



COMMUNICATOR

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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)

Ham-Com Recap

Ham-Com 2013 has come and gone, and a good time was had by all. If you missed Randy Farmer W8FN's presentation on station building or Dick Weber K5IU's talk on antenna performance, you missed some excellent presentations. Yaesu had their entire line of radios on display, from the FTdx9000 down to the FT450 and handhelds, including the new FTdx1200 and FTdx3000 (which, if you're considering a 3000, you should check out Rob Sherwood's review). Kenwood had the TS-590 and TS-990 on display, and ICOM America as usual had their entire line of radios including the IC-7800 on display. Not to be forgotten, Elecraft had their K-Line on display, and local outfit Array Solutions had various goodies to show. Hopefully you were able to pick up all the things on your shopping list this year (if not, there's always next year).

Field Day Introduction

We keep talking about this Field Day thing lately and most of the time we probably think everyone knows what we're talking about, and probably most of you do. For the new or uninitiated, here's a brief introduction. Field Day is an annual operating event sponsored by the ARRL in which hams, groups of hams, or clubs set up temporary stations in places where no station infrastructure already exists, and then for a period of 24 hours attempt to make contact, usually on shortwave, with as many other stations across the country and worldwide as possible. These stations exchange pieces of information with each other and enter that into their log, which they submit to the sponsor afterwards, these contacts being part of a score each entrant claims. Bonus points are offered for various non-operating things such as inviting a public official and submitting a press release. The results are announced later in the year in the ARRL's magazine *QST*, and the top-ranking groups rightly earn bragging rights.

Arguably a contest (but there's disagreement), Field Day is the largest operating event of the year and has been an honored tradition for 80 years. Virtually every ham has a memorable story that involves Field Day, often their introduction to the hobby.

Presentation: Field Day Primer

With Field Day happening the day after this month's club meeting, this month we'll be doing a walk-through and primer for our Field Day operation. We'll be covering things like the station setup, a tutorial on the various radios we'll be using, how to use the computer logging software, some housekeeping items, and things of the sort. If you're planning to come out and operate Field Day with us (or even just help us set up or tear down), you want to make sure to be at the meeting this Friday so you'll be ready to go when Saturday morning rolls around. Station hosts should bring their logging computers so we can make sure they're configured correctly while we have time to do it.

Field Day

The countdown to Field Day is now down to the single digits. We hope you'll be here with us for it. Bill AE5BT has the barbecue dinner arranged, which is always excellent, complete with beans and potato salad. He does ask that we bring side dishes and desserts to go along with it as usual.

We will have the following stations to set up and operate:

HF SSB: a 5000MP with a tribander and wires

HF CW: a K3 with a Buddipole

HF Digital: a 590S with a vertical

HF GOTA: a 746 Pro with a G5RV (daytime operation planned)

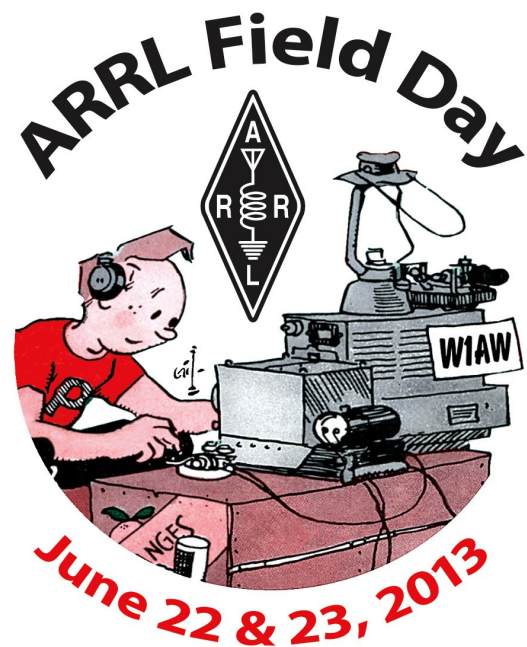
VHF: an FT-950 with a 6m beam, plus 2m vertical FM

We'll be using the new networked version of N3FJP's FD logger this year. It's very easy to use and should be able to track band changes directly from the radio over CAT.

