



THE BRASS KEY



June 2023

A Publication of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club



The BRASS KEY is published monthly as its official journal by the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 4652, Pineville, LA. 71361. CLARC yearly membership dues (including a subscription to the BRASS KEY), is \$30. Editor/Publisher: Lisa Coleman, KW5LC; (318) 466-5623; clarcsec@yahoo.com. Members may submit texts for possible publication to the editor, Lisa Coleman, KW5LC, by hard copy at a meeting or by email at clarcsec@yahoo.com. Space and printing limitations may affect the appearance of any item submitted. Photo submissions should be sent in either TIFF, JPEG, or GIF formats, by email. All submissions must be turned in to the secretary by the third Tuesday of the month.

2023 CLARC Officers:

President: Kirk Garber, W5KKG
318-729-0733 kirk.garber@usda.gov

Vice-President: Will Butterfield, KI5IPJ
(318) 613-1594 vicepresident@gmail.com

Secretary: Lisa Coleman, KW5LC
(318) 466-5623, clarcsec@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU
clarctreasurer@gmail.com

Board Member at Large: Don Ward, KI5AJV
(318) 418-1133; 610mt1@gmail.com

Past President: John Dempsey, N5CM
(318) 528-0038, johndgex@aol.com

Webmaster: Chris Olivier, KI5LOX
(337) 853 – 1527, chrisolivier2019@gmail.com

Amateur License Exam Coordinators:

BL Wilson, WA5NHP - (318) 442 -7309, wa5nhp1@yahoo.com
Jim Walters, AE5ZE - (318) 447-9384, jimw65@suddenlink.net



The Prez Sez . . .

Words from our President, Kirk Garber, W5KKG

CQ, CQ, CQ..... CQ Summer Field Day this is K5M.....



Howdy fellow HAM's of CLARC! Summer Field Day is a GO!! The Club is full steam ahead and "in it to win it" the contest that's not a "contest," so look out HAM radio world - here comes CLARC! Our Field Day committee has worked tirelessly and found a location for us to operate. They will still need your help, Terry Bradshaw AG5H and crew are working on a schedule of operators so reach out to Terry (318-308 - 4342) and let's get to making those contacts. Summer Field Day for CLARC will be June 24-25, 2023 at the Rapides Parish Sheriff Office Shooting Range (150 Sheriff Range Rd, Alexandria – At the levee end of Airbase

Road, LA 498E – go across the levee.) I look forward to seeing all of you there! Be on the lookout for upcoming Field Day information emails.

A thanks go out to our Call Sign committee for their efforts; most of you have heard by now we are not changing the Club call sign at this time. We are using a special event station call for field day, K5M. The committee will continue to evaluate things and should they see an opportunity, they will present it to the club.

One of the things I said I would do when I took President was to update our club By-Laws. I have produced a current draft and have passed it out to the Board for review. Once that is done, we will publish it electronically and have hard copies available at meetings and events before we vote to accept them. Please consider this Brass Key as the Board's notice to the membership that the By-Laws are under revision. I will continue to notify the membership as we work through the process. Rest assured that I am not completely re-writing the By-Laws. I am trying to remove some of the repetitiveness and streamline the wording while bringing in language that covers administration and operation with current technology such as email and Zoom.

Two things for our club to consider while we work on field day:

1. I would like the membership to help the Club find a solution to our equipment storage problem. Currently we have our Club owned equipment mainly stored at

Don Ward's house. But other members of the Club are also storing equipment. While this may be inexpensive to the Club it places an unfair burden of responsibility to the folks that are storing equipment. It also make inventory control for the equipment more than challenging. We are talking about YOUR assets, Club assets, either donated or purchased to support our Club activities. It's my opinion that the Club should take responsibility for the storage. I need two things from the membership, a volunteer to chair the committee and ideas for club storage.

2. The 6 meter repeater is continuing to give us trouble. This equipment is getting old and it may be to the point of diminishing returns for continuing to spend money on repairs. We should discuss our Club's intent and vision for the 6 Meter repeater.

