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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 5/10/2018

- Meeting was called to order at 11:45

Officer Reports

- Discussion about a new callsign for the club, W5NNI, honoring a former employee at the MSTF. Will replace current club call of WD5GSL. Application is being processed by the FCC.
- Treasurer Report delivered by Michael Ketchum.

Subcommittee Reports

- Digital Repeater
- License class scheduled for May 19/20 at the National Guard Amory. Number of people registered is 104. VE volunteers needed!

Upcoming Events

- Various club meetings in the area.
- Field Day.
- HAMCOM in Plano.

Old Business

- Voted to re-authorize the spending up to \$600 to acquire a Kenwood TK-750 repeater to replace aging 2m repeater.

New Business

- ARRL club affiliation effort underway.
- Proposal approved for a new club website w/new domain names (W5NNI) to replace current old site that was recently hacked.

Presentations

- "Ham Radio via your smartphone" by Michael Ketchum.



Attendees

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Michael Ketchum – K5MDK2. Chris Rutz3. Scott Davis – KK7JS4. Victor Paul – WB0TEV5. Larry Smith – K5XB6. Jose Santiago – KG5SKR7. Gabe Cook – W5TTX8. Jon Brown - WB5KSD | <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Jae Stutzman – K5JAE10. Jonathan R. Padon – WB5WNF (P)11. Scott Joseph – K5BGL12. Erik Hix - K5ERH13. Brian Wilson – K5KPN14. Mark Bushnell – AE5FG15. Ted Van Den Heuvel – KX5P |
|--|---|

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – KK7JS

President's Letter

Summertime!

Well, the testing session we held last month was a big success. Ninety-one folks attended and over half passed their Technician Class tests. A couple even passed General! You may see some stories about this appear in QST magazine and on-line in a month or so. It is certainly the largest licensing effort outside a major hamfest that I have ever heard about. Field Day is this month. We will spend a good bit of this month's meeting ironing out the final details. Jon has launched the new 440MHz repeater upgrade, and we held a DMR session at the Rec Hall, which was well attended by the community. I've already made a couple of DMR contacts. Last on my list of happenings, we applied for and were granted the late Carlton Smith's call sign W5NNI, with the blessing of Carlton's family, as a tribute to a long time member and supporter of MFARC and its legacy clubs.

Meetings

Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of every month in the Kitty Hawk C.R. This month's quality program will be finalizing Field Day operation plans. We certainly want every member to come by and operate Field Day. Even if you are not an HF operator, even if you don't have a license yet, we'll have plenty of General and above licensees on hand for you to legally try the wonder of HF communications, and the fun of a radio contest.

A word about joining and membership renewal: It's still not too late to be counted! 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 projects we'd like to try.

ARRL Action

ARRL affiliation is done. In fact, we were already an ARRL Affiliated club. Scott Davis just filed the necessary annual report and BOOM! Join ARRL through the club and the club gets to keep a whopping \$15 of your annual membership fee to ARRL. Renew through MFARC and we still get to keep \$2.

ARRL affiliation gives us a stronger voice with the League when it comes to policy that affects all of ham radio. Better policy will give the League more input with the FCC and with legislative matters. There are serious matters that League has put before the Commission, and apparently the regular amateur members, like us, are in deep disagreement with League on the course of these actions.

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License Classes

We need to start thinking about when we can hold a General Class license preparation class and test session. We have many new hams. Let's start a discussion about when we think we can do this.

Field Day

June 23 and 24. Set up on June 22 starting about 5 PM. Only **THIS COMING** meeting left to make plans.

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

73,

Larry

K5XB

MFARC President

Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB

Field Day 2018

The Majors Field Amateur radio Club invites you and your family to take part in our annual Field Day at the [Audie Murphy American Cotton Museum](#), June 23 and 24. This free event features HAM radio operators from the US and Canada. But, Field Day isn't limited to just licensed operators. Everyone is welcome to key a mic and get on the air. Bring the kids and enjoy the fun of amateur radio, beginning at 1pm on Saturday the 23, running thru 1pm, Sunday the 24 at the Audie Murphy American Cotton Museum.

WD5GSL -> W5NNI

By the time you read this, the club call sign, which has been WD5GSL for more than 40 years, will probably have been changed to W5NNI. So, aside from the fact that it is nice and snappy on CW, why that call sign? W5NNI belonged to the late Carlton Duval Smith who was one of the leading men at the MSTF when I came to work here in 1980. Things were slow in my department when I first hired in and knowing that I was a ham radio operator and loved all things RF; I was loaned out to the MSTF where I came to work for Carlton. He was a great guy, very sharp technically; kind, humble, cheerful, funny, and he sort of took me under his wing. We both had a love of ham radio, and once in blue moon he would wander down to the ham trailer and get on the air with some ham friend(s) of his.

