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## Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2020 11:45am

The meeting this month was virtual, using Skype.

Treasurer's Report – NO CHANGE IN BALANCE, NO TRANSACTIONS this month.

Texas QSO Party Sept 11-13 at Cooper Lake State Park a GO. See David for more details.

Audie Murphy Day a bust for SVARA and MFARC due to COVID

Vote to allow up to \$300 to spend on Allstar node on 2-M W5NNI machine.

Club SWAG, if you missed out or want more, order through Greenville Trophy direct and David will pick it up for you.

For Field Day, the deadline to file logs with the ARRL for the aggregate club score is July 28<sup>th</sup>. We are listed under **Majors Field ARC**.

Those in attendance were:

1.	KG5KPU	David	7.	WS5GPA	Wes
2.	K5MDK	Michael	8.	NT5CN	Craig
3.	KI5DZL	Curtis	9.	K5XB	Larry
4.	AG5QQ	Scott	10.	N6REP	Shawn
5.	KG5SKR	Jose	11.	KE5ZBL	Joe
6.	K5RTZ	Chris	12.	K5JAE	Jae

*Minutes Provided by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK*

## MFARC Bank Statement for July

**Beginning balance:** \$2,302.39  
**New balance:** \$2,302.39

*Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY*

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## Presidential Musings and Memos ...

**August's Meeting:** Like last month, and every month since May, we will hold the meeting via teleconference (Skype). To take part, call from any phone 430-242-6000, 321-724-3010, or 866-987-0312, and use the conference code 77175563. Or, accept the Meeting Request in the email that will be going out the morning of the meeting. The meeting will be on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:45. *Please call-in a few minutes prior to start of meeting so we can begin promptly.*

**Tuesday 2m NET:** Since we can't meet face-to-face, I'd like to remind everyone that the MFARC Lunchtime NET is still up and running. We "meet" every Tuesday at 11:45 on 147.160 (+, PL100). We often discuss club business, so this is a good opportunity to lend your voice.

**TShirts, Hats, and Mugs:** The latest order of SWAG has been placed. Unfortunately, Brittni at GTA was been in the hospital, and has been unable to work our order. Once she is back on her feet and back ay ye ole salt mine, we will have out shirts, hats, and mugs.

**Tx QSO Party:** this year's Texas QSO Party is the weekend of September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. I have rented a "shelter w/ amenities" at Cooper Lake. I plan on being out there Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> to set up. There is room for another station, and plenty of antennas. As long as we keep the event to about 3 or 4 people at any given time, we will be able to maintain good COVID practices. This is a good time to take part in a contest, set up remotely, practice good field skills, and spend some time at the Lake (fishing is free from the bank).

**2m ALL STAR link:** The club approved a budget of up to \$300 at our last meeting so that Michael, K5MDK, can pursue the much-talked-about All Star link for the 2m repeater. Once we get that up and running, we should see our repeater traffic increase, to (hopefully) include some L3 radio club members from around the country. Stay tuned for details as the project progresses.

Well, ladies and germs, that about does it. I have perused all of the yellow sticky notes that clutter my desk, and I do believe "that's all folks."

David Rogers  
KG5KPU

*Written by President David Rogers – KG5KPU*



## Ham Radio and Emergency Services

Thanks to Michael, K5MDK for inviting me to write for the group. I met Michael on the W5NNI repeater a couple of weeks ago, and he mentioned the fact that I enjoy writing about the various topics in which I'm interested. He emailed me and invited me to write something for the newsletter, so, here it goes:

I'm a relatively new ham (I got my ticket just under two years ago – Aug 2018, for someone reading this post at some point in the future), but have been a fireman for 21 years now after growing up in the firehouse with my dad being a fireman. I have frequently thought back to a conversation I had a number of years ago with another fireman and ham who made the statement "I think that every police officer, fireman, EMT, Paramedic, and anyone else in emergency services should have to get their ham license". At the time, I was young, and in my head, I thought "yeah, ok, whatever..... we know what we're doing... get outta here old man". Knowing what I do now, folks who are in Emergency Management (which is where I'm looking as I approach the requisite years of service to retire in a few years) are generally required to have a ham license, so retrospectively, it makes sense.

Now, some two decades along, two careers later, with more weight and less hair now, that phrase has been circulating around in my head again.

I recently hung up my flight suit but have been a Certified Flight Paramedic (FP-C) for 12 years and few with CareFlite (Dallas/Fort Worth) for a number of years. I had a conversation a few years ago with one of my pilots about radio traffic, and she said something about having an amateur radio license to become a pilot. I recently dug a little deeper, and it wasn't what I thought (I thought you had to have a ham license as a co-requisite for a pilot license), but it seems that pilots just get the "radio etiquette" training as a part of flight school but don't have to maintain an FCC ham license to operate on the radio, other than flying in/out of some other foreign countries.

