



## Inside this issue

- Meeting Minutes
- Winter Field Day Report
- President's Letter
- Comments to the ARRL - K6RV
- Comments to the ARRL - W5DNT
- Comments to the ARRL from MFARC
- Response to MFARC from ARRL West Gulf Vice Director
- V31VP and V31CQ to contest in Belize
- ARRL Board Backpedals on Proposed Changes
- Calendar

## Meeting Minutes

### Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 1/11/2018

- Meeting was called to order at 11:47
- Club officers for 2018 were installed.
- Officer reports were given.
- Winter Field Day (Jan 27-28<sup>th</sup>) event will be held at the Rains County EOC.
- Digital Repeater setup in progress.
  - Waiting for an internet hookup to be provided by IT, then a work party can be organized to complete setup.
- TS2000 repair is in progress.
- Discussion of repeater linking project
- Discussion concerning policy changes and the recent actions of the ARRL BoD.
  - A vote was conducted, and passed unanimously, to send a letter to the ARRL to express our concerns.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:17
- Planning discussion for Winter Field Day followed.

### Attendees

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John Nelson (N0DFW)</li><li>• Larry Smith (K5XB)</li><li>• Scott Davis (KK7JS)</li><li>• Brian Wilson (KG5KPN)</li><li>• Victor Paul (WB0TEV)</li><li>• Mark Henley (K5MOA) – Dues Paid \$10</li><li>• Jon Brown (WB5KSD)</li><li>• Jose Santiago (KG5SKR) – Dues Paid \$10</li><li>• Russ Harper (KF5WBZ) – Dues Paid \$10</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cassandra Culkin (KG5VVA) – Dues Paid \$10</li><li>• Gabe Cook (WTTX)</li><li>• Eric Hix (K5ERH)</li><li>• Mark Bushnell (AE5PG) – Dues Paid \$10</li><li>• Jae Stutzman (K5JAE) – Dues Paid \$10</li><li>• Michael Ketchum (K5MDK)</li><li>• David Rogers (KG5KPU) – Dues Paid \$10</li><li>• Scott Singleton (KM5SJ)</li><li>• Anthony Lannutti (KG5VVB)</li></ul> |
|---|--|

*Written by Secretary Scott Davis – KK7JS*



## Winter Field Day (WFD) Report

For the first time, MFARC, in conjunction with RARA (Rains Amateur Radio Association), participated in Winter Field Day. This fledgling event began a mere 10 years ago, and has grown into a nationally recognized contest. Participants were challenged to set up field operations, preferably outdoors or at remote locations, in order to simulate an emergency under less-than-ideal conditions.

MFARC was able to utilize the EOC in the city of Emory. Thanks to RARA club President Trent Pergrem – K5VES, participants had access to a fully functioning bathroom (more on that later), central heat and air, a mini fridge, and a microwave oven. Unlike their counter-parts who set up shop in more Northern climes, the folks at the EOC in Emory were living in style. To their credit, they did run solely off generator power, earning the two teams a 1,500-point bonus for being off-grid.

MFARC President Larry Smith scored 2 used antennas, and brought them out for a field test. The 3-element Mosley Jr yagi beam worked like a charm on 20m during the day on Saturday. That is, once the crew got it up. The first attempt at putting the antenna on top of a 30-foot tip up mast made from oil drilling bits did not go so well. A team of 8 people didn't have the "umph" in their behinds to get the antenna and mast in the vertical position. So, Larry went to plan B; a few sections of Rohn tower were strapped to a Conex container. At about 30 feet, the beam worked great. Working with Gabe Cook W5TTX, this set-up made up the bulk of the contacts for the first 5 hours of operation.

The 2nd antenna was a 160m terminated folded dipole, with the feed line and balun tied off to the boom of the beam. Using this antenna, Gabe, Larry and a host of other folks from RARA worked 40m and 80m well into the night. Much to the chagrin of the team, 160m just was not open. Fortunately, one contact was made on the CW portion of the band, giving them points for activating a band.

