

# AIRWAVES



## SOTA trip to the Wichita Mountains

**Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> –  
N.W. Lawton, OK.**

Stephen Denison, W5SMD, took a trip to the Wichita Mountains over Thanksgiving break to activate two mountain tops for Summits on the Air (SOTA). The weather was cool and clear most of the day with moderate winds on top of the mountains. Stephen started out the day by hiking the trail to the top of Elk Mountain (SOTA Reference W50/WI-007). Once on the summit, he set up his 40 meter dipole on a telescoping fiberglass fishing pole, hooked up his Yaesu FT857D and started calling CQ. He managed to work 13 other Hams on 20 and 40 meters using SSB and CW.

After packing up his equipment, Stephen decided to try to hike to Twin Rocks Mountain, a nearby peak with no trail to the top that had never been activated. It took him a couple more hours than he planned for to descend the west slope of Elk Mountain due to boulder fields and narrow canyons. Upon reaching Post Oak Creek, which is the creek that separates Elk Mountain from Twin Rocks Mountain, Stephen decided that it would take too long to climb Twin Rocks and decided to follow the Post Oak Creek Trail back to the trailhead.

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## Officer Elections for 2014

The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club is made up of folks who have an interest in Ham radio. However, it takes officers to keep an organization going. According to the club by-laws, we should have had officer elections at our December club meeting. However, this year, we had no meeting due to the holiday shut-down. So, we're making up for it by having a brief election order of business at our January club meeting. Please consider helping out with some of the following club needs:

- Club Marketing

So, please be looking in your email in-box for any possible announcements that may come along from the club. And, we will see you all NEXT YEAR on **Thursday, January 30, 2014** at 11:45am in the Rainbow Conference Room.

### Special points of interest:

- Next Club Meeting is Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 11:45am
- November and December meetings fall on a holiday, so they were cancelled.
- UHF Repeater is off-line – looking for a new home.

- Club President
- Club Vice President
- Club Secretary / Treasurer
- Newsletter Editor
- Website Administrator



## K5N Grid Activation Group Winter DxPediton

*"We hope to run meteor scatter(MS) through the peak of the Quads and on into the night(unless Es breaks out)"*

Hello to everyone interested in FFMA and / or grid chasing on 6M. The K5N Grid Activation Group is planning another of our "Great Winter DXpeditions". This time, we are going to EL08, just south of San Antonio.

I have been informed that the peak of the Quadrantids meteor shower is 2PM CST on January 3rd. I would really like to be on the air for the whole peak, if possible. So, a few minor changes to the original schedule are planned. We hope that we can run on the following schedule, but as always, changes may occur.

Jan 2nd - Bill-N5YA and Marshall-K5QE drive to the Gracey Ranch, just north of Pearsall, TX. Dan-N5TM and maybe George-NR5M will drive over that evening.



Jan 3rd - We plan to begin setup at about 9AM and hope to be fully functional by 12 Noon. That may or may not happen. We hope to run

meteor scatter(MS) through the peak of the Quads and on into the night(unless Es breaks out).

Jan 4th thru 6th - We will operate EME when the moon is favorable. This will allow a few guys that are way beyond meteor range to get that grid. When the moon is not favorable, we will operate either Es or MS as appropriate.

Jan 7th - Tear down and begin the drive home. Depending on how the group feels and on the activity, we MAY operate the early morning hours of Jan 7th. But, we will QRT and dismantle the station no later than 9PM. If we are beat down, we will QRT some time late on Jan the 6th.

I planned these dates based on the best moon times....only later did I realize that Jan 3rd and 4th are the peak of the Quadrantids meteor shower. This shower has a very quick peak, but it is very good during the peak, which we now know will be about 2PM on January 3rd. During the peak, we may run SSB meteor scatter if things are really hopping. Usually, operating SSB meteors works best on very short sequences, so I am thinking that we would do 5 second sequences, K5N always first sequence(i.e. starting 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 seconds for 5

second periods). I know that the "standard" for SSB meteors is 15 sec sequences, but if we are calling CQ for 15 seconds, that can waste a lot of time. I will entertain emails telling me that I am completely out of my mind off the reflector.....HI. We will keep everyone posted as to what we are doing via the K5N private chat page, so look for us there.

Dan-N5TM will activate our K5N private chat page for us as usual. Just go to chat.n5tm.com, login with your Call, Name, and your grid. Then click the K5N tab. If you don't enter your grid, we will not know which way to point, so be sure to enter your grid when you login.

Also, those dates are during the peak of the Winter Es season. We certainly hope that we hit some good Es and will operate Es whenever we can, excepting only our EME schedules.

For those of you that like to play around with Google Earth, the entrance to Gracey Ranch is 28° 57' 13.8"N by 99° 04' 48.7"W. That is right off Interstate 35 just north of Pearsall, TX. You can see a road lined by trees on both sides leading in to the ranch complex. The Gracey Ranch complex is right opposite the Keystone Ranch LLC which has a small square Marker on the map.

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## SOTA trip to the Wichita Mountains – continued from page 1

Stephen drove to the top of Mount Scott (SOTA Ref W50/WI-002) on the eastern edge of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Because the SOTA rules state that the final method of ascent must be human powered, he parked at a lower parking area and carried his equipment up the hill to an area on the western side of the summit. He was able to make contact with 18 stations using SSB on 20 and 40 meters. It was a very good day for hiking and ham radio.

***Submitted by Stephen Denison – W5SMD.***



(above) Elk Mountain and Mount Scott (below)

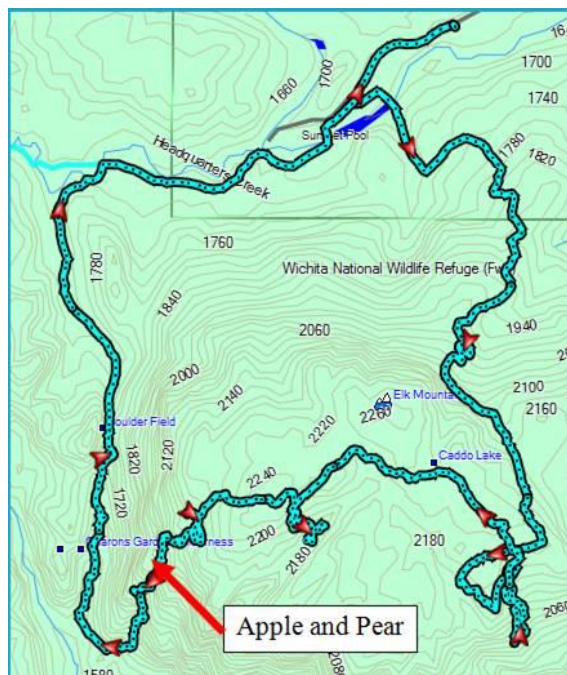
For more information about Stephen’s trip, here are some great links that provide more information:

Summits On The Air (SOTA) web site:

[www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk)

Stephen’s SOTA Activations:

[www.gsl.net/w5smd/SOTA.htm](http://www.gsl.net/w5smd/SOTA.htm)



## K5N Grid Activation Group Winter DxPedition – continued from page 1

Just put your mouse on the small square marker and the words Keystone Ranch LLC will appear.

The station will be essentially the same as we have used before. We will have 2 x 6M5XHP with full AZ / EL. We will have a full 1500W whenever we are running EME, but will probably hold it down to about 1000W for MS or Es. The amps are a combined pair of the M2 6M1000 amplifiers. We will have a preamp in line this time, just as we did when we were in EL84. That seemed to make a huge difference in what we hear.

We have learned that for Winter DXpeditions, using a frequency high in the band does not work well if Es occurs. Hence, we will operate on 50.128MHz for

everything except EME. When we operate EME, we will be on 50.195MHz using JT65A and first sequence. Any changes will be posted on the K5N chat page, so you can always know what we are doing. That page is interactive, so you can talk to us there.

We really do love to work lots of guys when we go out on one of these things, so listen up for us and try to give us a QSO.

73 de The K5N Grid Activation Group  
 George-NR5M  
 Dan-N5TM  
 Bill-N5YA  
 Marshall-K5QE

## E-Systems Radio Club QSO Card



Digging through your old QSO cards can bring back a lot of memories. Some of them remind you of special conversations, while others might have brought great rewards or surpassed milestones. Still, it is great to go through your collections, now and then.

Victor Paul – WB0TEV, did just that, when he was cleaning out some of his shack items. In the pile, he found an old club QSO card from the 1970's, back when the club was known as the E-Systems Radio Club. Victor thought you all would get a kick out of seeing it, so we added this to this month's newsletter. Thanks for sharing this, Victor.

If you have an interesting QSO card that would get a few conversations going, please share an image of it with the newsletter editor and we'll do our best to fit it in.

## Calendar

**DECEMBER**

- 19      **SVARA Meeting**  
The Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association will be having their December meeting at Baker's Ribs: 2711 Interstate 30 Frontage Road – Greenville, TX. The meeting starts around 7pm.
- 24-31    **L-3 Holiday Break**
- 25      **Meals On Wheels Christmas Support**  
Dave Patrick – W7DAV, is looking for volunteers to help guide volunteer drivers through the Visiting Nurses Association kitchen near downtown Dallas on Christmas Day. The event will bring thousands of hot meals to many folks who depend upon the Meals On Wheels program throughout the year. This is a short event and starts around 7:30am, finishing by 10:30am. Bring a safety vest and your HT with either a headset or earpiece. Send email to [w7dav@verizon.net](mailto:w7dav@verizon.net) to let Dave know you are coming. Dallas VNA is located just off of I-35E on West Mockingbird Lane.
- 31      **Straight Key Night**  
Technically starting January 1<sup>st</sup> at 0:00 UTC, Straight Key Night is dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners. This is a 24 hours event.

**JANUARY**

- 1      **New Year's Day Holiday**
- 1      **Straight Key Night**  
See December 31<sup>st</sup> above.
- 2      **Sam Rayburn Birthday Net**  
Jan 2-Jan 4, 1300Z-0000Z, K5FRC, Bonham, TX. Fannin County Amateur Radio Club. 145.470 145.130 14.290 7.185. Certificate. Danny Loyd, KE5WDI, 420 County Road 1451, Bonham, TX 75418. Event station will be on air at Sam Rayburn Library on Jan 2 and Jan 4. Certificate available upon request with SASE that will hold the certificate without bending. [www.k5frc.org](http://www.k5frc.org)
- 4      **Sam Rayburn Birthday Net**  
See January 2<sup>nd</sup> above.
- 8      **North Texas ARES HF Net**  
January 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30pm till 9:30pm on 3860 KHz

**MAJORS FIELD  
AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB**

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**E-Mail:**

Michael@Ketchums.info

**We're on the  
Web!**

**See us at:**

mfarc.ketchums.info

Your article submissions  
are welcomed. Please  
submit to  
Michael@Ketchums.info

Majors Field  
Amateur Radio Club  
Greenville, Texas



### Club Officers

President: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
Michael.Ketchum@L-3com.com  
(972) 408-6573 cell

Vice President Samuel Mize – KF5SSM  
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Secretary Treasurer Robert Draper – KF5SSQ  
Robert.Draper@l-3com.com

### Club Station

Club Station: TBD

VHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R  
147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz  
*Friday Morning Talk-In Net*

UHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R **(CURRENTLY OFF AIR)**  
444.625 MHz (-) PL 151.4 Hz

### MAJORS FIELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

10001 JACK FINNEY BLVD  
Attn: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
CBN: 26  
10001 Jack Finney Blvd  
Greenville, TX 75402

<MEMBER NAME>  
<STREET ADDRESS>  
<ADDRESS 2>  
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