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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 01/09/2020

- Meeting was called to order @ 11:45.

Officer Reports

- December meeting minutes for November are in Airwaves.
- President's Report
 - AllStar link for 2m?
 - Remove HF rig at MSTF
 - Survey results

Subcommittee Reports

- Winter Field Day January 25 & 26th.
- Form committee to pursue remote HF station.

Upcoming Events

- Brief list of upcoming hamfests and area meetings. Cowtown Hamfest is Jan 17th.
- Next MFARC meeting on Feb 13th.

Old Business

New Business

- No new payroll deduction for E-Club. Substitutes are being explored. E-Club will be increasing their yearly dues.
- 2020 planning.

Presentations

- Survey results

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Attendees

- Meeting adjourned @ 1245
- Those in attendance were:

Shawn Crossland - N6REP
Scott Davis - K5PS
Scott Joseph - AG5QQ
Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
John Nelson Jr - W7JOY

Victor Paul - WB0TEV (Phone)
David Rogers - KG5KPU
Chris Rutz - K5RTZ
Larry Smith - K5XP
Brian Wilson - KG5KPN

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

MFARC Bank Statement for January

Beginning balance:

\$1,458.49

Income:

Club Dues from Scott Davis – K5PS	\$10.00
Club Dues from Larry Smith – K5XP	\$10.00
Club Dues from Chris Rutz – K5RTZ	\$10.00
Club Dues from David Rogers – KG5KPU	\$10.00
Club Dues from Brian Wilson – KG5KPN	\$10.00
Club Dues from Joe Lum – KE5ZBL	\$10.00
Club Dues from Wesley Sparks – WS5GPA	\$10.00
Club Dues from Michael Garcia – K5FMG	\$10.00
Club Dues from Dave Hunter – KC7CEX	\$10.00
Club Dues from Curtis King – KI5DZL	\$10.00
Club Dues from Victor Paul – WB0TEV	\$10.00
Club Dues from Jae Stutzman – K5JAE	\$10.00
E-Club Dues from John Nelson – W7JOY	\$25.00
E-Club Dues from Scott Davis – K5PS	\$25.00
E-Club Dues from David Rogers – KG5KPU	\$25.00
E-Club Dues from Brian Wilson – KG5KPN	\$25.00
E-Club Dues from Michael Garcia – K5FMG	\$25.00
Club Donation from David Rogers – KG5KPU	\$5.00
Club Donation from Brian Wilson – KG5KPN	\$5.00
E-Club Reimbursement from December	\$500.00

Expenses:

Check #1049 to E-Club for John Nelson Dues	(\$25.00)
Check #1050 to E-Club for Scott Davis Dues	(\$25.00)
Check #1051 to E-Club for David Rogers Dues	(\$25.00)
Check #1052 to E-Club for Brian Wilson Dues	(\$25.00)
Check #1053 to E-Club for Michael Garcia Dues	(\$25.00)

New balance:

\$2,088.49

Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY

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End-of-Year Prize Drawing: I have revamped the “scorecard” to keep track of who does what during the year. There are now more qualifying events, making it easier for folks to rack up tickets for the year-end prize drawing. I will introduce the new format (see figure 3) at the meeting this week, and put it up for a vote.

MEMBER	Meeting (Monthly)	WFD (2 for late night)	SFD (2 for late night)	COTTON PATCH	HOT ROCKS	TPOTA TxQSO	MISC SPECIAL EVENTS & Meetings	PPT Pres.	FCC CLASS	MSTF	2M NET	EVENT ORGNZER	Bring a Friend	Recruit Bonus +2	OFFICER	* TTL TICKETS	MFARC dues paid	eClub dues paid
Arvidson, Mark																0		
Brown, Jon										1						1	4	25
Davis, Scott																1	3	25
Drake, Larry																0		
Figueroa-Salas, Hommy							1									1		
Garcia, Mike							1									3	10	25
Hahn, Daryl																0		
Helmreich, Grayson																0		
Hunter, Dave																0		
Joseph, Scott		1					1					1				5	10	25
Kelley, Stephen																0		
Ketchum, Michael							2									3	10	
King, Curt																2	10	25
Lum, Joe																1	10	
McAllister, Terrence																0		
Nelson, John															1	3	10	25
Nichols, Craig																0		
Padon, Jonathan							1									1		
Paul, Victor																2	10	25
Pizziciaroli, John																0		
Rice, Mark																0		
Rogers, David		1					1					1			1	6	10	25
Rutz, Chris																1	10	
Sanitate, Will																0		
Santiago, Jose																0		
Smith, Larry		1					1					1				4	10	
Sparks, Wesley																1	10	
Stutzman, Jae																0		
Van Den Heuvel, Ted																0		
Watters, John																0		
Wilson, Brian																2	10	25
Wilson, Earl																0		
*All paid MFARC members receive 1 ticket; eClub 1 ticket																42	14	9

Figure 3 MFARC End of Year Raffle Scoring

Lousy Bands and FT8 (and some SSB, too): For years, I refused to accept this new-fangled digital mode stuff that all of the kids were into. I was an old fuddy-duddy. But, I have since changed my mind. With band conditions being less-than-optimal, I have come to realize the virtues of FT8. As an example, last week I was at home when I should have been at work (shhh, don't tell management), and was able to

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work all 4 corners of the World, using 5 different bands (see figure 4).

Time	Call	Band	Freq	Mode	Grid	Country	Operator Name	
4 23:40	KB4XM	40m	7.260	SSB	EM74QA98	United States	LEE R BAKER JR	GA 666
4 23:26	W8JMZ	40m	7.255	SSB	EN72kh	United States	JAMES M ZOSS	MI 875
4 22:59	K9UGD	20m	14.316	SSB	EN52loc	United States	Jim J Cronin	WI 810
4 22:55	W0FVR	20m	14.316	SSB	EN34IV62	United States	Reid Maertz	MN 846
4 22:49	KN4TFW	20m	14.316	SSB	EM84UN77	United States	KENNETH L MYERS JR	SC 801
4 22:19	VE7MTW	17m	18.128	SSB	CN79ju	Canada	John W Wood	1881
4 21:45	VA3FF	30m	10.100	PSK	FN03dr	Canada	Igor Mordick	FT8 1149
4 20:45	F5UJQ	30m	10.136	PSK	IN9411	France	Bob Robert Delhote	FT8 4983
4 20:10	W7NRH	30m	10.136	PSK	DN28TF44	United States	Darrell A Graves	FT8 1412
4 19:54	W6DOJ	15m	21.074	PSK	CM98ho	United States	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RADIO CLUB	FT8 CA 1460
4 19:48	PY2OQ	15m	21.074	PSK	GG57sc	Brazil	Alexandre Aparecido Ribeiro de Mattos XANDO	FT8 4980
4 19:43	H8JSG	15m	21.074	PSK	FK58a1	Dominican Republic	Juan Salas Gil	FT8 1904
4 19:38	NP3V	17m	18.100	PSK	FK68vk	Puerto Rico	LUIS G GONZALEZ	FT8 2105
4 19:25	UR7FM/MM	17m	18.100	PSK		Ukraine		FT8 Maritime Mobile
4 19:18	KA1FUE	40m	7.074	PSK	FN64rv	United States	RALPH E HICKS JR	FT8 ME 1750
4 19:05	PY3OL	20m	14.074	PSK	GG481b	Brazil	JORGE ALAN CRAVO RAMOS	FT8 5257
4 18:55	VO1LM	20m	14.074	PSK	GN37on	Canada	L David McLennon	FT8 2451
4 18:48	9Y4DG	20m	14.074	PSK	FK981j	Trinidad and Tobago	DEV GOSINE	FT8 2705
4 18:40	F1TXI	20m	14.074	PSK	IN98vk	France	Laurent TERRADE	FT8 4863
4 18:29	VE2EDT	20m	14.074	PSK	FN25td	Canada	Erik Plourde	FT8 1425
4 18:21	IZ1LBG	20m	14.074	PSK	IN44ax	Italy	FILIPPO VAIRO	FT8 5255
4 18:13	VE7NBQ	20m	14.074	PSK	CN8911	Canada	Peter T. Burt	FT8 4703
2 22:04	JF1OPL	17m	18.068	PSK		Japan	TOSHIO OSAWA	FT8 6526

Figure 4 Five Bands, Two Hours

And, just for kicks, I tried making a few contacts with phone, and was able to work voice on 3 different bands. The big difference, though, was that I only needed about 20 to 25 watts on FT8, and was making contacts left and right, while I had to use my HEX beam and 500 watts to work the phone bands. So, as we endure these poor band conditions, I would suggest looking into the FT8 craze.

Your Vote Counts: There will be a 3 items up for a vote at the meeting this week: a bid/proposal to spend approx \$1,500 on a remote HF station; a proposal to move forward with adding AllStar to our 2m repeater; and, a proposal to update the prize chart for the year-end prize drawing. With so many key issues being decided this week, it is important that we get as many people as possible to show up.

Well, looking around my cluttered desk, I do believe I have managed to take a look at all of the yellow sticky-notes. So, until next time, 73.

David Rogers
KG5KPU

Written by President David Rogers – KG5KPU

Miles & Miles of Texas

On the road with WBØTEV/M in the 2019 Texas QSO Party

I first started operating mobile in the Texas QSO Party some time prior to 2007. That year Mark Rice (KK5MR, then N4CMB) and I were surprised to get a 2nd place plaque for Texas Mobile Multi-Op Category. That was back when I was driving an old green 1977 Chevy Impala with a Yaseu FT-757GX and a Hustler multi-band vertical growing out of its right rear fender. In the years since, I've generally gone out solo, SSB only.

Along the way I moved from the green 1977 Impala to a grey 1986 Pontiac Parisienne that I affectionately call "the olde grey lady". Both were fixtures in the L3 parking lot for years while I was still working at the plant. People would tell me that they would park close to mine, so that they could use the antenna as a landmark to help them find their car. Truth be told, that big antenna on the right rear fender often helped me find my own car!

The last time I went mobile in the Texas QSO Party was 2016. Ever since then I've been running off to Belize the last weekend in September to do the CQ WW RTTY contest as V31VP. In 2019 the TxQP contest date was moved two weeks earlier, a move I applaud as I can now do both and the CW ops don't have to fight with the RTTY on 40m late Saturday.



My operating conditions are rather retro. The vehicle I use for mobile HF contesting is "the olde grey lady" my aging 1986 Pontiac Parisienne. Unlike the boxy modern SUV's, a sedan like this works better antenna wise with a long Hustler whip mounted on a fender with minimal vehicle body blockage.

The rig is of similar vintage, a mid-1980's Yaseu FT-757 mounted on the transmission hump. I run the contest solo and almost constantly in motion. In order to produce a log I record all the contest audio using a tiny Sansa Clip mp3 player /recorder clipped onto an old sock tied onto the inside rearview mirror with its microphone pointed down towards the FT-757 speaker. I also record the trip using a dash cam with audio as a backup.

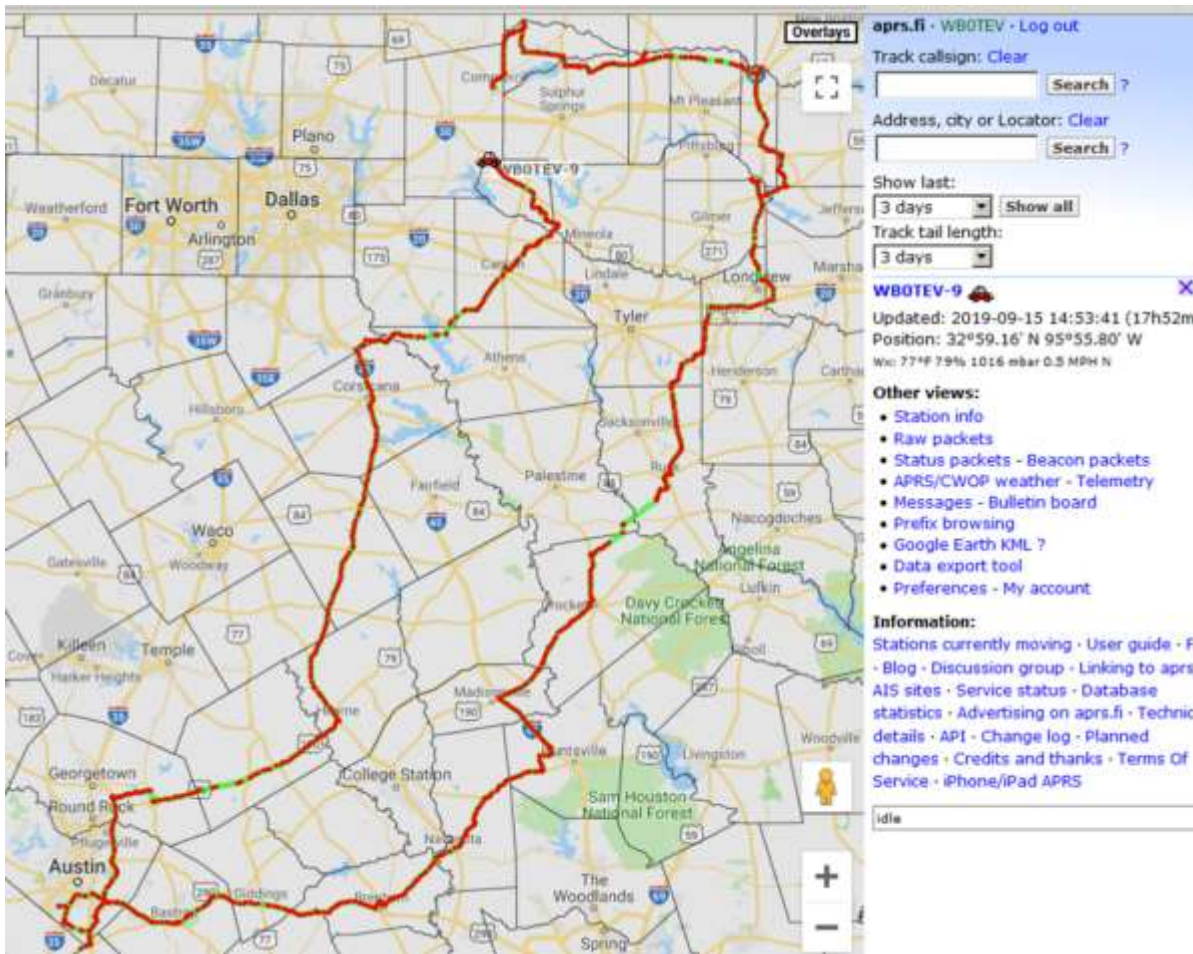
In most contests, using recordings like this to make a log would be verboten, but when I asked the TxQP sponsors a few years ago if they would accept this, they agreed. So, I had 18 hours of recordings to play back so as to transcribe a log and put it in Cabrillo format. (Why do I do this to myself?!!) Next time though, I think I'll bring along a capable CW op to put the 40+ counties I traverse on CW and also log for me when I'm doing SSB, taking turns at the radio.



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One of the main ways for a mobile op in the Texas QSO Party to rack up points is to activate as many counties as possible. Mobile ops get 1000 points by making at least 5 QSOs while in a given county. Part of the fun comes from plotting a course that will take you through as many different counties in the shortest amount of time. Over the years my route has expanded from 30+ counties to 42 to this year's attempt to activate 46 (30 during the 9am to 9pm Saturday session and 16 in the 9am to 3pm Sunday session).



I used an app on my Android phone (APRS droid) to broadcast my position. The graphic below shows my route with red dots being position fixes and green areas where I didn't have cell coverage. Note how I often just catch the corner of a county to maximize counties/mile traveled.

I had to drop Leon County when I fell behind schedule on Saturday, but the 45 counties I did manage to activate were the most I'd ever done.

Saturday was painful. Conditions seemed poor. Seemingly not being able to get much traction on 20m, I spent the bulk of Saturday on 40m. In hindsight that was a mistake and I learned my lesson the next day. It's hard to do 20m mobile as you often end up calling close to or on the same freq as another Texas station that you can't hear and you can't figure out why no one is coming back to you. The competition from the Worked All Europe SSB contest was also a factor. Sunday I figured out that I needed to go really

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high in the band and once I settled in a bit above 14300 things got a lot better. A lesson learned for next time.

My performance on Saturday was also hindered by yet another bird strike. If you go read my write-up on 3830scores.com from my last TXQP mobile foray in 2016 you'll see how I creamed a buzzard. This year I had another avian incident. (Time to stencil another buzzard silhouette on the old grey lady, 3 more and I'm an ace!) Around 2225 Z I see a big buzzard come across my field of view followed by a WHOMMPPFF! I see the base of my spring loaded fender mounted HF antenna wobble and a burst of feathers in my rearview mirror, but nothing seemed to have fallen off so I just kept on truckin'. Thing is, I didn't seem to be getting anywhere. Doing Search and Pounce, stations would CQ in my face. I was hearing a funny noise from the rear of the car at times too. A quick check of VSWR showed that forward and reflected power were essentially the same so I knew it was time to stop and investigate. I needed a bio break anyway.

