

# AIRWAVES



## Outgoing President's Message

2015 has been a fantastic year for the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club. We held regular meetings, had a few good work projects, received a repeater upgrade, assisted in the LGames, held two license classes; one multi-day and one 2-day, held three VE sessions this year with a total of 26 passed exams, and an HF station working on the air. That is a whole lot of accomplishment this year. And it was all done by you, members of this club.

For the past few years, it has been an honor to serve as your President. It was a pleasure to see the club build and grow. We have a lot of new faces now. The best feeling of all is participating in the classes and VE session and signing the 605 forms for new licenses. However, as this New Year starts with new leadership, I hope to still be able to make contributions to the club, but in a smaller way. It is with that thought that I hope you will give your complete support to Stephen Denison – W5SMD as he takes the reins of leadership into 2016. I think this next year will be an even better year for the club than this year. I hope you see it that way too.

The club now needs your input for several things going forward:

- Ideas and volunteers for club presentations.
- Ideas for club projects and goals for 2016.
- Your participation in projects and activities that are coming up next year.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help make your hobby experience even better, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
President – Majors Field Amateur Radio Club.

## Incoming President's Message

As I look back at 2015 and see the progress we have made as a club, I feel a certain sense of inadequacy at having to follow in Michael's shoes. I will do as much as I can to match the bar that he has set.

I am excited for this New Year and for new possibilities with the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club. I would like to build on the success of our Technician classes and license test sessions from last year by continuing to offer the class and test at least twice this year, as well as adding a General class and test session. We already have a few Hams who have expressed interest in a General class to upgrade their license. We will discuss the logistics of hosting the classes at the upcoming club meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

We will continue to provide public service by supporting the LGames, Cotton Patch Bicycle Race, and the Hunt County Emergency Management drill. If any other public service opportunities arise, we will make our best effort to support them as well.

Our HF station is on the air from the second floor of the fire station. Any dues paid member of the club is able to operate that station within the privileges of their license class. Contact any of the club officers for information on how to access the radio room.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the members of the Major Field Amateur Radio Club for making 2015 a great year. Let's make 2016 even better!

Stephen Denison, W5SMD

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### Special points of interest:

We need people to present a topic at our club meetings

## December Club Meeting Minutes

Michael Ketchum – President, opened the meeting at 1145.

Dues were received from the following members: Lum, Sanitate, Titzell, Rogers, Davis, Yakel, and Bushnell.

Agenda is being streamlined to reduce the officer's reports at the beginning of each meeting. This information is e-mailed prior to each meeting in the form of a newsletter.

Officer Elections were held. The following names were submitted for MFARC officers for the 2016 calendar year:

Stephen Denison – President  
Michael Ketchum – Vice-President  
John Nelson – Secretary / Treasurer

No other nominations were submitted for consideration prior to the vote.

Motion to close nomination By John Nelson

Seconded by Joseph Scott

Passed by voice vote – unanimous

Motion for acclamation By William Sanitate

Seconded by David Rogers

Passed by voice vote – unanimous

Presentation by Michael Ketchum: An Introduction to Amateur Radio

Topics covered included:

- What is AARL:
- Get on local repeater.
- Rag Chew – What is it?
- NETs – types, what they are, where to find them
- Contests
- Field Day (Once a year – last weekend in June)
- Radio Types – get help from another club member for ideas and suggestions before you buy.

Adjournment at 1230

Motion to adjourn 12:30

By Scott Jospeh

Seconded by John Nelson Jr

Passed by voice vote – unanimous

Attendees:

Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
Joe Lum	KE5ZBL
Will Sanitate	
Jon Titzell	KF5PUR
David Rogers	KG5KPU
Scott Davis	KK7JS
John Nelson	N0DFW
Scott Joseph	K5BGL
Darryl Hahn	KG5KPX
Robert Yakel	KG5KKE
Marc Bushnell	AE5FG
Stephen Denison	W5SMD

## December Meeting Presentation

**So You Got Your Ticket, Now What?** – *an introduction to Ham Radio* Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

We have seen a huge class of new Technician Licensees come out of our recent License Classes and VE Session. Because of this, we don't want to lose any momentum in their discovery of this great hobby we call "Ham Radio". So, this is a short presentation to help give new Tech's some ideas going forward in their own personal journey in this wonderful hobby.