So back to the topic: "Should emergency services personnel [firefighters, police, EMTs/Medics] have to have a ham license to practice their craft?"

Now after many years on the job, and a few years as a ham, I would posit that yes, we, as police, firemen, EMTs, and paramedics, we should.

As we all know, amateur radio is a great backup to the public safety radio systems on which we (emergency services) operate on a daily basis, as well as the traditional cellular and landline communications. In my opinion, ham radio is actually more robust in capabilities than commercial radio, in that operating in simplex mode (or even duplex through a 2m/70cm repeater) is more reliable than the trunked systems to which more and more agencies are migrating. After all, the more complexities you throw into the system, the more potential failure points exist, even if redundancies are built into the system. After all, even though statute requires that Troopers be granted access to the local radio systems, [remainder of phrase redacted for OpSec].

Here's where my passion comes from:

In 2013, I worked for College Station (TX) Fire Department, and responded on the fourth alarm to the Knights of Columbus Hall fire in Bryan (TX) which ultimately resulted in the deaths of two firefighters,

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and severely burned up two more... four of my brothers. In emergency services, this is what we refer to as an LODD (Line of Duty Death).

When the NIOSH report came out, I concluded that there were communications failures which contributed to the LODD, just like every other NIOSH firefighter fatality report I've read. While not exclusively the radio system's fault, some of them could be traced back to hardware and/or system design failures (dig deeply into the 2013 Southwest Inn fire in Houston). Several of us who were "radio-minded" got together and worked towards a solution: we wanted to "have our cake and eat it too": we wanted to be able to talk point-to-point with a simplex system, but we also wanted to have our radio traffic recorded/monitored by our dispatchers... a tough challenge to tackle from our perspective.

After a handful of brainstorming sessions, the solution that we implemented was to have all traffic on the fireground scene moved to a simplex channel, which was picked up by an on-board repeater mounted in the fire truck, and rebroadcast on the truck's mobile radio; the procedure that came about was that the first-arriving apparatus would activate their repeater, to "establish command" of the scene, then when the Battalion Chief arrived, he would power cycle his on-board repeater to take control of the on-scene radio network. Combine that with a software console on the Mobile Data Computer (MDC) in the back of his suburban, the Incident Commander could monitor the P25 data coming through the ad-hoc network to see who keyed up (and any emergency button activations) just as our dispatchers would with traffic running through the trunked system. Point-to-point communications, with data monitoring, traffic recording, and dispatch monitoring.... All achieved.

As it turned out, one of our City Council members at the time was on the board of directors for the local branch of the Texas Wide Area Radio Network (TXWARN) radio system (Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System – BVWACS), and happened to be riding out with my crew on one of the days that we were having a meeting. We brought him into the loop, he was absolutely stunned that we were having the problems that we were, because all of them thought the system was bulletproof and he pledged his support to improve the system.

As always, there were budget concerns with the system we designed: with twenty-something pieces of apparatus at a little over \$2,300 a pop, this was undoubtedly a line-item in the City budget that would normally have to be considered with the next year's budget. Props to our friendly councilmember who understood both the "radio" side of the things, as well as the fire service stuff and the result was that this item came up on the council's next agenda; it was adequately explained, and the emergency expenditure passed unanimously without discussion.

The PO was approved the following day, we started installing hardware and doing training, and within a few weeks the system that we designed was up and running. This system worked AMAZINGLY exactly as we had envisioned, for all purposes for which we designed it.

Knowing that other departments were likely having the same issue, in 2014 I decided to write an article for one of our trade publications about our solution. Unfortunately, the "Southwest Inn" fire in Houston which claimed the lives of five firefighter put the brakes on that: the magazine wouldn't publish it: [phrase redacted due to OpSec].

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The long and short of it is this: the fewer nodes through which a signal goes (i.e. simplex > duplex > multi-site > trunked), the better off we (emergency responders in an IDLH [Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health situation]) are.

I think by now you, as a ham, know how that interfaces with amateur radio.

In addition to working for a local agency, I am a part of two different groups of firefighters and EMTs/paramedics who may respond to a deployment request anywhere in the state for disaster response centered on medical, fire, or anything else for which the fire department may be called. In my “go bag”, in addition to provisions for ten days, I have a power supply, dual-band base radio, and mag-mount antenna which I can plug into whatever vehicle (fire truck, ambulance, Tahoe, etc) we take, so as to have instant comms with hams, local emergency services on VHF or UHF, or our national interoperability frequencies. There are only a handful of us who are hams within my department (mostly by virtue of collateral Emergency Management duties), and only one other that I know who participates in the hobby outside of work-related stuff.

