

AIRWAVES



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Meeting Location Change

Thursday, January 30th –

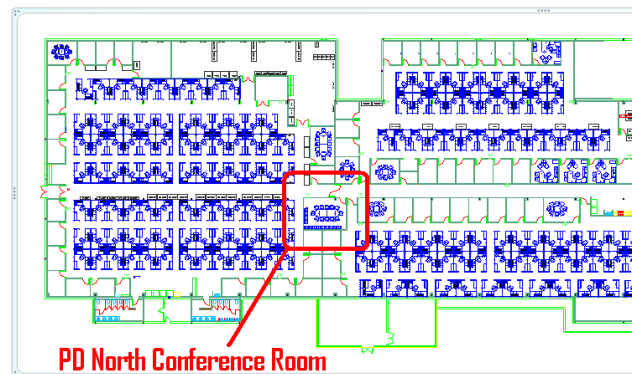
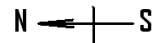
A retirement party has been scheduled for the Rainbow Room during the time of our club meeting this month. As a result, we have moved the meeting location to the Product Development North Conference Room for this month's meeting.

You can get to the PD North Conference room in Building 136-A (across the street from Centerpoint café) by going North up the main hallway until you reach the set of double glass doors in the main hallway. The conference room is on your LEFT before you go through the double glass doors. We will be meeting there at 11:30, with the meeting officially beginning at 11:45am. We are planning on Victor Paul – WB0TEV sharing

his DXpedition experience of 3DA0ET with our club during the meeting.

I look forward to seeing as many of you at the meeting as possible. ❖

Building 136-A



Officer Elections for 2014

The club looked like it was off to a good start, this past Summer. However, we need to continue to keep the momentum for club involvement and activities. If you have any projects you would like to do this year, please let one of the officers of the club know about it. Some ideas might include building an APRS Digi-peater, or maybe having everyone build a soundcard interface so you can use digital modes on your hand-talki or HF rig. We have big project ideas too, such as getting a club station on the air. Please consider what we as a club can do.

Also, as mentioned in the last edition of the **AirWaves** newsletter, the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club will be holding officer elections at our January club meeting.

Please consider helping out with some of the following club needs:

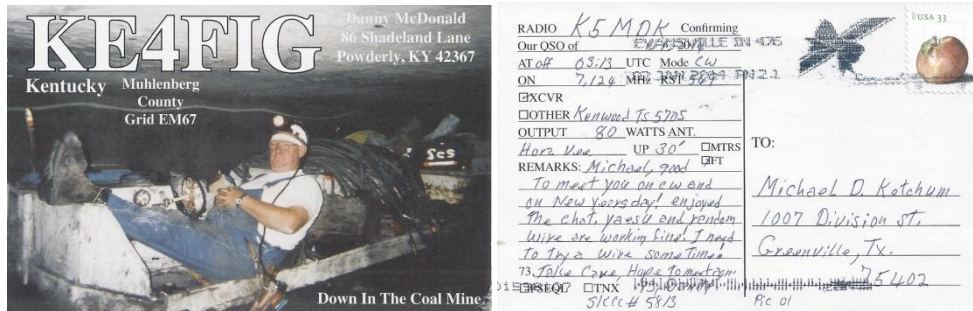
- Club President
- Club Vice President
- Club Secretary / Treasurer
- Club Activities
- Newsletter Editor
- Website Administrator
- Club Marketing

Not everyone will have the ability to take a position, but you can still come out and show your support by voting. So, please consider being a part of the elections on **Thursday, January 30, 2014** at 11:45am in the Recreation Hall in front of Bldg 208.

Special points of interest:

- Meeting Location Changed for January!
- Officer Elections.
- Updated Calendar
- Straight Key Night

Straight Key Night



Straight Key Night, also known as SKN, commemorates the history and style of the straight key or bug each year during New Year 's Eve (1/1/2014 0000Z ~ 2359Z). This year was no exception, as thousands of ham radio operators flooded the airwaves with QSOs. Michael Ketchum – K5MDK, was able to get his HF rig on the air, just in time to get in on the action with a good long QSO with Danny Mc Donald – KE4FIG. They talked just over an hour at 12 wpm (words per minute), which really slows things down quite a bit. However, the point of SKN is not to quickly rattle through Qs, but to slow down, meet new friends and just have a good time on the key. No electronic keyers or paddles are used on this night. Just the old fashioned goodness of a straight key or bug.

