

## Inside this issue

- [Meeting Minutes](#)
- [President's Letter](#)
- [Main Trading Company Ham Radio Day](#)
- [Members who are sporting new callsigns](#)
- [Okies and a Texan report on 2018 ARRL September VHF contest](#)
- [FCC's Warning to Import Radio Sales and Manufacturing](#)
- [Calendar](#)

## Meeting Minutes

### Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 9/13/2018

- Victor Paul – WB0TEV joined by telephone and had indicated he ran the Generator this month. Scott Joseph – AG5QQ asked for Make/Model/Ser: Coleman Powermate Model PM54-4302, Serial 61060096.
- Meeting delayed due to OneDrive configuration on conference room machine.
- Meeting was called to order @ 1155

## Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for August meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves".
- Treasurer Report delivered by John Nelson Jr – N0DFW with a balance of \$1083.48. PortOPotty and Banner outstanding.

## Subcommittee Reports

- Repeater Update
  - Internet Router – Gabe Cook – W5TTX is preparing to wipe router with new configuration that he has created for the shack.
  - Work Day – the report from Scott Joseph - AG5QQ was that it did not go off. Will plan again when repeater gets closer to delivery.
  - 2m Repeater Status – Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD indicates his dad is still planning to come in October to setup new repeater and link it with N5SN UHF machine.

## Upcoming Events

- Various area club meeting calendar was presented.
- Contest Calendar was presented.
- Hamfest Calendar was presented.
- Cotton Patch Challenge Bike ride in Greenville is this weekend. Several members have indicated their rest stops or roles.

# AIRWAVES



## Old Business

- N/A. Most already covered

## New Business

- General Class Course and VE Session needs help next week.
- There is a need for presenters for the after-meeting programs. Please contact Larry – K5XB.
- Preparations were discussed for N5C Special event station.

## Presentations

- RF Exposure and Antenna Safety / Amplifier Operations by Larry Smith – K5XB

## Attendees

- Jonathan Brown - WB5KSD
- Mark Bushnell - AE5FG
- Gabe Cook - W5TTX
- Scott Joseph - AG5QQ
- Stephen Kelley
- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
- Kirk Lieder
- Joe Lum - KE5ZBL
- John Nelson Jr - N0DFW
- David Rogers - KG5KPU
- Chris Rutz - K5RTZ
- Larry Smith - K5XB
- Wesley Sparks - WB5GPA (PAID DUES)

Meeting adjourned @ 1234.

*Written by Vice-President Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

## President's Letter

Autumn is here!

As I write this, I'm getting ready to head to Belton for the semi-annual HamExpo that happens early October and early April every year. This is one of the best pure swap meets in the state. No conventions, no seminars, just good ol' hoss-tradin'.

### Meetings

Last month's program was not too bad if I say so myself. We still need some more of that kind of show this month and next. Please volunteer to present. In spite of the fact that last month's program presented a lot of data, it really didn't take that long to put together. It may have taken 2 or maybe 3 hours including scanning the internet for the charts. Perhaps November we'll need time for final preparation for N5C (it will start the next day after the November meeting). And if we're ready for that, Winter Field Day (January 26-27, 2019), will be coming very soon. But we should could use a volunteer for this coming meeting.

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. Jon is looking for a small beam antenna for 70 cm link to be used with the 2m repeater. Tech refresh of the 2 m repeater will happen soon. Details at this month's meeting. It

# AIRWAVES



seems the Cotton Patch Challenge bike race September 15 was a big success. We supported this event with several members operating radios at rest stops. I don't think we had any mobiles in the SAG wagon corps and it seems to me we could have used more operators for that. As mentioned above, we will be operating call sign N5C as a Special Event Station on November 10th and 11th with set-up on the 9th. We need operators to sign up. David Rogers is our chairman for this event.

There has been a suggestion we launch an elmering/mentoring effort through the club. This is a very worthy effort we should undertake it. We've licensed quite a few folks in the last couple of years but I don't hear very many of them on the air. We need to fix that.

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 held a General License preparation class and test session on Sept 20 – 22, Thursday and Friday evening and all day Saturday. We had four guys come for the General, plus one came by Saturday for the Technician class test and all candidates passed their tests. We still must have one more test session this year to keep our VEC accreditation. We will schedule it at the October meeting. 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*

## Main Trading Company Ham Radio Day

Main Trading Company started out in 2009 as a small family business in a time of financial trouble just to stay alive. They specialized in surplus and closeout products as well as a Postal Center. In early 2011, they reluctantly made their first order of Wouxun handi-talkies and they have not been able to keep enough in stock ever since. In 2014, MTC sponsored a mini-hamfest at their store in Paris, Texas. It was the first of many to come. The Mayor of Paris declared it "Ham Radio Day" and it stuck. What started as 600 hams has not grown, if you can fit them all on that block. They will have live music, tailgate sales of ham gear, thousands of dollars in merchandize to give away, and food too!



