

AIRWAVES



President's Letter Greenville, TX, 24 April 2017

Probably by the time you read this, our "less than mission capable" TS-2000 will be back in Greenville. We will have some decisions to make with respect to that radio. But we do have some pressing issues to deal with now, that being Field Day preparations. We may want to defer HF rig discussions until after Field Day. The die is pretty much cast that we will be using our own radios and equipment to support that effort, anyway.

So, our program for this month will be FD preparations, roundtable discussion, ideas, solutions. I will be in Huntsville, AL the day of the meeting, but Michael will be there to lead and I'll make sure he has my inputs with respect to FD and a list of what I can bring.

Please don't be like your president and skip this meeting. Do as I say, not as I do! Please come and bring your FD ideas and wish list. Make some decisions, and divide up the work and support equitably. If FD is not too much work, then it will be too much fun. And everyone likes too much fun!

73,
Larry
K5XB

Sam's Club Round-Up

OPPORTUNITY: Sam's Club Round-Up Ride

Ham operators are needed to support the Sam's Club Round-Up Ride 2017 over the weekend of May 5 and 6th, 2017. This is the 30th year for the bike rally supporting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This is an opportunity for the new hams to put their radio to use in supporting a well-organized public service event.

Details about the event:

http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/TXHBikeEvents?pg=entry&fr_id=28791.

Volunteer for communications:

<https://sites.google.com/site/dfwmsridecomms/volunteering>.

For additional details, contact KB5ZDG James Marple at j.marple@verizon.net.

It's a fun event. Try to help.
(Contributed by Doug Kilgore KD5OUG)

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Special points of interest:

- Contact David Rogers for more information about FIELD DAY 2017 at the Audie Murphy American Cotton Museum!
- Checkout the website for more information at <http://wd5gsl.net>

65 Great Things About Ham Radio

Five years ago, on CQ's 60th anniversary, we ran a feature throughout the year titled "60 Great Things About Ham Radio," in which we listed five "great things" each month. The series was quite popular and we have continued to receive requests to reprint it. So now, in honor of our 65th anniversary, we're repeating the list—with a few updates as well as five more "Great Things About Ham Radio."

1. It works when nothing else does
2. It makes you part of a worldwide community
3. The opportunity to help neighbors by providing public service and emergency communications
4. Some of the nicest people you'll ever meet
5. Some of the smartest people you'll ever meet
6. Some of the most interesting people you'll ever meet
7. Some of the most generous people you'll ever meet (along with some of the cheapest!)
8. Lifelong friendships
9. Friends around the world (including those you haven't met yet)
10. The opportunity to go interesting places you might not otherwise go to
11. The opportunity to do interesting things you might not otherwise get to do
12. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of geography
13. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of earth and space science
14. Practical uses for high school math
15. Practical uses for high school physics
16. A good way to practice a foreign language
17. A good way to keep in touch with faraway friends and relatives
18. A good way to get driving directions when visiting someplace new (with or without GPS)
19. A good way to find the best places to eat when visiting someplace new (with or without GPS)
20. Finding "non-touristy" off-the-beaten-path places to stay, eat, visit, etc.
21. A good way to learn about virtually any topic
22. A good way to bridge the generation gap
23. A good way to keep tabs on elderly/infirm people
24. People named Joe (Walsh, Rudi, Taylor)
25. How many of your non-ham friends have actually talked to someone in some remote place such as Cape Verde or the Seychelles?
26. How many of your non-ham friends might have talked to an astronaut aboard the space station?
27. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a satellite uplink station in their basements—or in the palms of their hands?
28. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a TV studio in their garage?
29. What other hobby group has designed, built, and had launched its own fleet of communication satellites?
30. Where else can you play with meteors?
31. Moonbounce
32. Informal way to improve technical skills
33. Informal way to improve communication skills
34. Introduces a variety of career paths
35. Offers unparalleled opportunities for career networking
36. Opportunities for competition in contesting and foxhunting
37. A good way to collect really cool postcards from around the world (despite the growth of electronic confirmations)
38. Nearly endless variety of different things to do, on and off the air
39. Hamfests
40. Dayton
41. Field Day
42. Working DX
43. Being DX
44. DXpeditions
45. Contesting
46. Award-chasing
47. Double-hop sporadic-E
48. Worldwide DX on 6 meters (once or twice every 11 years)

The current extended sunspot minimum has shown that mechanisms other than F2 propagation can offer intercontinental DX on the "magic band" at any point in the solar cycle.

