



COMMUNICATOR

Volume XII, April 2013

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

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Club Meetings

Meetings are held the third Friday of each month in the Human Services building at 501 W. Sanford in central Arlington at 7:30 pm, following the executive board meeting at 6:30 pm. Members generally begin arriving at 7:00 pm.

K5SLD Repeaters

- 147.14+ PL 110.9 (linked to 224.8)
- 224.8- PL 110.9 (linked to 147.14)
- 444.2+ PL 100.0 (linkable to IRLP)

Severe Weather Season Is Open

It's springtime for North Texas, and you know what that brings: our annual Weather Season. Do you know where your handheld VHF FM radios are? What about the batteries, do they work? do they hold a charge? What about programming, do you have the appropriate frequencies programmed into your various VHF+ FM radios for the Skywarn nets, with the right offsets and PL tones? Perhaps even consider doing some basic coverage tests with the local repeaters so you have a reasonable expectation for where you can hear them and where they can (and can't) hear you. There's probably very little more frustrating and problematic than having pertinent information about a tornado or other storm phenomenon, but not being able to relay that to the Skywarn net because at the time you don't have enough power, antenna, height, modulation, etc. to get the message across from your present location.

Perhaps you have a 1/4 wave whip antenna on your car; you could discover you need the extra gain from a 5/8 wave antenna in some of the places you drive. Perhaps you have a 5 watt handheld radio plugged up to your mobile antenna; you might benefit from a 50 watt mobile radio. Maybe you need an external speaker on that radio so you can hear it over the road noise and the monsoon and the hail. Maybe you can even put a radio and an antenna in your office near a window. Whatever your situation, take the time now to prepare so you'll be ready for whatever weather comes your way this spring. Tarrant County Skywarn nets operate primarily on the Fort Worth 146.94-repeater (PL 110.9); backups include 146.76-/110.9 and our 147.14+/110.9 repeater. More information at NWS Fort Worth Skywarn, WX5FWD, wx5fwd.org.

Special Election This Month

Virginia Smith NV5F announced at the February club meeting that she would be resigning from the position of Vice President at the end of April for personal reasons, leaving the Board with a vacancy to be filled by special election this month. If you are interested in running for the position, please contact Virginia before the April meeting.

Presentation: Grand Canyon On The Air

Last month, **David Spore KB3UBD** traveled on vacation to the Grand Canyon with his portable ham radio kit. Equipped with a Yaesu FT-857, batteries, and lightweight wire antennas, his portable kit fits into a deceptively small case for easy travel to remote sites, as exemplified in his trip last month to the Grand Canyon. He had intended to spend some time two afternoons on the air, starting on 20 meters and dropping down to 40 meters later in the day. This month, David is scheduled to tell us about his travels. Those of you interested in portable operation, SOTA (Summits On The Air), and similar activities should find this presentation particularly interesting.



Field Day Shirt Order

Since Field Day is close upon us (the number of days is down to two digits already), it's about time for our annual ARRL Field Day shirt order. **Bill Tatsch AE5BT** will be taking orders for our normal group purchase of shirts at this month's club meeting, and they will be delivered at the May meeting in plenty of time for Field Day. Shirts are \$17 each, same price as they were last year, cash or check made out to Bill. If you're interested in a shirt, bring your order this week for the group purchase.



Calendar of Events

April 19: Executive Board Meeting 6:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

April 19: General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

April 20: VE Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

April 20: Dining Out 5:00 pm, Babe's Chicken

May 4: First Saturday Breakfast 8:30 am, location to be announced.

May 4: VE Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

Tidbits

Upcoming **World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)** webinars:

April 26: What I've Learned in Two Decades of Terrain Assessment (Dean Straw N6BV)

Details and registration links at wwrof.org/webinars

Do you have some information you'd like us to include in the newsletter? Perhaps upgrading your station and have some spare equipment in need of a new home? Send an email to the editor, Wayne AD5ST (ad5st@arrl.net).

The **UT Dallas Radio Club K5UTD** recently posted a SteppiR MonstIR antenna and a ProsisTel PST71D rotor for sale. If you're in the market for one, contact David Sourdis HK1A (hk1a@hotmail.com).

Dayton Hamvention (May 17-19) – If you are going to Dayton, be sure to take notes and pictures to show those of us who can't attend this year. We want to see what we're missing out on. hamvention.com.

Do you have a spare Tech license manual that you want to trade for a General license manual? **Robert McLain KC5CCO** has the opposite problem: he has a current General license manual he no longer needs, but he would like to find a Tech manual for his wife to study. If you're interested in a license manual swap, contact Robert at Robert.McLain@pxd.com.

Contest Corner

“What is contesting and why should I care?” This is the topic of the first of four sessions the DFW Contest Group is preparing for Ham-Com 2013, DFWCG’s George Perkins N5UI reports. If you’re new to ham radio, or to contesting, make plans to attend all four hours of presentations on contesting: What Is Radio Contesting? (i.e., what is it, why should I care, and what are the basics?), Operating A Contest, Station Building For Contests, and Antennas.

Are you new to contesting? Or you’ve never participated in a contest but want to get your feet wet? This is your month, and the Rookie Roundup is the contest for you. The Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while “Old Timers” make contact with only Rookies. More information at arrl.org/rookie-roundup.

Upcoming Contests

April 21: ARRL Rookie Roundup (SSB) 1800Z – 2400Z. Exchange: Name, year first licensed, state.

April 27-28: Ten-Ten International (Digital) Full 48 hours. Exchange: Name, state, Ten-Ten number.

May 4-5: Ten-Ten International (CW) Full 48 hours. Exchange: Name, state, Ten-Ten number.

May 25-26: CQ WPX Contest (CW) Full 48 hours. Exchange: RST and serial number.

State QSO Parties: NE, MI, ND, SD, ON (4/20); FL (4/27); 7A, IN, New England (5/4)

For more information on these and other contests, see the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at hornucopia.com/contestcal.

For more information on contesting in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, visit DFW Contest Group at dfwcontest.com.

DX Spot

The Lone Star DX Association is, as usual, hosting its annual **DX Dinner** at Ham-Com 2013, at 5 pm on Friday, June 7. The guest speaker will be Gene Spinelli K5GS, a member of the 2012 ZL9HR Campbell Island DXpedition. Dinner prizes are reported to be a Yaesu FT-950, an Alpha 4510 wattmeter, a Force 12 6m beam, and a RigExpert AA-30 analyzer. Tickets for the dinner are approximately \$40 per person and can be purchased at hamcom.org.

April 15-20: V6 Micronesia V63T, V63DX

May: ZS8 Marion Island

For more information on DXing in Texas, visit Lone Star DX Association at lsdxa.org or dxe.org.

Field Day 2013 Plans

For this year's Field Day we have some exciting things planned. We will still be entering the 3A LP category, as we have for the past few years, with 3 HF contest stations, one VHF station, and the one GOTA station on the air. We plan to use networked computer logging software, but we're still undecided on whether it'll be N3FJP or N1MM Logger.

Virginia NV5F will host the **CW** station again this year. It will feature Rob's Elecraft K3 (presuming the issues it's had lately are resolved), along with the Buddipole and 30 foot mast that Dave Lear NE5DL has let us use for a few years.

Terry KD5RA and Phil N5PWW will co-captain the **SSB** station. It will have a Yaesu FTdx5000MP with a Cushcraft MA5B at about 25 feet and a 40 meter inverted V hanging just below. Once evening comes and the GOTA station goes off the air, the SSB station will have a G5RV for 80 meters as well.

Rob NV5E will again host the **Digital** station with his new Kenwood TS-590S, along with the Hustler 5BTV he's used for some time.

Dennis N5ACK will host the **GOTA** station again. It will likely feature an Icom 746 Pro and the club's G5RV all-band wire antenna. Since there are typically no GOTA participants left by shortly after sunset, this station will likely only operate part time, giving its G5RV over to the SSB contest station for the 80 meter overnight run.

Wayne AD5ST will again host the **VHF** station. It will have a Yaesu FT-950 into a 3-element beam for 6 meters. Operation on 2 meters will be limited to FM on a (very) part time basis, primarily for talk-in and NTS messaging, in light of the very low return on investment that a serious 2 meter Field Day effort yields.

We intend to demonstrate the NBEMS suite for NTS messaging on 40 daytime, exchanging radiograms using MT63.

As a reminder, our goal this year is to break the 1000 QSO mark, doubling our results from FD12. We have some very good radios lined up, and our antennas are reasonable enough, so the deciding factor is operators. We need a good overnight shift of operators to keep the main three stations making contacts all through the night, a weakness in the past.

We appreciate your hard work in recent Field Days. Last year we were the second highest ranked North Texas 3A, and with some good planning and effort we hope to give last year's #1 NTX 3A a run for their money. But most importantly, we hope to put forth the very best Field Day effort we can, one we can all be proud of, and for that we need your help.

If you'd like to be a lead operator for any of the stations, or have a particular time you'd like to operate, let the station captain know: Virginia (CW): pipertoo@earthlink.net; Terry (SSB): kd5ra@live.com; Rob (Digital): rob@robmay.com; Wayne (VHF): ad5st@arri.net; Dennis (GOTA): n5ack@arri.net.

March 2013 Membership Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:31pm March 15th, 2013 by the President, Dennis N5ACK. Other Board members present included Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Editor, Wayne AD5ST; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. Absent was Vice President, Virginia NV5F.

Dennis N5ACK asked that the meeting attendees introduce themselves by name and call sign. Dennis informed the Membership that a special election will be held in April to fill the office of vice president.

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the financial report as published. A motion was made and carried to donate \$250 to SafeHaven of Tarrant County.

Phil N5PWW continues to hold test sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. He announced the training session for Technician Class being held at the Texas Department of Health Services. A session for General Class starts on April 2nd.

The minutes for the February meetings were submitted for publication in the March 2013 newsletter. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as published.

Bill AE5BT asked for volunteers to assume the roles of station captains during Field Day.

Wayne AD5ST printed and distributed the newsletter.

A break was taken at 8:00pm. At 8:15pm Howard Stone KC5PC gave a presentation on vintage radio equipment.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:06pm. The sign-in sheet showed 34 people in attendance, 28 indicating AARC membership.

March 2013 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on March 15th, 2013 at 6:32pm. Present were President, Dennis N5ACK; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Editor, Wayne AD5ST; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. Absent was the Vice President, Virginia NV5F.

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report. The storage locker lease was renewed for a 6 month term. Joyce reminded the Board that the annual donation to SafeHaven of Tarrant County should be brought before the Membership.

Phil N5PWW reported that he is holding training sessions for Technician Class during the day at the Texas Department of State Health Services. Upon completion of the last Technician Class training session, the General Class training sessions will commence. Phil continues to conduct testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Maurice KM5RF will organize a fox hunt for May.

Bill AE5BT will be seeking people to assume the roles of station captains during Field Day. Bill will work with Jason KD5LCT in inviting local officials to our Field Day activity.

Jason KD5LCT informed the Board that he consolidated the Facebook pages, and has an active AARC Twitter account. The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

March 2013 Financial Report

submitted by Joyce Waites W5FJB, treasurer

AARC March 2013 Financial Report



	Actual Oct-12	Actual Nov-12	Actual Dec-12	Actual Jan-13	Actual Feb-13	Actual Mar-13	
Income							
Dues	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$285.00	\$200.00	\$175.00	
PayPal Dues	\$23.97	\$0.00	\$57.65	\$129.56	\$129.56	\$96.19	
Radio Raffle	\$110.00	\$65.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Good & Welfare	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$16.15	
CD interest	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.34	
	<u>\$169.33</u>	<u>\$90.37</u>	<u>\$103.01</u>	<u>\$434.93</u>	<u>\$351.93</u>	<u>\$287.68</u>	
Expenses							
Storage Hut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	
SafeHaven donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
Ham of the Year expense, member reimbursement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Liability Insurance	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Web Hosting & Domain Fees (Go Daddy)	\$97.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	<u>\$97.09</u>	<u>\$320.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$50.22</u>	<u>\$225.00</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>	
Variance	\$72.24	-\$229.63	\$103.01	\$384.71	\$126.93	\$37.68	
	Actual Oct-12	Actual Nov-12	Actual Dec-12	Actual Jan-13	Actual Feb-13	Actual Mar-13	Ending Balances
General Fund	\$71.88	-\$230.00	\$102.65	\$364.34	\$104.56	\$21.19	\$2,388.38
Repeater Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,211.90
Good & Welfare	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$16.15	\$645.57
Chase/Capital One Checking	\$71.88	-\$230.00	\$102.65	\$384.34	\$126.56	\$37.34	\$4,245.85
Chase CD/Capital One CD (as of June 2012)	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.34	\$2,165.70
Total Chase Bank	\$72.24	-\$229.63	\$103.01	\$384.71	\$126.93	\$37.68	\$6,411.55
Petty Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Total - All Balances	\$72.24	-\$229.63	\$103.01	\$384.71	\$126.93	\$37.68	\$6,436.55

Prepared by Joyce Waites, W5FJB
Treasurer, AARC, 2013

Public Service

The City Of Arlington tests its outdoor warning sirens at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, using volunteer observers, most of whom are hams reporting into a net held on the AARC's 2m repeater (147.140+, PL 110.9). Check-ins begin during the noon hour, and the test typically concludes before 1:30 pm. More observers are always needed, so please consider helping with this valuable effort if you can spare about an hour at lunchtime once a month. For more information, contact Linda W5LMC (L_mcmillen@prodigy.net) or the Office Of Emergency Management (817-459-6939).

2013 Club Officers

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

Membership

Print a membership form from our website k5sld.org and join us. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals.