









Welcome Aboard!!

Railroad Net  
Fri. 19:00 Hrs  
Central

On The QuadNet Array  
[www.openquad.net](http://www.openquad.net)



**This file was last updated on April 4, 2024. For more info on what amateur radio is, go to:**

**<http://www.wx4qz.net/hamradio.htm>**

**This has info on a page that I created off of my personal homepage website.**

**The reason for the railroad related graphics on the first page of this file, are threefold.**

**First, I've been a railfan (or more appropriately, "railham", coined by C.J. Griggs, KJ4PIU) for much of my life. My late uncle, Frank Rentja, K3VRM (SK), was the youngest engineer ever hired on by the Penn Central Railroad, and he was the only other ham radio operator in the family. He knew I was licensed, but he became a Silent Key in September, 1993, just over 2 years after I got licensed as N5VLZ (I have that original callsign back, now as a vanity).**

**Second, I run the Trains and Railroads Net on the QuadNet Array on Fridays at 7pm US Central Time...go to <https://openquad.net> for connection options. The net has 2 railroad trivia questions, and first time checkins are eligible for a commemorative certificate in PDF format, via email request – my email is good on QRZ, but you'll need to be logged into QRZ to view it...or you can contact me via the other methods noted at the end of this file.**

**Third, I'm a big proponent on railroad crossing safety. The laws of physics and inertia win every time between a vehicle or pedestrian, and a train at a railroad crossing. It can take 1-3 miles for the train to stop if the engineer notes someone or some vehicle blocking the tracks. In short, all the engineer can do is "watch you die". More information, including a poem and a public service announcement, are at <http://www.wx4qz.net/rxr.htm> – more details on those photos will be noted shortly.**

**Now, to my ham radio biography...please note that if you've previously tried to confirm a QSO with me via the QRZ page logbook, I had great difficulty working with it to confirm said QSO. Please go to <http://www.eqsl.cc> INSTEAD to get your QSO confirmed, and I will do so as soon as possible. I do NOT do paper QSL's.**

**Also, for those who do NOT like the way I run my ham radio traffic nets during the week, etc., you have the following choices:**

**A) Commit to running the net(s) each week...with all of the work involved before, during, and after the net (at least 2 to 3 hours per net).**

**B) Not listen to (ignore), and to not check into my net. According to the Excel Net List Spreadsheets that I maintain, there are nearly 250 monthly nets on D-Star, Echolink, and D-Rats...with many more on other modes, HF, VHF, UHF, and VoIP. In short, there are plenty of nets available that may be more to your liking.**

**C) “Spin The Dial” (change the frequency, repeater, or reflector).**

**D) Shut down the rig or software.**

**I’m NOT “holding a gun” to anyone’s head to listen to, or to checkin to ANY of my nets. I have had far more people who’ve told me they appreciate what I’m doing, than for the “lids” who accuse me of being “egotistical”, etc. There are plenty of other ham radio nets out there. The shorter the net is, the faster I can get to things in my life outside of ham radio.**

**Plus, if I don’t like a way a certain net is done, I don’t check into it. The world would be awfully boring if everything was done the same way.**

**On the photos at the top of this file:**

**1) The grade crossing signal photo is a CSX Railroad Crossing in the snow, but I’m not sure of the location. The photo is used with permission of Abacus Software, which did add-ons for the original Microsoft Train Simulator, but it may no longer be in business. Note that Microsoft Train Simulator is no longer produced, but there are other Train Simulators are available, such as Auran Trainz, and OpenRails, the latter which was patterned after the original Microsoft Train Simulator.**

**2) The photo to its right is a SOO Line Steam Locomotive at Random Lake, Wisconsin, and is used with permission of Mike Yuhas, AB9ON. His website, <https://www.mikeyuhas.org> has a whole slew of excellent railroad related photos. Mike is also a writer for Trains Magazine.**

**3) The photo to the right of the SOO Line Steam Locomotive is yours truly (the Conductor for the Trains Net), taken at the Arkansas Railroad Museum in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, several years ago, with photographer Peter Smykla. On the scrolling name badge on the Conductor's Hat, the message notes "Welcome Aboard From The Conductor".**

**4) The photo below that is the original Superliner consist of the Amtrak Texas Eagle passenger train, and the former SL&SW (St. Louis and Southwestern) Cotton Belt Steam Locomotive 819, at the former Missouri Pacific Railroad Depot in Little Rock, Arkansas, in June, 1986 (photo courtesy of the late Ken Zeigenbein). Both were at the Little Rock Amtrak Station in celebration of Arkansas' sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup> birthday). The Superliner equipment has since been upgraded, but the 819 is being restored cosmetically ONLY, at the Arkansas Railroad Museum in Pine Bluff, where it was originally built in the 1940's. Sadly, it may never run again on the high iron, because of insurance, cost, and other issues.**

**The station itself was originally designed to serve several railroads in the Little Rock Metro area (including the Southern Pacific (Cotton Belt), Rock Island, and Missouri Pacific...but it ended up being (in its early days) noted in "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" as "the largest railroad station in the United States owned by one railroad" (the Missouri Pacific). It originally had over 20 tracks and a train shed, but only 4 tracks remain. These are:**

**A) The double track mainline between St. Louis and Fort Worth – the Baring Cross Railroad Bridge over the Arkansas River is just northeast of the depot.**

