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## Important Announcement about the Meeting Date Change

On October 26, the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club voted to change their meeting date from the last Thursday of each month. Effective December 16, 2017, the **club meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each Month**. The meeting time will remain at 11:45am and the format will remain unchanged. Meeting reminders will be updated accordingly. The December meeting will be the MFARC Annual Business Meeting, so you will not want to miss that one!

In addition, it has been decided that the November Regular Business meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, due to the holiday.

## Officer Nominations

Michael Ketchum – K5MDK will be leading a nomination committee for electing officers this year. If you would like to serve in any office, we would love to hear from you (for sure!). Please contact Michael at [vice-president@wd5gsl.net](mailto:vice-president@wd5gsl.net) for more information. Officers must be E-Club members and members of the club. Some officer positions require an Amateur Radio License as well.

## Membership Drive

It is that time again for membership drive for 2018! The MFARC membership is managed by calendar year. The cost is \$10.00 for E-Club members and \$31.00 for non-E-Club members each year. If you want to pay up for 2017, you might be able to sweet talk John Nelson – N0DFW into prorated dues before November. You can pay your dues to John Nelson – N0DFW, our club secretary treasurer in person. To contact him, write [secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net](mailto:secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net) or call him at (903) 454-0911.

## President's Letter

### Happy Thanksgiving!

The November 2017 MFARC meeting is coming up this Thursday the 16th. This is a week early due to the Thanksgiving break. The elections are coming! I am excited! Our nominations committee will have slate of potential officers to present. If you do not like the ones we have, you can nominate someone, or yourself. Things are starting to move in your club. Exciting things. You will want to be a part of this.

### Meetings

December we will move the meeting up to the 14th and at that point we will settle into a meeting date that repeats the 2nd Thursday of every month going forward. Twofold benefit is that it will clear up some conflicts some members were experiencing to make the meeting and it will keep us in a steady

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meeting cycle without having to move it around to accommodate the calendar in November and December. Be sure to note the change on your calendars.

The December meeting serves as our official “Annual Meeting” where we will hold nominations and officer elections for next year’s leadership, review our plans and finances for the upcoming year, renew membership for next year, and give away some very desirable door prizes in drawings at the end of the meeting.

A word about your membership renewal: The first membership report to the E-Club we make in the New Year will determine our level of E-Club supported funding for the following year. Your turnout at the December meeting last year, and commitment to renew your membership at that meeting, more than doubled the E-Club support we received from the previous year, and allowed the ways and means to upgrade the 440 MHz repeater to digital. With your support, we can continue with projects such as 2-Meter repeater technology refresh, acquisition of a new HF radio for the club, or any other project you the members deem worthy.

## **Repeaters**

We are actively moving forward with the upgrade to our repeater systems. Jon Brown has the new 440 MHz digital repeater up and running at his dad’s house. Once installed, this will allow the 440 repeater to function as a combination analog/DStar/DMR node. I have asked for a meeting with Keith Anderson, the L3 MI Information Technology leader so we can work out how to get internet connectivity at the repeater node.

## **License Classes**

November 3 and 4 Technician class review and test session was a smashing success! We had 9 attendees at the review session. All 9 of them passed their tests on Saturday and were granted brand new Technician Class amateur radio licenses.

## **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 structure with lights, power, fridge, microwave (for transmitting with food as the dummy load) at the park near the lake. 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



## Out of the ruin of tornadoes, a new ham club is born

In the wake of last spring's tornados, Van Zandt County (Canton) has stood up a new ham radio club, affiliated with ARES, and a new repeater at 147.28MHz (+), PL 136.5Hz. Their net meets on that repeater at 8PM Thursdays.

*Written by Larry Smith – K5XB*

## CQ WW SSB DX Trip to Belize

I went down to Belize again last month to operate in the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest. In this contest, the multipliers are each DXCC country and the 40 CQ Zones into which the folks at CQ magazine divided the world years ago. The continental US covers 3 zones (3,4 and 5). I was in Zone 7, which consists of Central America - basically everything south of Mexico down to and including Panama.

