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## Meeting Minutes

### Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 9/12/2019

- Meeting was called to order @ 1145

### Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for August meeting are in the latest edition of “Airwaves”.

### Subcommittee Reports

- Member survey for club members to be conducted.
- Reminder about Technician class to be held at Greenville hospital on November 8-9.

### Upcoming Events

- Brief list of upcoming hamfests and area meetings.
- Victor (WB0TEV/V31VP) and Scott (K5PS/V31CQ) will be on the air from Belize during CQWW RTTY contest.

### Old Business

- Discussion of events for TX QSO party.
  - Victor, WB0TEV will be operating mobile in various counties.
  - Several MFARC members will operate from Lake Bob Sandlin State Park.

### New Business

- N/A.

### Presentations

- N/A.

# AIRWAVES



## Attendees

- Meeting adjourned @ 1215.
- Those in attendance were:

Scott Davis - K5PS  
John Nelson Jr - W7JOY  
Victor Paul - WB0TEV

David Rogers - KG5KPU  
Jose Santiago - KG5SKR  
Larry Smith - K5XB

*Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS*

## MFARC Bank Statement for September

|                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Beginning balance:</b>        | \$1,928.49               |
| CHECK Astron SS-50M Power Supply | <b>\$ 206.70 PENDING</b> |
| <b>New balance:</b>              | \$1,928.49               |

*Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY*

## President's Letter

There are only a little more than two "working months" left in 2019, what with the holidays coming up. Time to start thinking about 2020...

### **Meetings/Events**

The Texas QSO Party at Lake Bob Sandlin was a lot of fun. David has a good write up about that and the Cotton Patch Challenge bike ride in his letter this month. We could have used a few more operators for the Cotton Patch as some of the SAG wagons did not have comms on board. And there were a lot of times, especially on the 75 mile route, where that would have been helpful. Think about joining in next year, on both the QSO Party and Cotton Patch Challenge.

I'm hopeful we'll have the membership poll finished and rolled out by meeting time this month. Even if we miss that deadline, we'll put it out on the social media sites. I hope you'll take the time to respond. The poll will explore what activities you'd like to do, and what you want out of your MFARC membership. We absolutely want to do whatever the members want. It seems a lot of the time we just do what David or I want to. Not because we're trying to monopolize things, but rather we're just not hearing from you. Maybe you like what we're planning...maybe not. Let us know one way or another.

Again, not too early to start thinking about Winter Field Day. Once again Rains County has asked us to help man their EOC for this event. They have the water pump fixed so their big generator is back on line. Which means lots of good clean power...and heat!

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**

The member survey is coming. Please let us know what you want out of MFARC membership.

Elmering/mentoring : We have a Technician licensing opportunity coming up in November 8-9. We need instructors and VE's for that effort. We will continue to build a list of volunteer Elmers.

## **ARRL**

If you join or renew your ARRL membership through MFARC, MFARC gets a "cut". You'll give your ARRL fee to John Nelson. He'll deposit the Club's portion and send ARRL a check for your membership.

See you at the meeting Thursday. Bring a friend, and feel free to bring your lunch. Remember we are in Lawson CR upstairs in Building 111 now.

Larry  
K5XB  
MFARC President

*Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB*

## **Missives and Memorandum from the VP's Cluttered Desk...**

**Tx QSO Party:** Between Larry (K5XB), Hommy (KG5SKP), and myself, we managed to make 72 contacts from Lake Bob Sandlin. Band conditions weren't great, but the "conditions" for making hot dogs and hamburgers was perfect. While we didn't make a ton of contacts, we did have a ton of fun. On top of that, Hommy and I were able to experiment with a few new antennas; Hommy tried out his brand-new, still in the box Comet end-loaded portable dipole. We also set up a Wolf River Coils portable vertical, along with two end-fed antennas (an EmComm II with a 5:1 UnUn and 60ft of wire, and a home brew with a 9:1 UnUn and 74 ft of wire). Larry was using a multi-band trap vertical, combined with his amp, pushing about 500 watts. All-in-all, a good time was had, and we are looking forward to planning a club event for next year's Tx QSO Party. We hope you can join us.

**Speaking of QSO Parties:** This past weekend as the California QSO Party. Holy cow, the bands were hopping. The waterfall on my Icom IC7300 was lit up! Both 20m and 40m were busy...right up until the contest was over. Then, the bands went quiet and my waterfall went dead. Amazing how the bands are dead for weeks...and, suddenly, when there's a contest, the bands come alive. And the funny thing is...not 10 minutes after the contest was over and my waterfall went quiet, two guys were having a QSO on 20m, talking about how bad the band conditions are. Hmmm...10 minutes prior, they were great.

**17 meters:** If contests don't interest you, then one option is to go to 17 meters. That's what I did on Sunday, after I had worked all of the Cali stations on 20m. Since 14Mhz was open, I figured there was a good chance 18Mhz would be open –and, it was. Since contests don't include 17m, you can go up there and have a normal QSO, without any pressure from the contesters. On my 3rd QSO, I chatted with a guy for almost 40 minutes. After bangin' away in the contest, it was nice to have a relaxing conversation.

**Lunchtime Net:** We are a month into our 2 meter Lunchtime Net; the results and been both positive and mixed. We have had as many as 11 people check in. But, this past Thursday, no one checked in.

# AIRWAVES



Remember that you can get your HT Green tagged by security so that you can bring it on the plant. We meet every Thursday at 11:45. Program your radio for 147.160, PL 100.

Cotton Patch Challenge: I must say that this year's Cotton Patch Challenge bicycle race was the best of the best. No check points ran out of supplies, injuries were minimal, comms went without a hitch, and the weather was pleasant. The organizers, along with Devlin Kirchman with SVARA, put on a fantastic race. It is always a pleasure to work with other HAM clubs. We were a bit shorthanded in the comms department, so it would be great to see more of the folks from MFARC volunteer to help. I would like to thank Hommy, Larry, and Michael (K5MDK) from MFARC for helping out, as well as all of the other volunteers.

Pet Peeve: Why oh why do those with higher class licenses set up 1KC off the band's edge and call CQ? I routinely hear guys calling CQ on 14.224. Their signal bleeds over in to the General class portion of the band, but no General can legally respond. I may be missing something, but that strikes me as rude.

That about wraps things up for this month. Remember, key up and call CQ, even if you \*think\* the band is dead. A lot of times, folks are just waiting to hear a call sign...key the mic and let it be yours they hear!

David Rogers (KG5KPU)

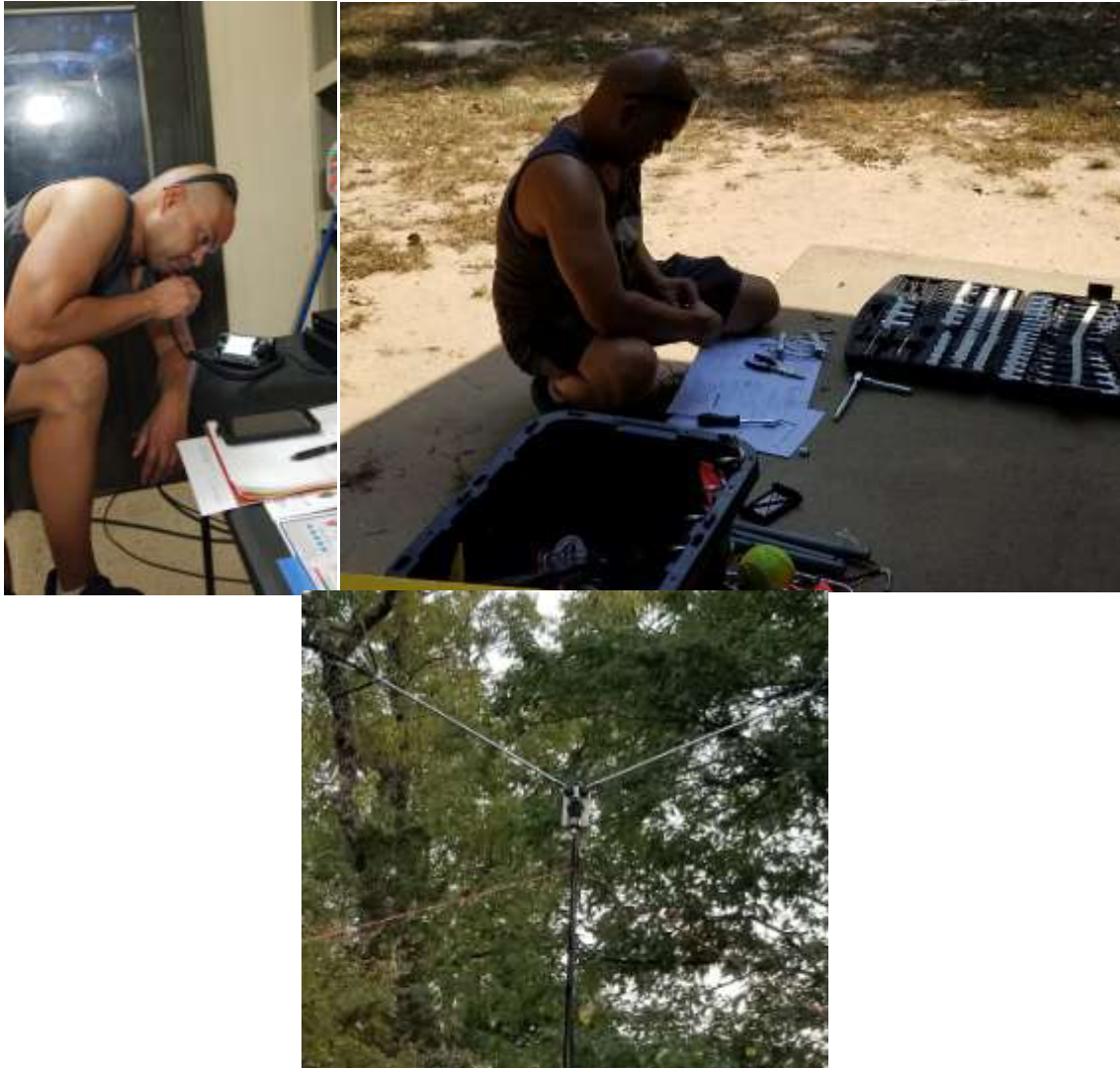
*Written by Vice-President David Rogers – KG5KPU*

## TX QSO Party

September 14<sup>th</sup> was the Texas QSO Party. Majors Field Amateur Radio club participated in this year's event by meeting at Lake Bob Sandlin State Park and setting up field operations. Here are some photos provided by David Rogers – KG5KPU of this event.



# AIRWAVES



*Hommy - KG5SKP assembling his Comet antenna*

*Photos Submitted by David Rogers – KG5KPU*

## Cotton Patch Challenge Bike Ride

September 21<sup>st</sup> was the Cotton Patch Challenge bike ride in Greenville. The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club participated in force, covering rest stops in Emory and in front of L3Harris besides several members driving around in their own vehicles as “rovers”. Here are some pictures from David Rogers – KG5KPU and Michael Ketchum – K5MDK of the event.

# AIRWAVES



*Photos Submitted by David Rogers – KG5KPU*

## FlexRadio Announces Strategic Partnership with Raytheon

### Air Force awards industry team \$36 million contract

In a strategic partnership with Raytheon, FlexRadio has been selected by the US Air Force (USAF) to adapt its commercial off the shelf SmartSDR/FLEX-6000 architecture for HF modernization of airborne communications platforms. The joint press release with Raytheon can be found [here](#).

We are excited to convey that our proven modular direct sampling hardware, Open Waveform API, and IP based architecture provide a ready platform for agile development to meet 21st century communication needs.

There is an old saying, “What goes around comes around.” Throughout FlexRadio’s history, commercial amateur products have been leveraged into defense products, which in turn, have been leveraged back into commercial products. We are certain that these efforts will cycle back again.

So how might this development affect you? While I can’t go into all the details, the positive impact to our business processes, infrastructure, intellectual property and human resources will enhance our amateur/commercial products and services. So stay tuned for more amateur product announcements coming soon.

Thank you all for your support of FlexRadio. We appreciate your business and we invite you to celebrate with us on achieving this significant milestone.

73,  
Gerald  
President CEO of FlexRadio Systems

Some similar articles:

[Air Force Technology Magazine](#)

[One Digi Click](#)

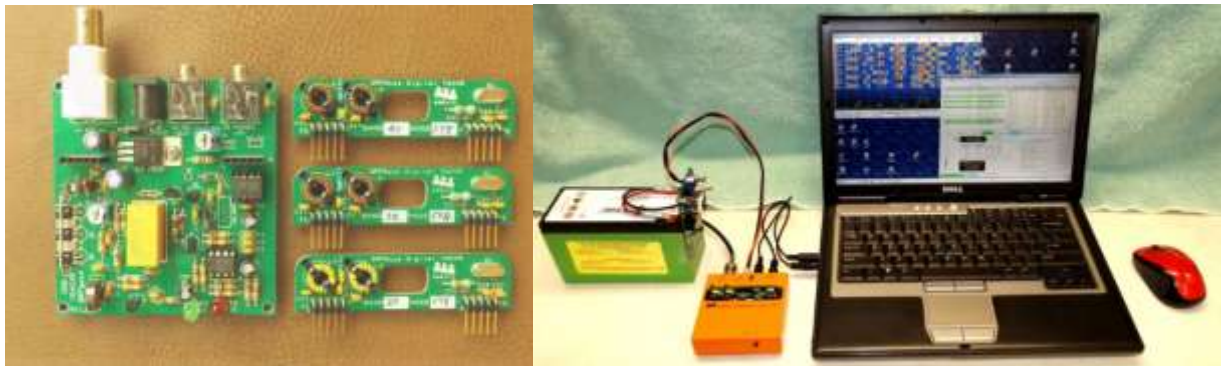
[This article from FlexRadio Systems](#)

