



COMMUNICATOR

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Arlington Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1702, Arlington, Texas 76004-1702

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"You're 59, Repeat Again"

by Wayne Hoskins, AD5ST

One of the most basic components of virtually any ham radio contact is the signal report, consisting of Readability on a scale of 1 to 5, Signal Strength from 1 to 9 (to X dB over 9), and for CW, Tone quality from 1 to 9 -- the common RS(T). Spend any time in a contest, however, and you notice quickly that everybody is 59 (or for CW, 5NN).

Certainly conditions can't be that great for everybody in the contest, and you'll often see "59" stations being asked for repeats of the contest exchange, which you wouldn't expect if, at the far end, their Readability was excellent and Signal Strength very strong.

There's occasional opposition to this notion, people who think that contest signal reports should be done exactly the same as any other QSO, based on the readability and strength (usually from the S-meter) at the receiving station. I once held this notion and gave my share of 55, 58, and even occasional 42 reports in contests; I've changed my ways now and give exclusively 59s, after understanding why and how it is the way it is.

Certainly the RST in a contest exchange is meaningless. Virtually all contest logging software auto-fills 599, because everybody gives 599. It could be argued that, since it's meaningless, it should either be removed universally or replaced with something else unique and nonpredictable, like one of the components of the Sweepstakes exchange, or model of transmitter, or perhaps even current outdoor temperature. That would, after all, increase the challenge.

The 59, though, serves a meaningful purpose, and should remain in contest exchanges. It serves the purpose of synchronization, of signaling that what immediately follows is the part of the exchange to write or type. If the exchange is repeated (in poor practice usually, but still done sometimes), it separates the two transmissions of exchange. It also serves, on the one side, to indicate the calling station is satisfied it has received the running station's exchange, and also it serves to somewhat prevent long VOX delays from masking the first part of the exchange. (Continued)

October Program

Wayne, AD5ST had done an analysis on our past Field Day operations. He will tell us what he's discovered and offer some ideas on how we can optimize future operations to maximize our score. He tells me he's come up with a challenge for us next year.



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Perhaps most importantly, though, we should still give 59s in contests because that's what everyone else is accustomed to hearing. Sending any other report, or eliminating it, changes the contest rhythm that everybody is long accustomed to.

So when you work that VK long-path in CQWW next week and get a 59 back, you can be assured the odds are against your being S-9 on the Australian's meter. He's probably not S-9 on your meter either, but you both heard each other (with sufficient readability and signal strength to be sure it's a good contact), and that's what really matters. You both log 59 (or 599 in the CW or RTTY contest), and everything is good and well in the universe.

Calendar of Events

October 19 Executive Board meeting – 6:30pm, 501 W. Sanford. This is an open meeting, everyone is encouraged to attend.

October 19 General Membership meeting – 7:30pm, 501 W. Sanford

October 20 Dining out – 5:00pm, Ton's Mongolian Grill 1171 Southwest Green Oaks Blvd

October 21 VE Testing – 10:00am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on North side of the building.

November 3 First Saturday Breakfast – Cracker Barrel, 4300 South Bowen Rd

November 3 VE Testing – 10:00am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on North side of the building.

Tidbits

Reigning Ham Of The Year Bill Tatsch, AE5BT, will be collecting ballots for the 2012 HOTY award at the October and November meetings. The award will be presented at the annual Holiday Party in December. There are lots of hard working hams in the club. Help us recognize one of them by casting your vote.

Elections for the Executive Board are coming up in November. Two Board members, Treasurer Chris Webster, K5LTX and newsletter editor Rob, NV5E will not be running for office. If you've ever had a desire to have more of a say in how the club operates this is a perfect time to step up. Enthusiasm is more important than prior experience. The resigning Board members will help make the transition as smooth as possible.

Dave Walker, W5DJO is at it again. For the second time this year he's been recognized by the Arlington Police Department for his service to the community. Dave and a local mail carrier located and returned to his home a missing 81 year old man. Read more about it here: https://local.nixle.com/alert/4897665/?sub_id=184818

JOTA! October 20 is the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air. The Arlington ARC will be participating by setting up a station at the regular club meeting spot on W. Sanford. Scouts and club members are invited to come by and get on the air. Bill, AE5BT will have more details at the club meeting.

CQ WW DX contest, one of the biggest contests of the year will be the weekend of October 27 - 28. ARRL Sweepstakes is on the air November 3 – 5 for CW and November 17 – 19 for Phone.

Remember to buy your raffle tickets for the Yaesu FT-2900R two meter mobile transceiver to be given away in December. Tickets are just \$5.00 each.

September 2012 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Andy KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on September 21st, 2012 at 6:35pm. Present were President, Dennis N5ACK; Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Rob NV5E; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT. Absent was the Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

Chris K5LTX reviewed the financial report and noted that he purchased the mobile radio for the raffle.

Phil N5PWW reported that he conducts testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. There are no training classes scheduled.

Bill AE5BT noted that on October 20th the Boy Scouts will be conducting their Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Bill will ask the Membership if they would like to setup a station and participate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

September 2012 Membership Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Andy KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:30pm September 21st, 2012 by the President, Dennis N5ACK. Other Board members present included Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Rob NV5E; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT. Absent was Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

Dennis N5ACK asked that the meeting attendees introduce themselves by name and call sign.

Chris K5LTX reviewed the financial report. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the financial report as published. Chris purchased the FT2900 for the raffle.

