash drive to the ECHO meeting.

## Upcoming hamfests

- Tidelands Texas City Hamfest July 11
- San Antonio Radio Fiesta on May 29–30
- Belton HamExpo (Fall) October 2–3

## Share photos of your ham shack

Take a picture of your ham shack and share it in an upcoming newsletter. Send photos as png or jpg files to the club email – [w5eco@qsl.net](mailto:w5eco@qsl.net). **Page 3**

**FIELD DAY T-SHIRT 2026 (NAVY)**




Show your ham radio pride with the 2026 ARRL Field Day T-Shirt, featuring America250, the official logo, and the theme **Amateur Radio: A National Resource**. This navy shirt lists ARRL and RAC sections on the back, a fun way to track contacts. Comfortable, durable, and unisex, it's great for Field Day and Fourth of July celebrations.

<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2087281083>

Nacogdoches

Confirming our QSO:  
~~FM SSB CW RTTY PCKT~~  
 Date: August 86  
 Time: Z  
 Freq: MHz  
 RST:




Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Control Op: Bert Fisher

73s!

"Come and take it" -- Gonzales

Confirming our QSO:  
~~FM SSB CW RTTY PCKT~~  
 Date: 6 September 86  
 Time: 2330 Z  
 Freq: 7 MHz  
 RST: 59




Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Control Op: Irv Block

73s!

San Jacinto Battleground

Confirming our QSO:  
~~FM SSB CW RTTY PCKT~~  
 Date: June 86  
 Time: Z  
 Freq: MHz  
 RST:

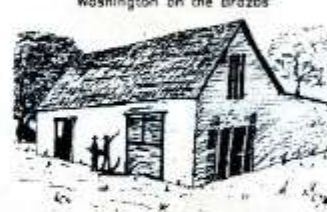


Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Control Op: Gene Whitehurst

73s!

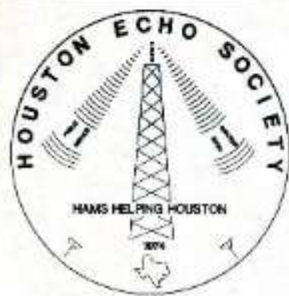
Washington on the Brazos

Confirming our QSO:  
~~FM SSB CW RTTY PCKT~~  
 Date: October 86  
 Time: Z  
 Freq: MHz  
 RST:



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Control Op: David Paperman

73s!



Radio: WA5QXE  
 Houston ECHO Society Special Events  
 1836 - Texas Sesquicentennial - 1986

Lee Gaspard shared this memento of the Houston ECHO Society from back in 1986 when the club operated a special event station for the Sesquicentennial.

**How did you get your start in amateur radio?**

Share the story of how you got started and we will try to publish it in an upcoming newsletter. Email as Word or text to [w5eco@qsl.net](mailto:w5eco@qsl.net).

# New resource for Houston area clubs

The ECHO Society recently received this email from Gary Sheridan, KL3G and the Anchorage Volunteer Exam Coordinators (they do remote ham radio testing worldwide):

Dear Club Leadership,

We recently administered an amateur radio examination to an individual located in your area. We are pleased to report they were successful and have earned their license! During the session, the candidate *expressed interest in connecting with the local amateur radio community* and granted us permission to share their contact information with your club for outreach and mentoring. Candidate Contact Information:

- Michael Schoon, KJ5POI Technician [mail@mikeschoon.com](mailto:mail@mikeschoon.com)
- Ronald M Richards, KJ5PNQ Technician [r-richards@rmrecllc.com](mailto:r-richards@rmrecllc.com)
- Jordan Morris, KJ5PNA General [jordan.morris@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.morris@gmail.com)
- Edward Norman, KJ5PEO, Technician [ed.norman23@gmail.com](mailto:ed.norman23@gmail.com)
- Melvin Richard Sline, KJ5PZF General [RickSline@msn.com](mailto:RickSline@msn.com)
- Samuel Tabard, KJ5PYV General [tabar.sam@gmail.com](mailto:tabar.sam@gmail.com)
- George W Dishman II, KJ5PZA Technician [gdishman@comcast.net](mailto:gdishman@comcast.net)
- Sajith Sasidharan, KJ5QCA Technician [sajith@gmail.com](mailto:sajith@gmail.com)
- Gopalakrishnan Kandhasamy, KJ5QCF Technician [kaygopal@yahoo.com](mailto:kaygopal@yahoo.com)

We hope you will take this opportunity to welcome them to the ranks and perhaps introduce them to an "Elmer" within your club. VEC Resources for Your Club If you know of others who need to test, we offer regular remote examination sessions. Thank you for your dedication to the hobby and for welcoming our newest operators. - 73, Gary Sherman, KL3G, Anchorage ARC VEC

Lookup call signs on [qrz.com](http://qrz.com) for additional information about these new hams.



Brian Shircliffe, AD5OS, explains battery power at an ECHO meeting

An ECHO Society YouTube Slide show "Through the Years" is at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GS9eBi\\_CDPo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GS9eBi_CDPo)

## The Technical Corner

# American Radio Supply

## RF WIRELESS & RADIO PARTS

### PL-259 CONNECTOR

*Quiz: is coax RG8 or RG58?*

- ① Slide the coupling ring down. Strip the cable jacket and soft solder.
- ② Strip the cable as shown at left. Soft solder the center conductor.
- ③ Slide the connector body on and solder it.
- ④ Screw the coupling ring onto the connector body.  
(10 mm ≈ 3/8 in)



# Houston ECHO Society

## Membership Application

Houston ECHO Society

Attn: Mike Nault

2016 Peppermill Rd

Houston TX 77080-5541

The Houston ECHO Society is a general purpose, amateur radio club serving the central Houston TX amateur radio community. ECHO supports the Five Pillars <Public Service / Advocacy / Education / Technology / Membership> of the American Radio Relay League <ARRL> with a monthly meeting that includes a presentation that covers these goals.

You need not be a licensed amateur radio operator to be a member. Membership is valid for 12 months from the time dues are received.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

FCC Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member Yes  No

Dues: \$20 / yr      Life Membership \$200 (over 65 \$100)

Additional comments & information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Club use only: Date dues received \_\_\_\_\_ Period covered \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_