65 Great Things About Ham Radio

49. Tropospheric ducting
 50. Gray-line propagation
 51. TEP, chordal hops, etc.
 52. Getting through on CW when nothing else will
 53. Unexpected band openings
 54. Building your own gear
 55. Using gear you've built yourself
 56. Operating QRP from some remote location
 57. Experimenting with antennas
 58. Working DX while mobile or while hiking
 59. Experimenting with new modes and new technology
 60. The opportunity to help build an internet that doesn't rely on the internet
 61. DXing on your HT via IRLP and Echolink
 62. Contributing to scientific knowledge about propagation
 63. Keeping track of other people's GPS units via APRS
 64. Ham radio balloon launches to the edge of space, and as always...
 65. Reading CQ!
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<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.)

That's Not Real Ham Radio

12 April 2017 by Bob KØNR

Things had been pretty quiet on the ham front lately but then I ran into a string of "That's Not Real Ham Radio" discussions. This happens from time to time...I usually ignore it...but this time I got sucked into the topic.



It started with some HF enthusiasts I know talking about how "digital modes" are just not very satisfying. Their point is that with CW and SSB, there is an audio connection to your ear that makes you an integral part of the radio communication. The extreme-DSP modes such as JT65 insert serious signal processing that essentially removes the human connection. This can quickly lead to the generalization that these digital modes "aren't real ham radio."

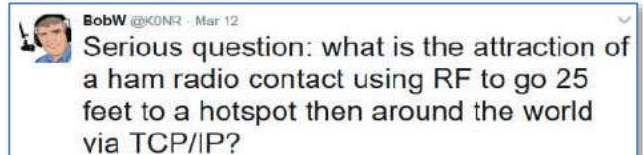
I think it's fair to say that most hams think of the HF bands as the center of the hobby...getting on the air, bouncing signals off the ionosphere to talk to someone over the horizon. Some hams will go even further and say that CW is the only way to go. Anything less is just phone. FM and repeaters? Forget that stuff...not enough skill required. And certainly, don't get stuck on 2 meters.

In a previous post, I argued we should not confuse religion with modulation. I do occasionally make snarky comments about the continued use of AM (AKA Ancient Modulation), but I've tried to tone that down in recent years.

What About DMR?

Just last week, I was playing around with a DMR hotspot on the Brandmeister network. It really struck me that people on the system were having a blast talking to each other across North America and around the world. But then that nagging little voice in the back of my head said "hey, wait a minute...this is not real DX... the RF signal might only be traveling 20 feet or so from an HT to a hotspot."

This caused me to put out a plea for insight on twitter:



That's Not Real Ham Radio – continued from page 3

I received a lot of good replies with the answers tending to clump into these three categories:

- I don't know ("That's Not Real Ham Radio")
- It's fun, new technology
- It's a digital network that brings ham radio operators together

My interest seems to fall into the second category: this is fun, new technology. Which does make me wonder how long this new technology will remain interesting to me. Well, that is difficult to predict but I'll invoke the principle of try not to overthink it. The idea that DMR is a digital network that brings ham radio operators together makes some sense. In the past, I have argued that amateur radio is not for talking. In other words, if you just want to talk someone, there are much more convenient ways of doing that. Still, there is something attractive about this ham-radio-only digital network.

It really is important to not overthink this kind of stuff. Ham radio is supposed to be fun, so if you are having fun, you are probably doing it right. If you are not having fun, then you might want to examine what you are doing. See my post on the Universal Purpose of Amateur Radio.

Sometimes hams can get a little spun up about those other guys that don't appreciate our way of doing ham radio. What the heck is wrong with them anyway? I've always been inspired by the Noise Blankers Mission Statement:

- Do radio stuff.
- Have fun doing it.
- Show people just how fun it is.

If your preferred form of ham radio is so superior, it ought to be easy to show other hams how cool it is. If not, then maybe you aren't doing it right. Conversely, as long as other hams are having fun and operating legally, don't knock what they are doing. In fact, encourage them. We need more people having fun with ham radio, even if it's not your favorite kind of fun.

That's my opinion. What do you think?

73, Bob K0NR

The post That's Not Real Ham Radio appeared first on The K0NR Radio Site.

Bob Witte, K0NR, is a regular contributor to AmateurRadio.com and writes from Colorado, USA. Contact him at bob@k0nr.com.
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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Regular Business Meeting Minutes March 30, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: Larry Smith - President, opened the meeting at 11:50.
Minutes were distributed via e-mail as discussed at the last meeting.