The minutes for the August meetings were submitted for publication in the September 2012 newsletter. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as published.

Phil N5PWW continues to hold test sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. He is not currently conducting a training session.

Bill AE5BT informed the Membership of an opportunity to participate in the Boy Scout event known as Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). On October 20th it will be the 55th anniversary of JOTA. The Membership present at the meeting expressed interest in setting up a station and participating.

Rob NV5E printed and distributed the newsletter.


A break was taken at 7:50pm. At 8:10pm, Eric Silverthorn NM5M gave a presentation on the DFW Contest Club.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.

The sign-in sheet showed 39 people in attendance, 33 indicating AARC membership.

August Financial Report

Submitted by Chris, K5LTX, Treasurer

AARC September 2012 Financial Report								
								
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	
Income								
Dues	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
PayPal Dues	\$0.00	\$153.53	\$47.94	\$81.62	\$23.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Radio Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	
Good & Welfare	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$12.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
CD interest	\$0.31	\$0.27	\$0.24	\$0.00	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.37	
	\$112.31	\$209.80	\$89.18	\$97.62	\$36.33	\$0.37	\$90.37	
Expenses								
Storage Hut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	
Field Day expenses member reimbursement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.99	
Radio for raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$169.99	
Bank fees	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1-800-Flowers (G&W)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Bank fee donation	-\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Donation - ARRL scholarship fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SafeHaven donation	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Web Hosting	\$0.00	\$59.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1 year PO Box fees	\$0.00	\$76.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	\$200.00	\$135.88	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$53.98	\$225.00	\$212.98	
Variance								
	-\$87.69	\$73.92	\$89.18	\$47.62	-\$17.65	-\$224.63	-\$122.61	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Ending
	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Balances
General Fund	-\$100.00	\$67.65	\$72.94	\$81.62	\$23.97	-\$225.00	-\$122.98	\$1,953.76
Repeater Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,211.90
Good & Welfare	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$16.00	-\$34.00	-\$41.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$587.42
Chase/Capital One Checking	-\$88.00	\$73.65	\$88.94	\$47.62	-\$18.01	-\$225.00	-\$122.98	\$3,753.08
Chase CD/Capital One CD (as of June 2012)	\$0.31	\$0.27	\$0.24	\$0.00	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$2,163.53
Total Chase Bank	-\$87.69	\$73.92	\$89.18	\$47.62	-\$17.65	-\$224.63	-\$122.61	\$5,916.61
Petty Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Total - All Balances	-\$87.69	\$73.92	\$89.18	\$47.62	-\$17.65	-\$224.63	-\$122.61	\$5,941.61
<p>Note: \$225.00 for 6 month's storage paid 8/31/12; good through 2/28/13.</p> <p>Note: The new Capital One CD, opened 6/19/12, has a maturity date of 12/19/12.</p> <p>Prepared by Chris Webster, K5LTX Treasurer AARC since August 2009</p>								

Volunteers Needed to Help Test Warning Sirens

If you live or work in Arlington, chances are you have heard the wail of one of our warning sirens. In the event of severe weather, these sirens going off might save your life. But, what if they did not go off? Where would we be then?

Volunteer observers, working in conjunction with the Arlington Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, assist in the testing of the city's sirens on the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. Observers monitor and report on the RC repeater, K5SLD, 147.140 MHz, pl 110.9. There are provisions for call-in reports from non-ham observers as well.

If you have the time available, we would love to enlist your cooperation and radio expertise in this most necessary and rewarding effort. Your report of a malfunctioning siren just might mean the saving of a life or avoidance of bodily injury.

Siren observer lists are emailed to known participants 1 to 2 days in advance. Please monitor our 147.140 repeater starting about 11:45am. on the day of the test. Announcements begin at 12:15pm pm., and the formal net opens about 12:45pm on test day. All observers should be on location and checked in by that time. Testing begins at 1:00pm and is usually concluded by 1:20pm. You may join us at any time that you are able. Detailed maps in PDF and printed formats will be available upon request to assist you in locating the sirens. We particularly need observers in the western and southern parts of Arlington. For more information contact Linda, W5LMC, at l_mcmillen@prodigy.net or the Office of Emergency Management at 817-459-6939.

2012 Club Officers

President: Dennis McGrath N5ACK – n5ack@arrl.net – 972-352-6602

Vice President: Virginia Smith NV5F – pipertoo@earthlink.net – 601-467-5920

Secretary: Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA – kb2vqa@optonline.net – 817-652-0307

Treasurer: Chris Webster K5LTX – Chris.Webster@hcahealthcare.com – 817-480-2918

Editor: Rob May NV5E – roblitespeed@hotmail.com – 817-303-8891

Training Coordinator: Phil Stage N5PWW – n5pww@sbcglobal.net – 817-465-5624

Emergency Coordinator: Bill Tatsch Jr. AE5BT – ae5bt@att.net – 817-467-4619

Trustee: Maurice Martin KM5RF – km5rf@att.net – 817-266-9906

Agent of Record: Phil Stage N5PWW – n5pww@sbcglobal.net – 817-465-5624

Web Master

Jason Archip KD5LCT – kd5lct@endofnet.com – 817-821-9510

Repeater Committee

Chairman Paul Baumgardner W5PSB

Maurice Martin KM5RF and Harold Reasoner K5SXX

Join us! http://www.k5sld.com/forms/aarc_membership_application_form_distributed.pdf