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## Meeting Minutes

### Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 8/9/2018

- Meeting was called to order @ 1145

#### Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for May meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves".
- Treasurer Report delivered by Michael Ketchum.

#### Subcommittee Reports

- Repeater Update – Now have an outside internet connection at the MSTF. Work party needed to complete link up.
  - With outside internet access now being available, some discussion took place as to feasibility of putting a remote HF station in the club trailer at the MSTF.

#### Upcoming Events

- Various club meetings in the area.
- Field Day.
- Bike rides in Rockwall and Greenville need ham volunteers for communications. Planning for Greenville event will be at the next SVARA meeting on August 16.

#### Old Business

- N/A.

#### New Business

- Social media sites for club are up and running, need content.
- Donation and letter of appreciation being given to Audie Murphy Museum.
- Discussions on what to do about the new Laurel VEC testing requirements.
  - Scott Joseph will take over as VEC from Jae.
  - Will work with SVARA to have the tests once per month as requested, but still have our separate license classes.
  - Next general exam class scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September.
- Field Day generator in need of some preventative maintenance. Club will seek quotes on cost.

#### Presentations

- N/A.



## Attendees

- Mark Arvidson - AG5GL
- Jon Brown - WB5KSD
- Mark Bushnell - AE5FG
- Scott Davis - K5PS
- Alex Jonhston -
- Scott Joseph - AG5QQ
- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
- John Pizzicaroli - N7CDL
- David Rogers - KG5KPU
- Chris Rutz - K5RTZ
- Larry Smith - K5XB
- Wesley Sparks - KI5BDW

Meeting adjourned @ 1230.

*Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS*

## President's Letter

Summer is on the wane!

It's been getting just a little cooler (and a lot wetter). Time to get those antenna projects complete before winter makes that part of hobby difficult.

### Meetings

Once again, a "call for papers"! We (still) haven't had but maybe one or two quality programs this year. Now, I said last month that we really don't have anything to plan until next Winter Field Day (January 26-27, 2019), but that's not entirely true now that we have launched into running the Special Events Station N5C at Cooper Lake the weekend of November 10 and 11 (set-up on the 9th). We are going to run this event as a high power station in order to be sure we can reach all the stations interested in getting the special N5C QSL card. Since not very many of us deal in much more than 100 Watts, for this month's program, I will be presenting Amplifier Operations and Antenna Perimeter Safety. If you know that 100 Watts can give you a stinging burn, then you can imagine 1500 Watts could really put the hurt on you. So we need to be sure all operators understand when "too much is too much", and how to maintain a safe distance from the antenna for both near field RF exposure and physical contact with the radiating elements.

For October and November, we still would like to have some members come and tell us about what they are doing in the hobby. The end of year annual meeting and prize drawing takes care of the December program. Remember you get an extra ticket for that end of year drawing if you present a program.

### Club Projects

Repeaters are coming along. Full internet connection for the 70 cm multi-mode digital repeater as well as the rest of the shack is ready. A workday was held last weekend to move some of the equipment around and set up remote control of the 70 cm repeater. Tech refresh of the 2 m repeater may have been accomplished also, depending on the readiness and availability of the new (to us) TKR-750. But, may have to wait until October to finish. Details at this month's meeting. The Cotton Patch Challenge bike race is September 15. We always support this event with operators and radios. Hear more details at the meeting. As mentioned above, we will be operating call sign N5C as a Special Event Station on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with set-up on the 9th. We need operators to sign up. David Rogers is our chairman for this event. What else would like to see your club do? HF station? Contest participation? Kit building? PCS fundraiser? Bring your ideas to the meeting and let's get something started.



## ARRL

Continuous Reminder: As an ARRL Affiliated club, the club gets to keep a whopping \$15 of your initial membership fee to ARRL or \$2 of your ARRL annual membership renewal. See a club officer for a form to join or renew with ARRL.

## License Classes

We will hold a General License preparation class and test session this month! September 20 – 22, Thursday and Friday evening and all day Saturday. We have many new hams and we need to encourage license upgrades. We need instructors all three days and VE's for the test on Saturday. Please make yourself available and sign up to help with this important project.

