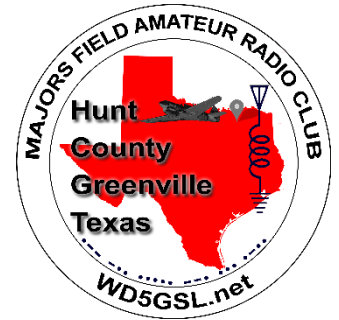


AIRWAVES



President's Letter

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Special points of interest:

- An article by Victor Paul – WB0TEV on the history of the Majors Field Radio Club – “*Long Delayed Echoes*” is a very interesting read in this month's issue!
- Don't forget to read through the “*President's Letter*”, as Larry Smith – W5XB has a lot of good information about what the club is doing and planning this year.

This is Rev A of Vol 5 Issue 2. The corrections were made to the bubbles above and to a spelling correction on page 3.

OK Folks!

The second MFARC meeting of 2017 is coming up. We really had a great turnout and great ideas for 2017 at the January Meeting. Let's keep it rolling.

This month's program will be presented by Scott Davis – KK7JS, a noted expert in Radio Frequency Interference, at least he's a noted expert in our club since he has had some recent RFI experience he's willing to share with us!

Here are some notes on things we'll be discussing...briefly...before Scott's program:

Repeaters

One of the things mentioned at the January meeting is maintenance and upgrade of our repeater systems. I mentioned that if we were going to undertake an upgrade, that we consider making one or both repeaters D-Star nodes.

Surrounding us, there are D-Star nodes in Dallas, Paris, and Tyler, but nothing in between. We could fill a real hole in digital communications coverage in northeast Texas, and as I understand (I'm not the D-Star expert) we would still not lose the repeaters to regular analog use. We may be able to solicit some funding for this from the e-Club. I would like

to appoint a committee to do a capability and cost trade study on what is needed to 1. Maintain what we have, 2. Upgrade the regular analog capabilities of what we have, and 3. What we would need to bring up one or both repeaters as a D-Star node. I'd like the committee to kick off March 1 and have a recommendation ready for a member vote by the March meeting. I would like to be able to execute this summer, before it gets too hot, on whatever the membership decides.

License Classes

We are tentatively planning three classes this year. Two Technician classes and one General class in between the two Tech classes. The General class is to be set before Field Day, but no firm dates yet for any of them. I did mention at the Rains County ARA meeting early this month that we (MFARC) are planning a General class likely in early June, if not May, and there was more than considerable interest from the largely Technician membership of that club. Perhaps we should consider a General class earlier rather than later. Just a thought. Let's move to get this set up quickly, whatever we decide to do, and get it published to the area ham community. We need to leave

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this month's meeting with a group selected to set up and manage these licensing events.

Field Day

Field Day seems so far away when you are walking in from the parking lot in a heavy jacket, wet, and shivering from the cold... but FD will be all over us before you know it. I'd like to appoint another committee to present an FD plan to the

club. I'll be glad to lead it, or help serve on it, but we need to start soon.

See you at the meeting. Bring a friend and bring a lunch... but don't bring your friend's lunch.

73,
Larry
K5XB

Long Delayed Echoes

A history of the Majors Field Radio Club
de Victor Paul – WB0TEV

The title of this tome "Long Delayed Echoes" describes a weird phenomenon where radio signals are received long after what the speed of light and the distance would seem to dictate. It seemed appropriate for this retrospective. So, hopping into the way-back machine, let's go to 1973.

Would it surprise you to know that the birth of our ham radio club and issuance of the WD5GSL club call here at Majors Field came about as an indirect result of the 1973 Yom Kippur War in the Middle East? Its true!

Now that I have your attention....

I made a deal with Mike Ketchum (K5MDK), wherein he'd continue to edit and produce the Airwaves newsletter if I'd be diligent in providing content. My first article was going to be about my going DXing in Belize as V31VP, but over the Christmas Holidays I suddenly got a powerful urge to first try and capture some of the history of the club before it got lost entirely from the corporate memory.

The E-Systems Radio Club had already been in existence for a few years when I started work here way back in May of 1980. (Man how did I go from being the new kid to one of the "old coots"? 36 years will do that I guess). I'd heard the basics of the club's founding back in the late 70's but to fill in the blanks and verify my recollections I first had an eyeball QSO at the local Grandy's

one evening with a couple of E-Systems ham retirees from that era who still live nearby, Doug Hackett (K5MVT) and Jim Henderson (WB5EVI). It was great fun to catch up with these two, swap stories and lies and try to conjure memories of years gone by.