No questions were asked about minutes. The February club minutes were approved.

Announcements:

- See club meeting powerpoint presentation for upcoming announcements.

Officer Reports:

- President: no report.
- Vice-president: no report.
- Treasurer:
 - \$1280.17 in MFARC club bank account as of 2/28/2017 with no expenses in March, 2017.

New Business:

- TS-2000 Status was discussed.
 - This equipment is at the repair shop in California.
 - The defective parts are no longer available.
 - It will cost \$100 to have the equipment returned and insured.
 - The club discussed whether it was worth pay the \$100 to get the equipment returned.
 - Since the receiver portion of the equipment still works, it was decided by the club members Present to have the unit returned.
 - We discussed the need to revisit our priorities related to the repeater maintenance and upgrade.
 - Recent license classes were discussed
 - March - Tech class held this month produced five new HAM license holders. Congratulations to those who passed the test and to Jae and everyone involved in making the class possible.
 - June - General class - Jae will need more help from club members as VEs for this class.
 - Another Tech class is planned for November 2017.
 - Jae led the discussion about setting up an EchoLink environment for the club in the future.
 - Field Day is 2 club meetings away.
 - Scott Joseph - Field Day Report - will contact

the EOC coordinator at the Hunt County Juvenile Detention Building to see if we could have field day in their building. The back-up plan is to hold it outside at the American Cotton Museum location like last year.

Old Business:

- None.

Presentation:

- Victor Paul presented a very interesting report on his recent Ham Contest trip to Belize.
- He also presented Part 1 of a program he had shown previously at LeTourneau University entitled "History of Man-made Electromagnetic Radiation".
 - The reset of the presentation will be shown at a future monthly club meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:35

Attendees:

Mark Bushnell AE5FG
 Jim Harper KK5Y
 Scott Joseph K5BLG
 Scott Kirkwood K1RKW
 Joe Lum KE5ZBL
 John Nelson N0DFW
 Victor Paul WB0TEV
 Jose Santiago KG5KSR
 Larry Smith K5XB
 Paul Smoth KG5HPM
 Ken Stroud KC5KMG
 Jae Stutzman K5JAE

Contest Calendar

AGCW QRP/QRP Party CW, May 1st <http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en>
RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship SSB, May 1st <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>
10-10 Intl Spring Contest CW, May 6~7th <http://www.ten-ten.org>
ARI Intl DX Contest, May 6~7th <http://www.ari.it>
F9AA Cup Digital, May 6~7th <http://www.site.urc.asso.fr>
7th Call Area QSO Party, May 6~7th <http://ws7n.net/7QP>
Indiana QSO Party, May 6~7th <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>
FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint CW, May 6th <http://fistsna.org>
VHF Delaware QSO Party, May 6~7th <http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty>
New England QSO Party, May 6~7th <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>
RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, May 10th <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>
NAQCC CW Sprint CW, May 11th <http://naqcc.info>
Jakarta DX Contest-40M, May 13th <http://jakartadxcontest.com>
CQ-M Intl DX Contest, May 13-14th <http://www.cq-m.ru/en>
HPC World Wide DX Contest Dig, May 13-14th <http://pskclub.gr/contest>
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest Dig, May 13-14th <http://www.contestvolta.com>
Arkansas QSO Party, May 13-14th <http://www.arkqp.com>
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon CW, May 13-14th <http://www.skccgroup.com>
50 MHz Spring Sprint, May 13-14th <http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints>
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, May 15th <http://www.4sgrp.com>
UN DX Contest, May 20th <http://undxc.kz/bez-rubriki>
SKCC Sprint CW, May 24th <http://www.skccgroup.com>
RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, May 25th <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>

CLASSIFIEDS

Mark Stites – AC0AZ 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**May**

- 13 Akr-La-Tex Ham Radio Tailgate, Kilgore, TX 416 E. Main St 7am
- 15-17 Dayton HamVention <http://w8bi.org>
- 18 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital
- 25 MFARC Meeting PD North Conference Room at 11:45am

June

- 9-10 HamCom ARRL West Gulf Conventoin <http://www.hamcom.org>
- 15 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital
- 29 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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vice-president
@wd5gsl.net

**We're on the
Web!**

See us at:

<http://wd5gsl.net>

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



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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