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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 06/13/2019

- Meeting was called to order @ 1145

Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for May meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves".
- Treasury Report (we're in the black).

Subcommittee Reports

- Internet connection at the club trailer was tested and is in working order.

Upcoming Events

- HamCom at Plano convention center was a great success.
- Listed upcoming hamfests and contests.

Old Business

- Need one more technician level class/exam for 2019.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower SES.

New Business

- FIELD DAY – plans to have station at Audie Murphy Museum shelved. Will join Rains County ARC at county EOC for joint effort.

Presentations

- Notch Filters.

Attendees

- Meeting adjourned @ 1200.
- Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD
- Scott Davis – K5PS

AIRWAVES



- Scott Joseph – AG5QQ
- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
- Curtis King – KI5DZL
- Kirk Lieder – K5KCL
- John Nelson - W7JOY
- Victor Paul - WB0TEV (by phone)
- David Rogers - KG5KPU
- Chris Rutz - K5RTZ
- Jose Santiago – KG5SKR
- Larry Smith - K5XB
- Ted Van Den Heuvel - KX5P

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

MFARC Bank Statement for June

Beginning balance: \$1,802.52

 No expenses or income this month

New balance: \$1,802.52

Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY

President's Letter

We're past half-way this year. Still many good operating opportunities coming.

Meetings/Events

This month's meeting, we'll be talking about how we did at Field Day. I have the logs but I haven't run the report yet. I'll have that by meeting time. I remember we did have 69 CW QSO's and 68 FT-8 QSO's in the log, with a lot more SSB QSO's. We didn't have a lot of you come out and participate but those that did had a good time and at least ate well! They fed us pretty well at the Rains County EOC. We had a bit of excitement as well, as the generator's water pump suffered massive failure about hour 21, and we had to switch back to commercial mains. Since we were running in Class F, Commercial main power is OK and the generator only has to be tested. Well, we tested it alright! One of the goals of the EOC was to prove the big generator there could sustain operations for a full 24 hours, and they found out it could not! I understand the new water pump is in and the generator is operational again.

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. Our next planned event is September 14-15, the Texas QSO Party. We'll be operating from Lake Bob Sandlin and we are planning this as a family outing on the lake. David Rogers has the details.

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 at the MSTF trailer. We also need to consider obtaining an IC-7300 to set up remote control HF operations from that site, now that we have internet access fully operational.

AIRWAVES



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

ARRL and IARU are asking for restraint from the Amateur community with regard to the recent proposal from France to re-allocate 144- 146 MHz to the Aeronautical Service. There is a lot of "fake news" revolving around this issue, and ARRL and IARU both suggest not signing any of the petitions now floating in social media, as they contain a majority of inaccurate information, and propagating the inaccuracy will weaken the IARU's efforts to manage this situation at the WRC. For more info you can check out <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/restraint-urged-in-response-to-2-meter-reallocation-proposal>

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

Digital Repeater / Remote HF Station Update

A few details about the digital repeater setup and proposed remote HF station:

1. The digital repeater is fully functional on DMR, DSTAR, and Fusion. The IP address for the dashboard is 76.10.254.244 and it is accessible from remote for anyone who wants to take a peek. It is Pi-star, so there is lots of documentation on what everything means and how to interpret what it's telling you.
2. Our MFARC talk group for DMR is 3110284. Most folks should have that already programmed into their DMR radios. If you have a hot spot, then you can use your talkie from home and it will come out via RF on W5NNI 444.625.
3. With the new digital setup, analog operation of W5NNI on 444.625 PL 151.4 is now completely normal with a standard squelch tail and courtesy tone.
4. 147.16 and 443.9 are still linked and are working well. PL of 100 is required to bring up 147.16. If you want to come in from 443.9, then the same PL of 100 is required to access the link. If you just want to stay on 443.9 and not link to 147.16, then use PL 71.9. Note that no matter what, if you come in on 147.16 PL 100, it is ALWAYS linked to 443.9.