As in the WPX SSB contest I used K3IT's nifty QSORDER program to automagically create mp3 files of each SSB QSO made with V31VP in the contest (and some outside the contest as well). If you worked me and would like to hear what your signal sounded like in Belize go to the V31VP qrz.com page and you'll find where you can enter your call sign and play the corresponding audio files.

MFARC members that I worked included Scott KK7JS, Michael K5MDK, and Jon WB5KSD. After a QSO with Jon the +13V power supply that runs the ICOM-7300 and a couple of the controller and interface boxes quit. If I cycled power on, it would run for a few minutes and then quit again. Fortunately, there was a spare sitting right next to it and I was able to switch over and press on.

My original plan was to file as SOAB(A) HP, [Single Operator All Band – High Power Assisted {meaning you can use Internet spots}] but after discovering that there are practically no established Single Op Single Band (Assisted) HP records in the whole of Zone 7 I filed my entry as SOSB(A)/15 HP. With that in mind, I put an emphasis on 15m, which was red hot from down here. I still operated all the other bands to help hand out the V3 mult to "the deserving" and also succumb to a case of "multiplier-itis". Single Band entries are still permitted to operate the other bands; it is just that those points only count toward other folks scores and not your own. The log submitted contains all the QSOs (over 4000).

If I had filed as SOAB(A) HP the score would be just shy of 3.9 million.

I made my first 160m QSOs (all 7 of them) from down here this trip, but given that the only antenna so far for top band is a low slung Windom, that was about all that could be expected. I think the only US stations worked on 160 were the two main US "super stations" K3LR and W3LPL (no surprise). The rest were in neighboring countries or the western Caribbean.

I was also relegated to the Windom for 10m as the Cushcraft A3S beam just would not load (VSWR >4:1) on that band. It worked fine in the RTTY contest last month, but one or both of the traps has likely developed a fault. At least it had the good grace to do it near the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Off the Windom I really couldn't hear and work anything other than South America. As it is, I ended up with 2782 QSO's on 15m, 32 Zones and 124 countries. Had some really terrific runs. It was fun to see the rate meter pop above 300 QSO/hour at times.



## Some of the highlights:

- Having VK9CZ (a DXpedition to Cocos-Keeling Island) call into my 15m run and then EXACTLY 24 hours later call into my 20m run. It gets even weirder. They were my only QSOs from Zone 29 and both our QSOs took place at 0029 UTC.
- In the closing minutes of the contest in the midst of a JA run on 15m I asked Japan to QRX and I called for other Asia. The JA's all held their fire (wish the same could be said of certain European types) which allowed me to dig out BV1EK in Taiwan for a new mult.
- Shortly before that BD7BM in China fought thru the JA wall on 15 and we each gave the other a new mult and in my case a much needed Zone 24.
- Breaking thru the pileup on VU2RCT in India to score Zone 22 on 15m Saturday morning during the narrow ~1 hour time frame when propagation up over the north pole makes that path possible.
- Working UT5EKF/MM (Zone 36) who was on a ship off the coast of Angola.
- A >4 hour run on 21343 kHz in the closing hours of the contest. That well just never seemed to run dry.

I hope to go back in Feb 2018 for CQ WPX RTTY, perhaps with KK7JS for an M/S entry and then the ARRL SSB DX Contest (maybe with K5MDK a.k.a. V31MK) the first weekend in March. I also have plans for another trip in late March for the CQ WW WPX SSB contest. The day before I left, I was doing some sight-seeing in the town of San Ignacio, when I saw a T-shirt that I just had to buy. Its caption read "Belize is calling ..... and I must go!"

73, Victor

*Submitted by Victor Paul WBØTEV (V31VP)*

## Hamarama and CQ WW Contest with Friends

As done each year, some of my old Rockwell Collins Ham buddies and I meet at the lake house of Ross Terry – K5SRT on the Northern banks of Lake Texoma near Kingston, OK for the October Hamarama hamfest. This year, we made a concentrated effort to operate the CQ World Wide Phone contest, work on the golf cart and play with a Heathkit B-1 balun.

Normally, we have a tradition where we buy something for a few bucks at the Hamfest in Ardmore and see if we can make it radiate before the weekend is over. This year was no exception, as Bob Kirby – K3NT purchased an old Heathkit B-1 1:4 balun. The large box with only posts on one side and a SO-239 connector on the other looked very clean, once we opened it up. According to the manual, we found on-line, it could be configured for 1:1 or 4:1, depending upon which internal posts you solder together. This one was configure for 4:1, which was perfect for balancing ladder line to unbalanced coax. At his lake house, Ross Terry – K5SRT prepared for us an 80m dipole with ladder line. The legs of this dipole were so long, it would not fit within the property line. Good thing Ross has a good relationship with his neighbors, as we whisked one end up in the neighbor's tree. Performance on the 80-Meter dipole was dismal using the MFG-969 built-in balun. However, when we connected the Heathkit B-1, what a difference! We were able to tune much easier, even with an auto-tuner!

Therefore, we all took turns operating the CQ WW contest as K5SRT. We had tried both Friday and Saturday to break through the pile on 20-Meters to get Victor Paul's (WBØTEV) attention, operating as

V31VP in Belize throughout the contest. Finally, on Saturday night, we were able to break through the pile just as Victor was announcing his QSY down to a lower frequency. Bob yelled my call sign repeatedly, when Victor heard it and responded. For a brief moment, we were able to exchange signal and call signs for both my call and K5SRT. Thanks to Victor for hanging out after finishing his QSY message.

Victor has taken advantage of a wonderful feature of the QRZ website by logging his audio online. You can hear the exchange between Victor, Bob and myself. Log into QRZ.com, enter V31VP and scroll down until you see the "Enter call sign:" text box. Enter K5MDK and press "GO" button. You will see the audio file in black. Just click it and listen to the QSO audio.

Another part of our weekend was spending Saturday morning and afternoon at the Hamarama hamfest. I had purchased two tables so that we could sell some stuff. I only had the T1/E1 Sage 930A analyzers and a VHF/UHF Base antenna that I had won at the Main Trading Company festival a week or two prior. Altogether, I made enough money to purchase a new switching power supply. This time, the power supply can switch between 115VAC and 220VAC, which will be helpful if I travel out of country again. Remember my experiences in South Korea? I have got to stop letting the smoke out of perfectly good equipment.



*1 Ross K5SRT selling stuff at Hamarama 2017*

Well, we did not just operate and do the hamfest all weekend. We had to have some fun too. To scratch our itch to make solder smoke, we had to finish up on a project with the golf cart. The lake village folks like their golf carts just as much as L3 does. However, driving at night can be treacherous if you do not have proper lighting. A new set of lights was installed. However, the lights were rated for 12 VDC, not 36 VDC that is available from the batteries. Therefore, Ross picked out a DC-DC converter. The specs he had in mind were 30 amps! That is over kill for LED lights that draw less than an amp. So Ross, what are you planning to do with all that 12 Volt current? The answer: HAM RADIO! That is another project for another day. Besides, what kind of antenna do you install on a fiberglass golf cart? We will all have to find out next year. Until then, 73!



*2 Golf Cart with 30A 12VDC service and BTW headlights too.*

*Submitted by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

## ARRL NTX Section ARES Email Reflector Launched

In a few easy steps, amateur radio operators in the North Texas Section can register an account on the new ARRL NTX website, then sign up for the NTX ARES email reflector. This is just one of the many goals that were set for automation in the section when Jay Urish W5GM took office.

The announcement was made yesterday afternoon in the NTX ARES Yahoo! group that users needed to migrate or be "left behind," and the response has been mostly positive. There have been more than

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seventy new registrations on the NTX website within twenty-four hours. Sixteen of those registrations were Emergency Coordinators in jurisdictions across the section, equating to roughly 30% of all appointed ECs.