### JOIN A CLUB

One of the biggest resources to any new ham, or even an older one, is the Ham Radio Club. There are clubs in just about any town of any size where Hams can be found. Clubs provide a great source for learning about the hobby, getting exposure to other facets of the hobby as well as meeting other hams. One of the first things a new ham should do is find an "Elmer". An Elmer is another ham who has some experience and mastery of the hobby who can become a mentor to you. When I started out, everyone who was a Ham was an Elmer to me. However, eventually, I counted on two men as my Elmers: Bob Kirby – K3NT and John McFadden – K5TIP. Whenever I have a question to this day, I can always count on their help and support, even though I have moved to another city.

One big reason hams join local ham radio clubs is to try out different facets of the hobby. There are so many technologies that can be explored, such as APRS, SDR, repeaters and EmComm – all of which are available to the Technician Class license holder. A club allows you to find out about various events which cover these technologies, in which you can participate and learn on-the-job.

You can do in a club what you can't do on your own. Clubs provide a way to "pool" your resources together to accomplish a large task, which would either be too expensive or difficult if pursued individually. Take a local repeater, for instance. Most of the repeaters are sponsored and supported by clubs, rather than individuals. Although it is possible to afford and host one as an individual, it makes more sense to do it as a club by designating one ham operator as the "Trustee" of that system. Here at the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club, we have two repeaters; one on UHF and another on VHF. Jonathan Brown –WB5KSD is our trustee for this equipment.

### HAM FESTS

A great way to learn about ham radio and to keep your interests building is to attend local hamfests. Hamfests are organized by a regional set of clubs or a single club. Some hamfests are organized by a separate organization unto the purpose of sponsoring the festival each year. In any case, hamfests provide many ways to learn as well as an opportunity to buy new or used gear to get your hobby started. At most hamfests, you will see a schedule of seminars covering a variety of subjects. There are also local experts and vendors who can really help you learn too. I learned more about solar power from a local ham selling a few unrelated items at a table than at any seminar on the topic.

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And you can win gear too! Most of the hamfests will sell raffle tickets and provide one as part of your admission to win new ham gear or related stuff. Two of my mobile rigs were obtained this way, so it is possible to win. In this area, we have the Cow Town hamfest in the middle of January, the Irving ARC hamfest in early March, the HamEXPO Spring in the middle of April and HAM-COM (the biggest one in the area) in the middle of June as well as a Fall HamExpo in early October. I would be amiss to not mention my favorite hamfest: Ham-A-Rama in Ardmore, OK each year in October. The ARRL web site has a listing for all hamfests, so check it out frequently.

**ARRL**

The ARRL is THE national organization for Amateur Radio in the United States of America. It stands for the **American Radio Relay League** was founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim – W1AW and serves about 161,000 members, which is the largest organization for radio amateurs in the world. They provide five points of service:

- a) Public Service – by coordinating emergency communications with the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) organization.
- b) Advocacy – by representing amateur radio interests with regulatory and legislative groups in government.
- c) Education – lifetime learning and certification for personal achievement in amateur radio.
- d) Technology – for over 100 years, the ARRL members have provided advances in the radio art.
- e) Membership – by providing a strong membership base to accomplish many advances in the hobby.

The ARRL also is a major publisher of materials for the hobby, such as the annual ARRL Handbook, which is a textbook for understanding and design for anything radio, as well as specific publications on various topics and several magazines, such as the QST magazine. Membership is only about \$49 annually.

**REPEATERS**

You got your Technician's Ticket and you want to get on the air. One of the best ways to do so locally is through a repeater with a small handi-talkie (HT for short). A HT usually works on VHF (2 meters) and/or UHF (70cm) to operate on local repeaters. Some repeaters also work on the 1.25 meters band (222 MHz) and 6 meters as well. These are bands that are available to the Technician class ham. The 2-meter and 70cm bands are the most popular for repeaters in this area. The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club sponsors two repeaters, as well as the local Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association (SVARA), which meets in Greenville. Here are those three repeaters:

WD5GSL/R 147.160MHz(+) 100Hz PL  
 WD5GSL/R 444.625MHz(+) 151.4Hz PL  
 K5GVL 146.780MHz(-) 114.8Hz PL  
 Echolink #290987

**OPERATING**

There are several kinds of operating in the hobby. Some of them include Rag Chew, Nets, and Contesting. With a RAG CHEW, operators meet on a frequency and have an informal net to talk about whatever they want to. No appropriate subject is off-limits. These are characterized by long conversations with a small group of hams. They usually meet on the air as friends on a regular basis.

