



# COMMUNICATOR

Volume XII, January 2013

Arlington Amateur Radio Club • P.O. Box 1702, Arlington TX 76004-1702 • K5SLD.org

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Announcements
- 2 January Presentation
- 3 Calendar Of Events  
This Month On The Radio  
Tidbits
- 4 Holiday Party Pictures
- 5 Membership Meeting Minutes
- 6 Board Meeting Minutes  
Financial Report
- 7 Volunteers Needed For Siren Test  
2013 Officers

## Club Dues Are Due

It's that time of year again, time for all of us to pay our club dues for 2013. AARC dues can be paid two ways. The club website [k5sld.org](http://k5sld.org) has a PayPal option, which is a very easy and convenient way to pay dues if you have a PayPal account, or checks can be sent to the club P.O. Box or given to Joyce Waites, club treasurer, at a meeting. Dues for the year are still \$25.

## Outgoing Officers

Chris Webster K5LTX (treasurer) and Rob May NV5E (editor) are leaving the Board for 2013. We thank them for serving in those positions and wish the incoming officers the best in the year ahead.

## Ham Of The Year Awarded At Party

While your new editor wasn't able to attend the December holiday party, he's been told it was a good time (it's always a good time, as a popular song lyric says). Dave Walker W5DJO was selected Ham Of The Year, Joyce Waites W5FJB won the Yaesu FT-2900R mobile radio, and the annual white elephant gift exchange seems to have been



Bill Tatsch AE5BT awarding the 2012 Ham Of The Year plaque to Dave Walker W5DJO

successful with no casualties (or so it seems from the pictures). We extend our best congratulations to Dave on his recognition and thanks for his many years of service and dedication to the club, the amateur community, and the public. *See more pictures on page 4.*

## Field Day 2012 Results Released

The ARRL printed the results from FD12 in the December issue of *QST* (one of many perks to ARRL membership). The Arlington ARC placed #130 (of 317) in the 3A class, well toward the front of the pack, with 532 claimed QSOs and 2678 points. We also were the second-highest-ranking NTX 3A, behind the Dallas ARC with 1099 Qs and 3936 points. Thanks to everyone who helped make FD12 the success it was!

## January Presentation: Bob Heil

**Bob Heil K9EID** is scheduled to present to us this month via videochat. We had attempted this at the July meeting, did a test a few weeks prior to the meeting, had all manner of redundancy, but none of us had considered the possibility of Bob's internet connection going down, which is of course why that happened. We hope for better results this time.

Bob is well known in the amateur radio community for his company's extensive line of microphones and other audio-related station accessories ([heilsound.com](http://heilsound.com)), as well as the weekly Ham Nation netcast he hosts (stream and archive at [twit.tv/hn](http://twit.tv/hn)). Bob was a pioneer in pro audio as well, doing groundbreaking work for The Grateful Dead and The Who among others. His pro audio expertise has contributed to the great success of Heil Sound microphones, and probably 80 percent of us, if not more, use one or more of his microphones in our stations.

With his lengthy audio background, chances are Bob will be presenting to us this month on something related to audio. An area your editor (who is also in the pro audio industry) has a particular interest in is dynamic range control as applicable to amateur voice communication. "Tight processing" of popular music, particularly vocals, has come back into vogue this decade as it was in the '80s, or perhaps even more than in the '80s, where a music track has extremely little electronic dynamic range but sounds, though dynamically more controlled, reasonably "natural". The same can (at least your editor thinks) be applied to SSB voice communication, where the station's audio sounds relatively uncolored but the dynamic range is more controlled, leading to a better average-to-peak power ratio and improved intelligibility, especially under relatively weak signal conditions. Your editor thinks that N dB of audio compression is more valuable than N dB of power amplification in most circumstances.

Today's amateur transmitters are easier than ever to integrate with pro audio equipment, and today's pro audio equipment offers greater features and quality at a lower price point than ever, a convenient convergence if we want to use pro audio equipment in the transmitter audio chain. This allows us to carefully contour the transmitted audio in frequency response, dynamic range, and other aspects before it even enters the transmitter, and allows for easy voicekeyer integration and many other things we might wish to do in our stations.

Most likely there will be a question-and-answer session during the video conference, so bring any questions you might have about audio for your station and Bob will likely answer them (presuming of course the internet works this time around). Audio can be quite daunting at first glance (every mixer has been asked at least once "how do you know what all these hundreds of knobs and buttons do?" or the related "how do you know where to turn all the knobs to?"), but it's not all that complicated once you understand the basics. Hopefully Bob will unpack some of that in our video conference at this month's meeting and you'll leave with a better understanding of audio as it relates to your amateur station.

## PIO, Social Media

Jason Archip KD5LCT has agreed to serve in the new position of Public Information Officer for the club.

We now have a social media presence on Facebook ([K5SLD](https://www.facebook.com/K5SLD)) and Twitter ([@AARC\\_K5SLD](https://twitter.com/AARC_K5SLD)), so if you use those services, add us.

