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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 12/12/2019

- Meeting was called to order @ 1200.

Officer Reports

- November meeting minutes for November are in Airwaves.

Subcommittee Reports

- Winter Field Day invite from Rains EOC January 25 & 26th.

Upcoming Events

- Brief list of upcoming hamfests and area meetings. Cowtown Hamfest is Jan 17th.

Old Business

- Discussed ideas for increasing participation in weekly 2m net.
- Licensing event scheduled for 12/13-14 is cancelled.

New Business

- No new payroll deduction for E-Club. Substitutes are being explored. E-Club will be increasing their yearly dues.
- Officer Elections:
 - President: David Rogers (new)
 - Vice-President: Jon Brown (new)
 - Secretary: Scott Davis (incumbent)
 - Treasurer: John Nelson (incumbent)

Presentations

- Prizes and winners for raffle:
 - \$150 gift certificate from HRO: John Nelson
 - \$100 gift certificate from HRO: Chris Rutz
 - \$50 gift certificate from HRO: Jae Stutzman, Hommy, Joe Lum, Larry Smith
 - ProjectGM LED sign: Mike Ketchum

Attendees

- Meeting adjourned @ 1245

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- Those in attendance were:

Shawn Crossland - N6REP
Scott Davis - K5PS
Sheldon Graham -
Brett Johnson - Phone
Scott Joseph - AG5QQ
Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
John Nelson - W7JOY

Craig Nichols - NT5CN
Victor Paul - WB0TEV - Phone
David Rogers - KG5KPU
Jose Santiago - KG5SKR
Larry Smith - K5XP
Cornelius Van Rensburg -
John Watters Jr. - KJ4RVT

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

MFARC Bank Statement for December

Beginning balance:		\$1,928.49
Prizes for Annual Meeting	(\$500.00)	
Dues from three members	\$30.00	
New balance:		\$1,458.49

Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY

President's Letter

The meeting coming up on January 9th is my final MEETING as your President as I hand the virtual gavel over to David Rogers KG5KPU. During the meeting we will install the incoming officers for the year 2020. I expect to retire from the company later this year. It has been my honor to serve as MFARC President. I appreciate all the support, confidence, and friendship you have shown me these last few years.

Meetings/Events

Let's make some plans for Winter Field Day January 25-26th. Once again, Rains County has asked us to help man their EOC for this event. They have the water pump fixed on their generator and back on line. This means lots of good clean power...and heat! So those of you who don't care for the summer heat and outdoors/bug stings/sweat lodges have a chance to do a real field day with all the comforts of home.

CQ magazine puts on two 160 meter contests in the winter. One CW (1/24-1/26/2020 Coincides with Winter Field Day) and one Phone (2/21-2/23/2020) weekend. We'll keep you posted on the dates.

The membership poll is complete. We took a brief look at a high level last month. At this month's meeting we will deep dive the results and see if we can gain guidance for the club in the coming years.

Make a 5 or 10-minute talk about what's going on in your part of the hobby and show it off at the next regular monthly meeting. We'd love to hear what's up. Remember you get an extra ticket for the end of year drawing when you present a program at a regular monthly meeting. We did a really bad job of having presentations last year. Expect us to push a little harder for show and tells this year.

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Club Projects

Elmering/mentoring: We had to cancel our Technician licensing opportunity that was set for December. We just could not find a date where we could get enough instructors and VE's together to make it work. We will reschedule it early this New Year.

The weekly lunchtime 2 meter net is meeting on Tuesday at 11:45 AM on the W5NNI repeater. Usually it meets for just 15 minutes or so. Knock the cobwebs off the HT and get on the air with us. Let us know if there is a better time for more of you.

ARRL

If you join or renew your ARRL membership through MFARC, MFARC gets a "cut". You'll give your ARRL fee to John Nelson. He'll deposit the Club's portion and send ARRL a check for your membership.

See you at the meeting Thursday. Bring a friend. Bring your lunch. Remember we are in Lawson CR upstairs in Building 111.

73,
Larry
K5XB
MFARC President

Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB

Missives and Memos From the Desk of the Vice Prez...

