



COMMUNICATOR

Volume XII, November 2013

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

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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)

2014 Officer Elections This Month

Elections for officers of the Executive Board of the Arlington Amateur Radio Club will be held at this month's regular meeting. All single-year-term offices (that is, all except the License Trustee and the Agent Of Record, ten-year-term offices concurrent with the club's Station License which expires in 2018) are up for election for next year. All members in good standing are eligible to vote.

Holiday Party Next Month

The club's annual holiday party is coming up in early December, taking the place of a December club meeting as it has for much of recorded history. In addition to dinner and conversation, the party also features a white elephant gift exchange of sorts. Bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit) if you wish to participate. You never know what you'll end up with yourself: it might even be something you actually need. There's also a chance it may be something you don't need at all, like a 1995 Advanced study guide.

The party will also feature, as it has in recent years, a drawing for a Yaesu FT-2900 VHF mobile radio. Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available starting at this month's club meeting. This is an excellent way to support the club and you might end up walking away with something you can use as well. It is not possible to have too many mobile-form-factor VHF FM radios (your editor is guilty of having approximately a dozen at the moment, probably slightly more, and he's not completely ashamed of it).

Join us for the party on **Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30 pm at the Black Eyed Pea** in Lincoln Square. The party stands in place of the December club meeting, and it's always a good time, so join us if you can, and if not we hope to see you in January.

Calendar of Events

November 15: Executive Board Meeting 6:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

November 15: General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

November 16: VE Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

November 16: Dining Out 5:00 pm, somewhere.

December 7: First Saturday Breakfast 8:30 am, somewhere else.

December 7: VE Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

December 10: Annual Holiday Party 6:30 pm, Black Eyed Pea (in Lincoln Square).

Tidbits

If you have a VHF/UHF mobile radio in your vehicle, there's a decent chance it has **Crossband Repeat** functionality built in. This feature is intended to allow you to use your mobile radio (on VHF, let's say) from outside your vehicle using a handheld radio on UHF. Though natural candidates for its use are things like search-and-rescue operations, your editor found another good use for it a few weeks ago. For an emergency preparedness exercise, there was a need to put two stations on the air simultaneously, in the same room, on two VHF repeaters for the duration of the event. With the two antennas located next to each other, two in-band transmitters would interfere with each other more than was desirable, so a simple and effective solution was to put one of the stations on UHF, crossband repeating onto the other VHF repeater through the radio in one of the operators' vehicles. It worked flawlessly; the addition of the crossband link wasn't apparent to the other participants aside from the operator identifying the uplink side of the crossband repeater every few minutes. The two potential difficulties that come to mind for personal crossband repeaters in general are heat dissipation (and duty cycle; these mobile radios aren't built for continuous duty operation and the heat that generates) and legal identification of the UHF transmitter in the vehicle (though some current production radios do have CW ID built in, and if you construct one yourself with two monoband radios it's easy to add an ID-O-Matic or similar into the downlink audio path). If you do intend to use a vehicular crossband repeater to retransmit into a regular amateur repeater, you should first verify with its trustee that it's permissible; some repeater trustees have objections to it, for not altogether unreasonable reasons.

After over a decade of service, **vanityhq.com** is no more, owner Michael N4MC noting "It's been a good 14 years.... It is time for me to move on." With that no longer available, other vanity callsign resources include ae7q.com and radioqth.net.

Happy Birthday

Michael Griffin KF5LJN (12/11), **Rob May NV5E** (12/18), **Will Hoag WA5OLT** (12/20),

Linda McMillen W5LMC (12/20), **David Sebastian KF5UNP** (12/26), **Kevin Wieberg N5KLW** (1/4),

Scott Clark AE5PC (1/8), **David Spore KB3UBD** (1/11), **Chuck Bailey KC5YZS** (1/16),

Sam Xie W5XIE (1/18), **Johnny Hayes NJ5T** (1/24), **Sharon Patton AB5YV** (1/26)

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air

We set up a station for JOTA last month in anticipation of visiting scouts, as we had last year, but we didn't have any scouts show up this year. With radios and antennas already set up, we made the best of the unfortunate situation and just played radio outside in the great weather for a few hours. There are certainly worse ways to spend a Saturday.



