

AIRWAVES



Instructors Needed

(Stephen Denison-W5SMD) The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a 1.5 day Technician Class on November 20-21, 2015 at the Hunt County Regional Medical Center in Greenville. Instructors are needed to teach the material for the technician exam.

The class will be split up into 20 sections based on Gordon West's Study manual, and each section is approximately 20 to 45 minutes in duration. PowerPoint slides have been created for each section, and may be modified by the instructor for their liking.

If you would like to teach a specific section or at a specific time slot, please email Stephen Denison at classes@wd5gsl.org.

KK5MR Portable

(Michael Ketchum- K5MDK) To enjoy the woods, hiking and fishing, one must venture out of the home or office and traverse into the out of doors. That's what Mark Rice – KK5MR did over Halloween weekend when he took to the wilderness for some decompression and a little Ham Radio fun. Mark and his family visited the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma at Quanah Parker Lake. Mark had a great time of hiking, exploring and was able to get some fishing in too. Mark used the off-time to have some radio fun as any good Ham operator would do. He checked into the SATERN net (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) as well as helping some County Hunters get the Comanche County, OK on their county list. Mark was also able to do a few DX QSOs. Thanks, Mark, for sharing your weekend with us. If you had a weekend of radio fun, consider sharing it with the club

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Special points of interest:

Instructors are needed for the Technician Class this month

Amateur Radio Entry-Level FCC License

Work with Radios - Hobby - Public Service- Disaster Preparedness- FUN

Consider getting your
FCC Amateur Radio License

Class sessions:

Friday, November 20 6:00pm to 9:00 pm
Electronics, Ohms Law, Circuit Theory, Schematics

Saturday, November 21 8:00am to 5:00 pm
Laws, Procedures, Transmission Modes, Safety

Test Session:

Saturday, November 21 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Classes and the test session will take place at the Hunt County Regional Medical Center in Greenville, TX in Conference Room 1.

Classes and test session are provided **FREE** of charge by the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club.

For more information, email classes@wd5gsl.org or call 903-457-4127
RSVP for the License Test is appreciated.



WB0TEV Helps PJ6A Set New World Record in CQ WW RTTY Contest

(Victor Paul - WB0TEV) In June I was contacted by a Tim Pearson, (K5AC) who asked if I was interested in traveling to the island of Saba in the Dutch Caribbean to join Jeff Jolie (NM1Y) at his vacation home there and mount a serious Multi-Operator/Single Transmitter Low Power entry in the CQ World Wide RTTY contest. The contest would span 48 hours over the last weekend in September.

Tim and I are both members of the DFW based Lone Star DX Association and have shared interests in DXpeditions and Radio Teletype (RTTY). Tim lives in Ft. Worth and had been a lead RTTY op on the K5D DXpedition to the island of Desecheco in 2005, while Jeff had done much the same on the recent K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island this past February. Neither of those DXCC entities had been activated in the previous 20 years and were major operations.



Jeff, a relatively new ham (only licensed in the past 5 years or so) is a electrical engineer, and entrepreneur who owns his own industrial controls business in Connecticut and has an ideally sited vacation home on the north side of the island of Saba in the Caribbean. That QTH is situated at 1300 feet above sea level with a perfect over water shot to North America and Europe. Last year a team from that QTH (also operating under the PJ6A call sign) set a new world record for the Multi-Op/Single Transmitter Low power category in the ARRL International SSB DX contest.

The weekend of the CQ World Wide RTTY Contest coincides with the Texas QSO Party and while I'd normally be driving around North Texas in the antenna festooned Pontiac making SSB QSOs, a trip to Saba was not something to turn down.

Like most DX contests, there are different entry categories based on whether it's done by just one person or a team,

the number of transmitters you use and how much power you run. We were gunning for the multi-Op/Single Transmitter Low power category which means our transmitter power would not exceed 100 watts (i.e. no linear amplifiers) a team of operators (just the 3 of us) and a "single" transmitter.

As in most contests of this sort, ones score is based on the number of contacts you make multiplied by the number of different geographic sub-divisions you work. Those different geographic sub-divisions are known as multipliers, because they serve to multiply your score. In the CQ WW RTTY contest each QSO with a station on the same continent as yourself is worth 2 points, while a QSO with a station on another continent is worth 3 points. In this contest the multipliers consist of each DXCC country in the world, each US State, each Canadian Province and 40 Zones, each of which covers a portion of the globe. Contest operation is conducted on the 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands and the multipliers count again for each band. (i.e. a QSO with Australia on 15m is a separate and additional multiplier from a QSO with Australia on 20m). Thus there is an incentive to work as many different places on each of the 5 contest bands as possible.

Even though our entry class was "Single Transmitter" the rules for this contest allow for the use of a 2nd transmitter in the Single Transmitter class provided that this second transmitter does nothing but work new multipliers. It can't be used to call CQ, but only answer the calls of others, provided the caller is a new mult.