Consider coming out and supporting this wonderful family in their small family business on **October 13<sup>th</sup>** as they host another HAM RADIO DAY at Main Trading Company. They are located at 2707 Lamar Street in Paris Texas. **You are advised to bring a chair, so you**



**can enjoy endless eyeball QSOs with friends, new and old. The event will start at 8:00am and run until 2:00pm. Prizes, Food, Fun, Tailgating, Music and more.** The City of Paris has provided a tour bus, in the past, which will take visitors around Paris to some of the most interesting sites and explain a little



history too. Have you seen the headstone statue of Jesus depicted in Cowboy boots? There is a story behind it. Did you know the roof of the First United Methodist Church building was designed to lift straight up at the top in order to allow cool air from the basement to rise to the sanctuary? Many more facts that are mysterious await you on this wonderful tour of Paris. In addition, do not forget the PARIS TEXAS ANTIQUE FAIR AND WINE FEST is also on the same weekend at the HISTORIC GIBRALTAR HOTEL in Downtown Paris. ([www.ParisTexasAntiqueFair.com](http://www.ParisTexasAntiqueFair.com)) The Antique fair runs October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Yes, this is the ONLY ham event my wife actually wants to come with me. We do have a lot of fun together, digging through boxes of electronic stuff and, yes, a little antique rummaging too. I hope to see you all there!

*Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

## Members who are sporting new callsigns

Call sign reassignments started back in the 1920s. Prior to the mid-1970s, very special people could request special call signs. That is until an FCC Licensing official was thrown in prison for taking a bribe for a 1x2 call sign. In 1978, all new callsigns would be assigned systematically from group blocks. Amateurs who moved or upgraded had the option to keep their existing call or be granted one systematically, depending upon their group.

In June 1990, retired Texas Extra Class amateur, Jim Wills N5HCT, started the work through a Petition for Rule Making suggesting that radio amateurs be allowed to choose a dormant station call sign upon paying \$30. Initially, the idea was denied, but the FCC was in a tight budget period. Congress added a new section to the Communications Act giving FCC the ability to charge fees to cover operating costs. Somehow, the phrase “Amateur vanity call signs” was added to the schedule of fees in the section. Vanity call signs were born on Tuesday, August 10, 1993 when President Clinton signed the Omnibus bill into law. It was not until 1995 that the FCC caught up and had worked out the administrative means to support vanity call signs. On May 31, 1996, the first vanity call sign was approved for \$3 per year, or \$30 for a ten-year period, just as Jim Wills N5HCT had proposed.

### **Scott Davis** changed from KK7JS to **K5PS**

Scott wanted to change his “7” to a “5” zone, since he pretty much has settled here in Texas. However, he also wanted to get a 1x2 call as well. Within recent years, a couple of good calls became available, such as N5MM and K5TX. Each time, he could not win the lottery for those. With one last attempt, Scott applied for K5PS. He got lucky and won K5PS! If he did not win K5PS, he was going to give up for a long while on making a call sign change.

### **Mark Henley** changed from KF5ZZB to **K5MOA**

Mark has resigned from L3 in April of this year and has decided to retire to his own radio fun. He and his son started a small business building 2-meter antennas for which they tailor both the active element and the counterpoise elements to get as close to a 1:1 VSWR across the band as possible. Additionally, they shape the main beam at a certain angle from the horizontal via the number and down angles of the counterpoise elements. Since Mark and his son both hunt, and like to retain the ability to consistently shoot minute-of-angle accuracies, (MOA), they both decided to get vanity call signs that reflected that concept, hence K5MOA for Mark and W5MOA for his son James.



**Scott Joseph** changed from K5BGL to **AG5QQ**

Scott had adopted two beagles in 2009, Louie and Lucky. However, Louie passed away in June of 2014 and Lucky in April of last year. So, when Scott upgraded to his Extra Class license, he elected to use the systematically assigned call sign, AG5QQ to help alleviate the painful reminder of his two beagles who cannot be with him any longer.