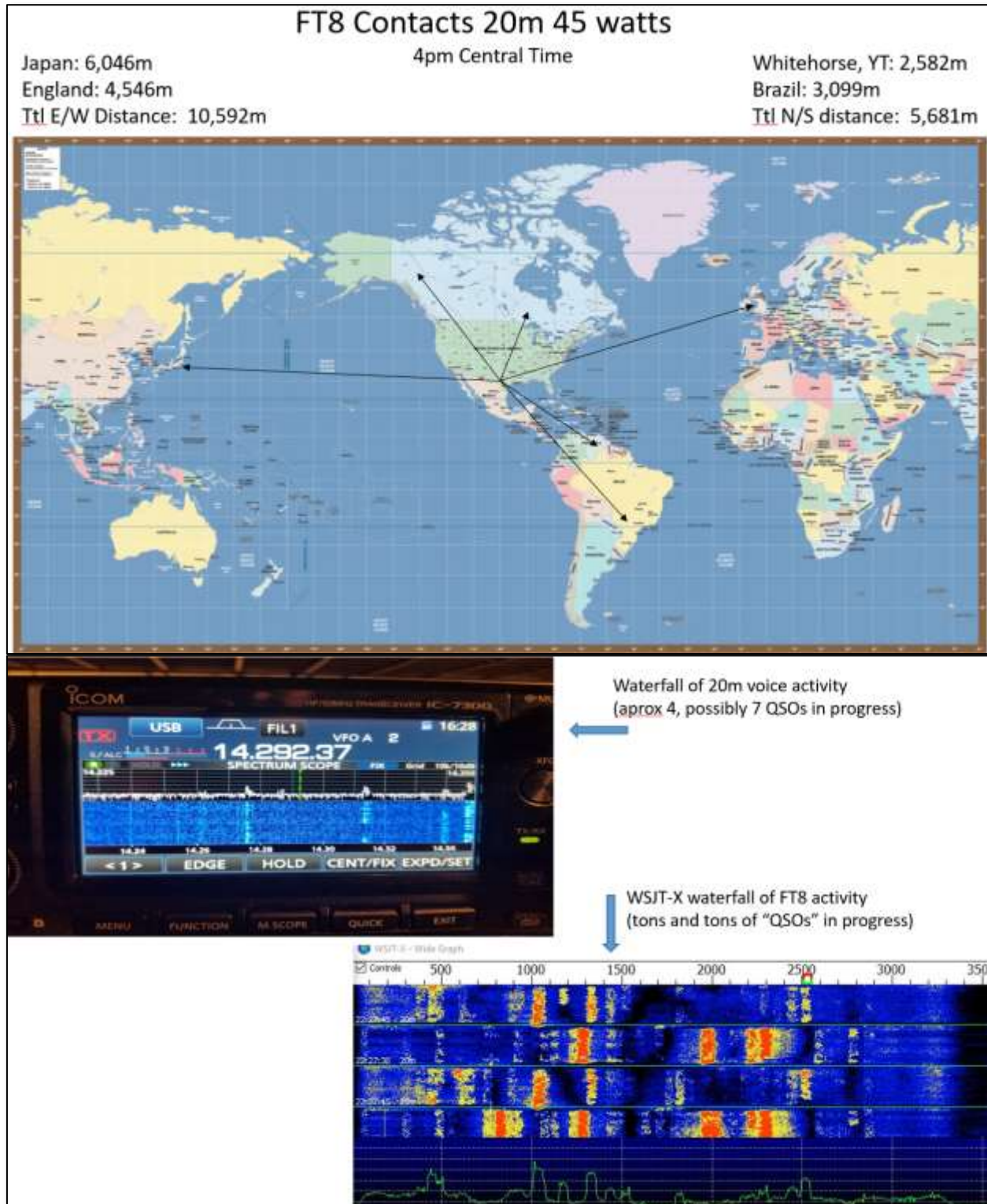
Having accepted the unofficial gavel (a piece of pizza crust left on a napkin that Larry handed me at the last meeting, it should be noted) from outgoing President Larry Smith at our last meeting, I look forward to serving the club and our members as President for 2020. I want to stress that my main goal is to increase participation among members and build a strong sense of community within the club. I will look towards you, our members, for advice and guidance throughout the year. I would also like to thank Larry for his leadership as MFARC's "Top Dog" the past 2 years. Thank you, sir.

FT8 and a CONFESSION: I have been one of those folks who never really considered digital modes to be of much interest, let alone "any fun." Well, over the holiday break, I decided to give FT8 a try; after all, "all of the kids are doing it." Thanks to Victor Paul, I was able to get the software installed and running. With his help, I made my first digital contact on the first try. Now it's time to make a confession –here it is, the 8th of January, and I have yet to make a single voice contact of HF. Part of that is due to being sick and having a sore throat, but a big part of that is the "hunt and pounce" nature of FT8. It is, believe it or not, somewhat exciting being able to see DX call signs scroll past and be able to pick and choose who

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will be “the next target.” And, it can be done with minimal power. I have worked Japan, England, other



countries in Europe, the Yukon Territories, Canada, Brazil, Venezuela, and many states in the US using 50 watts or less (see pictures). I was even able to make my first-ever 160m contact by stringing a wire up in

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a tree with a 5:1 UNUN and some counterpoises, using about 90 watts; including a DX contact into the Caribbean at over 2,200 miles. So, I would encourage folks who haven't already tried it, to give FT8 a serious look.

UHF RAGCHEW: If you are looking for some "repeater action" here locally, I would like to suggest tuning into 441.775 (+5Mhz, PL 100.0). The repeater is run by Dan Gable (K5VOM), and is linked to other repeaters around the country via All-Star. There seems to be activity on the repeater day and night; both local and national. It is located near Quinlan, so it is accessible with 5watts and an HT from Greenville.

