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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 4/11/2019

- Meeting was called to order @ 1145

Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for March meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves".
- Treasury Report (we're in the black).
- Quarterly report files with E-Club.

Subcommittee Reports

- Elmering for 2 new hams from recent test session completed.

Upcoming Events

- Mentorfest is on April 27th.
- TXSPOTA 4/13-4/14 (was cancelled due to weather concerns).

Old Business

- General class license instruction and testing 9-11 May.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower SES.

New Business

- Audie Murphy Day – W5A SES call.

Presentations

February Belize trip. Victor Paul presented.



Attendees

- Meeting adjourned @ 1200.
- Denisa Atkins
- Jon Brown - WB5KSD
- Scott Davis - K5PS
- Mike Garcia
- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
- Curt King - KI5DZL
- John Nelson - W7JOY
- Victor Paul - WB0TEV
- David Rogers - KG5KPU
- Chris Rutz - K5RTZ
- Will Sanitate - KG5QCQ
- Jose Santiago - KG5SKR
- Larry Smith - K5XB
- David Stipe
- Jae Stutzman by phone - K5JAE
- Ted Van Den Heuvel - KX5P

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

President's Letter

Field Day is coming up. We have a General class and exam session this week. HamCom is next month. Lots going on.

Meetings/Events

This month's meeting, we'll be talking up HamCom. This weekend, Rains County is holding its first ever tailgate hamfest Saturday in Emory on the courthouse square. Our General Class license session coming begins May 9 at 6 PM. If you need to upgrade, don't miss this chance. The question pool changes July 1.

Audie Murphy Day is Saturday May25, and we are working with SVARA to put Special Events Station W5A on the air at the museum. We'll be busy. Come out and work the pile-ups. This is bound to be a popular event. We should consider running two HF stations, one on 40 and one on 20 meters for the duration of the event. We'll set up in the morning at the museum and start making QSO's at noon. It will run to the end of the day. SVARA will be setting up their communications trailer in the morning at a theater downtown and making HF contacts when the festivities kick off in the morning downtown. We will be responsible for setting up the station at the museum to be in operation for the afternoon.

After the "gavel falls" on this coming meeting, there are only one more meeting until Summer Field Day. We've done some planning. Please sign up to operate. Tech's: We'll have plenty of control ops if you'd like to try your hand at HF phone.

Let us know what activities you'd like to do. We absolutely want to do whatever the members want to try. It won't be without you having to put in some work. But everything we've done so far that I have participated in has been a lot of fun and very rewarding.

Make a 5 or 10-minute talk about what's going on in your part of the hobby and show it off at the meeting. We'd love to hear what's up. Remember you get an extra ticket for the end of year drawing when you present a program at a regular monthly meeting.

Club Projects

AIRWAVES



The Airport Avionics folks have taken down our HF antenna from the fire hall. It had suffered some kind of failure, probably due to high winds and was in danger of falling. We need to repair it and perhaps put it up on the trailer at the MSTF.

Elmering/mentoring : 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.

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, then MFARC gets a "cut".

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

Green Tag Your HT

Each year, I get the question about how to go about obtaining a green tag for your HT. According to company policy D1301 Rev H dated March 5, 2019, there are things an employee cannot bring into the plant. Radio Transmitters that have recording capability are not allowed into the plant. Transmitters that cannot record are also not permitted, except when authorized, D1301 Rev H Section 4.3 under "TRANSMITTERS (I.E. WIRELESS HEADSETS, HANDHELD WALKIE TALKIES)". Furthermore, if a device is authorized to bring into the plant, it must be attached to a green tag that identifies it as an "approved" device. The tag must remain on the device at all times. You might have seen green tags attached to a camera. That is because cameras are not allowed, except they are "authorized".

So, how does one get "authorization" and obtain a green tag? This article will explain the process so you can obtain authorization and a green tag to attach to your handi-talkie.

STEP 1: Obtain the FCC ID Certificate of Equipment Authorization for your device. This is usually done on the FCC site: <https://apps.fcc.gov/oetcf/eas/reports/GenericSearch.cfm> by entering the grantee code and the product code, which make up the **FCC ID number** found on the label of your radio. Take for instance, Kenwood. The FCC ID for a TH-D74A is K44440900. The Grantor Code is the first three characters, "**K44**". The Product Code is the remainder, "**440900**". You might have to play around with it to obtain your certificate. Download the TCB certificate by clicking the "**Display Grant**" check next to your model. Be aware, amateur devices are never FCC Type certified for part 97. That is because we can build our own radios. Most likely, your radio will be covered by another type, such as a scanning



receiver, or in the case of the TH-D74A, a part 15 certification for Bluetooth. Don't worry, that's not what the Frequency Manager/Coordinator is looking for.

FCC > FCC E-filing > EAS > Authorization Search

Equipment Authorization Search

Application Information:

[Grantee Code:](#) (First three or five characters of FCCID)

[Product Code:](#) Exact Match (Remaining characters of FCCID)

[Applicant Name:](#)

[Final Action Date Range \(mm/dd/yyyy\):](#) to

[Grant Comments:](#)

[Application Purpose:](#)

[Software Defined Radios:](#)

3 results were found that match the search criteria:
Grantee Code: **K44** Product Code: **440900**

Displaying records 1 through 3 of 3.

| View Form | Display Exhibits | Display Grant | Display Correspondence | Applicant Name | Address | City | State | Country | Zip Code | FCC ID | Applic Purpose |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| | Detail Summary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | JVC KENWOOD Corporation | Communications Systems Division 1-16-2, Hakusan, Midori-ku | Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken | N/A | Japan | N/A | K44440900 | Original Equipm |
| | Detail Summary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | JVC KENWOOD Corporation | Communications Systems Division 1-16-2, Hakusan, Midori-ku | Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken | N/A | Japan | N/A | K44440900 | Original Equipm |
| | Detail Summary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | JVC KENWOOD Corporation | Communications Systems Division 1-16-2, Hakusan, Midori-ku | Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken | N/A | Japan | N/A | K44440900 | Original Equipm |

[Perform Search Again](#)

STEP 2: Complete the “Part 97 Device – Frequency Management Approval” form.

STEP 3: Email both the completed form and the FCC Equipment Authorization to the Frequency Manager/Coordinator here at L3.

STEP 4: Receive an “approval” email.

The Frequency Manager/Coordinator usually will reply to you with the approval as well as include the Facilities Security POC likewise. The Facility Security POC will usually forward the email, again, to other security POCs to announce approval.

STEP 5: Take the “approval” email and your radio to Security. Once at the security front desk, you will request a green tag to be attached to the radio. They will direct you to the proper point of contact to get that done.

STEP 6: Email your green tag number to the Frequency Manager/Coordinator for her records.

If you need the “Part 97 Device – Frequency Management Approval” or the POC for the Frequency Manager/Coordinator, please request via email to editor@w5nni.net and I will send them to you.

When operating your radio inside the plant, always be mindful of your Amateur Radio responsibilities not to cause interference with any other devices. We would not want to impede any of the valuable

work being done here, and we would not want to lose our ability to bring radios into the plant because of improper use by even one person. So, please be mindful of where you are and how much power you need.

Why would an amateur radio operator want to bring his HT onto the job site with him? If you are Skywarn trained, you will understand why. Storms can hit at any time, even when you are at work. The Ham Radio motto is “When all else fails, there is Amateur Radio”.

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Amateur Radio in Space Pioneer Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, SK *ARRL.org April 15, 2019*

The US astronaut who pioneered the use of Amateur Radio to make contacts from space — Owen K. Garriott, W5LFL — died April 15 at his home in Huntsville, Alabama. He was 88. Garriott’s ham radio activity ushered in the formal establishment of Amateur Radio in space, first as SAREX — the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, and later as ARISS — Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

“Owen Garriott was a good friend and an incredible astronaut,” fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin tweeted. “I have a great sadness as I learn of his passing today. Godspeed Owen.”

An Oklahoma native, Garriott — an electrical engineer — spent 2 months aboard the Skylab space station in 1973 and 10 days aboard Spacelab-1 during a 1983 Space Shuttle Columbia mission. It was during the latter mission that Garriott thrilled radio amateurs around the world by making the first contacts from space. Thousands of hams listened on 2-meter FM, hoping to hear him or to make a contact. Garriott ended up working stations around the globe, among them such notables as the late King Hussein, JY1, of Jordan, and the late US Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. He also made the first CW contact from space. Garriott called hamming from space “a pleasant pastime.”



Owen Garriott, W5LFL, in the 1980s. (Courtesy of ARISS)

“I managed to do it in my off-duty hours, and it was a pleasure to get involved in it and to talk with people who are as interested in space as the 100,000 hams on the ground seemed to be,” he said in an interview published in the February 1984 edition of QST. “So, it was just a pleasant experience, the hamming in particular, all the way around.”

Although Garriott had planned to operate on ham radio during his 10 days in space, no special provisions were made on board the spacecraft in terms of equipment — unlike the situation today on the International Space Station. Garriott simply used a hand-held transceiver with its antenna in the window of Spacelab-1. His first pass was down the US West Coast.

“[A]s I approached the US, I began to hear stations that were trying to reach me,” he told QST. “On my very first CQ, there were plenty of stations responding.” His first contact was with Lance Collister, WA1JXN, in Montana.



ARRL Representative Rosalie White, K1STO, met Garriott when he attended Hamvention, “both times, sitting next to him at Hamvention dinner banquets,” she recounted. “Once when he was a Special Achievement Award winner, and once with him and [his son] Richard when Richard won the 2009 Special Achievement Award. Owen was unassuming, very smart, kind, and up to date on the latest technology.” Garriott shared a Hamvention Special Achievement Award in 2002 with fellow Amateur Radio astronaut Tony England, W0ORE.

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, was a private space traveler to the ISS, flown there by the Russian Federal Space Agency, and he also carried ham radio into space.

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Are Ham Radio Clubs Dying?

April 10, 2019 K5CLM

Hey everybody and welcome back to Everything Ham Radio. This month I was able to go back to my ham club meeting for the first time in about three years. The last time I went to a meeting, we had about 10! people in attendance, which wasn't great to begin with. This month when I went, I walked into two people at the meeting and another that joined us a little bit later.

It's really sad to see our membership dying like it. When we started the club in 1995, we started with about 20 people and at our peak around 2000, we had about 35 members. However, ever since then it has slowly gone downhill until now we have only a handful of people that attend our meetings it seems.

Life gets in the way

I realize that in today's world, life gets in the way of extra-curricular activities like a ham club meeting. People have to work, like I have for the past three years, people have families and of course they come first, or people just flat out forget

This meeting made me wonder if this is happening just to our club or if it is a common thing around the world. So off to begin my research I went.

What I found was kind of disturbing. It seems like a lot of clubs are dying out or dwindling in number at the very least.

Some people said that politics have ruined their club; Some say it's egos. Others say that their meeting are just so boring and that nothing is ever done except business meeting type stuff and complaining.

I even saw a post of Reddit that a guy posted that said he found a local ham radio club that had an awesome website and he was able to join it online. He paid the \$75 member-ship fee and a couple weeks later he went to the meeting online to find a couple people there that told him that the club dissolved a few months prior.

So what do those that are thriving have that other clubs don't? What should your club do to maximize attendance and/or participation and to help your club grow and thrive?

1. Have Fun



Source: Miller County ARC

I hear so often and have experienced it first hand, that club meeting are of-ten boring. Several club meeting that I have been to is majority business meeting related or a butt chewing session on things that weren't done right in a previous event. This is honestly what has cause me to stop going to some meeting that I use to go to.

When people have a hobby, they do it because they want to have fun in their lives. In our everyday lives we work, take care of our kids, take care of our house and sleep. Often times that is what the majority of our time is spent doing.

We want to do a hobby that is fun. By making a meeting about that hobby boring or counter productive of that fun, it causes people to not want to come to them anymore.

Rather than dragging out your club meeting with business type stuff, make that part of it as short as possible. Let your officers and board members take care of the majority of your business part of the meeting at another time. If there is something that has to be put before the club, do it quickly either at the beginning of the meeting or at the end.

Do presentations, hands on building things, or other items of interest to the members of your club. Get them involved and enjoying themselves, make them laugh and excited to try something new.

2. Give Your Members What They Want

When your club is planning out their presentation/training schedules and booking people to come and talk to your club, make sure that it is something that your club members will be interested in. If they are not, or if it is too technical, they might get up part way through and leave.

How to you find out what your club members like?

You have to stay attuned to your membership. Listen to what your members are saying, ask them what kind of aspects of the hobby they are interested in, what they like to do, etc. Give a questionnaire or a poll to your members asking them what they like or would like to learn about.

When you have someone come to your club to give some training, have your members rating the speaker and the topic. Not only will this help the speaker to learn about his/her presentation and what he/she can do to change it and make it better, but it will also tell the club leadership how the club feels about that topic.

Let's say that someone comes to your club to talk about Fox Hunting? You give the evaluation forms to your membership and the results you get back are all positive and many say that they would like to learn more about it. Congratulations, you just opened up two events/training topics for two more meetings.



AIRWAVES



In your next meeting you could build antennas to use in fox hunting. Then in the following meeting you could actually go out and do it.

Better yet, your club could meet up on a weekend that is not your regular meeting time, spend time together outside of an official meeting and do some fox hunting. This kills two birds with one stone really. One, it provides a couple fun activities for your members to do and two, it gets your membership together somewhere other than your club meeting.

3. Promote Fellowship



Source: Hawaii Blog – Koolau ARC

This brings us to number 3, promote fellow-ship! Having just a single meeting a month and nothing else is often a recipe for your club to slowly die. Remember number one, Have Fun? Having unofficial get-togethers other than your official meeting can bring your members together for something fun.

Maybe it is just a get together at a coffee shop or a restaurant for breakfast. Doing something like this breeds camaraderie among your members and provides a fun time for them. Maybe have a potluck lunch once a month where everyone brings some food and their family and everyone just sits, eats and talks.

Workbees. Yea I know work doesn't sound like fun, but it can be. If you have a fellow ham needing help putting up a tower, mounting their antennas, installing radios, whatever, this brings hams together and they have fun together.

Even a basic concept of this topic, being friendly to new members or perspective members that come to your meet-ings. Go to them and introduce yourself, ask them about themselves and what they like to do, be friendly. Don't be the type of club that just allows new people to come into the room and be lost as to what they are supposed to do, where they are suppose to sit, etc, and then put them on the spot without notice during your meeting asking them to introduce themselves.

This often times puts them in an uncomfortable position from the get go and then you might not learn very much about them, so get up and introduce yourself before the meeting start, get to know them a little bit and maybe even tell them, "we have everybody introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting so everyone knows who everyone is."

4. Recruit New Members

New members is a key component of making sure your club will survive. I have been to several club meetings where the members have been there forever and there is very few new members. This also leads to the club becoming stagnant and people getting set in their ways.



There is nothing I hate worse than hearing people say, “this is the way we have always done it” I have seen many new people come into a club and suggest something or make a recommendation and other club members reject it without thought and say something like that.

Source: KB6NU.com

Don’t be set in your ways so hard that you can’t have an open mind to new ideas. This is often a major reason why a new member doesn’t return after a few months.

Do ham Radio License classes and testing sessions. Giving a class once or twice a year often leads to new members joining your club. You might even offer the first years membership for free with the class. This will allow the new ham to be a new member and try your club out at no additional cost to them.

After you give a class or a test, make sure you have someone follow up with the new ham to answer any questions they might have. Elmering is a must in this hobby, if a new ham feels like they have no idea what they are doing and has no one to help them, they will quit the hobby as fast as they got into it.

5. Tap Into The Talent Of Your Club



**Volunteers
Needed**

This also means that the older members of the club need to stay abreast of all different aspects of the hobby. I’m. It saying that everyone needs to know every aspect of the hobby, but you should have a pool of people to pull from that know about different things.

That is one thing that makes this hobby so great! There is so much to do in this hobby other than just talking on the radio, but if everyone in your club doesn’t nothing else but talk on the radio then no one will be able to answer a new hams question about something else.

Along those same lines, know what your members like to do and use that for your club. If someone is good at using APRS or Mesh Networks, use them to give a training session to your club. If one member enjoys it, maybe others will as well. This also promotes fellowship among your members because they may get together outside of your meeting and work on something together.

Every club needs certain things. Things like a website or a social media presence, a newsletter, someone to help maintain equipment, etc. Tap into the talents of your members to do things like this. Don’t shame them into doing it because that will often make ill feelings or things not go the best that they can. Tell your membership what the needs of the club are and often times someone will step forward.

AIRWAVES



6. Have A Good Newsletter

There is an old saying that says, “If it was not wrote down, it didn’t happen”. Use this to your advantage! Put out a monthly newsletter telling your membership about things that are going on in your club or things that are coming up. You can even put your meeting minutes in your newsletter and send it out the week prior to your meeting. This way everyone will be able to read through them and it doesn’t have to be read through during the meeting.



Not only will your club newsletter act as a way for members to know what happened at the last meeting, but it can also serve as a reminder for your next meeting or an upcoming event.

A good newsletter is something that every club should have. Often times, a newsletter is the only tangible thing that a member will get for their membership, so make sure it is good. Finding someone to make sure it is good can often be a hard thing to do, but even a novice newsletter editor can get a lot of good information to put into it fairly easy, especially with the internet!

Many hams have blogs that, if you ask the author, I’m sure would let your editor use an article from their blog in your newsletter. Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, has an email list that your newsletter editor can sign up for to get a monthly newsletter article. [Here is the link to sign up for it.](#)

7. Social Media



Social media plays such a significant ripe in our lives today that a club NEEDS to have a social media presence. Get your club on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and even possibly YouTube.

I personally would recommend being on at least Facebook and Instagram. Having a Facebook page and/or group for your club is a good way of keeping the membership up to date with the things going on in the club. You could put your newsletter on there, other articles, event notifications, and just general questions or comments.

Much like a newsletter though, finding someone to volunteer to take on this responsibility and do it well will be the most challenging part.

AIRWAVES



8. Staying Active!

There is no substitute for staying active whether in life or in a ham club. A monthly meeting is no substitute for other events that your club can and should do. Things like special event stations, camping trips, picnics, antenna parties, breakfast or lunch get-togethers, etc.

Your club should provide many different avenues for your membership to get involved. This like Field Day is a great example of this. Field day and other special events like this allows your members to work together for a common goal,



Source: W6TRW ARC

spend time together outside of the meeting, and most importantly have fun! This also allows new hams that only have a Technician License to get on the HF frequencies and get their feet wet. This could even lead to a testing exam or class that your club could put on.

Events like this also give the hobby and your club exposure to the public, which could potentially lead to new members getting their license and joining your club.

So, there are my top 8 things to help your club keep from dying. Do you have a tip that you can share, write it in the comment below.

Thanks for stopping by today. If you like what you have seen on my YouTube channel or read on my blog and would like to know how you can give your support, check out the [Support page!](#) You can make a one-time donation through Paypal, become a contributor through Patreon or shop on Amazon through my affiliate link.

If you have not done so already, please subscribe to my site so that you will receive emails when I publish a new post or podcast episode. It's super easy! Just fill out the form [on the webpage—link below]:

Once you click on the Sign Me Up button, you will get an email from me with a link that you will need to click on. Once you click on that link, you will start receiving emails from me. I hate spam as much as anyone does, so I promise you that I will not sell or rent your email address to anyone!

AIRWAVES



Also, check me out on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Until next time...



73 de Curtis, K5CLM

K5CLM

Creator and Owner of Everything Ham Radio

Owner of 2xC Products at 2xcproducts.com

<http://www.everythinghamradio.com>

Reprinted with permission by Curtis Mohr – K5CLM

Mentorfest 2019 Hailed as a Success

April 27th was of course Mentorfest, and while I had never attended before.

I was told by many that the turn out looked better than last year, at times it was a bit crowded, but in a comfy way.

As the new Section manager, I relied entirely on Bill Caldwell AC5BC and his team to get Mentorfest ready.

Bill did not disappoint, he and his crew did a Fantastic job !!!

Jay Urish, W5GM was also a huge help in ensuring that Mentorfest went off without a hitch,

Jay, Thank You and congratulations on your new job !

After everyone left for the day, Bill and I chatted for a bit

We both realize Mentorfest 2020 needs to be even bigger and better, it will be.

Join in on the conversation at <https://arrlntx.groups.io/g/mentorfest>

on what you loved and what you would like to see done a bit different at Mentorfest next year.

We want your suggestions and Feedback !

Written by Steven Lott Smith – KG5VK

AIRWAVES



Congratulations to our newest Ham

Just found out today, Monday, May 6th, that Mike Garcia – KI5E00 got his ticket in the FCC Database! He had taken and passed the Element 2 exam on Thursday, April 18th. Congratulations to Mike and I hope everyone gets a chance to chat with him on the air!

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Calendar

- May 9 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Kitty Hawk at 11:45am.
- May 11 Emory Tailgate Hamfest at the courthouse square in Emory. <http://w5ent.org>
- May 11 Rains County ARC Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- May 21 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Jun 7 HamCom Plano, TX <http://www.hamcom.org>
- Jun 8-10 ARRL June VHF Contest <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>
- Jun 15 ARRL Kids Day <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>
- Jun 22-23 ARRL FIELD DAY

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
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(254) 644-6465 cell
- Vice President:** David Rogers – KG5KPU
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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.