

QSL Managers Message #2

Special Event Stations

After our meeting last night, it was very obvious to me that many new hams don't know what a Special Event is...so that is what this article is about. When I was a new ham, the club was going to have a Special Event and I thought it was special because it was held on Saturday instead of the normal meeting day. I've learned a lot since then.

Special Events are held to **commemorate** or **celebrate** a **person, place, thing, or event** that is important to the folks hosting the event.

There are many special events that are held in amateur radio, and they happen all the time. Some examples are...the 13 Colonies, Route 66 On the Air, the 12 Days of Christmas, Navajo Code Talkers, Moonshine, president's birthdays, WWI, WWII, American Revolution, Civil War, Mark Twain House, museum's, worlds biggest tea pot, etc. Hams hold special events for almost anything. Some of these special events are very popular and attract hams from all over the country and around the world.

The Grayson County ARC hosts 3 special events each year...

Perrin Field Museum Special Event in May

Red River Bridge War Special Event in July

Eisenhower Birthday Special Event in October

The Perrin Field Special Event celebrates the Perrin Field Museum, which you can visit today at North Texas Regional Airport, and commemorates the men and women who served our country at Perrin Air Force Base from WWII until the 1970's.

The Red River Bridge War Special Event commemorates the dispute between Texas and Oklahoma over a new bridge that was built across the Red River in 1931. That happened right here where the Hwy 75 bridge crosses the Red River.

The Eisenhower Birthday Special Event celebrates the birthday of President Eisenhower who was born right here in Denison, TX on October 14, 1890.

So, all 3 of our special events are rooted in the history of Grayson County and they are a way for us to keep their memories alive and at the same time...get of the radio and make some contacts and have some fun.

Our special events use One By One, 1X1, call signs...What's a 1X1 call sign? A 1X1 call sign is "Special" because it is much shorter than normal call signs and it attracts a lot of attention. When others hear a station that is using a 1X1 call sign they know it is "Special". 1X1 call signs must be reserved in advance and can only be used for a short period of time (max 2 weeks). Any ham can request a 1X1 call sign and if it is not already reserved they can be granted the use of it for their special event.

The call sign we have been using for the Perrin Field SE is W5P..P for Perrin. The call sign we have been using for the Red River Bridge War SE is W5R...R for Red River. And for the Eisenhower Birthday SE we use 10 1X1 call signs that spell EISENHOWER.

So how do you make a contact on the radio for a special event? Here's an example of what you might say using the Red River Bridge War Special Event call sign W5R .

We CQ CQ CQ this is W5R the Red River Bridge War Special Event calling CQ and standing by.

Them XX#XXX (Call sign of other station)

We XX#XXX this is W5R. We are commemorating the Red River Bridge War today. It was a dispute between Texas and Oklahoma over a new bridge that was built across the Red River in 1931. Please visit www.qrz.com/db/w5r for more information. QSL?

Them W5R this is XX#XXX QSL, thank you for the information. I'll check out your QRZ page. You are 59 into New York today. Back to you.

We XX#XXX this is W5R QSL. You are 59 into Grayson County, Texas today. 73 and thanks for stopping by today. QRZ.

All club members are encouraged to participate in our special events. You can use our 1X1 call signs, operate any time you want and as much, or as little, as you want. You can use any band and any mode. There are only a few rules...one, you must follow the band plan for the license you hold; two, you must send me your log of the contacts you make when the event is over; and three, have fun!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

73

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