Well, folks, looks as if that's about all she wrote for now. I look forward to serving as the MFARC President for 2020.

Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB

Annual Meeting Big Success

It was another exciting annual meeting. This year, the club provided PIZZA, which made the lunch-time event all that more **fulFILLING**. On top of that, the officer elections went extremely well. We will miss President Larry Smith – K5XB, as he was certainly willing to serve another term, in spite of his plans to retire sometime this year. He will be sorely missed. However, David Rogers – KG5KPU has stepped up to the challenge to pilot the club as President this year. Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD offered to serve as Vice-President. The other incumbent officers, Scott Davis – K5PS and John Nelson Jr. – W7JOY have both agreed to serve another term as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The highlight of the annual meeting was the PRIZE DRAWING. That's where some fortunate folks won prizes drawn from tickets earned throughout the year. Members earned tickets by attending meetings, events and serving as event leaders, or in other leadership capacity within the club. Once all of the tickets were thrown into the "pizza box", the drawing began. You can see who won the prizes by checking out the meeting minutes above. The prizes were a Project GM LED sign and four-\$50, one-\$100 and one-\$150 gift certificates to Ham Radio Outlet.

I hope the club continues in the tradition of tickets for involvement for this year. It has been a good incentive for members to join and get involved and increase their odds at winning a wonderful prize at the end of the year. Congratulations to the winners!

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Membership Dues Change

As it has been announced, E-Club lost their ability to automatically receive dues from payroll deductions. This will curtail E-Club membership, as folks will have to remember to pay their dues manually. The E-Club board is still working on a web-based solution to allow annual dues payments, but we fear this will still stifle the number of E-Club members. On top of this, E-Club is deciding whether to raise dues from \$21 annually to \$25 annually. This \$4.00 increase will be the first increase since the E-Club was first started in the 1970's. Even so, for the benefits of joining multiple clubs under the E-Club umbrella, the E-Club dues are still quite affordable and I look forward to the payment solution to come.

That said, if the increase is approved by the E-Club board, this will translate to an increase in non-E-Club membership dues for the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club. If you keep your E-Club membership up-to-

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date, then the dues will remain the same at \$10.00 per year. However, if you are not an E-Club member, there may be an increase from \$31.00 to \$35.00 per year. It is being considered by our Treasurer whether he will apply part of the \$35.00 dues to E-Club membership for the applicant. That would provide \$10.00 for the club and \$25.00 dues to E-Club. The benefit would mean more E-Club members for E-Club and also translate to more money for the radio club from E-Club sponsorship.

This is still a great bargain for what our club can do with the funding provided by E-Club. John Nelson Jr – W7JOY states that he is encouraging everyone to renew their dues as soon as possible. He will be accepting the new \$35.00 dues from non-E-Club members and \$10.00 from those who are E-Club members. Please get your dues to John as soon as you can for this New Year. Better year, John says you can pay him at this month's meeting!

For more information about the E-Club issue, check out their news article [HERE \(company internal link\)](#).

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Calendar

- Jan 9 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
- Jan 10 Radio Fiesta Hamfest, Shertz, TX <http://w5sc.org>
- Jan 11 Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory.
- Jan 16 Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm
- Jan 17 Cowtown Hamfest, Forest Hill, TX <http://www.cowtownhamfest.com>
- Jan 18 Skywarn Training, McKinney Central Park Campus Conference Center, McKinney 8:30am – 4:30pm
- Jan 21 Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
- Feb 6 Skywarn Training, Sulphur Springs City Hall, Sulphur Springs 6-8pm
- Feb 10-14 ARRL School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
- Feb 13 Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
- Feb 13 Skywarn Training, F. Warren Civic Center, Greenville 6-8pm
- Feb 15-16 ARRL International DX – CW <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- Mar 6 Greater Houston Hamfest, Rosenberg, TX <http://houstonhamfest.org>
- Mar 14 Skywarn Training, Rockwall County Library, Rockwall 9-11am

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>
- Mon Hopkins Co NET at 7:00pm 146.680 – PL 151.4

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- Mon Rains Co NET at 7:30pm 146.920 – PL 88.5Hz
Tues Rockwall ARC Net at 7:00pm 441.525 + PL141.3
Tues K5VOM Net at 8:00pm. News Bulletin at 7:30pm, Allstar 49668 - 441.800 (+) – PL 100Hz
Thurs SVARA Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz
Thurs QRP Fox Hunt http://www.qrpxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm
2nd Wed of each month – ARRL NTX ARES Net 8:30pm local on 3860

Officers

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

Club Repeaters

Club Station:	TBD
VHF Repeater:	W5NNI/R 147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz
UHF Repeater:	W5NNI/R DMR D-Star Fusion 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.