

# around sun city

## N42 CHRISTMAS TRAIN

Nina Bracht and her dog Rocky board Santa's Christmas train in N42.



## OUTFOXING THE FOX

Left to right: Ham Radio operators Robert Walton and Gary Bowers, using radio directional finding equipment, were the first hunt team to find a hidden transmitter (the "Fox") hidden by the winners of last month's hunt.

This monthly Saturday morning radio hunt is sponsored by Sun City's Amateur Radio Society club to hone members' radio operation and signal-tracking skills. Each month's winners hide the "Fox" somewhere in Sun City for next months' hunt.

Submit photos to: [emily.wallace@sctexas.org](mailto:emily.wallace@sctexas.org). Include a caption and names of subjects in photo if possible.

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## OUTFOXING THE FOX

Left to right: Ham Radio operators Jeff Hahn and Curtis Guyote, using radio directional finding equipment, were the first hunt team to find a hidden transmitter (the "Fox") hidden by the winners of last month's hunt.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY N64!

Neighborhood 64 celebrated their second birthday with a soup buffet party and cake. Laura Spradlin of the Salvation Army was the guest speaker. Over \$800 was collected during the evening and donated to the organization. Canned goods were also collected for The Caring Place and towels were collected for the animal shelter.

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## SEMINARS

*Continued from the previous page*

### Brandt Travel's Travel Expo

Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m., SCB

Hosted by Brandt Travel

Our biggest travel event of the year! Join Brandt Travel and visit with 10+ travel companies featuring ocean cruises, domestic and international river cruises, land tours and more. This is a "come and go" event allowing you to meet the Brandt Travel team and visit with several of our top travel partners. We will feature spe-

cial group itineraries and extra booking incentives for attendees. Enjoy complimentary refreshments during your visit and sign up to win door prizes! Bring a friend or neighbor. Brandt Travel is a full-service travel agency and charges no fees for travel planning services. We work with many travel companies and can plan a wide variety of leisure getaways.

Please RSVP to [info@brandt-travel.com](mailto:info@brandt-travel.com) or call 866-242-0500, ext. 1.

Right: Members of the Sun City Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) shared information about ham radio.

Below: Spring is a busy time of year for these representatives from the Sun City Horticulture Club.



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## SHRED 'EM UP, MOVE 'EM OUT

The Cowan Creek Pavilion parking lot was the place to be on March 1 for the ever-popular Shred Day. **Fun facts:**

- 672 vehicles were served in 3½ hours.
  - The average wait time was 5 to 15 minutes, depending on arrival time.
  - Four loading volunteers and more than 10 COPs assisted with the event.
- The next Shred Day will take place on May 3.



PHOTO BY JEFF HAHN

## OUTFOXING THE FOX

Ham Radio operator John Scott, using radio directional finding equipment, was the first person to find the hidden transmitter (the "Fox") hidden by the winner of last month's hunt.

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## N6 LADIES COFFEE

Ladies of Neighborhood 6 attended a coffee event hosted by Dianna Wilson on Lone Star Drive.

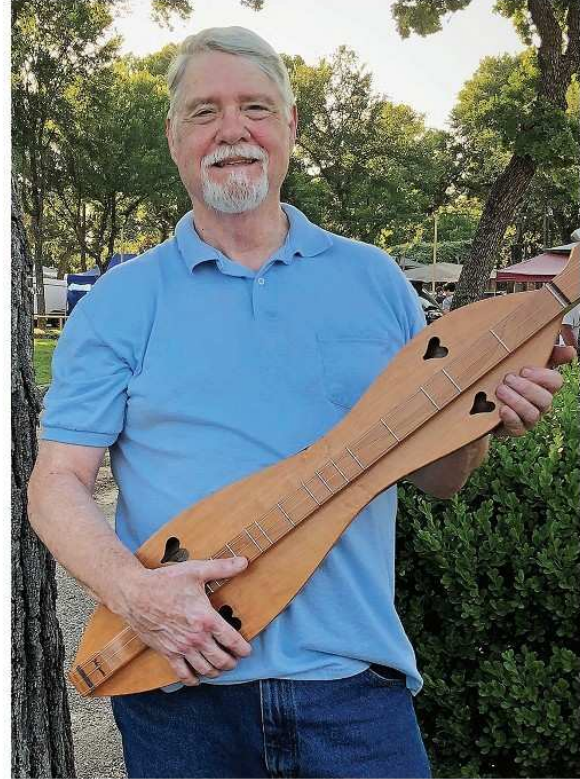
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## OUTFOXING THE FOX

Ham radio operator Bob Frost, using radio directional finding equipment, was the first to find a hidden transmitter (the "Fox"). This monthly Saturday morning radio hunt is sponsored by the Sun City Amateur Radio Society to hone members' radio operation and signal-tracking skills.