Once I parked outside a convenience store in Walker County I saw the first problem. The 2m/440 mag mount that had been on my roof was hanging by its coax over the right rear fender. Looking up at the Hustler HF vertical I could see that the 20m coil and stinger mounted on the triple plate adapter had gotten bent from the bird strike folding it up closer to the 40m coil and detuning both bands. The bird likely first clipped the VHF mag mount before colliding with the HF whip. I stuck the mag mount back where it belonged. After bending things back and making some length tweaks on the HF stingers I got the VSWR on 20 and 40 back where they should be and got back on the road with improved results.

My last county for Saturday was slated to be Bastrop and I was concerned that even with bypassing Leon I was still running behind. Luckily I made it to Bastrop in plenty of time. I'd still managed to activate 29 of my planned 30 counties that day, but there were a couple where, for the first time, I hadn't been able to scare up the 5 QSOs needed for a 1000 point bonus. One thing I re-learned (that I now remember experiencing in 2016) is that AT&T cell coverage in far SE Anderson county is non-existent. My route only had me in Anderson for but a few miles too. If/when I do this again I'm going to modify the route to avoid that cell-forsaken spot.

While Saturday was primarily a 40m day, Sunday was almost all 20m. 40m conditions on Sunday also really went down the tubes.

On Sunday I was aided greatly by KK7AC in Arizona who followed along with me all day Sunday acting as "mission control". Andy would help me find (and keep) clear frequencies and could always be relied on to get me one of the minimum 5 QSOs I needed for the 1000 point bonus for activating each county. He didn't have internet at his shack, so couldn't aid in spotting me, but when I needed to I pulled over and did that myself.

After starting off the morning at the Hays/Caldwell county line on 7222 kHz (where I found KK7AC waiting for me), by mid-morning I was primarily up on 14304 kHz (later moving to 14307 kHz to avoid a net) and gained a growing following. Unlike Saturday where I fell behind schedule I ended up as much as 30 minutes ahead of schedule. This was largely due to the fact that I didn't have to use the extra time I'd budgeted to linger in counties where I just clipped the corner in order to scare up at least 5 QSOs. With a dedicated following I could get a good pileup going and clear it in much less than the 12-15 minutes of stop time I'd figured in.

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The tail end was to be a 4 mile dash through the SW corner of Wood County and then park at the Wood/Rains county line in the closing minutes. I had a tremendous pileup at the Wood/Rains line which I eventually cleared. Looking at the GPS and clock I realized that I had a shot at getting across Rains and back to Hunt County (where I'd started Saturday AM) with a few minutes to spare. Announcing my intentions, I put threw the Olde Grey Lady in gear and sent the gravel flying from the shoulder as we headed northwest at 70 mph (except where the speed limit was lower). Would we make it? I made a few more Rains county QSOs as we rocked up US 69 from Emory Texas headed for Lone Oak just across the Hunt/Rains county line.

I made it with several minutes to spare, pulling into the parking lot of Lone Oak High school (just across the county line) and made several more QSOs with "the deserving".

Then it was just a 20 minute drive to my QTH and some much needed refreshment. After transcribing the log I ended up with 484 QSO's (down from previous years) and over 100,000 points (including the bonus points for county activations). It should be good enough to take the state title again for Single Op SSB mobile.

It had been quite a ride. Ever since I bought the Chevy Tahoe last year, the Olde Grey Lady hasn't gotten out much, but that weekend I put about 1000 miles under her wheels and feed her about 50 gallons of gas and quart of 10W30. Her AC was nice and cool, she ran well and got almost 19 mpg. As I unloaded her and parked her for the night, I could have sworn that I saw her wink a turn signal at me and whisper from under the hood: "I may be old, and I've been around the block a few times, buy you know I've still got it." Had 18 hours of mobile SSB contesting incited an auditory hallucination? Had WB0TEV's mind finally been flung off the edge of the Smith chart?

