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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 10/10/2019

- Meeting was called to order @ 1145

Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for September meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves".
- David Rogers reported on MFARC TX QSO Party event from Lake Bob Sandlin.
- Technician test session scheduled for November 8th and 9th.

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

- HF Operation - tabled.
- Elmering – committee needed.
- Member survey to be sent out.

New Business

- The weekly net will be moved from Thursday to Tuesday.
- Officer nomination committee: M. Ketchum, T. VanDenHeuvel, J. Santiago.

Presentations

- N/A.



Attendees

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

Scott Davis - K5PS
Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
Victor Paul - WB0TEV by phone
David Rogers - KG5KPU

Jose Santiago - KG5SKR
Larry Smith - K5XB
Jae Stutzman - K5JAE by phone
Ted Van Den Heuvel - KX5P

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

MFARC Bank Statement for October

Beginning balance:	\$1,928.49
New balance:	\$1,928.49

Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY

President's Letter

The meeting coming up on the 14th is the next-to-last meeting of the year. Golly how the time has flown by this year! Time to start thinking about 2020...

Meetings/Events

The effort for the CQ World-Wide DX Contest didn't come off as planned. Propagation was poor, the weather was "iffy", and folks had lots going on otherwise.

We're moving into the "colder weather/shorter days" time of year when activity on the "low bands" heats up. I put my new 160 meter antenna up last weekend. It's in a "Verted-Vee" configuration. Higher on the ends than it is in the middle. The next contest activity that we might want to consider is the winter 160 meter contests. ARRL has one (12/6-12/8/2019) CW only, CQ magazine puts on two of them. One CW (1/24-1/26/2020) and one phone (2/21-2/23/2020) weekend. We'll keep you posted on the dates.

It's not too early to start thinking about Winter Field Day. January 25-26th (Coincides with CQWW160CW). Once again, Rains County has asked us to help man their EOC for this event. They have the water pump fixed on the generator and back on line. Which means lots of good clean power...and heat!

The membership poll is on club website, w5nni.org. There is a huge link to it highlighted in yellow on the home page. I hope you'll take the time to respond. 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, so we go with what we like. Maybe you like what we're planning...maybe not. Let us know one way or another. What all is out there to do?—kit building seminar, fox hunting event, ISS contacts with local schools, dining out... what would you like to do?

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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

Please let us know what you want out of MFARC membership by participating in the survey, or by writing a note/email to me or David Rogers.

Elmering/mentoring: We had to postpone our Technician licensing opportunity that was set for November 8-9. We just were not able to secure the needed instructors and VE's for that effort. We will try to reschedule this in mid-December but before the break.

Elections: Officer Elections are coming. At the meeting on the 14th, we will ask for volunteers for the nominations committee.

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.

73,
Larry
K5XB
MFARC President

Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB

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

SAFETY: The warning that appears near the top of every ladder that anyone has ever climbed in the history of ladders and climbing is there for a reason. It states "Do Not Stand On Or Above This Step." We've all seen it; we've all ignored it. While working on a 160m compact loop (more on the experiment later) that I was installing in a tree, I decided to ignore this commonsense warning. Being about 18 inches short of reaching the limb I needed, I stepped onto the rung with the warning on it. Unfortunately, I was still about 6 inches too low. So, in the spirit of "hold my beer," I ventured on to the very top rung...of a 10 foot ladder....made from wood...that is 25 years old. Needless to say, the ladder fell to the right and I fell straight down, hyper-extending both knees and bruising a few fingers. I was extremely lucky not to have sustained far more serious injuries. I tell this tale as a warning to all –when installing antennas (or, Christmas lights), use caution. Follow warning labels. And, unlike me, use common sense.