Now lets go show the ARRL world what a small club from Lousiiana can do during Field Day!

See y'all at the meeting.

73, Kirk W5KKG

CLARC President



Prior Public Proceedings

Lisa Coleman, KW5LC , Club Secretary

May 2, 2023 CLARC General Meeting Minutes

Those present: Kirk Garber W5KKG, Jack Brossette W5ETL, Allen Henderson KG5IMA, Steve Peters N5EKC, Scott Wren KD5DFL, John Dempsey N5CM, David Nolan, K5TS, Albert Castete KI5KJM, Stacey Sonneland KG5KGU, Erin Huddleston KI5ZJC, Will Butterfield KI5IPJ, Terry Bradshaw AG5H, Michael Callahan KJ5AQY, Bobby Wiley KI5YUB, Dick Lundy WA5CAV, Scott Merryman WB5UTM, Viewing via Zoom were Grady KD5SDU and Keith Johnson WW5G.

Welcome by Kirk Garber, W5KKG, our president, followed the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and introductions of those present. Two new Ham's passed their Technician exams tonight, Joshua and Jennifer, but they did not stay for the meeting.

The group was led in prayer by Will KI5IPJ. Kirk asked for any additions or corrections to the April General Meeting Minutes and the April Treasurer's Report published in the May Brass Key.

A motion by Steve Peters K5EKC and seconded by Will Butterfield KI5IPJ to accept the minutes and treasure report. The motion was passed.

Old Business:

Kirk reminded everyone of the committee that was formed to evaluate the club call sign. Kirk turned the meeting over to Houston Polson KD5YS, to give his committee report. The slides are attached to and part of the minutes. No callsign change was recommended at present, but it was recommended that the club use the K5M temporary callsign for Field Day. The motion presented from committee was to not change the callsign; since presented as a committee motion, no second needed. The motion was passed.

New Business:

Kirk gave the floor to Terry Bradshaw AG5H who gave the Field Day committee report. The location of the 2023 ARRL Field day will be the RPSO Shooting Range facility.

Announcements:

Kirk mentioned that FCC has new rules proposed for 60 meters and recommended that members read the proposed change and comment on the proposed rule changes. Kirk also mentioned that the rules governing RF exposure evaluations of an amateur radio station is now final, and he recommended everyone review the new standards. Dave K5TS mentioned there are several online calculators available.

Kirk also advised the club that he scanned and emailed a copy of the original Charter paperwork from 1973 to all the club Board member email accounts so there will always be a copy in our files and he also passed out hard copies of the document to the membership.

Kirk W5KKG thanked everyone for their attendance and announced that the "Meeting after the Meeting" would be at the usual location, Whataburger in King's Country, Pineville.

The meeting adjourned approximately 8:00 PM.

In the absence of the secretary, the meeting minutes were recorded by CLARC President, Kirk Garber, W5KKG.

Minutes of the Call Sign Change Committee 9 May 2023

1. The Committee, comprised of Houston Polson, KD5YS. Chair, Jim Walters, AE5ZE, and Jack Brossette, W5ETL, met on 24 April 2023.

2. Prior to the meeting, the Committee had communicated by phone and email. After much discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend the following three motions:

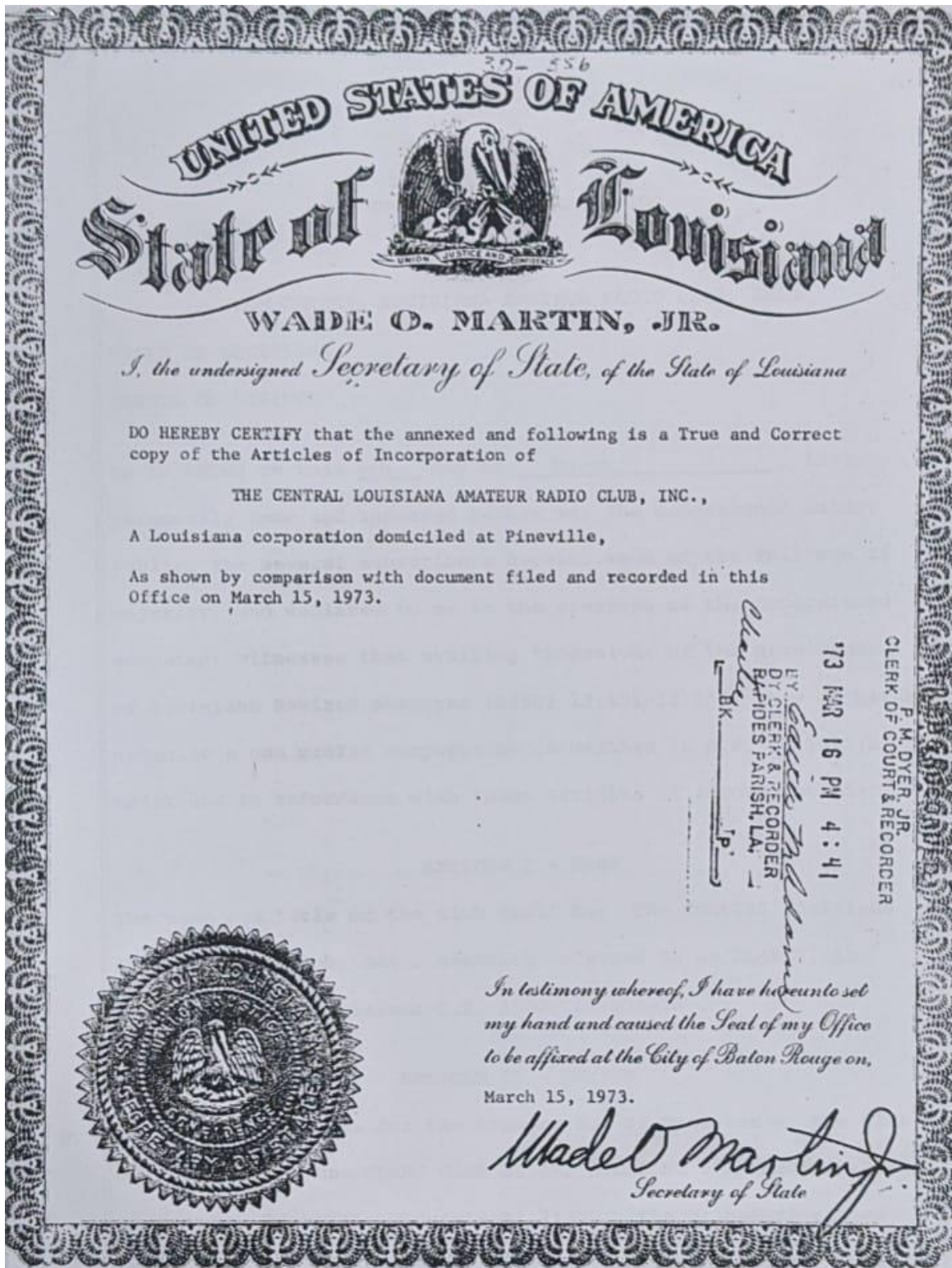
- a. The club NOT CHANGE its call sign from the current assignment of N5AEX currently.
 - b. Have the committee continue to look at possible call-signs and present it to the club should one come available.
 - c. Utilize K5M as the club call sign for Field Day and use N5AEX as the GOTA call sign.
3. A summary of the Committee's collective thoughts and the criteria used to develop the recommended motions was presented by the Chair at the club meeting held on 2 May 2023. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes and incorporated into them as is fully set out herein.

Houston Polson, KD5YS
Committee Chairman

***NOTE: Please see the final pages of this publication for Houston's entire PowerPoint presentation.**



Our very own David Nolan, K5TS, has done it again, placing first in Louisiana Section in the Single Operator Unlimited Category CW, ARRL 10m Contest!
Congratulations, Dave!



