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Meeting Location Change

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our FRIENDS and MEMBERS. For this New Year, and the unforeseeable future, the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club will hold their monthly business meetings in the Kitty Hawk conference room in building 136A. The Conference room is located across the hall from a break area, which is located in the main hallway of B136A. A map is located on the club website at <http://wd5gsl.net>.

Results of the Annual Business Meeting

The club held its annual business meeting on December 14th. We had a great time with a membership drawing for radios and ham gear, along with the election of our annual officers. Here are the results:

The three TYT MD-380 UHF DMR/Analog HTs went to Mark Bushnell – AE5FG, Jae Stutzman – K5JAE and Larry Smith – K5XB. The G5RV HF antenna was won by David Rogers – KG5KPU and Gabe Cook – W5TTX won the MFJ Atomic Clock. The two LED flashlights were won by Glenn Meyers – KA6IQW, who moved to Florida this year, and Will Sanitate – KG5QCQ.

Our new officers this year will be Larry Smith – K5XB as President. The club is stuck with Michael Ketchum – K5MDK as Vice-President for another year. While the club elected both John Nelson Jr – N0DFW and Scott Davis – KK7JS to the Secretary-Treasurer's office, this was done by splitting the positions, which is allowed under the club by-laws. This means that John will continue as Club Treasurer, while Scott will take over as our new club Secretary. Although appointed, Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD remains our club trustee. Please contact Jonathan for any activity with the club call sign, club equipment or for any issues with the club repeaters. We are thankful to Jonathan and his dad, Jim Brown – W5ZIT, for their work on the club repeaters.

You can contact your officers at the following e-mail addresses:

- President@wd5gsl.net Larry Smith – K5XB
- Vice-President@wd5gsl.net Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
- Secretary@wd5gsl.net Scott Davis – KK7JS
- Treasurer@wd5gsl.net John Nelson Jr – N0DFW
- Trustee@wd5gsl.net Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD



Membership Drive

It is that time again for membership drive for 2018! The MFARC membership is managed by calendar year. The cost is \$10.00 for E-Club members and \$31.00 for non-E-Club members each year. You can pay your dues to John Nelson – NØDFW, our club Treasurer in person. To contact him, write treasurer@wd5gsl.net or call him at (903) 454-0911.

Here are some important facts about club membership:

- 1) By becoming a member of E-Club and our club, it provides us \$40.00: \$30 from E-Club and \$10 from you. The E-Club amount is partially funded by E-Club dues and the company.
- 2) E-Club membership is only \$21 a year, which can be \$0.80/bi-weekly or \$0.40/week from your paycheck. Join after July 1st and it is reduced to \$10.50 for the rest of that year.
- 3) Club dues are only \$10.00 for E-Club members and \$31.00 for non-members.
- 4) By being a member of E-Club, you get to VOTE. Only E-Club members of the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club are allowed to vote for MFARC officers. It should also be stated that you are required to be an E-Club member if you want to become an officer of the club.

Winter Field Day (WFD) Update

Members of the WFD site-selection committee visited the Rains County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) this past weekend. All three members (David, Jae, and Michael) agreed that the facility would be more than ample. In fact, it is down-right luxurious compared to our usual set-up of tents, sleeping bags, Coleman camp stoves and the random tree for a bathroom. While we will power our equipment with either battery or generator power, the facility features running water, a bathroom, a mini-fridge and a microwave oven. And, most importantly, central heat and air!

MFARC will be working in conjunction with the Rains Amateur Radio Association or RARA (W5ENT), making this a team effort. There will be at least two, and possibly three, stations set up and available.

WFD will take place January 27th and 28th. We are still looking for additional participants to man radios, help with logging contacts, and, of course, set up and break down of equipment. Please contact David (KG5KPU) at 903-513-5622 or davidarlan@hotmail.com, or Michael (K5MDK) at 972-408-6573 or K5MDK@arrl.net to volunteer.

WHEN: Saturday – Sunday, January 27-28. 24-hour operation starts at 1300 CST.

WHERE: Rains County EOC office at 211 Industrial Blvd, Emory, TX 75440. The best way to get there is to head South East on US-69 to Emory. When you see Brookshire's on the LEFT at FM 515 at a signal light, turn RIGHT onto the little Industrial Blvd. Go to the end and you will see a radio building on your LEFT surrounded by satellite dish antennas. Coordinates: 32° 51' 49.9" N, 95° 45' 15.6" W. [FOR MAP CLICK HERE](#)

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HOW: Contact David (KG5KPU) at 903-513-5622 or davidarlan@hotmail.com, or Michael (K5MDK) at 972-408-6573 or K5MDK@arrl.net.