So what happens when we roll into a disaster area and the local public safety system’s comms are down? 99.99% chance there’s a ham in the Emergency Operations Center, and they’re operating on a local amateur repeater. Sure, in the event of an emergency anyone can operate on any band, but does disaster recovery (not actual incident response) qualify for that? (that’s only a halfway-rhetorical question... I think the answer is no if you’re just providing emergency services support in a disaster-ravaged area.)

But if all of the cops, firemen, and medics are hams, we can do our job on the amateur bands when the public safety network goes down.

So in conclusion, I’m now in agreement with the older fireman I spoke to when I was younger (ironically enough, I’m now one of the “older firemen” in my current department). I think I’m “preaching to the choir” here, but there are a lot of folks in emergency services who come into the public safety profession, and have absolutely no idea how to talk on the radio; I would agree with the postulation that anyone who works in emergency services (fire, medical, law enforcement) should hold an amateur radio license as a part of their initial credentialing, then maintain that as they renew their licensure for the reasons I described above.

Thanks again to Michael, K5MDK for asking me to write for the newsletter....

Next up: how to engage the “next generation” in ham radio.....

’73, be safe out there, and hope to chat with you on the air sometime....

*Written by Code Blount - KD5FPC*

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## FALL 2020 HAM EXPO CANCELLED

The Temple Amateur Radio Club regrestfully announces that for the first time in the long history of Ham Expo a show has been cancelled.

The fall edition of Ham Expo October 2nd and 3rd, 2020 will not be held.

At this time, it is unknown what state, county and city restrictions may be in place come the month of October or if events such as Ham Expo will even be allowed.

Changes in restrictions could potentially come mere hours before Ham Expo, while vendors are already on site or traveling. Social distancing restrictions could force Ham Expo to eliminate half of our tables and vehicle spaces.

Rather than risk inconveniencing and disappointing several, half or all of our vendors and public the choice was made to skip the fall show.

The date of the next spring Ham Expo is March 12th and 13th, 2021.

*Announced by the Temple Amateur Radio Club*

## Calendar

Jun 11	Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
Jun 13	Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at 146.92 video chat.
Jun 13-15	ARRL June VHF Contest
Jun 16	Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
Jun 18	Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – ZOOM MEETING 7:00pm
Jun 20	ARRL Kids Day
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day
Jul 9	Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am.
Jul 11	Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at 146.92 video chat.
July 11-12	IARU HF World Championship
Jul 16	Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – ZOOM MEETING 7:00pm
Jul 21	Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall.
Aug 1-2	ARRL 222MHz and up Distance Contest
Oct	Belton Hamfest – so far it is on! <a href="https://www.tarc.org">https://www.tarc.org</a>

[Aug 2020 Contest Corral – CLICK HERE](#)

[Sep 2020 Contest Corral – CLICK HERE](#)



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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>  
Mon Hopkins Co NET at 7:00pm 146.680 – PL 151.4Hz  
Mon Rains Co NET at 7:30pm 146.920 – PL 88.5Hz  
Tues. Majors Field Lunch time Net at 11:45am 147.16 + PL100Hz  
Tues Rockwall ARC Net at 7:00pm 441.525 + PL141.3Hz  
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.qrpfpxhunt.org/summer\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfpxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm)  
2nd Wed of each month – ARRL NTX ARES Net 8:30pm local on 3860

Officers

President:	David Rogers – KG5KPU <a href="mailto:president@w5nni.net">president@w5nni.net</a> (903) 513-5622 cell
Vice President:	Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD <a href="mailto:vice-president@w5nni.net">vice-president@w5nni.net</a> (972) 408-6573 cell
Secretary:	Scott Davis – KK7JS <a href="mailto:secretary@w5nni.net">secretary@w5nni.net</a>
Treasurer:	John Nelson Jr – N0JFW <a href="mailto:treasurer@w5nni.net">treasurer@w5nni.net</a> (203) 454-0911 cell
VE/Class Team Leader:	Joseph – AG5OQ <a href="mailto:classes@w5nni.net">classes@w5nni.net</a>
Club Trustee:	Jonathan Brown – WB5KSD <a href="mailto:trustee@w5nni.net">trustee@w5nni.net</a>
Contest Activities:	David Rogers – KG5KPU <a href="mailto:contest@w5nni.net">contest@w5nni.net</a>

Club Repeater:  
Club Station: 5BD  
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 welcome! Please submit to [editor@w5nni.net](mailto:editor@w5nni.net).