If you don't know Morse Code, there are several ways to learn. One way is to join a CW training net. Some nets meet on 2 meter band, while others meet on 40 meters or other HF frequencies in the area. The Dallas ARC just finished up their CW Training Net, as they usually do one once or twice a year, depending up on the interest. This writer was listening on the McKinney repeater a couple of weeks ago and listened to an announcement of another CW training net that is gearing up to start towards Bonham. They were trying to figure out who was interested and what repeaters to use. I believe they said they would be using the McKinney repeater, which reaches the Greenville area well.



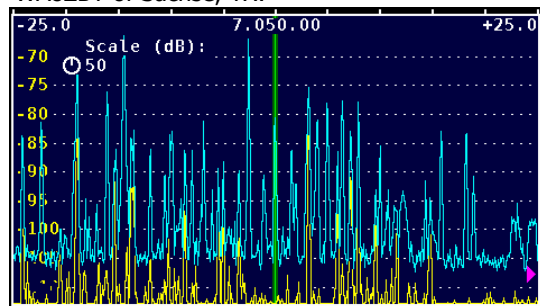
Another way to learn CW is to try out one of the free software programs. One such program called MorseCat can provide you lessons using the Farnsworth method. It also provides a text area where you can paste a large text passage for it to translate into Morse for you to copy.

No matter which method you use to learn CW, the key to learning CW is to simply GET ON THE AIR. It's kind of hard to learn to ride a bike without

actually getting on one. The same is true for CW. You just got to get on the air. It may seem daunting at first, but you have to try it. Once you get over that hurdle a couple of times, it starts to get much easier, as you go. There are many

CW operators who are more than happy to converse with you at slow speeds. Some of these operators belong to the SKCC or Straight Key Century Club, whose goal is to promote CW and aid other ham operators willing to learn.

Straight Key Night was a good experience for Michael. It afforded him the opportunity to setup the HF rig in a new house and fashion some sort of antenna system in order to get on the air. The band was packed that night, as seen by this spectrum snapshot provided by Dennis Cobb - WA8ZBT of Sachse, TX:



Straight Key Night – *continued*

As you can see from the pan-adapter graphic, there were a lot of QSOs going on in the lower part of 40 meters on SKN. SKN is a great way to ring in the New Year!

For more information about SKN, go to <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

For information about SKCC, go to <http://www.skccgroup.com/>

Submitted by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Calendar

JANUARY

- 18 Skywarn Training for Collin County in Frisco at Collin College - Preston Ridge Campus Conference Center: C105 8:30AM-4:30PM Basic & Advanced
- 30 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting at 11:45 am with change of venue to the Product Development North Conference Room in building 136-A.

FEBRUARY

- 12 ARES North Texas HF Net. 8:30pm to 9:30pm on 3860 KHz.
- 15 Skywarn Training for Dallas County in Garland at Granville Arts Center 9:00AM-12 Noon for Basic and 1:30-4:00PM for Advanced.
- 27 Skywarn Training for Hunt Count in Greenville at F. Warren Civic Center 6:30 - 8:30PM Basic Only

MARCH

- 1 Irving ARC Hamfest all day on Saturday. See <http://www.irvingarc.org/iarchamfest.html>

APRIL

- 5-6 Texas State Parks on the Air. Saturday & Sunday. See <http://www.tspota.com>

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 www.k6jt.com
- Thurs Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on the K5GVL/R 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz
- Friday Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Talk-In Net** Every Friday morning on your way in to work on the WD5GSL/R 147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0Hz

**MAJORS FIELD
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB**

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E-Mail:

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**We're on the
Web!**

See us at:

mfarc.ketchums.info

Your article submissions
are welcomed. Please
submit to
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Majors Field
Amateur Radio Club
Greenville, Texas



Club Officers

President: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
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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
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10001 Jack Finney Blvd
Greenville, TX 75402

<MEMBER NAME>
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<CITY>,<STATE> <ZIP CODE>