Nets are a more organized form of operating for a specific purpose, such as a club meeting, rag-chew awards, hamfests, public-service, weather or emergency communications, to name a few. All nets are usually directed, meaning they have a net control who coordinates all traffic on the net. The net control will usually start the net with a "Check-In" to register everyone who is participating in the net. If you have traffic or need to talk in the net, you must give your call-sign and wait to be recognized by the net control operator before you can begin. In any case, when there is an emergency, always use the pro-word "BREAK BREAK" if you need to cut in with an emergency. The ARRL web site provides a listing of some nets that meet regularly.

Contesting is the organized act of trying to make as many contacts as possible under a clear set of rules and conditions for the contest. In most cases, it is a competition. These contests mostly occur on the HF bands and involve DX traffic from around the world. The Technician can participate in contests set for the bands allocated to the Technician class. To find out more, check out the ARRL web site.

**FIELD DAY**

Every year on the last weekend in June, the ARRL sponsors an activity called "Field Day". Every ham, whether a member of the ARRL or not, is encouraged to participate. This national exercise runs more like a contest, where individuals or clubs can earn points for contacts as well as meeting other criteria. Field Day is an emergency exercise, designed to keep our skills for passing traffic up. It usually starts on Saturday at noon and runs for 24 hours through Sunday at noon. Many clubs will host Field Day as a single entry (group). However, individual hams can work Field Day on their own. The emphasis is placed on operating under non-commercial power, if possible. Field Day is also the biggest Public Relations event for hams as well, as the public is invited to check out Amateur Radio for itself. This is a great time for new hams to experience the HF bands, under the supervision of a higher class control operator. There will be food, as a highlight for most Field Day operations, and some hams will participate for all 24 hours or just a few hours, as they can. In any case, a good time is to be had by all.

**RADIOS**

When you are ready to purchase your first radio, it is highly suggested that you talk to some of your "Elmers" about the different types of radios before you begin. You can also try to borrow an HT to get on the air quickly.

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This will help you experience the way the radios work and help you decide what features you want to pay for before you make the purchase. All of the newer HTs for VHF/UHF have memory channels to help store local repeaters in. This implies that you will have to learn how to program the radio, a daunting task for some less expensive radio manufacturers. However, most hams are finding the best way to program their radios is with a computer. Check out what is available and what equipment you will need. Programming with a computer is the easiest and fastest way to program the memory channels in your HT or Mobile rig.

The Technician can operate on most of the 10 meter band, and up. Most new Technicians get on the 2 meter, 70 cm and 10 meter bands. However, don't overlook the 6 meter band. A lot of cool things are happening there. A dual-band HT can be purchased brand new for as little as \$30. These HTs can put out 5 watts on 2-meters and 4 watts on 70cm. You can also get a mobile rig for your car that covers the VHF/UHF bands. Many of the dual-band radios will also have multiple VFO, meaning it can receive on two frequencies at once. It allows the radio to act as two radios in one, in some cases. When you travel, you can also consider getting a repeater directory, so you can tune in local repeaters while you are on the road. In some cases, you can get software to provide data that can be programmed into your radio for the cities that you will be traveling through.

**CONCLUSION**

No matter if you just got your ticket or you are a seasoned ham, it is important to get on the air. Get with a group or a club and find someone to help you through your journey in the ham radio hobby.

## Presentations Wanted

We are looking for presenters to present a short topic on Ham Radio at our monthly club meetings. Presentations may include, but are not limited to:

- Building or Modifying Station Equipment
- Different types of Digital Operation
- Software used for Ham Radios
- Emergency Radio Equipment
- Ham Radio Activities, such as contests or events

We have a presentation scheduled for January, but every other month is currently open. Presentations can be a short or as long as you like.

If you would like more information on a particular topic, and would like someone to do a presentation on it, you may suggest it as a topic. Please email Stephen Denison or Michael Ketchum to present a topic or to suggest a topic for presentation.

**January**

15-16 Cowtown Hamfest at Forest Hill Civic & Convention Center [www.cowtownhamfest.com](http://www.cowtownhamfest.com)  
 21 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Greenville Hospital  
 28 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](http://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

Contest Calendar: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

**MAJORS FIELD  
AMATEUR RADIO  
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

Majors Field  
Amateur Radio Club  
Greenville, Texas



## Club Officers

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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