I also interviewed some others by email including Jim Johanson (K2SCU), Jim Brown (W5ZIT and father of Jon Brown WB5KSD) and Brooks Nolan (WA5OZE). Telephone interviews were also conducted with former WD5GSL trustee Don Divinia (W5LNL) and former E-Systems CEO A. Lowell Lawson.

In October 1973, during the Jewish Yom Kippur observance Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on the State of Israel. Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal and rolled into the Sinai desert which had been lost to the Israelis after the 1967 6-day war. By the end of the Yom Kippur War the Israelis had recaptured the Sinai Peninsula, crossed the Suez Canal into mainland Egypt and had surrounded the Egyptian 3rd Army. Hostilities ended in a UN/USA/USSR brokered cease-fire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War

In the negotiations that followed the years after the war, Israel agreed to partially withdraw from the Sinai including from two strategic passes in exchange for monitoring by third parties. As a

Long Delayed Echoes – continued from page 2

confidence building measure the US formed the Sinai Field mission, to monitor access to the passes utilizing seismic, aural and infra-red sensors. The SFM began operations in January 1976 and was manned by United States Department of State personnel primarily attached to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) **and civilian contractors from the Greenville, Texas based aerospace company E-Systems, Inc., (ESY).**

According to Jim Brown W5ZIT, he and Don Divinia (W5LNL) were summoned by a top company official and asked to help set up health, welfare and morale communications between the Sinai and Greenville via ham radio.

It's at this point that the story gets a little murky. Many of the folks I spoke with said (or assumed) that this "Chief Engineer" or "top company official" was Bob Mitchell (N5RM-SK). However, W5ZIT was certain that the person he and W5LNL met with to get the ball rolling was NOT N5RM, but probably an Engineering VP named William L (Bill) Shockley (not to be confused with William B Shockley, Nobel prize winning physicist). "Our" Bill Shockley passed away in 2013, so I wasn't able to try and interview him.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/obituary.aspx?pid=165805512>

Bob Mitchell (N5RM-sk) would later become Vice-President of Engineering but I'm not certain what his position was in 1976/77. Nonetheless when I asked folks who the ham club's early benefactor was that helped get the club started, WB5EVI, K5MVT and W5LNL all said Bob Mitchell.

Bob N5RM was an active ham and DX'er (mostly CW) and a true gentleman. I remember him joining the rest of the club members for Field Day back in the early '80's. Back then we would set up out north of MSTF at the old gun range with a beam antenna and rotor mounted atop the big tower out there (now part of MSTF's "Hot Spot" I think) and stretched a 1000-foot-long wire

between the top of the tower and a distant telephone pole on a hill. Man that was a killer on 40m! During the late 1980's we both lived on the short stretch of FM 1564 between FM2101 and TX34, me with a little 35-foot tower and tri-bander and Bob a quarter mile down the road with a 200 foot rotating tower with stacked beams but I digress. Sadly, Bob passed away a number of years ago and N5RM has since been reissued.

W5ZIT did have an interesting story about Bob Mitchell that I hadn't heard before. In an email to me Jim said:

"Bob came to work about a year after I did as I recall (probably 1962), and bought a house just down the street from me on Stonewall. I helped him put up a 100 ft. Rohn 25 tower in his back yard (which blew down in a tornado and fell across the power lines in his back yard and set an adjacent house on fire). Bob had been a bird colonel in the Marine Corps and was head of Marine Air when he retired from the military."

(Hmm I wonder if that incident had anything to do with the current onerous Greenville City ordinance restricting ham radio towers in town!)

What I suspect may be the case is that Bill Shockley did indeed make the initial inquiry to W5ZIT and W5LNL, but that Bob Mitchell may have somehow been involved in the subsequent logistics? Quoting further from an email I got from W5ZIT:

"The ESY club was formed in ~1976 to allow family communications with ESY employees who were deployed with the Sinai Field Mission. Long before email and text the only way to communicate was via expensive telephone calls or snail mail."

The ESY chief engineer..... called Don Divinia and myself into his office and we discussed how we should go about setting up stations to allow phone patch communications with our people at the Sinai Field Mission. We tasked Don with purchasing two

Long Delayed Echoes – continued from page 3

complete Collins stations with amplifiers and a phone patch console for the Greenville location to deploy one to the Sinai and one to keep at the plant. A mobile home was also purchased to house the station to be placed near the 6 to 30 MHz log periodic antenna at the Multi Sensor Test Facility on the east side of Majors Field.