Dennis and Dave put up a VHF/UHF J-pole antenna.



Securing the guy ropes with Trucker's Hitches.



Rob, Terry, and Dennis with the radios.



Dennis seems to be having a problem with this Kenwood hybrid and he doesn't look too excited about it.

Contest Corner

We already have the SSB running of the Worldwide and the CW run of the Sweeps behind us as this contest season gets off to a start. So far (knock on wood) the high bands are holding up pretty well. There's a great variety in the upcoming contests: some band-specific, some mode-specific; DX, domestic, and mixed; short and long, major and minor, something for everyone.

November 16-18: ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB) 21Z-3Z. Exchange: really long SS exchange, look it up.

November 23-24 CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW) Full 48 hours. Exchange: RST, CQ Zone.

December 6-8: ARRL 160 Meter Contest 22Z-6Z, 160m only. Exchange: RST, section.

December 14-15: ARRL 10 Meter Contest Full 48 hours, 10m only. Exchange: RST, state.

December 22: ARRL Rookie Roundup (CW) 18Z-24Z. Exchange: name, year first licensed, state.

January 4-5: ARRL RTTY Roundup 18Z-24Z. Exchange: RST, state.

January 11-12: North American QSO Party (CW) 18Z-6Z. Exchange: name, state.

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

According to the calendar from The Daily DX (dailydx.com/Calendar.htm), there are tons and tons of DX operations scheduled through the end of the year. If you can think of a country, there's a good chance it's on the calendar, between the contests and holiday operations. There are too many to cherry pick this time around, so go check it out yourself, and then work a new country or two.

November 3-15: K9W Wake Atoll (IOTA C-053) (Rescheduled) K9W wake2013.org

November 5-18: T33 Banaba (IOTA OC-018) T33A t33a.com

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

Public Service

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).

October 2013 Membership Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:33pm October 18th, 2013 by the President, Dennis N5ACK. Other Board members present included Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

Absent was Vice President, David KB3UBD; and Editor, Wayne AD5ST.

Dennis N5ACK called the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves by name and callsign.

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report as published. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the report as published.

A motion was brought before the Membership to spend the sum of \$400 to reacquire the tax exempt status of the Club. The motion was seconded and a majority of the Membership voted in favor of the expenditure.

Phil N5PWW will conduct a test session tomorrow at 10am.

A motion was made and carried to accept the September meeting minutes as published in the October newsletter.

Bill AE5BT informed the Membership that the Club will be setting up stations for the 56th annual JOTA event at 9am on Saturday, and operate from 10am to 2pm.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:08pm.

The sign-in sheet showed 23 people in attendance, 23 indicating AARC membership.

October 2013 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on October 18th, 2013 at 6:50pm. Present were President, Dennis N5ACK; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Joyce W5FJB; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. Absent was the Vice President, David KB3UBD; and Editor, Wayne AD5ST.

Joyce W5FJB reviewed the financial report. A discussion was held regarding the Club's application to attain tax exempt status.

Bill AE5BT is planning to setup stations for the Boy Scout event known as Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) at 9am, and run from 10am to 2pm.

Phil N5PWW continues to conduct testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 10am. There are no training classes scheduled at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

October 2013 Financial Report

submitted by Joyce Waites W5FJB, treasurer

ACCOUNTS	10/31/13	General Fund	\$3249.04
		Repeater Fund	<u>1211.90</u>
			4460.94
		Good and Welfare	581.00
CHECKING BALANCE			4460.94
CD at Capital One (matures 12/19/2013)			2167.54
Total at Capital One 10/31/13			6628.48
Petty Cash			25.00
TOTAL			6653.48

Joyce Waites,W5FJB
Treasurer 2013

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 – 817-296-8026
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:	David Lucas KF5CFW – kf5cfw@gmail.com – 817-781-7256
Webmaster:	David Lucas KF5CFW – kf5cfw@gmail.com – 817-781-7256
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.