**B) A connecting track on "the Vinegar Spur" (there used to be a plant that produced vinegar in the area) to part of the former Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Sunbelt Line which ran from Memphis, Tennessee to Amarillo, Texas...it's now the Little Rock And Western Shortline, which ends at Danville. The old Rock Island depot at Perryville was at one time, the offices of the Little Rock and Western, but they have a new building for it now, and the former depot was moved nearby.**

**C) The Amtrak Passenger Station siding. Unfortunately, there is no overhead roof, per se, at trackside...so that can be an issue during inclement weather.**



**The Passenger waiting room was originally on the second floor of the station, entered off of Markham Street, but it's now at track level. A full history on the Little Rock station, from the Amtrak Great American Stations website, is located at <https://www.greatamericanstations.com/stations/little-rock-ar-lrk/> -- it is served by the Northbound and Southbound Amtrak Texas Eagle, once per day in each direction.**

**5) The photo to the right is the logo for the weekly Trains And Railroads Net that I do on the QuadNet Array. The logo was designed by Paul Frey, K9PTF, with the Rock Island logo provided by Andy Wellman, KF4JQD. The Trains And Railroads Net is done in honor of its predecessor that met on Echolink in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area for over 8 years. It then went on hiatus from February through August, 2017, before restarting on D-Star on Reflector 26A, from the British Columbia Frequency Modulation Communications Association (BCMFCFA) in Canada (this is why the number on the Trains Net Certificates (available for 1<sup>st</sup> time checkins upon email request – my email is good on QRZ) has 2017 on it)), on Reflector 26A. Shortly thereafter, the net was moved to the QuadNet Array (<https://openquad.net>), which offers D-Star, DMR+, WIRES-X, Fusion, TGIF, and other modes. Note that you can NOT use DMR Brandmeister TalkGroup 31012 to connect to the QuadNet Array anymore.**

**The Trains Net is also done in loving memory of my late uncle, Frank Rentja, K3VRM (SK), who gave me my love of ham radio and trains. He was the youngest engineer hired by the Penn Central Railroad, and was the only other amateur radio operator in my family. He became a Silent Key in 1993, 2 years after I first became licensed. My first callsign was N5VLZ, and I have that again as a vanity callsign, as of Dec. 15, 2023. The net discusses anything and everything on trains and railroading, with “Railroad Trivia” (a main and a bonus question during the net. There is no need to feel bad if you don't know the trivia...many times, I have no idea what the answers are...but it's designed for everyone to learn something, railroad related.**

**A YouTube Video, done by Gary Wilt, W2GJW, from the story from the Sept. 22, 2017 edition of Amateur Radio Newsline (with my former callsign of WX1DER, and when it was on REF 26A), is located at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7yTRNcD1uM&feature=youtu.be>**

**Yours truly can be seen operating 20 meter HF Railroad mobile, on the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad Troop Train, on Memorial Day Weekend, 2011, along the former Frisco line between Springfield, Missouri, and Fort Smith, Arkansas, from a YouTube Video done by Steve Tune, KC5FWE, located at:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syErpRb6lFI>**

**How I pulled some stations out of the weeds on 20 meters, I'll never know (hi hi). At that time, my callsign was AE5WX. I've held the callsigns of N5VLZ, AE5WX, WX1DER, and WX4QZ, all noted below. A list of the primary "alternate phonetics" for each callsign, and which ones are "used" are after the photos of my QSL and eQSL cards. I picked some, as I knew that "these jokers would do it, if I didn't"...because "with friends like us, you don't need any enemies" (hi hi).**

**Due to various issues, that's the last time I've operated HF...and I'm not sure when I can, or will, operate HF again...unless it's via a Remote Operations setup. However, it'd have to be with small or no operational fee. Having to live off the meager funds from disability each month is quite difficult. In the summer of 2021, I was diagnosed with atrial flutter; and with congestive heart failure in March, 2022. A cardiac ablation procedure in mid-August, 2022, got rid of the atrial flutter; but I still have congestive heart failure. So using RF gear is NOT an option...never mind that I can't afford it.**

**After doing weather traffic on ham radio for 28 years, I got BURNED OUT in early 2019...and switched the emphasis to weather and trains...but the Trains Net, and railroad crossing safety emphasis (<http://www.wx4qz.net/rxr.htm>) are the only things I do with trains. As of Dec. 15, 2023, the emphasis has gone back to "my ham radio roots"; with my other hobby, square dancing, as I was into square dancing 5 years before I got my amateur radio license.**

**A spreadsheet of selected nets for D-Star, D-Rats, and Echolink (set up in US Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific Time)...along with other PDF files related to amateur radio, is available at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm>, then clicking on the desired link. You'll need the appropriate utilities to view the Excel Net spreadsheets...and an appropriate PDF reader to view the PDF files. I started the net lists, as the net data located at [dstarinfo.com](http://dstarinfo.com) was, and may still be, woefully out of date. Many thanks to Gary, VA3GDZ, for help with the template for the net spreadsheet list.**

**As for my ham radio “career”, I was first licensed as N5VLZ in 1991 as a No-Code Technician (and I have returned to that callsign (now as a vanity) as of Dec. 15, 2023).**

**I had to take the Novice and Technician written exams, but didn't have to take a Morse Code test at the time. I tried, but failed, a 5 WPM shortly before the CW Morse Code Requirement was removed in 2007. Then, shortly after I first became licensed, I began running various traffic nets and hamfest talk-ins around the central Arkansas area. I began using packet radio in 2000, Echolink in 2006, and D-Star (via the DV Dongle) and D-Rats in 2012. With changing to a ThumbDV (noted above), I was able to access the DCS, XLX, and XRF D-Star Reflectors. The BlueDV program also allows operation with DMR, DMR+ (TGIF), Fusion, or NXDN.**

