

# AIRWAVES



## Hams Help with Rowlett Tornado Response

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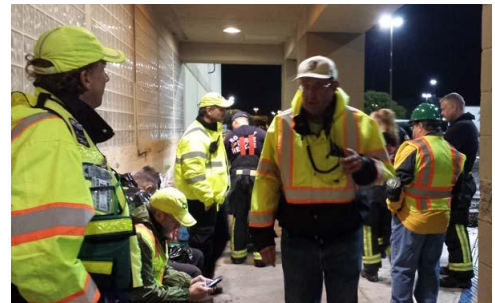
It was pretty quiet until the evening of December 26, 2015 when the call came out for all CERT members to report to Rowlett. Among those called were Robert and Melinda Hite (KF5OLB and KF5OLA). They spent that night setting up a running rehab and staging station for the first responders working the scene of the tornado that passed through the area and working a radio net to help Incident Command communicate with the two rehab stations and the first responders.

The CERT Team started out a Pearson Elementary then was sent to set up and run a victim relief center at Steadham Elementary. After that relief center was squared away, the team moved to an Albertson's store on Hwy 66 and set up another relief center.

Monday the CERT team was called out again to start doing house-to-house storm damage and victim needs assessments. The team used FRS radios to communicate among themselves, while the ham radio operators relayed the information back to Incident Command.

The team was called out again on Wednesday to help home owners pack, move, and clear debris. The radio operators coordinated the effort so that the teams could effectively help those in need.

Robert is the radio team lead, communications coordinator, trainer, and radio programmer for EastTex Regional CERT. Find out more about East Texas Regional CERT, visit [www.easttexrc.org](http://www.easttexrc.org).



### Special points of interest:

We need people to present a topic at our club meetings

## January Club Meeting Minutes

Michael Ketchum – Vice-President, opened the meeting at 11:45.

Installation and introduction of elected club officers for 2016:

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

Announcements made by Vice-President, Michael Ketchum:

Winter Field Day 1/30 thru 1/31.  
Svara Meeting 2/18 at 7pm at Greenville Hospital 2nd floor.  
Next Majors Field ARC Regular Board Meeting 2/25.  
Irving HamFest.

Proposal made by David Rogers to host a “North Texas HAM Radio Rodeo”.

Item was discussed and a proposed date was the first weekend in May.

The proposed location was Cooper Lake.

A proposed list of rules was submitted.

A sub-committee was formed consisting of David Rogers, Joseph Scott, and Stephen Denison to finalize the plans, rules, meeting date, advertising, and promotion to other North Texas Ham clubs.

Proposed MFARC logo was shown and several ideas shown. A logo is needed for announcements in the E-Club swap-n-shop and website. The logo is needed (even in temporary form) this week. A logo will be finalized by the next meeting.

Presentation by Stephen Denison: National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) contest for the calendar year 2016.

Topics covered included:

- Two types of participants: Activators and Chasers
- Contest rules and point system was covered.
- Contest awards were discussed.
- More information and the presentation slides can be found in the MFARC shared folders.

Adjournment at 12:15

### ATTENDANCE:

John Nelson	N0DFW
Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
Brian Andrews	
Scott Kirkwood	K1RKW
Tim Cattlett	KG5TDC
Stephen Denison	W5SMD
Jae Stutzman	K5JAE
Jon Titzell	KF5PUR
Larry Smith	K5XB
Scott Joseph	K5BGL
David Rogers	KG5KPU

## January Meeting Presentation– National Parks on the Air

National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) is a year-long program which coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service. NPOTA encourages Amateur Radio Operators to communicate from and with stations in one or more areas administered by the National Park Service. The program started on January 1, 2016 and runs until December 31, 2016. There are currently 409 locations that can be activated for NPOTA.

There are two types of participants in NPOTA: Activators and Chasers. Activators set up a station in one of the areas under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and attempt to contact any other amateur radio operator. Chaser operate from a home, mobile, club, or other station and attempt to contact station activating an NPS unit. An interesting situation happens when a ham in one NPS area completes a QSO with a ham in another NPS unit. In that case, they are both activators and chasers at the same time.

In order to qualify as an activation, the activator and all radio equipment must be located within the boundaries of the NPS unit being activated. Activators may not use remote stations. The activator must make 10 QSO's on any band and any mode except for 60 meters. QSO's through repeaters or via VOIP (Echolink, IRLP) do not count for NPOTA. After the activation is completed, the activator must upload the log to Logbook of the World (LOTW).

While not likely, the ARRL may ask for proof to substantiate an activation. The activator should have some sort of evidence, such as photographs, a stamp from the NPS office, GPS coordinates, etc.

Chasers should be courteous to each other and the activator. Unlike DXpeditions, most NPS activations will be run barefoot (no amplifier) or even QRP with only modest antennas. It may be hard for chasers to hear the activating station, and pile-ups are common. In order to claim points towards awards, chasers must also upload their log to LOTW.

There are multiple ways to find out what NPS units are being activated. Activators can post alerts to [npota.arrl.org](http://npota.arrl.org) before the activation that will give approximate times and frequencies for chasers to use. Another is the various spotting tools used during contests and DXpeditions to find stations. Twitter also can be used for spotting by searching for #npota.

The ARRL will issue certificates to any Amateur Radio operator who either activates or chases one NPS unit during the year. Those who work multiple units will have the number printed on the certificate. In addition, any activator who completes 5 items from the Five Star list during the year will receive a Five Star Activator Award.

For more information visit [npota.arrl.org](http://npota.arrl.org).

## Upcoming Classes and Test Sessions

The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club is planning on having classes on the following Days:

March 25, 26 Technician Class, Test on March 26  
 May 26, 27, 28 General Class, Test on May 28  
 November 4, 5 Technician Class, Test on November 5

If anyone is interested in taking a class, teaching a class, or becoming a volunteer examiner to administer the test, please email [classes@wd5gsl.org](mailto:classes@wd5gsl.org).

## 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

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.

February

18 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Greenville Hospital  
 25 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**

**Phone:**

(903) 457-4127

**E-Mail:**

president@wd5gsl.org

**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

President Stephen Denison – W5SMD  
 Stephen.Denison@L-3com.com  
 (817)-501-5269 cell

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

Secretary Treasurer John Nelson – N0DFW  
 John.C.NelsonJr@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  
 444.625 MHz (+) PL 151.4 Hz  
 Temporary Antenna Position Limits Range Currently