CQ THE TEXAS QSO PARTY, CQ THE TEXAS QSO PARTY, from Hunt county Texas, Whiskey Bravo Zero Tango Echo Victor mobile.....

Written by Victor Paul – WB0TEV

Happy New Decade!

"New Year's Day provides us an opportunity to reassess our lives. But New Decade's Day is a special day that re-minds us to not just evaluate where we want to be after a year, but where we need to be in ten years.

So... in that vein, where will Amateur Radio be in ten years? I ask because it is important to remind ourselves what it will be like when the power goes out and communications systems are dark. We, as a society, have continued to rapidly adopt technology in such a way that we are entirely dependent on it. Take the smartphone; it is everywhere. We can answer our front door, turn on the lights, start our vehicle and talk to our friends at the touch of a few virtual buttons. It's so easy that we have forgotten how to fend for ourselves without technology.

Remember paper maps? How many of us can remember walking into a gas station and seeing a rack of a myriad of maps just inside the door? Do we even remember how to use; how to navigate; fold them? (Truth be told, folding a map is an engineering feat!)

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Communications is the bedrock of society. We must have multiple ways to talk and convey news and information. Smart Phones and the Internet cannot be allowed to become our only way to exchange ideas and stay informed. Amateur Radio is a global resource for communicating, providing help and hope to all in need. Let's strive to continue to improve our hobby; get better at communicating on the radio; work together more closely to develop strong teamwork skills; be more professional when we are working with our served agencies, partners and communities; and most importantly, enjoy and participate more in this hobby that is the very bedrock of civilization. There will be a day when Amateur Radio is the only way to communicate – let's be ready!"

73 and Best Wishes to You and your Family and Friends for a Prosperous New Decade!

Greg Evans, K5GTX

ARRL North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator

ARRL North Texas Assistant Section Manager

Written by ARRL NTX EM ASM Greg Evans – K5GTX

WF5E DX Cluster Moved to PLANO, TEXAS

Hello Everyone

We have successfully moved the WF5E Dx Cluster from Midland, Tx to my QTH in Plano.

This node is connected all the time to the K3LR cluster which is connected to other nodes. There are hundreds of users on line at any given time.

Feel free to connect to this cluster.

Here is what you need to telnet into the cluster:

WF5E DX Cluster:

- Node: WF5E
- Address: wf5e.no-ip.com
- Port: 23

What software do you need?

- One option is to use Windows Telnet
- Other great options for you PC is: CC User by VE7CC <http://www.bcdxc.org/ve7cc/>
- iPhone App: DXSpot
- Android App: NKCCcluster

Here is an informative article with an introduction to DX Clusters and their History.

<https://www.hamradiodeluxe.com/blog/Ham-Radio-Deluxe-Newsletter-April-19-2018--Understanding-DX-Clusters.html>

Here is a list of commands to use once you are connected to the cluster.

<https://www.mm0zif.org.uk/training-zone/dx-cluster-commands/>

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Feel free to email if you have any questions. This will be a very helpful tool as the Sun spot cycle starts to pull up from the bottom.

73, and Gud DX!

Reid - N5ZT

Written by DX Cluster Administrator Reid Bannon – N5ZT

Calendar

- Feb 10-14 ARRL School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
- Feb 13 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
- Feb 13 Skywarn Training, F. Warren Civic Center, Greenville 6-8pm**
- Feb 15-16 ARRL International DX – CW <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- Feb 18 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Feb 20 Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm
- Mar 6 Greater Houston Hamfest, Rosenberg, TX <http://houstonhamfest.org>
- Mar 7 Irving Amateur Radio Hamfest, Irving, TX <http://irvingarc.org>
- Mar 7-8 ARRL International DX – Phone <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- Mar 12 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
- Mar 14 Skywarn Training, Rockwall County Library, Rockwall 9-11am**
- Mar 14 Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Mar 17 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Mar 19 Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm
- Apr 18 Emory Tailgate Hamfest, Emory TX <http://w5ent.org>

[February 2020 Contest Corral – CLICK HERE](#)

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>
- 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:** David Rogers – KG5KPU
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- Vice President:** Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD
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- Secretary:** Scott Davis – KK7JS
secretary@w5nni.net
- Treasurer:** John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW
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- 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 D-Star Fusion
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.