Setup will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday, June 22. Between then and 1:00 pm (contest start time) we'll need to set up the radio room, raise the antennas, run the feedlines, set up the generator, plus a number of other things for which we will need your help.

Once the stations are operational, we hope to be able to be on the air making contacts continuously for the full 24 hours of the contest, tearing down the station after 1:00 pm Sunday. To operate the full 24, we will definitely need at least two relief shifts of operators: an overnight shift from about midnight to sunrise, and a morning shift to finish out the contest and help with tear-down afterwards.

We can't do Field Day without you, so please come out for fun, food, and lots of radio. As much or as little time as you can spend over the weekend would definitely be appreciated, plus we hope you'll have a good time.



www.arrl.org

Calendar of Events

June 21: Executive Board Meeting 6:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

June 21: General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

June 22-23: Field Day 9:00 am until finished, 501 W. Sanford.

June 22: Dining Out Barbecue dinner at Field Day. Bring side dishes.

July 4: Arlington July 4th Parade All morning, contact Paul Baumgardner W5PSB for details.

July 6: First Saturday Breakfast 8:30 am, Main Street Cafe, 2023 S. Cooper.

July 6: VE Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

Tidbits

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).

Do you use Times LMR400 coax at your station? It's excellent coax, but Frank Donovan W3LPL observed in his CTU13 talk that most of us using 400 haven't properly installed the connectors. You can see the entire talk in the CTU13 archive on ICOM America's Youtube channel (see *Contest Corner* for details), but the essence of it is that for 400, or any other coax with a Mylar foil shield beneath a braid, you need to use the proper crimp connector and tooling; soldering the braid to a PL259 will melt the foil that actually carries the RF return current.

On the subject of PL259 connectors, **do you know what make and model of connectors** you've installed on your RG213 coax? If they're from Radio Shack, a hamfest special with no marking, or otherwise you're not absolutely certain they're Amphenol 83-1SP connectors, you might want to replace them with 83-1SPs for reasons that Frank and Tim Duffy K3LR have noted in their CTU talks over the years. In Tim's words at CTU09 Italy, "No cheap." Quality connectors properly installed on quality coax should be expected to last 20 years, but cheap connectors poorly installed on bad coax might not even survive three months.

Do you occasionally (or frequently) need to send paper QSL cards but don't want the hassle of filling them out and mailing them, especially to DX, yourself? Jim Spaulding W0UO recently suggested using the **GlobalQSL service** at globalqsl.com. Started by some guys in 4X-land, GlobalQSL allows you to design a card, then submit an ADIF file from your logging program for the QSLs you want to send; they will print the card and mail it for you, for a very nominal fee. They also can provide blank cards like the other card printing outfits if you want some matching cards to fill out and mail yourself. If you're in the market for some new cards, especially for DX, check out GlobalQSL.

Contest Corner

ICOM America has recently posted video of this year's Contest University on their Youtube channel. It's a whole day's worth of fascinating presentations on a variety of contesting topics from ethics to operating tips to station building. Even if you're not a tester, some of the topics will still help you get the most from your station (like Frank Donovan's talks on towers, antennas, and coax, or Rob Sherwood's talk on radio performance). Watch at youtube.com/user/IcomAmericaInc or click directly to the playlist: youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRSwUN4qr1Loc58lp6IB7d43IXkjMat8H.

The ARRL June VHF Contest was a bit of a letdown. Six meters had some okay openings up to W9 and W0, but not much beyond that, nothing like we experienced a couple of years ago. We're lucky here in W5 that we had conditions that good; the guys on the east coast, and even some on the west coast, say they never experienced any Es openings, only working locals while we had a couple of decent pipelines to the midwest. If you want to work VUCC in one weekend, this wasn't your time, but try again in next year's June VHF. When six meters is open, you don't need much at all in the way of antennas and power; when it isn't open, all the antenna gain and smash in the world won't help you.

Upcoming Contests

June 22-23: ARRL Field Day 18Z-21Z. Exchange: class and section.