WINTERIZE: In anticipation of cold weather coming up, I decided to check all of my antennas to make sure they were properly secured and installed. I discovered that some of the ropes being used to secure

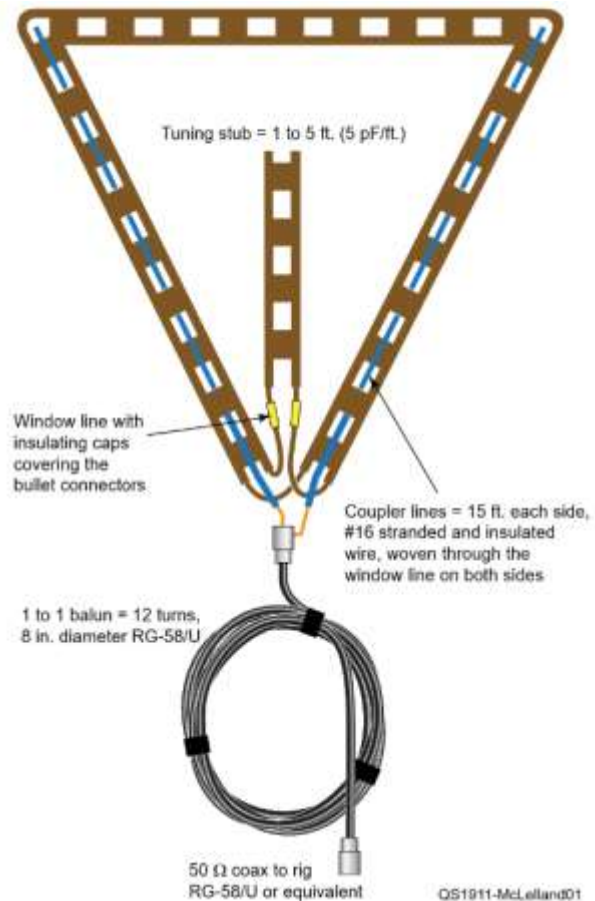
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the 75m dipole had frayed (see pic). I also discovered a few of the bolts on the rotor for the HEX beam were slightly loose. The weather at the end of October was pleasant (70 and sunny), so replacing the rope and tightening bolts was done wearing a tshirt and shorts, which is a much better option than having an antenna come down in the ice, and having to be outside in January. I highly suggest that we all take a good look at our antennas before the weather turns completely miserable, or before we get too busy with the Holidays.

EXPERIMENTS: In the recent issue of QST magazine, there is an article detailing how to build a compact loop antenna for 160m (see diagram). The author said to use 50ft of 450ohm window line; I had 40ft of 14awg stranded and 35ft of 18awg solid core window line. I was supposed to use 30ft of 16awg THHN wire; I had 14awg wire. And, in the diagram, the antenna is supported by a perfectly symmetrical triangle contraption made from PVC pipe; I had to use a

tree in the front yard. After splicing the two different types of window line together, and fishing the 14awg wire through the left and right legs of the triangle, I went about hanging the make-shift experiment in the tree (see article above re: safety). Being at the asymmetrical mercy of Mother Nature, I was able to configure my antenna in a shape that resembled a trapazoid'ish looking square that kinda looked like a drunken triangle, sorta. Needless to say, my antenna looked nothing like the antenna in the diagram. Without going into too much detail, the antenna experiment failed. Miserably. An SWR of 15.9:1 was the best I could achieve. So, down came the antenna. But, the most important thing is that it was fun to try. The antenna may have been a failure, but the weekend was a success. I encourage everyone to try their hand at DIY experimenting. It is my favorite part of the hobby, and hopefully, it will become yours, too. Next month, I will discuss a DIY 40m OCF antenna, using the K1POO method that feeds the antenna at 83/17, instead of the traditional 1/3 2/3 method.



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BAND CONDITIONS & CONTESTS: I hear, over and over again, people complaining about how miserable the band conditions are. And, yet, as soon as there is a contest, the ionosphere magically comes to life. Take a look at one page of my log from the recent CQ Worldwide DX contest (picture below). I was able to work 4 different bands, including 10m, in a 2-hour period. And, if you glance at the chart, you will see propagation was working in every direction. While the 20m and 40m contacts were made with 500 watts, the 10m and 15m contacts were made barefoot. An hour after the contest ended, I also worked 75m. Anytime I can work 5 bands in one day, I consider that to be a darned fine day of playing radio, and the naysayers can be d*mned.



PAPER LOGS: QRZ.com is a great thing. I use it regularly. It is nice to be able to enter a call sign and know how far away they are and where to point the beam. It is also great to have a running tally of all contacts. But, there is something to be said about keeping a paper log, with its tactile reward of having

DATE	UTC	FREQUENCY (Mhz)	MODE	POWER	CALL SIGN	Distance	REPORT		QTH	QSL SENT
							ME	THEM		
25 OCT 19	22:00	7.242	LSB	500	WWDY	472	59	59	MO	
	22:14	7.242			WALII	625	59	59	IL	
27 OCT 19	17:37	14.225	USB	100	COQAME	1085	59	59	Cuba	001
	19:09	14 -	USB	500	KH7M	3737	59	59	HI	002
	19:18	14.252			FSMUX	4657	59	59	France	
	19:22	14.262			EF8R	4687	59	59	Canary IS (AFRICA)	Coast
	19:36	14.344			5K0K	1651	59	59	SAN Andreas (Caribbean)	
	19:39	14.227			IRYX	5403	59	59	ITALY	
	19:55	14.235			TM6M	4620	59	59	France	
	19:59	14.240			VE7UF	1866	59	59	BC, Canada	
	20:04	14.262			F466Q	4636	59	59	France	
	20:10	14.287.25			PZ5K	?	59	59	Suriname	
	20:18	14.287.25			V26B	2398	59	59	Antigua/Barbados	
	20:20	14.307			D4C	4512	59	59	Monterverde (Africa)	Coast
	20:26	14.340			HP5AK	1888	59	59	Panama	
	20:37	21.290	USD	400	HI3LT	1866	59	59	Dom Republic	
	20:42	21.298.50			CO2RQ	1083	59	59	Cuba	
	20:52	21.308.50			KH6J	3822	59	59	HI	
	20:55	21.355			V3M	1183	59	59	Belize	
	21:11	21.390	USB	100	OAYO	3365	59	59	Peru	Vert ant
	21:14	21.457			Z3ZT		59	59	Brazil	Vert Ant
	21:18	28.440	USB	100	ZW5B		59	59	Brazil	Vert ant
	21:20	28.413			CE7VPQ	5456	59	59	Chile	
	21:38	28.425.25			LU9FHF	5032	59	59	Argentina	
27 OCT 19	21:59	28.400		300	OAY55	3363			Peru	

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pages to flip through for quick reference. To help those folks who may want to keep a paper log, here is a link to paper log that I put together using Excel [HAM RADIO LOG BOOK.xlsx](#). Feel free to modify it to your liking, and print it out, use it, pass it along, etc.

I think all of the yellow sticky notes cluttering my desk have been perused and the stuff worth mentioning has been mentioned. See ya' all next month.

David Rogers (KG5KPU)

Written by Vice-President David Rogers – KG5KPU

Club Library Expanded with New Volumes Added

Due to some wonderful benefactors, the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club library has grown in size. We now have three banners, one Audio CD, A bunch of QST magazines, Notebooks of various appliances owned by the club, two poster boards, an antenna software package and 32 books.

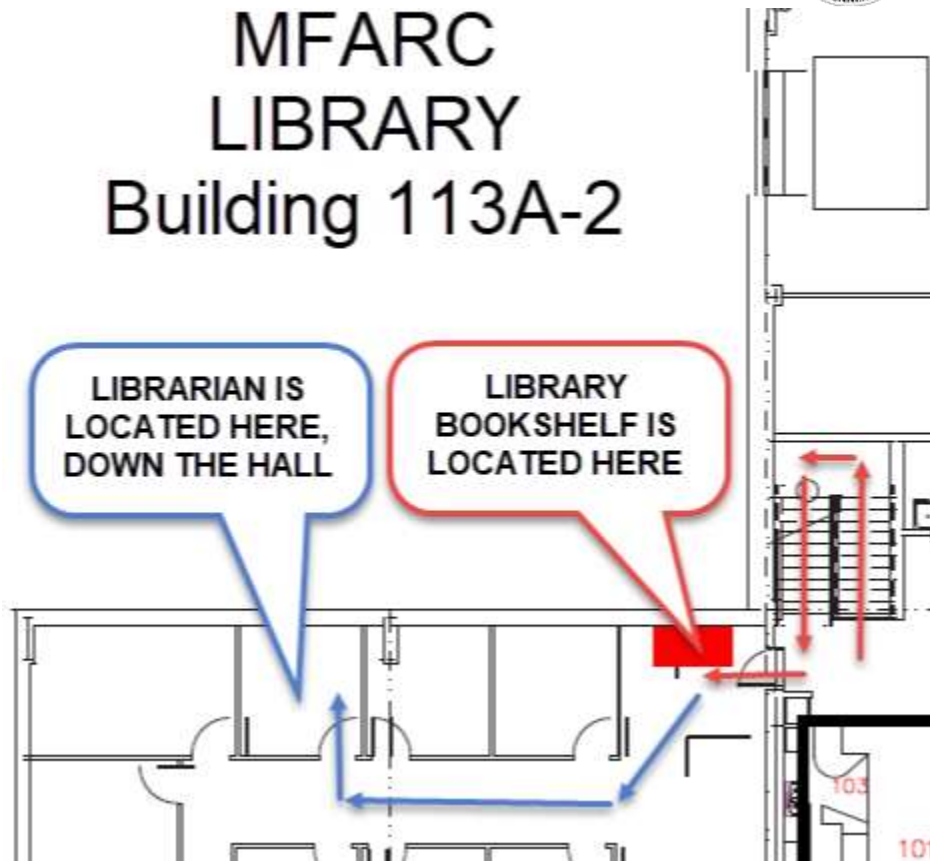
To review the catalog of items in the club library, simply click <http://w5nni.net/library/Catalog.pdf> to see pictures and read descriptions of the books. This PDF file is SEARCHABLE, so you can find listings through word search. Simply click <CTRL>+<F> to open search window and type away. The catalog listing also shows a picture of the front cover of the book. There are also other club items, such as user manuals to club equipment, poster boards for classes, Vinyl banners, and a number of QST magazine issues.

If you have any suggestions for the club to obtain new materials for the library, please let the president know at president@w5nni.net.

The library is located inside VAULT F area (a declassified area) in Building 113A-2. You must ring a bell to get in, but all are welcomed, as it is not a closed area. The library is located right in front of the door to VAULT F. To checkout an item, please notify Michael Ketchum – K5MDK at editor@w5nni.net or X7-4646. We don't have any rules yet on checkouts. So far, we have several items checked out to individuals in the club already. Below is a map to the club library:

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MFARC LIBRARY Building 113A-2



Thanks to the following individuals for making donations to the club library:

- Dr. Alfred Helfrick – K2BLA (signed copy of his own book)
- Stephen Denison – W5SMD (former Club President)
- John McFadden – K5TIP (donated 26 books)
- Steve Barrett – N5ETB (inactive)

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

ARRL Fall 2019 West Gulf Division S.E.T. **THIS SATURDAY**

The Fall 2019 West Gulf Division SET (Simulated Emergency Test) is on November 9, 2019, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Scenario: An unusually cold and powerful Arctic Air Mass has descended deep into South Texas. This storm has produced blizzard conditions in Oklahoma, North, and West Texas, ice accumulation in Central Texas, and heavy rains into the Rio Grande Valley. The combined effects of the storm system have resulted in widespread power outages throughout the Region. Local Shelters are open throughout the region.

Primary Division/Section Objective: Assess the ability of the Amateur Radio Service (ARS) throughout the Division to respond to a major event and exchange supporting information throughout the Division.

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Secondary Division/Section Objective: Communicate with Region 6 Army MARS during COMEX 19-4 by providing requested information on 60 m

EC/DEC Objectives: At the discretion of ECs and DECs. Recommended objectives:

- Assess ability to stage deployable ARO resources
- Assess the ability to gather, consolidate, and report Critical Infrastructure Assessment to local served agencies/partners
- Assess ability to service local served agency/partner requests

NOTE: SITUATIONAL AWARENESS information to be shared with Emergency Management organizations within each section and forwarded to the TEXAS STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC).