The back half of the EOC was set up by Hommy Figueroa – KG5SKP and David Rogers – KG5KPU, where their Icom IC706 was run off deep-cycle marine batteries. Initially, they were using a ground-mounted vertical, good from 10m up to 80m. Conditions were not good for an antenna with a low take off angle, so they switched to an 80m OFC sloper. Using that Antenna, contacts on 40m and 80m were a piece of cake.

All of the contacts were tracked using laptops programmed by MFARC VP Michael Ketchum – K5MDK. At one point, connectivity between computers was lost. But, Michael (with Gabe and Hommy) fixed the problem and prevented the team from having to resort to –gasp- paper logs.

While the event was a success, there were a few obstacles to overcome. First, there was the problem of getting Larry's \$75 beam up in the air. No way, try as they might, was that antenna going up on the tip-up mast. But, good planning solved that problem.

Then, on Sunday, as things were winding down, the toilet began to overflow. Fortunately, the water was clear...for some reason, water just started overflowing the bowl, and would not stop. A call to RARA member and local Emergency Management coordinator Jon Wedeking – KE5PZI brought help to the rescue. It was also Jon who set up the delivery of fuel to run the generator, and made sure the facility was operational. Without his efforts, this event would not have been possible.

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Both clubs intend on entering the contest next year.



# AIRWAVES



Photos courtesy of Gabe Cook – W5TTX, Michael Ketchum – K5MDK and David Rogers – KG5KPU

*Written by David Rogers – KG5KPU*

## President's Letter

Winter is almost over!

Time to start planning those big new antenna projects. We have testing sessions and a Field Day effort to plan. There is progress on the internet connection for the new 440MHz repeater upgrade, and results from our Winter Field Day collaboration with the Rains County ARA.

### Meetings

Meetings continue 2nd Thursday of every month going forward, in the Kitty Hawk C.R. The way the calendar turns out, it is just about as early in the month as we can have it. February 8th. This will repeat next month as well. So for this month and next, just be aware the meeting is happening early in the month, even though it is the second Thursday.

A word about your membership renewal: It's not too late to be counted. The way it has worked for us is that the E-Club bases supporting funding for next year on this year's recorded membership. Many of you committed to 2018 membership at the December and January meetings. Thank you. If you have not yet done so, please get your membership recorded for inclusion in the roster. With your



membership and 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 projects we'd like to try.

## **ARRL Action**

If you remember last month, we were talking about actions contemplated by the ARRL Board of Directors that many felt were counter to the spirit of a member organization. You directed me to write a letter to the board members, which I did. That letter was published in the AirWaves newsletter, along with an encouraging response from West Gulf Division vice-Director John Robert Stratton, KE5ISX. Apparently, the opinions expressed to the board by many members won the day, as all the offending articles were withdrawn by their sponsor or voted down by the board. Still to be resolved is the withdrawal of the censure of Southwest Division Director Richard Norton, N6AA. It is widely believed by those in the know that withdrawal of the censure will occur at the next meeting.

## **Repeaters**

I have heard from AS Information Technology that the internet access we need to connect the new 440 repeater to the internet backbone is indeed available, they have identified the hardware needed to connect us, and they will supply it to our trailer. They cannot give me a date, due to the site wide O365 rollout and the upcoming migration to Windows 10. It seems they do a little more every time they go out to the MSTF. They have not forgotten us. I know we're anxious to get this done, but since we are relying on the good will of our IT group, and since they are not charging us anything for the use of this asset, I think it best to just check in with them every now and then to see how it's going... and not be pushy! Once we get the internet drop, we will schedule a day to move in with the new hardware and go live with the digital functions.

## **License Classes**

David Rogers is planning a Technician class test session for the State Guard. We expect there will be a lot more attendance at this session than we are used to seeing, and David will need our support to help him do this. The date and details are here in the newsletter.

## **Winter Field Day**

WFD contest was January 27 and 28. We had a few members participate at the Rains County EOC building. MFARC members did most of the operating, with a few RARA members joining in. Mostly, the Rains County hams seemed happy to just help with the setup and let us run the radios. The Rains County EC was very happy to see his facility get a good 24 hour "wring out" and will report to his county commissioners that from his viewpoint, the operation was a success. The score will likely put us around mid-pack in the results. We were able to hold frequency and run a pile up at least a couple of times during the weekend, and that's always fun.

