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President's Letter

Howdy!

The October 2017 MFARC meeting is coming up on Thursday the 26th. The elections are coming! I'm excited! You get one guess why! Things are starting to move in your club. Exciting things. Be a part.

Meetings

Next month we will move the meeting up to November 16 to accommodate Thanksgiving break. Be sure to note the change on your calendars.

There has been a proposal to change the meeting date permanently to earlier in the month, every month. I would support that change. For one thing, it would get us out of the annual meeting date disruption in November and December. Come to the meeting and be a part of the discussion and decision.

Repeaters

The continuing need to upgrade our repeater systems... Jon Brown is on the hunt for a TK-850 Kenwood repeater that will allow us to upgrade the 440 repeater to function as a combination analog/DStar/DMS node. These units are out of production, but they are popping up regularly in the used market. We authorized Jon to acquire one at up to \$600, considering we have pledges for \$400 for that purpose, plus the \$200 we got for the sale of the nearly dead TS-2000. There will be some other expenses to bring it up to multi-mode. Perhaps we can cover some of that selling the current repeater.

TS-2000

As I said, we sold it. The membership approved the sale at the September meeting.

License Classes

November 3 and 4 is coming soon for the Technician class review and test session. As of the other day, we had all the review sessions covered save one 30-minute segment. I am sure someone will step up. We have one person coming in Saturday for an Extra Class test. We need to be sure to have enough Extra Class VE's present to offer this test. And, we need to be sure to get this class and test session talked up/advertised.

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Winter Field Day

This will be fun. Let's participate. David Rogers is leading the charge. He has scheduled a dry run for this as a campout at Cooper Lake Park the weekend of November 11. It is located at a "cabin like" (I guess) structure at the park. Not out in the elements. At least consider a day trip to Cooper Lake to try it out on November 11. The actual WFD contest is in late January.

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

73,
Larry
K5XB

Jean Davis Memorial

Greenville, Texas: September 27, 2017 relentlessly fighting cancer. Predeceased by her parents John J. & Victoria Bertola. Survived by her devoted husband, Scott Davis, in-laws Vernon & Charis Davis, Sara Davis, siblings Carolyn(Michael) Hasenauer, Joseph(Susan) Bertola, Rosemary(Charles) Jordan, 1 niece, 4 nephews, 2 grandnieces, Uncle Angelo(Susan) DiNottia, Aunt Frances(Mario-deceased) DiNottia, Aunt Theresa(Thomas-deceased) Bertola, Uncle Ross(Ada-deceased) Petralia & many cousins.

The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club has donated \$100 to the **American Cancer Society** in memory of Jean Davis. Please keep her husband, Scott Davis – KK7JS, in your thoughts and prayers.



A wake is being scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th between 4 and 7pm at the "K of C Hall" located at 2705 Sunset Strip in Greenville, just off of Westley, North of FM 1570. This is likened to a visitation, so please come and go as you please. Following the wake, there will be a memorial mass at St. Williams Catholic Church at 8pm. St. Williams Catholic Church is located at 4300 Stuart St in Greenville.

Winter Field Day

As I write this, it is 73 degrees and sunny outside. I have just come inside from mowing the lawn. The last thing on my mind is Winter. But, Winter will be here before we know it. With Winter comes Winter Field Day. This event is sponsored by a non-profit organization, and is organized much like the ARRL operates Field Day in June. MFARC has voted to participate in the annual event, which takes place the weekend of January 27th and 28th. We are currently searching for a location to set up camp.

Part of that search has lead us to book a weekend at Cooper Lake's South Sulphur Unit. We will have a "shelter, with amenities" reserved Saturday the 11th of November thru Sunday the 12th. This is a practice run, to see if these facilities will serve us well during the actual event.

The club will have at least one station set up, with two antennas, covering 10 meters thru 80 meters. MFARC members are encouraged to make the trip and participate in this "dry run." It is important that we get input from members; what better way to give input that to actively participate? We also encourage people to set up their own station(s). The more the merrier.

For more information about the MFARC dry run at Cooper Lake, contact David (KG5KPU) at 903-513-5622. For details on Winter Field Day, go to their web page at winterfieldday.com, or visit them on Facebook.