Congratulations Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club!
We are 50 years old this year.
Above is our March 15, 1973 Charter!



TREASURER'S REPORT

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU

Treasurer's Report

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU, Club Treasurer

Financial Report for May 2023

Revenue

Dues

50/50 \$ 25.00

Misc

Total Revenues \$ 25.00

Expenditures

Equipment

Insurance

Fellowship (1) \$ 16.15

Maintenance and Repairs

Office - P.O Box Rental

Winter Field Day

Summer Field Day

Utilities \$ 19.44

Web Hosting and domain

Scholarship

Legal - Annual Report to Sec of State

Baofeng Radios

Misc.

Total Expenditures \$ 35.59

Revenues - Expenditures \$ (10.59)

New member: None

Notes: (1) Coffee and cups

Zoom Link to CLARC monthly meetings.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVcyeQT09>



FROM THE SHACK



Members are free to submit articles for “From the Shack!” We want to hear about your shack or other things of ham interest! Tell us about your operating conditions and submit your photos to Lisa, KW5LC, at clarcsec@yahoo.com

ARRL Field Day 2023: Basic Rules

Posted by Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ, from *On All Bands*

For many amateur radio clubs, Field Day is the biggest event on their calendar. Many hams who don't participate in contesting or DXing throughout the year find themselves excited to be involved in a successful Field Day operation. It is the thrill of the “non-contest contest,” as the ARRL describes it, that brings out scores of amateurs and new observers to this annual gathering.

The objective of Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands plus all bands 50 MHz and above. It's also a great opportunity to learn how to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Here are some basic Field Day rules from the ARRL:

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit but are not eligible to be submitted as entries. Each claimed contact must include synchronous information by operators on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact can be made either locally or by remote.

Your entry category will need to be reported in each contact. Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of simultaneously transmitted signals, followed by a designator indicating the nature of their individual or group participation. The minimum number of transmitters that must be claimed is one. Twenty transmitters maximum are eligible for calculating bonus points (2,000 points maximum). Additional transmitters which may legitimately be used simultaneously will determine your entry category classification but will not earn additional bonus points.

The use of switching systems for lockouts in order to use multiple transmitters (i.e., an “octopus”) in an attempt to enter a lower-number-of-transmitters class is prohibited. An example of this would be using two transmitters that can transmit simultaneously,

two operators, and a lockout system and entering class 1A. The use of simulcasting devices which allow a single operator to key and transmit on more than one transmitter at a time is also prohibited. Bonus stations such as GOTA and satellite stations do not count toward the number of transmitters for the class and do not qualify for transmitter bonus points.

Along with number of transmitters is your Class designation. Here is a simplified list from the ARRL:

(Class A) Club/non-club portable: A group of three or more persons set up specifically for Field Day. Such stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations. They cannot use facilities installed for permanent station use or any structure installed permanently for Field Day.

(Class A – Battery) Club/non-club portable: All contacts must be made using an output power of 5 watts or less. The power source must be something other than commercial power mains or a motor-driven generator (e.g., batteries, solar cells, water-driven generator).

(Class B) One or two person portable: A Field Day station set up and operated by no more than two persons. Provisions are the same for Class A except a GOTA or free VHF station are not eligible. One- and two-person Class B entries will be listed separately.

(Class B – Battery) One or two person portable: All contacts must be made using an output power of 5 watts or less and the power source must be something other than commercial mains or a motor-driven generator.

(Class C) Mobile: Stations in vehicles capable of operating while in motion and normally operated in this manner. This includes maritime and aeronautical mobile. If the Class C station is being powered from a car battery or alternator, it qualifies for emergency power but does not qualify for the multiplier of 5, as the alternator/battery system constitutes a motor-driven generating system.

(Class D) Home stations: Stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D may work all Field Day stations.

(Class E) Home stations – Emergency power: Same as Class D but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers. Class E may work all Field Day stations.