SET Documents below:

[WGD SET 2019 INCIDENT BRIEFING ICS-201](#)

[WGD SET 2019 INCIDENT OBJECTIVES ICS-202](#)

[WGD SET 2019 GENERAL MESSAGE ICS-213 SAMPLE SITUATIONAL REPORT](#)

What is SET? SET stands for Simulated Emergency Test. It's an opportunity for participating ARES/RACES members and served agencies to practice those skills called upon during an actual emergency. Objectives for a SET can vary from turning on and testing equipment up to and including staging a mock emergency with full deployment of assets from multiple agencies.

Why do a SET? It is a great opportunity to knock the dust off plans, test them out, and identify future training opportunities. Participants have a chance to figure out what works and do not work. And most importantly, renew working relationships.

Why should you participate? Our partners and served agencies – from local through national; have expressed interest in continuing to improve our relationships and understand the role that Amateur Radio can play. After all, when it does hit the fan, we will have to stand together in support of the mission to serve our communities.

What is the goal of the WGD Fall 2019 SET? In a single word, communicate. While the Division has had SETs in the past, we are breaking new ground by creating a coordinated effort to consolidate and share local situational awareness with our partners at the local level up through the Division level. The sharing of information is important because it will help the section and division leadership coordinate resources within the division. What we learn from this exercise will help all of us in the future.

How do you participate? At the local level, ARES members will work with the Emergency Coordinators (EC) or Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC) in support of their local exercises. These exercises may range from a staging of resources, local facility situational assessment, to training. During the SET, partner agencies and ECs are asked to consolidate a Situational Assessment Report (example ICS-213 is [here](#)). The assessment is a report of whether power is on, water, and sewage is operating. Transmit the reports via Winlink or voice nets to the District Emergency Coordinators (DEC), the SEC (Winlink Address ARES-NTXSEC), and to the designated State Operations Center Winlink Address KT6CCG). Traffic should

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also be sent using the HF nets between the cities/counties up to the regional entities using the Regional HF Nets, State ARES Nets, and HF Digital stations.

Army MARS will be supporting the SET. MARS operators are an integral part of the interoperability plan for amateur radio. MARS Operators will be monitoring 60m Channel 5 (5403.5 kHz).

We strongly encourage participants to send reports via radio using winlink; however, sending via Telnet as an alternative is acceptable. But it is important to test sending the reports using the radio because, during an event, the internet may not be available.

More information is available on the ARRLNTX.ORG website.

Anything Else? ECs, DECs, SECs, and participating agencies are asked to send an after-action report no later than 20 November. Include information about you and your teams participated in the exercise, what worked, what didn't work, future training opportunities, and lessons learned.

Thank you for participating. I look forward to hearing all of you on the air! Please have fun!

73,

Greg Evans, K5GTX

ARRL NTX SEC

ARRL NTX ASM

sec @ arrlntx . org

Winlink: ARES-NTXSEC

713.410.2376

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

Written by ARRL NTX SEC/ASM Greg Evans – K5GTX

Calendar

Nov 09 ARRL NTX ARES S.E.T. (West Gulf Div SET) 8am – 4pm.

Nov 9 Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.

Nov 14 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.

Nov 16-18 ARRL Nov Sweepstakes Phone

Nov 16-17 ARRL EME – 50 to 1296 MHz

Nov 19 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.

Nov 21 Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm

Nov 23 CQ World Wide DX Contest CW <http://www.cqww.com>

Dec 6-8 ARRL 160 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

Dec 14-15 ARRL 10 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

Dec 22 ARRL Rookie Roundup-CW <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Dec 25 SKCC Sprint – CW <http://skccgroup.com>

Dec 31- Jan 1 ARRL Straight Key Night <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

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Jan 10 Radio Fiesta Hamfest, Shertz, TX <http://w5sc.org>

Jan 17 Cowtown Hamfest, Forest Hill, TX <http://www.cowtownhamfest.com>

Mar 6 Greater Houston Hamfest, Rosenberg, TX <http://houstonhamfest.org>

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>

Mon Hopkins Co NET at 7:00pm 146.680 – PL 151.4

Mon Rains Co NET at 7:30pm 146.920 – 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

2nd Wed of each month – ARRL NTX ARES Net 8:30pm local on 3860

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.