



The Ragchew W5NFL Newsletter



The NFL Amateur Radio Club meets the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM at the NFLARC clubhouse, near Dobins Rd & CR1020 Corsicana.

2013-2014 Officers

President: Doug S - KE5CDK
Vice President: Rodger W - W5UOK
Secretary: Rebekah M - K5RCM
Treasurer: James S - KD5OXM
Director (1yr): Mary S - KE5FGU
Director (2yr): Kevin M - KW5MOS
Director (3yr): Michael B - KF5KHS

Committees:

Newsletter Editor: James S - KD5OXM

Field Day Committee:

Testing Committee:

Ken P K5KCP,
 Rebekah M - K5RCM

VE Team

Ken P K5KCP,
 Rebekah M - K5RCM

License Training Class

We will be having a Tech class & test sessions.

- April 13
- July 13
- October 12

The cost of the test is \$15.00.

We will be doing Tech., General & Extra. For study material go to <http://nflarc.org/how.html>

If you're ready for that first test or upgrade to General or Extra get in touch with K5RCM, Bekah @ k5rcm@att.net .

Tell your Friends!

HISTORY

LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Meeting NOTICE

The March club meeting will be on March 15th due to skyward training on our regular day.

Chatfield FD Drill

Chatfield FD had a Disaster drill Saturday Feb 22.

The Drill was a tornado simulation touching down near the city. Chatfield FD, Corsicana area Red Cross, Chatfield Methodist Church, NFL Amateur Radio Club all participated in the drill.

As in "real life" not everything went as planned! Soon after the Drill started the FD got a REAL fire call, and sent 1/2 the department to respond to it, leaving the rest for the drill. After a few moments of reorganizing they were at it again! The Hams had problems using the 145.29 Corsicana Repeater due to it having issues, but mostly because HTs with rubber duck antennas in chatfield really can't get out far. Shortly after Michael KF5KHS started the Net on the repeater, we moved to simplex 146.500 in the Chatfield area.



Joe KE5YPH put up a pole on the back of his truck and raised a "roll-up J pole" antenna 10' high and continued as Net Control using his ft-897 at the Community Center



where the Red Cross was set up as Shelter Station. Rebekah K5RCM had dual rolls (Red Cross & Ham) she provided passing messages to

and from FD to Hams Doug KE5CDK & Mary KE5FGU who were storm spotting at first then after the tornado passed were assigned Disaster assessment tasks. After the Drill we met at the Fire Department for the debriefing. The Chatfield FD was pleased with the Drill and that all the objectives of the drill were met.



We then proceeded to the Methodist Church for lunch and further discussion of the Drill.

A couple of things that could have been improved were:

1. Hams did not know the frequency the FD was using, they knew it was fire ground ch2 but not the freq.

FYI

Navarro Co Fire Freq

Co Fire 154.1075 DPL 023
 Co Med 154.235 DPL 411
 Fire Ground 1 155.400 CTCSS 97.4
 Fire Ground 2 155.295 CTCSS 103.5
 VFire 21 154.280 CTCSS 156.7
 VFire 22 154.265 CTCSS 156.7
 VFire 23 154.295 CTCSS 156.7

2. FD was monitoring our repeater 145.29 but did not hear us switch to simplex

We should have announced the move more than once during the drill.

FYI

We use 146.500 as an un-official "go to" simplex freq

Thanks to all that participated!

NFLARC Weather Net



The NFLARC Weather Net provides information to the National Weather Service Regional Office located in Fort Worth and various local authorities.

The goal is to help protect the people and provide ground truth data to the National Weather Service.

With storm season quickly approaching, Lets re-visit the basic operating guidelines of our Weather Nets and to list the back-up

frequencies of where to tune to in the event a weather system takes out a particular repeater or repeaters.

Operational Guidelines:

Standby Mode - The repeater is free for use. However, a NFLARC Weather Net Control Operator will be standing by for any severe weather reports.

Active Mode - The repeater is under the control of the Net Control operator. All traffic should be directed through the NCS operator. Severe weather is occurring within our coverage area.

Emergency Mode - The repeater is under the control of the Net Control operator. All traffic is restricted to emergency traffic only. Extremely severe weather is occurring within our coverage area.

Weather Net Frequencies:

- Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Corsicana - 440 (442.925 - with a tone of 146.2)
- Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
- Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 85.4)
- Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
- Fairfield - 2M (145.110 * with a tone of 146.2)
- Lindale - 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
- Mexia - 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)
- Simplex Frequency - 146.500 MHz
- Echolink - KD5OXM-L

Another good idea is to program in to your scanner or memory channel in your HT, the frequency of the nearest NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in your area. The National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth operates 13 Radio consoles broadcasting from 13 transmitters located across North Texas. While several NOAA transmitters may be easily heard, for most of us, the principal frequency to tune to for our area is **162.525**. More info is at:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/?n=radioinfo> and:
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/stations.php?State=TX>

FCC Proposes to Fine Texas Radio Amateur \$7000 for Malicious Interference

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to James R. Winstead, KD5OZY, of Coleman, Texas, after determining that Winstead "apparently willfully violated" FCC rules by interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The Commission proposed a \$7000 fine. The action was in response to complaints from other radio amateurs of intentional interference on 7.195 MHz.

According to the NAL, released February 19, an agent from the Commission's Dallas Office on January 21 used direction-finding techniques to positively identify the source of the interfering transmissions as Winstead's address. After monitoring the transmissions from the station for about a half-hour, the agent heard Winstead, an Amateur Extra class licensee, "replay multiple times short sentences or conversations that had just been transmitted, and occasionally speak the word 'George.'"

“Mr Winstead replayed recorded conversations so frequently that other licensees were unable to complete their conversations,” the NAL stated. The agent estimated that Winstead disrupted approximately 20 minutes of conversation over a 30 minute period by making up to 15 minutes of short transmissions. The agent subsequently inspected Winstead’s station, observing that his radio equipment was tuned to 7.195 Mhz.

“During the inspection, Mr Winstead showed the agent how he recorded and retransmitted other amateur licensees’ communications,” the FCC said. “He also admitted that he intentionally interfered with amateur communications on 7.195 MHz and had an ongoing disagreement with another amateur licensee named George.”

The FCC said the evidence in the case was sufficient to establish that Winstead had violated Section 333 of the Communications Act of 1934 and Section 97.101(d) of the FCC Amateur Service rules. Both sections prohibit willful and malicious interference to radio communications. Citing its Forfeiture Policy Statement and Section 1.80 of the rules, the FCC determined that Winstead was liable for a \$7000 forfeiture. “We caution Mr Winstead, however, that future violations of this kind may result in significantly higher forfeitures,” the FCC stressed. Winstead has 30 days to pay or contest the fine.

World NEWS & EVENTS

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday,
March 9th at 2:00 AM.

Be sure to set your clocks one hour ahead before going to bed the preceding Saturday night.

TX Factor is now on-line

And ready to view at www.txfactor.co.uk



It is the first TV show produced in the UK dedicated to Amateur Radio and is produced by broadcast professionals who are also hams. Bob McCreddie G0FGX, Mike Marsh G1IAR and Nick Bennett 2E0FGQ present and produce the show that is shot in HD but will stream at resolutions to suit your viewing platform. It looks great on everything from smart phones to full size TV.

It is totally free to view with no sign up or form filling required!

TX Factor is brought to you in association with Martin Lynch and Sons, the world's favourite Ham Store and Yaesu Musen Co, Japan

VIEW EPISODE 1 NOW at www.txfactor.co.uk

DX Engineering Acquires Cycle 24 Antenna

Products:

[DX Engineering](#) has acquired the assets of Cycle 24 Antenna Products, a web-based retailer of Amateur Radio antennas and antenna components. "Cycle 24 is a great fit with DX Engineering," said Tim Duffy, K3LR, DX Engineering's chief marketing officer. "We welcome all of Cycle 24's customers to the DX Engineering family." He noted that several Cycle 24-developed products now will be available through DX Engineering.