Although never really active in the company ham club, he was very supportive of our activities, and happy to make the right connections on a patch panel in the MSTF building to get the ham shack wired up to the big rotatable HF LP and one of the big vertical monopole antennas. While he was short of stature, (I think he was only about 5'6") he was a giant in the things that mattered. A man of faith, he was an active member of Crestview Christian Church in Greenville.

Sadly, his life came to a sudden end. He suffered a massive asthma attack while at MSTF late in the afternoon of Friday April 7, 1989 from which he never recovered. After a week in ICU, he passed away April 14, 1989. He had just turned 62. A native of Hunt County, he was born in Quinlan March 31, 1927.

The idea of picking up Carlton's old call sign for the club had been rolling around in the back of my mind for several years, so when recent discussions began about getting a shorter call sign I proposed W5NNI. I was pleased to see that the club leadership enthusiastically jumped on it. I was able to track down and

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exchange email with Carlton's son Barton Smith (N6HDN) who recently retired from IBM out in California and got his blessing to pick up his Dad's old call sign. Carlton's widow Emma Smith still lives here in Greenville and I had the pleasure of talking to her on the phone recently to get some info about Carlton and let her know of our plans. She sounded spry and in good health and spirits. Part of Carlton's ham legacy lives on at my QTH. A few years after Carlton died, some friends and I took down Carlton's ham tower, rotator and beam. I bought the tower sections and put them back up at my QTH where they have been since 1995.

Written by Victor Paul – WB0TEV

New Club Call Sign Means Media Changes

It is official, WD5GSL is no longer our club call sign and W5NNI is now in place. There are a few pieces of business that need to be addressed when updating a club call sign. The repeater needs to IDENTIFY the correct call sign; the club's domain, web address and email addresses all need to be changed; the club logo, which has the call sign in Morse code and the web address imprinted on it, also needs to be updated; letter head; banner; newsletter; QRZ site, and a host of other little details. All are being addressed or should be mostly cleared up by the time you are reading this.

Along with the change, there have been some immediate improvements to our internet and media exposure. The W5NNI.net and W5NNI.org domains have been established at normal cost. Hosting for the new club website is still being provided for no cost and a new web site has been created. The new website will not have a file sharing or login capability anymore, but will still provide presentations and newsletters for download or viewing.

Check out the new site at <http://w5nni.net>

In an effort to provide proper social media outlets for the club, Scott Joseph – K5BGL has offered to become the club's new Social Media director. Empowered to make the club look good and to provide some functionality our club needs in the social media arena, Scott has created FaceBook, Twitter and Groups.io accounts for our club. These will provide instant access to information about the club, updates on current activities and help keep our membership in touch with each other. With the Groups.IO account, we will have a calendar, announcement, blogs and group discussions capability, along with file sharing apparatus. I everyone who has accounts in these three key social media areas will consider connecting with the club.

FaceBook is here: https://www.facebook.com/W5NNI/?ref=br_rs

Twitter is here: <https://twitter.com/ArcField>

Groups.IO is here: <https://groups.io/g/w5nni>

In order to subscribe to the Groups.IO account for the club, simply send an email to W5NNI+subscribe@groups.io . You will need a Groups.io account before you can get started.



At the time of writing, there is only one outstanding piece of business that needs to be attended to; and that is the ID for the W5NNI 2-m repeater. I will do my best to get out to the repeater site and update the call sign.

Written by Vice-President Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Ham-Com in Plano

The largest amateur radio and electronics show in Texas has returned to the Plano Event Center! Ham-Com highlights the latest in ham radio and related gear. Enjoy three days of classes, lectures, vendor sales, a swap meet, and more! The beautifully landscaped Plano Event Center is an 86,400 square foot facility providing flexible function space accommodating as many as 5,000 people. The exhibition hall offers 21,600 square feet of column-free, completely carpeted space, a professional master stage, and high dock and street level move in access. In addition, there are 14 different break-out rooms.

Organizers of this year's Ham-Com say that the Irving venue offered them room to grow. However, there were far too many complaints. Scheduling issues from previous events have cleared the path for Ham-Com to return to the Plano Center once again. This means the return of the outdoor flea market area, parking for high profile vehicles and the comfort of knowing your antenna will not be broken off in the parking lot.

In addition to the move, the event will be expanded to fun from mid-day Friday to mid-day Sunday. This offers attendees more time to enjoy the vendors while attending speaking sessions and classes. One of these classes will be an official SKYWARN class provided by the National Weather Service.

The ticket costs are \$8.00 online and \$10.00 if you buy them at the door. Online registration has already started, so get your tickets now, while you are reading this. Children under 17 are free. Boy Scouts in FULL uniform are free.

