



The Ragchew W5NFL Newsletter



The NFL Amateur Radio Club meets the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon lunch and 1:00 PM Meeting 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
- 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

NFLARC Weather Net

The NFLARC Weather Net was started 3-28-2014 Friday evening for Leon County



NWS (WX5D) was taking reports and Passing NWS warnings. Stations participating were W5UOK, KB5FIX, KC9YGA, KF5KHS, KE5CDK and possibly others.

- Hail pea and quarter size reported at Marquay & Gause
- Building damage reported in Centerville
- Power outages in Centerville

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

Guest Speaker via skype at March meeting



Todd Hoover N5TJH (hoover_tj@yahoo.com)

The coordinator for the East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale (scheduled for April 12th) was at our meeting 3-15-2013



We setup skype on the pc/tv in the conference room for this meeting, although there a few connection issues skype worked well

Todd informed us that they had eleven radio clubs co-sponsoring the event ranging from Gun Barrel City [CCARC] to Minden [MARC]. I am hoping this year to increase the number of co-sponsors to 14 and would like to add the Corsicana group. I am also hoping that we can maintain the same level of door prizes [4 radios, ten Visa type of gift cards, books, etc]. We were able to offer a door prize once every 30 minutes which helped to maintain attendance from 7:30 am until the end at 11:00am.

The flyers has NFLARC listed as a co-sponsor so that the folks can see how their club name is used.

The website is [i20HAMFEST.COM](http://i20hamfest.com)
<http://i20hamfest.com/>

We accepted to be a co-sponsor of this event and offered prizes for drawings

- 2 - Ham travel cups
- 1 - 2M Tape measure beam antenna
- 1 - 20M wire dipole antenna

recieved a message after meeting....

Just a quick note, Doug, to thank you and the membership for your willingness to co-sponsor the April 12th East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale. We also wish to thank you for your willingness to provide donations

LETARC

P.O. BOX 5613

Longview TX 75608-5613

Quad County Net preamble updated 03-26-2014

Find it here

<http://nflarc.org/smf/index.php?topic=2.msg1583;topicseen#msg1583>

Nine-year-old Holly Wilson is a licensed radio ham

The *Hardin County News* reports on the success of **Holly Wilson KG5AOG** in passing her amateur radio Technician exam



L.B. Little WB5YDA, Beaumont Amateur Radio Club president, said it's no small feat that Wilson received that license. Little said he's been in the Ham radio business for 30 plus years and the average age of a participant is someone older than 30 years old.

Holly says she's going to continue to study for a higher level license and hopes to become a veterinarian and a robotics engineer when she's older.

Read the full story at

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/hardincountynews/article/Nine-year-old-Holly-Wilson-is-a-licensed-radio-5353962.php>

Beaumont Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.qsl.net/w5rin/>

World NEWS & EVENTS**ARRL Announces Centennial Station Giveaway!**

03/21/2014

The ARRL has announced a "Centennial Station Giveaway" as part of its National Centennial Convention to be held in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-19, 2014. Sponsored by the ARRL and R&L Electronics, the first-prize winner will receive a Grand Prize voucher worth up to \$5000 of equipment — radio, antenna, and accessories — redeemable for products sold by R&L Electronics.

A second-prize winner will receive a \$2500 prize voucher for products sold by FlexRadio Systems, also co-sponsored by ARRL.

All paid convention registrants will be entered in the prize drawings (door prizes). Winners will be drawn from among eligible registrants at the end of the convention on Saturday, July 19, 2014. The winner does not need to be present during the drawings.

Three-day convention tickets are \$75 and include an all-day training workshop and lunch on Thursday. Two-day tickets are \$25 (\$30 at the door), good for admission on Friday and Saturday. Everyone who attends the convention must register.

For complete convention details and advance online registration (recommended), visit ARRL2014.org.

1MHz more amateur spectrum likely at 2m rsgb (UK)

March 28, 2014

Ofcom has published a consultation paper that makes proposals for the release of VHF spectrum, including 146 to 147MHz for amateur radio use on a temporary non-protected and non-interference basis.

Details of how the RSGB will formulate its response will follow. The consultation is open until 26 May and can be viewed at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/vhf-143-169mhz/>.

New Content Policies for QRZ Callsign Pages

Last night we installed the latest version of the world's most popular Web based HTML editor, CKeditor version 4.33. You will find a few new features in the bio editing area. Overall, it has been a great upgrade. We now support 65 different languages, for example, and have some handy new features. We have also removed the 'Do Not Paste from Word' restriction, because the new editor now

supports it!

Please note that if you use Internet Explorer as your browser that the minimum required version of IE is now 8.0, which was released in 2008. We generally recommend that you install the latest version available. I'm running IE 11.0 with no problems whatsoever on my Windows 7 machine.

Why do we change things when everything is going well? It's to avoid new problems down the road. By keeping our software up-to-date, we can always get fixes, patches, and updates from our suppliers, along with any new features that come along. For those of you who work in Information Technology, you surely know what I'm talking about. You either stay current or you eventually crash. It's not an 'if' but a 'when' as you will surely regret not keeping up with technology if your business is technology based.

Moving forward, some of you may have noticed some new content guidelines that we've published on the editing page. I wanted to take a moment to explain some changes. The list seems to have a lot of "NO this" and "NO that" restrictions, however, most of these are already rules that we practiced and many are just common sense. A couple of new rules, however, are very important.

Since QRZ policy is to provide a family friendly experience, we must exert control over what types of content our users upload onto the site. We have recently completed two reviews of our website image collection, now numbering more than 950,000 pictures. Many items were removed, and some of these depicted some of the worst possible behavior imaginable. Other items, while not particularly lewd or pornographic, were still unsuitable for family audiences and they were removed as well. We've also installed a new picture monitoring system that notifies the QRZ editors of every new object that is uploaded to our system, sometimes numbering 500 or more, every day.

Moving forward, we are adopting some new policy changes. Effectively immediately, users may no longer display images on QRZ that are hosted on other websites. If you want a picture shown on QRZ, then you must upload it to QRZ. Some items, which are dynamic and are loaded as pictures, will be allowed. These include maps and charts from sites such as flagcounter.com, revolvermap.com, and weather underground. More sites will be approved as we go. In general, we don't have a problem with sites that provide data in graphical form. Personal photos and images must be uploaded to QRZ for display on our pages.

Secondly, the use of IFRAMES on the QRZ pages must be curtailed. An IFRAME is a box within a web page that displays the contents of another web site. Since we have no control over what can be shown in an IFRAME, we cannot possibly allow their unrestricted use. We will also create an approved IFRAME source list in which we will allow some content.

We will be applying these changes incrementally over the next few days. We will attempt to show place holders in callsign pages where unauthorized content has been removed. Please note that for ordinary photos, you can always upload them to QRZ and display them as usual.

Our thanks to everyone for their cooperation and understanding as we continue our work to keep QRZ safe and friendly.

73 -fred AA7BQ

Some pictures were lost on the QRZ server - An Apology



Folks,

Recently, we lost a few hundred of your photos after I made a stupid programming mistake. I'm terribly sorry this happened and I want everyone to know that I take full responsibility for the error.

I was trying to correct a problem where some files had names that caused issues with the system. These were simple things like illegal punctuation in the file name, that causes our Linux system to cough. I wrote a program to go out and find these bad file names and rename them to something that would not cause further issues.

What happened, however, was a programmer's nightmare of unintended consequences. What transpired was that after the files were renamed, they became protected by the file system permissions system. This made the files appear to be "unreadable" and this pushed them into the picture review queue. The files were OK, but could not be viewed due to the permissions problem. I corrected the problem, however, not before several hundred of them were mistakenly identified as bad images and were permanently deleted. Many of you were notified that the pictures were removed for "not meeting our standards of publication," which was completely false.

This has all been terribly embarrassing for me and I want to formally apologize to all of you who were affected by the mistake. The emails that suggested that the images were unacceptable were downright false, and you should not have received them.

I'm happy to say that the error has been corrected, however, some of the files were permanently deleted. We still have over 950,000 files on the system, not counting another 50 thousand that are hosted on other sites. Still, we deeply regret what happened and I hope that those of you who were affected by my mistake will accept my apologies and upload your images again.

We're working very hard to insure that things go smoothly. We're also sorry that some of you lost your RevolverGlobes, Flag Counters, etc.. We have adjusted our new content management system to accept those as well. Note that this problem did not affect everyone. If you haven't updated your page in a few days, you probably won't notice a thing different, unless you were one of the unlucky ones who lost an image or two. Regrettably, we cannot restore your pages to the way they were before, because the data was not saved.

Thanks to all who have been encouraging us and for being patient

as we fine tune the system. It's not our intent to limit or take away anything that our users want, but the introduction of new rules always causes an uproar. Clearly, 99% of everything on QRZ was perfectly family friendly, however, that small 1% was enough to create a wave that has now affected us all.

Even though 60,000 hams visit QRZ every day, there are only 3 paid employees at QRZ headquarters, and only two of us are programmers. We're working overtime to keep QRZ up to the highest standards possible, and to provide the best website in ham radio.

73 -fred

Getting started in Ham Radio Data Modes

Following a successful presentation to the Thurrock Acorns Amateur Radio Club (TAARC), Essex Ham have released a one-page guide to getting started with data modes

Tuesday March 18, 2014 saw the third get-together of Essex's newest club, the Thurrock Acorns Amateur Radio Club (TAARC).

The theme for the evening's talk was 'Data Modes', and the talk was a little bit of a departure from the standard club presentation. Pete MOPsx from Essex Ham had been asked along to work side-by-side with two of the club's active data users, Neil GORNU and Ricky M6DII.

Essex Ham note that TAARC's approach to the various difference aspects of the hobby is refreshing, and rather clever – a coordinator is assigned to become the club's go-to person, and Neil GORNU is the club's Data Modes Coordinator – Neil has already helped a number of members through the world of data, and in wrapping up the meeting, Neil answered member's questions, and talked through some of the ideas he has for next steps for TAARC and data.

Download the Essex Ham Getting Started in Data sheet at <http://www.essexham.co.uk/guides/getting-started-data.pdf>

Read the report on the talk at the TAARC <http://www.essexham.co.uk/news/data-modes-talk-taarc.html>

Thurrock Acorns Amateur Radio Club (TAARC) <http://www.taarc.co.uk/>

Essex Ham - Data Modes <http://www.essexham.co.uk/how-to-get-started-with-data-modes>

Making yourself clear on the Radio

by kb5jbv

A few days ago I was putting together a piece of training for our local A.R.E.S. Group and it dawned on me that I should share it with everybody. So after I finished the net I took a little time to flesh out that training and what I ended up with was this article. You are welcome to use this as a basis for training in your group or as a reference for your own self training. Don't forget to let everybody know where you got it.

Speak slowly and clearly

When we say speak slowly and clearly what we mean is sometimes at normal conversational speed words run together when you are talking on the radio. Most radio equipment doesn't reproduce all the audio frequencies of human speech or hearing. This can make it difficult to understand what someone is saying on the air. When you have some hearing loss it is even worse. I have some low end hearing loss so most of the time I have to add a speaker to my rig that produces more low frequencies to make the speech ineligible to me in noisy environments.

Annunciate. Some people don't consider that when they speak they are trying to convey information. I know several people that just engage their mouth and let the words fall out without giving a second thought as to if the person on the other end of the conversation is having to decipher the noises emanating from their mouth. It is sometimes difficult to understand a conversation when you are in the same room with someone if they are slurring and mumbling their words. It is even more difficult when you are on a noisy frequency or using a narrow band width mode like SSB, or D*STAR. When you add the stress of a net situation people tend to speak faster than they normally would. They also tend not to speak clearly. This makes the problem even worse.