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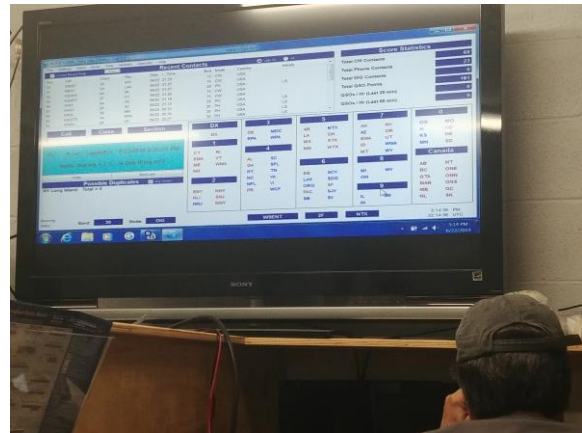
5. DSTAR operation uses reflector XRF310D. That is always being monitored and links with the digital crowd in Tucson, AZ, where W5ZIT monitors. So if you ever have a technical question, don't hesitate to call him a call as he's always listening.
6. I'm not as up to speed on Fusion as the other modes, but that capability is enabled and can be controlled from your fusion radio. I think we are monitoring the Texas room there, but I'm not for sure which number that is.
7. On the remote HF configuration, I'm working with MSTF to see what the art of the possible is as far as a local tower install goes there at the trailer as well as figuring out the process of getting access to the LP and a monopole for special occasions, but just in the talking phases there. Not sure how much work will need to be done to get those connections working. I recommend that the club do some research on MFJ's new RigPi controller that is now available. Thinking about an Icom IC-7300 as the remote radio and some sort of simple Yaesu remote controlled rotor and then a light weight spider beam that will cover the majority of the bands.

Written by Trustee Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD

Field Day - 2019

Field day this year was just that, a Simulated Emergency Test thrown together at the last minute, which is what Field Day is all about. The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club made a last minute decision to join the Rains Amateur Radio Association in Emory, Texas at the EOC building off of Industrial. Those from MFARC included David Rogers – KG5KPU, Scott Davis – K5PS, Hommy Figueroa-Salas – KG5SKP and Larry Smith – K5XB. The event was well attended by both Rains and Majors clubs and many Qs were made with much satisfaction.

Larry Smith – K5XB has shared a couple of pictures from the event.



Pictures by President Larry Smith – K5XB

11-Year Solar cycle explained by interplanetary tidal effects

Our Solar system is a living and breathing organization of planets revolving around our star, the Sun. Just like ocean tides on Earth are motivated by gravitational forces by our Moon, our Sun's 11-year solar cycle may be the result of tidal changes on the surface caused by the gravitational forces of three very influential planets; Venus, Earth and Jupiter. And I only thought Hollywood was the most influential place in the universe! Tidal forces are strongest when there is an alignment of these three planets; a



constellation that occurs every 11.07 years. However, these surface effects don't reach the Sun's interior processes. However, they are finding out that these tides are making a bigger impact than expected before.

The folks at Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf (HZDR), a research institute in Dresden, Germany, have been able to show that the tidal forces of Venus, Earth and Jupiter influence the cycle of solar activity, which resolves one of the bigger questions in solar physics.

"There is an astonishingly high level of concordance: what we see is complete parallelism with the planets over the course of 90 cycles," Frank Stefani, a HZDR researcher, said in a statement. "Everything points to a clock process."

The researchers are starting to see a correlation of all solar events, such as sunspots, solar flares and CMEs, from the last thousand years of planetary alignment information.

With more computer modeling and data in the future, predictions of Solar events may be on the horizon. Eventually, more accurate forecasting of solar events might start to save lives, much like weather forecasting on Earth has done. It is hoped that the integration of solar weather with Earth weather prediction modeling may yield better climate predictions one day.

The study was published on May 22 in the Journal Solar Physics. More information about the study can be found at <https://www.space.com/planets-affect-solar-cycle.html>. The study Announcement can be found at https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-05/hd-tsf052719.php.

