

AIRWAVES



LGames 5k

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The third running of the LGames 5K run was held on Saturday with success and without incident thanks to the Amateur Radio volunteers who came out in the early morning hours to participate in a public safety and welfare net. Nine volunteers were assigned positions throughout the 5K course to provide direction and report incidences as needed along the course. LGames TWO organizers were kept up-to-date on the whereabouts of various runners and how the run progressed.

This year met with a smaller set of runners than we had ever seen before. TWO organizers had no idea that the Drug Free Greenville walkathon would be held on the same day as the L Games Eliminator 5K, which may account for the small numbers of participants. This year we had fewer than 30 runners. In any case, Amateur Radio operators came together to answer the call for service.

Volunteers this year were Steven Green, JR – KD5HPQ and Gabriel Gentry – KG5KPF of Commerce, TX who operated as Monitor 1 at the first turn from Start/Finish as well as the entrance to the hair-pin turn; Nathaniel Stutzman – K5NJS, who operated as Monitor 2 along FM2101 entrance; Mark Rice – KK5MR who helped with the water station as Water 1 at the airport Terminal; Jae Stutzman - K5JAE who operated Monitor 5 with son, Even – K5EJS along the turn from FM2101 towards the credit union; Caleb Stutzman – K5CES who operated liaison with L-3 Fire EMS personnel; David Rogers – KG5KPU who monitored the North water station and the turn-around as Monitor 6; Victor Paul – WB0TEV who floated between Monitor 3 at the South turn of FM2101 and the hair-pin turn before the FINISH and also monitored the curves leading to the South Terminal; and Michael Ketchum – K5MDK who operated Net Control for the event. Since we had a great compliment of operators who showed up, just about every position was covered for this event. Organizers of the 5K were impressed with not

only the attendance of volunteers, but also the caliber of support that was rendered.

There are a few “lessons learned” for this year that should be considered. Although frequency planning for a Primary and Alternate frequency was provided for, the last minute change to the SIMPLEX frequency should have been planned and announced prior to the briefing. Additionally, we had some bad information leak out of Net Control with regards to course directions. It would have been good to go through the entire course, turn by turn, at the briefing to insure expectations for the course monitors and the details of the course were communicated. If the briefing had started on-time and a checklist or agenda written and used during the briefing, that would have helped tremendously. We also had two members of the team who were disconnected from the net, in effect. One was due to a bump to A/B selector on their HT and the other was due to Net Control failing to get an account for all the members of the net during the roll-call. A volunteer sign-in would have helped close the information gap. However, in both cases there was no deficit in service coverage and response capability, of which we are thankful.

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Special points of interest:

We need people to present a topic at our club meetings

The Next General Class is May 26-28. We need instructors

If you live in Greenville, Please contact City Council concerning antenna restrictions



April Club Meeting Minutes

Stephen Denison – President, opened the meeting at 11:47.

Announcements made by club President:

- SVARA Meeting 5/19 at 7pm at Greenville Hospital 2nd floor
- L3 Games 5/7.
- North Texas Ham Radio Rodeo 5/7 at Cooper Lake.
 - o Rules sent out to ten Ham clubs in our area.
 - o Only 1 response.
 - o Bonham Ham Club has a conflict with that date and can't participate.
- Field Day – pursue location at Greenville Hospital. –June 24 -25.
 - o Waiting on DOT permission to use "green space" in front of Greenville Hospital. Probably doubtful that location will be available.
 - o Need to contact City Manager about using the Sports Park area as a back-up location.
 - o How to do a GOTA station?

Brian (representative from the T.W.O.) discussed our club participation in the upcoming L3 games. A copy of the route was passed out and spotter locations were discussed. At least 8 spotters will be needed. The event will start at 8am and the spotters need to be in position around 7:30am on 5/7.

We will be moving the repeater from the L3 Fire Station to the MSTF. Frequency pair has been coordinated. Antenna resonant is good on the UHF band. Still need to get coax, splitter, and other items for the move. A shelf is needed in the destination rack at the MSTF. Ketchum will inquire with MSTF about the possibility of shelf space.

Presentation by Michael Ketchum: NBEMS: Narrow Band Emergency Message System.

- o A copy of the power point presentation is available on the MFARC website (www.wd5gsl.net).

Adjournment at 12:17

April Meeting Presentation– Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System

While voice communications are the primary method of passing traffic during an emergency situation, there is an increasing need to pass data such as rosters, required supplies, directions to a disaster scene and other information that would be difficult to pass by voice.

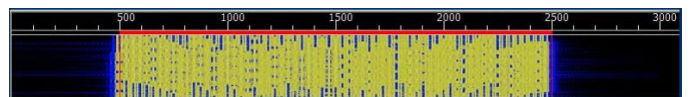
Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) is an Open Source software suite that allows amateur radio operators to reliably send and receive data using nearly any computer (Windows, Mac, and Linux) and any analog radio without requiring a dedicated digital infrastructure or specialized modem hardware. It works on any amateur radio band where either digital or voice communications are allowed.

There are several programs in the software suite, each with a different use:

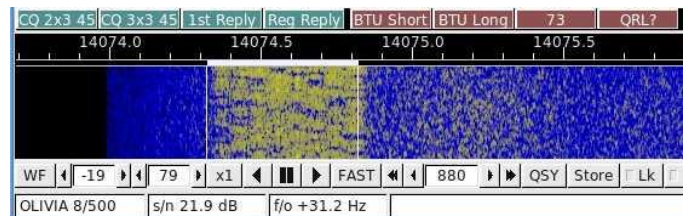
- FLDIGI- Fast Light DIGital modem application
- FLMSG- Sends ICS messages
- FLWRAP- Breaks any file into individual packets for transfer over amateur radio.
- FLARQ- Allows for automatic repeating between stations to ensure packets are received correctly.