Use Standard ITU Phonetics

Another consideration is the use of phonetics. In most cases phonetics can greatly increase your ability to understand and be understood when conditions a frequency are not optimal. Ham radio operators are as a rule a playful bunch so we do things to make talking on the radio more fun like making up funny phonetics for our call sign. Unfortunately during emergency and disaster communications play time falls by the wayside and these home brew phonetics become more of a problem than an asset. Most of the time these home brew phonetics in no way resemble any of the standardized phonetic systems. When these operators find themselves in a situation where they need to be understood their home brew phonetics really don't help. That is why the ITU Phonetic alphabet is the agreed upon standard for amateur radio emergency communications. Every radio operator should be able to at least spell their call sign with these phonetics. Memorization of these phonetics is not difficult. Some operators can jump to phonetics without even thinking about it. Since so many letters in the English language like E,B,V,C and others sound so much alike it is very important to know the standard ITU phonetic alphabet.

Do not yell, Don't whisper

Yelling at a microphone is a problem that has propagated down

through the hobby. Many of us have come into the hobby by way of the citizens band service. Operating AM on cheaply made and badly maintained equipment in that service. Many others use sideband radios on a regular bases. On AM and Sideband speaking louder into the microphone can give you a small increase in the output power of your radio. Since we are using primarily FM radio equipment this is not the case. Without going off into an explanation of how FM works lets just say that yelling at your microphone causes distortion making it difficult to understand the information you are trying to convey. Since the equipment that we use on VHF and UHF is Frequency Modulated the Amplitude of your voice can cause more problems than you would think.

Whispering into the microphone also has problems. There are some operators out there that speak very quietly into their microphone. This results in a full quieting signal and barely understandable audio. Some times the microphone gain or deviation on your radio may not be adjusted properly. If you do not speak up while transmitting this can make the problem worse. In the case of a Net Control located in a noisy environment it makes your transmissions unusable. It also waste valuable time while the Net Control attempts to take your traffic. We don't always have the luxury of calling a net from the comfort of our home.

Don't eat the microphone.

Eating the microphone or holding it too close to your mouth is another bad habit that has trickled down through the hobby from the days of carbon microphones and the poor quality microphones of the past. Today the microphone supplied with a standard piece of amateur radio equipment is very good. Eating the microphone presents its own set of problems. Holding the microphone too close to your mouth can overdrive the diaphragm in the microphone and audio stage of the radio causing distortion which most often results in muffled audio. You may also experience Flat Topping of your audio signal that is very similar to clipping in other audio equipment. Over deviation of your signal is also a problem you may experience. Over deviation is a problem because most repeaters are equipped with a band pass filter to eliminate unwanted noise on nearby frequencies. This means that in some cases you could be sitting under the repeater running a hundred watts and not be able to key the machine because your signal exceeds the width of the passband. Another problem that may occur from eating the microphone is known as P-pops or Clicks. These are most common when the microphone is held directly in front of the mouth. These are not only annoying but can also make it difficult for net control to understand the information you are trying to convey. It is always best to hold the microphone off to one side of the mouth. I also like to use what I call the "Thumb Rule". If I am holding the microphone to transmit I should be able to extend my thumb and lightly touch my chin or lower jaw. This seems to be just about the right distance and works well with most radios including hand held transceivers.

Lastly a word on hand held transceivers. Most HT's come from the factory with the microphone gain turned up higher than mobile radios. So the built in microphones are "Hotter" than one might expect. They are designed to be held a foot to eighteen inches away from your mouth. Eating the microphone on these will cause many of the problems listed above to be much worse. External microphones will depend on the design of the microphone.

Q signals, codes and jargon

Since from time to time we will be transmitting information for use by non-hams such as our served agencies we need to keep Q-Signals, Codes, and Jargon to a minimum. Our served agencies have their own language or jargon and in most cases it doesn't even remotely resemble the jargon that we use as amateur radio operators. The National Weather Service has its own language for describing weather and that is the only possible jargon that we may need to use. That information will be covered at Skywarn School where it will be covered by the folks that know what they are talking about.

Codes and Ciphers are prohibited by part 97 so they are not appropriate for any reason.

Q-Signals are a problem in amateur radio today because everybody wants to sound like a professional radio operator and they think that Q-Signals help achieve that goal. Q-Signals were designed to make cw operation easier and have no place on a phone (Voice) frequency especially during an emcomm net where the transmission and reception of clear and concise information is critical. Lastly, There is a place for Over, Out and Roger in emcomm communications. Most amateur radio operators tend not to use them correctly. My personal opinion is that if you want to acknowledge a transmission the word "Received" works just fine.