BBC World Service to Cut Back Shortwave

Transmissions:

According to a [report](#) in *The Guardian* newspaper, the [BBC World Service](#) will further reduce its shortwave profile next year, diverting a projected saving of more than \$25 million to fund television and digital services. As of April 1, the BBC World Service and BBC Monitoring will be funded directly from the TV license fee instead of through the Foreign Office. In cutbacks 3 years ago, the BBC eliminated more than 500 jobs, closed five language services, ended radio broadcasts in seven languages, and reduced short and medium-wave transmissions.

Survey of Delta Division Hams report available

How many hams have DSTAR, APRS, SDR or Broadband-Hamnet? How far are most hams from the nearest radio club? Should Kosovo be broken out as a new DX entity? How is the leadership of ham clubs viewed? But wait! There's more....in the final report of the 2013 Survey of Delta Division ARRL Members just published. Go to <http://www.arrrldelta.org/2013final.pdf>.

HRD Acquires SAM Callbook Rights, releases 6.2 Public Beta

Tampa, FL March 1, 2014

HRD Software, LLC has announced they have acquired the rights to the SAM Callbook CD and database from VIS. This Callbook CD began in the early 90's from RT Systems and was purchased by VIS. VIS transferred the rights of the Callbook CD to HRD at the Orlando Hamcation.

HRD will honor the current subscriber base and continue to send out the monthly CDs starting in March. They will also be developing a Windows™ interface for the Callbook. Windows 32, 64 bit and Windows RT versions are planned, as well as incorporating the Callbook data into HRD Logbook. This will provide immediate downloads for US and Canadian calls from the internet inside of HRD Logbook. More information about the SAM Callbook CD will be on the HRD Website in late March.

HRD Software, LLC also announces the release of Ham Radio Deluxe 6.2 Preview/Beta 2 This includes many fixes for issues the userbase has found. The list of the fixes and enhancements for Beta 2. is on the HRD website at <http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com>.

Support for the Preview/Beta 2 is in a special category in the support forums. Support for the beta will be provided ONLY via the

HRD forums, as many hams may run into the same issues and the solutions will be discussed in the forum.

They will be closely monitoring the forums for any major issues resolving them as quickly as possible. The goal of the HRD Staff is to make the product defect free.

BUY, SELL, or SWAP

NFLARC

- Original 29 repeater "Johnson"
 - Arcom controller for sale
 - Batteries for sale
 - 30.00 each set (2)
 - Motorola repeater 200.00

Weekly Information Net

Net meets every Wednesday night at 9:00 PM local time

- The Linked Repeaters at
 - Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Corsicana - 440 (442.925 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 85.4)
 - Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
 - Fairfield * 2M (145.110 * with a tone of 146.2)
 - Lindale * 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
 - Mexia * 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Echolink * KD5OXM-L
- We can be Monitored via
 - <http://nflarc.org/radio.html>
 - <http://www.radioreference.com>
 - (Central Texas Amateur Repeaters)

Net Control Schedule

- March
 - 5 Rebekah / Wil
 - 12 Wil / Rebekah
 - 19 Michael / Doug
 - 26 Doug / Michael

If you would like to learn or practice being net control, contact us here <http://nflarc.org/email.html>