A switching system was installed by Carlton Smith to allow control of the antenna from either the MSTF or the operating position in the mobile home. We recruited operators who were ESY employees to operate the station and allow phone patch connections for SFM employees. A WATS line was connected in the evenings to the two phone lines installed in the mobile home.

The FCC was highly critical of this operation and we were very closely monitored to make sure no commercial communications were taking place. Don applied for a club license and we were issued the WD5GSL callsign with Don as trustee."

The WATS line that W5ZIT refers to is an old flat-rate long distance service from AT&T, long since obsolete.

Prior to the issuance of WD5GSL, the call sign WD5AJE was issued in 1976(?) to the Sinai Field Mission (with call book address at Majors Field) with permission to set up WD5AJE/SU in the Sinai. E-Systems SFM employees who were hams operated it and special permission was obtained for 3rd party traffic and phone patches back to the states.

At first the local ESY hams just used their own personal callsigns to operate the station and run phone patches from our guys at the SFM to their families back in the USA. Sometime in 1977 the club call WD5GSL was issued with Don Divina (W5LNL) as trustee and the E-Systems Radio club was up and running.

I'm told that for several years in the late 1970's there was a fair bit of traffic passed between WD5AJE/SU and Greenville. The rules were strict

(and technically still are) about not discussing any "business" over ham radio. In an email I got from ESY retiree Brooks Nolan (WA5OZE) he recounted:

"I vaguely remember a signup roster for hams willing to man the station. I also remember the cautions re phone patch info content. I think I got chastised by an employee, Jim something or another, who clearly informed me he was some sort of an "official monitor" for the ARRL or FCC or something, for not stopping one conversation that involved comments regarding home finance issues e.g., wife asking husband about a utility or phone bill payment of the family members here GVL and there SFM. He said he had received complaints against the station because of my activity. Oh well! I tried! The patch guidelines revolved around info needing to be inconsequential, non-commercial information that would not warrant resorting to commercial telephone calls."

Regular WD5GSL to WD5AJE/SU comms had largely ceased by the time I arrived in the summer of 1980, at least I have no recollection of there being any such activity and I was actually working full-time out at MSTF during the summer of 1980 under another prince of a ham, the late Carlton Smith (W5NNI) who W5ZIT mentioned above. Sadly, Carlton suffered a crippling heart attack shortly before quitting time on a Friday back in the 1990's sometime and became a silent key. There is a plaque in tribute to his memory in the MSTF building.

I'm told that there may have been some ham activity from the plant prior to the bug push coincident with the SFM ops, with temporary setups in upstairs 102 (with a dipole on the roof) and also in the Rec Hall. Indeed, last time I remember looking you could still see the remains of some dipole wires hanging off the top of the Rec Hall chimney.

So, that's the story, as best as I can piece it together. Maybe this article will jog some memories. If I get any corrections or significant

Long Delayed Echoes – continued from page 4

emendations, I'll try and do a follow up article.

The club grew steadily after that SFM fueled launch and the club continued to grow after I arrived as a green kid out of college in 1980. In the early 1980's I spent a fair bit of time in the ham trailer operating in contests, and running some phone patches for missionaries in South America as I had in college. Around 1982 many of the club members joined Air Force Mars at the

urging of (I think) Jim Johansen - K2SCU and/or Ken Jones (W5VSP-sk). I was AFA4TV and the club station was issued the call AFC4ES). Somewhere along in there a 2m repeater was put on the air as well. But those are stories that will have to wait for another day.

73,
Victor Paul WB0TEV / V31VP

Meeting Minutes

Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Regular Business Meeting Minutes January 26, 2017

Michael Ketchum – Vice-President, opened the meeting at 11:45.

Installation of club officers for 2017.
Officers introduce themselves to club members.

Meeting was turned over to new president – Larry Smith – K5XB.

Treasurer and Membership update was given by John Nelson – N0DFW.

- 17 members have paid their dues for 2017.
- The balance in the MFARC club account as of 12/31/2016 is \$1220.

Announcements and upcoming events where shown and discussed.
(See PowerPoint slides for list of announcements.)

President discussed plans and goals for the 2017 club year.

Plan is to combine the November / December club meeting this year as done in 2016.

- GOAL FOR NEW REPEATER – We talked about what money we have. We talked about D-STAR. We talked about getting internet. MSTF has GEUS internet. This may be a way for our club to get

internet out at the trailer. Someone should be tasked to check that out.