These are just a few of the things that can help all of us improve our communications skills. Clarity in communications is always important. It is even more important when we start to deal with Emergency and Disaster communications. Remember we are not transmitting for ourselves. We are transmitting for everybody.

Free ATV magazine CQ-DATV 10 (April issue)

CQ-DATV magazine issue 10 (April) is now available as a free download from <http://www.cq-datv.mobi/ebooks.php>

we have published using all the usual eBook formats ePub, Mobi AZW3 and PDF for those who want to read it on a PC

CQ-DATV issue 11 is now in production and if you have anything to contribute please contact editor@cq-datv.mobi

How did Ross A. Hull, VK3JU, discover tropo propagation?

Ross A. Hull, VK3JU, ex-editor of Wireless Weekly, emigrated from Australia to the USA where he joined the staff of the ARRL and became Associate Editor of QST magazine.

As a foreigner he was not allowed by US law to apply for an amateur radio licence, but as a member of the ARRL headquarters staff he could operate under their call sign.

He developed new equipment for the ARRL and produced many constructional articles for the early ARRL Radio Handbooks, and showed a particular interest in the "Ultra High Frequency" (UHF) 5 metre (56 - 60 MHz) band.

At the time all the experts believed that the "UHF" spectrum above 30 MHz were only suitable for short distance line-of-sight

communications, but in 1934 Ross Hull proved them wrong. He was resident at West Hartford, Connecticut, and decided to conduct some tests on 60 MHz with amateurs in Boston, Massachusetts, about 160 km away.

At first the Boston amateurs did not hear anything at all until Ross changed his vertical antenna to a beam consisting of four quarter wave radiators fed in phase with four reflectors. Signals varied from morning to afternoon or day to day from weak to very strong. Ross soon realized that this phenomena was weather related and caused by temperature inversions; he discovered refraction of VHF radio waves in the troposphere!

Soon other amateurs started using beams on 5 metres too and extended the range to 500 km.

Unfortunately Ross Hull came to a sudden and sad end when he reached for a switch underneath his desk, and touched the 6 000 Volt contact of the transformer supplying power to his cathode ray TV tube; he died instantly.

Source: [The South African Radio League](#)

New Gear



- Wouxun KG-UV950P Qual Cross Band Car Mobile Radio Repeater 70CM/2/6/10M 50W

<http://www.mtradio.com/wouxun-kg-uv950p-qual-cross-band-car-mobile-radio-repeater-70cm-2-6-10m-50w/>

Price:
\$365.95

Quick Overview

Full Duplex Cross-Band (Offset Frequency and Frequency Shift Direction programmable)

Remote Control (Programmable for work mode, like Transceiver mode, Directional Repeating mode and Duplex Repeating mode). Remote Control (Programmable for reset function)

Customized CTCSS&DCS encoding/decoding

Automatic Fan (The fan is working once the radio powers on)

TX: 28-29.995MHz, 50-53.995MHz, 144-147.995MHz, 420-449.995MHz

RX: 26-29MHz, 50-53MHz, 65-108MHz, 108-180MHz, 320-349MHz, 40-480MHz, 700-987MHz

AM:RX 108-135.995MHz

- * Band can be Set Freely(V/U U/V V/V U/U)
 - * Dual Reception(Twin Band Simultaneous Reception)
 - * Dual Display(Large LCD Dual Frequency Display,Two Completely Independent Operating Systems
 - * Over 999 Memory Channels-Area Scanning Management Capability
 - * Remote-head Mounting Capability Multiple Installation Types,Convenient Usage
 - * Full Duplex Cross-Band
 - * Both Station can Form Combined Same Band or Different Band Repeat
 - * High Output Power(VHF:50W,UHF:40W)
 - * CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode
 - * Multiple Speaker Channel Settings
 - * DTMF Hand Microphone,with Speaker,TX/RX Indicator and Volume Controller
 - * Incoming Message Display(Caller ID display)
 - * DTMF Encoding and Decoding
 - * Group Calls,All Calls and Selective Calls
 - * 8 groups Scrambler (Optional)
 - * Priority Channel Scanning
 - * APO Power Mangement
 - * English Voice guide
 - * Minimum Operating Voltage Alarm
 - * **Stun and Kill Function**
 - * Single Tone Pulse
- Frequency(2100Hz/1750Hz/1450Hz/1000Hz)
 ---Used when Activating Repeater Signal
- * Selectable Three Color Backlight
 - * Reduced Noise Settings
 - * Remote Control Setting
 - * Frequency/Channel Scanning with CTCSS/DCS Detection
 - * Multiple Cooling Paths Fan