*Written by Gerald Youngblood – K5DDR*

## FT8 – Digital Mode QRPGuys DSB Digital Transceiver

Gang,

We are pleased to offer the QRPGuys DSB Digital Transceiver kit. It includes three easily changed FT8 band modules for 40/30/20m. The kit uses all thru hole components. Price is \$40. We are also offering bare band module pcb's for those wanting to experiment with different bands and modes, 4 for \$10. Come by and see it at <<https://qrpguys.com/digital-transceiver>>.



Ken - wa4mnt  
[www.qrpguys.com](http://www.qrpguys.com)

*[Editor's Note: We will follow up with Bob, who is addicted to FT8, to see how his DSB Digital Transceiver kit works out in operation]*

*Submitted by Bob Kirby – K3NT*

## ARRL West Gulf Director Candidates

We pulled together a candidate statement from each candidate running for ARRL West Gulf Director:

### **John Robert Stratton - N5AUS (incumbent by appointment)**

#### ***Amateur Radio Background***

I am an ARRL Life Member, a Silver Level Member of the Diamond Club and hold a General Class license.

# AIRWAVES



Kay Craigie (N3KN), former three-term ARRL President, characterized her ARRL career by the fact she continued – when offered a new job or a new responsibility – to say “Yes”.

That accurately sums up my service to the ARRL and Amateur Radio – from the day I started until now – I have never stopped saying Yes:

- Director, West Gulf Division
- ARRL Leadership (present)  Executive Committee
  - Legislative Advocacy Committee
  - Legal Structure Review Committee
  - Member Benefits Committee
  - EmComm Manager Committee
- West Gulf Division Vice Director (2010-2019)  Legislative Director (2008-2019)
  - Legislative Action Assistant (2007-2008)
  - Co-founder/Director, Texas Ham Pac, Amateur Radio’s political action committee (2008-present)
- Member, Texas Division of Emergency Management Communications Control Group (2011-present)
- Volunteer legal advisor for West Gulf Clubs and Hams

## ***Personal Background***

A native-born Texan, I have family in East Texas, the Panhandle, Central Texas, and Dallas-Ft. Worth.

Currently, I am a civil trial lawyer in Austin, Texas with my own firm, The Stratton Law Firm, P.L.L.C., engaging primarily in commercial and personal injury litigation. I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Aerospace Engineering, was fortunate to work for a short time at General Dynamics on the F-111 (Aardvark), then went on to the University of Texas Law School. I have been in private practice since passing my bar exam.

## ***Club Affiliations***

I am currently a member of:

- The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., one of ARRL’s 100-year old clubs
  - (I serve as its corporate attorney) (2010 AARC Ham Of The Year)
- The Central Texas DX & Contest Club (President for three terms)
- The Lone Star DX Club
- The Radio Club of America (selected by the RCA Board to serve as 2018-2019 Assistant General Counsel)
- Volunteer Legal Assistance to Hams and Ham Clubs

Rather than serve as an Official ARRL Volunteer Counsel, I have throughout my service, regardless of my office, provided legal assistance, without compensation to many Hams and Clubs. I consider that part of my duties as an ARRL Director or Vice Director.

## ***Legislative Activities***



# AIRWAVES



I first volunteered in 2007 as a member of the West Gulf's Texas Legislative Team to stop cell phone bills that, if passed, would have made mobile Amateur Radio operation illegal. I was offered the position of Legislative Action Assistant and I said, Yes. Shortly after joining the Team I was asked to lead the Legislative Team. I said Yes.

In the intervening 12 years, as West Gulf Legislative Director, I have never stopped saying yes to protecting Amateur Radio and we have had many successes, some of which include:

In 2009, I wrote two specific exemptions that were incorporated into all cell phone/texting legislation — provisions that continue to exempt Amateur Radio from inclusion in such legislation.