July 1-7: Ten Ten International Spirit Of 76 Contest Exchange: name, state, member number.

July 13: FISTS Summer Sprint 0Z-4Z. Exchange: RST, state, name, member number or power.

July 13-14: IARU HF World Championship 12Z-12Z. Exchange: RST and ITU Zone.

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

Several special DX stations are on the air this month, many likely on account of this past weekend's All Asian DX Contest. Some of the more interesting or extended activations are:

June 17-24: H4 Solomon Islands (Stewart Is., IOTA OC-285) H44IOTA. QSL: NR6M

Thru June 28: VP2V British Virgin Islands (Anegada Is., IOTA NA-023) VP2V/W9DR. Six meters only.

Thru June 28: FS St Maarten FS/K9EL

JD1 Minami Torishima (Marcus Is., IOTA OC-073) JD1NQJ/JD1. Mainly CW, 17m/10m. QSL: JA8CJY.

Thru September: XW Laos XW0YJY. QSL: E21EIC

October: K9W Wake Atoll (IOTA C-053) K9W wake2013.org

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

May 2013 Membership Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:30pm May 17th, 2013 by the President, Dennis N5ACK. Other Board members present included Vice President, David KB3UBD; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. Absent were the Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Editor, Wayne AD5ST.

Dennis N5ACK asked that the meeting attendees introduce themselves by name and call sign.

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the financial report as published.

Maurice KM5RF reported that the repeaters and IRLP continue to remain in operational order.

Phil N5PWW continues to hold test sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. He announced that the training session for General Class and the subsequent test session resulted in six new General Class license holders.

David KB3UBD informed the membership that tonight's presentation would be a show-and-tell.

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

Jason KD5LCT, as the Public Information Officer, will visit the office of the Mayor to deliver an invitation for him to attend our Field Day activities.

A break was taken at 7:45pm. At 8:00 pm a show-and-tell was conducted.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

The sign-in sheet showed 35 people in attendance, 30 indicating AARC membership.

April 2013 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on May 17th, 2013 at 6:30pm. Present were President, Dennis N5ACK; Vice President, David KB3UBD; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Editor, Wayne AD5ST; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. Absent was the Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT.

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report. She also updated the club roster and noted that many club members have yet to renew their membership.

Phil N5PWW continues to conduct testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

David KB3UBD is setting up presentations for the coming months.

Wayne AD5ST sent out the newsletter and brought hard copies for tonight's meeting. He sent reminders to those who have yet to renew their membership for 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

May 2013 Financial Report

submitted by Joyce Waites W5FJB, treasurer

ACCOUNTS	5/31/13	General Fund	3233.94
		Repeater Fund	1211.90
		Good & Welfare	645.57
BALANCE	Checking	5/31/2013	4445.84
INCOME		Dues and Paypal	\$255.88
EXPENSES		Flowers (Devine Florist)	45.30
		CD at Capital One (matures 6/19/2013)	2,166.43
		Total at Capital One 5/21/2013	\$6612.27
		Petty cash	25.00
		Total	\$6,637.27

Joyce Waites, W5FJB
Treasurer AARC 2013

Welcome to new members: Jimmy Wester, KF5VXB
Adam Brzosyowski
Sharon Patton, AB5YV
William Patton, AC5AS
Pat Patrick, KE5IQM (returning)

Public Service

Monthly Siren Test

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).

July 4th Parade

The Arlington July 4th Parade is just around the corner, a few weeks away, and as usual they could use our help. Area hams have for years provided communication assistance for the parade. Radio operators are positioned at various places along the parade route, at reviewing stands, in marshal carts, and other places. If you would like to assist with the parade, contact Paul Baumgardner W5PSB at pbaumg1@sbcglobal.net or by telephone at (817) 994-0320.

2013 Club Officers

President:	Dennis McGrath N5ACK – n5ack@arrl.net – 972-352-6602
Vice President:	David Spore KB3UBD – davids@instruments.com – 301-481-8244
Secretary:	Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA – kb2vqa@optonline.net – 817-652-0307
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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.