



COMMUNICATOR

Volume XII, July 2013

Arlington Amateur Radio Club • P.O. Box 1702, Arlington TX 76004-1702 • K5SLD.org

Inside This Issue

- 1 Announcements
- 2 Presentation
Field Day Messaging Experiment
- 3 Calendar Of Events
Tidbits
- 4 Contest Corner
DX Spot
- 5 Minutes
- 6 Financial Report
- 7 Public Service
Club Officers

Field Day Recap

Field Day 2013 was a great success by all accounts. Setup was completed in record time this year thanks to our setup crew. Dinner was excellent as always, bringing a good turnout from everyone. For the first time in many years we stayed on the air all the way until 1:00 pm Sunday, thanks to our overnight shift and the morning relief shift who were rested and able to keep it going.

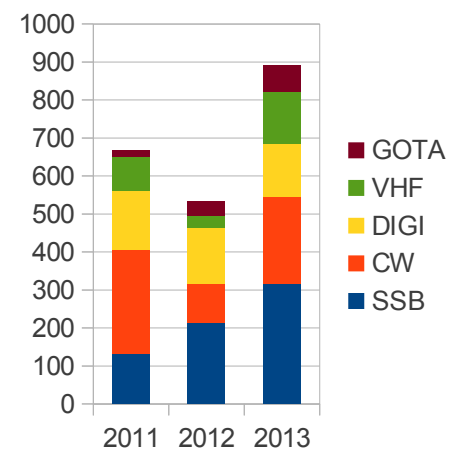
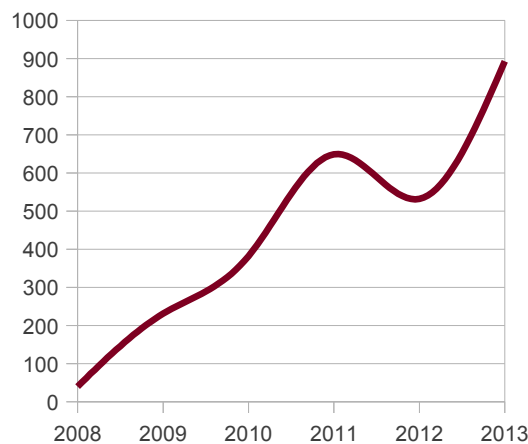
We made a total of 893 contacts (888 removing dupes) over the weekend, our best result since 2000 (and second best since 1997, the last of the four-digit years). The SSB station made 315 QSOs, 100 more than last year; the CW station made 231 Qs thanks to the efforts of Virginia NV5F and Randy W8FN; the Digital station made 138 Qs, slightly down from last year; GOTA nearly doubled at 71; and VHF made a new club 6m record at 138 (up from 29 last year due to a couple of decent Es openings).

Club Meetings

Meetings are held the third Friday of each month in the Human Services building at 501 W. Sanford in central Arlington at 7:30 pm, following the executive board meeting at 6:30 pm. Members generally begin arriving at 7:00 pm.

K5SLD Repeaters

147.14+ PL 110.9 (linked to 224.8)
224.8- PL 110.9 (linked to 147.14)
444.2+ PL 100.0 (linkable to IRLP)



Thanks to everyone who came out to help, especially the operators. It's always a good time, so don't miss out: make plans now to join us next year for FD14.

Presentation: Satellites

This month **Keith Pugh W5IU** is scheduled to present on satellite communication. Keith is a longtime satellite enthusiast, involved in AMSAT for decades. Satellites are yet another fascinating aspect of our hobby; once incredibly complicated to operate, requiring about five hands to continually adjust controls, they become increasingly accessible as station control technology improves. Come join us this month to find out more about satellites and how you can use them.

A Field Day Digital Messaging Experiment

by Wayne Hoskins AD5ST

This year we tried an experiment at Field Day that might be interesting to you digital-mode people and em-comm people among others. You may know that in Field Day there are bonus points offered for originating, delivering, or handling NTS radiograms, 10 points per message, capped at 100 points. In the past we've injected messages into the DFW Traffic Net on a 2m FM repeater, but it takes quite some time and without fail the Traffic Net people and I get irritated at each other over procedures (most recently, whether it's absolutely necessary to send full name, address, and phone number for the Section Manager message, but that's part of a larger rant for another time). There must be a better way, I reasoned, and Gene Coldwell WB5CTQ had a promising idea.