**With the purchase of a SharkRF OpenSpot 4 Pro in December, 2023, I can do what the BlueDV does, with some other options. However, using it on the Smartphone (with a headset mic) is easier than trying to use the app with the Windows 11 computer, the app would lock up during the nets...where I had to activate the Windows 11 task manager to “kill the app”, then restart it; and it could take awhile to complete the reset. So far, I haven’t had “a locking up problem” with the smartphone app. Plus, I can hear other stations with the SharkRF OpenSpot 4 Pro that I could not with the BlueDV program.**

**The ThumbDV from Northwest Digital Radio, or the DV MegaStick 30 from Gigaparts, and the BlueDV program from PA7LIM, are far more versatile than the blue DV Dongle and the DV Tool program from AA4RC (plus \$80 less expensive). The SharkRF OpenSpot 4 Pro is over \$300, but it can work with or without a rig, with one’s computer or smartphone...and it’s great for portability, operating on battery, and charged via a USB cable, just as one’s smartphone is. My main operating modes are Packet Via Telnet, D-Star, D-Rats, Echolink, CQ100, and Winlink 2000 (via RMS Express).**

**Due to the failure of the equipment, I lost my original HamShack Hotline phone number. I purchased a refurbished Cisco SPA525G2 in early March, 2024 on Amazon, but didn’t realize I needed to also buy a power supply. I got a new power supply, but when I plugged it up, the phone powered up, and 10 seconds later, went dark. So, it was a bad phone, power supply or both. Due to other financial issues right now, I’ve GIVEN UP on getting back on getting back onto HamShack Hotline until further notice.**

**Now, while the idea of operating “internet only” makes the “purists” cringe; the bottom line is, “if you can't get on the air, why get licensed in the first place...let alone bother to upgrade??”. Plus, it's hard enough to get hams to serve as “Net Control”, whether on RF, VoIP, etc – let alone club officers. So, I can't see why we should penalize hams who are in situations (through no fault of their own), where RF gear and antennas are restricted/prohibited (assisted living centers, nursing homes, retirement communities), or they have health issues (i.e. a pacemaker)...so, they must operate “internet radio” instead, or give up their lifelong hobby entirely....which can be very depressing. Not to mention that loneliness can lead to both severe depression, and a loss of the will to live...never mind that one's health can change in the blink of an eye.**

**I realize that I'm QRT if the internet is down, but I have over 40 medical conditions (never mind that I've been fully disabled since mid-2004) to be involved in any emergency communications. But, even with operating via “internet radio”, my amateur radio license “isn't just a sheet of paper”. I've heard of folks who studied for their license, took the test, got their callsign, but did nothing with it. To me, they wasted their time and money.**

**In July, 2007, 5 months after the FCC dropped the Morse Code requirement for US amateur radio licenses, I used HamTestOnline™ to upgrade from Technician to General in 14 days, and from General to Amateur Extra 13 days later; making it the BEST MONEY I EVER SPENT in amateur radio. I studied 2 hours a day for 2 weeks on each element...although you may not have that much time to devote to studying. You are taught both the questions and the concepts...so, you're LEARNING SOMETHING, and NOT just memorizing answers.**

**The 6 month subscription (prices vary, depending which license(s) you are going for) lets you study in the privacy of your own residence, at your own pace. I highly recommend them to anyone wishing to obtain, or upgrade their amateur radio license. They do offer a Money Back Guarantee. For details, go to <https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com> – normally, when you buy a study guide, IT'S YOURS – NO REFUNDS.**

**Plus, the Question Pools CHANGE every 4 years with rule and technology changes, and there are some websites that aren't very good at keeping updated copies of these Question Pools on them. However, HamTestOnline does update their pools at the appropriate times.**



**For me, I upgraded not so much to operate on HF, but mainly to become a Volunteer Examiner (VE); because at a central Arkansas Hamfest several years ago, they were literally "begging and pleading for VE's" to help with the license exam session. I realized then that this would be a great way to give back to the hobby, and it has been the most rewarding of all of the things that I have ever done with amateur radio, from October, 2007 to the present. I've participated in over 210 license exam sessions, either as an administering VE, or as a VE Team Liaison.**

**I'm the VE Team Liaison for the UALR (University Of Arkansas At Little Rock) Amateur Radio Club. I have a file at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> with info on these sessions (we test 4 times per year). A club website will be online sometime in early 2024. Also, the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation (ARVARF), located in Russellville, Arkansas, is offering "remote testing" – for more details, go to <https://www.arvarf.com>**

**In June, 2009, I changed to the AE5WX vanity callsign, AE for Amateur Extra, 5 for the 5th Call District, and WX for Weather...mainly Skywarn severe weather operations, which got me interested in ham radio in the first place. I've been indirectly struck by lightning twice (although I carry no electrical charge, and can be handled safely (hi hi)). Plus, I've been under 2 tornadic funnel clouds, been within a mile of an F-1 and an F-4 rain wrapped tornado, and have been in swirling floodwaters, that I nearly drowned in (the current is surprisingly strong!!). It only takes 6 inches of moving water to sweep a human being off of their feet, and 1 foot (12 inches) of moving water to sweep a vehicle off the road; and in either case, the individual may end up drowning.**

