

AIRWAVES



Meeting Location Change

Thursday, June 26th –

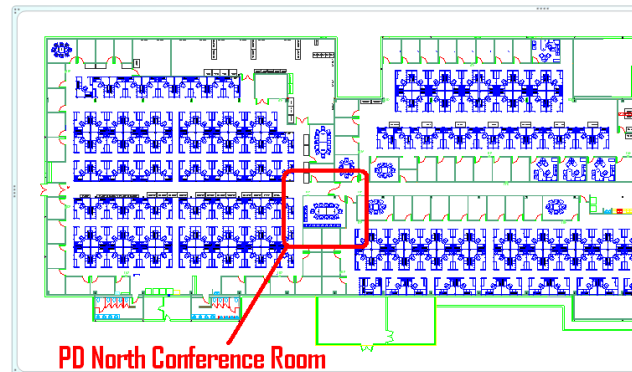
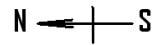
We're pleased to announce a new meeting location for the club! Having access difficulties to the Rainbow Conference has shortened our meeting for the last time. With a general consensus at the last membership meeting, it was suggested and agreed that we move our meeting location.

The **Product Development North** (PD North) Conference Room has been reserved the rest of the year for our club meetings. It has just enough room for the crowd we draw currently along with all of the amenities that we depend upon.

The meeting dates for the rest of this 2014 year is as follows:

- »June 26th
- »July 31st
- »August 28th
- »September 25th
- »October 30th
- »November 20th (H)
- »December 18th (H)

Building 136-A



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Special points of interest:

- Meeting Location Permanently Changed
- Hams train National Guardsmen
- Richardson WildRide!

Club Members Share Their Repeater Reports

Most of us use the area repeaters in the course of our work or travel in North Texas. This is especially true if we are traveling out of the area. But every time I get a chance to drive any distance at all, I'm always turning the mobile rig on to a local repeater.

This month, I asked our readers to share their repeater experiences with the rest of us. There are a few good reasons for doing this: First, we might learn about a repeater we have not used before; Second, we learn about the coverage of repeaters so that we can effectively communicate or know the limits of repeaters when planning a QSO with someone; Third, it is our goal to encourage each other to get on the air whenever and wherever possible.

After the request, I did not get a great number of responses. So, I'll share what I have received and I'll continue to ask the rest of you, who have not responded, to submit your reports to share with all of us.

This month, we hear from Mark Bushnell – AE5FG. Mark reports that he has both 2-meter and 70-centimeter radios. Mark lives in North Garland.

K5QHD – Garland ARC **146.660 MHz**- PL 110.9; Coverage is good in most areas due to antenna height for the primary repeater, I can hear it all the way to Greenville with my short mag mount, and can talk from

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Ham Radio Operators Train National Guardsmen

Eight Prattville Army National Guard members from the 231st Military Police Battalion armory traveled to Fort McClellan for specialized training in ham radios earlier this month.

The military is trying to bring back the use of HF or high-frequency communications in the service rather than having sole dependence on satellite communication.

With today's email and cellphone communication, radios now are used primarily during natural disasters and emergency situations such as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy when high cellphone use can overload the satellite system.

Special radio frequencies can communicate with emergency management agencies during such times.

Joel Black, a member the Region 4 Army Military Auxiliary Radio Service, or Army MARS, said the radio is much more efficient than satellite communications.

"Today's military has started to depend more on satellite communication. However, HF or high-frequency communications, is a more rapidly deployable communication system," Black explained. "You can set up an antenna, tune into the right frequency and start talking within minutes. It takes much longer to set up a satellite."

Trying to set up a satellite communication in the field can be cumbersome for military members, Black said. Oftentimes, two men are needed to set up a 20-foot or 8-foot satellite, transponder and other equipment.

The whole process can take up to two hours.

Three ham radio operators at McClellan taught the soldiers from Prattville how easy it could be.

The licensed Army MARS trainers shared their expertise in proper use and selection of radio frequencies, how radio waves work, communications technology, safety and techniques of antenna installation.

Those in charge of the three-day course included Alabama Army MARS State Director Wade Brock, Alabama Army MARS Training Officer John Briscoe and Georgia Army MARS State Director Jerry Lofstead.

Army MARS, which began in 1925, is a Defense Department organization of amateur radio operators that train on a daily basis for providing emergency communication for both military and government agencies.

Ham radio operators are most associated for their contributions as part of the U.S. Army Signal Corps sending messages between troops during the Korean and

Vietnam Wars with a HF radio-telephone.

Used with permission by: Rebecca Burylo, McClatchy News - May 12, 2014

Link to the article:

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Ham-Radio-Operators-Train-National-Guardsmen.html>



Interesting QSO by Scott Davis – KK7JS

We asked for your interesting QSO stories, and we have started to receive them. Please consider sending in your interesting QSO stories or any other kinds of radio reports that you're involved in. We would all love to hear them. This month, we hear from Scott Davis – KK7JS, on a recent QSO he had on 17 meters.

I was on 17m SSB having just finished a QSO when I received a call from Richard (W7SV) in Scottsdale, AZ. Since I had lived in that general area for a while we talked about some places and events we were both familiar with. I was

“It never ceases to amaze me how “small world” Ham Radio can be.”

wondering what else we may have in common when he mentioned where he had previously lived and worked...Harris Corporation in Rochester, NY (my hometown). I told him that I was born and raised there and that my Elmer Dave Hoffman (W2ONP) worked at Harris. He immediately recognized the name and said he had worked with him for many years. We continued to ragchew for about 45 minutes about Rochester and different people and places we knew in common. It never ceases to amaze me how “small world” Ham Radio can be.

Tim Serbin – W3LS visits ARRL Headquarters on 100th Anniversary



Tim Serbin – W3LS traveled to Connecticut last week to attend his nephew’s wedding. After getting there, he realized how close he was to the ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT. He could not pass up an opportunity to visit, especially just a week or so after the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the American Radio Relay League. So, Tim shares with us a couple of pictures from his trip. Thanks Tim!

Club Members Share Their Repeater Reports – continued

Greenville with my higher gain (tall) antenna. I’ve also had good coverage driving south on IH-35 down to Waxahachie. The backup repeater for that frequency has good coverage for most of Garland, but doesn’t reach out as far.

K5QHD – Garland ARC 442.700 MHz+ PL 110.9; Coverage is good in north Garland, but I haven’t tried it elsewhere.

WD5GSL Majors – 147.160 MHz- PL 100.0;

Coverage is good to Rockwall, and I can hear it some in north Garland; but I rarely hear anyone on it, even during my Friday morning commutes. Can not hear it inside building 136A.

WD5GSL Majors – 444.625 MHz+ PL 151.4; Coverage was good inside building 136A, hope we can get it operational again.

Submitted by Mark Bushnell - AE5FG

A WildRide! In Richardson

Richardson, TX May 17, 2014

Each year in May, the Methodist Richardson Medical Center promotes a bike ride from Richardson in order to raise money and awareness for cancer treatment. Funds raised go to support programs that directly impact patients undergoing cancer treatment in North Texas. This is the eleventh year that the hospital has held the Richardson WildRide! against cancer event.

As with most public service events that ham radio operators are involved with, the event depends upon ham volunteers to provide communication support. So much so, that the event organizers have indicated that the event would not be able to proceed without the ham volunteers who signed up this year.

The operators fulfill several functions with regards to communications support. First, there are leader shadows, which allow messages to be transferred between the various event organizer leads. Second, there are rest stop operators who pass rest stop needs and important information back to the organizers and other logistic support personnel. Thirdly, there are rest stop operators who observe and pass less critical information from the rest stops to the organizers. Fourthly, there are operators who work in SAG vehicles and are dispatched to rescue stranded riders and transport them back to the start/finish area. Fifthly, there are liaison operators who are stationed with either Emergency Medical Service vehicles or vehicles operated by local bicycle shops in order to help with logistics when help is needed.



Jim (W5OMG) and Amelia (KD5TXQ) Shultz established their voice station next to the digital station.

This year, as in the last several years, Doug Kilgore – KD5OUG, has been organizing the event. This year, however, Doug has to be out of town for this year's event. After accomplishing most of the organization work, Doug passed the baton to Michael Griego – N5GNU, who ran with the program through to a good success. John Galvin – N5TIM covered Net Control for the main net. We had various trackers installed in ancillary vehicles provided by Chadwick Stelzl – KD5UMO. We had two lead/tail vehicles this year and ten SAG vehicles. With four rest stops covered by a total of fifteen ham operators, every base was now covered.

For this writer and ham operator, I operated a digital station at Rest Stop #3, located in Josephine, TX. I was accompanied by Chris Havenridge – KF5GUN. We had a good time setting up the station and we spent a good amount of time discussing NBEMS and APRS details, besides passing some traffic now and then. Rest Stop #3 was also assigned to Jim and Amelia Shultz – W5OMG and KD5TXQ, respectively. Jim ran voice traffic for any urgent needs for the rest stop.

Digital communications was utilized again this year for the fourth year in a row. This was my third year using NBEMS – MT65-2000 in this event. The setup is fairly simple and provides clear and good communications over long distances using either 2m or 70cm transceivers. In our case, we setup a 70cm station and were able to connect with W5ROK repeater, which is about 30 miles away. The station consisted of a Yaesu FT-7900R, a home-brew audio interface with transformer isolation on both input and output audio, along with RS232 PTT control using opto-isolation. The

A WildRide! In Richardson – Continued

antenna, a high-gain dual band VHF/UHF antenna, was hoisted about 20 feet in the air using a telescoping flagpole, complete with US flag. The system, including power supply and laptop running FIDigi software, was supported by a folding table under a pop-up canopy. AC Line voltage was provided by my Camry Hybrid battery using an inverter. This provided voltage for both the laptop and the 12volt power supply for the rig. The plans were to also establish an HF radio station, which did not materialize due to the fishing line breaking and complications with the antenna site.

NBEMS operations using FIDigi is quite robust, when including FIMsg, which can format the message into many of the ICS forms that are used. FIMsg can also pass binary data, such as a picture or file attachment. In some cases, a spreadsheet is sent with information on it. This can be useful in the field in order to accumulate and share data.

FIDigi configuration is the key to operating a successful NBEMS station. Extra care is taken to insure everyone is operating with the same settings. Tests are performed to insure we can accurately pass information back and forth without issue. Training is performed a few months leading to the event, as well as all year round via the Dallas NBEMS net, which meets on the first and third Wednesday nights at 7:30pm on the K5RWK repeater. There is a yahoo group for the Dallas NBEMS group called "dalNBEMS".

The audio/PTT interface that I built provides audio isolation so that noise and RF cannot enter into the computer's sound card. This is accomplished through isolation transformers placed between the laptop and



Many thirsty riders refuel before finishing the 64-mile WildRide! against cancer.

radio for both the input and output audio. The laptop's sound card is not used for NBEMS operation so that no windows noise and audio levels can be controlled more accurately. Instead, a USB sound card is used, which allows the audio settings to be uniquely controlled for NBEMS operations, without the need adjusting audio levels. Also, there is no fear of "you've got mail" or a windows sound going out over the air, as the built-in sound card is always configured to handle those kinds of notifications. The PTT control is done through an RS232 interface, which allows an opto-isolation device to control the radio's transmit controls. FIDigi can be configured to control PTT via the RS232 com port. Another USB RS232 adaptor is used to provide this interface to the radio. The interface and all of the components are wired to the radio using the radio's external speaker connector (1/8" phone jack) as well as the microphone connector (RJ-22), which I put together using the radio's technical manual for a wiring guide.

The components were all tested here at my home QTH by joining the Dallas NBEMS net in Richardson. I had a great signal report from Greenville to Richardson on both digital as well as voice, a 41 mile trip. On the net, we would test our connections, exchange graphic files, ICS messages and other assignments. One of the new assignments this year was the US National Grid System, a coordinate system that provides various degrees of accuracy as well as simple distance calculation formula that can be done with a calculator, as opposed to using complex math.

The Wild Ride, itself, was uneventful, which was a blessing. We had no major injuries this year, which is a sharp contrast to last year's event. The event



Chris Havenridge Sr (KF5GUN) & Michael Ketchum (K5MDK) at Rest Stop #3

A WildRide! In Richardson – Continued

organizers were very pleased with the ham radio volunteers again this year. Chris – KF5GUN and I had a great time. In retrospect, we had too much technology discussions and work to do to involve HF communications on top of all of that. It worked out

for the better that we did not have the resources to setup the HF station.

73 de Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Calendar

2014

1/1 ~ ARRL Centennial QSO Party. W1AW WAS portable operations and points contest.
12/31 <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party> for more info.

June

13-14 HAM-COM
14 COLLIN CLASSIC email tony@w5adc.com
19 SVARA Meeting
26 MFARC MEETING.
11:45 in the PD North Conference Room (LOCATION CHANGE). 30 minutes.
28 FIELD DAY

July

17 SVARA Meeting
31 MFARC MEETING.
11:45 in the PD North Conference Room (LOCATION CHANGE). 30 minutes.

August

21 SVARA Meeting
28 MFARC MEETING.
11:45 in the PD North Conference Room (LOCATION CHANGE). 30 minutes.

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

FridayMajors 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
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Greenville, Texas



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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

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