Gene and I had developed an interest in the new NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System) suite of digital messaging software centered around fldigi. It allows a user to select a standard form (ICS 213 and Radiogram, among others), fill in the blanks in the form, and send that over to fldigi to transmit using the selected mode; on receiving a form, fldigi hands it off to the message program to display to the receiving operator as a form. It's very elegant, and we thought there should be a way to use NBEMS to do the message handling at Field Day, replacing our use of the FM voice net.

We set up a schedule with the Tyler Amateur Radio Club, station K5TYR, on 40 meters around dinner time, while the NVIS path between us would still be available. We used the MFSK16 mode, and with only about 10 watts transmitter power on each end we were able to achieve 100 percent copy. There isn't yet a means to inject locally into the larger NTS over NBEMS (there is via NTS-D using Winlink, but that didn't appeal to us), so for this experiment we simply exchanged radiograms between our clubs; the experiment worked so well that by this time next year there may well be a gateway.

If you have interest in digital modes, you may well be aware of the VOA's ongoing experiments in the same realm on their VOA Radiogram program. It's fascinating how well some digital modes, notably MFSK16, work at even negative signal-to-noise ratios (where the signal is weaker than the noise obstructing it).

If you have an interest in emergency communications, this should be of interest to you because while local coverage is easy to achieve with FM and repeaters with no trouble, connecting EOCs across the state is more challenging. NBEMS is a promising solution to these and other related problems. If you're into emergency communication, you should really take a look at NBEMS.

The experiment was quite a success, and it's even gathered some interest from some of the State RACES people. We're hoping to be able to reprise it next year, perhaps with some improvements.

Calendar of Events

July 19: Executive Board Meeting 6:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

July 19: General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

July 20: VE Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

July 20: Dining Out 5:00 pm, Kincaid's (Arlington Highlands).

August 3: First Saturday Breakfast 8:30 am, Jay Jay Cafe (S. Bowen).

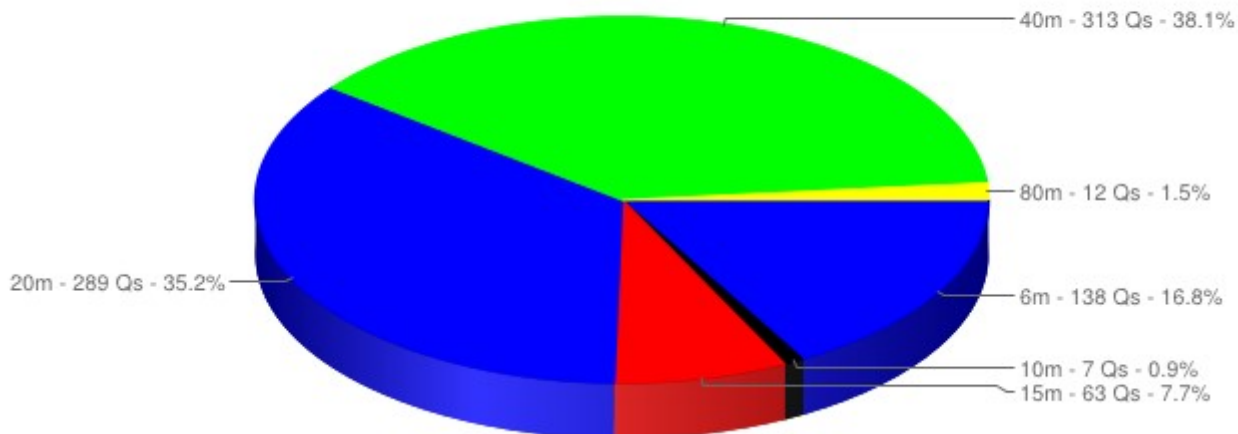
August 3: VE Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