**While I respect the weather, I admit I get very nervous when severe weather or winter weather threatens the area. It'd be nice if severe weather was out in the middle of nowhere, not bothering anyone (i.e. in an open field)...but, the bottom line is, that someone's property is being damaged or destroyed...and tragically, many are injured, and lose property, or their lives, during severe weather. I am offline during thunderstorms, and can't even try to work via Wi-Fi, due to intense lightning that usually accompanies the thunderstorms moving through the area. The first things that usually go down during winter weather, thunderstorms, or other disaster, are the internet and the cellphones.**

**In December, 2012, I changed to the WX1DER vanity callsign, which stood for “Weather Wonder”; the name of a series of weather features that I did while I was in college over 40 years ago at the University Of Arkansas At Little Rock (UALR), majoring in Radio/TV/Film. Little did I know that my “radio” would become “amateur radio”.**

**The feature itself (“A Weather Wonder”) was patterned after a series of features that The Weather Channel was doing shortly after it went on the air, named “A Meteorological Minute”. And, the name came from a phrase that I coined, which tells the truth about forecasting: “We analyze data, forecasts, and text...but, wonder what weather will happen next”. While I’m NOT a meteorologist, but an amateur weather enthusiast, I do know enough to be dangerous; but, “I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night” (hi hi).**


**I also must note that I’m a Skywarn <sup>TM</sup> Storm Spotter, but NOT a Storm Chaser. That’s EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, and NOT for amateurs!! If needed, I can call in a severe weather report to the National Weather Service in North Little Rock.**

**In spring, 2019, I changed my callsign to WX4QZ. This is used with the domain of my personal homepage, The Thunderbolt -- A Weather Wonder (<http://www.wx4qz.net>), and my weather group on Facebook (The Thunderbolt -- A Weather Wonder). Postings in the weather group on Facebook are RESTRICTED to WEATHER RELATED ONLY. Any other postings will be deleted, and the poster will be removed from the group.**

**Shortly before my Mom’s death in August, 2019...I got BURNED OUT on Facebook, and UNFRIENDED all my friends...due to an abundance of posts on the timeline and in Messenger that "demanded" that "I view, like, share this"...some links had malware, and I got tired of it.**

**While I’m also on X (formerly Twitter) and Skype, these are used VERY SPARINGLY.**

**Now, starting on the next page, here are pictures of the various QSL and eQSL cards that I’ve had over the years:**

<b>N5VLZ</b>							
<b>DARYL J.D. STOUT</b>							
<b>5301 Larch Road</b>							
<b>Little Rock, Arkansas 72209</b>							
<b>PULASKI COUNTY</b>							
							
Confirming QSO with: <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pse QSL Trx <input type="checkbox"/></span>							
STATION	MO	DAY	YE	UTC	FREQ	REPORT	MODE

**This was my first callsign, and with square dancers, done by “The Little Print Shop” in Pflugerville, TX (long since closed down). The square dancers logo was found when I was working in silkscreen printing from 1986 to 2004 in central Arkansas (I had to resign due to health issues, having been fully disabled since 2004, and they keep finding things wrong with me). The city of Pflugerville is in south Texas, affectionately referred to as “between a rock and a weird place”...meaning the communities of Round Rock, and Austin (that from Steve, K5FCB, who lives in the area).**

**I was living with my parents at the time, and am now living at what was their place. However, please use the P.O. Box (noted on the N5VLZ eQSL card, that is noted at the end of this file), if you want to mail me...as people were stealing mail out of my mailbox here at home.**

**My Dad passed away in February, 2007, from pancreatic cancer, and my Mom passed away in August, 2019, from congestive heart failure (CHF (which I have now)), but I’ve known others who’ve had CHF for years.**

**My wife passed away in April, 2007, from a heart attack. She wanted to get into the hobby, but she had “mic fright”, a very real threat for many new hams. So, I told her that “you can work the digital modes” (i.e. PSK31, CW, packet, etc.), and your computer does all the work for you. You never have to speak over the air with the digital modes...and you can go farther on digital than on voice.**

**She was studying for her Technician license at the time of her death, 3 weeks shy of our 4<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and I never remarried. This is because at this stage of life, most folks have “too much baggage”, whether physical, mental, emotional, financial...or they or their kids are in trouble with law enforcement, or are convicted felons...or the kids have no respect for their**

parents...and I don't want or need all that "drama". Plus, because of medical issues for both of us, we didn't have kids. So, I'm "the last of my line".

There are "dancing hams", which I've met at the yearly National Square Dance Convention ® (NSDC), in different cities around the country, usually on Field Day Weekend. At two events, I've used ham radio to save the lives of individuals...noting "this is what amateur radio operators prepare for – emergency communications". I'll be doing a forum at the 2025 National Square Dance Convention ® in Shreveport, Louisiana, in June, 2025. It'll show "How Being A Dancing Ham Can Be A Lifesaver".

I'm involved as much in square dancing as I am in amateur radio right now. And, that's why I've returned to my original callsign as of Dec. 15, 2023. A picture of my first callsign/QSL card with lightning, is below. Note that in the URL noted on the photo, REPLACE wx1der.com with wx4qz.net to get to the page (wx1der.com is no longer valid).



After changing my callsign to AE5WX, I had 2 designs, which are noted on the next page.

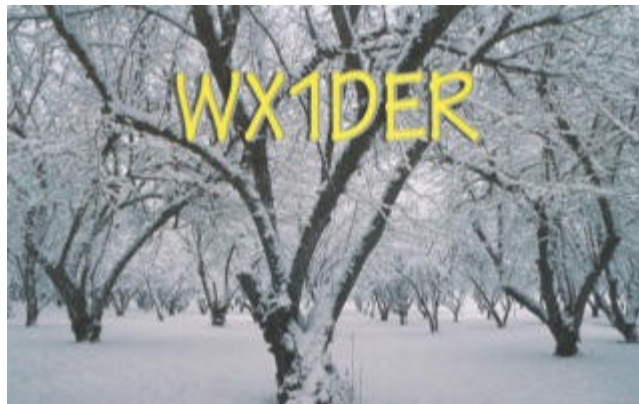
The first one was a classic supercell severe thunderstorm...with hail larger than 1 inch in diameter, winds above 50 knots (58 miles per hour), and tornadoes. If you see something like this approaching your area, you need to seek safe shelter as quickly as possible. Some of these storms have been clocked moving as fast as 90 miles per hour, if not more!! Storm spotters and storm chasers will refer to that as "the mother ship", as it looks like a huge spacecraft,

In short, the storms don't have to stop for red lights...and the tornadoes or high winds will take out the red lights!!

**The second one highlighted the Bible Verse with the rainbow as a promise from God that after the worldwide flood with Noah's Ark, that He would never destroy the Earth again by water...the next time, it will be by fire. I had that call from June, 2009 to December, 2012.**



**Just after Christmas, 2012, I changed to WX1DER – the QSL card is on the next page. After changing the callsign to WX1DER, the theme was because I prefer the cold. Even though it makes the arthritis hurt more, it means no heat illness, no insects (especially the stinging ones), and no tornadoes. I had that call from December, 2012 to March, 2019.**



**Ironically, two days before I got the WX1DER callsign, a major winter storm struck much of Arkansas, bringing snow to the entire state...and nearly a foot of snow in Little Rock. It obviously ruined Christmas Day travel plans for many folks, but at least it was during the holiday break, so many schools and businesses were closed. It was the first time that snow had fallen in Little Rock on Christmas Day since 1926.**



With winter weather, I would prefer snow, than ice (freezing rain, freezing drizzle, or sleet). The dry powdery snow is great for sledding, but horrible for making “snow cream”, building a snowman, or for snowball fights...those are best done with the “heavy wet snow”. However, with the dry powdery snow, there is less chance for power outages from the weight of the snow on tree limbs and power lines. Yet, the roads can still be slippery, especially on bridges and overpasses.

However, the sleet, freezing drizzle, and freezing rain, are the worst of all winter precipitation...as everything is coated in a glaze of ice...and the weight is so great, that it brings down trees and power lines, resulting in widespread power outages. This can be very devastating in the winter, as it keeps many from having power to be able to cook food, or heat their residences...and hypothermia can result, which can end up being fatal.

Below is an eQSL card, designed on the eqsl.cc website, with the steam engine photo courtesy of Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, was for the WX4QZ callsign. I had that callsign from March 22, 2019 to Dec. 14, 2023...when I returned to my original callsign, N5VLZ, now as a vanity callsign.



Then, on the next page is my current eQSL card, with my original callsign, now as a vanity callsign, with some additional information. The background design is basically the same as the eQSL card noted above.



On both, you'll see the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) logo (I'm a Life Member, and a Member of Chapter 85 (Shreveport/Bossier City, Louisiana), and Chapter 79 (Wichita, Kansas).

I do the QCWA Sunflower Net on Saturday morning, and their Digital Net on Sunday afternoon. The QCWA CQ100 Net was ended in September, 2023, due to a lack of checkins...but I may look at restarting it again at a later date. More info on CQ100 is at <https://www.qsonet.com> – and as of February, 2024, I'm now the QCWA VHF+ Net Manager – details on the Quarter Century Wireless Association are at <https://www.qcwa.org> -- you'll also see the ARRL Life Member logo, and it also notes that any eQSL made with me, has the authenticity guaranteed. This is duplicated at the end of this document.

As for the callsigns I've had, except for one, all the others are in use in some form, as follows:

N5VLZ: My original callsign, which was first granted on August 7, 1991...and I have it again as a vanity callsign as of Dec. 15, 2023. That's used basically on the air (RF, Packet, D-Rats, VoIP, etc.), and via email to [n5vlz@winlink.org](mailto:n5vlz@winlink.org) – you'll need RMS Express or a WL2K (Winlink 2000) utility to send email to me...that email is checked weekly. The alternate phonetics were “Now Five Veer Left Zoom”...square dance moves; as I was into square dancing 5 years before I got into ham radio.

**As noted, I've used ham radio at 2 square dance events over the years to save the lives of individuals. I'm the current Editor, Webmaster, and Circulation Chairman for the Arkansas State Square Dance Federation – their website is at <https://www.arkansassquaredance.com>**

**AE5WX: While Skywarn™ severe weather operations got me involved in ham radio back in 1991, after 28 years, I got burned out on doing weather (nets and otherwise) in March, 2019, and nearly quit the hobby. As noted earlier, I'm not a meteorologist, but an amateur weather enthusiast. Yet, "I know enough to be dangerous", and "I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night" (hi hi). It stood for "Arkansas' Extreme Five-Land Weather"...and indeed, Arkansas gets a wide variety of weather...from intense summer heat to brutal winter cold...then from snow and ice in the winter, to springtime severe thunderstorms with tornadoes, large hail, damaging wind, and flash flooding; and these can occur at nearly any time of the year.**

**This callsign is no longer used in any communication or correspondence, because "I'm burned out on weather". But, I will still call in Skywarn™ Storm Spotter reports to the local National Weather Service, if needed.**

**WX1DER: This was the series of weather features I did when I was at the University Of Arkansas At Little Rock from 1978 to 1983. Patterned after the segments that were done by The Weather Channel, that were known as "A Meteorological Minute", mine were named "A Weather Wonder" (what this callsign stood for)...as "We analyze data, forecasts, and text...but wonder what weather will happen next".**

**Indeed, meteorology is an inexact science, with numerous forecast models, ensembles, etc., that are released 2-4 times a day...and the forecast "solution" can change from one run to the next. This is the name of my homepage (The Thunderbolt – A Weather Wonder), although the URL is different (noted on the next page).**

**WX4QZ: After getting burned out on weather, I switched the emphasis to trains and railroading. The "alternate phonetics" are "Whistled Crossings For Quiet Zones". Some railroads use a "W", and others use an "X"...on a signpost prior to a highway grade crossing, to alert the engineer that he's approaching one...and to sound the horn/whistle in the Morse Code letter Q (2 long blasts, 1 short blast, 1 long blast) to alert people a train is coming.**

**There is no way that he can stop in time, if someone gets in his way, because of the laws of physics and inertia. The QZ designation stands for “Quiet Zone”, where the horn/whistle is NOT sounded, unless meeting a train on a parallel track, to alert railroad maintenance of way (MOW) crews, or if a pedestrian or vehicle is in his way. For more info on railroad crossing safety, go to <http://www.wx4qz.net/rxr.htm>**

**Also, it is too expensive to change the internet domain, never mind redoing all the HTML pages to redirect folks to the new page...so this is used for the URL for my main homepage, and all the subpages with it.**

**You will NEVER seat me on a jury on a case dealing with “railroad crossing safety”. The laws of physics and inertia win every time. Basically, all the engineer can do is “watch you die”. As the ad for Operation Lifesaver®, the national organization to promote safety at highway grade crossings notes, “Even if it’s a tie...you lose”.**

**This is because the coupler will likely decapitate the individual where it makes contact...and if a spark is created that punctures the gas tank, and fiery explosion will result, and everyone involved ends up being burned alive. The train crews worst fears in a collision are a school bus, van, or bus, full of people...or a vehicle carrying hazardous materials, such as gasoline tankers.**

**\*\***

**At present, I run several ham radio nets during the week, as follows – the US is currently on Standard Time from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in March, and Daylight Savings Time (DST) otherwise. The local time does not change, if you observe Daylight Savings Time. The UTC Time is one hour earlier on Daylight Savings Time.**

**Early checkins begin 30 minutes prior to the net via Netlogger, and on the respective reflector or mode; although some days, I might be a bit late logging into Netlogger, or starting the early checkins. If weather, health, computer, or internet issues are occurring at net time, either someone else will take the net, or that particular net is canceled for that week. The only net that I run, that I do NOT use Netlogger on, is the PCL Net (packet via telnet).**

**For the QCWA Digital Net, and the QCWA Sunflower Net, email and Facebook checkins have an “extended checkin window”. For the QCWA Sunflower Net, it ends at 3pm Sunday, US Central Time, when I switch to the QCWA Digital Net...its extended checkin window ends at 10pm Monday, US Central Time.**

**If one of the QCWA Nets noted is on the last day of the month, the extended checkin window ends at 10am US Central Time on the first day of the month, as that’s the deadline for the upcoming issue of the QCWA Journal, that members can download at <https://www.qcwa.org>**

**For the other nets noted below, all checkins end when the net is concluded. I take Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday Nights off from nets (as noted, I do nets for the QCWA on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon).**

**If the net is on a major holiday, or there are thunderstorms in my area at net time, that net may be canceled for that week.**

**Network connection info for my nets is as follows:**

**QuadNet Array: <https://openquad.net>**

**Sunflower Network: [www.sunflowernet.us](http://www.sunflowernet.us)**

**Info for The PCL Net is in a file named such at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm>**

**Sunday Afternoon:**

**Net Name: Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Digital Net  
UTC Time: 2200 UTC Sunday during Standard Time, 2100 UTC Sunday otherwise.**

**Local US Time: 5pm Eastern, 4pm Central, 3pm Mountain, 2pm Pacific.**

**Location: QuadNet Array (XRF 757A on D-Star)(<https://openquad.net>)**

**Checkin Methods: QuadNet Array, Netlogger, Facebook Group, and Email  
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/88523580833>**

**Comments: Extended checkins available until 10pm Monday, US Central Time, via email and Facebook. If this net is on the last day of the month, the**



**extended checkin window ends at 10am US Central Time on the first day of the new month, as that's the deadline for items for the next issue of the QCWA Member Journal.**

**If you were first licensed anytime in the year 1999 or earlier (as of 2024), and are currently licensed, you qualify for membership...but QCWA membership is NOT required to checkin to the net. Details are at <https://www.qcwa.org>**