We also successfully defeated a misguided Penal Code amendment that exposed ARES, RACES and MARS members to possible prosecution for use of “emergency frequencies.”

We were also able to add Ham beneficial amendments to the omnibus 2011 Texas Homeland Security Bill. We were successful in passing legislation that included Amateur Radio as a co-equal member of the new state disaster organization created to coordinate all communications for the State of Texas in a declared emergency — the Texas Division of Emergency Management Communications Coordination Group (the CCG).

I wrote, and with the help of the Texas Legislative Team, obtained passage into law of Texas' first bill that permits vertical antennas in antenna-restricted HOAs — doing so by mandating the right of all Texans to erect free-standing flagpoles in their front or back yards. Legislation overriding CC&R restrictions on solar panels and permanently installed standby natural gas or diesel-powered electric generators was also passed.

Oklahoma's state PRB-1 statute was successfully modified and cell phone legislation was modified to limit their impact on mobile Amateur Radio operation.

While passage of legislation to eliminate all private land use restrictions against Amateur Radio has been previously introduced, but has not yet been enacted into law in either Oklahoma or Texas, that legislation is drafted and will be refiled in both Legislatures when they reconvene.

## ***Amateur Radio's Political Action Committee***

Realizing that Amateur Radio was handicapped by IRS regulations limiting the ARRL's ability to lobby on behalf of legislation, but that an independent source of funding was needed to fund the West Gulf's legislative efforts, I co-founded, in 2008, the first political action committee in Texas and Oklahoma dedicated to Amateur Radio — Texas Ham Pac. THP's initial Directors were myself, David Woolweaver K5RAV and Glen Reid K5FX. THP's current Directors are N5AUS, K5RAV and Paul Gilbert KE5ZW.

Texas Ham Pac is supported by, and has been funded by, numerous individual Texas Hams. All monies are spent to support Amateur Radio friendly candidates and to cover the cost of materials prepared for legislative use. THP's existence and funding has been instrumental in facilitating many of our legislative successes. It remains a critical resource for West Gulf legislative efforts.

## ***Co-Founder of Texas' EmComm Funding Organization –TAREF***

# AIRWAVES



Recognizing with other ARES members that there wasn't enough funding available to properly equip and maintain the emergency response needs of certain of the Amateur Radio contingents assigned to the State's disaster response teams, I again said Yes, and became a co-founder and initial contributor of the Texas Amateur Radio EmComm Fund – a Texas' statewide EmComm funding organization. With the League's permission, a primary fund-raising tool was the sale of 75th Anniversary ARES patches, created under license from the ARRL. All monies were used to support and fund EmComm efforts. TAREF is now dormant.

Contact John – N5AUS at [n5aus@n5aus.com](mailto:n5aus@n5aus.com)

## **Madison Jones – W5MJ**

I am a candidate for West Gulf Director. I would like the ARRL Board of Directors to redirect itself to be the leader in returning the Amateur Radio Service to its vision of advancing amateur radio for ***all of its members*** - not just a few, to follow existing laws and regulations of the FCC, to hear the voices of all amateur operators, and to make the actions and activities of its officers and directors transparent to all ARRL members.

I am the **only** Extra Class Operator in this race, and have been one for over 25 years, **fully** involved in amateur radio: DX'er (DXCC with 328 confirmed); traveler (held operating licenses in 15 countries - the attached picture is me as V63MJ in Micronesia - led and participated in many DXpeditions); contester (team member of the 1st place World LP MS ARRL Int'l DX CW Contest 2019); built my first crystal set at age 7, my first Heathkit at 16 (and still build radio equipment); emergency response (CERT in Houston and Cedar Park); volunteer examiner since 1994; club leader (president, program director, secretary and treasurer of various radio clubs); teacher of theory and CW; mentor to new hams; writer on radio-related topics in QST and other publications with world-wide circulation.

I am now retired but ran my own law office and other businesses for many years, served as legal counsel to a regional airline, working with governments on bond and contract issues. I am married and have 6 grown children with college degrees. I am a retired Air Force fighter pilot, Lt.Col., 21 years' service. I am a ham radio operator, not a suit!

In the last West Gulf election, only a small number of the 11,800 eligible voters actually voted!

**Please vote for Madison Jones, W5MJ, for Director**

### **What I Believe for the West Gulf Division**

How many times has the present Director stood in front of you and asked: "What is on your mind? What is important to you? What can I do for you? What do you want to know about the ARRL Board and how it works?"

