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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 05/09/2019

- Meeting was called to order @ 1148

Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for April's meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves". There were no corrections reported.
- Treasurer Report delivered by John Nelson – W7JOY. \$1831.41 balance to start April. After \$70.00 in dues received for April and with no expenses, the new balance is now \$1891.49.
- President Larry Smith – K5XB reports he is still the president.

Subcommittee Reports

- Repeater updates.
 - W5ZIT is in town. He brings a new software upgrade for our Pi-Star repeater, which will give us a squelch tail when using analog mode. We are also hoping to get the internet situated as well.
- Field Day Committee
 - Somebody is needed to pick up generator from WB0TEV before F.D. Scott – AG5QQ and David – KG5PKU both agreed to pick up the generator the Monday or so before.
 - David – KG5PKU agreed to call M&M portable toilet to make the necessary arrangements. They never invoiced us from last year.
 - The Museum staff have confirmed our presence for that weekend.
- HF Station Committee
 - The HF and UHF antennae are both removed from the fire station and telephone pole at the fire station. The antennae are currently at the trailer ready to be dismantled and cleaned up for reuse.
- Elmering
 - Larry – K5XB reports that our Elmering program worked well after the last exam session. We will be restarting it again after the General exam this weekend.

Upcoming Events

- List of upcoming monthly club meetings, hamfests and contests were presented.

AIRWAVES



- Emory Tailgate hamfest is this Saturday.
- May 25 is our Audie Murphy Day special event station in joint participation with SVARA.

Old Business

- General Class starts tonight through Saturday. We could use teachers for this.
- Discussion about Dwight D. Eisenhower's Birthday, Oct 14th and special event station.
- Audie Murphy Day special event station W5A is setup with cooperation with SVARA.
 - SVARA will operate out of their trailer at the F. Warren Civic Center in the morning.
 - MFARC will operate out at the Museum in the afternoon till 6pm.
 - HF on 20m and 40m / SSB only? Not much discussion.

New Business

- No new business

Presentations

- N/A.

Attendees

- Meeting adjourned @ 1220.
- Mike Garcia – K15E00
- Darryl Hahn – KG5KPX
- Grayson Helmreich
- Scott Joseph – AG5QQ
- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
- Kirk Lieder – K15BSH
- Joe Lum – KE5ZBL
- John Nelson - W7JOY
- Victor Paul - WB0TEV (by phone)
- David Rogers - KG5KPU
- Chris Rutz - K5RTZ
- Larry Smith - K5XB
- Wesley Sparks – WS5GPA
- Ted Van Den Heuvel - KX5P

Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

President's Letter

Field Day is coming up. HamCom was this weekend.

Meetings/Events

This month's meeting, we'll be talking about HamCom which is June 7 and 8 (Friday and Saturday). I hope you have (or had, depending on when you read this,) a chance to go. The forums this year sound informative and entertaining. If you need to upgrade to General, you have a chance at HamCom. This weekend, Rains County will have one more chance on June 13th about 7:30PM at the Rains EOC. The question pool changes July 1. Speaking of Rains County, their first ever tailgate hamfest was last month in Emory on the courthouse square. It rained and rained, but it was still fairly well attended, considering the bad weather. They were encouraged enough to want to try it again next year. Probably inside, though.

AIRWAVES



Audie Murphy Day was Saturday May 25. We worked with SVARA to put Special Events Station W5A. We were on the air at the museum. The QSO count was a little disappointing but the propagation was not all that good. So, we did what we could and we'll count it a success. The museum folks seemed happy with our support.

This coming meeting will be the last one before Summer Field Day. We've done some planning. We need to finalize that. 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

We need to set up a work day to repair the HF antenna. It had suffered some kind of failure, probably due to high winds and was in danger of falling off the fire hall. It's been moved to 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

A New Call for Michael – K15E00

Michael Garcia, a new member of the MFARC, is now sporting a new callsign. You'll now hear him on the club repeater answering to **K5FMG**. Both Michael – K5FMG and Chris – K5RTZ frequent the repeater around 1600-1630 on work nights. If more people call in, we'll have to organize a NET to



manage all of that repeater traffic, hi hi. So, when you see Michael – congratulate him on his new call. And if you’re heading home, check in to the W5NNI repeater. If we can get more folks to check-in, maybe we’ll start a log here on the AirWaves of what’s happening with folks in the club.

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

MFARC Bank Statement for May

Beginning balance:	\$1,891.49
CHK 1042 to K5MDK	\$ 108.97
- \$68.97 Website domains 3 years W5NNI.net and W5NNI.org by BigRock	
- \$40.00 Posters boards for club classes by Office Solutions	
K5JAE Dues	\$ 10.00
KG5KPX Dues	\$ 10.00
New balance:	\$1,802.52

Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY

MFARC, SVARA and Audie Murphy Day Celebration

Great Weather, Great attendance, and Murphy’s Law (the *other* Murphy, not Audie)

On Saturday, May 25th, the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum held its annual celebration to honor one of America’s most recognizable war heroes, Captain Audie Murphy. Split between two venues, organizers welcomed over 200 guests to both the Fletcher Memorial Civic Center, and the museum. The event featured guest speakers, movies, and memorabilia. And, for the first time, the two local HAM radio clubs –MFARC and SVARA- came together to assist with the festivities.

The game plan had the folks at SVARA setting up shop at the Fletcher Memorial Civic Center at 8am (utilizing their mobile HF/VHF/UHF trailer), and the members of MFARC arriving at the museum at 9am to set up three stations –two for HF and one for VHF. Both clubs would make their portable “shacks” available for the public to use (under proper supervision, of course).

Devlin Kirchman N5HB), one of the SVARA members who coordinated their efforts at the Fletch, said that things went according to plan. They had everything set up and “made some contacts, interacted with a lot people, and even discussed setting up a class and exam with some people out at Club Lake,” according to Kirchman. All-in-all, the SVARA effort went without a hitch. And, they managed to do some good outreach, hopefully licensing some new hams. A win-win for SVARA.

While everyone’s hearts and minds were on the memory of one of America’s most decorated combat veterans and dedicated soldiers (Audie had his sister falsify documents so he could join the Army as an underage minor), that other famous Murphy, the one with that pesky law that says “if something can go wrong, it will,” was also present and accounted for. Yes, indeed...that Murphy reported for duty in a freshly pressed uniform, ready for action.

AIRWAVES



The goal of MFARC was to be on the air at 1pm, when festivities at the museum were set to begin. They would employ two 43ft verticals for 20m and 40m, and a mast and rotor with beams for 6m and 2m. A 1,000 watt amp (turned down to about 500 watts for safety reasons) for the 20m station and a 150 watt amp for the 2m station were to be employed to “amplify the fun.”

The MFARC effort kicked off with a 7:30am phone call from MFARC Social Media director Scott Joseph (AG5QQ), indicating he would be a bit late. It seems his “significant other” Debbie had sustained some tire damage on the way to his house that morning. No problem. Tow truck on the way. Tire will be fixed. A minor setback. They will be on their way shortly. Debbie’s tire was casualty numero uno.

The plan (remember that other guy named Murphy?) was for Scott to set up a mast with a 6m and 2m beam, with a 150 watt amp. Powerful stuff for a portable op.

Then came the second phone call from Scott: “My *&%^@\$^ antenna is in the middle of I-30; I ain’t &^\$#\$\$ gonna make it. God hates me.” It would seem that divine forces conspired against Scott (and his SO, Debbie), and removed his 6m beam from the back of his truck at 75mph. Even if the antenna had survived the “de-planing” as the flight attendants call it, it was not able to survive the pounding that happened after the car behind Scott ran over the antenna at Tejas freeway speeds. Scott’s antenna was casualty numero dos.

Fortunately, Larry (K5XB), David (KG5KPU), Hommy (KG5SKP) and two new members, Michael Garcia – K5FMG and Curt King – KI5DZL, did not “de-plane” their vehicles at Tejas freeway speeds, and were at the museum, setting up the two HF stations. Things were proceeding according to plan. Until...there was a loud “snap” and disgruntled groans coming from the direction of Larry and the two new members. The tip of the fiberglass mast used to support the 43ft vertical (to be used on 20m) had lodged in the ground as they were trying to raise it. Up went the mast, but the tip stayed stuck in the ground. SNAP!!! Casualty numero tres.

But, all was not lost. With some electrical tape and pieces of a plastic cutting board (why were there pieces of a cutting board laying around?), the team was able to make some stints, bandage the wound, and get the antenna up and operational. Audie would have been proud of their Field Medic abilities.

The effort to setup the other 43ft vertical (to be used on 40m) went without a hitch. From start to finish, the antenna was up and operational in about an hour. Within a minute of being operational, the 40m station made 2 contacts and had a pile up. But, the sound of snapping fiberglass re-focused the team’s efforts.

And, it turns out, it was a good thing it was only going to be used for 40m; it would not tune on 20m. Not even close. Post-event analysis determined that the coax used to run from the radio to the antenna was very close to being a multiple of 1/4w on 20m. That may be the reason the antenna would not tune, as harmonics may have been wreaking havoc with the tuner.

Despite the flotsam flying from Scott’s truck, the “snap, crackle, and pop” of breaking fiberglass, and antennas that wouldn’t tune, the MFARC effort at the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum was an absolute success. 64 contacts on 20m and 4 each contacts on 40m, now in the books. Lessons learned that can be applied to future events. The folks who participated had fun. And, most importantly, the two local HAM radio clubs –MFARC and SVARA- proved they can work together and provide a valuable service to the Greenville community.

Field Day, Crosstalk, RFI and a Possible Remedy

Recently, the issue of crosstalk and RFI/EMI has become more debilitating to our multi-op capabilities during portable events. At Winter Field Day at the Emory EOC, for instance, the RFI from 40m made 20m unusable. Similarly, at the recent Audie Murphy Day, 40m was rendered useless anytime the 20m meter station keyed up. Obviously, we needed to address the issue for all future events where we would be running multiple stations.

In an effort to mitigate RFI/EMI between our stations, I have developed a two-pronged approach. One of them is quite simple, while the other is slightly more complicated, but also more effective.

As a simple remedy that will reduce –but, not eliminate- interference, I have built coaxial stub notch filters. Using a “T” connector, a stub can be placed in parallel with the coax running from the radio to the antenna. There will be 2 stubs available to swap out, as needed; one stub will provide approximately 21db to 23db of attenuation across the 20m band, while the other can be used to provide approximately 21db to 24db of attenuation across the 40m band.

In a less-than-scientific test at the home shack, I found a signal on 14.260Mhz. The operator was consistently registering an S9+10, with outstanding audio. When the 20m notch stub was placed in parallel with the transmission coax, the audio was detectable but barely audible. Signal strength went down to an S2. There was a definite reduction in signal and audio presence.



On a more complex level, I am hoping to receive 2 bandpass filters from Array Solutions on or about the 17th of June (in time for Field day). They will cover the 20m and 40m bands. As stand-alone units, each filter will provide anywhere from 60db to 70db of signal rejection of unwanted bands,



while suffering a mere .3db of insertion loss. In and of itself, this should provide substantial RFI/EMI relief.

In addition, I have built individual notch stubs that can be used in conjunction with the bandpass filters. The increased attenuation is expected to be between 80db and 90db. With signal rejection that profound, our RFI/EMI issues should be practically eliminated.

In a move that may be summed up as “overly optimistic,” I also built 1 stub for 10m, just in case the band opens up. That stub provides almost 32db of attenuation at 28.400Mhz.

As we move towards Field Day, we can go into the event knowing that we will have at least 2 options to combat interference issues. And, as we move forward, we can expand the range and number of our filters, allowing us to operate more stations in close proximity..

AIRWAVES



Jonathan Padon - WB5WNF Alaska Cruise Inverted V

Here is a pic from WB5WNF during his Alaska Cruise, an Inverted V at Carcross, Yukon. It was a tri-band Inverted V. Thanks for sharing a glimpse of your Alaska trip with us!



Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Calendar

- Jun 8-10 ARRL June VHF Contest <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>
- Jun 8 Rains County ARC Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Jun 13 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Kitty Hawk at 11:45am.
- Jun 15 ARRL Kids Day <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>
- Jun 18 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Jun 22-23 ARRL FIELD DAY
- Jul 13-14 IARU HF World Championship <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>
- Jun 20 Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm
- Jul 26 Ham Holiday 2019, Oklahoma City, OK, <https://hamholiday.com>
- Sep 28-30 TX QSO Party, <http://www.txqp.net/>
- Oct 5 HamEXPO Fall 2019, Belton, TX, <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>

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

Thurs QRP Fox Hunt http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

Officers

President: Larry Smith – K5XB
president@w5nni.net
(254) 644-6465 cell

Vice President: David Rogers – KG5KPU
vice-president@w5nni.net
(972) 408-6573 cell

Secretary: Scott Davis – KK7JS
secretary@w5nni.net

Treasurer: John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW
treasurer@w5nni.net
(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.