RULES: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/rules> Similar to ARRL Field Day.

Written by David Rogers – KG5KPU

President's Letter

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a great holiday and hope you were able to do some hamming during the break. Congratulations to all that won door prizes at the December 2017 MFARC meeting.

Meetings

We are now settling into our new meeting date that repeats the 2nd Thursday of every month going forward. Also, we have changed meeting room to Kitty Hawk, which is in the same building but on the opposite end of the hall from where we used to meet. Be sure to note the change on your calendars.

A word about your membership renewal: The first membership report to the E-Club we make in this year will determine our level of E-Club supported funding for the following year. Many of you committed to 2018 membership at the December meeting last year. Thank you. If you have not yet, there is still time to get your membership recorded for inclusion in the roster. Your recorded membership will ensure E-Club financial support. With your membership and support, we can continue with projects such as 2-Meter repeater technology refresh, acquisition of a new HF radio for the club, or any other project the members deem worthy.

Speaking of meetings, if you are a member of ARRL, you will want to take note of Victor's article in the newsletter concerning recent and possible future actions by your national Board. Please visit the site links Victor included to learn more and let your voice be heard. Frankly, we are on the verge of losing member control of our national organization. It is that serious. I have received copies of four letters

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from prominent ARRL members voicing their concerns to the Board. I will have them at the meeting for you to read, if you are interested.

Repeaters

L3 MI Information Technology will provide us with the internet access we need to connect the new 440 repeater to the internet backbone. IT is embroiled in many office moves right now. I will try to get a timeline from them this week. Once we get the internet drop, we will schedule a day to move in with the new hardware and go live for the digital functions.

License Classes

David Rogers is planning a Technician class test session for the State Guard. We expect there will be a lot more attendance at this session than we are used to seeing, and David will need our support to help him do this. We also usually have a license class in the Spring that we need to schedule, and maybe integrate with this one.

Winter Field Day

This will be fun. We are all set to participate. David Rogers is leading the charge. David, Jae, Michael, and I met with the Emory club on Sunday and agreed to throw in with them on the effort at the Rains County EOC. It is a reasonably nice, ham friendly venue, if a work in progress. Teaming with another club will assure enough participation to make it a worthy effort. The actual WFD contest is January 27 and 28.

See you at the meeting Thursday. Bring a friend, and feel free to bring your lunch.

73,
Larry
K5XB
MFARC President

Written by Larry Smith – K5XB

N5SN 443.9 to link with WD5GSL 147.16

An offer has been made to link N5SN 443.9 machine with the WD5GSL 147.16 machine, both of which are located in Greenville. The N5SN 443.9 repeater is located close to Oneal Street and Wellington Street at the railroad communications tower. This 300' tower has great Northern Hunt County coverage. The WD5GSL 147.16 repeater is located near the MSTF at Majors Field and has good Southern Hunt County coverage. By linking both repeaters together, the two will have good coverage of all of Hunt County as a secondary EmComm repeater system to the K5GVL 146.78, which is located on top of the hospital and has fair coverage of Hunt County for NWS and other activities.

While linking is being worked out, another effort to establish EchoLink is underway on the N5SN machine to provide alternative digital coverage for the two repeaters. This will integrate well with the new Digital repeater system being put together for WD5GSL 444.625 pair.



The N5SN machine is owned and operated by the [Greenville Repeater Association](#), which is a ministry of [W5ZIT](#) – Jim Brown. Here are some of the frequencies and PL tones for these and other systems in the area:

- K5GVL 146.7800 MHz -0.6 MHz PL 114.8 Hz Analog Greenville
- WB5MQP 147.0200 MHz +0.6 MHz PL 167.9 Hz Analog Commerce Hunt
- WD5GSL 147.1600 MHz +0.6 MHz PL 100.0 Hz Analog Greenville
- K5VOM 224.9600 MHz -1.6 MHz No PL Analog Quinlan – L:223.9 Royce City L:224.96 Dallas
- N5SN 441.6000 MHz +5 MHz PL 100.0 Hz Analog Greenville
- K5VOM 441.7750 MHz +5 MHz PL 100.0 Hz Analog Quinlan – Linked multi-state system.
- N5SN 443.9000 MHz +5 MHz PL 71.9 Hz Analog Greenville
- W5AMC 444.5250 MHz +5 MHz PL 103.5 Hz Analog Commerce
- WD5GSL 444.6250 MHz +5 MHz PL 151.4 Hz Analog Greenville
- K5GVL/CB 449.6250 MHz RX 146.78 PL 114.8 Hz Analog Quinlan – This is a crossband booster for K5GVL.

Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

HOLIDAY HAM

I requested a few lines from our friends and members on what they did over the Christmas break. Here are the responses I received from our holiday hams.

From Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD of Farmersville, TX

Took a family trip to Tucson, AZ and plotted and schemed with W5ZIT on what it would take to link the 443.9 and 147.16 repeaters together in an effort to get more use out of both. Also worked a LOT of FT8 on 160, 80, 30, and 12 meters. I'm about 6 countries away from DXCC on 30m and 7 on 12m. Either one of those would get me 5 band DXCC. Sure is easy to work DX on FT8. Maybe that's because ALL the DX is there? Always good to have goals, right...hi hi.

From Mark Henley – K5MOA of Sachse, TX

I helped a fellow ham in Rowlett do the installation planning for a 40-ft retractable dipole in his backyard.

From Bob Kirby – K3NT of Plano, TX

- Worked 20 SKN QSO's
- Setup LOTW with the help of my friend K5MDK
- Worked "BugOut", which is new this year that started at 0000 Jan 2.
- Thanked Father God for a good Year.

From Wesley Redus – WA5WZO of Prescott, AZ

I put together a homebrew 20 meter vertical and worked my first CW QSO in 35 years!
Wes, WA5WZO (now in Prescott, AZ)
Happy New Year, y'all!

From Brian Wilson – KG5KPN of Cumby, TX

Should have my house built and hope to have my ham shack setup by summer.

From Scott Singleton – KM5SJ of Sulphur Springs, TX

After attending the last meeting with the club and not winning a radio I was all excited about the new



DMR repeater going in here. So, I started looking for an economical yet functional DMR radio. I ended up buying a [Radioddity](#) brand GD-77 dual band DMR radio off of Amazon for only \$87! Merry Christmas to me!

I received it quickly and began to program it. Luckily, it came with the programming software and cable. I've programmed in both the Sulphur Springs UHF and VHF repeaters. Sadly, there isn't a DMR repeater in Sulphur Springs (that may be something I can team up with N5REL on to setup). It looks like I may need to take Jon up on his offer to program our radios for use on the DMR system, but I can't wait to try it out! Scott KM5SJ

From Larry Jennings – WB5IZL of Greenville, TX and President of Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Assoc.

I've been busy trying to figure out what happened to my roll-around 12VDC power source. It is a large Sealed lead-acid battery, a DC power supply, a West Mountain Radio Power Gate P40S DC Power Gate, a DC to 110 VAC inverter, and a 12 VDC power distribution panel. All of the above equipment is mounted on a hand truck for easy mobility using a plywood board. Also on the board is an AC power strip, a 50 ft. extension cord, a test meter and some storage pockets for additional cables and some LED lights. It is quite a bit to move around and while I was doing it one day something happened. When I tried applying AC power to the power supply, there was quite a flash and snap and the DC power supply stopped working. So, I put on another power supply and it also stopped working when energized. This was very puzzling until I discovered that I had put in a jumper in the wrong location on the P40S. The P40S has a capability to charge the battery - and the jumper was in the wrong position. The original power supply was toast, but the other supply that stopped working had just blown a fuse. After a bit of trouble shooting, I found that the DC supply system worked fine. In the process, I needed a new fuse - and with the demise of our local Radio Shack store I didn't know just where to go. I eventually went to an O'Rielly Auto Parts store here in Greenville (on Wesley Street near the water tower) and found that they had a large supply of fuses - and not only automotive fuses, but the AG3 fuses (yes, the ones with the glass tube you can see through) available. So, now my power cart is working again.

I also have been working to try to get my DSTAR Icom IC-51A Plus and Plus2 HT's to send data from one to another. I bought a pair of the interface cables from Icom (OPC-2350LU). I loaded up the DRATS software on my computers (a desktop and laptop) and tried to get the data to go through the radios. That didn't work as the radios would not transmit to each other without the PTT on. (They were linked on simplex on DSTAR already. I did find that I COULD send data through both interface cables from one computer to the other by cross-connecting the ends of the interface cables that plugged into the HT's. So, I think that I have some menu item settings set to the wrong parameters to activate the PTT and send the data. I still haven't got it working yet. If any of you got any ideas or have the same type of HT's and got data to pass through I'd like to hear about it.

73's de Larry Jennings WB5IZL

From Boyd Hudgens – N5TIJ of Paris, TX

My 2m rig won't reach Greenville, but my friend at MTC and others say there is new systems out there that I didn't know anything about! I may have to get into these things and see what an old codger can learn. Hope you had a Happy New Year!

Boyd Hudgens – N5TIJ



From Michael Ketchum – K5MDK of Greenville, TX

I had a few goals that included fixing a blown diode in my HF rig, getting two big TVs working, and some other honey-do projects around the house, besides working [SKN \(Straight Key Night\)](#).

I had no problems with the honey-do projects, due to the motivation to please my sweetheart. I was able to troubleshoot one of the two TVs and order a new part for it. The HF rig needed a special surface mount dual capacitor, which I had ordered in November. However, for three weeks prior to vacation time, the tracking showed the package bouncing between Katy, TX and Houston, TX in an endless loop every other day. I contacted the seller and cancelled the order and made a new order as well as complained to the USPS. Finally, this week, the original package of parts arrived within a new overnight package. Turns out, the British writing style made a numeral one look like a seven, so the Zip Code was all messed up. Does anyone need a 14-component replacement kit of semiconductors for a Yaesu FT-840?

For SKN, I was invited to a house warming party on New Year's Eve, which was a lot of fun. The next day, I was hard at work with those honey-do items. Therefore, I never got on the air for SKN. To end on a good note, the week was relaxing and I was able to connect with cousins I have not seen in 28 years. We are now planning a vacation/reunion together in 2019!

Conclusion to HOLIDAY HAM

Thanks to all of you that sent in your reports. I hope to receive more good news throughout the year. Please feel free to share your updates, like this, at ANY TIME. It helps connect us all and gives us ideas for projects of our own.

Also, you have any ideas for articles or a lengthy report that you can share, please send it to me at editor@wd5gsl.net. This helps keep our newsletter alive and interesting. If you have seen articles that you would like to share with the readers of this newsletter, please send me as much information as you can about that work and I will do what I can go include it here. Most authors are willing to have their work republished.

Trouble at the ARRL

In recent weeks, amateur radio circles have been buzzing over a brewing controversy having to do with the ARRL's Board of Directors (**BoD**) and a new "Code of Conduct" **that**, basically, acts as a gag order on members of the **BoD**. In essence, directors are prohibited from publicly opposing the Board's actions in what amounts to a "gag order".

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The Southwest Division director Dick Norton (N6AA) was recently publicly censured by the BoD for supposedly criticizing this “Code of Conduct” policy at the Visaliia DX Convention earlier this year despite numerous attendees stating that N6AA made no disparaging remarks about the “Code of Conduct” but merely revealed its existence. It is worth noting that our west Gulf Division Director, Dr. David Woolweaver was one of just a handful of directors who voted against the censure of Director Norton. There is to be an ARRL Board of Directors meeting on January 19. Many in the ARRL membership are pressing their directors to rescind the more onerous portions of this policy and to back off from new proposals allowing the BoD to strip people of their ARRL membership and give the ARRL President and Vice-Presidents votes on the BoD, thus further diluting the power of elected directors. There are several more issues leading many to conclude that the ARRL leadership has gone off the rails. More information at www.myarrlvoice.org and <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2017/12/cq-white-paper-on-arrl-secrecy-and.html>.

Written by Victor Paul – WB0TEV

Calendar

- Jan 11 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
- Jan 13 San Antonio Radio Fiesta 2018 – Schertz, Texas <http://w5sc.org>
- Jan 18 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
- Jan 19 Cowtown Hamfest (ARRL NTX Convention) – Forest Hill, TX <http://cowtownhamfest.com>
- Jan 20-22 January VHF contest
- Feb 8-12 CQ WPX RTTY contest
LOOK FOR Victor V31VP/WB0TEV and Scott V31CQ/KK7JS OPERATING FROM BELIZE
- Feb 12-16 School Club Roundup
- Feb 17-18 International DX - CW

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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 <http://www.k6jt.com>
- Thurs SVARA Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on the K5GVL/R 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz
Meets every Thursday night except on SVARA meetings 3rd Thursday of each month.

Officers

- President:** Larry Smith – K5XB
president@wd5gsl.net
(254) 644-6465 cell
- Vice President:** Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
vice-president@wd5gsl.net
(972) 408-6573 cell
- Secretary:** Scott Davis – KK7JS
secretary@wd5gsl.net
- Treasurer:** John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW
treasurer@wd5gsl.net
(903) 454-0911 cell
- VE/Class Team Leader:** Jae Stutzman – K5JAE
classes@wd5gsl.net
- Club Trustee:** Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD
trustee@wd5gsl.net

Club Repeaters

- Club Station:** TBD
- VHF Repeater:** WD5GSL/R
147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz
- UHF Repeater:** WD5GSL/R
444.625 MHz (+) PL 151.4 Hz

AirWaves is a production of the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club

We're on the Web! Find us at: <http://wd5gsl.net>

Your article submissions are welcomed. Please submit to editor@wd5gsl.net.