- GOAL FOR A BETTER HOME FOR HF STATION: we need a better home for our club HF station. Location ideas discussed include an empty office in hangar 102 in one of the bay areas and also the Amory across the highway, since they have been really active in National Guard exercises with HAM radio and recently got a lot of their guys licensed!
- GOAL FOR CLUB'S HF RIG REPAIRED: Get the club's rig, Kenwood TS-2000, fixed. Michael says he is working on it.
- GOAL FOR FIELD DAY: Be thinking about ideas for FIELD DAY. We only have a few meetings left to discuss it. Next meeting, we will start. (Larry)
- GOAL FOR CLASSES: Start up our License Classes. We do three each year.
- GOAL FOR ANY SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS – no discussion. Be thinking about any event occasions or commemorative events to setup a special event station for a weekend or so.

The president presented possible ideas and topics for all nine of the meetings in 2017. Several members proposed and volunteered for presentations at various times throughout the year as follows:

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1. Victor Paul – WB0TEV reported he is working on one, but it is 1 hour long and he is trying to breaking it up right now. Will be on Electromechanical Radiation.

2. Scott Davis – KK7JS can speak next month on his recent RFI experience. SET FOR FEBRUARY. THANKS

3. Larry Smith – K5XB says he will put a presentation together on Solar Propagation Science.

4. Jae Stutzman – K5JAE says he will revise his SDR presentation to talk about the use of Raspberry Pi project he has done. He mentioned this won't be ready till later in the year, however.

Two visitors, Nathan Thern and Wes Fornea, were present at the meeting today and expressed interest in the club's ham license classes being offered. Class dates have not been planned yet. Michael Ketchum – K5MDK took an action item to get with them and get a date to them personally.

His best guess would that we would offer a class in March.

The need for more VEs was discussed to support training classes planned for 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Attendees:

John Nelson N0DFW
 Robert Fornea
 Victor Paul WB0TEV
 Michael Ketchum K5MDK
 Larry Smith K5XB
 Seth Adomanis
 Will Sanitate KG5QCQ
 Mark Bushnell AE5FG
 Scott Davis KK7JS
 Scott Joseph K5BGL
 Jae Stutzman K5JAE
 Nate Thern

Contest Calendar

CQ 160-Meter Contest SSB, Feb 24th <http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

ARRL International DX Contest SSB, March 4-5th <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Oklahoma QSO Party, March 11-12th <http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm>

QCWA QSO Party, March 11-12th <http://www.qcwa.org>

TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest, March 11-13th <http://www.radiosport.org.rs>

Idaho QSO Party, March 11-12th <http://idahoarrl.info/qsoparty>

Louisiana QSO Party, March 18-19th <http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org>

Virginia QSO Party, March 18-19th <http://www.qsl.net/sterling>

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SKCC Sprint, March 22-22th <http://www.skccgroup.com>

CQ WPX Contest SSB, March 25-26th <http://www.cqwpix.com/>

ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone, April 16 <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

CLASSIFIEDS

Mark Stites – ACOAZ has an ICOM IC-756proII, with spectrum analyzer etc. who would like it to go to a good home. This rig is barely used and in EXCELLENT condition. There is no BOX or Manual, but it does come with Power Supply & Mic. You can contact Mark at (903) 274-6166. He is asking about \$1000.



Calendar

2017

February

- 23 NWS Skywarn Basic Training F. Warren Civic Center at 6:00pm
- 23 MFARC Meeting PD North Conference Room at 11:45am
- 25 NWS Skywarn Basic/Adv Training TWU Denton 9am all day.
(more at <http://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnsch?sptrsch>)

March

- 4 Irving ARC Hamfest <http://irvingarc.org>
- 11 HamExpo – Belton <http://www.TARC.org/hamexpo>
- 16 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital
- 18 Midland St. Patrick's Day Hamfest <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>
- 30 MFARC Meeting PD North Conference Room at 11:45am

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

**MAJORS FIELD
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB**

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**We're on the
Web!**

See us at:

<http://wd5gsl.net>

Your article submissions
are welcomed. Please
submit to
editor@wd5gsl.net

Majors Field
Amateur Radio Club
Greenville, Texas



Club Officers

President: Larry Smith – K5XB
president@wd5gsl.net
(254) 644-6465 cell

Vice President: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
vice-president@wd5gsl.net
(972) 408-6573 cell

Secretary Treasurer: John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW
secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net
(903) 454-0911 cell

Club Repeaters

Club Station: TBD

VHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R
147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz

UHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R
444.625 MHz (+) PL 151.4 Hz

MAJORS FIELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
10001 JACK FINNEY BLVD
Attn: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
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