## Calendar of Events

**January 18: Executive Board Meeting** 6:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

*Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.*

**January 18: General Membership Meeting** 7:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford

**January 19: VE Testing** 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

**January 19: Dining Out** 5:00 pm, Mellow Mushroom, 200 N. Center (downtown).

**February 2: First Saturday Breakfast** 8:30 am, Jay Jay Cafe, 1001 S. Bowen.

**February 2: VE Testing** 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

## This Month On The Radio

**January 19: North American QSO Party (SSB)** 1800Z – 0600Z. Exchange: name and state.

**January 19-21: ARRL January VHF Contest** 1900Z (1/19) – 0400Z (1/21). Exchange: grid square.

**February 2-3: 10-10 Int'l. Winter Contest (SSB)** Full 48 hours. Exchange: name, 10-10 number, state.

**February 9-10: CQ WPX Contest (RTTY)** Full 48 hours. Exchange: RST and serial number.

**February 16-17: ARRL International DX Contest (CW)** Full 48 hours. Exchange: RST and state.

**February 23: North American QSO Party (RTTY)** 1800Z – 0600Z. Exchange: name and state.

**State QSO Parties:** Vermont (2/2), Minnesota (2/2), Delaware (2/2), New Hampshire (2/9)

*For more information on these and other contests, see the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at [hornucopia.com/contestcal](http://hornucopia.com/contestcal).*

## Tidbits

The **DFW Contest Group** is an all inclusive group of hams in the Dallas/Fort Worth area who are radiosport contesting enthusiasts. Check them out at [dfwcontest.com](http://dfwcontest.com) if you're interested. Like us, they go to dinner monthly, currently the first Wednesday of the month at a restaurant in The Colony.

The **Cowtown Hamfest** is this weekend, January 18-19, at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area in west Fort Worth. Some information at [cowtownhamfest.com](http://cowtownhamfest.com).

**Field Day** is only just over 5 months away. How many days is that? Bill AE5BT, our emergency coordinator, is likely to tell us at the meeting this Friday. The planning for FD13 will be starting soon, and news will be forthcoming as it develops.

A quick look at the club membership roster shows about half the members are Extras, about a quarter each Techs and Generals, and a small number of Advanced and Tech Plus hams. About half of you have the opportunity, if you're so inclined, so **upgrade to a higher class of license** and enjoy its added privileges. If you hold less than a General license, you're really missing out on some great opportunities – most contest and DX activity is in the General or higher segments of the HF bands. Phil N5PWW holds test sessions two Saturdays each month, so grab a license manual and study.

# Holiday Party Pictures

*submitted by Jason Archip KC5LCT*



## November 2012 Membership Meeting Minutes

*submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary*

The regular meeting of the Membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:32pm November 16th, 2012 by the President, Dennis N5ACK. Other Board members present included Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Rob NV5E; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

Dennis N5ACK asked that the meeting attendees introduce themselves by name and call sign. Dennis announced that Jason Archip KD5LCT volunteered for the position of AARC Public Information Officer.

Chris K5LTX reviewed the financial report. He noted that he paid for the AARC web site hosting services. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the financial report as published.

Maurice KM5RF reported that the Club's license is up to date.

Phil N5PWW continues to hold test sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Virginia NV5F has rescheduled a previously postponed presentation for January or February.

The minutes for the October meetings were submitted for publication in the November 2012 newsletter. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as published.

Bill AE5BT is collecting ballots for Ham of the Year. Bill thanked the club members who assisted with setting up and operating the stations for Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Fourteen scouts attended the event.

Rob NV5E printed and distributed the newsletter.

A break was taken at 7:48pm. At 8:00pm, the election of officers took place.

To start the election of AARC officers for 2013, the Membership was informed of the offices to be filled; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Training Coordinator, and Emergency Coordinator. The floor was opened to nominations. Current holders of the offices expressed interest in running for 2013. President, Dennis N5ACK; Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Training Coordinator, Phil N5PWW. Wayne AD5ST was nominated for the position of Editor. Joyce W5FJB was nominated for the position of Treasurer. No other nominations were made. A motion was made and carried to accept the slate of candidates.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

The sign-in sheet showed 29 people in attendance, 27 indicating AARC membership.

## November 2012 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

*submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary*

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on November 16th, 2012 at 6:32pm. Present were President, Dennis N5ACK; Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Rob NV5E; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

Chris K5LTX reviewed the financial report and noted that he paid for the renewal of the AARC web site services.


Phil N5PWW reported that he conducts testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. As a result of the previous training session for General Class and the test session which followed, there are eight new General Class license holders.

Locations for first Saturday breakfast and dining-out were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

## December Financial Report

*submitted by Chris Webster K5LTX, treasurer*

AARC December 2012 Financial Report								
								
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
		Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	
<b>Income</b>								
Dues		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	
PayPal Dues		\$23.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23.97	\$0.00	\$57.65	
Radio Raffle		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$110.00	\$65.00	\$45.00	
Good & Welfare		\$12.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
CD interest		\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.36	
		\$36.33	\$0.37	\$90.37	\$169.33	\$90.37	\$103.01	
<b>Expenses</b>								
Storage Hut		\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Field Day expenses member reimbursement		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Radio for raffle		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$169.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-800-Flowers (G&W)		\$53.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Liability Insurance		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$0.00	
Web Hosting & Domain Fees (Go Daddy)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$97.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	
		\$53.98	\$225.00	\$212.98	\$97.09	\$320.00	\$0.00	
<b>Variance</b>								
		-\$17.65	-\$224.63	-\$122.61	\$72.24	-\$229.63	\$103.01	
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
		Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	
<b>Ending Balances</b>								
General Fund		\$23.97	-\$225.00	-\$122.98	\$71.88	-\$230.00	\$102.65	\$1,898.29
Repeater Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,211.90
Good & Welfare		-\$41.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$587.42
Chase/Capital One Checking		-\$18.01	-\$225.00	-\$122.98	\$71.88	-\$230.00	\$102.65	\$3,697.61
Chase CD/Capital One CD (as of June 2012)		\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.36	\$2,164.62
Total Chase Bank		-\$17.65	-\$224.63	-\$122.61	\$72.24	-\$229.63	\$103.01	\$5,862.23
Petty Cash		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Total - All Balances		-\$17.65	-\$224.63	-\$122.61	\$72.24	-\$229.63	\$103.01	\$5,887.23
<b>Note: \$225.00 for 6 month's storage paid 8/31/12; good through 2/28/13.</b>								
<b>Note: Capital One CD renewed for six months on 12/19/12.</b>								
<b>Note: liability insurance paid in Nov 2012; coverage 12/1/12 to 11/30/13.</b>								
Prepared by Chris Webster, K5LTX								
Treasurer, AARC, August 2009-December 2012								

## Volunteers Needed To Help Test Warning Sirens

If you live or work in Arlington, chances are you have heard the wail of one of our warning sirens. In the event of severe weather, these sirens going off might save your life. But, what if they did not go off? Where would we be then?

Volunteer observers, working in conjunction with the Arlington Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, assist in the testing of the city's sirens on the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. Observers monitor and report on the AARC repeater, K5SLD, 147.140 MHz, pl 110.9. There are provisions for call-in reports from non-ham observers as well.

If you have the time available, we would love to enlist your cooperation and radio expertise in this most necessary and rewarding effort. Your report of a malfunctioning siren just might mean the saving of a life or avoidance of bodily injury.

Siren observer lists are emailed to known participants 1 to 2 days in advance. Please monitor our 147.140 repeater starting about 11:45am on the day of the test. Announcements begin at 12:15pm, and the formal net opens about 12:45pm on test day. All observers should be on location and checked in by that time. Testing begins at 1:00pm and is usually concluded by 1:20pm. You may join us at any time that you are able. Detailed maps in PDF and printed formats will be available upon request to assist you in locating the sirens. We particularly need observers in the western and southern parts of Arlington. For more information contact Linda, W5LMC, at [l\\_mcmillen@prodigy.net](mailto:l_mcmillen@prodigy.net) or the Office of Emergency Management at 817-459-6939.

## 2013 Club Officers

<b>President:</b>	Dennis McGrath N5ACK – <a href="mailto:n5ack@arrl.net">n5ack@arrl.net</a> – 972-352-6602
<b>Vice President:</b>	Virginia Smith NV5F – <a href="mailto:pipertoo@earthlink.net">pipertoo@earthlink.net</a> – 601-467-5920
<b>Secretary:</b>	Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA – <a href="mailto:kb2vqa@optonline.net">kb2vqa@optonline.net</a> – 817-652-0307
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joyce Waites W5FJB – <a href="mailto:w5fjb@sbcglobal.net">w5fjb@sbcglobal.net</a> – 817-277-7044
<b>Editor:</b>	Wayne Hoskins AD5ST – <a href="mailto:ad5st@arrl.net">ad5st@arrl.net</a> – 817-822-6452
<b>Training Coordinator:</b>	Phil Stage N5PWW – <a href="mailto:n5pww@sbcglobal.net">n5pww@sbcglobal.net</a> – 817-465-5624
<b>Emergency Coordinator:</b>	Bill Tatsch Jr. AE5BT – <a href="mailto:ae5bt@att.net">ae5bt@att.net</a> – 817-467-4619
<b>Trustee:</b>	Maurice Martin KM5RF – <a href="mailto:km5rf@att.net">km5rf@att.net</a> – 817-266-9906
<b>Agent of Record:</b>	Phil Stage N5PWW – <a href="mailto:n5pww@sbcglobal.net">n5pww@sbcglobal.net</a> – 817-465-5624
<b>Public Information Officer:</b>	Jason Archip KD5LCT – <a href="mailto:kd5lct@endofnet.com">kd5lct@endofnet.com</a> – 817-821-9510
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Jason Archip KD5LCT – <a href="mailto:kd5lct@endofnet.com">kd5lct@endofnet.com</a> – 817-821-9510
<b>Repeater Committee:</b>	Paul Baumgardner W5PSB (chair), Maurice Martin KM5RF, Harold Reasoner K5SXX

## Membership

Print a membership form from [k5sld.com/forms/aarc\\_membership\\_application\\_form\\_distributed.pdf](http://k5sld.com/forms/aarc_membership_application_form_distributed.pdf) and join us.