See you at the meeting Thursday. Bring a friend, and feel free to bring your lunch.

73,  
Larry  
K5XB  
MFARC President



## Comments to the ARRL

My name/call is Donald L. Schliesser, K6RV. I have been licensed since 1952, 66 years, and an ARRL Life Member for 55 years. I have been very active over the years, as one of the four Founders of the Northern California DX Foundation, as President of the Northern California DX Club, as one of the founding members of the Northern California Contest Club and in many other ways, including my donations to the ARRL, and my setting up a Legacy Gift through my Will and Living Trust.

I have been concerned about the ARRL, and its direction, for the last couple of years starting with the, in my opinion, misguided Rule Making in RM-11708, and the Ham Radio Bill (Parity Act) currently awaiting action in the U.S. Senate. The most recent actions by the present ARRL President and his friends on the Board, and the ARRL CEO (the so called "Code of Conduct" for Directors/Vice-Directors, the unwarranted censure of Director Dick Norton), have really given me reason to be alarmed and to take action. Now with the changes being proposed to the Articles of Incorporation / Bylaws by some Directors (with the direction of Mr. Roderick), makes me want to say the line from the old Movie: "I am mad as Hell and I am not going to take it anymore!"

I do not have to go through the arguments for or against any of these proposals - you all know what they are. The bottom line is that they are all counter to an Organization that should be operated in a democratic way. These are all things that smack of a Hostile Takeover of the ARRL with the end result of appointing Directors/Vice Directors and others so that the ARRL will be run by a Cabal of power hungry people to the exclusion of the Members who should be able to choose their representatives, and communicate with them without inside threats, pressure, or intimidation.

It is my view that the present ARRL President does not care what the Members think or say - if they disagree with him. He appears to think this insult to the Members will pass. He appears to not want to have any input from the Members. I contend he is wrong and those who support him will find this concern by the Members will NOT go away.

I make this promise and commitment: I am rescinding my Legacy Gift, I will make no more donations to the ARRL, unless and until, the present Officer's are changed. More importantly, **I will make it my mission to talk to ALL of the Legacy Gift Donors and Annual Donors and ask them to cancel their support for an Organization that, in my view, has fallen into disrepute by the actions of a few at the top.**

*Written by Donald L. Schliesser – K6RV*

## Comments to the ARRL

January 2, 2018

Dear ARRL Directors, Vice Directors, Officers and CEO:

By way of introduction to those of you who do not know me personally, I am a licensed Extra Class with 47 years of activity in amateur radio. Over the decades, I have believed strongly in the importance of the ARRL for our wonderful hobby. I am a member of the Diamond Club, Maxim Society, Legacy Circle



and Second Century campaign, in addition to being a Life Member. Hopefully my actions demonstrate that I am not a “league basher”, moreover an amateur that is serious about the need for a “functional” ARRL.

In recent years I have strongly disagreed with some of the ARRL’s actions, such as RM-11708 which directly threatens narrowband modes with wideband digital signals and the Parity Act antenna bill, which in my opinion was misrepresented to the membership and is a gift to HOAs and builder groups, as I understand some of our “great” negotiators actual allowed the HOAs to craft the language. In 2016, I expressed my concerns to the ARRL President, in person, and was told in the presence of others that I was a “heal biter”. It has been quite obvious to me that the current leadership does not want any input from the membership, including donors like myself. Perhaps the term “hand biters” should apply to those that bite the hands of upper tier donors. Be that as it may, in spite of these major disagreements and actual public insults from the leadership, I have continued with my financial contributions. As a matter of fact, my Diamond Club membership is paid up through 2018. The next time you are at HQ, you will find my name on the Second Century monument, many bricks and a bench bearing my callsign in the courtyard. My past commitment to the league is proven and has been maintained through major disagreements.

Recent events have exceeded my wildest expectations as to how far the governance of an organization can get off the railroad tracks. Since you have received very eloquent letters from so many accomplished amateurs, I will not attempt to argue the points you are already so glaringly aware of, but will simply touch on each issue.

First, the “Code of Conduct”, which is nothing more than a gag order, and please don’t bother to try and convince me otherwise as has been done with others. I am not buying that tall tale. In checking, I find no statutory requirement for such a policy under Connecticut law. It is merely a childish policy tool to be used selectively against anyone on the board that doesn’t “go along to get along”, as seems to be a common modus operandi. In an era when transparency is front and center, ARRL has gone backwards in a very big way. We members vote for the Directors and Vice Directors and have every right to know where they stand on issues and how our organization is governed. I fully realize there are those that would like nothing more than to eliminate Vice Directors, eliminate opposing Directors and transition to an appointed board that would simply be a rubber stamp. The last two years has seen your efforts focused on this type of petty politics as opposed to taking care of the real issues in amateur radio. How sad and unnecessary.

Second, the censure of Director Norton was most uncalled for and unwarranted. Typically, I attend Visalia, but due to family health issues, I missed this past meeting. I have, however, talked to a number of highly credible and trusted individuals that have confirmed to me [that] Mr. Norton did not do what he was accused of doing. Some of these individuals provided written statements to that effect, which were summarily discarded. If anyone has brought a poor light to ARRL, it was not Mr. Norton, but those that crafted the policy so viciously used against him to begin with. This censure should be immediately retracted and if Mr. Roderick, Mr. Lisenco, Mr. Bellows, Mr. Imlay, Mr. Gallagher or others have a personal vendetta against Mr. Norton, they need to take it elsewhere as opposed to actions that bring the entire organization down. Mr. Norton has attained folk hero status for the public flogging he has taken.



Thirdly, Bylaw and Articles of Incorporation changes being put forward by Mr. Lisenco and Mr. Norris are nothing short of appalling and insulting, as pointed out by so many that have written you recently. These proposals are a clear attempt at a hostile takeover of ARRL governance and if passed, will lead to implosion of the organization. These two proposals should be immediately withdrawn and if not, promptly defeated at the upcoming board meeting.

To keep this short and sweet, my continued financial support will require three things. Rescind the Code of Conduct, retract the N6AA censure and withdraw or defeat the Lisenco/Norris proposals. Gentlemen, your actions in past months are unbecoming of mature adults and an embarrassment to the ARRL and the hobby itself. I simply cannot continue to support this type of outright dysfunctional behavior out of the leadership. Trust me fellows, I want to see you and the organization succeed. Hopefully the responses you are receiving from folks like myself will serve as a wakeup call that things must change immediately.

73,

Dan White  
W5DNT

*Written by Dan White – W5DNT*

## Comments to the ARRL From MFARC

Dear ARRL Officers, Directors, and Vice Directors:

As an elected representative of the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club, I have been asked by vote of our membership to represent all 35 members and trustees of our club, and write to you to express our concern about recent ARRL actions. Our membership, many who are also members of ARRL, has always been supportive of the ARRL, and we wish for ARRL to continue to thrive. This is the first time our club has felt the need to write to ARRL officials, as the events and proposed by-laws and articles changes in recent weeks and months have so concerned us that we deem it vital to provide urgent feedback to all of the ARRL leadership before your January board meeting.

We ask you to remove from consideration, now and forever, the proposed by-laws changes offered up by Director Lisenco and Director Norris that are on the table for the January (or future) meeting(s), and urge the board to retool the "code of conduct" and its use, so that it is not used to encourage secrecy that leads to the censure of directors who openly discuss how they vote on ARRL business. As a democratic organization, we believe it is crucial that the spirit of elected directors be sustained and bolstered, and that Board members be encouraged to dialogue with the membership at large about their voting record, and issues that impact the membership. Further, we do not believe that more board members, who are not elected by membership, should be "appointed" and given a vote, as is now being proposed. Elected representation is how ARRL is governed, by and for the members, and we seek for that to be preserved. Also, we ask that the board undo your censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, based on the evidence to date and secrecy shrouding the Board's initial decision, and to turn back from engaging in actions such as censure or disqualification of directors without giving transparent, clear evidence to the membership.

On behalf of our entire membership of 35 active Radio Amateurs, I ask that you work to restore trust and faith to the members by permanently removing from consideration any and all parts of the recently





proposed changes to the by-laws and articles. I expect and look forward to hearing from you, so I may share your responses with our club members and others.

Sincerely,

Larry Smith, K5XB

Life Member, ARRL

President, Majors Field Amateur Radio Club

[president@wd5gsl.org](mailto:president@wd5gsl.org)

<http://www.wd5gsl.org/>

*Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB*

## Response to MFARC from ARRL West Gulf Vice Director

Larry

Thank you and the Majors Field for MFARC's email letter to the Board.

David Woolweaver and I greatly appreciate the support. MFARC's letter and all the others are having an impact, a positive one. Without the Division Members' willingness to contact the Board and tell them your concerns, it is difficult to convince others on the Board that the Members do care and that their interests are paramount and not being met.

But, now with the overwhelming public opposition of Members like MFARC to the current proposals pending before the Board, David and I have a chance to hopefully produce an outcome favorable to the League and all the ARRL Members.

Thanks again.

73

John Robert Stratton - N5AUS

Vice Director - Legislative Director - West Gulf Division

P.O. Box 2232

Austin, Texas 78768-2232

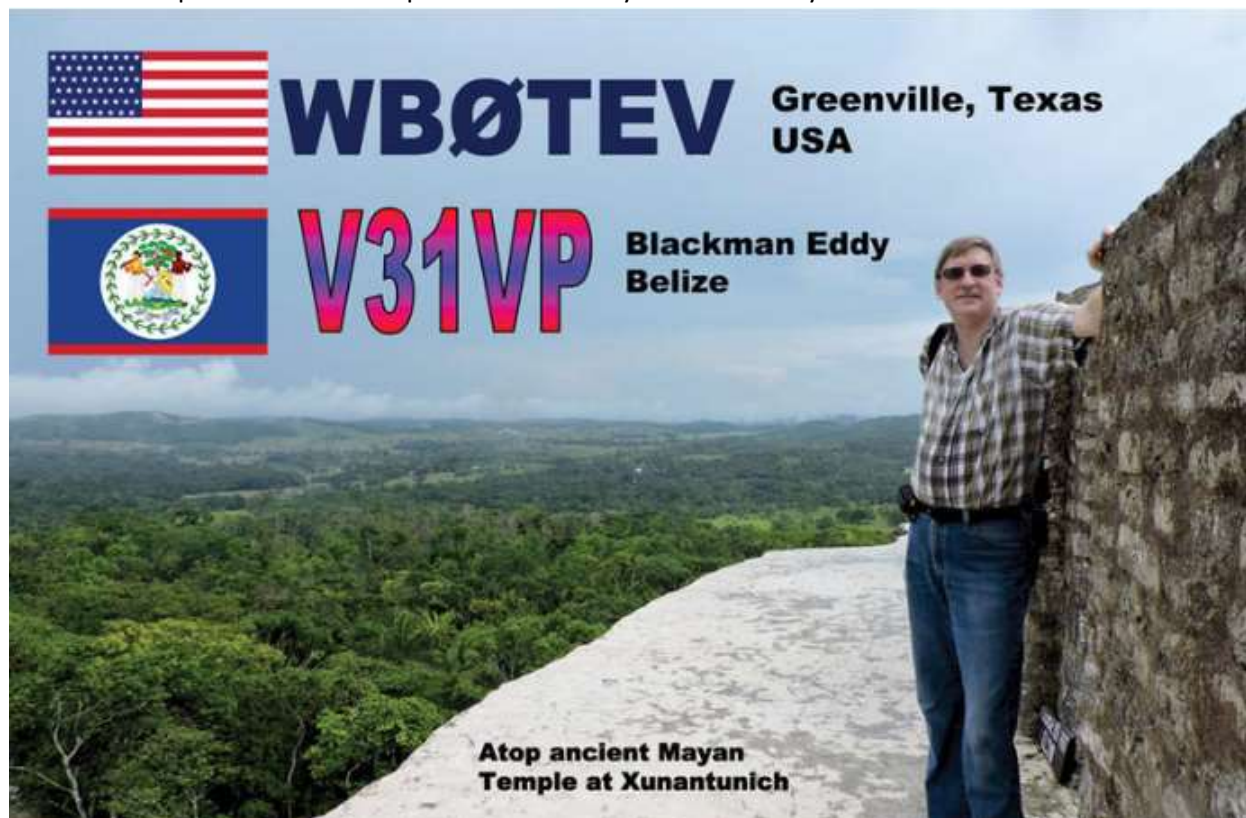
*Written by Vice Director John Robert Stratton – N5AUS*

## V31VP and V31CQ to contest in Belize

Victor Paul – V31VP/WB0TEV and Scott Davis – V31CQ/KK7JS will be flying to the beautiful country of Belize on February 8<sup>th</sup> to work 80-10m from the Maya Hill Lodge ham shack in Blackman Eddy, Belize. They will be operating under the V31VP callsign during the CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 11. They are expected to have a good time working Qs and enjoying the wonders of the



area. Their trip comes to an abrupt end on February 12<sup>th</sup> when they have to return home.



For more information, check out <https://www.qrz.com/db/V31VP> or <https://dx-world.net/v31vp-belize/> or <https://dxnews.com/v31vp/>.

Also, be on the lookout again in March when Victor Paul – V31VP/WBØTEV teams up with Michael Ketchum – V31MK/K5MDK to Belize for the ARRL International DX Contest for SSB. They will be operating March 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> as V31VP.

*Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

## ARRL Board Backpedals on Proposed Changes

Faced with an avalanche of criticism from members, donors and major clubs across the country, the ARRL board of directors in January decided not to consider several proposed changes to the League's Articles of Association and By-Laws. It did, however, establish a process for presenting proposed changes to the membership ahead of time in the future.

The directors also decided to undertake a complete review of the controversial code of conduct they had previously adopted for themselves, and immediately suspended the section of that code that prevented directors from speaking negatively about board actions and telling members how they voted on various motions.

The board also voted to make public the decisions of its Ethics and Elections Committee regarding candidates' qualifications as well as its reasons for disqualifying candidates from seeking election

# AIRWAVES



(unless, in either case, the candidate requested otherwise). More details on the board actions will be in the March issue of CQ.

See this post at <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2018/01/arrl-board-backpedals-on-proposed.html>

Also see a related post about ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF announcing his retirement at <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2018/01/leadership-shakeup-in-newington.html>

Written by CQ Newsroom

## Calendar

- Feb 8 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
- Feb 10-11 CQ WPX RTTY contest  
**LOOK FOR Victor V31VP/WB0TEV and Scott V31CQ/KK7JS OPERATING FROM BELIZE**
- Feb 12-16 ARRL School Club Roundup
- Feb 15 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
- Feb 17-18 ARRL International DX – CW
- Mar 3 Irving Amateur Radio Club Hamfest at Betcha Bingo, Irving, TX.  
<http://irvingarc.org/hamfest-2018/>
- Mar 3-4 ARRL International DX - Phone
- Mar 8 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
- Mar 15 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.

# AIRWAVES



## 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

<b>President:</b>	Larry Smith – K5XB <a href="mailto:president@wd5gsl.net">president@wd5gsl.net</a> (254) 644-6465 cell
<b>Vice President:</b>	Michael Ketchum – K5MDK <a href="mailto:vice-president@wd5gsl.net">vice-president@wd5gsl.net</a> (972) 408-6573 cell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Scott Davis – KK7JS <a href="mailto:secretary@wd5gsl.net">secretary@wd5gsl.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW <a href="mailto:treasurer@wd5gsl.net">treasurer@wd5gsl.net</a> (903) 454-0911 cell
<b>VE/Class Team Leader:</b>	Jae Stutzman – K5JAE <a href="mailto:classes@wd5gsl.net">classes@wd5gsl.net</a>
<b>Club Trustee:</b>	Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD <a href="mailto:trustee@wd5gsl.net">trustee@wd5gsl.net</a>

### Club Repeaters

<b>Club Station:</b>	TBD
<b>VHF Repeater:</b>	WD5GSL/R 147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz
<b>UHF Repeater:</b>	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).