While most of the prizes are still being gathered, the Ham-Com leadership can announce the Grand Prize of a brand new Icom IC-7300 HF/6m/VHF/UHF rig. Pre-Registration Prize is an Icom ID-4100. Friday's prize is an Icom ID-5100. Saturday is a mystery prize, see registration desk for more info. The grand prize (IC-7300) is drawn on Sunday.

The Lone Star DX Dinner will be held on Friday, June 8 starting with Happy Hour at 5pm and dinner at 6:30pm. The cost for the dinner is \$45.00 per person. This year's program at the Lone Star DX Dinner will be about 3Y by Bob - K4UEE, as he describes the DXpedition attempt to the most remote island on earth.

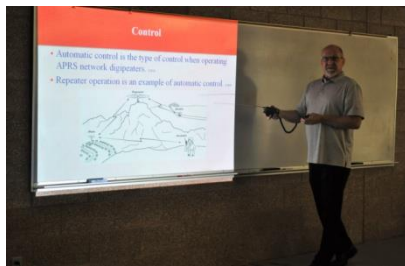
Written by Vice-President Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

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Large VE Class and Session Was A Success

Members of [the Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association](#), [Majors Field Amateur Radio Club](#) and several other local VEs came together with volunteers to teach the Element 2A Technician class to 91 participants, most of which belong to the Texas State Guard 19th Regiment 2nd Battalion. The



event was held at the Amory in Greenville and started on Saturday,

May 19 and ran until Sunday, May 20 with VE sessions both Saturday and Sunday after classes. The event was organized by David Rogers – KG5KPU and VE sessions coordinated by Jae Stutzman – K5JAE, who is the MFARC VE Team Leader. There were eleven total VEs involved as follows:

VEs in attendance:

Devlin Kirchman (N5HB)
Scott Davis (KK7JS)
Michael Ketchum (K5MDK)
Jae Stutzman (K5JAE)
David Hunter (KC7CEX)
Kelley Miller (K5KTX)

David Rogers (KG5KPU)
Victor Paul (WB0TEV)
Larry Smith (K5XB)
Joyce Rutter (W5JAR)
Robert Arnold (W5RDA)

Here are the statistics for Saturday, May 19, there were 22 Passes: 20 Technicians and 2 Generals, with 39 Fails. For Sunday, May 20, there were 28 Passes: 27 Technicians and 1 General, with 13 Fails.



New Call Signs for Saturday, May 19th:

Christopher Brown KG5ZVW, General
Gabriel C Cook W5TTX, General
Beth Hudson KG5ZVU, Tech
Norman Trout KG5ZVV, Tech
Jeremy Grabowski KG5ZVX, Tech
Freddrik D Taylor KG5ZVY, Tech
Frederick Hager Jr KG5ZVZ, Tech
Kristopher Vleck KG5ZWA, Tech
John M Hamilton KG5ZWB, Tech

Kevin Bailey KG5ZWC, Tech
Danny J Wallis KG5ZWD, Tech
John B Rizo Sr KG5ZWE, Tech
Kevin Dos Santos KG5ZWF, Tech
Barry Maynard KG5ZWG, Tech
Jerry Murphy KG5ZWH, Tech
Tim Carter KG5ZWI, Tech
Nicholas W Tennant KG5ZWJ, Tech
Brian McMillan II KG5ZWK, Tech

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Spencer B Suggs KG5ZWL, Tech
William M Dove KG5ZWM, Tech

Kyle Pustiejovsky KG5ZWN, Tech
Daniel Chisenhall KG5ZWO, Tech

New Call Signs for Sunday, May 20th:

Shannon M Fulp KG5ZVH, General
Kenny Howell KG5ZWP, Tech
Troy Hudson KG5ZWQ, Tech
Olufemi Hamed KG5ZWR, Tech
William R Johnson KG5ZWS, Tech
Traci King KG5ZWT, Tech
Esperanza Meza KG5ZWU, Tech
Howard Nguyen KG5ZWV, Tech
Zaw Maung KG5ZWW, Tech
Jon Harris KG5ZWX, Tech
Charles G Norrell KG5ZWY, Tech
Allen Barnfield KG5ZWZ, Tech
Kirk Brigance KG5ZXA, Tech
Richard Herndon KG5ZXB, Tech

William L Rockett KG5ZXC, Tech
Keith Hedges KG5ZXD, Tech
Travis Perry KG5ZXE, Tech
Eric R Kacin KG5ZXF, Tech
Rocco Hieb KG5ZYG, Tech
John L Latham KG5ZXH, Tech
Leonardo R Ledezma KG5ZXI, Tech
Anthony R Pustejovsky KG5ZXJ, Tech
Scott Pustejovsky KG5ZXK, Tech
Shelby A Aishman KG5ZXL, Tech
David Bridgwater KG5ZXM, Tech
Joshua W McKinney KG5ZYN, Tech
Jared Maranga KG5ZXO, Tech
Curtis B Barnett KG5ZXP, Tech

This weekend represented the largest group of folks we've ever licensed. Congratulations! Thank you all who volunteered. As you know, it was chaotic at times but each of you helped make it happen.

For those of you who were not able to attend, there will be more chances to volunteer down the road!

Written by Jae Stutzman – K5JAE & Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

New DMR Repeater is ONLINE!

The MFARC has been actively building a new digital repeater system with the help of Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD and his dad, Jim Brown – W5ZIT. With L3 IT's help, the club has received an internet drop out at the repeater site, thus making it possible for us to install the new system. Over the Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 26th, Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD, his dad Jim Brown – W5ZIT, Gabe Cook – W5TTX and Michael Ketchum – K5MDK, met at the repeater site near the MSTF to install the new digital repeater system, which consists of a Kenwood TKR-850 70 cm repeater transceiver that is digital compatible, a PI-Star Digital Voice Modem / controller, and a power supply. The system was put together, configured and tested at Jon Brown's QTH near Farmersville. The installation went without a hitch, as the old UHF Motorola Radius system was powered off, antenna and power moved, internet cable connected, and the new system powered up. Currently, the new repeater system is sitting on top of the 2-m GE MASTR II base cabinet. Future cleanup of the entire repeater systems will be needed. But we will wait until the purchase a new Kenwood TKR-750 Hi Band 2-meter system is accomplished. When that system gets installed, then cabinet and wiring cleanup will be done. We will also need to replace some RF cables and tidy up a bit.

Until that time, the new W5NNI DMR system is online. It has the capability to support D-Star, YSF – Fusion, and P25 digital connections besides supporting a simple Analog mode. Even with all modes enabled, we found it is difficult to operate them all. We made an executive decision to turn off D-Star, YSF and P25 modes because D-Star reflectors were busy and causing the repeater to lock up in D-Star



mode, which prevented us from testing the DMR functionality with our DMR radios. Testing included both Analog and DMR operation and all went very well.

Once we turned off all of the other digital modes, all of our DMR radios were able to connect and use the repeater without any issue. We connected with the local Talk Group, which is TG9. We also connected with the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club talk group, which is Talk Group 3110284. You can find out all the information about the new repeater at the club website, <http://w5nni.net/aboutusRepeaters.html> After planning a date for the repeater installation, it was discussed to have a workshop in order to allow club members come and get an overview of DMR and get assistance programming their radios. But that's for another article. See [DMR Workshop](#) was a success, below.

Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

DMR Workshop was a success

In a whirlwind of activities and events in the month of May, the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club was able to install their new Digital Repeater system over the Memorial Day weekend. With Jim Brown – W5ZIT still in town, it was suggested we conduct a special meeting for the club members to get a little insight into DMR technology and have a brain drain session with Jim before he heads back home to Arizona. The idea expanded to have a presentation on DMR and a workshop and to also invite all area HAMs who might be interested in using the new repeater system. With that thought, Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD and Jim Brown hosted a DMR Workshop. With the help of Michael Ketchum – K5MDK, the Recreation Hall was reserved for Thursday, May 31st at 1830 and a flyer was distributed to SVARA, Rains County, Rockwall County, and other area hams.

The meeting started early with a review of some of DMR terminology that we will need to know going forward. After the review, around 6:30pm, Jim Brown gave a presentation on DMR technology. Following the presentation and a Q&A session, the workshop commenced to help those who had DMR radios program their code plugs. Just about everyone was successful in connecting into the W5NNI repeater, except for one radio we just could not figure out. In any case, we had about a dozen participants from all over and we had radio fun until about 9pm!

If you are interested in seeing the presentation materials and the handout, you can find them in the 2018 Presentations directory on the new website by going to: <http://w5nni.net/presentations/2018/>

Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

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Calendar

- June 14 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
June 16 ARRL Kids Day <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>
June 16 West Virginia QSO Party <http://www.gsl.net/wvsarc>
June 21 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
June 23-25 Field Day 2018 <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

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@w5nni.net
(254) 644-6465 cell
- Vice President:** Michael Ketchum – K5MDK
vice-president@w5nni.net
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- Secretary:** Scott Davis – KK7JS
secretary@w5nni.net
- Treasurer:** John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW
treasurer@w5nni.net
(903) 454-0911 cell
- VE/Class Team Leader:** Jae Stutzman – K5JAE
classes@w5nni.net
- Club Trustee:** Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD
trustee@w5nni.net

Club Repeaters

- Club Station:** TBD
- VHF Repeater:** W5NNI/R
147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz
- UHF Repeater:** W5NNI/R DMR
444.625 MHz (+) Rx-SQ PL 151.4 Hz

AirWaves is a production of the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club

We're on the Web! Find us at: <http://w5nni.net>

Your article submissions are welcomed. Please submit to editor@w5nni.net.