"I'm slightly concerned about the amount of registrations on the website compared to the registrations on the reflector," said Jerry Goodson W5BFF. "Roughly half of the people who have registered for an account on the website have completed 'step two' of the instructions provided. They'll be missing out on ARES emails until they register their email address on the reflector."

## **Instructions:**

First, go to <http://www.arrlntx.org> and click on "Register" at the top center of the page just under the "Login" button. The first thing the site will request is simply your call sign. Note: You MUST be a licensed amateur radio operator to register an account. ARRL membership is not required. The website loads your information from FCC license records to simplify the form process. You only need to provide your email address and choose a password. If you've registered for a FEMA SID (Student ID number), you can optionally enter that for your convenience.

After completing the registration process on the NTX website, you can click on the "ARES" tab near the top center of the page. Scroll down to "Step Two" under the "Getting Started" heading, and click the "Register for the ARES Reflector" button.

***NOTE: You MUST be logged in to see the registration button.***

One important thing to consider is the email address used to register. The ARRL provides a nifty forwarding service (<callsign>@arrl.net) for members, but members can only receive email at that address, not send. If you use one of those forwarded email aliases, you'll be able to receive emails from the reflector, but you won't be able to send emails.

## **Purpose:**

"I feel so dirty using Yahoo," Section Emergency Coordinator Chris Ebert NA0D said.

Using third-party vendors to handle certain communication methods usually requires creating accounts with those providers. Examples include GoogleDocs for submitting reports, and YaHoo! for the email reflectors. This has excluded several members in the section who refused to create accounts with the various services, while others disliked the overhead that comes with those providers such as security breaches and unwanted advertisements.

Another primary purpose is continuity of operations with automated services in the section in future leadership changes. Required reporting by ECs, DECs, and the SEC will change seamlessly when new names are "plugged in." Management of the website, as well as the section facebook and twitter pages can be passed on with greater ease in the future.

## **Technical Difficulties:**

The transition didn't happen flawlessly. Instructions on how to register on the ARES reflector is pretty simple, but the instructions initially provided weren't as clear as the instructions provided above. This has led to approximately half of the new registrants on the website still not on the ARES reflector.

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The deployment was pretty rapid, and that led to some bugs that weren't fully tested prior to deployment. Fortunately, they've all been worked out in fairly short order. One SQL table had to be completely rebuilt, and some SQL queries needed fine tuning, but nothing was catastrophic. The worst problem faced, thus far, was a few hours delay when the website registration wasn't working properly.

Everything appears to be working correctly, now. If there are any problems encountered, please notify Jerry Goodson W5BFF at [media@arrlntx.org](mailto:media@arrlntx.org) or by phone/txt at 430-342-3376.

*Submitted by the ARRL NTX Section*

## Calendar

- Nov 16 MFARC Meeting at 12:45pm at B136-A PD North Conference Room.  
**NOTE THE SPECIAL DATE!**
- 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>
- Dec 14 MFARC ANNUAL Meeting at 12:45pm at B136-A PD North Conference Room.

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- Jan 1 Straight Key Night – CW <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>
- Jan 7 Kid's Day – ARRL - <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>
- Jan 7-8 RTTY Roundup - <http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>
- Jan 13 San Antonio Radio Fiesta 2018 – Schertz, Texas <http://w5sc.org>
- Jan 19 Cowtown Hamfest (ARRL NTX Convention) – Forest Hill, TX <http://cowtownhamfest.com>

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

## Officers

- President:** Larry Smith – K5XB  
[president@wd5gsl.net](mailto:president@wd5gsl.net)  
(254) 644-6465 cell
- Vice President:** Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
[vice-president@wd5gsl.net](mailto:vice-president@wd5gsl.net)  
(972) 408-6573 cell
- Secretary/Treasurer:** John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW  
[secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net](mailto:secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net)  
(903) 454-0911 cell
- VE/Class Team Leader:** Jae Stutzman – K5JAE  
[classes@wd5gsl.net](mailto:classes@wd5gsl.net)
- Club Trustee:** Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD  
[trustee@wd5gsl.net](mailto: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](mailto:editor@wd5gsl.net).