OTHER AREA NETS

- **HF**
 - 10 mtrs Tues 8:00p 28.437 + or - W5DXS net
 - 40 mtrs M-Sat 10:00-noon 1:00-2:00p Sat 10:00a-noon 7.290
 - 80 mtrs 24/7 6:30p SW Traffic Net 3.873
 - 80 mtrs 24/7 8:00p-9:00 Gulf Coast Hurricane Net 3.935
- **2 MTRS**
 - Mon-
 - 7:00p 146.82 and Waco area 146.660 linked Temple ARC
 - 8:00p 145.150 Hotarc Bakers Dozen Training net (WX Net)
 - Tue-
 - 7:00p -147.180 BCARC net
 - 7:30p 147.180 Pink HAMster net
 - 8:30p- 147.24 (97.4 tone) Slo-scan Emergency Preparedness Net
 - 10:00p 147.360 PL Tone 110.9 Tarlton Area ARC
 - Weds.
 - 9:00p- 146.78 Quad County net (access Hill County repeater)
 - Thurs.
 - 7:00p 146.78 LWARS Net
 - 8:00p 147.14 Central Texas ARC Net (WX Net)
 - Sunday
 - 7:30p 444.00 tone 136.5 and 145.45 tone 88.5 Johnson County ARC (Cleburne)

SKYWARN Training

Erath County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Thursday, March 27th, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Science Building, Room #102, Tarleton State University, 1333 West Washington St., in the city of Stephenville.

Lampasas County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Monday, March 3rd, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Lampasas County Annex, 501 East 4th St., in Lampasas.

Mills County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Tuesday, March 4th, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Goldthwaite VFD, 806 East 4th St., in Goldthwaite.

Williamson County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Wednesday, March 5th, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Jester Annex, 1801 East Old Settlers Blvd., in Round Rock.

CONTEST CALENDAR

Mar 1-2 --ARRL International DX Contest, SSB
Mar 1 -- Open Ukraine RTTY Championship
Mar 2 -- OK1WC Memorial Contest
Mar 4 -- ARS Spartan Sprint
Mar 4 -- YL CW Party
Mar 5 -- John Rollins Memorial DX Contest, CW
Mar 7 -- NS Weekly Sprint (CW)
Mar 7-8 -- Worldwide EME Contest
Mar 7-8 -- RSGB Commonwealth Contest (CW)
Mar 7-8 -- Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon
Mar 7-8 -- AGCW QRP Contest (CW)
Mar 7-8 -- QRP ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint (CW)
Mar 7-8 -- EA PSK63 Contest
Mar 7-8 -- Idaho QSO Party
Mar 9 -- North American Sprint (RTTY)
Mar 9 -- Wisconsin QSO Party

- **March 1-2**
 - **ARRL International DX**
 - Contest period runs from 0001Z March 1st to, 2400Z March 2nd on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters SSB phone.
 - For more information on this, please visit:
 - <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Events: Islands On The Air Gatherings Set

The annual Islands On The Air ([IOTA](#)) BASH will take place on the weekend of March 14-15 in Boerne, Texas. [IOTA BASH 2014](#) is sponsored by the Island Radio Expedition Foundation ([IREF](#)). [Contact](#) Mike Crownover, AD5A, with any questions or visit the IREF website.

The 19th annual [IOTA Dinner](#) will be held in conjunction with the 65th annual [Visalia International DX Convention](#), Friday, April 4, in the Charter Oak Room of the Visalia/Marriott Conference Center in Downtown Visalia, California. The event is open to all who are active in IOTA (or who want to see beautiful pictures of faraway islands). The IOTA program follows the dinner with several guest speakers on the schedule. The event gets underway at 5:30 PM PT.

Tickets are \$35 per person. Reservations and payment in advance are required by March 23. Send checks to IOTA Dinner Coordinator [Ray Benny](#), N6VR, 462 South Reed Rd, Chino Valley, AZ 86323 (he will confirm receipt by e-mail). Tickets are limited, and admission to the program following the dinner is free and open to all.

Sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain ([RSGB](#)), IOTA is an Amateur Radio award program that encourages operators to contact stations on islands around the world.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

- 03/08/2014 | Williamson County ARC Hamfest
 - Location: Georgetown, TX
 - Type: ARRL Hamfest
 - Sponsor: Williamson County Amateur Radio Club
 - Website: <http://wcarc.com>
- 03/15/2014 | West Texas Section Convention (59th Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest)
 - Location: Midland, TX
 - Type: ARRL Convention
 - Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club
 - Website: <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org/>
- 03/22/2014 | South Texas Section Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)
 - Location: Rosenberg, TX
 - Type: ARRL Convention
 - Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC)
 - Website: <http://houstonhamfest.org>
- 03/29/2014 | HamEXPO
 - Location: Belton, TX
 - Type: ARRL Hamfest
 - Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club
 - Website: <http://tarc.org>
- 04/05/2014 | Weatherford Hamfest
 - Location: Weatherford, TX
 - Type: ARRL Hamfest
 - Sponsor: Amateur Radio Club of Parker County
 - Website: <http://www.w5pc.org>
- 04/12/2014 | East Texas Regional Amateur Radio Tailgate Sale
 - Location: Longview, TX
 - Type: ARRL Hamfest
 - Sponsor: Longview East Texas ARC, LeTourneau University ARC, & others
 - Website: <http://letarc.org>
- 06/13/2014 | Ham-Com 2014 - "REGIONAL ARRL CENTENNIAL EVENT"
 - Location: Plano, TX
 - Type: ARRL Convention
 - Sponsor: West Gulf & Delta Divisions
 - Website: <http://www.hamcom.org>
- 07/12/2014 | Texas City Hamfest 2014
 - Location: Texas City, TX
 - Type: ARRL Hamfest
 - Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society
 - Website: <http://tidelands.org>
- 07/24/2014 | Central States VHF Society Conference
 - Location: Austin, TX
 - Type: ARRL Convention
 - Sponsor: Central States VHF Society
 - Website: <http://csvhfs.org>
- 08/01/2014 | Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest)
 - Location: Austin, TX
 - Type: ARRL Convention
 - Sponsor: Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society
 - Website: <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

Ham Expo



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, *the Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton on **Sat., March 29th** from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Getting there is easy; from U.S. Highway 190 take the exit for Loop 121 and follow the signs to the Exposition Center. Plenty of free parking! Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123, and call for W5LM. General admission for the public is \$5.00 at the door. Admission price includes one free raffle ticket for various door prizes raffled off during the event.

Winners must be present to collect their winnings.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>

In conjunction with the HamExpo, amateur radio tests will be given in the main building of the Expo center, sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The testing will begin at 9:30 AM and end when all applicants have been tested, probably around 11:00 AM. Since the test session is in conjunction with the very popular Ham Expo, we expect between 25 and 50 people taking the tests. This requires at least 10 Volunteer Examiners to properly staff the event. The VE's participating should be on site by 9:00. Both General and Extra VE's are needed since all test levels are being made available. This is a 'Ham Community' effort and all area VE's are needed and most welcome to participate. If you will be able to participate, please send an email to Joe Dorn - W5VEX, at: w5vex@arrl.net, or you can contact him by phone at (254) 939-5918 or (254) 721-0829.

People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.

SILENT KEYS



- WD5JOT Alvin J. Murra #1 - went silent key March 3, 2011
- W5GXE Byford Cook #3 - went silent key
- W5JZF Gene Hellums #8 - went silent key
- KA5BOG George Bulen #9 - went silent key
- W5IUH Bob Myers #19 - went silent key
- KA5NEU Bob Corley #30 - went silent key Sunday 4-14-13
- WA5CLX JIMMY Carter #42 - went silent key
- W5SDU John Miller #48 - went silent key
- K5YMJ Glenn Turner #49 - went silent key
- WY5E Lucky Snider #56 - went silent key
- N5MYG Charles Kilgore #73 - went silent key
- AA5EN Margy Snider #81 - went silent key
- N5MOR Dan Moffett #82 - went silent key
- W5ZMI BOB RAY #100 - went silent key
- N5VO Morris Kirby #122 - went silent key Saturday, March 9th, 2013
- KC5MJX Pattie Rue McCarter #127 - passed away Aug. 4, 2011
- W5DRL dewey lafoy #144 - passed away today 10-12-2012

FYI

- Club Dues are due every May
- We will soon have another linked simplex radio in Greenville, Tx.
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LINKS

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73