Radio Comes with a 90 day warranty through us! (MTC)
 We agree to repair or replace (at our descretion) any New Wouxun KG-UV950P sold by us for a period of 90 days.
 No other warranty is expressed or implied

This is an amater radio (ham Radio) This radio has not been FCC type accepted for commercial use.

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

- **Tracie WA5LSH**
 - tracieok@swbell.net
 - 405-260-0192
 - **Scanner Pro 97**
 - HT
 - Radio shack
 - 1000ch
 - 10 banks
 - WX
 - Triple trunking
 - Rubber duck
 - 2 batterie holders
 - 4AA
 - Rechargeable
 - \$150.00
 - **Scanner Pro 163**
 - Mobile
 - Radio shack
 - 1000 ch
 - 10 banks
 - WX
 - Triple trunking
 - Telescopic antenna
 - Wall wart power supply
 - \$175.00
 - Programming available for both via KE5CDK

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 an 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
- April
 - 2 Rebekah / Wil
 - 9 Wil / Rebekah
 - 16 Michael / Doug
 - 23 Doug / Michael
 - 30 Rebekah / Wil
- May
 - 7
 - 14
 - 21
 - 28

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)

CONTEST CALENDAR

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30
± PN Quick CW Contest	1600Z-1740Z, Mar 29
April 2014	
± QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Apr 2
	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 2 and
	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 2 and
± CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 3
± SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 3
	1800Z-1900Z, Apr 3 (CW) and
	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 3 (SSB) and
± NRAU 10m Activity Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 3 (FM) and
	2100Z-2200Z, Apr 3 (Dig)
± QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Apr 4
± 15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest	0000Z, Apr 5 to 2359Z, Apr 6
± LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest	0400Z-0800Z, Apr 5
± PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest	1200-1800 local, Apr 5
± QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 5 to 2359Z, Apr 6
± Texas State Parks on the Air	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0159Z, Apr 6
	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6 and
± Missouri QSO Party	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 6
± Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
± SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 5 to 1500Z, Apr 6
± EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 5 to 1600Z, Apr 6
± RSGB RoPoCo SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 6
± 144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 7
± RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 7
± ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 8
± NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 9
	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 9 and
	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 9 and
± CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 10
± NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 11
± JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
± OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
± New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 12 to 0200Z, Apr 13
± EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 12
± Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 2359Z, Apr 13
± Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1700Z, Apr 13
± 222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 15
	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 16 and
	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 16 and
± CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 17
± RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 16
± ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Apr 17 to 2359Z, Apr 22
± NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 18
± Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 18 to 2100Z, Apr 19
± TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 19
± ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 19
± CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 19 to 2359Z, Apr 20
± EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 19
± Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
± Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 1800Z, Apr 20
± YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 19 to 1700Z, Apr 20
± Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 21
	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 23 and
	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 23 and
± CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 24
± 432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 23
± RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 24
± NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 25
± 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 26 to 2359Z, Apr 27
± SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 26 to 1200Z, Apr 27
± Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 26 to 1259Z, Apr 27
± QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 26 to 0300Z, Apr 27

- ± Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 26 to 2159Z, Apr 27
- ± BARTG Sprint 75 1700Z-2100Z, Apr 27
- ± CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Apr 30 and
1900Z-2000Z, Apr 30 and
0300Z-0400Z, May 1

HAMFEST CALENDAR

- 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>

East Texas Regional Amateur Radio Tailgate Sale



When:
Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 7:30am-11:00am

What:
Free tailgate sale. Bring all of your new, old, & used amateur radio equipment that you would like to sell. This is an indoor and outdoor event and will be held rain or

shine.