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

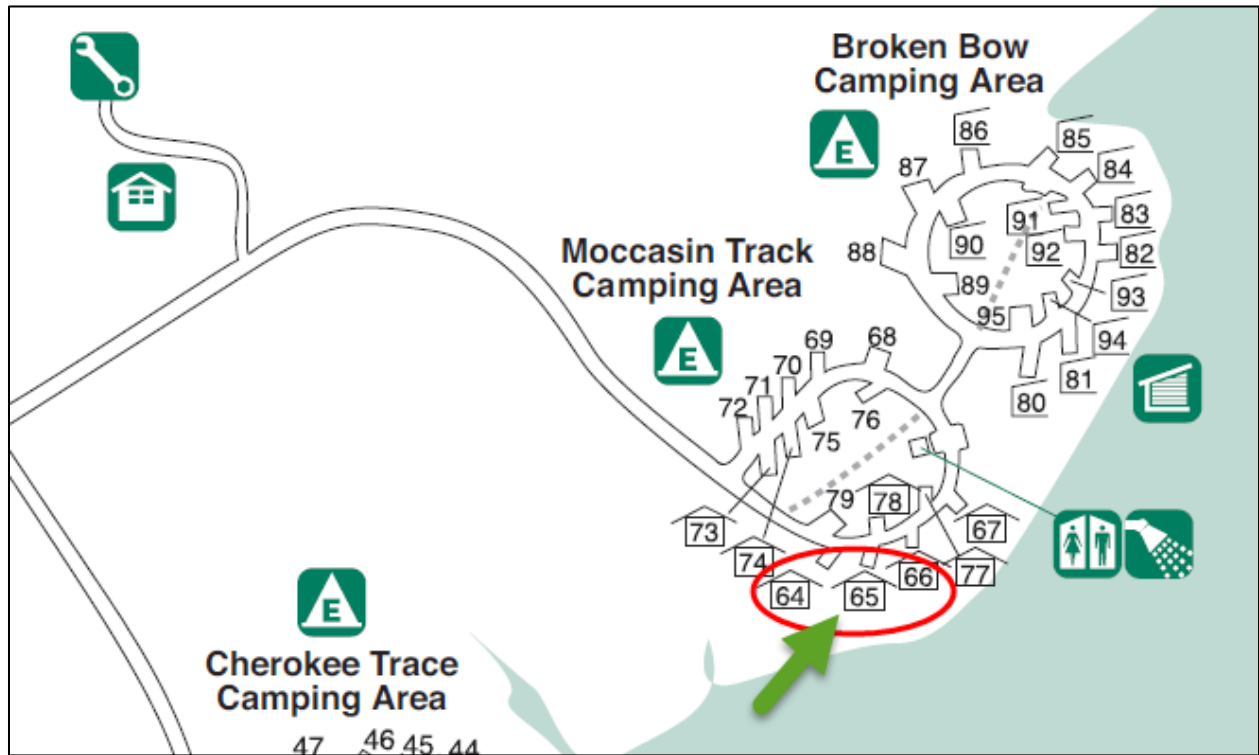
Lake Bob Sandlin – Prospects for Texas QSO Party

The [family] and I went out to Lake Bob Sandlin this weekend to scope out the shelters and see what kind of "stuff" they have for non-hams.

I can report that it seems to have a lot to do for those folks who plan on bringing kids and making either a picnic day out of it, or plan on renting a spot and staying the weekend. Very accessible swimming and fishing areas. A playground for younger kids. And open areas for basketball and volleyball.

As for the HAM aspect...

We rented shelter 65. Shelters 64 and 66 are situated quite conveniently, and the 3 shelters make a nice "compound." So, anyone wanting to make a weekend out of it, look at renting either 64 or 66. All three have lots that go all the way to the lake. The bathroom is very close by (much closer than out usual "shelter 17" at Cooper).



The one drawback is the amount of trees. There are a lot of them. Tons. Putting up a vertical will not be a problem. Getting a dipole up will require some ingenuity; it can be done, but it will take some “thought and planning.” Getting a mast up with a 2m and 6m antenna should be doable –there was space in front of 64 that is open and accessible. Overall, we can certainly have a station or two set up and rolling.