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*

## USCG Warns of LED Lighting Interference to Marine Radios, AIS Reception

The US Coast Guard says it's received reports from crews, ship owners, inspectors, and other mariners regarding poor reception on VHF radiotelephone, digital selective calling (DSC), and automatic identification systems (AIS) when in the vicinity of LED lighting systems. This could include interior and exterior lighting, navigation lights, searchlights, and floodlights found on vessels of all sizes.

"Radio frequency interference caused by these LED lamps [was] found to create potential safety hazards," the Coast Guard said in an August 15 [Marine Safety Alert](#). "For example, the maritime rescue coordination center in one port was unable to contact a ship involved in a traffic separation scheme incident by VHF radio. That ship also experienced very poor AIS reception. Other ships in different ports have experienced degradation of the VHF receivers, including AIS, caused by their LED navigation lights. LED lighting installed near VHF antennas has also shown to compound the reception."

ARRL has determined a wide range of interference-causing potential from consumer lighting devices.

"While some are relatively quiet, other devices — even those that meet the required FCC emissions limits — can still cause harmful interference," said ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG. "My best recommendation is to try LED lights before you buy, especially if there is a possibility that the device will be used while you're operating. Once you have determined that a particular LED device is quiet, then purchase as many as you need from that same store."

Over the past few years, ARRL has provided the FCC with reports of LED and other lighting systems that are not in compliance with FCC regulations. In several instances, these devices greatly exceeded the FCC's emissions limits, in one case by as much as 58 dB, creating as much noise as 650,000 legal devices.

"Several recent FCC enforcement actions involving LED manufacturers have been encouraging," Gruber said. "These actions can and will make a difference. I would also like to emphasize that the ARRL remains committed to working with both the FCC and manufactures help facilitate that positive



difference in any way it can. It is possible for LED and other lighting technologies to coexist with both amateurs and other users of the radio spectrum.”

The Coast Guard said that, while radio interference from LED sources may not be immediately evident, it’s possible to test for it through several steps, including turning off all LED lighting systems on board to see if the interference disappears. The Coast Guard suggested adjusting the VHF radio’s squelch just to the point where it cuts the audio on a vacant channel. If the noise returns, LED lights have raised the noise floor.

If this is the case, the Coast Guard said, it’s “likely” that shipboard VHF radio and AIS reception are being degraded by LED lighting. The Coast Guard has asked mariners experiencing this problem to report their experiences to the [Coast Guard Navigation Center](#), selecting “Maritime Telecommunications” from the menu on the left and providing details on the online form. — Thanks to **gCaptain.com** and Frank Smith, WS1MH

*Submitted by Mark Bushnell – AE5FG  
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## Keep NIST stations WWV & WWVH on the air!

NIST station WWV and sister stations are among the oldest radio stations in the United States, having been in continuous operation since May 1920. The station has transmitted the official US Time for nearly 100 years, and is an instrumental part in the telecommunications field, ranging from broadcasting to scientific research and education. Additionally, these stations transmit marine storm warnings from the National Weather Service, GPS satellite health reports, and specific information concerning current solar activity, and radio propagation conditions. These broadcasts are an essential resource to the worldwide communications industry. [This petition](#) requests continued funding of these stations be maintained into the 21st century and beyond to ensure future operations.

NIST is loudly touting their 2019 budget savings of \$6.3 million by shutting down time signal operations in Colorado and Hawaii. Sources say this may also include WWVB, which is the 60 kHz signal that auto-setting clocks and hundreds of thousands of other consumer and commercial devices use for calibration.

Make no mistake; we will lose WWV, WWVH, and WWVB permanently if the NIST budget is approved as currently written.

SIGN THE PETITION TODAY:

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/maintain-funding-nist-stations-wwv-wwvh>

*Submitted by President Larry Smith – K5XB*



## A Radio Contesting Primer

What is radio contesting?

It is an effort in which an amateur radio operator attempts to make as many contacts as possible, on air and within a time limit, to acquire as many points as possible. Points are based on number of contacts, mode of operation and multipliers.

Number of contacts is self-explainable, but mode of operation may yield extra points depending on the contest. For example, in a contest which allows multiple modes, CW (Morse code) is usually awarded more points versus phone i.e. two points for a CW QSO compared to one point for a phone QSO.

Multipliers depend upon the contest and can be Maidenhead grid square in a VHF/UHF contest or the different counties in one of the state QSO parties. There are, of course, several variations but these are two common multipliers.