Who:

Anybody and everybody who has an interest in amateur radio and electronics, or anyone who just wants to come by, say hello, and just visit and browse.

Cost:

Absolutely free to all. Just bring your ham radio sale items and any tables, chairs or other dis-plays that you want to use. Sorry, no electricity will be available. Tailgate sale parking space on first-

come, first-served basis. Be sure to bring water, especially if it is hot, as no concessions will be available other than coffee provided by the LeTourneau University Amateur Radio Club.

Event Sponsors:

This event is co-sponsored by LeTourneau University Amateur Radio Club and Longview East Texas ARC. Cedar Creek ARC, Athens ARC, Marshall ARC, Panola County ARC, Minden ARC, Tyler ARC, SARA, ARCOS, Rusk County ARC, Cherokee County ARC, Nacogdoches ARC, NFL ARC [Corsicana] and Palestine Anderson County ARC along with Main Trading Company.

Door Prizes:

The Fourth Annual East Texas Regional Tailgate Sale has received pledges for several radios, accessories and gift cards. Those attending the event will have a good chance of winning one of many free door prizes.

Where:

LeTourneau University, Glaske Science & Technology Building parking lot.



LeTourneau University
2100 South Moberly Ave.
Longview, TX 75602

i20hamfest.com

Contact Person:

Todd Hoover, N5TJH
N5TJH2013@GMAIL.COM
903 399-3266 [c]

Visit [HTTP://i20HAMFEST.com](http://i20HAMFEST.com) for information on Door Prizes and Event Updates

SEARCH ARRL.ORG FOR HAMFEST LONGVIEW TX or visit i20HAMFEST.COM

DX News

Curacao Island

The German team of Anja DH2AK and Torsten DL1THM will be active as PJ2/homecall from Curacao Island (SA-099) between March 31st and April 18th.

Activity will be on the high bands, SSB and maybe some Digital modes. They will announce activities on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/dl1thm>

QSL via their home callsigns, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the Bureau.

VK9MT Mellish Reef DXpedition to Begin Operation March 29

The **VK9MT** Mellish Reef DXpedition is preparing to take to the airwaves this weekend. "Team Mellish" has arrived at Mellish Reef "after 3 miserable days of nasty seas," a report from the group said. Their equipment is going ashore, and VK9MT should be on the air "sometime" on Saturday, March 29, a day later than initially announced.

The operators will not communicate via e-mail during their 10 day stay on Mellish Reef, which is located some 1150 kilometers north-northeast of Brisbane, Australia. The 10 operators will be active on 160 through 10 meters on CW, SSB, and RTTY. A pilot team is in place to manage all communication between the island team and DXers. An [online log](#) will be available.

The DXpedition has spelled out its [QSL policy](#) on its website. Last activated in 2009, Mellish Reef is number 22 on ClubLog's most recent mixed-mode [DXCC Most Wanted List](#). [Contact](#) the DXpedition via e-mail. The DXpedition also has a [Facebook page](#). - *Thanks to The Daily DX*

DX UP FRONT: MARION ISLAND ACTIVATIONS

In DX up front, several sources are reporting that ZS1KX, will be leaving South Africa on April 2nd for the Marion Island. He has requested the callsign ZS8KX and expected to be active from the island in May. QSL direct to Gerard de Jong, P.O. Box 744, Wellington, 7654, South Africa.

Also from Marion Islands comes word that a female operator signing ZS8A, has been showing up on 28.650 MHz between 14:20 to 16:00. Reports are that she handles QSLing via ClubLog.

Marion Island lies in the Southern Indian Ocean and is part of a two island group. It is only about 12 miles long by 7 1/2 wide, and the two islands have a combined area of 196 square miles. Politically they form part of South Africa's Western Cape Province. (OPDX, Wikipedia)

DX UP FRONT: 6 METERS FROM GRENADA IN JUNE

And if you are an aficionado of the 50 MHz band, then listen up. W9DR will be active on 6 meters as J38DR from Grenada between June 19th and July 1st. This operation will be

located on the north shore of the island for a great launch angle to North America and Europe over the Atlantic Ocean. Operating frequencies will be 50.115 MHz SSB, 50.115.6 MHz CW as well as a breakable Beacon on 50.115.6 MHz running when no stations heard. Gear for this DXpedition will be a FlexRadio SDR-1500 driving a home built solid state water-cooled amplifier into a 5 element Yagi. If you manage to work him, QSL to W9DR at his home address. And we will have more DX news for you later on in this weeks newscast. (Various Sources)