**\*\***

### **Monday Evening:**

**Net Name: The PCL Net**

**UTC Time: 0100 UTC Tuesday during Standard Time, 0000 UTC Tuesday otherwise.**

**Local US Time: 8pm Eastern, 7pm Central, 6pm Mountain, 5pm Pacific.**

**Location: NS2B BBS, Penfield, Net York**

**Checkin Methods: Via connect the NS2B BBS, or via email to either NS2B or N5VLZ (both have @winlink.org addresses – and they need to be sent via a Winlink Express client such as RMS Express, or they'll bounce back as being undeliverable) – the email checkins will be noted as “an early checkin”.**

**Comments: For more info, look for the PDF file on The PCL Net, located at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> -- The net does NOT meet during the weeks of Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day.**

### **Monday Evening:**

**The Pun In Life Net**

**UTC Time: 0230 UTC Tuesday during Standard Time, 0130 UTC Tuesday, otherwise.**

**Local US Time: 9:30pm Eastern, 8:30pm Central, 7:30pm Mountain, 6:30pm Pacific.**

**Location: QuadNet Array (XRF 757A on D-Star)(<https://openquad.net>)**

**Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/340751685627245>**

**Comments:** A pun is a “play on words”, and the beauty of such is in the groan of the recipient. The puns don’t have to be ham radio related, but they must be G or PG rated (a little suggestiveness is OK, but outright profanity is not). Several examples can be found with “The Triple Play” in the Ham Radio Humor compilation at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm>

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### **Tuesday Evening:**

**Net Name:** Arklatex D-Star Net

**UTC Time:** 0130 UTC Wednesday during Standard Time, 0030 UTC Wednesday otherwise.

**Local US Time:** 8:30pm Eastern, 7:30pm Central, 6:30pm Mountain, 5:30pm Pacific.

**Location:** Reflector 48 B – Backup: Reflector 73 B

**Checkin Methods:** REF 48 B, Netlogger, D-Rats ([sttammany.ratreflector.com](http://sttammany.ratreflector.com)), Email, or Facebook.

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/837844609619752>

**Note:** If the National Weather Service in Shreveport, has Skywarn activated, the net that evening is canceled, in deference to severe weather operations.

**\*\***

**At this time, no nets are scheduled for Wednesday or Thursday (I need a couple of nights off, and in case of computer or other issues).**

**\*\***

### **Friday Evening:**

**Net Name:** Trains And Railroads Net

**UTC Time:** 0100 UTC Saturday during Standard Time, 0000 UTC Saturday otherwise.

**Local US Time:** 7pm Eastern, 6pm Central, 5pm Mountain, 4pm Pacific.

**Location:** QuadNet Array (XRF 757A on D-Star)(<https://openquad.net>)

**Checkin Methods: QuadNet Array, Netlogger, Facebook Group, and Email.**

**Comments: The net is run in honor of its predecessor, that ran in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area for over 8 years...and is in loving memory of K3VRM, the only other ham radio operator in WX4QZ's family, and the youngest engineer hired by the Penn Central Railroad. A commemorative certificate is available via email request to WX4QZ, after a first time checkin. There is a main and bonus question dealing with railroad trivia. Topics covered include passenger, freight, steam, diesel, rolling stock, depots, fallen flags, signals, excursions, abandoned lines, derailments, and more.**

**\*\***

**Saturday Morning:**

**Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Sunflower Net**

**UTC Time: 1500 UTC Saturday during Standard Time, 1400 UTC Saturday otherwise.**

**Local US Time: 10am Eastern, 9am Central, 8pm Mountain, 7pm Pacific.**

**Location: Go to <https://www.sunflownet.us> for connection options on AllStar, D-Star, DMR, Echolink (I connect via KC5FM-R), Yaesu System Fusion, Hamshack Hotline, M17, P25, and TGIF.**

**Checkin Methods: QuadNet Array, Netlogger, Facebook Group, and Email**

**Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/88523580833>**

**Comments: Extended checkins available until 3pm Sunday, US Central Time, via email and Facebook.**

**If you were first licensed anytime in the year 1999 or earlier (as of 2024), and are currently licensed, you qualify for membership...but QCWA membership is NOT required to checkin to the net. Details are at <https://www.qcwa.org>**

**\*\***

**Next, I am a Life Member of these amateur radio clubs or organizations:**

**American Radio Relay League (ARRL ®): <https://www.arrl.org> – the main thing I do with them is as the VE Team Liaison for the University Of**

**Arkansas At Little Rock (UALR) Ham Radio Club, sending in session results to ARRL/VEC for processing.**

**Courage Kenny Handi-Hams: <https://handiham.org> – I do very little with them, as scheduling issues preclude me from checking into their daily nets via Echolink, or their online meetings via Zoom.**

**Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) Club, Ravenna, Ohio: <https://www.portcars.org> – I will check into their Thursday night nets via Echolink on occasion, and at times, submit items for their newsletter.**

**Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA): <https://www.qcwa.org> – and I’m their VHF+ Net Manager, as of February, 2024. I’m also Net Control for the QCWA Sunflower Net on Saturday morning, and the QCWA Digital Net on Sunday afternoon, as noted earlier.**

**Then, I’m a regular member of these groups:**

**QCWA Chapter 85 in the Shreveport/Bossier City, Louisiana area  
Website: <https://www.qcwa.org/chapter085.htm>**

**QCWA Chapter 79 in the Wichita, Kansas area  
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1088227881758580>**

**Philadelphia Digital Radio Association (PDRA), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Website: <https://www.k3pdr.org> – the group is basically “inactive” at this time, and has been since Covid-19 came on the scene a few years ago.**