Main Trading Company October Festival

This writer had a good time in Paris on Saturday. No, I was not in France. Instead, I visited Paris, Texas, the home of Main Trading Company, aka MTC. On Saturday, October 14th, MTC hosted their annual October Festival. There was some free food, such as pizza, as well as plenty of ham gear and some tailgating stuff too. However, I think most hams turned out for the music and the big prize drawing that Richard Lenoir, the owner of MTC, provided. Richard – KI5DX hosts this event each year around his store, Main Trading Company. I have been following this family owned business shortly after they converted from Radio Shack clearance to Ham Radio North Texas.

I started by taking my Young Lady (YL) with me to Paris. We hardly ever get any alone time, so she agreed to follow her man. The first thing I did was buy five tickets, besides getting a free ticket for just signing up. This increased my chances by 5 fold for \$5. After mingling around the junk sales, tailgates and the outdoor tent sale, I decided to take my YL on the free bus tour of Paris. We do this each year, as I have found some of the history of Paris to be fascinating! However, this time I was



disappointed, as the bus driver was new to the tour (it was her first time driving the bus). She really did not know much of the history of Paris, compared to the historian that usually drives the tour bus. However, she did allow us to get off and read a poster detailing the 1916 fire, as well as making stops at the Veteran's memorial and the Eifel tower. We had fun, none-the-less. (I still wanted to see the cemetery headstone of Jesus in cowboy boots – a must see in Paris.)

Next, Amy and I took a break for lunch by watching burgers being made behind the bar at Burgerland. Finally, when we could not stand it anymore, our order arrived! What bliss and well worth the wait. There was a sea of locals trying to get their orders as well. Burgerland also has a location in Sulfur Springs, which is much bigger and nicer than the little roadside burger stand in Paris.

After lunch, we returned to MTC just in time for the 2pm drawing. While there, we bumped into Victor Paul – WB0TEV, who was there waiting for the drawing to begin. Some of the prizes were metal detectors, Bluetooth speakers and headphones, gift certificates to Yaesu (some as much as \$200), and ham transceivers. Early in the give-away, I won a VHF/UHF base station antenna. I already have one on the roof and one for field use. Therefore, I will be selling this one at Hamarama soon. There was a small mix up in the prizes for a couple of the drawings. Once, when one person could not find their ticket,



Richard gave it to them anyway. Another time, Richard did not check the number very well and wound up giving the wrong person an HT. However, Richard made good to the winning ticket holder by digging into his store inventory to pull another HT for the real winner. Richard is a gracious sport and he was happy to eat the loss, especially in front of all his patrons! In addition to the prizes, he handed out free bottled water and free Yaesu ball caps, of which I received one to shade my baldhead.

Overall, it was another great time at Main Trading Company. I hope to go again next year. Next on my agenda is to visit Hamarama in Ardmore, Oklahoma on October 27th. I have purchased a couple of tables at this Hamfest so that I can kick back with friends and meet everyone, besides selling a few miscellaneous items. If you are going to Hamarama this year and have something to sell, let me know how much space you need. I am willing to share my table with you as I have space.

By Michael Ketchum – K5MDK – October 14th, 2017

Cotton Patch Shirts

Michael Ketchum – K5MDK has left over T-shirts of various sizes from the Cotton Patch Challenge. Come to this week's meeting and see if you can get one to fit you. Sizes include XXL (2XL), XL and M. First come, first served until they are all gone! Thanks to those of you who helped with the event this year.

WB0TEV / V31VP Belize

Victor Paul – WB0TEV is headed back to Belize again on October 26th. He will be on the air as V31VP for the CQ WW SSB DX contest October 28th & 29th in the Single Op All Band (Assisted) High Power Category. Rules for that contest can be found at <https://www.cqww.com/>



Victor plans to make automated recordings of each contest QSO. A link off the V31VP qrz.com website will allow you to enter a callsign and playback audio files of QSOs with that particular callsign.