That was the role that I was going to take on and I took an old Yaesu FT-757GXII and a laptop running the N1MM-plus logging program in my luggage along with other ham paraphernalia. *Continued on page 4*



October Club Meeting Minutes

Michael Ketchum – President, opened the meeting at 1145.

Announcements were made (see meeting PowerPoint slides for details).

President's Report:

- Club officer discussion and nominations next meeting
- Election of officers at December meeting.
- Tech Classes coming up.
- November and December meetings will be moved up a week for holidays.
- Discussed another possible location for the remote station.

Vice President's Report:

- Stories for club newsletter is needed.
- Need instructors for the upcoming VE classes.
- The Susan G Coleman walk is on 11/14 in Campbell if anyone wants to volunteer.
- VE class will be on 11/20 and 11/21 (Friday and Saturday). Start at 6pm on Friday. Hours on Saturday are 8am to 5pm with testing after an afternoon break.

Secretary Treasurer's Report:

- The balance in the MFARC checking account as of 9/30/2015 is \$681.27.
- No deposits or expenditures were processed since last meeting.

Old Business:

Remote HF Project:

- Antenna is connected with poor VSWR on some bands. David Kessinger to tune it in the near future.
- IT has rejected approval for HRD Software.

VE Class and Session:

- Jae is out of town.
- VE Class on Friday and Saturday, November 20 ~ 21 with VE Session to follow.
- Class location is 2nd floor of Greenville hospital. Hours of class are 6pm to 9pm on Friday 11/20, and 8am to 5pm on Saturday 11/21. Flyers have been posted at several locations throughout the L3 facility.

New Business:

None brought up for discussion.

Discussion Topics:

- Holiday gathering / party discussed
The decision was made to wait try to schedule a gathering something in January after the holidays.

Discussed Club Planning for 2016:

- Club events.
- Field Day 2016
- Contesting as a club.

Adjournment at 1210

A motion made and passed by voice vote – No objections.

ATTENDANCE:

1. Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
2. Stephen Denison – W5SMD
3. John Nelson – N0DFW
4. Mark Bushnell – AE5FG
5. Victor Paul – WB0TEV
6. Larry Smith – K5XB
7. Will Sanitate -

Grand Prize Winner

Congratulations to Michael Ketchum, K5MDK, for winning the grand prize at Hamarama in Ardmore Oklahoma. Michael attended the hamfest with long-time friends Bob Kirby, K3NT, and Ross Terry, K5SRT. He walked away with a Yaesu FT-857D and LDG 100 Pro autotuner. Michael said that he would like to install it in his truck, but needs to research mobile HF antenna systems.



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The Tuesday before the contest K5AC and I both got up early (around 3AM local) and met at DFW International Airport to catch our 6:10 AM AA departure to Sint Maarten (PJ7) with a quick change of planes in Miami. We arrived in Sint Maarten around 3pm local and rechecked our luggage with WinAir for the 15 minute flight down to Saba where the runway is a mere 440 yards (1/4 mile) long. Around 5pm we boarded a DeHavilland Twin Otter (twin engine turbo prop) for the 15 minute flight from Sint Maarten to Saba. We were met at the airport by Jeff who drove us up the mountain to his QTH.

The next day we stood up his fold over tower, hauled the beam antenna parts out his garage (which would also serve as our operating shack), put antennas up and strung coax and rotor control cables. In addition to the 3 element rotating beam for 10/15/20m we also had a multi-band vertical on the roof of Jeff's house, a 40m dipole made from the driven element of what was to have been a 2 element beam and an 80m dipole.



Jeff had a TS-590S and Sony laptop for the "run" station while I set up my FT-757GXII and HP laptop as the "mult" station.

In the days leading up to the start of the contest on Friday night I got on the air as PJ6/WB0TEV and made over 600 QSOs, mostly on SSB and RTTY but also a few dozen on CW as well. I worked lot of Europeans and made QSOs on every band between 80 and 10 meters including the 12m, 17m and 30m WARC bands. For the WARC bands I used an MFJ-949 tuner I'd brought down and use it to load up the 40m dipole. Among the QSOs I made were prearranged contacts with MFARC members Scott Davis KK7JS on 80 CW and Mark Rice KK5MR on 40 SSB.

The contest began at 0000Z Saturday (8pm Friday night local time on Saba) with Jeff calling CQ from the run station on 20m and me scouring the other bands to work new multipliers. The logging computers were networked and the N1MM+ logging program keeps track of what multipliers have been worked by either station on each band, so I knew what I could and could not work.

The next 48 hours was one big radio frenzy. Jeff and Tim

took turns on the run station while I spent the first 36 hours of the contest operating the multiplier station with a couple of 90 minute catnaps after sunrise Saturday morning. Since your body goes in and out of deep sleep (known as REM sleep) in 90 minute cycles if you set your alarm to coincide with the end of one of them you can wake up without feeling absolutely horrible.

After the first 24 hours of the contest we had made over 1800 QSOs and our score stood at ~2.4 million points. This was a good sign as the previous North American record was 3.9 million points (Saba is considered to be part of the NA continent) while the world record set the year before from a station on Aruba (which is considered to be South America) was 4.33 million points.