**Memphis Digital Amateur Radio Club (MDARC), Memphis, Tennessee  
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/memphisdstar/> -- affectionately known as “the DARC side of digital” (hi hi). The net is done in the vein of the late Rush Limbaugh (a favorite of conservatives).**

**University Of Arkansas At Little Rock Ham Radio Club, Little Rock, Arkansas – I’m their VE Team Liaison. Info on the exam sessions is at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> – the link is at the top of the page.**

**Due to financial issues after left hip replacement surgery in November, 2023, and since I’ve done little (if anything) with the British Columbia Frequency**

**Modulation Communications Association (BCFMCA) since the Trains Net moved to the QuadNet Array, I had to let my membership lapse at the end of 2023.**

**I'm a proud member of “the Royal Order Of the Wouff Hong” -- having gone through it at the 2007 ARRL Great Lakes Division in Cleveland, Ohio, and the 2013 ARRL Delta Division Convention in Bentonville, Arkansas. A good time is had by all during the initiation ceremony to this “secret society”. One must be a paid up ARRL member to participate, and I can't go into details as to what goes on, as you have to experience it for yourself. You will do a lot of laughing (nothing vulgar/degrading); participants get a very nice certificate.**

**So, with rare exceptions, all of my “on the air” activity is done OUTSIDE of Arkansas, where I feel more welcome. The only Arkansas ham radio activities I'm involved with are as follows:**

**VE Team Liaison for the University Of Arkansas At Little Rock Ham Radio Club. An info file for the exam session is at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm>**

**Webmaster for the Cabot Nightflyers Net (the net and group are inactive, and I have no idea when they may resume). Their website is located on the web at <http://www.thecabotnightflyers.net> (it won't be updated until they resume). Their Facebook page, is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/124367410682>**

**Hamming In The Park – <http://www.wx4qz.net/hamnpark.htm>**

**I've made ham radio “a family affair”; even though I'm only the second (and probably, the last) ham radio operator in my family to be licensed. With the Credit and Glory to The Good Lord for the inspiration, I have created 3 skits in "The Creative Juices Department", as follows:**

**A) The Ham Radio Wedding -- Ham and radio united in “Holy Telephony”.**

**B) The Honeymoon And More -- their first night together, and the harmonics early years.**

**C) Ham For The Holidays -- a Christmas In July theme, based on the melody of “The 12 Days Of Christmas”, now known as “The 12 Days Of Hamming”.**



Combined, these are known as “The Triple Play”. The first 2 skits have quite a bit of ham radio pun humor (especially the second one), and the third skit picks 12 items from the ham radio hobby. You can find “The Triple Play” in the Ham Radio Humor file, located at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm>

You can contact me via the following methods:

1) Via email to [vhfnetmanager@qcwa.org](mailto:vhfnetmanager@qcwa.org) , [n5vlz@winlink.org](mailto:n5vlz@winlink.org) , or [n5vlz@arrl.net](mailto:n5vlz@arrl.net)

2) Via Website Feedback to <http://www.wx4qz.net/fbk.htm>

3) Via D-Rats (look for N5VLZ). Please use another method if you don’t see me online. I had been on the St Tammany Parish Ratflector, but it has been down lately, due to various issues. So, I may end up looking for another ratflector “to hang out on”.

4) Via Packet mail to N5VLZ on the NS2B BBS in Penfield, New York. My packet email is N5VLZ@NS2B.#WNY.NY.USA.NOAM – however, you must enter that via a packet client, or it’ll bounce back as being undeliverable.

5) Via the nets that I run during the week, as noted earlier in this document.

6) Via sked request on CQ100, Echolink, D-Star, D-Rats, or Packet (on the NS2B BBS, as noted above).

7) Via my computer bulletin board system, The Thunderbolt BBS, located at <http://tbolt.synchro.net> – choose the Feedback option at the logon matrix, and leave your email address if you want a reply.

8) Via Facebook – my profile picture has a family photo from Christmas, 1962, and my individual photo is myself in my Train Conductor’s Outfit.

9) Via Skype for the QCWA Chapter 7 Roundtable on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, at 10pm US Central Time (when I can make it).

10) I purchased a refurbished HamShack Hotline phone in early March, 2024 (after the previous one failed), and didn’t realize I also needed to buy a power supply for it.

Unfortunately, either the phone, power supply or both, were bad. I went to plug it in, and after 15 seconds, the phone went dead. I even tried plugging it in on a different outlet...no dice. In short, I have GIVEN UP on being on HamShack Hotline until further notice.

Other ham radio files can be found at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm>, such as:

- 1) Mode Overview – an overview of D-Star, D-Rats, the QuadNet Array, the SharkRF OpenSpot 4 Pro, ham radio etiquette, and other topics.
- 2) Ham Radio Humor – Graphics and text of funny and punny ham radio items. Note that some of “The Missing Q Signals” are NOT meant for use on the air, due to language...but they are great for “eyeball QSO’s”, at hamfests or meetings...because “dirty old hams need love, too” (hi hi).
- 3) Operating Internet Radio – if you can’t have RF gear due to medical issues, or you live where there are restrictions on RF gear, antennas, etc., this far less expensive (if not conventional) way, will allow you to get on the air, and where your license isn’t just a sheet of paper.
- 4) “You’re Licensed – Now What??” – a comprehensive overview of the ham radio hobby, for prospective, new, and long time ham radio operators.
- 5) Excel Net List Spreadsheets – Selected D-Star, D-Rats, and Echolink Nets, in the 4 US time zones. A separate textfile denotes recent changes.