By Victor Paul – WB0TEV/V31VP

Chasing QRN in the Neighborhood

Scott David – KK7JS and Victor Paul – WB0TEV report recent problems with broadband noise killing reception at their respective QTH's. Scott's QRN seems to primarily affect 40m and only occurs nights and evenings while Victor's was S9+ on all bands regardless of time of day. Scott has an MFJ-856 Directional Noise finder which he loaned to Victor who used it to isolate the source of the noise to a stretch of power lines NE of his house. Victor stated, "Looking at a recording of the audio output from my receiver, I could tell that the noise came in 120 Hz bursts indicating a power line source. Using the MFJ-856 Thursday morning, I was able to see that the noise peaked up on the 856's meter when I aimed it at a stretch of power lines along the road northeast of my house. I saw that some trees had grown up into the power lines on a couple of poles but I suspect the culprit is really a cracked insulator, loose hardware or bad transformer. I drove straight to the Farmers Electric Cooperative (FEC) office on I-30 on my way to work with the MFJ-856 in hand and got an odd look from the receptionist. I met with one of staff there and told her what I'd found and gave her the address range and pole numbers which I'd copied from the little metal disks nailed to the utility poles. She took my phone number and said she'd have one of the engineers call me. Not 15 minutes later, I got a call from a Mr. Mike Hale from FEC who

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expressed his gratitude for the detailed information I provided and indicated they'd work on getting a crew out to try and remedy the situation soon, so kudos to FEC! We'll see what happens."

Investigation into Scott's noise is still on going. However, Victor reports that during a brief drive around Scott's neighborhood on Wednesday night in his HF equipped vehicle, his conclusion was that the source of Scott's QRN was within a few blocks of Scott's QTH on Gold Street. It is hoped that both sources of QRN will be tracked down and remedied soon with details expanded upon in the next issue of Airwaves.

By Victor Paul – WB0TEV

***Make a note:* Check your license before complaining to the FCC!**

A municipal airport in Alamosa, Colorado filed a complaint with the FCC's Denver office of interference with their aeronautical advisory station (Unicom) frequency of 122.8MHz. On September 19, 2017, Agents from the FCC investigated the matter and found no record of a license for the airport to operate the Unicom station on that frequency. As a result, the airport authority was issued a NOTICE OF UNLICENSED OPERATION on October 16, 2017, case number EB-FIELDWR-17-00025207.

The moral to this story is; if you are not licensed to operate a station, do not file complaints of interference with the FCC. Read the full story by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Thanks to Mark Bushnell – AE5FG for sharing this

Editorial from the editor

I want to apologize to the club for not being diligent on the production of newsletters. These newsletters are vital to keeping everyone informed of club events and activities, as well as keeping in touch with each other. We learn a lot about various technical issues that are documented in these pages. It also gives us ideas on our next projects, which keeps the hobby alive and well for each of us.

I would like to invite each one reading this newsletter to consider writing a short paragraph or two about what you are up to and any challenges you might be facing. You can also share some of your successes as well or maybe share a special trip you might have had. Of course, those rare and special QSOs are always something to write about. So, please consider sharing your experiences with all of us.

Please submit your articles and pictures to editor@wd5gsl.net. Thanks you!

Calendar

- Oct 26 MFARC Meeting at 12:45pm at B136-A PD North Conference Room.
- Oct 27-28 Texoma Hamarama – Ardmore, OK <http://texomahamarama.org>
- Oct 28-29 CQ WW DX Contest SSB – PHONE <http://cqww.com/rules.htm>
- Nov 4 Enid ARC Hamfest – Enid, OK <http://enidarc.org>
- Nov 4-5 EME – 50 to 1296 MHz <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>
- Nov 4-6 November Sweepstakes – CW <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>
- Nov 11-12 10-10 International Fall Contest – DIGITAL <http://www.ten-ten.org>

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- Nov 11-12 Kentucky QSO Party <http://www.wkdx.com>
Nov 12 North American WW SSB Sprint <http://sbsprint.com/rules/>
Nov 16 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
Nov 18-20 November Sweepstakes – PHONE <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>
Nov 22 SKCC Sprint – CW <http://www.skccgroup.com>
Nov 25-26 CQ WW DX Contest – CW <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>
Nov 30 MFARC Meeting at 12:45pm at B136-A PD North Conference Room.

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 <http://www.k6jt.com>
Thurs SVARA Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on the K5GVL/R 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz
Meets every Thursday night except on SVARA meetings 3rd Thursday of each month.

Officers

- President:** Larry Smith – K5XB
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- Vice President:** Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
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- Secretary/Treasurer:** John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW
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- VE/Class Team Leader:** Jae Stutzman – K5JAE
classes@wd5gsl.net
- Club Trustee:** Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD
trustee@wd5gsl.net

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

AirWaves is a production of the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club

We're on the Web! Find us at: <http://wd5gsl.net>

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