(Class F) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): An amateur radio station at an established EOC activated by a club or non-club group. Class F operation must take

place at an established EOC site. Stations may utilize equipment and antennas temporarily or permanently installed at the EOC. Entries will be reported based on the number of transmitters in simultaneous operation.

Get On The Air (GOTA) Station. Any Class A or F entry whose transmitter classification is two or more transmitters may also operate one additional station without changing its base entry category. This is known as the Get On The Air (GOTA) station. The GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band (HF or VHF) but is limited to one GOTA station transmitted signal at any time. The GOTA station must use a different callsign from the primary Field Day station.

Free VHF Station: Any Class A or F entries may also operate one additional transmitter if it operates exclusively on any band or combination of bands above 50 MHz (VHF/UHF) without changing its basic entry classification. This station does not qualify for a 100-point bonus as an additional transmitter. This station may be operated for the club's Field Day period and all contacts count for QSO credit. It is operated using the primary callsign and exchange of the main Field Day group and is separate and distinct from a GOTA station.

So now you have your transmitter number and Class. The rest of the exchange you share with your contact is your ARRL/RAC section. For example, my section is Ohio or OH. Stations outside the United States or Canada would have a section termed DX.

Here are a couple of full exchange examples:

The group I participate with operates as "3F OH" or "3 Foxtrot Ohio."

A club with four transmitters in Mexico would be "4A DX."

Miscellaneous Rules:

A person may not contact any station from which they also participate for QSO credit. A transmitter/receiver/transceiver used to contact one or more Field Day stations may not subsequently be used under any other callsign to participate in Field Day. Family stations are exempt provided the subsequent callsign used is issued to and used by a different family member.

Field Day contacts are allowed using Phone, CW and Digital (non-CW) modes. Stations can be worked once per band per mode under this rule.

NEW for 2023: Each contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by both operators making a contact. Initiation of a contact can be local or by remote control.

Fully automated contacts are prohibited.

Only one transmitted signal (or data stream) per band is permitted at any time for any of the three event modes. Multi-streaming (e.g., using Fox and Hound Mode, DXpedition Mode, or MSHV) is prohibited.

All voice contacts are equivalent.

All non-CW digital contacts are equivalent.

Cross-band contacts are not permitted. (Satellite QSOs cross-band contacts are exempted).

The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode is prohibited. A dedicated GOTA station may operate as prescribed in Rule 4.1.

No repeater contacts are allowed.

Batteries may be charged while in use. Except for Class D stations, the batteries must be charged from a power source other than commercial power mains. To claim the power multiplier of five, the batteries must be charged from something other than a motor-driven generator or commercial mains.

All stations for a single entry must be operated under one callsign, except when a dedicated GOTA station is operated as provided under Field Day Rule 4.1.1. it uses a single, separate callsign.

NOTE REGARDING MEMBER CALL SIGN CHANGES:

Reminder to members: Please let us know if you change your call sign! We need that information for our records and the other members would like to know as well!

Michael Callahan now has a new call sign – N5MJC. Nice call, Michael!



**** June 6, Tuesday – CLARC June Meeting** - - Kees Park Community Center, 2450 HWY 28 Pineville. Doors open at 5:30 for VE License exams and fellowship. Contact Jim Walters, AE5ZE at 318-447-9384 for exam information. Meeting to begin at 7:00 PM. Presentation: Field Day Planning Meeting

ZOOM Link for all CLARC meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVc0QT09>

**** June 16 - CLARC June Fellowship Lunch – Friday June 16, 2023 –** Location – Red River Grill, 3200 Monroe Hwy, Pineville, LA. Time: 11:00 AM

**** June 24 – 25, 2023 - ARRL 2023 Summer Field Day.** Location: RPSO Shooting range, 150 Sheriff Range Rd, Alexandria, LA More detailed information closer to event date. We are looking for operators and participation!