I want to be Interactive with you and your Club on a regular basis.

I am an ACTIVE Ham – a DX'er, a Contester, a DX'peditioner – I have been on 17 DX'peditions.

I am the only Extra Class operator in this race.

# AIRWAVES



I think the ARRL Board of Directors meeting should be open to any visitors that want to be there. If there is need for an Executive session, visitors can be excused.

I think it is time for a change in the West Gulf Division - to have a competitive race and change from the "Good Ole Boys" program they have been following for the last 10 years. The last Director, K5RAV was appointed Vice-Director by the previous Director, Coy Day.

When he retired, K5RAV moved up to Director. The present Director, N5AUS, was appointed Vice-Director by K5RAV (even though N5AUS says he was never appointed). Are you getting dizzy yet? It goes on: N5AUS was elected as Vice-Director 6 months later, but ran as an incumbent because of his appointment. N5AUS has run unopposed for Vice-Director the last two elections, previous to this one.

When K5RAV retired, N5AUS moved up to Director. He then appointed the present Vice-Director.

See a pattern here? Get the picture?

One of the things I will push for when I am on the Board is that there be no more appointing of Vice-directors. There should be a special competitive election for a full term. The Members should have a choice – they should make the decision – not the Suits!

What about Winlink? I believe all Amateur Radio communications should be able to be decoded by regular hams. Whether the transmission is compressed or encrypted, it should not be happening. The FCC rules forbid it.

I believe there should not be Automatic Transmitting stations without a Control Operator. I believe all Winlink operation should be in the upper part of each band, away from CW and other narrow digital signals. I believe that Winlink should not be used by non-hams who want to use it to bypass Commercial Email Services. You can spend your life, as some have, getting into the weeds about Winlink, but, those are the basic things that I believe and will fight for.

**Thank you and Please Vote for Madison Jones, W5MJ for West Gulf Director**

Contact Madison – W5MJ at [w5mikejuliet@gmail.com](mailto:w5mikejuliet@gmail.com)

*Complied by President Larry Smith – K5XB & Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

# AIRWAVES



“Last Man Standing” TV Show to be ON THE AIR – KA6LMS OCT 8<sup>th</sup>

AT&T LTE

7:26 AM

93%



Mike Baxter

Yesterday at 9:31 AM · 🌐



KA6LMS should be on the air Tuesday, October 8th, 2019 live from the set of the “Last Man Standing” TV Show.

\*\*\*We will most likely be around 14.322 MHz, but will post updates here and on twitter at @KA6LMS around 23:30 UTC.\*\*\*

If you contact us and want our QSL card, send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your QSL card (or a note with contact information) to our address in QRZ.

This is the Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) specific page for the Last Man Standing Amateur Radio Club. LMSARC. The club is comprised of licensed Amateur Radio operators on the staff & crew of the show who operate as KA6LMS.

Please share this information with your friends & club members.



Write a comment...



Submitted by Mike Garcia – K5FMG



## Calendar

- Oct 10 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
- Oct 12 Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Oct 15 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman’s BBQ in Rockwall.
- Oct 17 Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm
- Oct 19 STX Hamfest & Elect Expo - Sinton, TX <https://southtexashamfest.org>
- Oct 19-20 ARRL EME – 50 to 1296 MHz
- Oct 21-25 ARRL School Club Roundup
- Oct 25-26 Texoma Hamarama, Ardmore, OK <http://hamarama.org/>
- Nov 02-04 ARRL Nov Sweepstakes CW
- Nov 02 Parker County Hamfest & Emergency Preparedness Expo - Springtown, TX  
<mailto:kg5atd@gmail.com>
- Nov 09 ARRL NTX ARES S.E.T. (West Gulf Div SET) 8am – 4pm.
- Nov 16-18 ARRL Nov Sweepstakes Phone
- Nov 16-17 ARRL EME – 50 to 1296 MHz
- Nov 14 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
- Jan 17 Cowtown Hamfest <http://www.cowtownhamfest.com>

# 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.qrpfexhunt.org/summer\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfexhunt.org/summer_rules.htm)  
2nd Wed of each month – ARRL NTX ARES Net 8:30pm local on 3860

## Officers

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

## Club Repeaters

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Club Station:</b> | TBD  |
| <b>VHF Repeater:</b> | W5NNI/R<br>147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz           |
| <b>UHF Repeater:</b> | W5NNI/R DMR<br>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](mailto:editor@w5nni.net).