Tidbits

2014 marks **100 years of the ARRL**, and to celebrate the League has announced it is hosting a year-long **Centennial QSO Party**. From the ARRL: "In 2014 ARRL and its volunteers will activate **W1AW/x** in each of the 50 states, territories and possessions. The goal is for the W1AW/ operations to be as active as possible during the Tuesday night local to Wednesday time frames (00Z Weds to 2359Z Tuesday). All bands and modes may be used. ARRL will offer Worked All States Awards for QSOs made with the W1AW/ portable operations and incentives to work each activation, even if the state has already been worked. There will also be a points-gathering activity, during which W1AW/ portable stations will be worth points. Each week there can be up to two W1AW/ operations from the states and one from a territory." A rumor says the PVRC might be activating W1AW/3 during next year's Field Day. For more information on the ARRL Centennial QSO Party, visit arrl.org/centennial-qso-party.

Looking for a log analysis tool? Consider **SH5**, written by the TR4Win team. Simply feed it your Cabrillo log file that you would send in to a contest sponsor, and in a matter of seconds it will prepare a whole set of statistics and charts like the chart below (made from our FD log), suitable for posting to the web if you so desire. You can get SH5 from tr4w.com/sh5. The complete set of statistics generated by SH5 from our FD log (less GOTA) are currently online at ad5st.com/fd13.

2013 ARRL-FIELD-DAY K5SLD - Qs by band



Contest Corner

Preliminary reports have the PVRC Field Day group (W3AO) claiming 10275 Qs for FD13 which, if that number is correct, indicates a significant decline, on the order of 20 percent, from their most recent years' results. A reasonable explanation is they were impacted by poor conditions, specifically the dramatically increased absorption index (K=3-4), the highest K index during Field Day since 2003 (K=3-5) according to their data. The last two years had noticeably better conditions, with solar flux above 80 and K indexes of 1 to 3. Given that data, our result of 893 QSOs at this Field Day is even more impressive; it would likely have marked our return to 4 digits for the first time in 15 years had conditions been better.

This month offers relatively little on the contest front as the contest season draws to a close. All of the majors are finished until the fall, though the summer run of the NAQP is still upcoming. This is an excellent time, heat aside, to do some station improvements, such as putting a MonstIR on top of a new 199 foot tower, or routine station maintenance items like transmitter/amplifier cleaning, feedline testing, and so on.

Upcoming Contests

July 20: North American QSO Party (RTTY) 18Z-6Z. Exchange: name and state.

July 20-21: CQ Worldwide VHF Contest 18Z-21Z. Exchange: grid square.

August 3: North American QSO Party (CW) 18Z-6Z. Exchange: name and state.

August 3-4: Ten-Ten Intl. Summer Contest (SSB) Full 48 hours. Exchange: name, state, member number.

State QSO Parties: New Jersey (7/27); MDC (8/10)

For more information on these and other contests, see the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at hornucopia.com/contestcal.

For more information on contesting in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, visit DFW Contest Group at dfwcontest.com.

DX Spot

The RSGB IOTA Contest at the end of the month is likely to produce quite a few DX island activations, too many to list in their entirety here.

July 6-25: HH Haiti HH5/KC0W. CW only, 160-6m from northern tip of Haiti. QSL: KC0W direct.

July 25-30: PY0F Fernando De Noronha PY0F/PP1CZ. Mainly IOTA contest, mostly CW and RTTY.

JD1 Minami Torishima (Marcus Is., IOTA OC-073) JD1NQJ/JD1. Mainly CW, 17m/10m. QSL: JA8CJY.

Thru September: XW Laos XW6OU. QSL: E21EIC.

October: K9W Wake Atoll (IOTA C-053) K9W wake2013.org

For more information on DXing in Texas, visit Lone Star DX Association at lsdxa.org or dxer.org.

June 2013 Membership Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:30pm June 21st, 2013 by the President, Dennis N5ACK. Other Board members present included Vice President, David KB3UBD; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Editor, Wayne AD5ST, Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT, and Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW. Absent was the Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

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

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report and reminded us to pay our dues. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the financial report as published. She will renew the Certificate of Deposit.