**** CLARC July Meeting – Tuesday, July 6 –** Kees Park Community Center, 2450 HWY 28 Pineville. Doors open at 5:30 for VE License exams and fellowship. Contact Jim Walters, AE5ZE at 318-447-9384 for exam information. Meeting to begin at 7:00 PM. Presentation: Waterproofing Coax – Scott KD5DFL and Dave K5TS

Zoom Link for all CLARC meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVcyQT09>

**** CLARC Friday Fellowship Luncheon –** Friday, July 14. Location TBA

****Shreveport – Bossier Hamfest – Saturday, August 12, 2023 -** Shreveport Amateur Radio Association (SARA). Time: 7:00am - 2:00 pm. FREE Parking — Easy Access Admission: \$10.00 at door, Website: Shreveport Amateur Radio Association (SARA) <http://www.k5sar.com/sbhamfest/>

Below is Houston KD5YS presentation at the May 2 CLARC Meeting regarding the change of CLARC's call sign.

Should CLARC Change Its Callsign

Houston Polson, KD5YS, Committee Chair
Jack Brossette, W5ETL
Jim Walker, AE5ZE

Motion:

- Form a committee to review a possible change to the club's call sign and if decided to do so, provide not more than three possible callsigns for the club to choose from

Recommendation:

- The club NOT CHANGE its call sign from the current assignment of N5AEX currently.
- Have the committee continue to look at possible call signs and present it to the club should one come available

Considerations:

- What constitutes a “good” call sign?
- Good phonetics – not confusing to the other operators
Easy to send using CW
- Used CW weight and number of syllables as indicators
 - Used article from CQ Amateur Radio February 2022, pages 102-107
 - Most common characters misconstrued

Considerations:

- Club member opinions
- If going to make a change, make it a significant change
- No 5-character call for another 5-character call
- Not a contest club
- Don't change to a Group A (Amateur Extra) call sign (1x2 or 2x1)
- Changing to a Group A (Amateur Extra) call sign requires an Amateur Extra as trustee

Considerations:

- Committee Comments:
- While not a contest club, the operating events over the past few years have been toward that direction
- Not all 5-character call signs are created equal so changing to a Group B (2X2) might make sense
- Changing from one Group C (1X3) to another makes no sense
- From discussions with CW contesters, a low CW weight at lower WPM (under 18 wpm) is of lesser importance than at high WPM (greater than 25 wpm)
- Searching for the “perfect” call sign is potentially an exercise in futility; it most likely doesn't exist, and if it does, it probably isn't available
- Timing of submission for a Group A call sign is crucial

Busted Call Sign Analysis

- In general, Phone QSOs tended to have fewer busts than CW QSOs
- Most CW mistakes were longer characters confused with other, similar characters with only a single dit or dah difference
- On CW, longer letters or letters with several consecutive dits tended to have a higher bust rate
- On Phone, A and E were often misconstrued but not for each other
- CQ Amateur Radio, February 2022, pgs. 102-107

Callsign Criteria

- Reviewed 171 Group A call signs
- The “perfect” call sign doesn’t exist. Good enough is good enough
- Shorter is better
- Avoid call signs with excessive consecutive dits or dahs.
- Try to keep the number of syllables and CW weight as low as reasonable

Sample Callsigns (with criteria)

Callsign	CW weight	Syllable count	Comments
N5YS	44	9	
W5HP	48	7	10 dits
KE5HH	48	9	14 dits
KD5YS	58	10	
KA0THZ	72	12	

Sample Callsigns (with criteria)

Callsign	CW Weight	Syllable Count	Available date
N5AX	42	8	6/12/23
KE5CT	48	9	Immediately
AA5LA	48	9	Immediately
W5ZF	50	7	7/17/23
K5M	34	4	FD Callsign?
N5AEX	46	10	Current callsign
KC5ZJY	84	12	Previous callsign

Recommendations:

1. The club NOT CHANGE its call sign from the current assignment of N5AEX currently.
2. Have the committee continue to look at possible call signs and present it to the club should one come available.
3. Utilize K5M as the club call sign for Field Day and use N5AEX as the GOTA call sign.