Nonetheless, we knew that we would likely make fewer QSOs in the last 24 hours than in the first 24 as there would be fewer and fewer new stations to work and Sunday afternoons tended to be slow as the high bands would start to fold to Europe and too many American hams would be watching football instead of getting on the radio! The good news was that our multiplier count was up to 530 so each additional 2 point QSO at that point added over 1000 points to the score while each 3 point one added >1500.



Fortunately we were working a lot more European stations (worth 3 points a piece) than North American ones. 15m was the real money band as it was an hours long pipeline into Europe. Even 10 meters opened up for us, an advantage we had over stations further from the equator who saw much shorter and poorer openings. Given that the sunspot cycle was in decline we were pleasantly surprised. Going in we feared 10m might be all but dead.

By 9:30 pm local time Saturday night (0130Z Sunday) I was finally ready to get some serious sleep, now that there were fewer and fewer new multipliers to be had, at least until dawn when the higher bands would open again.

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I grabbed a quick shower and went to sleep for the next 8 hours or so, while Tim covered the multiplier duties for much of my off time.

Shortly after dawn Sunday morning I was up and back on the radio looking for new multipliers. It was slim pickin's but I did manage to finally work Z21MG, a DXpedition to Zimbabwe by a crew from the Czech Republic. By mid-morning we'd exceed the old North American record for Multi/Single Low power with almost 12 hours still remaining in the contest. Sometime after noon local time Sunday after several attempts I finally scored a QSO with TR8CA in Gabon on 15m. This was also a double mult as it was our first QSO with Zone 36 on that band. That QSO also appears to be the one that put us over the top to break the previous world record score although I don't think we noticed that we had crossed that threshold until a while later.

Jeff and Tim kept zipping along on the run station working one station after another. Sunday afternoon under Tim's guidance we took on a new tack to boost our multiplier count and overall score. Looking at the Mult display on the N1MM+ logging software we noted that we'd worked much of the USA on 10m but almost nothing west of the Rockies. We also had almost nothing from South America on any band, but that's because the 2800 foot Mt. Scenery (Saba is an extinct volcano) was in the way. When the run station would work a station on 15m from a state we needed on 10m we'd ask that station to move to a frequency on 10m and try and work us there. These "moves" often proved successful and we boosted our score yet further with that strategy.

About 90 minutes before the end of the contest we broke the 5 million point barrier. I worked the last new multiplier 12 minutes before the closing bell (Prince Edward Island Canada on 40m) and when it was finally over at 8 pm local time Sunday night we had made over 3200 QSOs with a score of just over 5.2 million points.

But had someone else also beaten the former record and indeed beaten us? We knew that our main competition would be from the crew of US hams that went to Bermuda every year operating under the call sign VP9I. Indeed they

were the North American record holders for our category in this contest. The team that set the world record from Aruba in 2014 were going to separate less competitive places this year, so VP9I was the team to beat. The VP9I crew also knew that PJ6A was going to be their main competition. We were wondering how they did and I'm sure they were wondering the same.

That night (Sept 27) there was to be total eclipse of the moon. We were feeling pretty good as we all dined at a lovely outdoor cafe down on the coast later that night as we watched the moon go dim under a gorgeous expanse of stars.

The next morning I got up at dawn for one last radio fix, getting on 30m RTTY as PJ6/WB0TEV. After a working a few guys in the US, who should call me but one of the ops from Bermuda! I watched my screen as the radio teletype message came across asking "How did you guys do in the contest?". Not wanting to tip our hand, but not wanting to be dishonest either, I typed back at him "We believe we have broken the North American record" (which was true, but I didn't let on that we'd also smashed the previous world record to boot). I continued and typed out "So how did you guys do?"

Dead silence....

Once again I keyed the transmitter and typed "So how did you guys do?" There was no reply.

Later on the internet site where folks post their claimed scores, our honorable competition posted a score of just over 3.0 million points along with "congratulations to the PJ6A team which is rumored to have broken our North American record." Shortly thereafter Tim posted our 5.2 million point score (which no one else topped) and PJ6A was revealed to be the new world record holder.

Monday morning we took down the tower and disassembled the beam. Later that day Jeff, Tim and their wives went scuba diving. Saba has some of the best diving and snorkeling in the world with pristine waters and a host of aquatic life. The next day I flew back to Texas, but I hope to go back to Saba again some day. After all, while I made over 600 QSOs outside the contest as PJ6/WB0TEV, I had 1000 PJ6/WB0TEV QSL cards printed. :-)



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CLUB**

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**We're on the
Web!**

See us at:

www.wd5gsl.org

Your article submissions
are welcomed. Please
submit to Stephen
Denison

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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
 444.625 MHz (+) PL 151.4 Hz
 Temporary Antenna Position Limits Range Currently

November

- 19 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital
- 19 MFARC Meeting PD North Conference Room at 11:45am

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