Rating:

Camping/day use for family: A
HAM radio: B-

Written by Vice-President David Rogers – KG5KPU

Is Ham Radio a Hobby, a Utility...or Both?

A Battle Over Spectrum Heats Up

Some think automated radio emails are mucking up the spectrum reserved for amateur radio, while others say these new offerings provide a useful service

Like many amateur radio fans his age, [Ron Kolarik](#), 71, still recalls the “pure magic” of his first ham experience nearly 60 years ago. Lately, though, encrypted messages have begun to infiltrate the amateur bands in ways that he says are antithetical to the spirit of this beloved hobby.

So Kolarik filed a petition, [RM-11831 \[PDF\]](#), to the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposing a rule change to “Reduce Interference and Add Transparency to Digital Data

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Communications.” And as the proposal makes its way through the FCC’s process, it has stirred up heated debate that goes straight to the heart of what ham radio is, and ought to be.

The core questions: Should [amateur radio](#)—and its precious spectrum—be protected purely as a hobby, or is it a utility that delivers data traffic? Or is it both? And who gets to decide?

Since Kolarik filed his petition in late 2018, this debate has engulfed the ham world. Fierce defenders of both sides have filed passionate letters and comments to the FCC arguing their cases.

On one side is Kolarik in Nebraska. In his view, it’s all rather simple: “Transparency is a core part of ham radio,” he says. “And yet, you can find tons of traffic from automatic[ally controlled digital] stations that are extremely difficult to identify, if you can identify them at all, and they cause interference.”

The automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) Kolarik refers to can serve to power services like [Winlink](#), a “global radio email” system.

Overseen and operated by licensed volunteers around the globe, Winlink is funded and guided by the [Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. \(ARSFI\)](#). The service uses amateur and government radio frequencies around the globe to send email messages by radio. Users initiate the transmission through an Internet connection, or go Internet-free and use smart-network radio relays.

On Winlink’s website, the service says it provides its licensed users the ability to send email with attachments, plus messages about their positions, and weather and information bulletins. Representatives of the service say it also allows users to participate in emergency and disaster relief communications.

But Kolarik’s petition argues two points: First, because such messages “are not readily and freely able to be decoded,” the FCC should require all digital codes to use protocols that “can be monitored in entirety by third parties with freely available, open-source software.” Secondly, he wants the rule change to reduce the interference that he says services like Winlink can create between amateur-to-amateur stations—by relegating the often-unattended automatic stations to operate solely on narrower sub-bands.

For the rest of this article, visit IEEE Spectrum at

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/telecom/wireless/is-ham-radio-a-hobby-a-utility-or-both-a-battle-over-spectrum-heats-up>

You can also find out more about the petition from the ARRL website at

[Petition for Rule Making Calls for “Amateur Digital Mode Transparency”](#)

Written by Julianne Pepitone for IEEE Spectrum – Used with permission by Amy Nordrum

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Calendar

- Jul 11 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Kitty Hawk at 11:45am.
- Jul 13-14 IARU HF World Championship <http://www.ari.org/iaru-hf-championship>
- Jul 13 Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Jul 16 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Jul 18 Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm
- Jul 26 Ham Holiday 2019, Oklahoma City, OK, <https://hamholiday.com>
- Aug 3-4 ARRL 222MHz and Up Distance Contest
<http://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>
- Aug 8 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Kitty Hawk at 11:45am.
- Aug 17-18 10 GHz & Up – Round 1 <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>
- Aug 18 RTTY Rookie Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>
- Sep 28-30 TX QSO Party, <http://www.txqo.net/>
- Oct 5 HamEXPO Fall 2019, Belton, TX, <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>
- Oct 25-26 Texoma Hamarama, Ardmore, OK <http://hamarama.org/>

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
- Tues. K5VOM Net at 8:00pm. News Bulletin at 7:30pm, Allstar 49668 - 441.800 (+) – PL 100Hz
- 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

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- 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.