Austral Islands update

The following was posted by **Don, G3XTT**, at 1800z, March 28th: We now have over 2500 RTTY QSOs in the log. We have focused our RTTY efforts on 15m, so that everyone gets a chance of a contact – that's over 2,500 unique calls on RTTY.

We tried 160 again last night but with very poor results. Given that we have limited stations and operators, we feel further 160m operation cannot be justified. In contrast, 80m CW has gone well for us and we will certainly be doing more.

By far the majority of emails we are getting via the form on this website are about log queries. Again, let me say there simply isn't time to check them all out while we are here – please QRX until we return home, or work us again.

We will be QRT for a few hours in the middle of today our time (roughly 2100 to 2400 UTC) for a tour of the island and an opportunity to relax a little. With over 50,000 QSOs in the log we are very happy with the way things are going although, from the size of the pile-ups, especially when the bands are open to Europe, you could be excused thinking we had only just started!

For QSLing, a reminder that the preferred method is OQRS via the Clublog site or, for "traditional" direct and bureau QSLs, it's via **G3TXF** (the team are very grateful to Nigel for volunteering to take on this major task – we couldn't ask for anyone better).

SILENT KEYS



- SK
 - <http://www.arl.org/news/view/amsat-na-board-member-officer-tony-monteiro-aa2tx-sk>

FYI

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

LINKS• **Local Clubs**

- [Navarro, Freestone, Limestone, Leon Amateur Radio Club](#)
- [Arlington ARC](#)
- [Athens ARC](#)
- [Cedar Creek Lake ARC](#)
- [Dallas ARC](#)
- [Denton County ARC](#)
- [Ellis County ARC](#)
- [Garland ARC](#)
- [Mesquite ARC](#)
- [Hust ARC](#)
- [Irving ARC](#)
- [Midland ARC](#)
- [Plano ARC](#)
- [Richardson Wireless ARC](#)
- [Rockwall ARC](#)
- [SideWinders On Two Meters](#)
- [SWOTRC.net](#)
- [SW Dallas ARC](#)
- [Temple ARC](#)

• **Radar sites**

- [corad](#)
- [wather underground](#)

• **Radio news sites**

- [QRZ](#)
- [ARRL](#)
- [Ham Radio Nation](#)
- [Ham Nation](#)
- [The Wireless Institute Of Australia](#)
- [Radio Society of Great Britain \(UK\)](#)
- [Southgate Amateur Radio Club \(UK\)](#)

• **Video / Audio Podcast**

- [ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast](#)
- [Amateur Radio Newsline](#)

- [Resonant Frequency: The amateur radio podcast](#)
- [Amateur Logic TV](#)

• **Software**

- [N3FJP logging software](#)
- [RT Systems](#)
- [Jim Mitchell KC8UNJ commander](#)

• **Dealers**

- [AES ham](#)
- [Associated Radio](#)
- [Austin Amateur Radio Supply](#)
- [Burghardt](#)
- [cheapham](#)
- [Coaxman](#)
- [Gigaparts](#)
- [Glen Martin Eng.](#)
- [Ham Call](#)
- [Ham Radio Outlet](#)
- [Powerwerx](#)
- [Jubilee](#)
- [m&p audio](#)
- [MFJ](#)
- [Main Trading Company](#)
- [packetradio.com](#)
- [R&L](#)
- [RF Parts](#)
- [TexasTowers](#)
- [Universal-radio](#)
- [WB0W](#)
- [W4RT](#)
- **Older Equipment**
 - [RigPix](#) Pics, Specs, & some Manuals
 - [mods.dk](#) Radio Modifications, Manuals, etc.
- **New Equipment**
 - **Radios**

- [Alinco](#)
- [comet antenna](#)
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- [Kenwood](#)
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- **Antennas**
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- **Amps**
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