**John Nelson Jr** changed from N0DFW to **W7JOY**

John renewed his interest in amateur radio several years ago by upgrading his novice call to N0DFW with the help of a friend who wrote a program to help with the choice. However, there was much questioning of John why he was so against DFW. Not being a negative person, John decided to change it once more. This time, he wanted to honor the memory of his mother, whose name is Joy. Finding the call available, John chose the new vanity W7JOY. Now, he enjoys a more positive message concerning his call sign.

**Chris Rutz** changed from KG5ZYF to **K5RTZ**

Wanting something easier to remember, Chris applied for a callsign with his last name in mind. If he was going to make such a change, he also wanted it to be shorter, as the letters are quite long with the new sequential call signs being issued these days. His first call sign, before getting back into the hobby, was KB5ZVM. Looks like RTZ is for good now.

**Wesley Sparks** changed from K15BDW to **W55GPA**

Wesley wanted to get a call sign that had personal meaning to him. He started with his initials, WS and discovered he can get the WS prefix. The GPA comes from his grandchildren, as they call him G-Paw. Hence, GPA comes to his mind. He went on the internet and within 20 minutes, he was done. He had been told that people remember your call sign better when it is a vanity, not only other people but yourself too. His new call sign will be very interesting in contests, as it really stands out.

Congratulations to all of these and other hams who have taken advantage of the Vanity Call program.

*Written by Vice President Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

## Okies and a Texan report on 2018 ARRL September VHF contest

*Michael Ketchum's Elmer, Bob Kirby – K3NT and friend, Ross Terry – K5SRT, had a first time experience in mobile VHF contesting. Here is their story from their leader, Randy Wing (NOLD).*

09/23/2018 | NOLD/R

Our team included Randy Wing (NOLD), Harvey Jones (W0HGJ) and George Mackus (AB0RX). Our focus was on building points and multipliers by traveling with K5SRT/Rover. K5SRT/Rover was manned by Ross Terry (K5SRT), Bob Kirby (K3NT), and Nick Farlow (KB0YHT). All of the team members live in Oklahoma except for Bob Kirby who lives in Plano, TX and George Mackus who lives in St. Louis, MO. Bob and Ross are relatively new to mobile VHF contesting. George Mackus decided to participate last minute, he is new to mobile VHF contesting, but operates portable in most VHF contests. More details about our teams, team members, our rover equipment, and our participation in the contest (pictures) can be found at our website: [www.OKRover.info](http://www.OKRover.info)

# AIRWAVES



**Preparation:** We set operational goals for the contest in June 2018 after the VHF contest: Compete for highest UNLIMITED ROVER score in the Midwest, introduce new friends to VHF contesting, and to have a good time. With these in mind, we set out to add 33cm radios and antennas to our rovers. Up until this contest, it had taken between 4 and 5 hours to just mount the antennas on the rack. I redesigned the rack to allow it to be added and removed in about 5-10 minutes. (Thanks K2EZ for the idea!) I also built my own master set of power switches to the equipment. Knowing that we had new VHF mobile contesters along, we planned well in advance of the contest – we had a 51 page plan – about three pages for each grid circle we planned to activate, a number of “coordination plans” on how we planned to run frequencies, coordinate, and operate for the duration of the contest, and a number of maps that just showed the hams we expected to work from each grid circle. We have developed a database of over 260 Mid West VHF hams that we have “profiled” for their station setup and contact information – this was all laid into our plans to make it available as we pulled into a new grid square corner – so that we knew who would be out there trying to work us. We shared our itinerary (see photo 008a) with these fellow VHF contesters.

**Pre-Contest Setup:** We positioned ourselves for the contest by traveling from Oklahoma City, OK to Dodge City, KS on Friday and learned to work together as a rover team and a rover group. Friday evening we had dinner together and walked our detailed route planning for the next day. Saturday morning, before the contest started, we spent some time sightseeing at Dodge City Boot Hill museum. We learned a lot of the actual Dodge City past, and it was wild! (See photos 001 – 004)

**General Contest Observations:** Six meters was not open along our route during the entire contest, with only a few contacts being made. There was no large scale VHF opening that we detected our entire course – We were able to work up to about 250 miles without too much trouble despite the conditions – by the use of our high gain antennas.

**Our Rover Equipment:** The contest was busy requiring all three operators in each vehicle to keep up with the 562+ contacts! Loops kept us active during the intervals between grid corners; gain antennas helped us dig out our long distance contacts. We covered the following bands: 6m, 2M, 1.25M, 70cm, 33cm, 23cm. We covered the modes SSB, FM, CW and digital (FT8). George led operations with the gain antennas, Harvey led the 6m digital and overall logging responsibilities, and Randy drove and operated at the grid square corners on our handheld and mobile radios. Our team had 2 computers running N3FJP VHF contest software, networked, front seat and back. We operated a Yaesu FT-736R, a Yaesu FT-847, a Kenwood KW-D710, and an Alinco DJ-G26T for 900 MHz. We had ~8-10 ft gain antennas on 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, 33cm, and 23cm. We had dual loops on 2m and 70cm, and a single loop on 6m. We also operated an FM vertical on 2m and 70cm. We had a 200-watt amp on 2m and 100-watt amps on 1.25m and 70cm. (see photos 005-006a)

**Contest Day 1 – Saturday:** Dense fog greeted us (see photo 007) Saturday morning of the contest, undoubtedly bringing a little morning VHF enhancement that unfortunately burned off! We started the contest at 1 PM at the intersection of DM98, DM97, EM08 and EM07 north of Dodge City and SW of Jetmore, KS (see photo 009). Inevitably, working the first grid square as a team took longer than we anticipated. So we were already behind schedule!

We then traveled to the intersection of DM99, EM09, DM98 and EM08 (see route plan photo 008a) SW of Wakeeney, KS. Along the way, Ross-K5SRT discovered an intermittent 6m receive problem that the

# AIRWAVES



team diagnosed and repaired with a brief stop near Ness City, KS (see photo 010). The dirt roads were wet and muddy from the heavy rain that fell over the past few days – but nothing that our vehicles couldn't handle. (See photo 011) We made up a little time here by prioritizing getting back on the road as fast as possible.

Turning east, we traveled to the intersection of EM09, EM19, EM08, and EM18 about 10 miles ESE of Lincoln, KS. On our way, we traversed a county gravel road that had less gravel than dirt - Jaguar Rd (see photo 012). This area had seen some rain and the road was very wet and muddy. As we traversed to the much more heavily graveled road our brother rover had taken (Iron Rd) on the south side of the dividing line between EM09/EM19 and EM08/EM18 we encountered about 5 inches of mud that nearly kept us stuck for the night. After much mud removal at two different truck stops (see photos 013 and 014), we finally had achieved enough wheel balance to continue at our normal highway speeds. We arrived at our night stop at about 1:00 AM and set in for the night about 2:30 AM. Many thanks to our overnight host!

**Contest Day 2 – Sunday:** We awoke about 7 AM, coffee'd up, and got on our way a little later than we intended, but we got enough sleep to get us through the day! We traveled to the intersection of EM18, EM28, EM19, and EM29 SW of Topeka, KS. We warmed up our operational pace faster than the day before! We had a rural Kansas meeting at this grid circle – see photo 015.

From there we traveled to the intersection of EM18, EM28, EM17 and EM27 just outside of Virgil, KS (see photos 016 and 017). Our careful planning at this site really paid off – hilltop operations at all 4 grids that offered us contacts in Wichita, Topeka, KC, and Tulsa!

Along the way to the next grid circle, we were able to pick up many additional contacts. Arriving at the grid circle at EM17, EM27, EM16, EM26 SW of Caney, KS and bordering Kansas and Oklahoma we learned that this corner is located in some pretty good hills (planning faux pas). However, it didn't stop excellent contacts on all six bands we carried! We were also fortunate enough to work many FM contacts and USB contacts in the local area – which we had carefully coordinated with before the contest! We were exceptionally happy to work rover to rover OVER the top of a 75 ft hill – the 900 MHz gain antenna came in handy after all! The other thing we learned is that just because something looks like a public access road on a map – doesn't mean it is... the path into EM16 was all gated and locked as private property. Still we did make some good contacts and the time we gained helped make us LESS behind schedule!

After this intersection, we headed to Turkey Mountain on the SW part of Tulsa, Oklahoma. As always, Tulsa awarded us with many local contacts and of course, we were able to make up for the EM16/EM26 contacts that we were unable to achieve near Caney, KS. George was able to work WQ0P on all bands except 33cm (900 MHz) from atop Turkey Mountain.

With time running out, K5SRT/R headed down to the inner grid circle (in low land) of EM16, EM26, EM15 and EM25, where we completed the contest. We didn't get all 12 combinations, but we achieved 10 of the 12 before the contest expired. We were all in very good spirits despite us being 2 hours from home and it being 10 PM at night on a Sunday! (See photo regarding score 021)

Post Contest: We stopped at a truck stop near Chandler, OK on the way home and took some pictures of our rovers/team members (see photos 018-020). Arriving after midnight Monday morning in

# AIRWAVES



Edmond, OK, we disassembled our teams. Most of us took Monday off and recovered... In the morning, George took off for St. Louis – a 7 hr drive home! Bob Kirby took off for Plano, TX – about a 3-hour drive home.

We don't remember the number of times at gas stations and fast food places that we were asked if bad weather was moving in. We did have some very interested questions and good spirits from these encounters – we enjoyed sharing our hobby!

We had a great time operating together! We spent the drive home talking back and forth on 2m FM and discussing our lessons-learned. A number of operators have recommended improvements and feedback on our operation that we will take into account for our future operations. Thanks to all of our contacts during the contest – in the future, we will be changing tactics – more on this to come.

-- NOLD

*Submitted by Bob Kirby – K3NT  
Used with permission from ARRL – [Soapbox 9950](#)*

## FCC's Warning to Import Radio Sales and Manufacturing

This morning, September 24, we received a lot of news about company leadership organization. At the same time, the FCC is also doing a little retrospective concerning imported two-way VHF/UHF radios. After recent investigation and charges to the company that imports and markets Baofeng handi-talkies, the FCC gave a stern warning that they will be enforcing existing rules. Enforcement Advisory No. 2018-03 was published, noting that there has been an increase in the number of imported radios being sold and advertised here in the US. These radios fall under FCC rules and regulations for testing and operation. Certification is a requirement, and ensures that the equipment complies with technical requirements to avoid causing interference. Equipment that does not comply with the technical requirements cannot be certified and thus cannot be imported, advertised, sold or **used**.

However, there is one exception to the certification requirement, and that is for the device that is capable of **only operating** on Amateur Radio frequencies by Amateur Radio licensees. However, many two-way radios that operate on Amateur Radio frequencies **also extend beyond that designation**. In such cases, it cannot be advertised, imported, sold, or **used** in the US. Does this sound like some radios you have heard about lately? You have been advised. Don't believe me? Take a look at <http://mtcradio.com> and checkout their Baofeng selection:





**MTC**  
2707 Lamar Ave  
Paris Tx 75460  
903.737.0773  
"Family Owned and Operated"

Check it out for yourself by reading the advisory at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-18-980A1.pdf>

*Submitted by Mark Bushnell – AF5FG  
Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

## Calendar

- Oct 5-6 HamEXPO Belton <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/>
- Oct 8-16 Eisenhower Special Event – W5I Sherman, TX <http://www.graysoncountyar.com/>
- Oct 11 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
- Oct 11 Rains County ARC Meeting at 6:00pm at Circle H BBQ, Emory. (SPECIAL TIME CHANGE)
- Oct 13 Ham Radio Day at Main Trading Company, Paris Texas <http://mtcradio.com>
- Oct 15-19 School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
- Oct 16 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Oct 18 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
- Oct 20 Van Zandt County ARES meets at 9am at the Canton Library.
- Oct 26-27 Ham-A-Rama, Ardmore, OK <http://www.texomahamarama.org>
- Oct 27-28 EME 50 to 1296 MHz <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>
- Nov 3-5 ARRL November Sweepstakes – CW
- Nov 8 MFARC Meeting at 11:45am at B136-A Kitty Hawk Conference Room.
- Nov 9-11 N5C Special Event Station Cooper Lake State Park South Sulphur Unit.
- Nov 10 Rains County ARC Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.

# AIRWAVES



- Nov 15 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital.
- Nov 17-19 ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone
- Nov 20 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman’s BBQ in Rockwall.
- Nov 24-25 EME – 50 to 1296 MHz
- Nov 30 - Dec 2 160 Meter

## 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

- President:** Larry Smith – K5XB  
[president@w5nni.net](mailto:president@w5nni.net)  
(254) 644-6465 cell
- Vice President:** Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
[vice-president@w5nni.net](mailto:vice-president@w5nni.net)  
(972) 408-6573 cell
- Secretary:** Scott Davis – KK7JS  
[secretary@w5nni.net](mailto:secretary@w5nni.net)
- Treasurer:** John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW  
[treasurer@w5nni.net](mailto:treasurer@w5nni.net)  
(903) 454-0911 cell
- VE/Class Team Leader:** Joseph Scott – AG5QQ  
[classes@w5nni.net](mailto:classes@w5nni.net)
- Club Trustee:** Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD  
[trustee@w5nni.net](mailto:trustee@w5nni.net)
- Contest/Activities:** David Rogers – KG5KPU  
[contest@w5nni.net](mailto:contest@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](mailto:editor@w5nni.net).