## DULCIMER CHAMPION

Len Swanson holds his new McSpadden dulcimer after winning the Texas State Dulcimer Championship. Len will compete Sept. 12-16 at the Walnut Valley festival near Winfield, KS, with other state champions for the title of National Champion.



ROADRUNNER BY TOM NEELY



Pace McDonald tests an older radio.



Jeff Hahn, right, helps new ham Dennis Hurtado make his first long-distance contact.



John Price, left, and David Dial "on the air."



### SPARKS IN THE PARK

About 15 members of the Sun City Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) met at the Cowan Creek Pavilion for a half-day of ham radio practice and fun, aptly named "Sparks in the Park." The hams set up three stations and successfully communicated with other hams in Arizona, Mississippi, Canada and as far away as the Caribbean.

SEMINARS

HEALTHSPEAK EDUCATION SERIES: PROSTATE CANCER



**Concerned about prostate cancer? Let's talk.**

Prostate cancer is a legitimate concern for men as they age. Join resident physician **Harini Bollempalli, MD**, for an informative discussion on signs and symptoms, diagnosis and current treatments for prostate cancer.

**Thursday, Aug. 23  
3:30-5:00 PM**  
**Baylor Scott & White  
Clinic - Georgetown**  
4945 Williams Drive  
Georgetown, TX 78633

RSVP [BSWHealth.com/HealthSpeak](http://BSWHealth.com/HealthSpeak)  
**1.844.BSW.DOCS**  
Seating is limited.



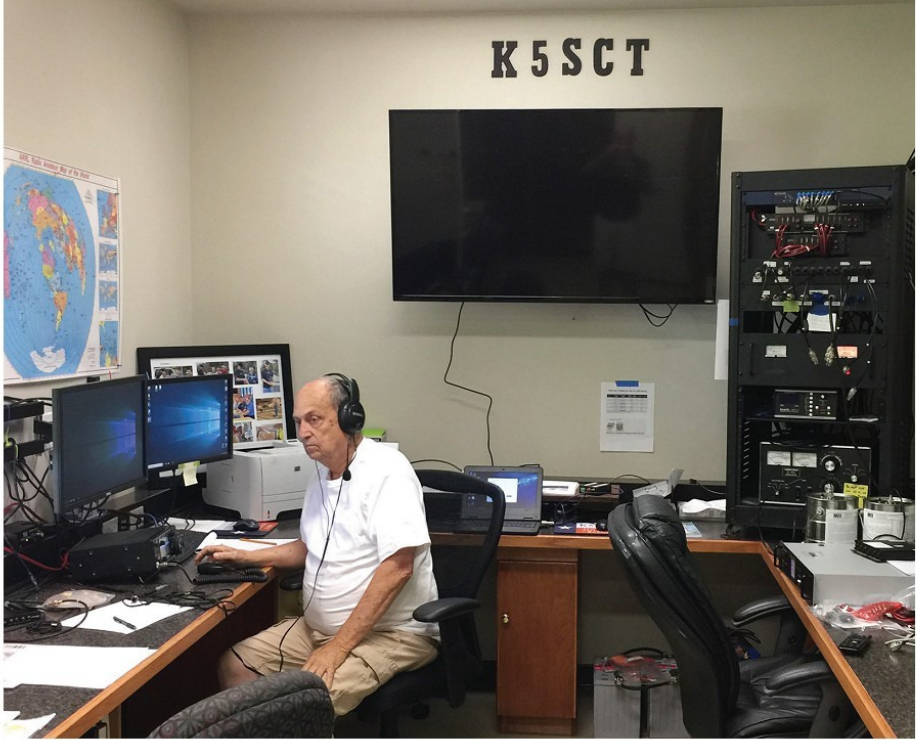
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**TINY TEXAS FAN**  
Bristol Burchette, 2-year-old granddaughter of Becky Kelley (N48), is a big fan of anything Texas. Although she lives in California, Bristol adores her pink cowboy boots, the Texas flag and even owns a Texas charm bracelet.

**CQ CQ CQ, FIELD DAY,  
K 5 S C T...**

SCARS member Wayne Chauffe participated in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Field Day, a popular event held annually in the U.S. and Canada. The amateur radio exercise encourages hams to sharpen their emergency response skills. Field Day is held the fourth full weekend of June.





## Georgetown's Helping Hams

PHOTO BY SHERRY MCRAE

SCARS member Bruce Elbert began volunteering to provide emergency communications while living in California, assisting during fires, earthquakes and even with President Ronald Reagan's funeral procession.

*By Maureen Griffin*

In 1873, Guglielmo Marconi became the first person to communicate across the Atlantic Ocean via radio. Soon, land based telegraph operators were taking their Morse code skills to sea or stations along the ocean. Amateurs, eager to communicate with distant counterparts, began building elaborate and powerful antennas, often shutting out other radio operators and interfering with commercial radio transmissions. The offending operators were derisively referred to as “hams.” Over time, “ham” lost its negative connotation and today amateur radio operators routinely refer to themselves as “ham operators.”

The Sun City Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) was chartered in 2002. In the years since, membership has grown to more than 70 members. Like many of Sun City's chartered clubs, some members have found a way to promote and enjoy their hobby while making a valuable contribution to the residents of Sun City and the Central Texas community.



SCARS also assists Sun City residents with programming of their weather radios.

Reaching outside of Sun City, some members of SCARS have joined forces with the Williamson County Amateur Radio Services (WC-ARES) to provide assistance to Georgetown at large. A nonprofit organization comprised of FCC-licensed, amateur radio operators, WC-ARES provides emergency communications

services as a public service.

This service is provided under a number of circumstances. Power outages caused by natural disasters or crisis situations are probably the most well-known examples. Should normal communications be disrupted by, say, a tornado (such as the one which devastated Jarrell in 1997),





The Red Poppy Ride is one of the largest events in which the hams participate. More than half of the race's radio communications volunteers are also members of SCARS.

these SCARS members can use their technical expertise, emergency training and radio equipment to communicate with and assist local hospitals and emergency service agencies.

How are these titans of transmission able to communicate when the rest of the world is off-line? A dedicated meeting room in the Activities Center houses 10 radio positions, five radios and one receiver, all provided by the club for the use of its members. A series of antennas, providing access to different wavelengths, are located on the roof. In case of power outage or natural disaster, the equipment can be operated by batteries and a propane generator located on site. A repeater, located in a ballroom closet, has been provided by the CA to facilitate long-distance radio communication by relaying the signal. This repeater makes possible communication between Sun City radio operators and locations throughout the state and nation in case of a natural disaster or crisis. Operators can receive Morse code, voice and email communications via their equipment and

relay that information to other locations and agencies until electricity and cell service can be restored. Sun City is one of only a handful of sites in the area with such capabilities.

Of course, these volunteers aren't just waiting for disaster to strike – they're happy to provide their unique service in good times as well. For the past several years, SCARS/WC-ARES volunteers have handled all communication during the Red Poppy Ride.

Benefiting the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center, Sertoma of Georgetown and the Georgetown Police Department Bike Program, the Red Poppy Ride has been held in conjunction with the Red Poppy Festival every spring for the past 14 years. Catering to cyclists of all levels, this ride sprawls across northern Williamson County with five different routes ranging from 14 to 100 miles in length. Sun City's airwave altruists regularly provide mobile support, gear and communications backup for bicycle riders making their way along the meandering course.

Red Poppy Ride coordinator Paige Allen is grateful for their contribution, calling Sun City's WC-ARES hams "an invaluable asset" to the annual event.

"We rely on their communications from setup to breakdown," explains Allen. "Their most important service is providing a layer of safety and security for the participants that is unseen in most bike rides. With an eye on every rider, participants can feel secure knowing they will not get lost. In the event of an emergency or bad weather, their coordination with EMS and transportation support means that help is not far behind." Without their assistance, Allen states "the Red Poppy Charity Bike Ride would not be what it is today!"

If you are interested in learning more about supporting your community through amateur radio, consider enquiring with a fearless frequency facilitator near you. You'll find them at monthly SCARS meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month in the Atrium at the Activities Center.

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## OUTFOXING THE FOX

Left to right: Ham radio operators John Price and Don Parrish were the first team to find a hidden transmitter (the "Fox") by using radio directional finding equipment. The monthly Saturday morning radio hunt is sponsored by the Sun City Amateur Radio Society.



PHOTO BY DICK LENNING

## EAGLE BOOSTERS

The Eagle Boosters host events each year to meet and dine with high school athletes and coaches. Pictured: Larry Plyter at the football kickoff dinner.



OLD BLUE MOUNTAIN LANE (N57) LADIES LUAU LUNCHEON

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GREEN ANOLE BY TOM QUILTER



## SCARS MEMBERS IN TRAINING

The Sun City Amateur Radio Club recently saw its youngest participants at their monthly fox hunts. The team of Steve Lawrence and his two grandsons, Carter (left, age 10) and Harry (right, age 7) found the fox in 62 minutes, just two minutes behind the experienced winners.

## DAPPER DIPPERS

The Duplicate Bridge Club served ice cream and cookies at a Volunteer Appreciation Game recently. Pictured are the volunteer ice cream dippers: Dave Young, Dan Gregory, Bill Horton and John Haussmann.



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## OUTFOXING THE FOX

New Ham Radio Club member Larry Rowe, on his first hunt, was the first person to find a hidden transmitter (the "Fox") using radio directional finding equipment.



## A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Bill Bigger is active in the Woodworkers Club in addition to a number of other clubs. He also holds the title of secretary for the Computer Club.



## OHIO CLUB HONORS PATRIOT'S DAY

The Ohio Club held a social at George's on the Town on Sept. 11 and wore red, white and blue in honor of Patriot's Day.

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