Phil N5PWW continues to hold test sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Training sessions will probably not resume until September.

David KB3UBD informed the membership that is his planning for a presentation on amateur radio satellites in July, and the ice cream social in August.

The minutes for the May meetings were submitted for publication in the June 2013 newsletter. An error was noted on page 5 of the newsletter in which "April 2013 Executive" should have been "May 2013 Executive". A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as amended.

Bill AE5BT informed the membership that we will be starting to setup for Field Day at 9am tomorrow. Assistance will also be needed at 1pm on Sunday when all the equipment is taken down. Dinner will be at 6pm, and please bring a side dish.

Wayne AD5ST sent out the newsletter and brought hard copies for tonight's meeting.

Jason KD5LCT, as the Public Information Officer, invited the Mayor to visit our Field Day location. Jason used Twitter to inform local news agencies of our Field Day activities. He will also provide information technology support at Field Day in the form of setting up Internet WiFi access and electronic message boards for displaying point totals.

A break was taken at 8:00pm. At 8:10 pm the meeting resumed with a Q & A pertaining to Field Day.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35pm. The sign-in sheet showed 30 people in attendance, 24 indicating AARC membership.

June 2013 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on June 21st, 2013 at 6:33pm. Present were President, Dennis N5ACK; Vice President, David KB3UBD; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Editor, Wayne AD5ST; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW. Absent was the Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report. She will renew the Certificate of Deposit.

Phil N5PWW continues to conduct testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. He will hold a test session at the Field Day location at 10am.

David KB3UBD is setting up presentations for the coming months, including the use of amateur radio satellites in July, and the ice cream social in August.

Bill AE5BT plans for starting to setup for Field Day at 9am tomorrow.

Wayne AD5ST sent out the newsletter and brought hard copies for tonight's meeting.

Jason KD5LCT, Public Information, has informed local news outlets of the AARC Field Day activities via the use of Twitter.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

June 2013 Financial Report

submitted by Joyce Waites W5FJB, treasurer

ACCOUNTS	6/30/13	General Fund	\$3361.82
		Repeater Fund	<u>1211.90</u>
BALANCE	Checking		4573.72
		Good and Welfare	657.57
INCOME		Dues and Paypal	130.88
EXPENSES		Cash for Field Day	15.00
		CD at Capital One (matures 12/19/2013)	2,166.80
		Total at Capital One 6/30/13	6,740.52
		Petty Cash	25.00
TOTAL			6765.52

Joyce Waites, W5FJB
Treasurer 2013

Public Service

Monthly Siren Test

The City Of Arlington tests its outdoor warning sirens at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, using volunteer observers, most of whom are hams reporting into a net held on the AARC's 2m repeater (147.140+, PL 110.9). Check-ins begin during the noon hour, and the test typically concludes before 1:30 pm. More observers are always needed, so please consider helping with this valuable effort if you can spare about an hour at lunchtime once a month. For more information, contact Linda W5LMC (l_mcmillen@prodigy.net) or the Office Of Emergency Management (817-459-6939).

July 4th Parade

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with communication for this year's parade.

2013 Club Officers

President:	Dennis McGrath N5ACK – n5ack@arrl.net – 972-352-6602
Vice President:	David Spore KB3UBD – davids@instruments.com – 301-481-8244
Secretary:	Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA – kb2vqa@optonline.net – 817-652-0307
Treasurer:	Joyce Waites W5FJB – w5fjb@sbcglobal.net – 817-277-7044
Editor:	Wayne Hoskins AD5ST – ad5st@arrl.net – 817-822-6452
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
Public Information Officer:	Jason Archip KD5LCT – kd5lct@endofnet.com – 817-821-9510
Webmaster:	Jason Archip KD5LCT – kd5lct@endofnet.com – 817-821-9510
Repeater Committee:	Paul Baumgardner W5PSB (chair), Maurice Martin KM5RF, Harold Reasoner K5SXX

Membership

Print a membership form from our website k5sld.org and join us. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals.