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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 2/14/2019

- Meeting was called to order @ 1145

Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for January meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves".
- Treasurer Report delivered by John Nelson

Subcommittee Reports

- Repeater updates.
- Internet access near to completion at the club trailer

Upcoming Events

- List of upcoming monthly club meetings, contests, and hamfests.
 - Irving, TX Hamfest on March 2nd.

Old Business

- General class license instruction and testing 9-11 May.
- Technician class license instruction and testing 22,23 March.

New Business

- Several sub-committees to be created:
 - HF operation.
 - Elmering.
 - Field Day 2019.
- Proposal for SES station for Dwight Eisenhower.
- TXSPOTA event – club will hold event at Cooper Lake State Park. Reimbursement for cabin rental from club funds approved by majority vote.



Presentations

- Winter Field Day activity report.

Attendees

- Meeting adjourned @ 1215.
- John Nelson - W7JOY
- Joe Lum - KE5ZBL
- Wesley Sparks - WS5GPA
- Mark Bushnell - AE5FG
- David Rogers – KG5KPU
- Chris Rutz - K5RTZ
- Scott Joseph - AG5QQ
- Larry Smith - K5XB
- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
- Scott Davis - K5PS
- Victor Paul - WB0TEV (conference)
- Gabe Cook - W5TTX (conference)
- Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

President's Letter

Better weather and longer days upcoming. By the time you read this, it will be, or almost be, Daylight Savings Time! (Depending on when Michael posts this letter...)

Meetings

This month's meeting, we need to finish signing up discussion leaders and VE's for the Tech class, which is coming this month. Also, we will talk up our General Class license session coming in May. Remember the current question pool for General expires July 1 this year.

After the "gavel falls" on this coming meeting, there are only three more meetings until Summer Field Day. Texas State Parks on the Air is in April, and we will be activating Cooper Lake state park again this year. All this needs to be "worked over" in detail this month, and we need your input.

As always, feel free to bring your ideas for club activities to the meetings. We'd love to hear what's going on at your shack. Remember you get an extra ticket for the end of year drawing when you present a program at a regular monthly meeting.

Club Projects

Still pending real discussion and planning for the idea of club station. I would like to make some progress on that issue this year.

Elmering/mentoring ideas such as a local "beginner's net" needs to be kicked off. This is a very worthy effort and I hope every active member will take part. Remember, the goal is to make sure that new hams that take our licensing study/test sessions and pass the test, get on the air and at least make one if not more QSO's as quickly as possible after his or her call sign is issued. We might not be able to hold their long-term interest, but we need to make sure they have the chance to enjoy what they have earned. We will continue to build a list of volunteer Elmers.

AIRWAVES



What else would you like to see your club do? HF station? Contesting? Kit building? PCS fundraiser? Bring your ideas to the meeting and let's get something started.

ARRL

Remember if you join or renew your ARRL membership through MFARC, and MFARC gets a "cut".

The Rains County group (Rains Amateur Radio Association) has received ARRL sanction for a tailgate hamfest around the courthouse square in Emory on May 11th. I think this is the same weekend as our General class sessions but if you're not teaching, you could still go. It will be over well before testing in the afternoon.

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

73,
Larry
K5XB
MFARC President

Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB

Spring Light Up 2-Meters Night

Spring Light Up 2 Meters Night, an FM Simplex Event

March 24, 2019 6-8pm Local Time

Most Amateur Radio Operators today start out with a radio capable of operating FM on the 2-meter band, so, you probably already have the minimum equipment necessary to participate. The objective is simple - make 2-meter FM simplex contacts, challenge your operating limits, and just get on the air and have some fun.

146.52 MHz is a good place to start here in the USA, but in your part of the world, there may be a better 2-meter simplex frequency. Even US based hams might have a good local simplex frequency in their area.

Now all you have to do is get on the air! Of course, you don't have to stop there, maybe your station needs an upgrade, whether it's a handheld needing a better antenna, to the 100' of 30 year old RG8X to your 2 meter vertical on the tower needing replaced, or maybe, a new mobile rig has been on your shopping list.

Please share this announcement - the more hams that know, the more can participate, and the more contacts everyone can make.

If you use Facebook, check out: <https://www.facebook.com/2MFMSimplex/>

Shared from [LINK](#) by Scott Joseph – AG5QQ



HELP WANTED – Bike MS Round-Up Ride 2019 (formerly MS150)

Saturday, May 4th through Sunday, May 5th will be a busy day for dozens of Ham Radio Operators who volunteer to work a public service event covering more than 100 miles of bike ride route. Formerly known as the MS150, the Bike MS: Round-Up Ride 2019 organizers are starting to make a call for ham radio and non-ham volunteers, alike. Radio operators are key to relaying vital information to organizers, who have to make key decisions throughout the ride. You can help; simply send an email to James Marple – KB5ZDG with your name, call, radio capability (mobile, HT, portable base, etc.).

Dates: Saturday, May 4 & Sunday, May 5, 2019

Locations: Many locations between Frisco and Fort Worth

Signup: Send email to j.marple@verizon.net James Marple – KB5ZDG.

Shared announcement from Hommy Figueroa Salas – KG5SKP

2019 ARRL DX Contest from Belize!

Victor Paul (V31VP) and I (V31CQ) had a week long excursion to sunny and warm Belize 26-FEB to 05-MAR for the ARRL DX SSB Contest. We were in the contest as V31VP as a M/S HP entry. Our claimed score is 4.2 million points which should put us in the top-5 worldwide.

The major factor in making the contest so successful was the addition of a new 160m antenna. Victor brought a suitcase of antenna wire and other parts for a 160m inverted-L to be hung off the existing tower there. I helped some with the installation, but it was Victor and Andre (V31DL) who did most of the work of getting the antenna up on the tower and resonant on the correct frequency. It made a huge difference in our score – we made lots of QSOs on 160m that would've been difficult or impossible the year before.

Victor made good use of his antenna after the contest too. He had an impressive run on 160m FT8 working a number of stations in Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe.

I had the opportunity before and after the contest to get on the air using my V31CQ call. I made about 1500 QSOs on CW, SSB, and FT8 on 160-17m. I had particular fun running stations on 20m SSB just before the contest – worked several familiar calls from our club.

I had a lot of fun on my second trip to Belize and I'm hoping to do it again later in the year.

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

AIRWAVES



2019 MENTORFEST – North Texas Section of ARRL

HAM LEARNING CENTER
2019 MENTORFEST
ARRL North Texas Section
 Amateur Radio in North Texas
MENTOR PROGRAM

www.arrlntx.org

Free Event! - Hosted by the **Hella Hams** and the **ARRL North Texas Section**

When: April 27, 2019 **Time:** 9:00am - 4:00pm

Location: **Hella Shrine Center, 2121 Rowlett Rd., Garland, TX 75043**

The Garland Hella Hams and the ARRL North Texas Section would like to invite all current and prospective Hams to attend Mentorfest! This event is a great way for Hams, especially those recently licensed, to meet and learn about a variety of subjects. Amateur radio operators have a great tradition of helping each other learn about and gain experience in the many facets of the hobby. Mentorfest is designed to build on this tradition by providing a place for Hams of all ages and experience levels to come together, exchange knowledge and make new friends while having fun and enjoying the great hobby of Amateur Radio.

Mentorfest will feature....	Mentoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Formal presentations on a number of topics. · Local clubs providing information on their activities. · "Elmers" (ham-speak for mentors) available for informal discussions on just about any topic. · Tours of emergency communications vehicles. · Representatives from the ARRL, Local Clubs, ARES/RACES, and others showing how you can get involved. 	<p>In addition to the formal presentations, mentoring will be available on a large range of topics. Many amateur radio clubs, individual Hams and organizations with ties to amateur radio will be at Mentorfest to answer questions and provide demonstrations in a very informal setting.</p> <p>If you have something amateur radio related that you would like to show and tell about, please consider attending Mentorfest. Your excitement about a favorite subject might be an inspiration to another Ham. Come share your knowledge and experience. Email mentorfest@arrlntx.org to be a mentor.</p>

Participants & Volunteers

All ARRL affiliated clubs are encouraged to participate in Mentorfest by at least having an information table with club representatives. The ARRL will be promoting Mentorfest to new Hams so there should be opportunities for clubs to recruit new members. If your club or group is interested in participating in Mentorfest, please send E-mail to mentorfest@arrlntx.org. This event is free for everyone!

Volunteers are needed to help will the following tasks.

Parking lot control for EMComm vehicle static displays.

Greeters to help direct attendees to where to get the answers they seek.

Email mentorfest@arrlntx.org to volunteer.



ARRL NTX Section invited to COMMEX April Exercise

COMMEX is a large-scale emergency communications exercise, one of many exercises that have and will be organized to help Emergency Coordinators (EC) from various ARES teams a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in order to improve their skills and bring valuable lessons learned back to their local ARES teams. The North Texas Section was invited to participate in a large-scale Communications Exercise (COMMEX). The exercise, spearheaded at **Camp Swift near Bastrop, Texas**, is scheduled from **8am April 8th to 5pm on April 11th**.

The exercise will consist of multiple agencies and communications platforms for the purpose of practice and training in the Texas State Wide Interoperability Communication (SWIC) plan.

All ECs in the section are encouraged to participate, and this will satisfy the annual SET exercise. POC for this exercise in the North Texas Section is ASEC Greg Evans K5GTX at k5gtx@arrl.net

This is an excellent opportunity to get tasks signed off in COML and COMT position task books for those groups who set up full multi-operational-period Incident Command System operations.

An event has been created on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/498810187310254/>

The Incident Action Plan (IAP) below will be updated as information becomes available. The South Texas Section has also published their IAP, and can be viewed by following this link:

<http://www.arrlstx.org/index.php/55-commex-4-2019.html>

Our NTX Section EC, Jerry Goodson – W5BFF, recently made the trip to Greenville to share COMMEX with hams interested in participating in ARES SETs and get involved. Emergency Communications skills are much needed in the Ham community, as we apply good communications practices across all other domains of public service.

If you are in Hunt County, you can contact Hunt Co EC Jim Davenport – KD5PAD. Hopkins Co EC is Jeff Smith – N5TMC. Rains Co EC is Harold Pergrem – K5VES. For information about joining ARES, go to the ARRL NTX Section site and click ARES and look for the “Getting Started” section or go here:

<http://www.arrlntx.org/ares>

Shared from ARRL NTX Section Site by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Mark Bushnell – AE5FG retirement

Mark Bushnell has been with L3 for 21 years, and has recently announced his retirement for the end of this month. Mark is also known as AE5FG, by his ham radio friends. Mark was originally working for a smaller defense sub-contractor, prior to joining Raytheon / E-Systems. It was that small company that provided some products to E-Systems, at one time. However, when business got tough, Mark was laid off from that company, and quickly found a home on the EME team here at L3.

Mark’s first EME work began right out of college, when he worked on a TMEPEST project at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) in San Antonio, Texas. It was during that work when he was exposed to other areas of electromagnetic effects and gained more EMI experience.

AIRWAVES



Mark was interested in Amateur Radio since he was a young lad. But it was not until 1990 that he began to work on his Morse Code. He took a Morse Code class with the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) Ham Radio club. However, it was at that time he was caught up in his first layoff that would cut his studies short. It was not until 2007 that he regained momentum in getting his Amateur Radio license. Mark is currently active in the Garland Amateur Radio Club as well as the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club. He has provided a lot of support to the club newsletter and has kept a watchful eye on FCC actions for the club.

Mark has plans to erect a tower in his backyard and establishing a HF station. Mark has mainly focused on VHF/UHF for the hobby, besides providing security communication support for his synagogue. He also participates in various public service events, as he is able. Besides the HF station, Mark says he has a lot of other projects he wants to pursue in the hobby.

After he retires, Mark plans to devote more time and attention to public service events as well as his synagogue. He may not have all that much time to work on these projects, however. From my conversations with Mark, he may also be doing some side work to keep himself busy. Mark also has high ambitions to have grandchildren someday. His daughter only recently got married in November. If I was to take a guess, I would say Mark's time and life would take a remarkable change when grandchildren enter his life.

Congratulations to Mark for 21 years of service. I feel it is safe to say that the entire club will miss you. We wish you well!

Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Some Trivia

Early aircraft throttles had balls on their ends, in order to go full throttle the pilot had to push the throttle all the way forward into the wall of the instrument panel. Hence "balls to the wall" for going very fast. And now you know the rest of the story.

Did you know the saying "God willing and the creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the South, Hawkins was requested by the President to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

One more: bet you didn't know this! In the heyday of sailing ships, all warships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem, how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

AIRWAVES



The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'brass monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts more, and much faster than iron when it is chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would roll right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (Ed. Note: According to Wikipedia, the Navy discredits this, but I still like it.)

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Calendar

- Mar 9 Rains County ARC Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Mar 10 North American Sprint – RTTY ncjweb.com
- Mar 14 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Kitty Hawk at 11:45am.
- Mar 19 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Apr 6 Ham EXPO Spring 2019 – Belton, TX <http://TARC.org/hamexpo/>
- Apr 8 – 11 COMMEX <http://www.arrlntx.org/NTX-invited-to-COMMEX-2019>
- Apr 11 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Kitty Hawk at 11:45am.
- Apr 13 Rains County ARC Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Apr 13-14 Texas State Parks on the Air <http://tspota.org> MAJORS FIELD CLUB EVENT!
MFARC activating Cooper Lake State Park. contest@w5nni.net
- Apr 14 ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>
- Apr 16 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Apr 27 ARRL NTX Mentorfest 2019 – Garland, TX <http://www.arrlntx.org/mentorfest>
- May 11 Rains Amateur Radio Association Hamfest at the courthouse square in Emory.

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>
Mons. Rains/Hopkins Co combined NET at 7:30pm 146.92 – PL 88.5Hz
Tues. Rockwall ARC Net at 7:00pm 441.525 + PL141.3
Thurs SVARA Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz

Officers

- President:** Larry Smith – K5XB
president@w5nni.net
(254) 644-6465 cell
- Vice President:** David Rodgers – KG5KPU
vice-president@w5nni.net
(972) 408-6573 cell
- Secretary:** Scott Davis – KK7JS
secretary@w5nni.net
- Treasurer:** John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW
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(903) 454-0911 cell
- VE/Class Team Leader:** Scott Joseph – AG5QQ
classes@w5nni.net
- Club Trustee:** Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD
trustee@w5nni.net
- Contest/Activities:** David Rogers – KG5KPU
contest@w5nni.net

Club Repeaters

- Club Station:** TBD
- VHF Repeater:** W5NNI/R
147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz
- UHF Repeater:** W5NNI/R DMR
444.625 MHz (+) Rx-SQ PL 151.4 Hz

AirWaves is a production of the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club

We're on the Web! Find us at: <http://w5nni.net>

Your article submissions are welcomed. Please submit to editor@w5nni.net.