More information about the software and free download can be found at www.w1hkj.com.

The two modes most commonly used for NBEMS is MT63-2000 (VHF and UHF) and Olivia 8-500 (HF). MT63-2000 is composed of 64 tones that change phase to modulate the signal. It takes up a bandwidth of 2000 Hz and is able to send data at a rate of 200 words per minute.



Olivia8-500 is composed of 8 tones over a bandwidth of 500Hz and can send data at 30 words per minute. The tones turn on and off to modulate the signal, and the signal can be decoded at up to 14 dB below the noise floor.



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Upcoming Classes and Test Sessions

The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club is planning on having classes on the following Days:

May 26, 27, 28 General Class, Test on May 28
November 4, 5 Technician Class, Test on November 5

If anyone is interested in taking a class, teaching a class, or becoming a volunteer examiner to administer the test, please email classes@wd5gsl.org.

Hams Address City Council

Four hams (David Rogers, KG5KPU; Michael Ketchum, K5MDK; Larry Jennings, WB5IZL; Stephen Denison, W5SMD) addressed the Greenville City Council on Tuesday, May 10. The issue at hand are city ordinances that limit the number of antennas at a residential dwelling to one, require a building permit and signed engineering plans if the height of an antenna structure is greater than twenty feet, and place the responsibility of interference directly on the radio operator.

The city council was advised that these ordinances inhibit amateur radio operation in violation of PRB-1, issued by the FCC in September of 1985. Regulations from the city of Garland were distributed to members of the council, along with applicable paragraphs from PRB-1 and part 97. The issue was referred to the Community Development committee to review the ordinances

The ordinances which we would like changed are contained on Chapter 28, Section 5-6 of the [Greenville City Ordinances](#). If you live in the city of Greenville, and would like to email your council member concerning this issue, find their email address [here](#).

Amateur radio operators are reminded that while local code enforcement has jurisdiction over antenna installations and may inspect antenna installations to ensure that they are safe and meet any required codes, the FCC has jurisdiction over interference issues. If any licensed amateur radio operator is approached by law enforcement or code enforcement over an interference issue, it is suggested that the radio operator politely inform the officer that the FCC has sole jurisdiction over radio interference issues, that the radio operator will take all the steps necessary to help with the issue, and contact the FCC at 1-888-CALL-FCC or (214) 575-6361 if necessary.

More information about resolving interference issues can be found at the [ARRL website](#).

Presentations Wanted

We are looking for presenters to present a short topic on Ham Radio at our monthly club meetings. Presentations may include, but are not limited to:

- Building or Modifying Station Equipment
- Different types of Digital Operation
- Software used for Ham Radios
- Emergency Radio Equipment
- Ham Radio Activities, such as contests or events

If you would like more information on a particular topic, and would like someone to do a presentation on it, you may suggest it as a topic. Please email Stephen Denison or Michael Ketchum to present a topic or to suggest a topic for presentation.

April Presentation

Continued from page 2.

In order to get the audio from the computer to the radio and from the radio to the computer, an interface is used. The interface could be as simple as holding a microphone near the speaker, or as expensive as buying a prebuilt interface such as a [Rigblaster](#) or [Signalink](#). There are also various kits that allow for appropriate attenuation and isolation of the signal between computer and radio.

The Dallas NBEMS group hosts a net every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 on the K5RWK Repeater (147.120 +, no PL). There is also a yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dalNBEMS/>.

LGames 5k

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Much appreciation goes to the volunteers who came out Saturday in the early morning hours to help with this year's event. The organizers have expressed their gratitude in the following letter:

I just wanted to thank your group for once again aiding us in the running of our L Games Eliminator 5K event this past Saturday. Having the radio operators made the event run smoothly and cut down on our risk management for the race. I look forward to working with the MFARC again in the near future. Please pass along my thanks to those that helped during the race.

Thanks,

Brian Stacy - Sports and Fitness Coordinator - L-3 Mission Integration

Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

**MAJORS FIELD
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB**

Phone:

(903) 457-4127

E-Mail:

president@wd5gsl.org

**We're on the
Web!**

See us at:

www.wd5gsl.org

Your article submissions
are welcomed. Please
submit to Stephen
Denison

Majors Field
Amateur Radio Club
Greenville, Texas



Club Officers

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Vice-President: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
Michael.Ketchum@L-3com.com
(972) 408-6573 cell
Secretary Treasurer John Nelson – N0DFW
John.C.NelsonJr@L-3com.com

Club Station

Club Station: TBD
VHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R
147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz
Friday Morning Talk-In Net
UHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R
444.625 MHz (+) PL 151.4 Hz
Temporary Antenna Position Limits Range Currently

- May
19 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Greenville Hospital
26 MFARC Meeting PD North Conference Room at 11:45am
26-28 General Class and Test session at the Greenville Hospital
June
10-11 HamCom at the Irving Convention Center

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- Daily DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 8:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily DFW CW Traffic Net (NTS) at 7:00pm and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
Thurs Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on the
K5GVL/R 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz
FridayMajors Field Amateur Radio Club Talk-In Net Every Friday morning on your way in
to work on the WD5GSL/R 147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0Hz