Patience is paramount in contesting as conditions will be extremely variable and a couple of hours of calling CQ and listening to the noise level for that eagerly awaited reply will test your will to continue. That being said, when going back to a station calling CQ that is receiving many responses, it is very helpful to use your rigs XIT or Clarifier setting to move your transmit frequency up or down a few Hertz from center frequency. This adjustment makes your transmission sound slightly different from all of the others that may be responding and may result in the station returning your response and completing the contact.

Etiquette in contesting, and operating as a whole, is rarely discussed because it is very subjective. For example many operators will reply to a station calling CQ with just the last letters of their call sign i.e. Quebec Quebec instead of Alpha Golf Five Quebec Quebec. Many contesters are OK with this but others want the entire call sign and will not come back to a station signing with just the final letters. It is imperative to listen to the station that is "running" a frequency (calling CQ) with which you would like to make contact and learn that operator's preference. You may be rewarded with a contact.

Amateur radio is a hobby and is supposed to be fun, a distraction from the stresses of modern life. Contesting is no different. I have heard more experienced contesters berate new contesters making mistakes on air, asking why they were on the air if they did not know what they were doing. That is the exact wrong thing to do when someone is learning and may be nervous. It is our responsibility to welcome newcomers to the hobby and help them learn and grow. When I operated in the United Kingdom as MOECD I came across a Hungarian amateur calling "CQ Contest" one Sunday morning. I replied with "Mike Zero Echo Charlie Delta" and he replied with "Mike Zero Echo Charlie Delta you are 59 number 43, what's my number?" I did not know what number he wanted, so he explained the exchange process in that particular contest and then encouraged me to make more contacts. That few seconds of someone welcoming a re-licensed individual to contesting created a new and enthusiastic contesteer. That Hungarian amateur was a true "Elmer".

# AIRWAVES



So, if you have heard the cacophony of “CQ Contest CQ Contest CQ Contest” and wondered what was going on, it is one of the many facets of this hobby. Do not be afraid to participate in any contest, you do not have to submit a log because you are giving points to someone and it will give you valuable operating experience.

73 de AG5QQ

*Written by Scott Joseph – AG5QQ*

## Calendar

- September 13 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
- Sept 8 Rains County ARC Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Sept 8-10 ARRL September VHF Contest <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>
- Sept 15-16 10 GHz and up – Round Two
- Sept 18 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman’s BBQ in Rockwall.
- Sept 20 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
- Sept 21-23 Plano Balloon Festival Comms Support  
<https://k5prk.net/plano-balloon-fest-2018-signup/>
- Sept 29 McKinney ARC Sidewalk Sale 9-10am at SW corner of Collin Co College on US-380.
- Sept 29-30 EME 2.3 GHz and Up <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>
- Sept 29-30 AuxComm Class for Emergency Communications - Denton, TX  
<https://k5prk.net/auxcomm-class-upcoming/>
- October 4 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
- October 5-6 HamEXPO Belton <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/>
- October 11 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
- October 13 Rains County ARC Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- October 15-19 School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
- October 16 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman’s BBQ in Rockwall.
- October 26-27 Ham-A-Rama, Ardmore, OK <http://www.texomahamarama.org>
- October 27-28 EME 50 to 1296 MHz <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

# AIRWAVES



## 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>
- Tues. Rockwall ARC Net at 7:00pm 441.525 + PL141.3
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

### Officers

<b>President:</b>	Larry Smith – K5XB <a href="mailto:president@w5nni.net">president@w5nni.net</a> (254) 644-6465 cell
<b>Vice President:</b>	Michael Ketchum – K5MDK <a href="mailto:vice-president@w5nni.net">vice-president@w5nni.net</a> (972) 408-6573 cell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Scott Davis – KK7JS <a href="mailto:secretary@w5nni.net">secretary@w5nni.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW <a href="mailto:treasurer@w5nni.net">treasurer@w5nni.net</a> (903) 454-0911 cell
<b>VE/Class Team Leader:</b>	Jae Stutzman – K5JAE <a href="mailto:classes@w5nni.net">classes@w5nni.net</a>
<b>Club Trustee:</b>	Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD <a href="mailto:trustee@w5nni.net">trustee@w5nni.net</a>

### Club Repeaters

<b>Club Station:</b>	TBD
<b>VHF Repeater:</b>	W5NNI/R 147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz
<b>UHF Repeater:</b>	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](mailto:editor@w5nni.net).